

Return of the King is this week's Adult and Teen Christian Education lesson.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

May 11, 2016

Worship with us this Sunday, May 15

The sermon title is *Square Wheels Go Bump* and the Scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 6:2. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The ministry of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:18) is what Christ gave us as our 'charge'. That plays well with Mennonites. But let's not forget verse 19 which follows. This is the first (and primary) reconciliation, all else follows."

True Story of the Whole World *Return of the King* (Lesson 18) is this week's Adult and Teen Christian Education lesson. The link to *Return of the King* (Lesson 18) 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.

Scripture Focus We begin our worship service with a Scripture Focus each week that comes from the congregational study of the Bible in which we are currently engaged. Each worship service is based on the lesson from the previous week's Sunday School study.

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 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. Here is a description of the visual display for May 15.

Bright Morning Star - Rev 22:16

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright Morning Star. A traditional and simple star pattern, ours in rendered in modern colors.

Prayer Requests

Holly Zehr's father, who has cancer.
Rachel Ropp, who is traveling to Cambodia on a Mission Trip with Encounter Ministries.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Wed May 11 Peace & Justice 5:15 pm
 True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur May 12 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
 Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
 Financial Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm

Sun May 15 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
 Worship 9:30 am (Communion)
 Children's CE 10:45 am
 Adult CE 10:55 am
 Congregational Meal 12:00 pm
 Congregational Meeting 1:00 pm
 Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
 Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm

Tue May 17 Staff Meeting 9:30 am
 Undoing Racism 7:00 pm

Wed May 18 True Story Leaders 7:00 pm



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Duane & Stephanie Nester West: Mark Roeschley
Welcome Table	Mary Dyck
Ushers	Janet Wilson; Ardys Serpette To Be Announced
Worship Leader	Kay Reimer
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Accompanist	Chris Culbertson
Scripture Reader	Julie Musselman
Children's Time	Darrel Miller
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Stephanie Nester
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lucy Unzicker May 18
Emily Kettering May 17
Kay Reimer May 16
Rick Harnish May 19
Sam Warfel May 19

Congratulations to David & Mirian Kennell on
their 40th anniversary on May 22.





You are cordially invited to attend the 50th wedding anniversary open house for Roger and Linda Clemmons which will be held at the church on Saturday, May 28 from 1-3 pm. An invitation is posted on the Atrium Bulletin Board. A light lunch will be served so please sign up by May 22 if you are planning to come.



Fine Arts Event

You are invited to attend the MCN Fine Arts Event, Sunday, May 22, at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This event celebrates the talents of our children and young people in a variety of forms, including music, visual arts, and others. Join us for this special occasion! Refreshments will be served. Those who are participating in the event, please confirm your participation and include the title, composer/author of display/performance. Please give this information to Cindy Ropp by Sunday, May 8.



Flower Bouquet Sign Up

Do you have cut flowers to share? Please sign up to bring flowers for Sunday morning. The sign-up list will be on the Atrium Bulletin Board.

Emergency Preparedness

The McLean County Health Department is conducting a survey to help map where vulnerable individuals live within McLean County. This information is crucial in their planning for relief and aid during disaster and emergency situations. The Wellness Committee strongly encourages your participation in this quick survey, to better ensure all people can access care during an emergency. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCHDFNMapping> or paper copies are available on the Entrance Table and can be returned to Leah Roeschley's mailbox.



Undoing Racism

The final Undoing Racism Conversations will be May 17, 7 pm. For May 17, we will discuss the final chapter “Where do we go from here?” from Drew Hart’s *Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* (Herald Press, 2016). I have copies in my office. Please let me know if you would like one placed in your church mailbox. There will be a break from the Third Tuesday Conversations over the summer. We are planning on offering a book study of Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*, using study materials provided by Mennonite Central Committee. Let me know if you have questions! *Jane Thorley Roeschley*

Donations for West African Children

The Hickmans are hoping that in the near future Deb will travel to West Africa to bring their adoptive daughter Blessing home. Deb is able to take along much-needed supplies for the foster children where Blessing lives. Donations of non-gummy children's multivitamins, cloth diapers, new or gently-used children's flip-flops or crocs, and compact, smooth, washable toys (no stuffed animals) can be dropped off at Pastor Matt's office at church. Deb would love to take a suitcase full of supplies!

Matthew D. Hickman

Youth Venture

Youth Venture Youth Venture is still accepting applications for the July 15-25 Los Angeles team!

Partner with Mountain View Mennonite Church and ReconciliAsian as they minister to their community through vacation Bible school, a peace center, and other various services. Ages 14-22 can apply by June 1 at MennoniteMission.net/Serve <<http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve>> , or contact ArloaB@MennoniteMission.net for inquiries.

Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal joins 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 Surgical 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.



Conference Newsletters

[Central District Conference \(CDC\) Focus](#) The CDC Focus is now available in this online format. Just click the picture of the newsletter or the title. A copy is available on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Also available is the [CDC Reporter](#) .

[Click the link](#) to read the current IMC Weekly: Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available.



Voice of the Day

Three quotes from Daniel Berrigan's 10 Commandments: 1) Call on Jesus when all else fails. Call on Him when all else succeeds (except that never happens). 9) Know that sometimes the only writing material you have is your own blood. 10) Start with the impossible. Proceed calmly towards the improbable. No worry, there are at least five exits. *Daniel Berrigan*



A Reminder

The MRC Community Room is sometimes available for church-related events like Cluster luncheons, and other gatherings. This is just a reminder that you should take out everything that you bring in like food, condiments, etc.



Building Use

May 12 9:00 am Pastor-Peer Illinois Mennonite Conference
May 12 12:30 Everence Pastor meeting
May 17 5:30 pm Head Start Graduation



Today's Chuckle

What is faster hot or cold? Hot, because you can catch a cold.

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

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Justice for Suriname Indigenous People

Meghan Reha writes with this invitation about an issue of justice.

You know that I spent time in Bangladesh with MCC, but what is less well known is that prior to that, when I lived in Seattle, I was involved with some friends, Dan Peplow and Sarah Augustine, who have been working with indigenous peoples in Suriname to advocate for fundamental human rights and economic justice for the past 12 years. Their program is called the [Suriname Indigenous Health Fund](#), and there is lots more information at the link. I have also included more details in this [letter](#), which is posted on the MCN website.

I have been granted a audience, tomorrow, May 12 at 2:30 with Senator Dick Durbin to request his signature on a Senate letter requesting a change in the practice of the Inter-American Development Bank to provide more justice to the Suriname people. I am extending an invitation to anyone from Mennonite Church of Normal to come along for the meeting, and to join me in this advocacy journey, wherever it takes us. The more noise we make, the more likely our Senators are to listen. Contact me at 309-807-7288 to support this cause of justice.