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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

August 23, 2017

Worship with Us this Sunday, August 27

The sermon title is *Generosity and Money* and the Scripture is John 10:7-10. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "I will be suggesting that we promote a theology of prosperity, but not in the usual use of the term."

Prayers

Please pray for

- *Holly Zehr's neighbors who are preparing to return as missionaries to East Asia after an ongoing battle with thyroid cancer.
- *Glenn Wilson's brother Wayne as he recovers from emergency surgery removing a large part of the small intestine.

We give thanks for

- *Anniversaries and Birthdays.
- *Being healthy and able to attend church.
- *The workers keeping our church campus looking beautiful.
- *Decreased deficit in the spending plan.
- *Stephanie Nester surgery update: Everything went well, the bone marrow test results were not Leukemia. She has a low immune system and has to work to stay healthy. If she were to get sick or an infection, she would have to see a hematologist. The cysts removed were not cancerous either. She goes back to the

OBGYN in two weeks to follow-up. Thank you to all who brought meals in, helped out with the kids, and all the prayers for the family. It was greatly appreciated and meant a lot. Duane and Stephanie Nester

Condolences

*We offer condolences to Christina Litwiller. Her father Lloyd Litwiller passed away Friday morning, August 18th in Hopedale.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Aug 24 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sun Aug 27 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Congregational Action 10:45 am
"Talk to the Church Board" 11:00 am
MYF Informal Movie Night 6:30 pm

Thur Aug 31 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Cluster Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm



Serving This Sunday



Greeters	South: Andy & Beth Reeser West: Mary Ann King
Welcome Table	Gail Fisher
Ushers	Paul & Mary Ann Watkins David & Gabriella Harnish
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Joe Culpepper
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	Nathan Miller
Children's Time	Cindy Ropp
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Technology	Wesley Hershberger
Toddler Nursery	Caeli Haab
Preschool Nursery	Claire Dyck

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Dorothy Loepp 8/27
Randy Zehr 8/27

Gerlof Homan 8/28
Alice Swift 8/29
Joe Dick 8/30
D. Paul Miller 8/30
Victor Belzer 9/1
Lena Driscoll 9/1
Keith Nafziger 9/1
Aldine Combs 9/2
Leah Roeschley 9/2

Happy 62nd anniversary to Bob and Mary Kauffman on August 28
Happy 58th anniversary to Leo and Bess Desch on August 30
Happy 3rd anniversary to Henry Dick and Sophie Charles on August 30
Happy 48th anniversary to Cal and Vivian Hubbard on August 30
Happy 15th anniversary to Matt and Deb Hickman on August 31
Happy 61st anniversary to Lloyd and Aldine Combs on September 1



A little reminder: D. Paul Miller will be 100 on August 30th. You are invited to celebrate with him at Westminster Village on August 26th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Social Center. We would love to have you join us! Your presence would be your gift to him. He would love you see you there! Brenda, Rich and Don



Pastor Jane Roeschley's current term as Associate Pastor will expire soon. Based on the recent congregational evaluation of Jane's ministry the Church Board unanimously and enthusiastically recommends that the congregation extend to Jane another call for 5 years. According to our constitution this calls for congregational action. That vote is scheduled for this Sunday, August 27, at the end of the morning worship service. If you know you will be absent August 27, you may receive an absentee ballot from the church office, to be returned prior to August 27. If anyone has a question about this process, please talk with Wayne Hochstetler, Congregational Chairperson, or any of the 6 Church Board members.



The Financial Stewardship Committee would like to thank those in the congregation who have given and/or pledged additional money for the spending plan. Your response has been most gratifying and thru July, the deficit was decreased by \$25,000. We covet your support and prayers for the remainder of this year.

Two documents that will be helpful in preparing for Sunday's Talk to the Church Board session are available at <https://www.normalmennonite.org/talk-to-the-church-board-spending-plan/>. These are the same documents that were placed into your mailbox last Sunday.



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There are a number of items in the lost and found from the kitchen. Please check to make sure they are not yours!



Music for Food Update

The concert here by Illinois Chamber Music Festival participants on July 24 netted \$495 (and a number of food items) for local food assistance. ICMF sends us their grateful thanks.



