



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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

January 20, 2016

## MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

### Today's Chuckle

Before beginning the service, our pastor read aloud a note he'd been handed moments earlier. "It says here that I should announce that there will be no B.S. today," he said. He tucked the piece of paper into a pocket and added, "I'm hoping they mean 'Bible Study.'"

### Happy Birthday!

Ben Jablonski 1/25  
Emily Petri 1/27  
Ross Hershberger 1/29

### Happy Anniversary!

None this week

### Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

\*Health concerns for:

\*Cal Hubbard

\*Russ Oyer

\*Elfriede Massier's  
sister (see Note)

\*Angela Liew's sister-  
in-law (cancer tests)

\*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).*

### Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the  
current *Heart, Soul, Mind  
& Strength*, IMC  
Conference Ministers

### Worship with us this Sunday, January 24

The title of the sermon is *Anxiety or trust?* and is based on I Corinthians 15:45-57. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "Contrast the attitudes of Adam and Eve, and Jesus, as they pondered the prospect of the death of their physical bodies."

**A word about our worship visuals** Quilters have named blocks after Bible stories for generations. The Bible was the primary literary resource in many early American homes, providing inspiration for nineteenth century quilters, who mostly used scraps and outgrown or clothing beyond repair to sew covers to keep their loved ones warm. Throughout our True Story study series, a variety of quilt blocks representing Bible stories or themes will be presented.

This week's block is The Garden of Eden (Gen 2: 8 & 10). It features a blue central cross representing the four rivers said to flow from the Garden. The green squares could be trees. The pattern is known to be well over 200 years old.

**True Story of the Whole World** *Culture Misdirected* is Lesson Three of the True Story series. The link to Lesson Three Study Guide is available on the Mennonite Church of Normal website at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/true-story-of-the-whole-world/> Also available there (under the Education and Nurture tab) are links to

- Lesson Two, *Rebellion in the Kingdom* Study Guide
- Lesson Two, *Rebellion in the Kingdom* lecture by Joe Culpepper
- Lesson One, *God Establishes the Kingdom* Study Guide
- *Introduction and Overview* sermon and slides by Pastor Tim Schrag.

### Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Rick & Annette Harnish

West—To Be Announced

Welcome Table

Roelie Homan

Ushers

Mike & Stephanie Company

Larry Schrader; Elfriede Massier

Worship Leader

Rochelle Augspurger

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepp

Song Leader

Glenn Wilson

Children's Time

Alena Culbertson

Scripture

Mark Roeschley

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Randy Zehr

Toddler Nursery

Carrie Stalter

Preschool Nursery

Shelly King

### MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Jan 20

True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur Jan 21

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Outreach Committee 5:00 pm

Sun Jan 24

Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am

Worship 9:30 pm

Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller'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](#).

### Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal join with other 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

Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as a part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed.  
*Jean Vanier*

### Building Use

HAA Quilt Guild Sewing Mentoring Evening January 21 6:00-9:00 pm

### Maple Lawn

**Souper Bowl Saturday  
Chili Cook Off**

Saturday, January 30, 2016  
4:00 - 6:30 PM at Maple Lawn's Memorial Hall

The Maple Lawn Association of Churches will be hosting the first ever Souper Bowl Saturday Chili Cook Off at Maple Lawn's Memorial Hall on

Christian Education for Children 10:45 am  
Christian Education for Adults 10:55 am  
Homebuilders 5:00 pm (Sanctuary)  
Junior Choir 6:00 pm (Classroom 4)  
Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
Adult Choir 7:30 pm  
True Story Leaders 7:00 pm  
Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Wed Jan 27  
Thur Jan 28

### Exciting upcoming events

**Homebuilders, Sunday, January 24, 5:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary (note change of place and time). Phil Dick will speak on his recent trip to Israel and Palestine. The title of his talk is *Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine*.

### Winter Retreats THIS WEEKEND

\*Junior High Jan 23-24 Camp Menno Haven

\*Winter Church Retreat Jan 22-24 Camp Friedenswald The link to sign up is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>

**All Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald** EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 22-24! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with comfortable, warm lodges to accommodate us. Opportunities for social time or solitude abound! Activities for the weekend include sledding, tubing, hiking, relaxing, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, worship, fellowship, and more! More details and sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>

**Congregational Meal and Meeting January 31** Please mark your calendars to attend the 2016 MCN Annual Meeting. A congregational meal will precede the meeting. During this meeting the budget and 2015 annual report will be submitted for affirmation. Sandwiches will be provided and the Fellowship Committee is asking people with last names A-G please to bring salad, H-N to bring fruit or vegetable, and M-Z to bring dessert. Bringing your table service is optional. Please be prepared to donate for the cost of the sandwiches. All are urged to participate.

