



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 14, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, December 18

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Scripture for this Sunday is Matthew 1:18 - 2:1. The title of the sermon is *A Third Way*. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "Often when there are two options, there is also a third possibility....or more. We will consider Joseph and his options in dealing with a pregnant fiancé."

The hymns are *Let All Together Praise Our God* (HWB 213), *What Child is This?* (HWB 215), *Joy to the World* (HWB 318).

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

We offer our condolences to Christopher and Tina Hubbs and family. Christopher's father passed away recently.

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Dec 14 Financial Stewardship 5:30 pm
 Adult Christian Education Teachers 7:00 pm

Thur Dec 15 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
 Staff Meeting 9:30 am
 Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
 Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm

Sun Dec 18 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
 Worship 9:30 am
 Children's Christian Ed 10:45 am
 Adult Christian Ed 11:00 am
 Junior Choir 6:00 pm
 Youth Choir 6:45 pm
 Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Tue Dec 20 Staff Meeting 9:30 pm
 Longest Night Worship Service 6:30 pm



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Mary Ann King, Kristen Sand West: Lotus Hershberger
Welcome Table	Marcia Rossi
Ushers	Terry Wiebenga, Mannie or Bryan Oyer David and Gabriella Harnish
Worship Leader	Lynn Reha
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp, Denise Hedberg
Scripture	Lynn Reha
Children's Time	Holly Zehr
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Adam Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Mary Jantze
Preschool Nursery	Darvis/Shelly King

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Aaron	Hickman	18-Dec
Cal	Hubbard	19-Dec
Taylor	Mathews	19-Dec
Marcia	Rossi	19-Dec
Grant	Reeser	20-Dec
Henry	Lovellette	21-Dec
Doug	Valverde	22-Dec
Deborah	Spacek	24-Dec





Longest Night

The Longest Night Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 pm. As we enter the winter season, the days shorten while the nights grow longer. Not everyone is “up” and full of Christmas cheer as the holidays approach. You may be dealing with issues which place some dis-ease over the future. Any number of human situations can make parties and joviality painful. Our Longest Night service has a more quiet, somber feel than a traditional Christmas worship service. Scripture, music, prayers and words of meditation focus on the comfort God offers.



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.

Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter(BLM) of BloNo is holding a community meeting with Bloomington Police Department, Chief Heffner on **Thursday, December 15th at 7pm at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church (801 W. Market, Bloomington)**. The BLM collective has been organizing in the community for several months, and has brought to light issues that people of color face when dealing with police in our community. On the 15th the group will present its agenda to Chief Heffner regarding police conduct, accountability, transparency, and will push for meaningful community policing practices. Everyone who supports Black Lives is needed in a show of solidarity! Can you to be there on December 15th? Contact Sophie Charles or Henry Dick for more information.



Christmas Eve

The Fellowship Committee invites you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share to the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 6:30 pm. Please bring your own plate and then take any leftovers home at the end of the evening. Sharing cookies will enhance our visiting after the Worship Service.

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Spending Plan Update

The Financial Stewardship Committee would like to update the congregation with our most recent spending plan numbers. As of November 30 our YTD income was \$431,335 while our YTD expenses are \$461,779. This leaves us with a current deficit of -\$30,444. Knowing the generous nature of our congregation we are still very confident that this deficit can be overcome and we will end the year with a surplus. We would ask that everyone prayerfully consider their response to this knowing that God’s blessing will be with us.

Envelopes 2017

Offering envelopes will be distributed in mailboxes on the next 2 Sundays. Envelopes are provided for anyone who would like to use them, but we are saving the expense of sets for those who do not regularly use them. If you do NOT receive envelopes by January 1 and you would like to have them, please let Lynn in the Church Office know. Also, if you would like information about giving electronically or through a bank service, please talk to the Financial Stewardship Committee members, Doug Ulrich, Linda Clemmons, Gail Fisher, Adam Augspurger, or Rick Yoder.

Farewell, Harveys

Jason Harvey, Kari Watkins Harvey and their daughter Sylvia will be re-locating to Rochester, New York on January 1st, 2017. Jason has accepted the position of Science & Engineering Outreach Librarian with an emphasis in Physics, Optics, & Astronomy at the University of Rochester. Jason, Kari & Sylvia thank you for all of your support and ask for your prayers for a smooth transition to Rochester.



Cancellation Procedures 2017

If you are wondering if an all church event will be called off because of inclement weather, check these communication spots:

- Church website www.normalmennonite.org/
 - Scroll down on the home page
 - Look at the first Newsroom Post
- Your email account
- WJBC radio (AM 1930, FM 98.7)
- WGLT Radio (FM 89.1)
- WEEK-TV (NBC-25) & WHOI-TV (ABC-19) Cable Channels 10 & 19
- Pantagraph online –Cancellations <http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/weather-related-cancellations>
- Church answering machine 309-452-6622

Please note:

- Generally speaking, cancellation decisions will be made no later than 7:00 am the day of the event.
- If a small group event, like a committee meeting, is going to be cancelled, the members will be contacted directly by email or phone.

YOUR SAFETY is the first priority. No matter what the weather or the status of cancellation, consider your safety first. Conditions around Central Illinois vary.

Please don't take chances because you have a responsibility at church. Safety first!

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.

MCC Great Lakes

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes is seeking a Program Director. The person who fills this role will be responsible for the direction and oversight of MCC Great Lakes programs. The Program Director is expected to connect with constituent churches and groups, as well as partner organizations, to work together and advance the mission of MCC. This position also explores ways to further develop relationships between program staff and partnerships within the Great Lakes region to reflect the commitment to diverse constituent churches. To see a full job description and apply, visit mcc.org/gl-program-director or contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133.



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

If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, that is to say like artists, we must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in.

Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary*



Today's Chuckle

Alice: What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree?

Johnny: I don't know. What?

Alice: A pineapple!

Phil: Where do snowmen keep their money?

Bill: Beats me.

Phil: In a snow bank.

Darth Vader: I know what you're getting for Christmas.

Luke: How do you know?

Darth Vader: I can feel your presents.

Mike: What do snowmen like to do on the weekend?

Chrissy: What?

Mike: Chill out.