Help Displaced People in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Armed conflict in the Kasai region of the DR Congo has displaced 1.4 million people, including 8,000 Mennonites. An assessment team visited this summer and found a severe lack of food and increasing malnutrition. Families had to leave their fields and animals when they fled the violence, and food that is available for purchase is very expensive. An Anabaptist response is underway, shaped and implemented by Congolese Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren church-based relief committees, coordinated by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Gifts of money will help provide food, household items and shelter supplies. Make your donation online at mcc.org/congo-relief or by phone, 1-888-563-4676. Mail checks to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501. Please keep those living through this tragedy in your prayers. More information available at <http://mennoworld.org/2017/08/17/news/anabaptists-respond-to-violence-in-congo/>



2017 Relief Sale Financial Report

	2017	2016
Total Sale revenues	\$276,128.00	\$257,183.00
Total Sale expenses	\$132,435.00	\$133,038.00
Sale net proceeds	\$143,693.00	\$124,145.00

80% of the Sale net proceeds have been donated to Mennonite Central Committee to help the suffering in American and in 60 countries of the world. The remaining 20% has been distributed among 36 relief organizations within Central Illinois with the request that all funds be used to provide food for the needy.

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board deeply appreciates the involvement and generosity of all volunteers and participants serving "in the name of Christ."



Parents of Preschoolers

If you haven't yet had a chance to sign up for the dessert events hosted by the church, it's not too late! Delicious dessert and free childcare included!! We'd love to hear from you and learn how we can help support you and your families.

You may either sign up using sign up genius - click here: [Dessert event for pre-school families](#) or contact Chris at chrisculbertson22@gmail.com

Available times include:

1. Sunday, August 27 from 6:30-7:30 at 907 N. Fell in Normal - Ross and Melika Hershbergers home
 2. Monday, August 28 from 7:00 - 8:00 at - Barry and Marge Weaver's home
 3. Thursday, August 31 from 7:00 - 8:00 at Barry and Marge Weaver's home
 4. Sunday, September 3rd from 11:00 - 12:00 at the MRC (during the Sunday School hour.)
 5. If there is interest, we will add Sunday, September 10th from 11:00 - 12:00 at the MRC (during the Sunday School hour)
-



Dear Friends for Peace at MCN,

I was mailed an invitation from Morris Dees, Founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as a friend of the Center, to hear Lecia Brooks, SPLC outreach director, discuss the rise in hate groups and hate crimes and what people can do to combat them at the SPLC Forum on Hate Crimes. This will be at the Bob Michel Student Center at Bradley University, 915 North Elmwood Avenue, Peoria, IL at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August

29. The MCN contributed to the SPLC through the Outreach Committee last year.
If you are interested carpooling to this event, please let me know. I plan to attend.
The invitation says that the event is free and open to the public, so please come early for a seat. For more information, call 309-677-3054.

Phil Dick, Chair of the Outreach Committee
Mennonite Church of Normal

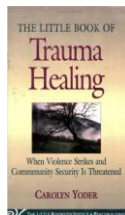


Eureka Et Cetera Shop is searching for a full time manager to oversee the non-profit, retail thrift shop business dedicated to supporting the mission of MCC by generating income. This position requires experience in an active retail business environment, computer and public relations skills and managing a large group of volunteers. Must be able to lift, bend and be on your feet much of the day. Should be able to work independently and/or as part of a team and be available on occasional evenings in addition to five days a week, including most Saturdays. To request an application, email twysefisher@gmail.com. (No phone calls, please.) The application deadline is September 7, with the position beginning October 1.



Mennonite
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Help spread the word to area Youth!
Mennonite Colleges & University Fair, September 10
5:00 pm @ Mennonite Church of Normal



Trauma & Healing Sunday School Class, Sept 10-Nov 19

This class will help participants identify types of trauma, its effects, and steps for coping and healing. Participants will also hear stories from those who have experienced trauma and organizations in the community that help trauma survivors. Interested participants need to purchase, "The Little Book of Trauma Healing." It may be ordered online (\$4.66) at <https://www.amazon.com/Little-Book-Trauma-Healing-Peacebuilding/dp/1561485071>



Home Sweet Home Ministries is offering a Faith & Finances Course

Financial education course for people who:

Don't have a lot of extra money to spare
Desire to overcome financial obstacles
Want to save more and pay off debt

12-week class to discover God's design for our money. Along the way, we'll laugh, eat together, and learn from one another. Classes begin Tuesday, September 19th—5:30-7:00pm with Supper provided at 5:00pm.

