

Mennonite College representatives from Goshen, Bluffton, Bethel, Hesston, and EMU will visit our church this Sunday afternoon from 3-5 pm for a high school youth event. Area youth groups have been invited to join our youth group for the event.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

September 7, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, September 11

This Sunday begins a 6-week sermon series on the book of Revelation titled *The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Eternal Words for Today*. The Scripture this week is Revelation 21:1-7 and this week's sermon title is *Looking Forward, Right Now*. Pastor Tim asks, " 'Looking forward to something' can cause dread, or delight. Today we will consider the idea of looking forward to 'a new heaven and new earth'. What emotions does this cause in you? And why?"

Our Scripture Focus this week and throughout the Fall will come from the Bible Memory Passages which our children are studying.

This Sunday begins the Fall Adult Christian Education series studying the Gospel of John. See below for class descriptions.



Prayers and Condolences

Our condolences go out to Kayla Belzer and family. Kayla's grandmother, Marilyn Porzelius passed away on Sunday, September 4. She was 83.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ron Ropp's nephew.

Please pray for

- The Hickman Family as Deb travels to Liberia to pick up their daughter Blessing.
- The family of Cindy Ropp's Aunt, who passed away recently
- Paul and Lynn Chang as they travel to Taiwan and China; Paul's health.
- Deborah Spacek, recovering from a fall, in Pontiac Healthcare and Rehab

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Thur Sept 8	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Financial Stewardship Committee 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm
Sun, Sept 11	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children's Christian Ed 10:45 am Adult Christian Ed 11:00 am Mennonite Relief Sale Board 2:30 pm Senior High Youth 3:00 pm Junior High Youth 5:00 pm
Mon, Sept 12	Mennonite Women 9:30 am
Tue Sept 13	Worship Committee 5:00 pm Wellness Committee 5:40 pm
Wed Sept 14	Peace & Justice Committee 5:15 pm Mennonite College Night 6:30 pm
Thurs Sept 15	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Church Board 6:00 pm



Serving This Sunday



Greeters	South: Linda and Roger Clemmons West: Hazel Yoder
Welcome Table	Doris Shoemaker
Ushers	Steve Stenger, Andy Reeser
Worship Leader	Mark Roeschley, Terry Wiebenga
Song Leader	Rochelle Augspurger
Accompanist	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	Denise Hedberg
Children's Time	To Be Announced
Sermon	Louise Reeser
Technology	Pastor Tim Schrag
Toddler Nursery	Randy Zehr
	Lucy Unzicker
Preschool Nursery	Jonah King

Birthdays



Happy Birthday to

Makyla	Hickman	11-Sep
Linda	Clemmons	13-Sep
Darin	Driscoll	13-Sep
Andy	Hedberg	13-Sep

Apple Harvest

Unfortunately, as a result of unique weather conditions and equipment issues, the quantity and quality of apples this year won't justify a usual harvest day. However, there are a small number of good apples which can be salvaged. The Millers would welcome a group of about 20 volunteers this Saturday, September 10 to pick and wash apples to be used for the Relief Sale and to give to Jesus House and Home Sweet Home. No cider will be made. Please contact Eric or Chellie if you're interested in assisting so we can have a final count of helpers.



Fall Adult Sunday School: The Gospel of John

Starting Sunday, September

11

Christian Education classes exploring the book of John will begin Sunday, September 11. Each lesson will generally consist of one chapter (occasionally two) per Sunday over a period of 19 Sundays. The classes below will approach John with a variety of methods to mine the insights, wisdom and challenges of the life of Jesus through the pen of John. Please join us!

Discussion and Input

Tim Schrag, facilitator

Each session will begin with a 30 minute "encounter with the text". There will be discussion and sharing within smaller groups, focused on questions from the book JOHN by N.T. Wright. Participants should expect to read the assigned chapter from the gospel prior to class. (It is not necessary to read the N.T. Wright book.) Tim will gather up insights from the small groups and offer some additional comments to conclude the last 15 minutes.

