

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

This Sunday we will consider the critical place of trees in the ecosystems of God's creation and for restoring the Earth.

Steve Thomas will be preaching the sermon, *Trees of Life to Restore God's Earth* using scriptures Genesis 2:4b-9.

Steve Thomas has served as a Mennonite pastor for 33 years. He is the director of Mennonite Men, the men's organization for MCUSA. He is also the coordinator of JoinTrees, a Mennonite campaign to plant one million trees to help restore the Earth. Steve is a certified arborist and has a graduate certificate in urban forestry from Oregon State University. He lives at Pathways Retreat, a spiritual retreat center in Goshen, Indiana where he's planted 3,000 trees. He and his wife Linda Lehman Thomas have four children and one granddaughter.

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

Those Serving This Week:

South Greeters: Larry and Louise Reeser

West Greeter: Marcia Rossi

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: John and Kay Reimer

Worship Leader: Joe Culpepper

Sharing Prayer Leader: Holly Zehr

Children's Story: Louise Reeser

Scripture Reader: Gabriella Harnish

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompanist: Elsa Raab

Tech: Ryan Miller and Caleb Augspurger

Preschool Nursery: Holly Zehr

Gather Round: Shelly King

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

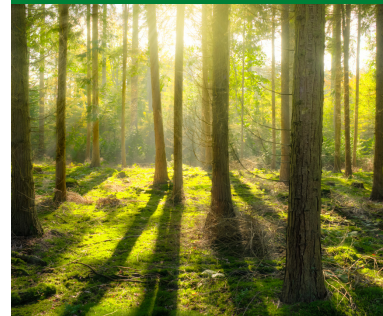
Important Dates:

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

After Worship:
Adult CE Options:
Peaceful Practices
Everything Happens
for a Reason
Discussion with Steve
Thomas

Salt & Light Bible Study

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

Thursday, May 12

- 6:30 am** Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)
- 2:00 pm** Women's Book Group (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm** Loss & Grief Group (Zoom)
- 6:30 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 17

- 7:00 pm** Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 18

- 9:30 am** Wed Morn Book Group (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Directory Update

Prayer Focus for May

During the month of May, everyone is invited to continue a month of prayer for our Discipling Commission; praying for their work in the formation and discipling processes of our church. This week we will be praying in particular for the Discipling Commission's role in ministering to our youth and junior youth. We pray for people who might feel called to teach our youth, called to be a sponsor for youth groups. And we pray for God's leading in finding new ways, big and small, to match the gifts of our church to the ongoing efforts of ministry to our young people. As you are praying this month, you are invited to share with the Discipling Commission anything that God may be bringing to your mind or simply words of encouragement for their work.

This Sunday

This Sunday we welcome Steve Thomas, director of Mennonite Men, to our Sunday morning. In addition to bringing our message that morning, he will be talking with interested persons during the CE hour in the sanctuary. He may include topics about the use of trees on our campus and exploration of tree varieties around the MRC.

For those who are interested further, Marcia Rossi and Phil Houser have extended an invitation to tour Phil's yard at 1:00 p.m. Phil has planted many varieties of trees in his yard and is very knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of our region. And if you would like to eat lunch with one another before this activity, persons can meet at the south door after the CE hour to travel together to Carl's on the corner of College and Garden.

Memorial Information

Mary Dyck and family would appreciate your presence as we remember our Mom, Wilma Dyck. Dates and times are:

- Friday, May 20, 4-7 pm - Visitation, Mennonite Church of Normal
- Saturday, May 21, 9 am - Burial, Mennonite (Ropp) Cemetery, rural Carlock
- Saturday May 21, 11 am - Memorial Service, Mennonite Church of Normal

The service will be live streamed on the same link as Sunday services.

From the Discipling Commission

What's Coming:

Discipling Commission is preparing a unique Summer Sunday School session aimed at our 2nd grade through high school students. The session, "The Way We Were & Who We Became: A Telling of Oral Histories," will feature a different member of MCN each week who will speak with our youth about their childhood, who they are now incl. hobbies and interests, faith formation, and for the Jr. & Sr. High, an additional session on navigating to adulthood. Building off of the theme of reconnecting, we are excited to begin this class starting on Sunday, June 5th.

