



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

January 13, 2016

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

A boy from Scotland comes to the United States to attend college. One day he is in his dorm room, and his Mother calls from Scotland.

Mom - How is everything going at school?

Son - Not too good really.

Mom - What do you mean by not good?

Son - Well, the boy in the dorm room to my left is always banging his head against the wall, and the boy in the room to my right is always screaming.

Mother - That's not good. What have you done about it?

Son - Not much. I just sit back and play my bagpipe.

Happy Birthday!

Christian Engel Jan 14
Carrie Stalter Jan 15
Joe Mathews Jan 16
Darryl Nester Jan 18
Louise Reeser Jan 18
Hazel Yoder Jan 18
Phylis Versteegh Jan 20
Adah Reiman Jan 21
Vivian Hubbard Jan 23

Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Lynn Chang (56)
1/23

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

*Cal Hubbard

*Russ Oyer

*Teresa Woods-see

Worship with us this Sunday, January 17

The title of the sermon is *God Almighty, Immanuel* and is based on these Scriptures: Genesis 1:31-2:1, Isaiah 55:8-9 and Matthew 6:26-32. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "God is portrayed repeatedly as infinitely awesome, and profoundly near and tender. Often this both/and perspective is skewed to one side or the other. What is the nature of God you worship?"

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Mary & Claire Dyck

West—Hazel Yoder

Wilma Dyck

Welcome Table

Darvis & Shelly King

Ushers

Eric Miller; Nathan Miller

Worship Leader

Jane Roeschley

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepp

Song Leader

Barry Weaver

Children's Time

Matt Hickman

Scripture

Erin Ponnou-Delaffon

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Randy Zehr

Toddler Nursery

Clara Unzicker

Preschool Nursery

Matt Culbertson

MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Jan 13

True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur Jan 14

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer Meeting 9:00 am

Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm

Sun Jan 17

Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am

Worship 9:30 pm

Christian Education for Children 10:45 am

Christian Education for Adults 10:55 am

Mon Jan 18

Peace & Justice Committee with Cyneatha Millsap 4:15 pm

Tue Jan 19

Staff Meeting 9:30 am

Soup Supper prior to Overcoming Racism Conv. 5:30 pm

Overcoming Racism Program 7:00 pm

Wed Jan 20

True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur Jan 21

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Outreach Committee 6:00 pm

Exciting upcoming events

Monday, January 18 4:15 pm Peace and Justice Committee Gathering at Mennonite Church of Normal (Conference Room). Cyneatha Millsap will be presenting on "Potential for Peace and Hope in Israel/Palestine" based on her trip (along with Phil Dick) to that region in November on the Come and See Tour with Mennonite Central Committee.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 5:30 - 8:00 pm Soup Supper and Undoing Racism Conversation -- in the church Fellowship Area. RSVP for supper to Dorothy Zehr

Prayer Concerns
*Mike, Bev Collins
brother—see Prayer
Concerns

*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.*

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

Forgiveness is the name of
love practiced among
people who love poorly.
The hard truth is that all
people love poorly. We
need to forgive and be
forgiven every day, every
hour increasingly. That is

(gazehr@mchi.com or 309-662-8210). Pastor Cyneatha Millsapwill display and share about the creating of the African-American Story Quilt by women at Markham Mennonite and Silverwood Mennonite churches as part of their work to undo racism. Following that, at 7 pm, the monthly Undoing Racism Conversation will take place, with Pastor Cyneatha as special guest.

Homebuilders, Sunday, January 24, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary (note change of place and time). Phil Dick will speak on his recent trip to Israel and Palestine. The title of his talk is *Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine*.

Winter Retreats

*Senior High Jan 15-17 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. Sandwiches will be provided and the Fellowship Committee is asking people with last names A-G please to bring salad, H-N to bring fruit or vegetable, and M-Z to bring dessert. Bringing your table service is optional. Please be prepared to donate for the cost of the sandwiches. All are urged to participate.

CDC Regional Gathering You are warmly invited to gather with your Central District Conference brothers and sisters in the upcoming Regional Gathering. We particularly invite young adults to attend, along with pastors and previous delegates. The meeting will take place on Feb 13 @ Community Mennonite Church (Markham, IL), 9:45 am to 3:00 pm.

The morning includes Dwelling in the Word led by Lois Johns Kaufmann, a story from the host congregation, and reporting on events within MC USA. Following lunchtime fellowship, participants will hear a historical vignette on C Henry Smith, and then choose between two sessions: hearing from CDC pastors who participated in the "Come and See Tour" to Palestine/Israel, or joining a discussion group using the Healthy Sexuality document and an accompanying study guide developed by Gerald and Carrie Mast. Our afternoon will end with a time of prayer.

Our Regional Gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to develop face-to-face relationships with others in the CDC community. Please respond to Wayne Hochstetler, congregational chairperson, if you have interest in attending (hochwayne@icloud.com, or 309-533-5486).

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!

the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family. - *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

Building Use

The Sanctuary will be used for a music recording on Saturday, January 16 from 11:30am-3:00pm.

HAA Quilt Guild Sewing Mentoring Evening January 21 6:00-9:00 pm

Maple Lawn

SOUPER BOWL SATURDAY CHILI COOK OFF
Saturday, January 30, 2016
4:00 - 6:30 PM at Maple Lawn's Memorial Hall

The Maple Lawn Association of Churches will be hosting the first ever Souper Bowl Saturday Chili Cook Off at Maple Lawn's Memorial Hall on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Six different Association Church Congregations will be preparing their best chili in order to take home the coveted distinction of "chili master." Chili makers will also be competing for best themed tables. Just \$5 per person will get you tasting rights and voting tickets. Additional votes may be purchased to help your favorite team win! Beverages and desserts will be available for a free will offering. Proceeds from this event will go towards "Project: Kitchen Aid" Maple Lawn's Health Center kitchen renovation. We hope you can attend this fun event and support Maple Lawn!

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](mailto:dougvalverde@hotmail.com)

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 Entrance on January 17 and 24. Please write a note to cheer Laura on!

Pastor Matt Travels Pastor Matt will be away for three Sundays: At Camp Menno Haven with the Senior High Youth on January 17, at Camp Friedenswald with Church Retreat on January 24 and at the planning meeting for 2017 Youth Conference on January 31.

Prayer Concerns

Recovering Mike, Bev Collin's brother is recovering from a liver transplant. Bev reports that his color is good and he is out of ICU. She is appreciative of everyone's prayers.

Teresa Woods Prayer is requested for Teresa who has suffered a debilitating stroke. The request is that we be in prayer for Teresa's peace with the situation she is in. The other prayer request is that she be moved to a facility (nursing home) in Sarasota, FL.

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 Saturday, January 23rd @ First Mennonite Church of Morton 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.

Opportunity to Serve

Sister Cities Junior Ambassador Program We need host families for young visitors (ages 12-15) from Asahikawa, Japan, under Sister Cities' Junior Ambassador Program, March 26-April 3, 2016. Hosting a student is an exciting and rewarding experience. Help us by welcoming a Japanese Exchange Student into your home or, more importantly, into your family. You will have a chance to establish a wonderful friendship while making a difference in a student's life. This one-week exchange allows our host families to learn first-hand about Japan and its culture from the perspective of a Japanese student." Contact: Leticia Montesdeoca at Leticia.Montesdeoca@bnsistercities.org, 309-242-2586.

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