

Advent Sunday School begins December 3rd! Didn't sign up? No problem! Feel free to join a class.

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

November 29, 2017

## Worship with Us this Sunday, December 3

December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent. The Scripture is Mark 13:24-27.

### Prayers

We give thanks for

- \*Lloyd Combs' return home after an illness and rehab.
- \*Eric Miller's successful back surgery.
- \*Medical devices to help us communicate.

### Condolences

- \*We offer sincere condolences to Rick and Annette Harnish. Rick's mother Ruth passed away on Thanksgiving morning, after a long illness.
- \*We offer condolences to Diane Wiman and family, Diane's cousin Norma Baggott passed away November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## This Week At 805 S Cottage

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|-------------|--|
| Thur Nov 30 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am   |
| Sun Dec 3   | Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am<br>Worship 9:30 am<br>Blood Pressures Taken 10:45 am<br>Christian Education for Children 10:45 am<br>Christian Education for Children & Adults 11:00 am<br>Newcomer Feedback Group 12:00 pm<br>Youth Groups 5:00 pm |



Jr. Choir 6:00 pm  
Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Mon Dec 4            Camp Friedenswald Updates by Jenna Liechty 6:30 pm  
Tues Dec 5            Worship Committee 5:30 pm  
Thur Dec 7            Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
Sat Dec 9             Kasongo Family House Blessing 12:00 pm

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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Paul & Mary Ann Watkins West: Ardys Serpette
Welcome Table	Mary Dyck
Ushers	Frank & Lisa Jablonski, Andrew & Ben Jablonski
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Lynette Miller
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	Lynette Miller
Children's Time	Steve Stenger
Accompanist	Lydia Hedberg
Technology	Nathan Miller
Toddler Nursery	Miriam Kennell
Preschool Nursery	Claire Dyck



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Ruth Marquis 12/04  
Adam Valverde 12/04  
Reuben Yoder 12/04  
Jon Friesen 12/06  
Jenell Ulrich 12/07  
Shari Stalter 12/09

Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Darrel & Lynette Miller on December 4

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Deborah Spacek needs help this Friday, to move boxes from her current apartment in Phoenix Towers, to another apartment in the same building. Other arrangements have been made to move appliances and furniture. If you can help any time during the day this Friday, December 1, please notify the church office as soon as possible. A prompt response will facilitate her planning. My apologies to folks who helped on my last move for not being prepared, everything will be ready on Friday. The immediate need is Deborah is looking for boxes. If you have boxes that you can provide, please call Deborah at 309-585-5894. Thanks!

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### **Advent Sunday School begins December 3rd!**

Didn't sign up? No problem!

Feel free to join a class. Here are the locations:

Crafting - Conference Room

Banner coloring - Room 4

Music - High School Room

Food - Kitchen

Quilting - Junior High Room

Woodworking - MRC Shop (follow the chalk signs outside on the pavement)

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Calling all Musicians! Whether you've been playing for a year or haven't played for years we want you in our Christmas Orchestra. All ages and woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion are welcome. Rehearsals are Dec. 10th after church (lunch provided), Dec. 16th at 1:30-3:00, and a performance in the service on the 17th.

Contact Lydia, Alena, or Wesley if you're interested.

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14th Alternative Gifts Fair: The final donations have been tallied! Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to raise \$23,900 (MCC-\$16,653; AGI-\$7247) this year! Last year's total was: \$21,689. Inserts have been ordered and will be in your mailboxes along with your shopping lists by Sunday, December 9th. Thanks again to those who made the fantastic booths, the singers, cashiers, and all the very generous donors.

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### **Exploring Your Fit CE Class - January - March 2018**

A good "fit" between *who* we are and *how* we serve God and others offers the best chance for meaning,

significance and joy to result. It also reduces frustrations and disappointments. Exploring Your Gift class takes a look at how God made you - personality type, natural gifts, spiritual gifts, season of life, Enneagram, and more - in order to think about where you "best fit" in serving in the church and community. **Please contact Pastor Jane to register.**

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### **Coats and Winter Gear for Returning Citizens**

Jobs Partnership, a ministry that assists citizens returning to society from prison, is in need of winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots for men and women. Good used items may be collected in the red tub in the Atrium for the next month (until Dec 10). Questions - ask Mary Jantze.

