



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

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 10, 2017

## Worship with Us this Sunday, January 14

The sermon title is *The Light that Was, and is to Come* and the Scripture is Isaiah 60:1-3 and Matthew 2:1-12.

### Prayers

#### Please pray for

Terry Wiebenga, Adam & Caleb Augspurger and family as they grieve the passing away of Terry's father, Arnold D. "Arky" Wiebenga.

He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's about three years ago and had been recently put on hospice care.

### This Week At 805 S Cottage

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|-------------|--|
| Thur Jan 11 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am<br>Outreach Committee 5:00 pm   |
| Sun Jan 14  | Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am<br>Worship 9:30 am<br>Christian Education for Children 10:45 am<br>Church Board Feedback Session 11:00 am<br>Central & SW Clusters Potluck 12:00 pm<br>JMYF 5:00 pm |
| Tue Jan 16  | Financial Stewardship 4:30 pm<br>Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm  |
| Wed Jan 17  | Peace and Justice Committee 5:00 pm  |
| Thur Jan 18 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am   |



Worship Committee 5:00 pm

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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Larry & Louise Reeser West: Mary Dyck
Welcome Table	David Voegtlin
Ushers	Mary Ann & Paul Watkins Emmanuel & Tanya Kasongo
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Darrel Miller
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Scripture	Darvis King
Children's Time	Chris Culbertson
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Courtney Yoder
Preschool Nursery	Claire Dyck

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Christian Engel 1/14  
Carrie Stalter 1/15  
Joe Mathews 1/16  
Louise Reeser 1/18  
Hazel Yoder 1/18  
Phylis Versteegh 1/20

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Thank you to all those who participated in the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser with the MYF last week!

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Oops! If you were given Number 127 offering envelopes, please let the church office know. We will need to reassign that number. Thanks!

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Join in an interfaith meditation and worship featuring readings from The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from the Birmingham City Jail.

3:00 pm Sunday, January 14 @ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1510 N. Main St., Normal

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### **Make your Voice Heard in MCN Activities**

#### **Two great opportunities are coming up!**

##### **Sunday, January 14 Listening Session**

At 11:00, the Church Board will hold another quarterly "Listening Session" during the Christian Education hour. First, the Board will report back to you about the difference the 2 prior Listening Sessions have made to the Board. This will take place in the Sanctuary in a large group. Then in small groups, the Board will solicit your feedback regarding LGBTQ issues. Materials to help you prepare are in your mailboxes.

##### **Sunday, January 21 Congregational Meal**

The MYF will prepare and serve a congregational meal at noon. The funds generated from this meal will help the MYF attend the Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) program this summer.

##### **Sunday, January 21 Congregational Meeting**

The Congregational Meeting will feature a vote on the proposed 2018 Spending Plan, an opportunity to affirm the 2017 Annual Reports from committees and pastors, and other agenda items. Copies of the proposed Spending Plan are available on the website under Education and Nurture/Helpful Documents

<https://www.normalmennonite.org/helpful-documents/>

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### **MYF Meals**

Want to help by preparing a meal for the youth meetings on Sunday evenings? Go to

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0448acab2aa1fd0-youth>

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### **Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!**

You are warmly invited to gather with your CDC brothers and sisters in any of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that best fits with your schedule. We'll sing and pray together as we get to know one another. There will be updates about what is happening in CDC and the talks taking place with Allegheny Mennonite Conference. The host congregation will serve lunch and share a bit of their congregation's story. Come share your perspectives and ideas and bring a friend. Please know that anyone is welcome to participate.

Jan 27 @ Mennonite Church of Normal (805 S Cottage Ave, Normal, Illinois)

Feb 10 @ Grace Mennonite Church (502 E Main St, Pandora, Ohio)

Mar 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, Indiana)

Regional Gatherings start with coffee and tea at 9:45 am, and conclude at 3:00 pm.

The Mennonite Church of Normal, Grace, and Silverwood congregations have graciously agreed to provide

lunch for us. We ask that those eating lunch bring a donation to help cover the costs. To help them plan for the amount of food needed, please let Emma know if you are attending by Jan 22, Feb 5, and Mar 12 (depending on the regional gathering you choose to attend). Email: [office@mcusacdc.org](mailto:office@mcusacdc.org); Phone [800.662.2264](tel:800.662.2264).