Also, the CE committee is planning a more traditional Summer Sunday School for Pre-K through 1st. For the first half of summer, the kids will learn about God's Creation. The second half of summer will have them participating in fun, hands-on Bible-based science activities. Volunteers are needed for both 2nd-5th grade and Pre-K through 1st! So, if you are interested in signing up to teach one or more of these classes, please contact Carrie Stalter or Spring Neely.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD



Join us for
Family Fun Night @
MCN
June 10: 5:30-7:30



FAITH | FAMILY | FOOD | FUN

Share Your Worship Gifts This Summer!

Worship Commission invites you to share your gifts as a special part of our summer worship.

Would you like to play the piano or other instrument, sing a solo or with a small ensemble? Do you have a testimony of a time you felt God at work in your life? Do you have a poem or other reading you would like to offer? Would you like to offer a prayer or preach? Would you like to read scripture or offer a Children's Time? We would love to have you share your special worship talents! Just email Holly Zehr (hmzehr@hotmail.com) & she will be happy to schedule your offering.

Drawing Extended!

Oops! On May 1, we announced in church that we would be drawing names for those interested in items that the church was ready to donate. We said that the drawing would take place on May 6, after folks could view this ad in the Midweek. Then... Lauren forgot her own ad from Administration Commission. Yikes! Good thing Lydia starts as Office Administer on May 16! So, for those interested in adding your name to the drawing of items, it's not too late! View more [here](#).

Your Health Matters

May is Mental Health awareness month.

Despite the rise in suicide, PTSD, anxiety, and depression, many do not believe in the importance of mental health. There can be many different reasons for not acknowledging mental health that stop individuals from taking it as seriously as it should be considered.

Here are ways to help spread mental health awareness so that more and more people get to know about it and can make a noticeable difference in their or someone else's life.

- Learn everything you can on mental health,
- Include children in the conversation when you are talking about it,
- Talk about it personally,
- Share all about mental health screening sites,
- Talk to parents and the elderly,
- Involve more and more people to spread the message.

Beyond McLean County, the Illinois Department of Human Services offers the [following services](#).

Seeking Communion Servers

The Worship Commission has scheduled communion to be served every other month for 2022. It would be helpful for us to have a list of persons who would like to serve communion on those Sundays (similar to how persons sign up to be greeters and ushers). We welcome anyone junior high age and older. If you would like to offer your gifts in this way, please contact Annette Harnish. Thank you!

Vision Team Update

The Vision Team met on Wednesday, May 4. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

1. 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.
2. Vision Team finalized its plans and timeline to facilitate discussion and feedback from the congregation. Starting Sunday, May 8, a member of the Vision Team will be present for Vision Team "Office Hours" after the worship hour. See the expanded explanation of this opportunity in this edition of the Midweek for more details.
3. Vision Team hosted a joint meeting with the chairs of the Commissions on Monday, May 9. This meeting featured a fruitful discussion including the berth of ideas for how Commissions could better collaborate and work together.
4. The Vision Team members shared feedback with each other as part of its quarterly self-evaluation exercise.
5. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

Administration Commission Update

We continue to be busy with a range of topics. Here's a short update. We plan to share a much larger update in June when we have more complete information on a variety of items.

- We had the building inspected. One of the things that we learned was that we have high humidity. We worked with our HVAC company on several possible solutions. Then, we discovered the vents into the building from the original air conditioning system had not been filled. Those two vents have now been filled with rock and cement. The humidity in the building has dropped significantly, about 20-25%.
- Office technology problems have included unreceived emails, lost phone messages, and a constantly ringing telephone. We are in the process of restoring the system to functionality. We appreciate your patience as we would like to serve you better than the system was allowing us to do.
- We've replaced the firebox as it was malfunctioning.
- The kitchen sink drain was raining water due to corrosion. This has been replaced.
- We have found delegates for the MC USA conference in May in Kansas City.
- We have several delegates for Central District Conference in Goshen in June.
- Lydia Hedberg will be starting as Office Administrator on May 16. We are in the process of planning her orientation.
- Rita Munkakusi is providing temporary custodial services until we're able to hire a permanent custodian.
- Roger Clemens and John Reimer are mowing the church yard this summer.
- Administration Commission is opening and closing the building.

