



**Menonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Menonite Church USA

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

September 9, 2015

## MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

### Today's Punniest

Plateaus: the highest form of flattery

How do you organize a space party? You planet.

What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.

### Happy Birthday!

Makyla Hickman 9/11  
Linda Clemmons 9/13  
Darin Driscoll 9/13  
Andy Hedberg 9/13

### Happy Anniversary!

None this week.

### Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

\*Health concerns for:

- \*Louise Reeser
- \*Gerlof Homan
- \*Mary Engel's mother

*If you have a prayer concern for which you would appreciate the prayers of your church family, please call the church office at 452-6622 or email [Lynn](mailto:Lynn).*

### Partners in Healing

Menonite 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 Emergency Department at Advocate BroMenn

Please call the church office if you or someone in your family is hospitalized.

### Worship with us this Sunday, September 13

The title of the sermon is *Keeping Our Feet on the Ground* and is based on Matthew 10:5-16. Pastor Tim writes, "Two weeks after experiencing a con man in our midst, I will reflect on being "shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves" in the midst of a 'deceitful generation'.

### Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—To Be Announced West—Amy Reiman
Welcome Table	Wilma Dyck
Ushers	Paul & Mary Ann Watkins Connie Reeser-Hall; Terry Wiebenga
Worship Leader	Rochelle Augspurger
Accompanist	Spencer Gillespie; Youth Musicians for Prelude
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Children's Time	Shelly King
Scripture	Clara Unzicker
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Rick Harnish
Toddler Nursery	Lucy Unzicker
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab

### MCN Events This Week

Thur Sept 10	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sun Sept 13	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education 11:00 am Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Mon Sept 14	Menonite Women 1:00 pm Financial Stewardship Committee 6:00 pm
Tues Sept 15	Staff Meeting 9:30 pm Dismantling Racism Conversation 7:00 pm

### UPCOMING MCN EVENTS

**Blessing of the Backpacks** All kids who use backpacks to go to preschool, grade school, junior or senior high, bring them to church on Sunday, September 13! They - and you - will receive a blessing for your new school year.

**Menonite Women Organization** Menonite Women start their Fall meeting and Activity schedule on Monday, September 14 at 1:00 am. ALL women are welcome.

**MCN Starter Conversation on White Privilege and Dismantling Racism** The Outreach Committee will host a conversation on white privilege and dismantling racism at MCN at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15. We especially encourage young people in our church to participate in this conversation. This first conversation will not go over an hour and a half. It is anticipated that after we have this conversation, on a date yet to be determined, MCN will host a seminar(s) on white privilege and dismantling racism led by

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

By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be purer, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.  
*Thomas Merton*

## Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available. The CDC Reporter is available [here](#).

## School Kits

Last chance for Fall School Kit Collection. The Mennonite Women Organization will be packing the bags on Monday, September 14. Please provide some or all of these items: Each bag needs:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x10 ½ in and 70 sheets),
- 8 unsharpened pencils,
- 1 flat, flexible plastic ruler (available at Dollar Stores in Normal)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser.

If you only purchase certain items for the kits, those are useful also. Please put completed kits or items for the kits in the red tub in the Atrium.

Ewuare Osayande, Anti-Oppression Coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. One proposed seminar may primarily involve young people.

**Taste at Meadows** You are invited to the Saturday, September 19, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, *Taste at Meadows* Fund Raising Event at the Meadows Retirement Community campus in Chenoa. The event includes a scrumptious hog roast (delicious chicken entrée alternative) and all sorts of yummy sides, dessert and a beverage—all for only a \$10 per plate contribution. Additional plans include live entertainment on the grandstand, shopping amid the artisan booths under the trees, face painting, games and Karaoke. Please plan to join in the fun.

