

Parents: The new Sunday school year for children and youth begins Sunday, September 3! Read below about your child's new class!

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

August 30, 2017

Worship with Us this Sunday, September 3

The sermon title is *805 S. Cottage, and Generosity* and the Scripture is 1 Kings 8:25-27a and 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. Pastor Tim Schrag comments "God has greatly blessed us with our campus and facilities. Today we will give testimony to an example of how we have been generous with them!"

Prayers

Please pray for

- *Those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast.
- *Holly Zehr's biological Mother who is on hospice. Holly and family will be going to see her one last time.
- *Lydia Wilson as she returns to CMFI for her third year.
- *Adam Reiman working to start a Not In Our School program at Metcalf.
- *Chris Hubbs as he undergoes shoulder surgery.

We give thanks for

- *Anniversaries and Birthdays.
- *Lydia Wilson's support and encouragement as she returns to CMFI in Spain.
- *Darrell and Lynette Miller's daughter Elizabeth Miller and her husband Neil Richer who were granted visas for their children to travel to Colombia with MCC.

Condolences

- *We offer condolences to Craig Ohmart and his family. Craig's mother Mary Ohmart passed away August 23. Services are Saturday in Fairbury.
 - *We offer condolences to Jon Friesen and his family. Jon's mother Phyllis Friesen passed away August 27 in Bluffton, OH.
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This Week At 805 S Cottage

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

Sun Sept 3 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Blood Pressures Taken 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am

Mon Sept 4 Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Tues Sept 5 Worship Committee 5:00 pm

Thur Sept 7 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Emmanuel & Tanya Kasongo West: Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Mary Ann King
Ushers	Glenn and Janet Wilson, Shannon Neely, Steve Stenger
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Lynette Miller
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Scripture	Lois Hochstetler
Children's Time	Alena Culbertson
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Wesley Hershberger
Toddler Nursery	Mary Jantze
Preschool Nursery	Holly Zehr



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Caitlin Haab 9/03
Janelle Friesen 9/05
Travis Stalter 9/05
Rick Reha 9/06
Duane Nester 9/07
Curt Oyer 9/07
Ian Unzicker 9/08

Happy 69th anniversary to Dick and Marjie Baum on September 4
Happy 18th anniversary to Jeff and Amy Reiman on September 4
Happy 9th anniversary to Travis and Carrie Stalter on September 6
Happy 45^h anniversary to John and Erma Stutzman on September 9



Please pray for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast. MDS is closely monitoring the situation and has sent an assessment team to the area this week to determine short and long term responses.

MDS is accepting financial donations for its Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, which can be given [online](#) or by check and made payable to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Rd, Lititz, PA 17543. Designate "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line.

If you're interested in volunteering for service in Texas, please fill out the [online volunteer registration form](#).



Dear parents,

The new Sunday school year begins Sunday, September 3! The Christian Education Committee has compiled this information so you can become acquainted with 2017-2018 teachers, assistants, prayer partners, and room locations.

Our curriculum for the PreK through 5rd grade is called, "Shine: Living in God's Light." Major goals of the curriculum are to nurture children and youth in their faith formation and to explore what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in Christian community.

Snacks are provided during Sunday school. Christian Education supplies snacks such as crackers, cookies, popcorn, etc. If you have a child with food allergies, please let your teachers and me know.

A few important pieces of information to pass along, especially for parents of first time Sunday schoolage children:

- Nannies read to the younger classes (PreK through 1st grade) for 10 min following the worship service in the preschool nursery (which is also the K/1st grade classroom)
- All 2nd through 5th grade students should promptly head straight to their classroom when church is ended rather than going through the line in the fellowship area. It will be at each teacher's discretion whether students can then go to get a snack from the fellowship area or stay in the classroom to have snack provided there.
- Sunday School lasts until 11:45, no matter what time the service ends. This is a new change in recent years.

- *Please note: PreK and K/1st grade children must be picked up by their parent or other responsible person at the classroom at 11:45. (2nd through 5th grade students will be allowed to leave independently at the end of class)

Please contact someone on the committee if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

CE Committee: Beth Reeser, Marcia Rossi, Shelly King, Alena Culbertson, and Pastor Matt Hickman

Class	Teacher	Prayer Partner	Room Number	CE Contact Person
PreK	Helen Brandon	Wilma Dyck	Head Start Room (13 & 14)	Beth Reeser bethreeser@gmail.com
K – 1 st Grade	Annette Harnish		Room 11	Marcia Rossi marciarossi@aol.com
2 nd Grade	Rick Reha, Shannon & Spring Neely, Andy & Beth Reeser	Hazel Yoder	Room 12	Shelly King snking2002@yahoo.com
3 rd – 5 th Grade	Chris Culbertson	Julie Musselman	Room 9	Alena Culbertson alena.culbertson@gmail.com
Gather 'Round	Nanny reads to PreK – 1 st Grade for 10 min. after worship		Room 11	
Nursery		Nancy Fisher	Room 3	Beth Reeser bethreeser@gmail.com



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



Many books, both new and donated, have been added to the library in the last few months. The center rack in the library features some of these new books; others are on the regular shelves. The library has been coordinated according to subject and books are in their category alphabetically by author instead of by call number. This should be an easier way of browsing through books according to interest of subject matter. A listing of all books added to the library will be available on a sheet in all mailboxes on Sunday. You are encouraged to discover new literary friends and companions in our church library!

