

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Advent is a time of waiting. hope, imagination, and daring (which are all synonyms really) are essential for those who awaited Messiah and we who await Christ's return. How do we actively hope while we wait?

Holly Zehr will be preaching the sermon, Dare to Imagine God's Goodness, scriptures Jer. 31:14-16, Luke 21:25-26, Romans 8:22-25.

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

Those who are serving November 28:

South Greeters: Larry and Louise Reeser

West Greeter: Ryan Miller

Ushers: Randy and Jaron Zehr

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Infant Nursery During Service: Nancy Fisher

Infant Nursery During CE: Miriam Kennell

Preschool Nursery: Emma King and Janet Wilson

Gather Round Sing-Along: Spring and Shannon Neely

Important Dates:

This Sunday:

After Worship:

Christian Education
for Children and
Youth

The Adult Christian
Education Class,
Salt and Light



Please click [here](#) for meeting, zoom, and other recordings
Please click [here](#) for instructions for joining MCN's livestream.

This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT
NORMALMENNONITE.ORG

Wednesday, November 24

9:30 am Men's Bible Discussion

9:30 am Wed. Morning Book Group

Thursday, November 25

Office Closed- Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 26

Office Closed

Tuesday, November 30

4:15 pm Interim Pastoral Team

Wednesday, December 1

9:30 am Men's Bible Discussion

9:30 am Wed. Morning Book Group

7:00 pm Pastoral Team Search Committee (zoom)

Giving Tree Project

During Advent, the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team invites you to participate in The Giving Tree Project. The purpose of the project is to help you know the work of the Commissions more fully, celebrate service in the name of Jesus and assist you in considering specific service opportunities.

The two trees in the back of the sanctuary are the focal point of this project. Please take a minute to consider what your service for 2022 might be.

School Kits

The high school Sunday School class is collecting MCC school kits through the end of the year. Please find a list of items for the school kits [linked](#). If you would like to donate a kit or kits, a bin will be available in the library. For those who wish to make a monetary gift, please see Randy Zehr. The Sunday School class will be procuring bags, so no need to provide them with your donation. Thank you for your support.

Structure Documents

Updated structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available at this [link](#).

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Discipling Commission

The MC USA Faith Formation Team is again offering access for families and individuals to resources on creative ways to celebrate Advent at home. Below is a link to "Dare to Imagine" materials that cover Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. These can be printed out or read online from any device.

[https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ministry/faith-formation/?ct=t\(EFnewsDec18_COPY_01\)](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ministry/faith-formation/?ct=t(EFnewsDec18_COPY_01))

Prayer Requests and Announcements

Prayer requests and/or announcements should be submitted prior to the service. You may contact Lynette Miller via phone or email with your submissions throughout the week and she will relay them to the appropriate worship leader. Email: Lynette.Miller.k@gmail.com Phone: 309-261-7485

Sharing Joys & Concerns

MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT OF
CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2021

The REALLY Alternative Gifts Fair 2021

Another week has gone by and we are a week closer to Christmas. Have you selected your Alternative Gifts yet? Are pigs, goats or chickens on your wish list? No? How about sewing machines, swaddling clothes or mosquito nets? Still no? Well, that's okay because there are plenty of other options available on the MCC Christmas Giving Website. So far we have raised \$2400.

How it Works: This year for a variety of reasons, we are directing everyone to MCC's extensive website. Click [HERE](#) to see all the ways we can support the work of MCC. On a budget? No problem, stop by for a stocking stuffer. Have a price range? MCC can keep you on track.

Next Steps: The person gifting will receive an email with a tax-deductible acknowledgment. The person gifting can select to send an e-card to the recipient with information about their gift. When you have loaded up your cart, please email Lauren Satchwell to let us know how much you have donated, so we can help track our goal! Happy shopping!

Calendar Information Update

Committee and Commission Chairs please add your meetings to the church calendar and indicate if the meeting is in person or zoom by emailing the church. This is to make sure we aren't over our limit of zoom meetings happening at one time.

A Word from the Office

The office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 25th and Friday November 26th.

Pastoral Team Search Committee

Please give thanks for Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference minister, for his wisdom guidance and tenacity as we search for a Pastoral Team.

Thank You

Thank you to all at the Mennonite Church of Normal for your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy, love, caring and help through our time of loss of husband and father, Kenneth.

We thank God for you. May God bless you as the Body of Christ ministering to others.

- Doris Shoemaker and Family

Vision Team Update

- Vision Team received regular reports on the current activities of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT), Pastoral Team Search Committee (PTSC), the Interim Pastoral Team (IPT), and the Commissions and discussed where support is needed.
- Vision Team continued discussion of the spending plan for the long-term Pastoral Team and IPT in 2022.
- Vision Team discussed terms for the Pastoral Team and commission members. Proposed terms will be shared soon.
- Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

Worship Commission You Asked for it!

We had a productive meeting last week planning Advent around the Anabaptist Worship Resources theme "Dare to Imagine!" We discussed the issue of Worship Leaders wearing masks, focusing on our values as a Worship Commission for maintaining safety while also providing an effective worship experience for all, inclusion of those who have hearing loss & have a hard time understanding what is said, and the pastoral need for people to be able to hear Sharing of Joys & Concerns, at funerals, & at other worship events with a strong pastoral need. We asked the Interim Pastoral Team to provide pastoral guidance on this issue. We discussed the many requests we have received to return to open Sharing of Joys & Concerns. In response to this pastoral need, we decided to stay with the Prayer Leader sharing these during Advent because there are other added elements which will take more time. However, following Advent & Christmas, we will return to open sharing. You may shout, Hallelujah!

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS. SEND A CARD IF
THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM-Noon and 1:00PM-4:00PM.

Lynette Miller: Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions;
lynette.miller.k@gmail.com or 309-261-7485 or 309-963-4495

Lauren Satchwell: Youth Ministry and Interim Pastor for Vision Team, Administration & Outreach Commissions; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com 309-830-6827

Holly Zehr: Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team; hmzehr@hotmail.com
309-846-860

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care; 309- 452- 8534

Maggie Burton: Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer: Custodian

Directory
