

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. 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 for all ages.

[View this email in your browser](#)



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

September 13, 2017

## **Worship with Us this Sunday, September 17**

The sermon title is *Scattered Unity?* and the Scripture is 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:9-12. Pastor Tim Schrag comments "MCN attenders often attest appreciatively to finding 'community' here in this congregation. But never have we been more scattered! So how does one find community when we [maybe] see each other on Sunday morning?"

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### **Prayers**

#### **Please pray for**

\*Safety and courage for those impacted by the storms and hurricanes.

\*Conflict and warfare in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

\*Gerlof and Roelie Homan as Gerlof goes into Hospice care.

\*Olivia Engels' friend's family as their mother is recovering from surgery due to lung cancer. Pray that it doesn't expand and that they were able to get it all.

\*Helen Brandon Dick as a group brings a Welcoming resolution to District 87 school board this week.

#### **We give thanks for**

\*Stephanie Nester's continued recovery as she will be returning to work next week.

\*Bennie Brown's continued recovery and the possibility of less dialysis in his future.

\*Pastor Matt Hickman as he continues to recover with cardiac rehab and the positive test results indicating no scar tissue and returned pumping function to his heart.

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## This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Sept 14	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm
Sun Sept 17	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Cluster Groups Mini Gathering 10:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
Tues Sept 19	Pastoral Council 6:30 pm
Wed Sept 20	Apple Pie Prep for Relief Sale 8:30 am Peace and Justice Committee 5:00 pm Bi-annual Leadership Meeting 6:30 pm
Thur Sept 21	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Rick & Annette Harnish West: Nathan Miller
Welcome Table	David Voegtlin
Ushers	John & Kay Reimer, Roger & Linda Clemmons
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Lynn Reha
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Scripture	Aime Fataki
Children's Time	Darrel Miller
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Jeff & Amy Reiman
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sophie Charles 9/18  
Todd Kettering 9/18  
Meredith Satchwell 9/19  
Emmanuel Kasongo 9/20  
Dorothy Zehr 9/20  
Nancy Fisher 9/21

Joe Culpepper 9/22  
Lynette Miller 9/22  
Meredith Schroerer 9/22  
Joanna Oyer 9/23  
Brandon Reed 9/23

Happy 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Glenn & Lorene Busenitz on September 21

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#### Hurricane Relief

Please pray for those impacted by the recent hurricanes.

MDS is accepting financial donations for recovery efforts, which can be given [online](#) or by check and made payable to:

Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Rd, Lititz, PA 17543.

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#### South Asia Flooding

MCC is providing relief assistance in Nepal, India and Bangladesh after two weeks of severe monsoon rains displaced more than 1.7 million people and killed 1,246 in the region.

MCC is working with partners to provide emergency food, water, tarps, mosquito nets & hygiene kits to those affected.

MCC welcomes your support for our relief work in the area. Donations can be made [online](#) or by calling: 1-888-563-4676.

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#### Congolese Crisis Heightens

Dozens of Congolese Mennonites have been killed, hundreds of their homes have been burned, and thousands of them have fled as violence consumes the Kasai region, birthplace of the Mennonite Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo. To respond to these needs, Mennonite Church of Congo is organizing a relief effort with Mennonite Mission Network to collect gifts of clothing, food and funds for their members who have lost everything. To donate to the Congo Emergency Relief Fund click [here](#).

To read more about the conflict follow these links below.

Mennonite Church in Congo sustains “major wounds”

<https://themennonite.org/daily-news/mennonite-church-congo-sustains-major-wounds/>

Mennonites in the middle of Congo crisis

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/Mennonites-in-middle-of-Congo-crisis>

Anabaptists respond to violence in Congo

<http://mennoworld.org/2017/08/17/news/anabaptists-respond-to-violence-in-congo/>

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As a response to the recent hurricanes, Midwest Food Bank is holding work days. Upcoming dates are:

Thursday, September 14, Noon-3 p.m. Need 70 people to fill Disaster Relief boxes

Friday, September 15, Noon-3 p.m. Need 70 people to fill Disaster Relief boxes

Tuesday, September 19, 4 - 8 p.m. Need 70 people to fill disaster relief boxes

Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Need 70 people to fill disaster relief boxes

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer at Midwest Food Bank.

To donate money or items, click [here](#). The Director has said that financial donations are better than donated supplies because they can buy them at the wholesale price and get more for their dollars.

To read more about their disaster relief efforts and what items are needed, click [here](#).

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**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>

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**Table Liturgy**

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](mailto:dlmiller@frontiernet.net) or 261-7485.

