

Join co presenters Jessica Lee Callahan and Lauren Mardirosian for *The Bottom Line about Colorectal Cancer Screening* at the MRC Community Room on December 1 at 7:00 pm.

[View this email in your browser](#)



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

November 30, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, December 4

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Scripture for this Sunday is Matthew 3:1-12. The title of the sermon is *Hoping for More*. Pastor Tim Schrag asks, "The title and main ideas for this message are taken from this article: <http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2901> It's unusual for me to borrow so directly in this way, but this seemed so apt! Come prepared to do (during the sermon time) a version of the three part exercise mentioned in the article."

The hymns are *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (HWB 195), *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (HWB 211), *Silent Night* (HWB 193), and *Angels We Have Heard On High* (HWB 197).

All Sharing and Prayer Requests to Pastor Tim During Advent - Please write out or send by email to Pastor Tim all items for sharing and prayer for Sunday worship. There is no open microphone sharing during Advent.



Prayers

For Gail Fisher, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
For Aaron Petri's mom, Pam, who will be having surgery on December 8.

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Nov 30 Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thur Dec 1 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Fellowship Committee 4:00 pm

Sun Dec 4 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Children's Christian Ed 10:45 am
Adult Christian Ed 11:00 am
Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm



Tue Dec 6 Pastoral Council 6:00 pm

Wed Dec 7 Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thurs Dec 8 Pastor-Peer IMC Meeting 9:00 am
Staff Meeting 2:00 pm
Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm

Serving This Sunday

Greeters

South: Doris and Ken Shoemaker

West: Terry Wiebenga

Welcome Table

Stephanie Nester

Ushers

Steve Stenger, Andy Reeser

Kristen Sand, Janet Wilson

Worship Leader

Lynn Reha

Song Leader

Jenell Ulrich

Accompanist

Lydia Hedberg

Scripture

Lynn Reha

Children's Time

Holly Zehr

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Adam Augspurger

Toddler Nursery

Erin/JB Ponnou-Delaffon



Preschool Nursery

Matt Culbertson

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary on
December 4

Lynette & Darrel Miller
(34 years)
Jeff & Candance Company
(12 years)

Happy Birthday to

Darvis	King	1-Dec
Ruth	Marquis	4-Dec
Adam	Valverde	4-Dec
Reuben	Yoder	4-Dec
Jon	Friesen	6-Dec
Jenell	Ulrich	7-Dec
Sheri	Stalter	9-Dec
Joseph	Liew	10-Dec



Contemplative Coloring

All persons of *all* ages at *anytime* during Advent are invited to help us complete an extra-large set of coloring posters. They combine to form the entire Christmas story. Posters and coloring pencils will be available at the table in the atrium.



Alternative Gifts Fair

Alternative Gifts Fair- We are so grateful for such enthusiastic participation in the 13th Annual Alternative Gifts Fair! We were able to raise a total of \$21,629 to benefit Mennonite Central Committee and Alternative Gifts International. Posted on a bulletin board in the atrium, you'll find MCC and AGI shopping lists of the amount of money each project received as well as a sheet indicating which display received the most money and the one with the most donors. Keep your eyes on your mailbox in the coming week for inserts with a description of your gift. Contact Roelie with any questions. Thanks!

Upgrades!

Carpet baseboard installation is scheduled for November 30. That will finalize our upgrades for 2016.

The Bottom Line about Colorectal Cancer Screening

MCN's own Jessica Lee (Callahan) is co-presenting on this topic on December 1 at 7:00 at the Mennonite Residential Community Building at 711 S Cottage Ave, Normal. Here is a description of the presentation: Many people are embarrassed, ashamed, and running behind on their regular screenings for colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer can be prevented—not just detected--during a colonoscopy. Join us for a free presentation on colorectal health by two of Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing graduate students who are talking about the bottom line in colorectal health!

MCC Great Lakes Soil to Table Learning Tour to Haiti

MCC Great Lakes (Mennonite Central Committee) has 3 openings for the March 18-26 SOIL TO TALE Learning Tour to Haiti. Cost is \$1000 plus airfare. Some assistance with fares is available. For more info contact MCC Great Lakes, 574-534-4133. MCC's work in Haiti has deep roots. On this tour meet Haitian farmers, marketers and cooks. Climb the steep mountain paths to see a local fruit tree nursery, visit a peanut processing cooperative, smell coffee beans roasting on an open fire and learn about profession food preparation from youth in a vocational culinary program. Learn about the impact of food policy and purchasing choices on Haitian farmers and cooks, and how to advocate for change. Tour led by Paul and Rebecca Shetler Fast. The tour will include project visits, hands on tree planting and cooking demonstrations.

Bridge of Hope Family.02

Home Sweet Home Ministries has given MCN the invitation to again become part of the move to housing stability for another family through a 2-year monthly experience of neighboring. No longer using the terminology of "mentors", the church relationship is now one of "neighbors" -- regardless of how far apart we live. What a great connection to a compelling Biblical idea! We hope to begin in January.

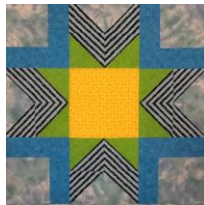
Might God be nudging you to become part of our Neighboring? It will be an enriching way to put your faith into action. We are looking for 6-8 persons (men and women, all ages) to give an evening a month for 2 years to help be "neighbors" to a single parent and kids as they strengthen their lives. See this link for an introduction of Bridge of Hope Neighboring.

<https://youtu.be/C1Xqn9mr1aI>

Interested persons please talk to Pastor Jane.

Sowing Sisterhood

This latest volume of the Illinois Mennonite Women Newsletter features articles on the Housewarmer Project and Gratitude. Select this link to go to the [Sowing Sisterhood Newsletter, Volume 6](#).



Housewarmer Project

The Mennonite Women USA Housewarmer Project continues to donate quilted wall hangings to

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to give to homeowners when their home is completed and a dedication takes place. MDS is hard at work rebuilding after flooding in West Virginia, Detroit, Michigan, Lafayette, Louisiana, a typhoon in Saipan, and will soon begin rebuilding after wildfires in California. We are getting very low on quilted wall hangings. If quilting is your gift, please consider sharing. See the link below for more information."

<https://mennonitewomenusa.org/housewarmer/>

Barns!

On Thursday, December 1 and Monday, December 5, Public Broadcasting System will be airing a feature on *Barns*, and Ron and Jo Ropp's home will be showcased.



Building Use

Hands All Around Quilt Guild

Sanctuary Thursday December 1, 5:30-9:00 pm

Fellowship Area December 2 & 3 8:00 am-4:00 pm

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 Advocate Addiction Recovery Unit. 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.



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

Beware the religion that turns you against another one. It's unlikely that it's really religion at all.
Joan D. Chittister



More Thanksgiving Groaners

What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus?
More than enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving

What did the turkey say to the computer?
Google, google, google.

Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?
The turkey because he's already stuffed.

What do you call a stuffed animal?
You after thanksgiving.

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.
