



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

December 9, 2015

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

'What denomination?' asked the clerk.

'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Happy Birthday!

Joseph Liew 12/10
Philip Brandon 12/11
Connie Reeser-Hall 12/11
Owen Kettering 12/12
Abby Warfel 12/12
Amy Arkel 12/14
Julie Musselman 12/14

Happy Anniversary!

none this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

- *Cal Hubbard
- *Deborah Spacek
- *Jerry Musselman
- *Russ Oyer

*David Harnish's co-worker in Flannagan School District

*Meghan Reha MCC volunteer in Bangladesh.

*Matt & Deb Hickman as adoption process moves forward slowly.

If you have a prayer concern for which you would

Worship with us this Sunday, December 13 The scripture for the worship is **Luke 1:26-38; 46-55** and the title of the sermon is "Me, or Thou?" Pastor Schrag comments, "One can be struck by how easy it would have been for Mary to be a self-centered young expectant mother. The Scriptures reveal a different story."

Reclaiming Christmas: Hear with New Ears. See with New Eyes. For most of us The Christmas Story is very familiar. We've seen it in artwork and heard it told or sung for most of our lives. It might even seem ho-hum. But even though this sacred Story seems to remain much the same year after year, our lives do not. For some among us, and for our world, this year has been full of hardship. Our worship this Advent Season is an invitation to see and hear the Christmas Story anew! What might we see, or what will we hear this Christmas that is Good News in our needy lives and in our hurting world?

Sharing Time By Pastor During Advent. We look forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas as a church family. We especially enjoy all the carols and holiday music. In order to include these musical treasures in worship during Advent and Christmas, the Worship Committee is asking that all Sharing Time items be put in writing and given to Pastor Tim *before the service*. Blue slips of paper are in a basket on the Entryway table for this purpose. Or you may send him an email. Pastor Tim will share all items for prayer each week prior to the Congregational Prayer.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—Mike & Stephanie Company West—Caleb Augspurger
Welcome Table	Hazel Yoder
Ushers	John & Kay Reimer Larry & Louise Reeser
Worship Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Chris Culbertson
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Children's Time	Abby Warfel
Scripture	Wayne Hochstetler
Sermon	Tim Schrag
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Lucy Unzicker
Preschool Nursery	Beth Reeser

MCN Events This Week

Thur Dec 10	Next Man's Bible Study 6:15 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 pm Christian Education 11:00 am Jr. High Youth Group 5:00 pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Sun Dec 13	

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 month MCN is asked to pray for the Obstetrics 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

"The most common one-liner in the Bible is, "Do not be afraid." Someone counted, and it occurs 365 times." *Richard Rohr*

Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Lltwiller'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](#).

Pastor Tim Schrag
Senior Pastor
tim@normalmennonite.org

Mon Dec 14
Tues Dec 15
Thur Dec 17

Mennonite Women 1:00 pm
Undoing Racism Conversation 7:00 pm
Longest Night Worship Service 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events at 805 S Cottage

Rejoice with Us Louise and Larry Reeser and their family are celebrating the last of 6 Chemo Sessions for Louise yesterday. Louise will be going to Mayo Clinic for a followup visit and CT Scan on January 5. Pending results, which so far are very positive, it will be decided what followup treatment is needed, if any. Thanks to those who have continued to pray us through this journey. If you would like to help Louise and family celebrate, please bring cookies or treats for Fellowship time this Sunday. God is with us. Thank you God.

Louise

Mennonite Women All women of the church are invited to Mennonite Women meeting Monday 14 December at 1pm. We will be collecting food items for the Widow's Cruse cart, and have a bit of festive fun as planned by our officers. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

Undoing Racism Conversation This month's Undoing Racism Conversation is Tuesday, December 15, 7 pm. We will discuss the attached Black Solidarity Statement (also available at <http://www.blackforpalestine.com/>) on Palestine, a resource Phil Dick brings to us from his recent travels to Israel/Palestine.

Items of Interest

Staged Reading on John An ISU graduate student, Ronald Roman, has devised a staged reading ACCORDING TO JOHN. He's woven together the New Living Translation, King James, The Message etc. and he plays all of the Biblical characters. It will be presented this Friday evening, Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 401 W. Jefferson St. in Bloomington. He will perform the reading and then there will be a discussion afterwards. The evening should end by 9:00 p.m. *Janet Wilson*

Need help with holiday cleaning, decorating or shopping? Tina Hubbs is available to assist you. Please contact her at 309-750-6163 to schedule her to make your holiday preparation a little bit easier.

A message from the Cemetery Committee Due to increased upkeep costs, the Mennonite Church of Normal Cemetery plots will increase in price from \$325 to \$400 on January 1, 2015. See Ron Ropp for purchase or with questions.

Save the Date Spring 2016 Women's Retreat, April 22-23, at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center. Women of all ages are invited to come away together for a time of Bible study, reflection and fellowship. Details and registration information coming soon! Retreat co-sponsored by Illinois Mennonite Conference and IL Mennonite Women.

Email change Note Rick Yoder's new email address: Rcyoder53@gmail.com Please update your contact list. You may delete this old email address rcyoder@frontier.com

Building Use

Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer Meeting *9:00-11:30am Thursday, Dec. 10

IL Prairie Chapter of Wild Ones 5:30-9:00 pm Monday, December 14

Pastor Matt Hickman
Youth and Family Life
matt@normalmennonite.org

Pastor Jane Roeschley
Worship and Lay Ministries
jane@normalmennonite.org

Lynn Reha
Administrative Assistant
church@normalmennonite.org