

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

One writer has said, "This is the mark of any great spiritual tradition: that it flows into compassionate action for the world." That certainly describes our aim as followers of Jesus --- that God's compassion flows through us. But fear often stops, hides or distorts that flow. What might happen if we tend to our fear with self-compassion first? Could that actually free us to love God and others more compassionately and well?

Jane Roeschley will be preaching the sermon, *Fear Into Compassion* referencing scriptures Psalm 27; Mark 12:28-31.

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

Those who are serving March 13:

South Greeters: Gail Fisher and Caleb Augspurger

West Greeter: Bernice Valverde

Welcome Table: Marcia Rossi

Ushers: Mark Roeschley and Nancy Fisher

Worship Leader: Marge Weaver

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Janet Wilson

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompanist: Elsa Raab

Please click [here](#) for instructions for joining MCN's livestream. The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

Important Dates:

This Sunday:

Please Join us for worship in-person or live stream on YouTube!

After Worship:

You are invited to stay awhile and Reacquaint & Reconnect - R&R - with our fellow church members. More details will follow after worship.

Children & Youth CE



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday, March 9

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, March 10

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

2:00 pm Women's Book Group (Zoom)

6:00 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Saturday, March 12

9:00 am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 16

9:30 pm Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:00pm Pastoral Team Search Committee (Zoom)

Save the Dates

Memorial Services for John & Evelyn Bertsche will be April 16

Memorial Service for Wilma Dyck will be May 21

After Worship Option

You are invited to stay after church Sunday and Reacquaint & Reconnect - R&R - with our fellow church members. These conversations with some questions to guide will be held in small groups during the Sunday School hour. Some of the questions will be lighthearted while others will help us know how to support one another in spiritual growth. You're invited to submit questions that would support these goals and that you would like to discuss. Send your ideas for questions to Holly Zehr at hmzehr@hotmail.com.

Celebrating Lent

During this season of Lent, our services will be rich with new things, more singing, and opportunities for you to participate even more meaningfully. For the next 4 Sundays, the following scripture passage will be read by the congregation.

O God, you are our God, we seek you,
our soul thirsts for you, our flesh faints for you
as in a dry and weary land.

Yet we have seen your glory,
your steadfast love has poured over our lives,
our lips sing your praise.

We will bless you as long as we live.

Through the breath you have given,
the words that we utter,

the work of our minds and hands,
and the gifts of our inheritance,

we give back to you

so that all may sit in the shadow of your wings

and share the joy of your abundance. Amen. adapted from Psalm 63 [1]

If you are so led, you are invited to commit the passage to memory to engage this rich message more fully. Blessings to all as we celebrate the season of Lent.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Prayer Requests and Announcements

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 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 in person or livestreaming on YouTube.

Sharing Joys & Concerns

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

Support Groups Forming

A Loss/Grief group at MCN was very helpful to me when my son died. I have volunteered to facilitate a Loss/Grief support group; and have received some suggestions of those to contact. In case we missed communicating to anyone, this group is open to all who are experiencing loss directly or are affected by loss indirectly. A first meeting, in which purposes and scheduling will be addressed, is tentatively arranged for Thursday, March 31 at 5:30 pm at MCN. —Lynn Reha

How Can We Help The People Of Ukraine?

MCC already has people in Ukraine and they need funds to support them.

We can help by baking cookies, pies, cakes etc for the North Danvers Bake sale next week. Proceeds will go to our MCC Sale and on to MCC headquarters.

I challenge you to do something with your children, or a group. Let's see how much we can do. Deliver items to church before noon on March 17, Thursday.

Bake sale will take place at North Danvers, on Friday March 18 beginning at 8:00 am

Another way to help Ukraine:

The Illinois Mennonite Relief sale online auction begins on Saturday, March 12-19

Go to ilreliefsale.org for more info, or to the Facebook page. It will give you the address that will directly connect you with the Sullivan Auction site. To bid you must have a number and register.

Go to "Create Account" on top of page and follow instructions.

A third way you can help is directly mail contributions to MCC @

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 500

AKRON, PA

Write on the check, "for Ukraine Relief"

You can help!!! Which way will you choose to help. Thanks!

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale News

Theme of 2022 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale: **People Helping People Worldwide in the Name of Christ**

Online Sale will begin March 12. Sullivan Auctioneers will be handling the auction. Pictures are now online in a catalog and can be viewed. Go to ilreliefsale.org. Then click on Sullivan Auctioneers site. You can then create an account which will enable you to bid on items. Pictures of items can now be viewed on Sullivan's site. Bidding begins March 12 and continues through March 19. Items purchased can be paid and picked up on Sunday March 20 from 1:00-5:00. Any questions about getting on the site check with Ben Roeschley.