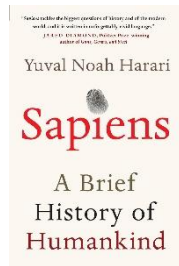


Lynette Miller has an interest in finding some people who would like to participate in a small group using a table liturgy. This format includes a simple meal with courses interspersed with scripture, prayer, liturgy and sharing. This group would probably meet on a weekday evening on a biweekly basis. If you would like to participate in such a group or have questions, please contact her at dlmiller@frontiernet.net or 261-7485.



Parents of Preschoolers

Please join us this Sunday (Sept. 3rd) or next (Sept. 10th) at the MRC during the Sunday School hour. We're interested in hearing your ideas about our young children! Sign up is optional - just head over to the MRC on one of those Sundays. If you would like to sign up, click here: [Dessert event for pre-school families](#) Coffee and food will be available there!



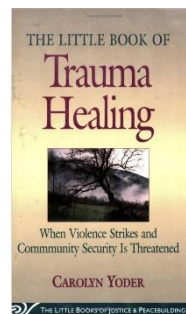
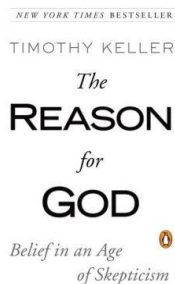
Men's book study will begin again on Wednesday, September 6, at 9:30 am. The book is "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari. It is primarily an anthropology book on the history of human kind. Loren Moshier is purchasing the soft cover books for \$11.00. Please see him or myself to purchase the book. Come to recap the summer events in your life. John Bertsche will be the discussionist that day.

John Bertsche



Metamora Mennonite Church invites us to join them for the 1st Annual "Together, Forever Bound" Music Festival, Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm. It will be an evening of inspirational messages through word and song with world renowned Singing Cowboy, Barry Ward.

For more information, contact Ron Bachman at 309-678-5973



The Fall quarter of the Christian Education hour will offer three adult classes. These classes will begin September 10.

The Adult Uniform Series is entitled "Covenant with God" and explores the major covenants God has made with

people on behalf of the earth and the human community. Covenant forms the foundation for the coming Messiah and salvation for the world. Darrel Miller will be teaching this class.

The Reason for God is a discussion class led by Cory Culbertson. Material will be based on the book The Reason for God: Belief in the Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller.

Trauma and Healing In this class the following aspects of trauma will be addressed: definitions of trauma, common responses to trauma, effects of unhealed trauma, ways to break the cycle of trauma, and the church's response to trauma. Some members of the congregation who have experienced trauma will tell their stories. Local agencies who work with trauma survivors will address the class. The class can be meaningful to anyone because trauma has touched many lives.



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



Join us for **Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald, September 15-17: Restoring our Soul: Cultivating Peace Within and Beyond**. Our lives are often full, the world seems in turmoil - How can we be at peace? At this retreat we will pause to discover how we might cultivate peace within, restore ourselves, and make a difference in our world.

Register today at friedenswald.org/retreats Cost: \$160, under 25 free



Ropp Cemetery Workday

Help plant 25 trees on September 16th, at 8:30 am!
For questions or more information contact Ron Ropp.



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](#)



Thanksgiving Meals Food Drive

For the month of September, we will be collecting the following items in our Widow's Cruse basket for the Home Sweet Home Ministries Thanksgiving Dinners. HSHM and Midwest Food Bank supply over 2000 families with food items for Thanksgiving through this food drive.

Requested Items

- Canned green beans
- Canned cream of mushroom soup
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned French fried onions
- Canned pie filling
- Boxed pie crust mix
- Turkey gravy packets (no jars)
- Canned fruit
- Flour
- Sugar
- Coffee



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

"No matter how much one may love the world as a whole, one can live fully in it only by living responsibly in some small part of it. Where we live and who we live there with define the terms of our relationship to the world and to humanity. We thus come again to the paradox that one can become whole only by the responsible acceptance of one's partiality."

Wendell Berry



Building Use

HAAQG Meeting

September 7, 5:30 pm

Today's Chuckle



From the Edinburg Fringe Festival

- I've given up asking rhetorical questions. What's the point? **Alexei Sayle**
- I like to imagine the guy who invented the umbrella was going to call it the 'brella.' But he hesitated. **Andy Field**
- Combine Harvesters. And you'll have a really big restaurant. **Mark Simmons**
- I wasn't particularly close to my dad before he died ... which was lucky, because he trod on a land mine. **Olaf Falafel**
- A friend tricked me into going to Wimbledon by telling me it was a men's singles event. **Angela Barnes**
- I wonder how many chameleons snuck onto the Ark. **Adam Hess**