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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.

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**Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others** forms were handed out Sunday, September 10 during the worship service. If you were absent, there are copies in your mailbox or on the entryway table and they are also [linked](#) on the website.

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Some of you have asked how my sister-in-law, Suzie Lane, is doing. If you are interested, here's a [link](#) to her CaringBridge website. Suzie posts nearly every morning sharing about the activities for the day, her joys, and her frustrations with life with ALS. At the end of today's post, Suzie wrote "All is well with my soul."

In addition, I started a fundraiser for their expenses. While they don't need help with medical expenses, they do need help with home renovations. They've already covered the expense for a ramp. Now, they need to pay for bathroom renovation and an electric wheelchair accessible van. The bathroom and van purchase expenses will total over \$55,000. They have retirement savings, however, neither my sister nor Suzie are of retirement age and Suzie was the primary breadwinner at this time.

Your prayers are appreciated. Any donations would be an added blessing. To donate click [here](#).  
Mary Dyck

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### 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).

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Free Raffles & Prizes



Neighborhood Art

# NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

## GRAND OPENING & BLOCK PARTY

Fun for everyone! Bounce House & Face Painting Delicious Food

September 16, 2017 • 11 AM  
**Official Ribbon Cutting at 11:45 AM**  
400 Union Street, Bloomington

### What is Northwest Neighborhood Community Center (NNCC)?

Northwest Neighborhood Community Center (NNCC) is a new neighborhood center in the Northwest Neighborhood of Bloomington. We are committed to creating safe space for neighbors to gather, grow, and build relationships.

### Is NNCC a Place I Belong?

Yes!! NNCC is a place for ALL neighbors, all generations, gender, race, and socioeconomic backgrounds. At NNCC we desire to empower neighbors to use our gifts and talents to meet the need in the neighborhood.

For more information about NNCC, go to [www.ncccenter.org](http://www.ncccenter.org), check us out on Facebook @ncccenter or email Sarah Tunall (NNCC Director) at [sarah.tunall@ncccenter.org](mailto:sarah.tunall@ncccenter.org)



### Apple Pie Prep, Wednesday September 20

Apples will be donated for apple pies for the Relief Sale. Volunteers are needed to help make apple pie filling.

We will be peeling, cooking, and bagging apples on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

Let Gerry Schrock know if you can help with this.



### 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.

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Metamora Mennonite Church will be hosting the Hymns and Hers tour, with Page CXVI and Aaron Strumpel, on Saturday evening, **September 30** at 6:30 pm.

About the Band: After forming The Autumn Film, band members Reid and Latifah Phillips and Dann Stockton were leading worship at churches and could not deny the strong beckoning of the hymns. They decided to develop a parallel band; the same people with a new purpose of making hymns accessible again under the new name, Page CXVI. It's drawn from the page number in a particular copy of The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis, the brilliant passage where Aslan begins to sing Narnia into creation out of a black void.

This will be another great night of music and we hope you can join us! Adult tickets are \$15 [online](#) and \$20 at the door. Children under 12 are \$5 at the door, infants are free.

Grab a friend or two and take in a night of music that will move your soul!

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

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#### **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.

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**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.

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**Do you like to play volleyball?**

Saturday, October 21 you are invited to bring a team to play in Menno Haven's 4on4 volleyball tournament for a day full of full, games, food, and prizes. See the flyer and registration form on the camp bulletin board. You can also go to [www.mennohaven.com](http://www.mennohaven.com) for more information. Register by October 11. We hope to see you there!

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**Calling All Quilters!**

Gather with a community of other quilters who share your passion and interest at the MCC Quilting Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan, on November 3-5. Come alone or with a group, with skills to share or interest in learning, with a project for an MCC auction or a project of your own.  
More information at [mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat](http://mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat).

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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](#)

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**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

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

Turkey gravy packets (no jars)  
Canned fruit  
Flour  
Sugar

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## 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.

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## Voice of the Day

“As followers, we do not claim to have arrived at the destination, nor need we distinguish ourselves from others who are at different stages of the journey. Belonging, believing, and behaving can all be interpreted as aspects of following. Churches that are committed to following Jesus can then welcome fellow travelers unreservedly and unconditionally. But their ethos is one of following, learning, changing, growing, and moving forward.”

**Stuart Murray, The Naked Anabaptist: The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith**

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## Building Use

Head Start Parent Meeting  
September 18, 3:30 pm

HAAQG Sewing  
September 21, 6:00 pm

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## Today's Chuckle



These are actual excuse notes from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
  - John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.