Bake Sale Reminder:

North Danvers will host a Bake Sale again this year. Get together with friends and families to bake something for the Bake Sale. Baked items will be picked up Thursday March 17 at the church. Have your baked items at church by noon. Pans and bags are available in church kitchen. Bake Sale will be Friday March 18 from 8:00-2:00 at North Danvers Fellowship Hall. A café will also be held at the same time where coffee and baked goods will be available. Please let Gerry or Marcia or Louise know if you are baking something. Thank you all for helping in this small way to assist MCC in their relief efforts.

Mini Bazaar Update:

Thank you to everyone that helped with our Mini Bazaar during over the last 5 weeks. Lots of folks helped by donating items, setting things up, and of course shopping! MCC raised \$1,255.00 for MCC from this bazaar. Thank you!

MCC's Peacebuilding and Response to Conflict

Virtual Visit - War and Peace: MCC's peacebuilding work and response to conflict: In this special live session, MCC staff and alumni will share stories about what peacebuilding work looks like in the midst of conflict in Ukraine, Colombia and DPRK (North Korea). They'll explore questions like: What does peace look like in the middle of war? And, how do we embody a peace perspective? Join the live virtual visit on Wednesday, March 16 at 8 p.m. EST / 7 p.m. CST. For more information and registration, visit mcc.org/webinars.

Community Life Commission (CLC) Update

Community Life Commission members: Deb Stenger (co-chr) MaryAnn Watkins (co-chr), Connie Satchwell, and Joanna Oyer. Interim Pastoral representative: Lynette Miller.

- Community Life Commission has started to have a weekly email update to the commission members and one zoom meeting per month. This has improved communication and shortened meeting time.
- CLC Goals for 2022 will revolve around wellness and spiritual gifts. This focus will enable the commission in reaching the MCN goal #2.
- Meal train, an online site will be used to facilitate meals for members in need. Anyone requesting meals either for themselves or other persons in the congregation should contact one of the Commission members to initiate the process.
- A Path resource manual will be published for congregational use and kept in the church office. Path Online resources will be available in the coming month.
- Death Preparation Manual brought to commission for review and update. Further information to come.

Fellowship committee:

New Fellowship members include: Gabriella Harnish, Marianne Israel, and LeRoy Loepp
Kitchen Coordinator- Connie Yoder
Events Coordinator- continue to seek
Funeral Meal Coordinator- Marge Weaver

- First meeting was held March 8 via zoom.

Congregational Care Committee:

Committee members include: Bess Desch, Laura Dick, Becky Josefson, Steve Stenger (chair) Ryan Miller (Everence rep), and Keith Unzicker.

- Mutual Aid policies reviewed with further discussion to be held.

Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly

Materials for IMC's March 12 Assembly (zoom) are on the IMC website as well as registration information. www.illinoismennonite.com. The Zoom link will also be posted on this website by this weekend. This assembly is for delegates and any interested persons in our churches.

From the Discipling Commission

Beginning on April 3rd, there will be two new options for Adult Christian Education following Worship. Below is a description of one of these classes, facilitated by Jane Roeschley. A link for purchasing the book used in class is listed as well. Watch next week's Midweek for information on a second option, a class using the "Peaceful Practices" curriculum, published by Mennonite Central Committee. Phil Dick will be facilitating this class.

Everything Happens for a Reason Adult CE Class for April & May led by Jane Roeschley.

"There's a reason for everything" is sometimes said for reassurance that God must be in control of all that happens. Kate Bowler shares from her life journey about how she's come to see that as the opposite of a faith-filled response. This class will read and discuss her book, Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved. We hope this will grow our faith as we wrestle with some of life's most stubborn mysteries – and find they may be a way to more of God. Meeting each Sunday in April and May except Easter. **Assignment for April 3: Read the Preface and Chapter 1.** <https://katebowler.com/books/everything-happens-for-a-reason/>

World Conference - Indonesia 2022

The Executive Committee has opted for limited on-site attendees and many options for online attendees at the hybrid Assembly 17. MWC Assembly is hosted by the three Indonesian Anabaptist-Mennonite synods in Central Java, Indonesia, 5-10 July 2022.

MWC Assembly 17 in Indonesia will welcome 700 on-site participants with the option of additional Indonesian guests for opening night and closing service. Due to COVID-19 regulations, 700 is the number currently possible.

Registration for online participation opened in December 2021. Registration for on-site Assembly opened yesterday. More information [here](#).

Everence Estate & Charitable Planning Workshop

Everence will host an estate and charitable planning workshop at Grace Church in Morton on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. Specifics will include:

- Estate planning: Creating a smooth transition -- Creating an estate plan to ensure your wishes about health, children and assets are carried out.
- Charitable planning: Growing in generosity -- Charitable planning tools to help you support the people and organizations closest to your heart.

Information will be presented by consultants from Everence Financial. There is no charge and registration is not required. For more information: contact Megan Hallden at 866-390-1417, 217-897-1417 or megan.hallden@everence.com. View the flyer [here](#).

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.

Church Office; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622

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

Bryan Oyer: Custodian; 309-826-0199

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](#).

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

Directory
