

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 13, 2017

## Worship with Us this Sunday, December 17

The sermon title is *An Upside Down Wholeness* and the Scripture is Luke 1:46-55. Reverend Joe Culpepper comments, "How does Mary's song rejoicing in the coming birth of Jesus turn conventional wisdom on its head? How does Jesus' coming as our Messiah turn our world & our own lives upside down?"

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## Prayers

### Please pray for

\*Pam and Al Dick's daughter Amanda and her husband Grant are expecting identical twin boys in February.

### Condolences

\*Our condolences to out to Mannie and Bryan Oyer. Mannie's brother Laverne Oyer passed away December 11. Services will be this Thursday and Friday, December 14 & 15. All services are at the Calvert & Martin Funeral Home in Pontiac. Visitation is on Thursday from 5-7pm and Friday one hour prior to the Funeral. The Funeral is at 11am on Friday.

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## This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Dec 14	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sat Dec 16	Advent Orchestra Rehearsal 1:30 pm
Sun Dec 17	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am Feedback Group: Church Picnic & Fellowship Meals 12:00 pm



Youth Groups 5:00 pm  
Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Tue Dec 19      Financial Stewardship 4:30 pm  
Longest Night Service 6:30 pm

Thur Dec 21      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

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## Serving This Sunday

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



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Wilma Dyck 12/17  
Christopher Haab 12/17  
Tim Kauffman 12/17  
Aaron Hickman 12/18  
Cal Hubbard 12/19  
Taylor Mathews 12/19  
Marcia Rossi 12/19  
Grant Reeser 12/20  
Henry Lovellette 12/21  
Doug Valverde 12/22

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Local author, Carolyn Forney, from Flanagan, and Laura Harnish, daughter of Rick and Annette, have published a children's book, **Once a Brick.....**

The story is inspiring and the illustrations are wonderful! A copy has been donated to our church library.

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Thank you to all who came to Gerlof's visitation and funeral service. Also to those who came to visit, sent cards, brought food and called us. It helped us to get through these last couple of weeks. Love, Roelie Homan and family.

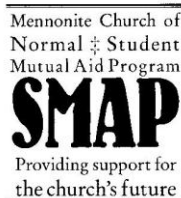
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### Calling all Musicians!

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. Rehearsal is 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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### SMAP ALERT!!

The SMAP (Student Mutual Aid Program) spring term college payments are due by early January. When we include spring/summer semesters, payments total ~\$33,000. The current balance of the SMAP fund is ~\$20,000 so we are still short ~\$13,000. Please consider making a contribution or if you have made a pledge please make that payment prior to the end of the year. This program has been supported by our church for almost 40 years and we would like to be able to continue to fully support students attending Mennonite colleges. If you have any questions please see Darvis King.

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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.**



### **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.



### **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.



Friends - I would like to share the 2017 [Moro Moro Scholarship Fund newsletter](#) with you. For those of you who do not know, the MMSF is a scholarship for students from my father's hometown of Moro Moro, Bolivia. Without this scholarship these students have virtually no chance to attend college. I would be honored if you took a moment to find out about the good work happening there!



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



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.



Save the Date for an MYF fundraiser at Pizza Ranch, Thursday, January 4 from 5-8pm. Dine-in, Carry-out, and Delivery all count!

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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

"God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people. God does not go the way that people want to prescribe for him; rather, his way is beyond all comprehension, free and self-determined beyond all proof. Where reason is indignant, where our nature rebels, where our piety

anxiously keeps us away: that is precisely where God loves to be. There he confounds the reason of the reasonable; there he aggravates our nature, our piety—that is where he wants to be, and no one can keep him from it. Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.”

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas***

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## Today's Chuckle



It had been snowing in Iowa for hours when an announcement came over the University's intercom: "Will the students who are parked on University Drive please move their cars so that we may begin plowing."

Twenty minutes later there was another announcement: "Will the twelve hundred students who went to move 26 cars please return to class."