



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

October 7, 2015

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

Did you hear about the mathematician who was afraid of negative numbers? He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?" Because every play has a cast. AND...

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.

Happy Birthday!

Mannie Oyer 10/09
Mary Ann King 10/11
Frankie Driscoll 10/14

Happy Anniversary!

Todd & Danielle Kettering
(16) 10/09

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

- *Cal Hubbard
- *Pam Dyck
- *Pam Dyck's stepmom
- *Elfriede Massier's sister

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.

Partners in Healing

Mennonite 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

Worship with us this Sunday, October 11

The title of the sermon is *Grace and Growth* and it is based on 1 Corinthians 13:3-13 and Philippians 3:4-16. Pastor Tim Schrag says this about the sermon: "Mistakes in our past, and current inadequacies, can lead a person to experience shame and self-condemnation. Yet the Biblical texts for the week are about growth. Growth implies an expectation of maturing. A more healthy approach to looking back is to celebrate how far we've come, anticipating yet more maturing in the future!"

Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—Roger & Linda Clemmons West—Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Mary Kauffman
Ushers	Lotus Hershberger; Nancy Fisher Ardys Serpette; Mark Roeschley
Worship Leader	Kay Reimer
Accompanist	Chris Culbertson & Youth Musicians
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Children's Time	Cory Culbertson
Scripture	Duane Nester
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	To Be Announced
Preschool Nursery	Duane Nester

MCN Events This Week

Thur Oct 8	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education 11:00 am Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Sun Oct 11	Mennonite Women 1:00 pm Financial Stewardship 5:00 pm
Mon Oct 12	Staff Meeting 9:30 am Wellness Committee 5:00 pm
Tues Oct 13	Peace & Justice Committee 5:15 pm Church Board Retreat 6:30 pm
Wed Oct 14	

Upcoming Events

Meeting with International Peacemaker from Democratic Republic of the Congo

This Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 am-11:15 am, Berthe Kaolmbo Nzeba, General Secretary of the Women and Families Department of the Church of Christ in Congo will speak at the MRC Community Building. It is an opportunity to learn what is happening in a difficult part of the world from someone who lives and works there. Berthe Nzeba, an international peacemaker, sponsored by First Presbyterian

month MCN is asked to pray for the Medical Oncology Specialty 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.

Voice of the Day

In this country American means white. Everybody else has to hyphenate. *Toni Morrison*

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 Focus is available [here](#) and the CDC Reporter [here](#).

Building Use

Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer Monthly Meeting Thursday, October 8; 9:00 am-11:00 am.

Illinois Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones meets on Monday, October 11 from 5:30 pm until 9:00 pm

Carpet Cleaning will take place on Wednesday, October 14th from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Directory Update Please add this information for the Liew Family

LIEW, Jay and Angela
702 301-6272

Jayne (8/18), Nathan (10/21), Claire (5/12), Joseph (12/10)

Church of Normal, is in Bloomington/Normal for a few days.

For the last ten years, Rev. Nzeba has coordinated national and international Church efforts in support of women and children impacted by the protracted conflict in Eastern Congo. It has become widely acknowledged that the two Congo Wars between 1996-2003 have cost the lives of 5.4 million people, mostly from disease and starvation, while millions have been displaced by the violence. In the aftermath, some 30 different militia continue to terrorize the local population with horrendous killings and brutal sexual violence. Several of these armed groups reportedly have been able to sustain themselves through illegal mining activities.

Calling all young adults for an evening of food, fellowship and fun! Come early to tour the IL Mennonite Museum and stay late to cook around the campfire, meet new friends and connect with old ones, play a variety of indoor/outdoor games, and have a great time. There will be plenty of room inside and outside, so come rain or shine!

For whom: Young adults, college-age and above **When:** Sunday, Oct. 11th at 3 PM
Where: Illinois Mennonite Historical Museum (675 State Route 116, Metamora, IL 61548-7732) **What to bring:** Please bring lawn chairs, a side dish, and roasting sticks. Hotdogs, buns, beverages, and smores will be provided. The museum will be open from 1:30 to 4:30 on Sunday, so come early if you'd like to take a look!

For more information on this and upcoming events, please join the Fellowship of Anabaptist Young Adults Facebook group. If you would prefer to receive notifications by email or would like to get involved with planning future events, please send an email to AYAFellowship@gmail.com

Cluster Mini-Meetings in Worship, October 18. Neighborhood Clusters are One Year Old! As a celebration of this first anniversary, we'll have Cluster mini-meetings at the close of worship on Sunday, October 18. Worship will close about 10:30 and Clusters will gather for a brief time for face-to-face connections.

Conversation about White Privilege and Undoing Racism, October 20, 7 pm. Pastor Jane and the Outreach Committee will continue hosting a monthly time for conversation, the 3rd Tuesdays of the coming months. An article to read ahead of coming this month, October 20, is "*Black Lives Matter, But....*" by Cyneatha Millsaps of Community Mennonite Church, Markham, IL. <https://themennonite.org/opinion/black-lives-matter-but-2/>

Mennonite Women Can Create will be held on October 24th at the Tremont Community Center - (216 S. Sampson St., Tremont). Please RSVP to the IMC office by **10/20/15** (309) 925-2111 or email hmason@mennonite.net. You can also register on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/1686461751585453/>. This event was inspired by *Spark, Igniting Your God-Given Creativity*, a women's Bible study written by April Yamasaki and commissioned by Mennonite Women Canada & Mennonite Women USA. There is a flyer with additional information on the Entrance Bulletin Board.

Day of Discernment The Illinois Mennonite Conference is sponsoring Day of Discernment 2015 on November 7 from 9am-3pm at the Tremont Community Center in Tremont, IL. The focus is *We actively seek the Holy Spirit's guidance!* The presenter/facilitators are Kristin Jackson and Amos Shakya from Living Water Community Church. Please let Lotus Hershberger know if you are interested in attending. A flyer with additional information is posted on the Entrance Bulletin Board.

Books for Learning More about White Privilege and Undoing Racism

Pastor Jane spoke about 5 books she is placing the church library for those who are interested in learning more about our own white privilege and the work of undoing racism.

1. **White Flour** by David LaMotte, Illustrated by Jenn Hales. A children's book based on a true story about a creative, nonviolent, even humorous response by the "Coup Clutz Clowns" in a town where the KluKluxKlan was on a march. It bears witness to a profound truth: that humor and love are vital tools for break down barriers and overcoming hate.

2. **Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a

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Menno Singers The Menno Singers group (formerly BroMenn Singers) will be on hiatus until January, 2016. At that time, there will be an orientation and rehearsal for all those intending to continue and those wishing to join. This has been a strong ministry and we look forward to it continuing in the new year.

Alternative Gifts Fair Save the Dates! November 8 and 15: our Twelfth Annual Alternative Gifts Fair

falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

3. **The Cross and the Lynching Tree** by James Cone. The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk. Drew Hart, speaker at AMBS 2015 Pastors Week, recommends as necessary reading for "the white church".

4. **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson. A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice. Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

5. **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander. Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. *The New Jim Crow* is such a book. Praised as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

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