**Apple Harvest** It's apple harvest time! Come out and enjoy fun and fellowship at Eric & Chellie Miller's orchard on [Saturday, September 19](#), beginning at [8:30 am](#). Address is [821 E. Raab Rd., Normal](#). It's a larger crop, so we will plan to pick and wash apples and make cider as in the past. Instead of a lunch, breakfast items and beverages will be provided throughout the morning. We plan to finish around noon. Come for all or part of the time. A portion of the apples will be given to local charities, and you may help yourself to apples and cider as the supply allows. Apples can also be taken for Relief Sale pies. Please bring gently used apple bags from previous harvests for re-use. If you have any questions, please contact [Eric or Chellie at 451-3430](#).

**Eagle Court of Honor** Ryan Miller has successfully completed the requirements for the Eagle Scout rank, including his project of installing a prayer labyrinth at our church. Ryan will have his official Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on [Sunday, September 20, beginning at 2:00 pm at the church](#). Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony. Please RSVP on the sheet on the back wall of the church or via e-mail to [ecmiller95@frontier.com](mailto:ecmiller95@frontier.com). Everyone is welcome!

**Women's Retreat - Camp Friedenswald** The theme is *Women Rising: Naming, Claiming, Transforming* and it will be held on September 25-27, 2015. You are invited to come with your brokenness, your strength, your laughter and be open to the Spirit. Mennonite Church of Normal and First Church of Champaign/Urbana are hosting the retreat this year. Look for more information to be posted soon.

## Of Note

### Bunkhouse Renovation 2015 for Camp Menno Haven

Thanks to the financial support and volunteer labor from Mennonite Church of Normal, Hickory House renovation was completed in 2014 and the results are AMAZING! Now it is time to renovate Oak Lodge. Benefits of this important project to Menno Haven include: improved moisture control, lighting, flooring; a/c installation; increased couple's housing; improved efficiency of space to better accommodate small youth groups and large families; increased number of rooms available to groups; increased informal meeting and gathering areas—especially convenient for families with small children, comfortable updated, private bathrooms in each dorm room; and updated handicapped-accessible bathroom available to each dorm room. In the words of Doc Johnson, Executive Director, "We do these renovations not to just do another project or to try to have the best facilities but in order to best steward our resources to fulfill Menno Haven's mission and vision...ultimately to best serve our constituents and our Lord Jesus Christ!"

The Menno Haven Board is seeking financial commitments before work begins on Oak Lodge. Will you contribute labor or help MCN reach its [\\$15,000 goal](#) for this project? The work days will be announced soon; you can contribute financially now by providing making a designated donation to the Mennonite Church of Normal, clearly marked, *Menno Haven Bunkhouse Renovation*. Thanks for your ongoing support of Camp Menno Haven.

### Healthcare Advance Planning and End-of-Life Decision-Making

As part of an effort to generate community-wide discussion, several organizations have banded together to host, "Beginning the Conversation: Learning to Talk about a Taboo Subject," the second in a series of events on healthcare advance planning and end-of-life decision-making.

## Building Use

Illinois Mennonite  
Conference Pastor-Peer  
Monthly Gathering meets  
9:00 am-11:00 am  
Thursday, September 10 in  
Classroom 4.

Illinois Prairie Chapter of  
Wild Ones meets 5:30-9:00  
pm on Monday, September  
14 in the Sanctuary.

The goal is to pick up the themes that were presented in May with the Normal Theater showing of the film, *Consider the Conversation: a Documentary about a Taboo Subject*. With our second event, planners are aiming at a diverse, multi-generational audience in hopes of providing participants with hands-on experiences and skills that will make it easier for them to have conversations with their friends and loved ones in advance about their wishes for their care.

This free workshop, which includes dinner, is to be held from 4:30-8:00 p.m. October 6 at the ISU Alumni Center, 1101 North Main Street in Normal. The event is co-sponsored by Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, the Community Cancer Center, Compassion and Choices, ISU's Department of Philosophy and Mennonite College of Nursing, and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. This event is free to the public but registration is required. Call 1.800.323.8622 or go to [healthadvisor.advocatehealth.com/class](http://healthadvisor.advocatehealth.com/class). Use class code 6S20 to register.

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