



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

*Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world*

December 2, 2015

## MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

### Today's Chuckle

Why are Christmas trees so fond of the past? Because the present's beneath them.

Kid's version of Away in a Manger:

*The cattle are glowing...  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on his head.*

### Happy Birthday!

Darvis King 12/1  
Ruth Marquis 12/4  
Adam Valverde 12/4  
Reuben Yoder 12/4  
Jon Friesen 12/6  
Jenell Ulrich 12/7  
Shari Stalter 12/9

### Happy Anniversary!

Jeff & Candace Company  
12/4 (11)

### Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

\*Health concerns for:

- \*Cal Hubbard
- \*Deborah Spacek
- \*Jerry Musselman
- \*Russ Oyer
- \*Holly Nester

\*Meghan Reha MCC  
volunteer in Bangladesh.  
\*Matt & Deb Hickman as  
adoption process moves  
forward slowly.

*If you have a prayer concern  
for which you would  
appreciate the prayers of  
your church family, please  
call the church office at 452-  
6622 or email [Lynn](mailto:Lynn).*

### Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of  
Normal join with other

**Worship with us this Sunday, December 6** The scriptures for the worship are Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15.

**Reclaiming Christmas: See with New Eyes. Hear with New Ears.** For most of us The Christmas Story is very familiar. We've seen it in artwork and heard it told or sung for most of our lives. It might even seem ho-hum. But even though this sacred Story seems to remain much the same year after year, our lives do not. For some among us, and for our world, this year has been full of hardship. Our worship this Advent Season is an invitation to see and hear the Christmas Story anew! What might we see, or what will we hear this Christmas that is Good News in our needy lives and in our hurting world?

**Sharing Time By Pastor During Advent.** We look forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas as a church family. We especially enjoy all the carols and holiday music. In order to include these musical treasures in worship during Advent and Christmas, the Worship Committee is asking that all Sharing Time items be put in writing and given to Pastor Tim *before the service*. Blue slips of paper are in a basket on the Entryway table for this purpose. Or you may send him an email. Pastor Tim will share all items for prayer each week prior to the Congregational Prayer.

### Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—Eric & Chellie Miller West—Ryan Miller
Welcome Table	Aldine Combs
Ushers	Lotus Hershberger; Terry Wiebenga Ardys Serpette; Mark Roeschley
Worship Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepf
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Children's Time	Abby Warfel
Scripture	Wayne Hochstetler
Sermon	Tim Schrag
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Miriam Kennel
Preschool Nursery	Evan King

### MCN Events This Week

Thur Dec 3	Next Man's Bible Study 6:15 am Pastoral Council 6:00 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 pm Christian Education 11:00 am Surprise Luncheons Jr. High Youth Group 5:00 pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Sun Dec 6	Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Tues Dec 8	

churches in the area to pray for various sections of Advocate Bro Menn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital. This month MCN is asked to pray for the Obstetrics Unit at Advocate BroMenn.

Please call the church office if you or someone in your family is hospitalized. Due to HIPAA regulations, persons may be hospitalized for several days before your pastors are aware of a need for pastoral care.

### Voice of the Day

Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.

Thomas Merton

### Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Lltwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available. The CDC Focus is available [here](#) and the CDC Reporter [here](#).

### Building Use HAA Quilt Guild

\*5:30-9:30pm Thursday,  
December 3  
\*8:00-4:00 pm Friday,  
December 4  
\*8:00-4:00 pm Saturday,  
December 5

Wellness Committee 5:00 pm

Church Board 7:00 pm

### Upcoming Events at 805 S Cottage

**Surprise Luncheon** (December 6) hosts and guests was announced early this year. If you signed up, the announcement about your surprise luncheon spot was in your mailbox last Sunday. Chellie Miller will be standing by the mailboxes this Sunday to answer any questions about Surprise Luncheons.

**Calling all musicians young and old!** We want everyone who plays an instrument and wants to play Christmas hymns to join us for two practices December 5th and December 12th and performing in Church December 13th. (Times TBA) Open to wind instruments, percussionists, and strings alike. We want everyone who has a passion for playing with other musicians ages junior high and up to come! If interested please talk to or email Lydia Hedberg, Alena Culbertson, or Wesley Hershberger.

**Brass Advent Choir** The Worship Committee is seeking musicians for a Brass Choir on December 20. The choir will play in the Atrium prior to church. If you are Jr. High or older and wish to participate, please contact Randy Zehr. Randy can be reached by e-mail at [rkzehr@hotmail.com](mailto:rkzehr@hotmail.com).

**MDS to Pilger, Nebraska, March 20-26, 2016.** Our congregation has "reservations" for volunteers to go to Pilger, NE in March, 2016. Who is in?? Please let Pastor Jane know.

### Items of Interest

**True Story of the Whole World** Don't miss the story! If you haven't yet signed up for the True Story Sunday School classes, now is your chance! Here's how you can register:

1. Click on this link to use sign up on line:  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094BA9AF2BA20-true](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094BA9AF2BA20-true)
2. Click on this link to see a copy of the flier that describes classes and answers FAQs. (<http://www.normalmennonite.org/helpful-documents/>) You can print this out and turn it into the church office or e-mail or call Lynn with your preference.
3. Come to church on Sunday, December 6th, and register at the True Story table.

The True Story is the church-wide curriculum we will use from January 10th until the end of May. It will take us through the Biblical story and help us find our place in it.

**Alternative Gifts Fair** The final total is \$20,761. MCC gets \$12,694 and AGI gets \$8,067. Last year's total was \$15,374.

\*Full details of each project will be posted on the bulletin board in the Atrium, including the projects with the most contributions and the most donors.

\*The inserts might be in your mailboxes this Sunday. The MCC inserts haven't arrived yet.

\*Thank you again to those who made a booth, the singers, the cashiers and, of course, all the very generous donors.

\*Guess which project received the most donors? AGI #28 "Plant a chocolate forest in Belize, Honduras, & Panama." Most donors were children!

**Ride to Goshen needed** Sue Schrag has a stack of comforters to donate to Mennonite Central Committee (three garbage bags' in volume). Are you traveling to Goshen? Would you a) have room in your vehicle, and b) be willing to stop by MCC's material aid center in Goshen? Contact Sue directly. Thanks!

**Used Stove (Gas) Needed** A family in our congregation is in need of a working used stove. Preferably gas, but either is OK. The oven on theirs has gone out. Please contact Pastor Jane.

**High school seniors** Don't miss out on receiving one of our top scholarships! A Goshen College achievement scholarship could save you and your family tens of thousands of dollars on a nationally-ranked Anabaptist-Mennonite education. Dec. 15 is the priority application deadline for eligibility. Apply now at: <http://goshen.edu/dec15>

**Need help with holiday cleaning, decorating or shopping?** Tina Hubbs is available to assist you. Please contact her at 309-750-6163 to schedule her to make your holiday preparation a little bit easier.

**A message from the Cemetery Committee** Due to increased upkeep costs, the Mennonite Church of Normal Cemetery plots will increase in price from \$325 to \$400 on January 1, 2015. See Ron Ropp for purchase or with questions.

**Pastor Tim Schrag**  
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