**CDC Regional Gathering** You are warmly invited to gather with your Central District Conference brothers and sisters in the upcoming Regional Gathering. We particularly invite young adults to attend, along with pastors and previous delegates. The meeting will take place on Feb 13 @ Community Mennonite Church (Markham, IL), 9:45 am to 3:00 pm.

The morning includes Dwelling in the Word led by Lois Johns Kaufmann, a story from the host congregation, and reporting on events within MC USA. Following lunchtime fellowship, participants will hear a historical vignette on C Henry Smith, and then choose between two sessions: hearing from CDC pastors who participated in the "Come and See Tour" to Palestine/Israel, or joining a discussion group using the Healthy Sexuality document and an accompanying study guide developed by Gerald and Carrie Mast. Our afternoon will end with a time of prayer.

Our Regional Gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to develop face-to-face relationships with others in the CDC community. Please respond to Wayne Hochstetler, congregational chairperson, if you have interest in attending ([hochwayne@icloud.com](mailto:hochwayne@icloud.com), or 309-533-5486).

**Mennonite Disaster Service Trip, March 20-26, Bastrop, TX.** Our congregation has reservations for up to 20 volunteers to work in Bastrop, TX. Bastrop is located in central Texas, 30 miles South East of Austin. The most destructive wildfire on record in Texas destroyed 34,000 acres in Bastrop County in September 2011. Approximately 1600 homes were burned in that county. Reports are that half of the homes were uninsured or underinsured. Nearly 12 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Sleeping for volunteers at this site will be in bunk trailers, 5 persons per trailer, so "groups" of 5 men and 5 women would work out

Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Six different Association Church Congregations will be preparing their best chili in order to take home the coveted distinction of "chili master." Chili makers will also be competing for best themed tables. Just \$5 per person will get you tasting rights and voting tickets. Additional votes may be purchased to help your favorite team win! Beverages and desserts will be available for a free will offering. Proceeds from this event will go towards "Project: Kitchen Aid" Maple Lawn's Health Center kitchen renovation. We hope you can attend this fun event and support Maple Lawn!

#### Pastor Travels

**Pastor Matt will be away:** At Camp Friedenswald with Church Retreat on January 24 and at the planning meeting for 2017 Youth Conference on January 31.

**Pastor's Week** Pastor Jane will be at Pastors' Week from January 27-30.

**Pastor Tim Schrag**  
Senior Pastor  
[tim@normalmennonite.org](mailto:tim@normalmennonite.org)

perfectly (Holy Spirit, help, please.) David Harnish will be bringing a few students from Flanagan High School. Please let Pastor Jane know if you can go, too!

**Save the Date** Spring 2016 Women's Retreat, April 22-23, at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center. Women of all ages are invited to come away together for a time of Bible study, reflection and fellowship. Details and registration information coming soon! Retreat co-sponsored by Illinois Mennonite Conference and IL Mennonite Women.

#### Of Note

**Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Greetings** Friends- I would like to share the 2015 Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Newsletter/Fundraiser. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/iuu03e8ib6i7qng/2015%20mmsf%20appeals%20letter.pdf?dl=0> I would be honored if you took a minute to read about the great things happening in Moro Moro (my father's hometown) and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Additional copies are in the narthex table by the front door. Also check out <http://www.moromorofund.org>. Blessings. - Doug Valverde [-dougvalverde@hotmail.com](mailto:-dougvalverde@hotmail.com)

**Cards for Laura Harnish** Laura, daughter of Rick and Annette Harnish, is competing in the US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Connie Reeser-Hall has provided some encouraging cards for us to sign to encourage Laura. These cards will be available in the Entrance on January 24. Please write a note to cheer Laura on!

#### Prayer Concerns

**Elfriede Massier's sister Elle** is suffering from the effects of Parkinson's Disease and cancer. The prayer request is for her to be able to move to a good caregiving situation.

**Teresa Woods** Prayer is requested for Teresa who has suffered a debilitating stroke. The request is that we be in prayer for Teresa's peace with the situation she is in. The other prayer request is that she be moved to a facility (nursing home) in Sarasota, FL.

#### Beyond MCN

**Understanding your Muslim Neighbor Saturday, January 23rd @ First Mennonite Church of Morton** Jonathan Bornman from EMM will present "Understanding Your Muslim Neighbor" in the multi-purpose room from 8:30-Noon. Illinois Mennonite Church area churches are invited to this workshop. More information is available on the flyer posted on the Atrium bulletin board.

#### Thank You

Alternative Gifts International (AGI) writes: Dear Mennonite Church of Normal and especially Meredith and Roelie: Thank you for lifting up the AGI projects. The recipients of your outreach may be far away but you treat them like a neighbor and that makes all the difference. We are grateful for your community. Thank you from all of us at AGI.  
*Tony Princ*

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Youth and Family Life  
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