Mary Stefanik Memorial Service & Scholarship

The Stefanik and Horvath families have established the Mary Horvath Stefanik Endowed Scholarship. Mary completed her master's degree studies at VCU through the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences within the College of Humanities and Sciences. The scholarship will be awarded to support students with this department committed to the promotion of health. Use this [link](#) for the Mary Horvath Stefanik Endowed Scholarship. All donations provided through this link will be directed to the endowed scholarship fund.



The Qr code will also link to the Scholarship Fund page.

Memorial contributions may be made to the VCU Foundation/Mary Horvath Stefanik Endowed Scholarship. Please make a tribute gift online, or mail to VCU Office of Development, Box 843042, Richmond, VA 23284.

Please see the [attachment](#) which will open to Mary's Tribute.

Invitation to Join the 2023 Celtic Pilgrimage

Jane Roeschley and Karla Minter, both spiritual directors, will be leading a two-week Celtic Pilgrimage to Iona and Glendalough, June 2-18, 2023. Pilgrimage as a spiritual practice offers the opportunity to travel slowly and mindfully, with the intention of connecting spiritually with God, with fellow pilgrims and with sacred places. Please see the [flyer](#) for more details and contact information.

From Amy Reiman, Church Librarian

I am working with the children's books in the library. Our young people seem to be some of the most consistent users of the church library! I see an opportunity to help us all connect across generations and stir up interest in the library and one another's reading lives.

Throughout the summer, I would like to showcase "mini reviews" of favorite library or faith-based books from our young readers (pre-K through grade 8). These will be shared in the Midweek. During this time, we will display any church copies of the titles and encourage parents and grandparents to "read along". Towards the end of summer we will plan for an informal chance to connect across these titles after church one Sunday.

If your child is interested in sharing a favorite book, please contact me (a.reiman98@gmail.com) and I will provide further details. I will ask for permission to share a photo and first name of your child in the Midweek alongside their thoughts on the book they select. We hope you will all read along, encourage their reading, and connect with older/younger people along the way!

"Office Hours" with the Vision Team

Over the past two years, there has been an extraordinary amount of information we have been asked to absorb as a congregation. New structures, new goals, and a new mission statement have all been put in place to help us to prepare MCN for its next chapter in how we fulfill Christ's mission. Because of this readily apparent truth, the Vision Team is excited to share with you a new way to get information about what is going on with us and our role in the church. It is a pretty revolutionary concept – talking! Starting last Sunday, May 8th, members of the Vision Team will be sitting in the Fellowship Area on a bi-weekly basis, waiting to answer any questions you may have as a congregant. Need a reminder on how many commissions we have, ask away! Curious about the areas that our new Pastoral Team will be responsible for, stop by and chat! Can't remember how the Vision Team is different from the Church Board, pull up a chair!

This is your opportunity to get any clarification you need to feel comfortable about the future of the Mennonite Church of Normal. We cannot guarantee that we will have an immediate answer to every question you may have, but we can guarantee that we will work to track down an answer for each question we are asked.

We hope to have you join us! The schedule of the remaining VT Office Hours are:

- **May 22**
- **June 5**
- **June 19 (via Zoom, link to come)**

Read the full announcement from May 8 [here](#).

MCC invites you to an upcoming free webinar

Gardening for good: Creation care tips for your backyard and stories from Bolivia:

May 26 at 8 p.m. EDT

In this virtual visit, we'll explore what it looks like to care for the planet, from our own backyards to remote Bolivian communities. Join us to learn gardening and conservation tips in your own garden, then travel south to hear incredible stories from MCC's projects in Bolivia. Register [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

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
