

Two new Adult Christian Education initiatives start on February 5 at 11:00 am. What Does Jesus Mean? taught by Darryl Miller and The New Jim Crow taught by Amy Reiman and David Harnish.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 25, 2017

Worship with Us This Sunday,
January 29, 2017

The Scripture for this Sunday is Matthew Esther 4:6-16. The title of the sermon is *God Among the Godless*. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The book of Esther, seldom read or referenced, is a self-contained short story with drama and intrigue. Read it! And note well, Esther is one of two books in the Bible with no mention of God."

The hymns are *What is This Place* (HWB 1), *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns* (HWB 59), *God of the Bible* (STJ 27) and *The Lord Lift You Up* (STJ 73).



Prayers and Condolences

We offer sympathy and condolences for Ruth Haney and family. Ruth's mother, Jean Bachman, passed away on January 23. Services for Jean will be at the Mennonite Church of Normal on Monday, January 30. Visitation will be at 10:00 am and Funeral Service at 11:00 am. A meal will be served following the Funeral Service.

Please pray for

- Sarah Nichols & family. Sarah's brother has cancer; she is hoping to visit him in Iowa soon.
- Quinn Wilson as he works with Syrian refugees in Greece.
- The Wiegand family, friends of Lisa & Frank Jablonski, who are mourning the loss of their daughter, Maria, as the result of a car accident.
- Residents of the West Side of Bloomington as the relationship between residents and police is discussed.

Please pray for Increased health for

- Catrina Brooks
- Son of friend of Rochelle Augspurger

We give God thanks that the Christ-like spirit of honoring and loving each other, and not judging or opposing, was present to the congregational members who joined Women's Marches on Jan 21.

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Jan 25	Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm
Thur Jan 26	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Fri-Sun, Jan 27-29	Camp Friedenswald Retreat Senior High Retreat at Menno Haven
Sun Jan 29	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am Junior High Youth 5:00 pm Junior Choir 5:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Thur Feb 2	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Serving This Sunday



Greeters	South: Adam and Caleb Augspurger West: Mark Roeschley
Welcome Table	Stephanie Nester
Ushers	Steve Stenger, TBA Janet Wilson, Connie Reeser
Worship Leader	Lynette Miller
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp

Scripture
Children's Time
Sermon
Technology
Toddler Nursery
Preschool Nursery

Caroline Roeschley
Chris Culbertson
Pastor Tim Schrag
Adam Augspurger
Clara Unzicker
NEED VOLUNTEER



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Ross Hershberger on January 29th
Justine Lee on January 31st
Nevaeh Nester on January 31st
Craig Ohmart on February 1
Israel Scott on February
Rochelle Augspurger on February 4

Contributions Statements

We are grateful for your contributions in 2016. A document stating your tax-deductible contributions has been placed into your church mailbox. Please let Lynn know if you have questions.

Directory Update

Please correct these email addresses in your 2016 Church Directory:

Deborah Spacek dspacek2@yahoo.com
Jordan Spacek jordanspacek@yahoo.com

Annual Report

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting last Sunday. During the meeting a couple of errors in the Annual Reports were discovered and those have been corrected on pages 11 and 19. My apologies to the Outreach Committee for the errors on their report. An updated version of the Annual Reports is available on the church website at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/2016-annual-reports/> Lynn Reha

Meals for Sunday Night Youth Meetings

Each Sunday night, supper is provided for our junior and senior high youth as a way to bolster fellowship. Might you consider providing a meal? You can sign up to provide food for both groups or just one. The high school group with adults has around 18 people at meals; the junior high

group with adults has around 10-12.
Follow this link to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0448acab2aa1fd0-dinner1>

Save the Date for Central District Meetings

You are warmly invited to gather with your CDC brothers and sisters in any of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that best fits with your schedule. This is a time for worship, fellowship, and a taste of our annual meeting in June. If you have not met Doug Luginbill, our new conference minister, this is a wonderful opportunity to do that. We particularly invite congregational leaders and young adults to attend, along with pastors and previous delegates. Please know that anyone is welcome to participate.

Feb 25 @ Southside Fellowship (Elkhart, IN on the AMBS Campus)

Mar 4 @ First Mennonite Church Urbana (Champaign/Urbana, IL)

Mar 11 @ First Mennonite Church Wadsworth (Wadsworth, OH)

Regional Gatherings start with coffee and tea at 9:45 am, and conclude at 3:00 pm.

SWAP

MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) program is seeking volunteer groups and summer staff. Summer will be here before we know it, so make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky. Don't miss out on your chance to serve with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Groups or individuals can volunteer to serve as week-long volunteers.

SWAP is also looking for summer staff to serve as job site coordinators and meals coordinators/cooks for three month assignments. Summer staff are a critical component of SWAP's successful ministry, as they help facilitate the weekly SWAP service groups working on housing repair for low-income persons. Summer staff vary in age from 19 to 70+, and they receive meals, lodging and a weekly stipend for their service. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP or serving as summer staff, visit swap.mcc.org or contact Angela Maggard at AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.

Two New Adult Christian Education Electives Start February 5 11:00 am

1) What Did Jesus Mean? This class will examine sayings of Jesus that are difficult to understand. The class will be led by Darryl Miller.

2) 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 class starts February 5 and meets from 11:00-11:45 each Sunday. *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.

Relief Sale

59th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, March 17-18, Interstate Center, Bloomington. "Sharing God's Love and Compassion!" Put the dates on your calendar. The Distress Supper will be on Thursday, February 9, at the Roanoke Mennonite Church at 6:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome. If you like to go, call Roelie Homan, 662-6426.



Clean Car Opportunity

Tired of winter grunge on your car? Ryan Ulrich does expert car cleaning and detailing. You can call or text him at 309-3606917, or e-mail him at ryanu81@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](#). Lynn Reha is attending and would be glad to share transportation.



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

It is precisely women's experience of God that this world lacks. A world that does not nurture its weakest, does not know God the birthing mother. A world that does not preserve the planet, does not know God the creator. A world that does not honor the spirit of compassion, does not know God the spirit. God the lawgiver, God the judge, God the omnipotent being have consumed Western spirituality and, in the end, shriveled its heart. *Joan Chittister*



Today's Chuckle

Actual bloopers from the files of a doctor's office

When he stands he needs assistance to stay on his face.
He is a retired trunk driver.
Patient denies swallowing or chewing.
Patient has a headache. Says she had no head before.
The patient does not smoke alcohol.
She states she has GOK "God Only Knows."
Patient has no idea where her limbs are.
Patient is a retired forearm.