

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

We mostly deplore weeds as bad & value wheat as good, but among humans is the distinction between bad & good quite so clear cut? How does Jesus guide us in making that judgement about others & about ourselves? What are the implications for how we behave as we engage with others in the world and in the church?

Joe Culpepper will be preaching the sermon, *The Weeds to Wheat Spectrum* referencing scriptures Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

We are continuing to Worship on Zoom this week. There will be no services in the building. Please join us on Zoom Sunday at 9:30am with this [link](#). The bulletin is posted under the Worship tab of our website.

**Those who are Serving January 23**  
**Worship Leader:** Wayne Hochstetler  
**Children's Story:** Darrel Miller

## Important Dates:

**This Sunday:**  
Please Join us for  
worship via Zoom

**After Worship:**  
Stay on the  
Zoom link to join  
Adult Christian  
Education Class, Salt  
and Light



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

# This Week at MCN

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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:  
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT  
[NORMALMENNONITE.ORG](http://NORMALMENNONITE.ORG)

## Thursday, January 20

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)  
2:00 pm Women's Book Group (Zoom)  
5:00 pm Midwest Food Bank  
5:00 pm Peace and Justice Committee (Zoom)  
6:00 pm Administration Committee (Zoom)

## Sunday, January 23

1:30 pm Annual Meeting (Zoom)

## Monday, January 24

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

## Tuesday, January 25

7:00 pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

## Wednesday, January 26

9:30 am Men's Book Group (Zoom)

# Worship Zoom Link

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Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85960872125?  
pwd=Sk1icENWNVhETjJFdDU1ZzVRMis2UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85960872125?pwd=Sk1icENWNVhETjJFdDU1ZzVRMis2UT09)

Meeting ID: 859 6087 2125

Passcode: 546265

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85960872125#,,,,\*546265# US  
(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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Sharing of Joys and Concerns will return to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller at [lynette.miller.k@gmail.com](mailto:lynette.miller.k@gmail.com) so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether we are on Zoom or livestreaming on YouTube.

## Sharing Joys & Concerns

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MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE CARDIOVASCULAR CARE UNIT OF CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2022

## Contributions Statements

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Contributions statements were emailed on Saturday, January 15th. Please let the office know if you have questions or need a paper copy of your statement.

## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

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Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank 5-7pm on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Anyone 5 yrs and older is welcome! Masks will be required. Please sign up [here](#).

## Worship Commission Notes

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We welcomed Steve Benner, one of our newer MCN participants, who participated helpfully. We had extensive discussion of the Worship & Music Coordinator roles & decided to set up schedules for the year rather than have one person as an ongoing coordinator for each of those jobs. Planners will be scheduled & swap with other Planners if they cannot serve on a given Sunday. Each Worship Planner will continue to recruit other worship participants on a Sunday by Sunday basis, choosing them related to the worship theme & for diversity & broad participation. Accompanists & Song Leaders will be scheduled for the year as well. We discussed needs for Zoom-only worship for the rest of the month, the upcoming Lenten theme & possible Planner for the whole season, & possible Communion Coordinators.

## Meals for Melika and Ross

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Melika Hershberger has completed her first semester of her studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). She will continue her first year of study January-May 2022. Would you like to be supportive by fixing a freezer meal for them? If so, please sign up [here](#). When the meal is ready, place clearly marked "For Hershbergers" non-returnable containers in the church freezer. Ross will collect to take with him to Indiana. Please text Ross (309-660-0710) when you have left something in the church freezer for them. Many thanks!

## Everence Webinar: Financial Tools for Success

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Join us for this free educational webinar to learn more about the budget and debt counseling resources and services available through Everence's partnership with LSS Financial Counseling. Gain the tools your congregation needs so financial worries do not negatively impact other areas of life. Two webinars are available on Monday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## Administration Commission Update

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Financial Matters in progress include:

- Updated 2022 Spending Plan in collaboration with the Vision Team and Outreach Commission.
- In the process of separating financial duties, appointing an Assistant Treasurer, and training financial staff.

Current Covid status includes:

- Moved to zoom worship services through January.
- Decided not to close the building. Staff will continue to work in the building as there are only a few individuals present. A very small group could meet in person, if desired.
- Recommends everyone use a KN95 or N95 mask as they're more effective against the Omicron variant.

Hired Krueger Lawn Care to provide plowing and salting of parking lot and sidewalks.

We're in need of volunteers to count offering on Sunday mornings and tech volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Mary Dyck at [clairesmom23@gmail.com](mailto:clairesmom23@gmail.com).

# Update from Clara

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It was such a wonderful time with my family here visiting between Christmas and New Year's! It was so great to see them get to meet my host family, visit my house, and get to see the city that I live in. I can't believe that my year with SALT is about half over, the time has absolutely flown by!

The biggest highlight for me during the Christmas/Advent Season was probably seeing how the city was completely transformed with Christmas lights and decorations starting in the beginning of December. Every park was completely filled with lights, and we had several fun family outings going to look at Christmas lights. They even decorated many of the city buses with LED lights! Another highlight was the Christmas celebration at our church. We celebrated with a lunch, raffle, and bingo.

In the beginning of February, we will receive the interns that will work with us for the upcoming semester. Creciendo Juntos relies on the help of interns to keep our activities rolling, so it will be exciting to meet them and begin working again. Colombia operates on a school schedule opposite of that of the US, it is similar to preparing for a new school year. Next week, we will begin the process of registration for the upcoming year. I am really hoping that we are able to spread the word about the registration so that we are able to include more children in our activities.

Because my host family has been on vacation the past few weeks from work and school, we have been able to do several things together, which has been a great way to build relationships. On Monday, I went with two of my siblings and two cousins on a four-hour bike ride throughout the city. This was a great time for me to get to know the city a bit better and hear about some of the city's history from my host cousin.

One way to be praying right now would be that lots of new children will be able to register into our program for this upcoming year and that we are able to start off strong with activities. In the next coming months, I am expecting there to be some challenges at work with organizing all of our materials and preparing for activities.

Colombia is being hit pretty hard right now with Covid with higher numbers than we have seen in a long time. The city has been overwhelmed with a need for tests, and we do not really have access to the at-home rapid type tests that are available at drug stores in the US. Fortunately, my host family and I have been able to avoid Covid thus far, and were fortunate to have the chance to receive Covid boosters.

The best way that the church could be praying in 2022 would be for continued energy for my work and relationship building with the children and families at work, and safety during times of high Covid numbers. Thanks!!

# Our Members in Care Facilities

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

## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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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](mailto: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](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com) 309-830-6827

Holly Zehr: Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team;  
[hmzehr@hotmail.com](mailto:hmzehr@hotmail.com) 309-846-0860

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

Maggie Burton; Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer: Custodian

## Structure Documents

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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](#).

Please click [here](#) for past meeting and other recordings.

## Directory

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