

May Your Light Shine: Memories & Highlights from a Celtic Pilgrimage Sunday Evening, September 18, 7 pm. Pastor Jane will share some highlights from her travels this summer.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

September 14, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, September 18

This Sunday continues a 6-week sermon series on the book of Revelation titled *The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Eternal Words for Today*. The Scripture this week is Revelation 12:10-12 and this week's sermon title is *Timeless Words For Our Times*. Pastor Tim asks, "Without seeking for specific meanings, read Revelation 4-12 in one sitting. What is the overall impression?" Hymns will include *How Can We Be Silent* (STJ 61), *Rain Down* (STJ 49), *Longing for Light* (STJ 54), and *Soon and Very Soon* (HWB 611).

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

This Sunday continues the Fall Adult Christian Education series studying the Gospel of John. See below for class descriptions.

Prayers

Please pray for

- * The Hickman Family as Deb travels to Liberia to pick up their daughter Blessing.
- * Mary Ann King's friend with brain cancer



This Week at 805 S Cottage

Thur Sept 15

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
Church Board 6:00 pm

Sun, Sept 18

Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Children's Christian Ed 10:45 am
Adult Christian Ed 11:00 am
Senior High Youth 3:00 pm
Junior High Youth 5:00 pm
May Your Light Shine: Memories & Highlights from a Celtic Pilgrimage 7:00 pm

Wed Sept 21

Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thurs Sept 22

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Staff Meeting 9:30 am

Serving This Sunday



Greeters

South: Adam and Caleb Augspurger

Welcome Table
Ushers

West: Terry Wiebenga

Kristen Sand

Chellie and Eric Miller

Nathan Miller; _____ King

Worship Leader
Song Leader
Accompanist
Scripture
Children's Time
Sermon
Technology
Toddler Nursery

Kay Reimer

Cindy Ropp

Lydia Hedberg

Emmanuel or Tanya Kasongo

Chris Culbertson

Pastor Tim Schrag

Randy Zehr

To Be Announced

Preschool Nursery

Holly Zehr

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sophie	Charles	18-Sep
Todd	Kettering	18-Sep
Meredith	Satchwell	19-Sep
Emmanuel	Kasongo	20-Sep
Zehr	Dorothy	20-Sep
Nancy	Fisher	21-Sep
Meredith	Schroeer	22-Sep
Lynette	Miller	22-Sep
Joanna	Oyer	23-Sep
Brandon	Reed	23-Sep
Sophie	Charles	18-Sep
Todd	Kettering	18-Sep



A happy 53rd
Anniversary to
Glenn & Lorene Busenitz
on Sept. 21

Fall Adult Sunday School: The Gospel of John

Continuing through January 29

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.



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Apple Pie Preparation Day

On Monday, Sept. 19 at 9:00 AM there is an opportunity for men and women to peel, slice and cook Miller Orchard apples for the relief sale. Please bring paring knives, peelers, and electric skillets.

Homebuilders

On September 25, 7:00 pm, Gerlof Homan will present *Conquering Land Without War: How the Netherlands Peacefully Gained New Territory*. All are welcome to this Homebuilders' Event held in the Mennonite Residential Community Room.

Lecture by Reverend Brian McLaren

The Pruyne Lectureship is bringing the Reverend Dr. Brian McLaren for a free public lecture on Friday evening, **September 16, at 7: p.m.**, in the Astroth Community Center at Heartland College: "The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian."

A workshop will follow **Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 2000 East College Avenue in Normal: "Healing a Fractured World." The workshop is particularly timely in view of current global conflicts, racial tensions, and political and economic polarization. Cost of the workshop is \$30, and this includes lunch. **Register online by noon, Friday September 16** for the Workshop at www.pruynelectures.com.

Dr. McLaren's most recent book is *We Make the Road by Walking*. Other books include *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith*

World, and A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That are Transforming the Faith. Dr. McLaren holds honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Carey Theological Seminary in Vancouver, and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Reading the Bible with Jesus

"Reading the Bible with Jesus": Reba Place Church in Evanston, IL, will host itinerant Bible teacher and singer/songwriter Bryan Moyer-Suderman for a seminar and family-friendly concert, January 20-22, 2017. Known especially for his "songs of faith for small and tall," Bryan has received excellent reviews from both Mennonite pastors and congregations and well-known authors and speakers Brian McLaren and David M. Csinos. Expect to be engaged and encouraged as we look at the Bible through an Anabaptist, Jesus-centered lens. For more about Bryan Moyer-Suderman's ministry, check out www.ams.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Reading-The-Bible-With-Jesus.cfm <<http://www.ams.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Reading-The-Bible-With-Jesus.cfm>> and www.smalltallministries.com <<http://www.smalltallministries.com/>> . or see the brochure on the Christian Education Bulletin Board. For questions about the seminar or concert, email rpcoffice@gmail.com.

Building Use

- Thursday, September 15, 6:00 pm HAAQG Mentoring Sewing Evening
- Tuesday, September 20, 4:30 pm Head Start Parents Meeting



Directory Update

Joe Jantze's new mobile number is (309) 825-2271.

So Long, Box Tops



Mennonite Women will no longer be collecting BoxTops for Education from the General Mills Corporation. For those who are saving, please note that Unit 5 Schools collect them right here in our town, so see youngsters and their parents who might be interested in getting credit



Men's Retreat at Friedenswald

October 14-16 Men & Boys Retreat at Camp Friedenswald! Bring your family & friends for a weekend sitting around the fire, canoeing, hiking, playing games, worshiping and relaxing. Come for the fun activities, and stay for the meaningful input from Luke Gascho, Executive Director of Merry Lea Learning Center, centering us on our communities of people within the community of creation. Make sure to bring the whole family, men of all ages are specifically invited for this weekend of fun together. Adults: \$150; Ages 6-12: \$25; Ages 13-18: \$50; Ages 18-25: FreeRegister Today and learn more at: friedenswald.org/retreats

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 Same Day Services 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 [Missional Crossroads](#) is available.



Thought for the Day

Jesus was short on sermons, long on conversations; short on answers, long on questions; short on abstraction and propositions, long on stories and parables; short on telling you what to think, long on challenging you to think for yourself.

Brian D. McLaren

Today's Chuckle

One night I was tucking my 4-year-old daughter in to bed and I told her a nightly Bible story.

This night it was the story of the prodigal son. We discussed how he had taken his inheritance early, left and spent it all on living it up and partying until he had no money left and had to work on a pig farm where he couldn't even afford to eat what the pigs ate! He remembered his father and went back home to ask for a job and forgiveness. His father welcomed him home with much joy!

After we finished the story I asked my daughter what she learned and she immediately said, "Never leave home without your credit card!"

