



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 8, 2017

Worship with Us This Sunday March 12, 2017

The Scripture for this Sunday is John 3:1-17 and the title of the sermon is "... Beyond 'improvement'." Pastor Tim Schrag offers a quote to consider: "*Most everything worthwhile is on the other side of fear.*"

The hymns are *Immortal, Invincible God Only Wise* (HWB 46), *I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Love* (HWB 338), *Who Is So Great a God* (HWB 62), and *We are Often Tossed and Driv'n* (STS 72)

The Lenten Bible Drama for March 12 will be a Puppet Drama with participants Deborah Spacek, Lois Hochstetler, Abby & Joe Warfel, Wilma Dyck, Directed by me, coordinated by Wayne Hochstetler.



Prayers

Please pray for increasing health for:
Evelyn Bertsche who was transferred to Heritage Manor in Bloomington on Tuesday

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Mar 8	Peace & Justice Committee 5:00 pm Pastoral Council 6:30 pm
Thur Mar 9	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am IMC Pastor-Peer Meeting 9:00 am Cluster Leaders 6:30 pm
Sun Mar 12	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am MYF Relief Sale Cookie Baking 1:00 pm Junior High Youth 5:00 pm Senior High Youth 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Mon Mar 13	Mennonite Women 9:30 am
Tues Mar 14	Staff Meeting 10:30 am Wellness Committee 5:30 pm Lenten Drama Group Rehearsal 6:30 pm
Wed Mar 15	Bridge of Hope Neighboring Group Mtg. 6:00 pm
Thur Mar 16	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
March 17-18	Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Eric & Chellie Miller West: Terry Wiebanga
Welcome Table	Aldine Combs
Ushers	Andy & Beth Reeser Ben & Caroline Roeschley
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	David Warfel
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Scripture	Scripture Drama Team
Children's Time	Pastor Jane Roeschley
Accompanist	Chris Culbertson & Youth Musicians
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Wilma Dyck
Preschool Nursery	Andy/Beth Reeser





Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to
Darrel Miller March 13
Alan Dick March 13
Ellen Culpepper March 15
Carroll Miller March 15
AJ Kettering March 16
Erma Stutzman March 17

Happy 36th anniversary to Larry Schrader and Elfriede Massier on March 14

Relief Sale

59th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, March 17-18, Interstate Center, Bloomington
"Sharing God's Love and Compassion"

Important information:

***Display Table**, Sunday, March 12. Bring your arts and craft items. They will be put in boxes that day.

***Pie crusts** They will be delivered to the church on Friday or Saturday. You can pick up your pie crusts on Sunday. They are frozen and are in the freezer. Make your check out to Gerry Schrock. If you want your pie crusts before Sunday, please call Gerry. Ingredients are flour, shortening and salt.

Where volunteers are most needed:

*Dutch Market: Friday, checkout, 6:30-9:00 p.m., need 10 people
checkout, 4:00-6:30 p.m., need 2 people
stocking, 6:30-9:00 p.m. need 3 people

*Dutch Market: Saturday, checkout, 11:30-2:00 p.m., need 2 people
stocking, 9:00-11:30 a.m., need 1 person
11:30-2:00 p.m., need 1 person

*Chicken/fish dinners serving line: Friday, 4:00-6:00 p.m., need 3 people

*Pancakes & sausage serving: Saturday, 5:30-8:30 a.m., need 5 people

*Pies: more pies are needed

*Children under 16 years of age are not allowed to serve food.

*Meet the Mennonites: Friday & Saturday, need 5 people

*Peace & Justice: Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., need 1 person

*Recycling: Saturday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. - need 4 people to pick up cardboard

*Thursday: 10:00-2:00 p.m., need 9 people - hanging up signs at the Interstate Center

*Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., need 8 people - set up at the Interstate Center

*Transportation: Friday, 8:30-10:00 a.m., need a few people to bring food and arts & craft items to

the Sale

*Yard signs: pick one up, only a few left

*Count your Coins bottle - bring your pennies, nickels, dimes & quarters. The bottle isn't full

yet!

Questions? Ask Roelie Homan or Gerry Schrock.

Needed: Someone to spearhead the collection of cardboard for recycling at the relief sale. You'd be inheriting a well-thought-through process developed by Juergen and Meredith. It will require a few contacts prior, and several hours of work, mainly on the day of the sale (Saturday, March 18). Some of the MYF youth are interested in collaborating.

Relief Sale Celebration Lunch

We will have a Relief Sale Celebration lunch following Sunday School on Sunday, March 19. All are welcome. No need to bring food or table service. Everything will be provided. We will have a simple lunch of sandwiches and finger foods. Donations will be accepted. Come and relax after all your hard work.



