



Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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

February 10, 2016

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

(Thanks to Peggy Moore)

Technical Terms and What They Mean to Farmers (II)

Hard Drive: maneuvering through those rocky fields on the northern range when there is snow in the ground

Windows: what to shut when there is snow in the ground

Byte: what mosquitoes do

Modem: what I did to the hay fields.

Happy Birthday!

Bennie Brown 2/18

Emari Stalter 2/18

Shannon Unzicker 2/18

Happy Anniversary!

None this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

*Cal Hubbard

*Russ Oyer

*Holly Nester

Detweiler

*Clients/co-workers of

Kristen Satchwell

*Matt & Deb Hickman as adoption process moves forward slowly.

*Elfriede Massier and family, grieving loss of Elfriede's sister.

*Joe and Ellen Culpepper and son Noah and family

If you have a prayer concern for which you would appreciate the prayers of your church family, please call the

Worship with us this Sunday, February 14

The title of the sermon is *God of the Journey* and is based on Genesis 12:1-6 and Hebrews 11:8-16. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "Notice the sense of pilgrimage. Is 'being settled' a worthy goal, or a subtle temptation?"

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.

Children of Israel Originally called "Chosen Children," this block design dates back to colonial New England. There may be only two variations to the pattern itself, but there are more than fifty references to the children of Israel in the Bible. (Gen 48:16)

True Story of the Whole World *Redemption Initiated (Scene 2: Moses and the Exodus)* is Lesson Six of the True Story series. The link to Lesson Six 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 all the lessons, lectures and sermons that have been given so far.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Lee & Mary Alice Hertzler

West—To Be Announced

Welcome Table

Lotus Hershberger

Ushers

Mike & Stephanie Company

Ryan Miller; Chellie Miller

Worship Leader

Darvis King

Accompanist

Elsa Raab

Song Leader

Cindy Ropp

Children's Time

Holly Zehr

Scripture

Evan King

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Randy Zehr

Toddler Nursery

Nathan Miller

Preschool Nursery

Lena Driscoll

MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Feb 10

True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur Feb 11

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Pastor-Peer Meeting of Illinois Mennonite Conference 9:00 am

Outreach Committee 5:00 pm

Youth Ministry 6:00 pm

MYF Fundraiser 6:30 pm (SOLD OUT!)

Fri Feb 12

Relief Sale Set-up in Atrium 9:00 am

Sat Feb 13

Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am

Sun Feb 14

Worship 9:30 am

church office at 452-6622
or email Lynn.

Conference Newsletters
[Click the link](#) to read the current *IMC Weekly*: IMC Conference Ministers 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 Pediatrics/Infusion 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

To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves.
Thomas Merton

Corrections!

The correct spelling for the Sophie and Henry's little one is Moses Joseph Charles-Dick (Sorry for the error in the bulletin.). And Sophie's email address is wrong in the 2015 Directory. The correct address is sophiecharles@gmail.com

Women Pastors

Retreat April 17-19, 2016 at Camp Menno Haven. The Retreat Leader is someone we

Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 10:55 am
Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Church Board Retreat 6:30 pm
True Story Leaders 7:00 pm
Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Tues, Feb 16

Wed Feb 17

Thu Feb 18

Please Take Note

Next Sunday, February 21 Holy Communion will be served. Contributions for the Mutual Aid Fund are specifically sought on Communion Sundays. Resources from this benevolent fund are disbursed by the Pastoral Council in times of discerned need. Simply include your offering clearly marked "Mutual Aid" when the plate is passed or place your offering into the basket for Mutual Aid donations in the Atrium. Your gift will be gratefully received, and carefully distributed.

The Bible teaches that we are to "examine ourselves" in preparation (1 Cor 11:27-29). Our Mennonite forebears took seriously the idea of being fully at peace with God and one's Christian brothers and sisters in order to partake. Let us prepare with similar prayerful reflection and personal examination.

Mennonite Church of Normal Directory 2016 is being prepared. In order to be as accurate as possible, could you please take a minute and look at your entry in the attached document? Please let me know about corrections, edits, additions, subtractions, etc. If there is specific information which I am seeking, you will find it in **RED**. You can reply to this email with corrections. THANKS! *Lynn Reha*

Pastoral Council Letter A letter introducing the 2016 Pastoral Council and describing the three main activities planned for 2016 is attached to the Midweek Connection. A copy has also been placed into each church mailbox.

Upcoming Events

Membership Class Persons interested in exploring church membership at Mennonite Church of Normal, are invited to two Saturday morning sessions led by Pastor Tim. The sessions will be from 10-12 am on Saturday, February 20 and 27. Contact Pastor Tim if interested. (If interested but time doesn't suit, let Pastor Tim know as well.)