Peeling Away the Layers

Melika Hershberger, leader

The book of John is full of Jesus' simple words that have deep meaning. This class will focus on connecting those perplexing words of Jesus from his world to ours. The class will use a variety of methods—artwork, speaking the Scripture, acting, mini-lecture, and discussion—to help bring insights and inspiration to light.

Lectio Divina and Contemplative Response

Elsa Raab, Jane Roeschley, co-leaders

Letting Jesus speak to our hearts through the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina will be our approach to studying the book of John. Lectio Divina is meditatively reading through the passage, prayerfully considering Jesus' words, and being open to what God wants to say to us. In addition to Lectio each week, other approaches to hearing God in the scripture, such as call and

response, poetry, journaling, art or music may also be used to enhance our understanding we listen for God's still small voice speaking into our lives.

Bible Study

Darrel Miller, leader

This class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. The Believers Church commentary on John by Willard Swartley and Michael Card's book, JOHN: The Gospel of Wisdom, from his Biblical Imagination series, will be resources used for studying the passage. If you like to have a book to read to prepare for the lesson, Card's book is available on Amazon for \$15.64.

High School Study

Jon and Janelle Friesen, leaders

This class will use a variety of different resources to help guide discussions based on the passages from the book of John. This class is open to all high schoolers and will follow the same Scripture selections as the adult classes.

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May Your Light Shine: Memories & Highlights from a Celtic Pilgrimage

Sunday Evening, September 18, 7 pm.

Pastor Jane will share some highlights from her travels this summer.

Aldine and Lloyd Combs would like to say thank you for all the cards, good wishes and gifts given in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Matt is using vacation days to volunteer at Home Sweet Home Ministries each Tuesday from now through November as part of his coursework in the counseling program at Lincoln Christian Seminary.

Homebuilders

Save the Date September 25, 7:00 pm for a Homebuilders Event.

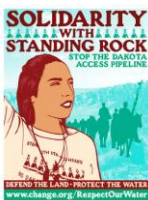
Building Use

- Thursday, September 8, 9:00-11:00 Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer meeting in Room 4
- Monday, September 12, 5:30-9:00 Wild Ones meet in Sanctuary
- Thursday, September 15, HAAQG Mentoring Sewing Evening



Donate to Muscular Dystrophy

PASTOR MATT BEHIND BARS FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY Matt will be locked up on Thursday, September 8th. The "bail money" he raises will help fund research into muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases, and will send McLean County kids with muscular dystrophy to camp. His goal is to raise \$2,000. Donate at <http://www2.mda.org/goto/pastormatt>



Loss of Turtle Island: Action

The Loss of Turtle Island event that took place at MCN last Sunday was an excellent way to be informed about the history of injustice and oppression toward Native Americans. As a follow-up to that event, Pastor Jane has brought the protest of the pipeline at Standing Rock to our attention as one way to take action. Please go to

<http://justseeds.org/solidarity-with-standing-rock/> for ways to be involved.



Something Berry Nice

The Aronia (chokeberry) bushes on the south side of the church are now bearing their blue-black "superberries." Aronia berries have three times the health benefits of blueberries. While a little sharp in taste for fresh eating, they are excellent in smoothies, muffins, jelly, jam, and sauce for ice cream. As the birds do not seem very interested in the berries, Pastor Matt says that we are welcome to harvest the berries for our own use.

Cemetery Restoration

Four of the oldest stones in the cemetery date back to the 1800's. They have been restored and set in permanent footings. The cost has been shared with the Ropp family. You may want to pay a visit to see the restorations. Please see any member of the Cemetery Committee if you wish more information about securing a plot.



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 Same Day Services at Advocate Eureka Hospital. 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.



Thought for the Day

There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness. (See Story Below)

Today's Story

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on the older brother's door.

He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence so I won't need to see his place anymore. Cool him down, anyhow.

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge - a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work handrails and all; and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, hugging. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

