

Did you complete the Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others documents? Thanks if you did; there is still time if you haven't.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

August 31, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, September 4

Our sermon on Sunday will be delivered by Eric Kurtz. Eric is Executive Director of MCC Great Lakes. He began that role in July, after serving as Assistant Director for two years. He lives in Goshen, IN, with his wife Carmen and two young daughters.

The sermon title is "That we may be one" and the Scripture is John 17: 20-26.

Our Scripture Focus this week and throughout the Fall will come from the Bible Memory Passages which our children are studying.

The Children's (preK-Junior High) Sunday School begins its Fall teachings this Sunday. The Summer Adult series concluded last Sunday. This Sunday, Senior High students and Adults are invited to a discussion with Eric Kurtz during the Sunday School hour. This is an opportunity to hear about the work of Mennonite Central Committee, especially Great Lakes region.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for increasing health for

Andy Hedberg's father

Peggy Moore

Beth Reeser's friend Mandi

Bev Collin's brothers-in-law

Ron and Jo Ropp's nephew

Please pray for

Lydia Wilson as she goes

back to Spain

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Thur Sept 1	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Sun, Sept 4	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children's Christian Ed 10:45 am Adult Christian Ed 11:00 am
Tue Sept 6	Pastoral Council 6:00 pm
Wed Sept 7	Child Protection Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Christian Education 6:30 pm
Thurs Sept 8	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Financial Stewardship 6:00 pm

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: John and Kay Reimer West: Mary Dyck
Welcome Table Ushers	Mary Ann Watkins Larry and Louise Reeser David and Gabriella Harnish
Worship Leader	Pastor Jane Roeschley
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Scripture	Lydia Hedberg
Children's Time	Matt Hickman
Sermon	Eric Kurtz, MCC Great Lakes
Technology	Rick Harnish
Toddler Nursery	Mary Jantze
Preschool Nursery	Duane/Stephanie Nester

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to			Happy Anniversary to
Victor	Belzer	1-Sep	Lloyd & Aldine Combs on Sept 1 (60)
Helena	Driscoll	1-Sep	Dick & Marjorie Baum on Sept 4 (68)
Keith	Nafziger	1-Sep	Travis & Carrie Stalter on Sept 6 (8)
Aldine	Combs	2-Sep	John & Erma Stutzman on Sept 9 (44)
Angela	Liew	2-Sep	
Leah	Roeschley	2-Sep	
Caitlin	Haab	3-Sep	
Janelle	Friesen	5-Sep	
Travis	Stalter	5-Sep	
Duane	Nester	7-Sep	
Curt	Oyer	7-Sep	
Ian	Unzicker	8-Sep	

Blood Pressures will be taken this Sunday in the Office of the Church Nurse.

Offering My Gifts

Affirming the Gifts of Others



Last Sunday the Leadership Selection Committee will assist us in thinking about the gifts we can offer the church and affirm for others for serving the church. The [Offering My Gifts](#) and [Affirming the Gifts of Others](#) documents that we are asked to prayerfully consider are still available in the Library and are also available on the MCN website at www.normalmennonite.org. Look under the

Serving Tab.

Fall Adult Sunday School: The Gospel of John

Starting Sunday, September 11

Christian Education classes exploring the book of John will begin Sunday, September 11. Each lesson will generally consist of one chapter (occasionally two) per Sunday over a period of 19 Sundays. The classes below will approach John with a variety of methods to mine the insights, wisdom and challenges of the life of Jesus through the pen of John. Please join us!

Discussion and Input

Tim Schrag, facilitator

Each session will begin with a 30 minute "encounter with the text". There will be discussion and sharing within smaller groups, focused on questions from the book JOHN by N.T. Wright. Participants should expect to read the assigned chapter from the gospel prior to class. (It is not necessary to read the N.T. Wright book.) Tim will gather up

insights from the small groups and offer some additional comments to conclude the last 15 minutes.

Peeling Away the Layers

Melika Hershberger, leader

The book of John is full of Jesus' simple words that have deep meaning. This class will focus on connecting those perplexing words of Jesus from his world to ours. The class will use a variety of methods—artwork, speaking the Scripture, acting, mini-lecture, and discussion—to help bring insights and inspiration to light.