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This holiday season as you pick out gifts for loved ones, why not add a few supplies for MCC kits to your list? As families around the world face disaster and crisis, MCC kits and comforters remind them that their needs are not forgotten. There is a new, easy way for you to get involved! MCC Great Lakes has put together a list of most needed items on Amazon.com. Simply purchase the pre-selected items on the wish list and the items will ship directly to the material resource center in Goshen. (Due to space limitations at MCC Connections in Kidron, all items are being shipped to Goshen.) Thank you for joining MCC in sharing God's love and compassion in this tangible way this Christmas.

Direct link to Amazon Wish List: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Q8X1M1HPMQ92/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Q8X1M1HPMQ92/ref=cm_go_nav_hz)  
or search "MCC Great Lakes" in Amazon Wish Lists.

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### **The Peoria Area Community Festival of Nativities**

December 1-3, Friday & Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday 12pm-6pm

Free Admission

3700 W. Reservoir Blvd., Peoria IL

[www.communityfestivalofnativities.com](http://www.communityfestivalofnativities.com)

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### **Northwest Neighborhood Community Center Christmas Party!!**

December 2nd, 2017. 5-7pm

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, here are some of our needs!

- Set up/clean up crew
- Meal prep and servers
- Activity leaders

Interested in helping with food? Contact Jordan at [jwilie22@gmail.com](mailto:jwilie22@gmail.com).  
Interested in meal prep on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays? Email Deb [belle11.dd@gmail.com](mailto:belle11.dd@gmail.com)

There is also a need for Gift card donations and meal donations. If you can donate a gift card, please give to Amy Reiman.



**Bells In Motion Presents: A Ringing Christmas**

Saturday, December 2, 7pm

First Mennonite Church, 250 Baltimore, Morton

\$15 tickets at the door

For questions visit [www.bellsinmotion.org](http://www.bellsinmotion.org) or contact Kathy Frampton 309-263-4237 or [kathlenaf@yahoo.com](mailto:kathlenaf@yahoo.com)



**Camp Friedenswald is Coming to Bloomington-Normal!**

You are invited to join us on Monday, December 4th at 6:30pm at MCN for an update from Camp.

As a Builder or friend of Camp Friedenswald, we want to thank you for your continued support, and to share all that has happened in 2017 to Renew Friedenswald. We hope to see you there! If possible, RSVP by November 27 to 269-476-9744 or [jenna@friedenswald.org](mailto:jenna@friedenswald.org).



**The Kasongo Family House Blessing** will be Saturday, December 9, at noon, 711 W Mulberry St, Bloomington. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. They plan to move in on Dec 10-11. Speak to Tanya if you would like to help.



Save the date! We hope you will make this your "try it out" year if you haven't been in a while (or ever!) EVERYONE is invited to the All Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald: a weekend of fellowship and fun, January 26-28! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with comfortable, warm lodges to accommodate us. Opportunities for social time or solitude abound! Activities for the weekend include relaxation, worship, sledding, tubing, hiking, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, fellowship, and more! Questions can be directed to Shelly/Darvis King or Marge Nester. More details and sign up coming in December.

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## Mennonite Disaster Service trip, Feb 11-17, 2018 - Coastal Bend Area, Texas.

This is still in the early planning stages, but MCN is booked for a few volunteer slots (4-10) with MDS for hurricane relief work in Texas. Please inform Pastor Jane if you'd like to be on the list of interested persons.

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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

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul."

**Michelle Blake, The Tentmaker**

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## Today's Chuckle



Nurse: "How old are you?"

Patient: "None of your business."

Nurse: "But the doctor must know your age for his records. Please, just tell me, I'm going to find it out anyway."

Patient: "Well, first, multiply twenty by two, then add ten. Got that?"

Nurse: "Yes. Fifty."

Patient: "All right, now subtract fifty, and tell me, what do you get?"

Nurse: "Zero."

Patient: "Right. And that's exactly the chance of me telling you my age."