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Homebuilders will be 7:00 pm on Sunday, Jan 21 at the MRC Community Building. The speaker will be Ben Webb who is running for the Illinois House of Representatives in the 105th District. Ben teaches English and Theater at University High School in Normal. All are invited.

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**Communion January 28.** In two weeks we will celebrate Communion in worship here at MCN. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination - of both our relationship with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays, as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ.

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**Jobs Partnership**  
Offering a helping hand



**labyrinthoutreach**  
Services to Women

**Returning Citizens Care Kits, Co-Sponsored by Peace & Justice and Outreach Committees.**

We are collecting Returning Citizens Care Kits for persons returning to our community from prison. Kits for men and/or women are needed to be shared with Jobs Partnership and Labyrinth Outreach Services, two organizations in our community offering reintegration services to persons formerly incarcerated. Gently used backpacks or small duffle bags are also needed in which to pack the kits. Bring to the red tub in the atrium.

**Returning Citizen Care Kit - Men (New Items Only)**

- 1 bottle of lotion (maximum 13-24 oz.)
- 1 bottle of shampoo (minimum 12 oz.)
- 1 large bar of soap (minimum 4 oz.)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 small package of Q-tips
- 1 deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.)
- 1 pair of underwear (briefs)\*
- 1 pair of crew socks\*
- 1 crewneck t-shirt\*

\*Note: Clothing items must be new and are accepted in two sizes: men's large and extra large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and t-shirts in the same size.

**Returning Citizen Care Kit - Women (New items only)**

- 1 bottle of lotion (maximum 13-24 oz.)
- 1 bottle of shampoo (minimum 12 oz.)
- 1 large bar of soap (minimum 4 oz.)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 package of sanitary pads (18-24 count thin maxi)
- 1 package of hair ties
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 small package of Q-tips
- 1 deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.)
- 1 pair of crew socks\*
- 1 pair of underwear (briefs)\*
- 1 crewneck t-shirt\*

\*Note: Clothing items must be new and are accepted in two sizes: women's large and extra large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and t-shirts in the same size.

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Friends - I would like to share the 2017 Moro Moro Scholarship Fund newsletter with you. Copies are available on the table in the narthex or from the link below. 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! Thanks for all your new and continuing support!

[The Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Newsletter](#)  
[The Moro Moro Scholarship Fund Facebook Page](#)

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There are a number of items in the lost and found. Unclaimed items will be removed on January 17th. Thanks!

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Illinois State women's basketball would like to invite you to attend their game on January 14th at 2:00 pm at Redbird Arena free of charge. The Redbirds play Southern Illinois University for the annual "Pack the Arena" game.

Free admission tickets are available on the entry table.

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Someone you know could be affected by a mental health related crisis. You can help them.

The Mental Health First Aid class teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate care. Mental Health First Aid is for anyone. Are you interested in learning to be part of the solution?

Join Advocate BroMenn Medical Center for the Mental Health First Aid Class.

Dates: Tuesday, January 16th 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23rd 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

(Must attend both classes to receive certificate)

Location: Advocate BroMenn Medical Center Conference Center, Rooms 1&2

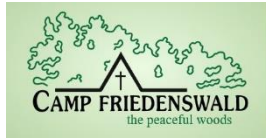
Fee: \$10.00 (includes book)

Grant money for books and course material given by Women to Women giving Circle of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.

To register, please call Health Advisor at 1.800.3.ADVOCATE (1.800.323.8622) mention

Code: 6M19 or click [here](#).

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EVERYONE is invited to a 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. Get more information and sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>

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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

"This is our time on the history line of God. This is it. What will we do with one deep exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord, and get us on our feet."

**Beth Moore**

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### Building Use

**Pastor Peer Meeting**

January 11, 9:00 am

**Cantus Novus Choir Rehearsal**

January 14, 2:30 pm

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### Today's Chuckle



There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to be able to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel hears his plea and appears to him, "Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you."

The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules.

The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed.

Soon afterward the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. Seeing the suitcase Peter says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!"

But the man explains to him that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, Peter checks and comes back saying, "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through."

Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!?!"