Relief Sale 58th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, March 18-19, Interstate Center, Bloomington. It is time again to put your name on the sign-up sheets to work at the Relief Sale, bake pies or other baked goods. See where you can help. The sign-up sheets and supplies will be on the tables this Sunday. Please be aware of these items:

- * There are some minor time changes for the Fish and Chicken dinners and the Dutch Market.
- * If you like to work at the Dutch Market, please sign up as soon as possible.
- * Help is needed with stocking for the Dutch Market during the day on Friday.
- * We can make rhubarb pies again this year!
- * No pies or baked goods made with sour cream or cream cheese.
- * All churches are asked to donate at least 5 new items for the auction. Please look at the suggestions list.
- * Pick up a yard sign. They can be used many years since it doesn't give a date but says 3rd weekend in March.
- * Distribute Relief Sale posters and booklets around town.
- * There is a sign-up sheet for people who cannot come to the Sale or make things but would like to donate some money to the Relief Sale. Please give your check, made out to the Mennonite Relief Sale, to Roelie Homan or Marcia Rossi.
- * Bring your coins and put them in the My Coins Count bottle.
- * Also needed are knitted, crocheted and quilted things and craft items.

know—Lynette Miller. The retreat is for all women pastors—those currently serving within a pastoral role, and those retired from serving in a pastoral role. Brochures with additional information and registration are available on the Entrance Table.

The February Undoing Racism

Conversation date has moved from February 16 to February 23 at 7 pm. The article, *Three Voices* from *Timbrel* magazine, which is attached, will be discussed at the meeting.

2016 Women's

Retreat Women of all ages are invited to come away to Menno Haven on April 22-23, 2016 for "Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity", a retreat co-sponsored by Illinois Conference and Illinois Mennonite Women. Led by Pastor Kim Litwiller, women will learn more about God, the Ultimate Creator, and will be offered opportunities to nurture creativity through simple crafts, doodling, collage, and more. The \$50 registration fee includes food, lodging, and a participant's guide. Brochures were placed into mailboxes last Sunday, with additional copies available on the narthex table. Questions? See Shannon Unzicker for more information.

Questions? Please call Roelie Homan or Marcia Rossi, co-promoters

More Noteworthy Items

Missing Tableware Bag If you may have picked up a handled paper bag containing some silverware, a mug & plates sitting under the lost and found table on Sunday, it wasn't abandoned as it appeared. It would be appreciated if it could be returned and placed in the kitchen.

Camp Menno Haven The online registration for Menno Haven Summer Camp is officially online and open! It can be found at <http://www.mennohaven.com/summer-camps.html>. If you are interested in coming to camp this summer please register! There is a discount if you are registered and paid by March 7th and you get a free t-shirt if registered and paid by May 2! The summer brochures are also online and will be mailed out soon. This year our theme comes from **John 10:1-18 Who is your Shepherd?**

From MCC Great Lakes

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world. African-American men face a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in their lifetime, compared to 1 in 17 for white men. Do you want to find out why? Consider participating in *The New Jim Crow* project from Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Designed for small groups and Sunday school classes, the program guides you through the history and implementation of mass incarceration in the U.S. and provides actions and solutions. Materials are provided free of charge. For more information, visit mcc.org/new-jim-crow-project or contact Joshua Russell in the MCC U.S. Washington Office: joshuarussell@mcc.org.

Support for Service

Graduate Students in Healthcare Professions: Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) offers educational grants for Anabaptist students to learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. Deadline for 2016-17 academic year is May 15, 2016. For details and application form, see <http://mennohealth.org/SET>, email info@mennohealth.org, or call 1-888-406-3643. While the SET program is specifically for graduate students, grant funding is also available for **any student, practitioner, or retiree** in any healthcare field for **projects which grow out of an Anabaptist Christian faith commitment**. See the Grant Program page at <http://mennohealth.org/grant-program/>. There is an earlier deadline of March 15, 2016 for this program.

Budget Counseling

Lutheran Social Services Financial Counseling (in partnership with Everence) offers confidential, non-judgmental financial counseling to anyone in the community that faces financial struggle, or would like to know a little more about financial wellness. **At no cost**, LSSFC will take a comprehensive look at a person's budget, debts, and income and then provide personalized recommendations and options to help individuals and families move toward their financial goals. Call [877-809-0039](tel:877-809-0039) for more information. For Spanish language counselors, call [800-388-2227](tel:800-388-2227).

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