Lost and Found

Did you lose keys in the parking lot? Those are in the church office. Glasses? Water bottles? Those are in the lost and found under the south Mezzanine stairs.

Upcoming Events

March 17-18 Illinois Relief Sale

March 24 Bethel College Choir Concert

March 31-April 1 Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly

May 5-7 Illinois Mennonite Conference Women's Retreat at Menno Haven

June 22-24 Central District Conference

July 4-8 Mennonite USA Assembly and Convention



Please save the date of April 1 for a Red Cross Blood Drive at Mennonite Church of Normal. Online Scheduling is available by clicking [here](#). A sign-up sheet is available in the MCN Library.

Bethel College Choir

The Bethel College Concert Choirs invites you to join them at the Mennonite Church of Normal on 7:00 pm Friday, March 24, for a benefit concert. All proceeds from a free-will offering will go to MCC Relief. An informal cookie reception will immediately follow the concert.

Directory Update

First of all, a BIG THANK YOU to Leroy Loepp who stapled, folder and flattened the 2017 Directories. That was a big job and he volunteered cheerfully. Second, I will wait a week so folks can tell me about any further changes, and then print some additional Directories. I know that some people like to have one at home and one at work and one in the car. Those should be available by March 19. *Lynn Reha*

Here are some updates to make in the Directory that you received Feb 26. Please mark your current 2017 Directories accordingly.

**Gabriella Harnish 309-423-2700

**Adam Augspurger adamaugs59@gmail.com

**Darrell Nester dsnest5@gmail.com

**Ruth and Joe Haney Please use only the home phone (land line).

Add Hazel Yoder's cell phone number 309-824-2685

*Michelle Frank's address has changed and Isabel's phone has been added:

2000 N. Linden 1106 (that's the letter "I" followed by "106), Normal, IL 61761.

309.212.1484 (Isabel)



Help Needed: Child Care (here at Church) for Immigrant Head Start Families Learning English

Our Head Start classroom has 4 families that are new to the United States. The parents in these families could benefit from a class to learn English. A local organization, STAR Literacy, would love to provide it. A critical obstacle for these families is child care for their young children while parents are in class. We are currently exploring if we might have a roster of volunteers who would enjoy providing 60-90 minutes of child care once a week here at church for a small group of young children while the parents are in class. If you would like to learn more, please

contact Pastor Jane. jane@normalmennonite.org

Position Announcements

MCN Office Manager

The Job Description and Application for the position of MCN Office Manager (formerly Administrative Assistant) is posted on the MCN website at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/wp-admin/customize.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.normalmennonite.org%2F> There are also copies of the Job Description and Application on the Entrance Table.

Mennonite Central Committee is seeking a Young Adult Coordinator:

This position, located in Goshen, Ind., coordinates and recruits for MCC Great Lakes young adult programs, including the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP), Summer Service Worker (SSW) program and the Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program. This position connects with Great Lakes' young adult alumni, especially using social media, and creates opportunities for young adults from the Great Lakes region to develop leadership skills. There is particular emphasis, but is not limited to developing and establishing relationships within the Great Lakes constituent churches and communities of color. This position also performs communications tasks such as relating to media, writing and editing, web updates, and promotion. The communication role will include some tasks for Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP). For a full job description, visit mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings. Individuals interested in this position should send a cover letter and current resume when they apply online. For more information or questions, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.



Do you enjoy mentoring young adults and living in community? Service Adventure is looking for unit leaders for our Colorado Springs, Colo. and Jackson, Miss., units. The two year term begins late July. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Susan Nisly at SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or visit us at www.MennoniteMission.net
<<http://www.MennoniteMission.net>>



Building Use

Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists
Wednesday, March 8 7:00 pm

Illinois Prairie Wild Ones, Monday March 13
Board Meeting 5:30
General Meeting in Sanctuary 7:00 pm

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

Joy is the serious business of heaven. *C.S. Lewis*



Today's Chuckle

The manager of a large city zoo was drafting a letter to order a pair of animals. He sat at his computer and typed the following sentence: "I would like to place an order for two mongooses, to be delivered at your earliest convenience."

He stared at the screen, focusing on that odd word "mongooses." Then he deleted the word and added another, so that the sentence now read: "I would like to place an order for two mongeese, to be delivered at your earliest convenience."

Again he stared at the screen, this time focusing on the new word, which seemed just as odd as the original one. Finally, he deleted the whole sentence and started all over. "Everyone knows no fully stocked zoo should be without a mongoose," he typed. "Please send us two of them."