

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Christmas is the reminder that Jesus shows us God, face-to-face. Now, God has adorned us with the robe of God's character! What does this mean? Can it be Christmas all year long?

Lauren Satchwell will be preaching the sermon, *Preparing for the Fashion Show*, referencing scriptures Colossians 3:12-17 and Luke 2:41-52.

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

Those who are serving December 26:

South Greeters: Mark and Jane Roeschley

West Greeter: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Adam Augspurger

Infant Nursery During Service:

Infant Nursery During CE:

Preschool Nursery: David Harnish

Gather Round Sing-Along: Darvis and Shelly King

Welcome Table: Darryl Miller

Worship Leader: Marge Weaver

Children's Story: Darryl Miller

Scripture Reader: Gerry Schrock

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Important Dates:

This Sunday:

After Worship:

Jr. and Sr. Christian
Education Classes
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, December 22

9:30 am Men's Book Group

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, December 23

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study

2:00 pm Women's Book Group

Friday, December 24

Office Closed

6:30PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship

Wednesday, December 29

9:30 am Men's Book Group

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



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 FOR THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT OF CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2021

The REALLY Alternative Gifts Fair

How it Works: This year for a variety of reasons, we are directing everyone to MCC's extensive website. Check out the website 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!

[Give gifts of Comfort and Joy](#)

Thank you MCN for your generous gifts of \$5278.00 to MCC to date for our Alternative Gifts Fair!

Advent Poem By Ron Ropp

ADVENT

ADVENT NOTES A NEW BEGINNING
IT CELEBRATES WHAT IS COMING
AMIDST EVENTS OF DAILY LIFE
AND THINGS THAT KEEP US RUNNING

ADVENT SUGGESTS ADVENTURE
A HOPE FOR THINGS AHEAD
IT TAKES AWAY OUR FOCUS
FROM ALL THE THINGS WE DREAD

THIS ADVENT SUGGESTS A BIRTH
IT SIGNALS THE CHRIST EVENT
THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO CHANGE
CALLING MANKIND TO REPENT

THIS ADVENT INVITES US ALL
TO LOOK FOR NEW BEGGININGS
IN OUR VERY OWN LIVING
REJECTING MANKIND'S SINNING

THE WORLD IS STILL IN CHAOS
WITH CAUSE FOR MANY FEARS
LET US MAKE OUR OWN ADVENT
WITH A BETTER VISION CLEAR

The Student Mutual Aid Program

The Student Mutual Aid Program would greatly appreciate if donations could be contributed by the end of the year. We will be making our payments for winter/spring sessions this week. Questions can be directed to Darvis King (SMAP chair), or any member of the SMAP committee. Thank you again for your continued support!

The Giving Tree Project

Thanks so much for your participation in the Giving Tree project. A number of the "wishes" placed by the Commissions have found volunteers and been moved to the "fulfilled" tree. Also, there are quite a few blue triangle ornaments indicating a volunteer has been inspired by a mission not on the wish list.

The Discipling Commission shared its mission and "wishes" during the Ministry Moment last Sunday. Their "wishes" are for:

- *teacher for Junior High Sunday School
- *teacher for High School Sunday School
- *MYF Leaders
- *Adult CE teachers.

Outreach Commission "wishes":

- *reading & scanning magazines for pertinent outreach issues
- *taking the food from the shopping cart to Mt. Pisgah
- *placing porch bags for our visitors
- *helping at Midwest Food Bank

The Community Life Wishes are below.

Advent is a time of preparation. Let's get gifts ready for Jesus.

In celebration of service,

Lynn Reha for Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

A Word from the Office

Children Christian Education classes will not meet December 26th or January 2nd. Classes will resume on January 9th."

Looking ahead: Bulletin Deadline for January 2, will be Tuesday December 28th at Noon.

Administration Commission Update

Financial work in progress includes:

- Separating financial duties.
- Updating the 2022 Spending Plan.

Building matters in progress include:

- Installation of a third telephone line.
 - Changing our telephone plan to a cheaper plan.
 - Installation of a new firebox as the old one wasn't functioning well.
 - Exploring blinds and windows as a number of blinds are broken and need to be replaced.
- Policies are being reviewed, drafted, and updated, especially as related to the building and outside events. An additional policy on copyrighted materials (music, pictures, books) used during livestreaming has been developed and communicated with the Worship Commission. We're in the process of reviewing employee Memoranda of Understanding and job descriptions. These will be updated shortly for 2022.

Community Life Commission

The Community Life Commission has established a philosophy statement which follows. The Community Life Commission supports our Church Mission, Vision, and Anabaptist Theology. We approach our ministry by valuing wholeness and nurture relationship building using grace and demonstrating the love of Christ.

To assist this commission in working toward meeting the second goal of the Congregational Vision Statement by 2024, we have established two committees to begin to move forward. The goal is: By 2024 we will be a dynamic faith community that nurtures and nourishes relationships, so that our care and understanding of each other is deepened. These committees are the Congregational Care Committee (formerly Pastoral Council) and the Fellowship Committee. We now have full membership on the Congregational Care Committee and are hoping to have the openings on the Fellowship Committee filled soon.

Community Life Commission areas of need include:

- Volunteers to be a part of a Caring Team as specific needs arise
- Volunteer to pray for individuals, couples, and/or families with special needs
- Volunteer to support individuals, couples, and/or families with special needs
- Volunteers to serve on the Fellowship Committee
- Volunteer for the new position Kitchen Coordinator
- Volunteer for the new position Events Coordinator
- Become a part of a small group as they are formed

These needs have been placed on the red decorations on the Giving Tree. If you feel called to become involved with meeting one or more of these needs, please sign your name on the appropriate red decoration found on the tree on the right and move it to the tree on the left.

A Note from Clara Unzicker

Hope you are well. Thanks to the MCN donation to Creciendo Juntos for an amazing donation, it was much appreciated!

-Clara

A Word from Fellowship Committee and Community Life Commission

Share the Merry! (and the baking!) Each household is invited to bring a plate of cookies (covered) to the Christmas Eve Service with a signed and attached greeting. There will be a table in the fellowship area on which to place the cookies. If you choose to bring cookies, then please take a plate/greeting with you when you leave the service and enjoy another home's "sweets and greets"!

(from your Fellowship Committee and Community Life Commission)

Missing someone and wondering how they're doing? This time of year is perfect for reconnecting by sending a card, email or making a phone call. Folks out there will love hearing from YOU! (From FC and CLC)

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship - 6:30pm

We will enjoy a traditional service of Lessons and Carols, weaving together our favorite carols with the Christmas Story read by a different members of our congregation. There will be special music, and we will conclude with the inspiring candle service as we each light our candles and sing Silent Night. Join us as we welcome and share the Light of the World in the baby Jesus.

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: 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 309-846-0860

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

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

Bryan Oyer: Custodian

Directory
