



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

January 6, 2016

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Punniest

Who was the snowman's favorite kin? His Aunt Artica (*Thanks to Rich Willmarth for this contribution.*)

Do birds know where they're going when they fly south for the winter or do they just wing it every time?

The winter was difficult on the trees, but in the spring they were re-leafed.

Happy Birthday!

Frank Jablonski Jan 8
Dick Baum 1/11
Ken Shoemaker 1/11
Anna Rosa Tshiseleka 1/12

Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Lynn Chang (56)
1/23

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

- *Cal Hubbard
- *Jordan Spacek
- *Russ Oyer
- *Peggy Moore

*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 appreciate the prayers of your church family, please call the church office at 452-6622 or email Lynn.

Worship with us this Sunday, January 10

Please take note of the following for this Sunday's "True Story of the Whole World" kickoff.

- so that the approximately 100 participants can get to class on time, coffee will be put out (for those not in a class) at 11:10 a.m. It just won't work for all of us to 'grab a cup' and get seated by the 10:55 start time.
- all "True Story..." sessions will begin promptly at 10:55 a.m. and end at 11:45 pm. Meeting places will be in Sunday's bulletin and posted at classroom entrances.
- books are still available in the church office (suggested donation of \$15) and you are welcome to participate even if you didn't yet sign up.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—J'ne, Adam & Caleb Augspurger West—Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Marge Weaver
Ushers	King Family Connie Reeser-Hall; Larry Reeser
Worship Leader	Melika Hershberger
Accompanist	TBA
Song Leader	TBA
Children's Time	Shelly King
Scripture	Larry Schrader
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Stephanie Nester
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab

MCN Events This Week

Wed Jan 6	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm
Thur Jan 7	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Pastoral Council 6:00 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 pm
Sun Jan 3	Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 10:55 am Relief Sale Board 2:30 pm
Mon Jan 11	Mennonite Women 1:00 pm
Tue Jan 12	Wellness Committee 5:00 pm
Wed Jan 13	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm
Thur Jan 14	Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer Mtg. 9:00 am

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](#).

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

This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before. *Maya Angelou*

Tshiseleka Family Appliances

The Tshiseleka family is grateful for the gifts of small appliances for their new home. A request for one item remains: a vacuum cleaner. Please contact Tshitshi if you have one to give.

Looking Ahead

Winter Retreats

- *High School Jan 15-16 Camp Menno Haven
- *Junior High Jan 23-24 Camp Menno Haven
- *Winter Church Retreat Jan 22-24 Camp Friedenswald The link to sign up is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>

All Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 22-24! 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>

Congregational Meal and Meeting January 31 Please mark your calendars to attend the 2016 MCN Annual Meeting. A congregational meal will precede the meeting. During this meeting the budget and 2015 annual report will be submitted for affirmation.

Mennonite Disaster Service Trip, March 20-26, Bastrop, TX. Our congregation has reservations for up to 20 volunteers to work in Bastrop, TX. Bastrop is located in central Texas, 30 miles South East of Austin. The most destructive wildfire on record in Texas destroyed 34,000 acres in Bastrop County in September 2011. Approximately 1600 homes were burned in that county. Reports are that half of the homes were uninsured or underinsured. Nearly 12 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Sleeping for volunteers at this site will be in bunk trailers, 5 persons per trailer, so "groups" of 5 men and 5 women would work out perfectly (Holy Spirit, help, please.) David Harnish will be bringing a few students from Flanagan High School. Please let Pastor Jane know if you can go, too!

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.

Of Note

Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Greetings Friends- I would like to share the 2015 Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Newsletter/Fundraiser. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/iuu03e8ib6i7qng/2015%20mmsf%20appeals%20letter.pdf?dl=0> I would be honored if you took a minute to read about the great things happening in Moro Moro (my father's hometown) and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Additional copies are in the narthex table by the front door. Also check out <http://www.moromorofund.org>. Blessings. - Doug Valverde dougvalverde@hotmail.com

Rachel Zehr's New Address Rachel has moved to Meadows at Mercy Creek, 1502 Mercy Creek Drive, Normal, IL, 61761 and her phone is 309-268-1439.

Winter Address for Paul & Mary Ann Watkins They will be located at 13427 North 58th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85254 until the first week of March.

Cards for Laura Harnish Laura, daughter of Rick and Annette Harnish, is competing in the US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials on February 13th, 2016. Connie Reeser-Hall has provided some encouraging cards for us to sign to encourage Laura. These cards will be available in the Atrium on January 10, 17 and 24. Please write a note to cheer Laura on!

Condolence email lists If you are not receiving condolence (and other time sensitive information) and would like to be on those email lists, please let Lynn Reha know.

THANK YOU

From Julie Musselman and the Unzicker family: Thank you to the congregation for the ongoing care and support we have felt this past year during Jerry's illness and recent passing. We have experienced God's love through the many prayers, kind words, cards, visits, songs, and more. We are truly grateful to be a part of this church family.

Building Use

HAAQuilt Guild Retreat

Thursday, Jan 7 5:30pm-9:00 pm; Friday, Jan 8 8:00 am-4:00 pm; Sat, Jan 9; 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Illinois Prairie Wild Ones
Jan 11 5:30 pm-9:00pm

Financial Status MCN has ended 2015 by meeting expenses, and having a small surplus. Thank you so much for all your contributions, and a special thank you to those who gave extra at the end of the year to help make this happen. Each offering is appreciated and dedicated to Godly use. Year-end financial reports will be available with the annual report and congregational meeting on January 31.

Beyond MCN

Rock Solid Finances Beginning Wednesday January 13, 2016, East Peoria Mennonite Church will be hosting a six-week series called Rock Solid Finances, led by Brian Veeder of Everence. This class will provide sound financial strategies based on the truth of God's Word. Each session starts at 6:30 pm and ends no later than 7:30. The class is FREE to anyone who would like to attend.

Understanding your Muslim Neighbor Jonathan Bornman from EMM will present "Understanding Your Muslim Neighbor" in the multi-purpose room from 8:30-Noon. Illinois Mennonite Church area churches are invited to this workshop. More information is available on the flyer posted on the Atrium bulletin board.

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