

Save the Date: January 22 Congregational Meal and Annual Meeting

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 11, 2017

Worship with Us This Sunday,
January 15, 2017

The Scripture for this Sunday is Matthew 6:5-15. The title of the sermon is *The Powerful Plurals of Prayer*. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The petitions of the Lord's prayer are in the plural. Changing the plurals to the singular can be revealing."

The hymns are *O Come, Loud Anthems Let Us Sing* (HWB 68), *All Beautiful the March of Days* (HWB 159), and *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* (HWB 353) and *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (STJ 56).



Prayers

Please pray for Bev Collin's niece's improved health.
Give thanks to God for timely medical help for Holly Nester Detweiller, granddaughter of Marge Nester.

Please pray for peace in occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank.

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Jan 11 Peace & Justice Committee 5:15 pm
 Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thur Jan 12 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
 Pastor-Peer IMC Meeting 9:00 am
 Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
 Youth Ministry Committee

Sun Jan 15 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
 Worship 9:30 am
 Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
 Experience-Based Feedback Session 11:45 am
 Junior High Youth 5:00 pm
 Senior High Youth 5:00 pm

Tues Jan 17 Staff Meeting 10:30 am

Wed Jan 18 Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thur Jan 19 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 pm

Jan 20-22 Junior High Retreat at Menno Haven

Jan 22 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
 Worship 9:30 am
 Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
 Congregational Meal noon
 Congregational Meeting 1:00 pm
 Senior High Youth 5:00 pm



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Abby and David Warfel
	West: Ryan Miller
Welcome Table	Aldine Combs
Ushers	Eric and Chellie Miller
	Ryan and Nathan Miller
Worship Leader	To Be Announced
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Accompanist	Denise Hedberg
Scripture	JB Ponnou-Delaffon
Children's Time	Melika Hershberger



Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Carrie Stalter
Preschool Nursery	Holly Zehr

Happy Birthday to

Oops...Joe and Ruth Haney's anniversary on November 24 (44 years!) was inadvertently omitted from the Midweek. Please wish them a belated Happy Anniversary.

Christian	Engel	14-Jan
Carrie	Stalter	15-Jan
Joe	Mathews	16-Jan
Louise	Reeser	18-Jan
Hazel	Yoder	18-Jan
Phylis	Versteegh	20-Jan
Adah	Reiman	21-Jan



Congregational Meal and Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Mennonite Church of Normal is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 at 1:00 pm. The Annual Reports of MCN document is available for you at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/2016-annual-reports/> If you would like a copy at the meeting, please print and bring along. An expanded agenda has been printed and is in your mailboxes. It includes the revised Vision and Mission Statement, for which the Board will be asking affirmation, and some questions that will help you participate in the "Hearing from the Congregation" agenda item. This expanded agenda is also available on the MCN website.

Preceding the meeting will be a congregational meal. The menu for this meal includes a macaroni and cheese bar and salad. This meal is a fund raiser to help with the expenses of sending our youth to Orlando for MCUSA Youth Convention 2017. All are invited to participate in the meal and the meeting.



All Church Winter Retreat

All Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 27-29! 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>

Hospitality Volunteers

In 2016, many of you served as Hospitality Volunteers. Thank you very much. We are making the schedule for Ushers, Greeters and Welcome Table beginning in March of 2017 I will consider your name to be continuing from 2016, unless I hear otherwise from you.

If you have not been on the previous schedule for 2016, but would like to participate in 2017, please let me know. I will be finalizing the list in the next several weeks. Contact Louise Reeser -826-3423 or email at reeserfarms@gmail.com.



Welcome Sign

This sign welcomes neighbors no matter where they are from. Our electric sign has a version of this message on it. If you would like to have a copy of this sign in a metal stand for your yard, please contact Cindy Ropp. They are available for \$10.

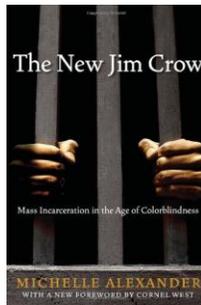
Farewell, Friends

Some significant MCN'ers are leaving! Kristen Sand has moved to Tennessee to pursue different work and Jay and Angela Liew are moving back to Colorado, as Jay's consulting work has come to an end here. We will miss all of them, but we are so glad to have known them and hope our paths cross again. Here is a message from the Liew's:

Why did the Liew family come to MCN? Through reading several missionary stories, I discovered MCC. Mennonites seemed to be a devout, wise, generous, caring, and dedicated people. Dedicated to making a difference and helping others peaceably. Though one book in particular revealed some contention and different ideals within the MCC, they knew that they could not accomplish nearly as much alone as they could together. With the goal of bringing about positive change, in the Polynesian islands in this instance, their differences simply had to be worked through. This "people", the Mennonites, did not dwell on minor doctrinal differences, rather they supported other Christian groups to further their own efforts on some islands. This pure mindset and dedication to truly helping the world become a better place is what drew me to visit a Mennonite church. I can honestly say that the Mennonite Church of Normal has not disappointed me. My family found love, acceptance, refuge, many great friends and good people here. Thank you, Pastors Schrag, Jane, and Matt for reaching out to us individually. Thanks to not only them, but the entire congregation as well for patiently answering our multitudes of questions about the history, doctrinal stances, and just "the way things work here". Our family has grown and matured in so many ways during our 18 months with you. We love this congregation very much, and whether we return in the future or not, you will always be a part of us. Thank you. *Jay and Angela Liew*

PS: My ancestry is Mennonite...Hershberger...perhaps it was simply my DNA that followed the path here.

:)



The New Jim Crow Adult Elective. Based on Michelle Alexander's book, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#), this class runs Feb-early May and is led by Amy Reiman and David Harnish. *The New Jim Crow* presents the compelling case that mass incarceration, a form of social control that disproportionately affects people of color, is the most urgent civil rights issue of our time. Amy and David will draw on their experiences as local educators, in order to historically contextualize Alexander's thesis, and to better understand both the limitation and potential of the language we use to discuss systems of racism. The class will work to establish a Biblical imperative to respond to Alexander's call to take action on this human rights issue. Class participants need to have a copy of the book and must read a 20-page assignment each week before class. Books may be purchased at Barnes & Noble (approx \$20), online at [Amazon](#) (used approx \$14) or check with Pastor Jane.

Directory Update

New email address for Marge Weaver
margemartinweaver@gmail.com



When the Unthinkable Happens

The registration deadline for Hesston College's 2017 **Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series** conference is a month away. The **Feb. 17 to 19** conference will cover the topic "When the Unthinkable Happens," and will discuss how congregations and communities can prepare for and respond to trauma. Don't miss out; [register now](#).



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 Advocate Addiction Recovery Unit. 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.

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

Busyness is not a reason for not getting other things done. It is an excuse for not claiming your true priorities.

Alan Cohen



Today's Punniest

A good pun is its own reword.
Energizer Bunny arrested; charged with battery.
A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
Dijon vu: The same mustard as before.
Corduroy pillows are making headlines.
Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.