

Holiday shopping babysitting for families with young children is this Saturday, December 9, from 8:00 am - noon. This is a free service!

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 6, 2017

## Worship with Us this Sunday, December 10

The sermon title is *Something More...* and the Scripture is Mark 1:1-8. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The idea of things ahead being better than how things are can be a source of guilt. 'You can do better than that.' It can also fill one's heart with joy, 'the best is yet to come.' We can ponder this as John promised a 'better baptism' ahead."

### Prayers

#### We give thanks for

\*David and Gabriella welcomed their new son Avery Menno into their family at 3:24 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6. Avery weighed 6 lb. 3 oz. and was 18 inches long.

\*Reminders of Advent

#### Please pray for

\*Lloyd Combs' who is at Heartland Health Care after a fall.

### Condolences

\*We offer sincere condolences to Wilma, Mary, and Claire Dyck. Susie Lane passed away after battling ALS on December 2nd.

## This Week At 805 S Cottage

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|------------|--|
| Thur Dec 7 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am   |
| Sat Dec 9  | Holiday Christmas Shopping Babysitting for Parents of Young Children<br>8:00 am – Noon |
| Sun Dec 10 | Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am<br>Worship 9:30 am  |



Christian Education for Children 10:45 am  
 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am  
 12:00 pm  
 Advent Orchestra Rehearsal 12:00 pm  
 MYF 4:00 pm  
 JMYF 5:00 pm  
 Jr. Choir 6:00 pm  
 Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
 Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Mon Dec 11      Mennonite Women 9:30 am

Tue Dec 12      Wellness Committee 5:30 pm  
 Church Board 6:30 pm

Wed Dec 13      Peace and Justice Committee 5:00 pm  
 Pastoral Council 6:30 pm

Thur Dec 14      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
 Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm

## Serving This Sunday

<p>Greeters</p> <p>Welcome Table</p> <p>Ushers</p> <p>Sermon</p> <p>Worship Leader</p> <p>Song Leader</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>Children's Time</p> <p>Accompanist</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Toddler Nursery</p> <p>Preschool Nursery</p>	<p>South: Lee &amp; Mary Alice Hertzler          West: Phil &amp; Alexa Hoffman</p> <p>Marge Weaver</p> <p>Mark Roeschley, Ardys Serpette,          Stephanie Nester, &amp; Manny Oyer</p> <p>Pastor Tim Schrag</p> <p>Henry Dick</p> <p>Cindy Ropp</p> <p>Henry Dick</p> <p>Steve Stenger</p> <p>Dorothy Loepp</p> <p>Nathan Miller</p> <p>Caeli Haab</p> <p>Duane &amp; Stephanie Nester</p>
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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Philip Brandon 12/11  
 Connie Reeser-Hall 12/11  
 Owen Kettering 12/12

Abby Warfel 12/12  
Amy Arkell 12/14  
Julie Musselman 12/14

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Please contact Deborah Spacek at 309-585-5894 if you can help this Friday, December 8, move boxes from one apartment to the next in Phoenix Towers. OR if you have boxes to give away. Other arrangements have been made to move appliances and furniture. If you have boxes that you can provide, please call Deborah at 309-585-5894. Thanks!

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#### **Holiday Shopping Babysitting**

MYF youth along with adults will be providing holiday shopping babysitting for families with young children this Saturday, December 9, from 8:00 am - noon. This is a free service! If you know you will be bringing children, please email [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) to let us know. Thanks!

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Glenn Wilson will present the "Further Jazz Holiday Concert" at the Normal Theater on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10/\$5 (seniors/students) and available at the door. The concert will feature Christmas and Holiday music with a jazz twist. Joining Glenn will be Chip Stephens on piano, George Turner on guitar, Quinn Wilson on drums, The FJ String Quartet, Jane Smolen and Drew Dahan on vocals and other surprise guests. Holiday treats will be available, including cookies from Sugar Mama. For more information see [www.jazzmaniac.com](http://www.jazzmaniac.com).

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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 this Sunday, 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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The spring college semester is soon upon us and Student Mutual Aid Program will be making the college tuition payments in about one month. This is a reminder and a request to please make your contributions in the next three weeks so we have a better idea where we stand for our balance. Thanks again for your continued support of this valuable program!

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### 14th Annual Alternative Gifts Fair

Inserts for chosen giving projects for AGI and MCC should be in church mailboxes by Sunday morning, in time for Christmas mail! A summary of giving and participation in the fair will be posted at the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks to all who made this year's fair such a success!

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Menno Haven's Annual Winter Retreats are less than 5 weeks away! The early registration deadline for youth is fast approaching, if you are interested and have not signed up, please talk with a Sponsor or Lauren Satchwell!

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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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### New CE Class Coming Soon: Extreme Grandparenting

Lead By - Steve Stenger and Joe Culpepper

This Sunday School class will discuss the joys and challenges that arise in the world of grandparenting. Topics include grandparenting step-grandchildren, good gifting to grandchildren, and long distance grandparenting. The class will also spend significant time focusing on spiritual issues and how grandparents can give a legacy of faith to their grandchildren. The class will use the book *Extreme Grandparenting*, written by Timothy and Darcy Kimmel, as a resource and guide for discussion.

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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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### Snow Removal Service for Northwest Neighborhood Community Center

Is anyone aware of a dependable snow removal service that could clear the parking lot at NNCC for a reasonable fee or on a volunteer basis? Please call the office or Pastor Jane.

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We hope you can join us for the Longest Night Service on December 19, at 6:30 pm.

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We hope you can join us for the Christmas Eve Service Sunday evening, December 24 at 6:30 pm. The Fellowship Committee invites you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share after the service. Please bring your own plate and take any leftovers home at the end of the evening. We can enjoy cookies during the time of visiting that follows the service.

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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

“Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting.”

Henri Nouwen

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## Building Use

**HAAQG Meeting**

December 7, 5:30 pm

**HAAQG Workshop**

December 8 & 9, 8:00 am

**Head Start Parent Meeting**

December 12, 12:30 pm

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## Today's Chuckle



As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, he asked her the usual question, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my text?"