

The new Sunday school classes for adults begin Sunday,
September 10!

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Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

September 6, 2017

Worship with Us this Sunday, September 10

The sermon title is *Generosity and Our Whole Selves* and the Scripture is Romans 12:1-8. Pastor Tim Schrag comments "I strongly encourage you to come to God in prayer, seeking to know God's will in general, and considering your whole self as having something to contribute to God's will coming into being."

Prayers

Please pray for

- *Those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast.
- *Those impacted by Hurricane Irma and the tropical storms ahead.
- *Those impacted by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) decisions this week.

We give thanks for

- *New trees being planted at Ropp Cemetery.
- *God and remembering blessings even in times of losing everything.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Sept 7	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sun Sept 10	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am Mennonite Colleges and Universities Fair 5:00 pm
Mon Sept 11	Mennonite Women 9:30 am Financial Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm



Tues Sept 12

Church Board 6:30 pm

Thur Sept 14

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm

Serving This Sunday



Greeters

South: Lauren & Kristen Satchwell

Welcome Table

West: Lois Hochstetler

Ushers

Marcia Rossi

Mark Roeschley & Ardys Serpette

Stephanie Nester & Manny Oyer

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Worship Leader

Kay Reimer

Song Leader

Cindy Ropp

Scripture

Shannon Neely

Accompanist

Denise Hedberg

Technology

Wesley Hershberger

Toddler Nursery

Emily Petri

Preschool Nursery

Shannon & Spring Neely

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Makyla Hickman 9/11

Linda Clemmons 9/13

Darin Driscoll 9/13

Andy Hedberg 9/13



Please pray for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast. 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](#).



Would you provide a Sunday night meal for our youth groups?

This year, the junior high and high school groups are combined into one for the dinner portion of the Sunday evening gathering. We will need food for 28 every Sunday at 6:15.

Thank you for your help with this--it is very much appreciated!

Sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-youth>



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.



Our **Bridge of Hope Neighbor Group** is awaiting a match with another local family moving from homelessness to housing stability and is looking for 2-3 more persons (men and women, all ages) able to give about an evening a month for 2 years to help be “neighbors” to a single parent and kids as they strengthen their lives. Might you (spouses and families welcome, too) be interested in this as a way to minister Christ’s peace in our community and putting our faith in Jesus into action? See [this link](#) for an introduction of Bridge of Hope Neighboring. Contact Pastor Jane for more info.

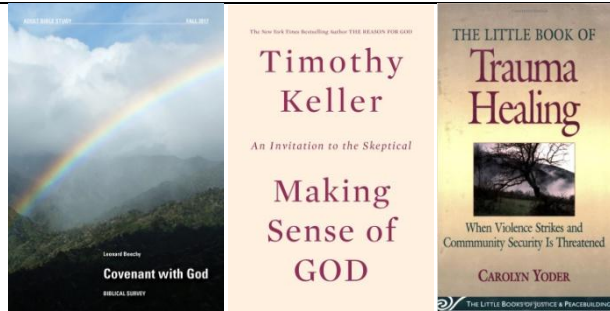


Parents of Preschoolers

Please join us this Sunday (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. Coffee and food will be available there!



Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others forms will be handed out this Sunday, September 10 during the worship service. If you are absent, there will be a copy in your mailbox or on the entryway table and they are also available on our website. Here is [the link](#).



The Fall quarter of the Christian Education hour will offer three adult classes. These classes will begin this Sunday, 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.

Making Sense of God is a discussion class led by Cory Culbertson and based on the book of the same name by Timothy Keller. The class will look at some of the pressing questions of Christian faith in an secular world, like:

- Is faith in God intellectually defensible?
- Are we all free to create our own values in life?
- Does justice depend on God?

It is not required to read the book to participate in the class. Those having the book will be able to read about the class topics in more depth.

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.



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



Apple Harvest

It's apple harvest time! The Millers are inviting everyone out on Saturday, September 16, beginning at 8:30 am, to pick and bag apples and make cider. We will plan to work until midday and lunch will be provided. Address is 821 E Raab Rd., Normal.

It's a relatively large crop, so many helpers will be needed. As in the past, you are welcome to help yourself to apples and cider as supplies allow. Also, apples will be held back for the Relief Sale and local charities. If you have

gently used bags from previous harvests, please bring them as well.

This is a great event for families as there are things to do for all ages. For questions and additional information, contact Eric (309.831.6585) or Chellie (309.212.2408).



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 cranberry sauce
Canned pie filling
Coffee

Canned cream of mushroom soup
Canned French fried onions
Boxed pie crust mix

Turkey gravy packets (no jars)
Canned fruit
Flour
Sugar



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

“We can conclude that a professed Christian who is not committed to a life of generosity and justice toward the poor and marginalized is, at the very least, a living contradiction of the Gospel of Christ, the Son of God, whose Father “executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.”

Timothy J. Keller, Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical



Building Use

HAAQG Meeting
September 7, 5:30 pm

HAAQG Workshop
September 8 & 9, 8:00 am

Wild Ones
September 11, 5:30 pm

Today's Chuckle



I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be
A church that has no empty pews
Whose pastor never has the blues
Where all are always sweet and kind
And to others faults are blind
Such perfect churches there may be
But none of them is known to me
Yet still I'll work to pray and plan
To make our own the best I can.

Found in the papers of Peter A. Ropp