Lectio Divina and Contemplative Response

Elsa Raab, Jane Roeschley, co-leaders

Letting Jesus speak to our hearts through the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina will be our approach to studying the book of John. Lectio Divina is meditatively reading through the passage, prayerfully considering Jesus' words, and being open to what God wants to say to us. In addition to Lectio each week, other approaches to hearing God in the scripture, such as call and response, poetry, journaling, art or music may also be used to enhance our understanding we listen for God's still small voice speaking into our lives.

Bible Study

Darrel Miller, leader

This class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. The Believers Church commentary on John by Willard Swartley and Michael Card's book, JOHN: The Gospel of Wisdom, from his Biblical Imagination series, will be resources used for studying the passage. If you like to have a book to read to prepare for the lesson, Card's book is available on Amazon for \$15.64.

High School Study

Jon and Janelle Friesen, leaders

This class will use a variety of different resources to help guide discussions based on the passages from the book of John. This class is open to all high schoolers and will follow the same Scripture selections as the adult classes.

Homebuilders

Save the Date September 25, 7:00 pm for a Homebuilders Event.

Building Use

- Thursday, September 1, 5:30-9:00 Hands All Around Quilt Guild meets in the Sanctuary
- Friday, September 2, 8:00-4:00 Hands All Around Quilt Guild holds a workshop in the Fellowship Area
- Saturday, September 3, 8:00-4:00 Hands All Around Quilt Guild holds a workshop in the Fellowship Area
- Thursday, September 8, 9:00-11:00 Illinois Mennonite Conference Pastor-Peer meeting in Room 4



Renew Friedenswald

Has Camp Friedenswald played a significant role in the life of you, or your child? Now is your chance to help the Camp and all the Campers in years to come.

Camp is planning some major renovation of buildings from the 1950's.

- Boy's Cabins
- Guest House
- Chapel/Activity Center



The goal is to raise 2.2 million. They have already raised 1.6 million, and are asking for our help to raise the remaining \$500,000. Construction will begin this fall.

Would you please prayerfully consider giving financial support this project.

Meet and Greet

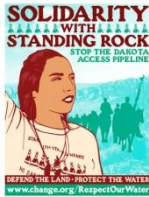
Please save the date of Sunday, September 25, 8:00 am, for an opportunity to meet the new Dean of the Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing, Dr. Judy Neubrandner. She is interested in learning the history of the College of Nursing and its association with Mennonites. Please RSVP to Lynn in the church office if you are interested in attending.

Lost and Found

Please check under the South Mezzanine Stairs for items that you may have lost. Those items that are left will be taken to Good Will during the week of September 6-9.

Donate to Muscular Dystrophy

PASTOR MATT BEHIND BARS FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY Matt will be locked up on Thursday, September 8th. The "bail money" he raises will help fund research into muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases, and will send McLean County kids with muscular dystrophy to camp. His goal is to raise \$2,000. Donate at <http://www2.mda.org/goto/pastormatt>



Loss of Turtle Island: Action

The Loss of Turtle Island event that took place at MCN last Sunday was an excellent way to be informed about the history of injustice and oppression toward Native Americans. As a follow-up to that event, Pastor Jane has brought the protest of the pipeline at Standing Rock to our attention as one way to take action. Please go to <http://justseeds.org/solidarity-with-standing-rock/> for ways to be involved.



Something Berry Nice

The Aronia (chokeberry) bushes on the south side of the church are now bearing their blue-black "superberries." Aronia berries have three times the health benefits of blueberries. While a little sharp in taste for fresh eating, they are excellent in smoothies, muffins, jelly, jam, and sauce for ice cream. As the birds do not seem very interested in the berries, Pastor Matt says that we are welcome to harvest the berries for our own use.



Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal joins 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 Operating Room at Advocate Eureka Hospital. 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.

Conference Newsletters

[Central District Conference \(CDC\) Focus](#) The CDC Focus is now available in this online format. Just click the picture of the newsletter or the title. A copy is available on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Also available is the [CDC Reporter](#). [Click the link](#) to read the current IMC Weekly: Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missionary Crossroads](#) is available.



Voice of the Day

For God alone, my soul in silence waits; from God comes my salvation. Psalm 62:1

Today's Chuckle

I don't think I got the job at Microsoft. They haven't responded to my telegram.
I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together. It was riveting.
I quit my job at the helium gas factory. I didn't like being spoken to in that voice.