Cost is \$10 including meals, workbook and child care for all 12 sessions.

Register at the front desk of Home Sweet Home Ministries. Bring an ID to register. Fee not needed until the first class. Want more information? Contact Nora at nzaring@hshministries.org



Bloomington Normal Freedom Fund Banquet with NAACP

Saturday September 23, 2017

4:30 Social Hour, 5:00 Program

At the Double Tree Hotel

Speaker: YoNasDa Lone Wolf -- Human Rights Activist, National Organizer, Rap Artist, Writer

The NAACP local chapter currently is doing powerful work to improve diverse hiring in several key agencies in our community life. It is a strong and respected alliance partner with other social justice groups for advances such as establishment of a Citizens Review Board for local police. Additionally our NAACP encourages gifted young students of color with recognition and scholarships. The NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Banquet raises funds for the work. Come to celebrate current achievements and plans of this group that quietly is doing much for B-N.

Ellen Culpepper has tickets which are \$50 per person. Call or text Ellen to order 309-750-2549.



Ride Needed to Goshen, IN on Oct. 5 for Homecoming Weekend. Contact Julie Musselman if you can help, 267-808-9982.



MDS Trip, Greenbrier, West Virginia, October 15-21

Join in housing rehab following serious flooding in the Greenbrier, WV community with a group of volunteers from Joliet that Gerry Schrock worked with when she was in Greenbrier this summer. She says they are "a lot of fun". We will be a joint Joliet-Normal group (15 is group max) for the week of October 15-21. See more info about Greenbrier at <https://mds.mennonite.net/volunteer-opportunity/greenbrier-county-wv/> To sign up or ask further questions: see Pastor Jane.



Restorative Practices Seminar: One Day Overview, Thursday, October 19, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Regional Office of Education, 200 W Front St, Bloomington.

Kevin Jones, presenter. This seminar explores the fundamental principles, philosophy, theories, practices, models and skills of restorative practices. Participants will assess the role of human emotion, especially shame, in social relationships. Special emphasis will be placed on proactive and responsive circles, restorative conferencing and the informal application of these processes. Issues critical to the development of restorative practices, such as models of human interaction, theories of behavior and current research will be considered. Fee covered by the MCN Lay Ministries Fund.



MCN will have a **Work Day at Emmanuel and Tanya's home** on Saturday, November 4, from 8:00-noon. Volunteers (16 or older) to work and to provide snacks may sign up by clicking here: [SignUpGenius Link](#)



Summer Worship Special Music, Fresh Flowers and Favorite Hymns

You are invited to sign up for one or more Sundays this summer to: provide special worship music, vocal or instrumental, to bring fresh flowers for in front of the pulpit, or to request a favorite hymn. Use this link to sign up www.SignUpGenius.com/go/8050A4BA4A92BA57-special



MCC School Kits

During the months of July and August, Mennonite Women will be collecting School Kits. School Kits are MCC's most requested item. They are given primarily to refugee and displaced children, helping students and teachers add some normalcy to disrupted lives. 89,958 were shipped last year to Jordan, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Haiti, U.S., Serbia, Honduras and more.

The bags are in the back of the Sanctuary for you to take home to fill with the necessary supplies:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8.5" x 10.5", 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils

- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating 30 cm and 12")
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

Return filled bags to the red tub in the back of the Sanctuary. MCN Mennonite Women will deliver them.
Or, if you would prefer, you can just purchase the supplies and Mennonite Women will fill the bags.



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 Minister Michael Danner's weekly message to IMC churches.

Voice of the Day

“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Prize acceptance speech, December 11, 1964.



Building Use

Head Start Orientation

August 24, 3:30 pm

Music Recording

August 25, 3:00 pm

Black Lives Matter Retreat

August 26, 8:00 am

Cantus Novus Choir Rehearsal

August 27, 2:30 pm

Today's Chuckle



Working as a pediatric nurse, I had the difficult assignment of giving immunization shots to children. One day, I entered the examining room to give four-year-old Lizzie her injection.

"No, no, no!" she screamed.

Lizzie, scolded her mother, "Lizzie, that's not polite behavior."

With that, the girl yelled even louder, "No, thank you! No, thank you!"