

Join us this Sunday for a congregational meal served by the MYF at noon, followed by a congregational meeting!

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 17, 2017

Worship with Us this Sunday, January 21

The sermon title is "Born Again, Twice" and the Scripture is James 1:13-18. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "Consider how the text imagines two 'births'. Neither is inevitable. Which is happening within you?"

Prayers

Please pray for

- *Joanna Oyer and Doug Valverde's family as Joanna's mother Romeyn Oyer is receiving hospice care at Martin Health Center.
- *Phylis Versteegh's brother Robert Patton as he undergoes neurosurgery.
- *Immigrant families in America, that they would feel welcome and safe.

Congratulations to

- *Holly Zehr who graduated from U of I in December with a K-12 Library Degree
- *Chris Culbertson and Amy Reiman who received National Board Certification for Master Teacher

This Week At 805 S Cottage

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Thur Jan 18 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Worship Committee 5:00 pm
Christian Education Committee 7:00 pm |
| Sun Jan 21 | Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
Congregational Meal Fundraiser 12:00 pm |



Congregational Meeting 1:00 pm
MYF 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm

Mon Jan 22 IWU Faculty Piano Recital 7:00 pm

Tue Jan 23 Cluster Leaders Meeting at MRC 6:30 pm

Thur Jan 25 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Rick & Annette Harnish West: Steve Stenger
Welcome Table	Caeli Haab
Ushers	Caleb Augspurger, Pascal Ngongo, Kristen Satchwell
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Nathan Miller
Song Leader	Barry Weaver
Scripture	Tshitshi Tshiseleka
Children's Time	Pastor Jane Roeschley
Accompanist	Chris Culbertson
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Kristen Satchwell
Preschool Nursery	The King Family



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Adah Reiman 1/21
Vivian Hubbard 1/23
Aileen Wilson 1/23
Ben Jablonski 1/25
Emily Petri 1/27

Happy 58th Anniversary to Paul and Lynn Chang on January 23



Larry Schrader has announced his resignation from the Church Board, effective immediately. In his resignation

letter he stated "After prayerful consideration, I have decided to devote my time and energy to other endeavors," while continuing as active members at MCN. The congregation thanks Larry for his devotion of time and energy to the Mennonite Church of Normal, and wishes him well. The Leadership Selection Committee will be actively working to fill this vacant position.



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.



Make your Voice Heard in MCN Activities

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/>

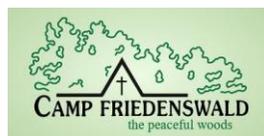


Homebuilders

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.



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>



Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!

You are warmly invited to gather with your Central District Conference (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; Phone [800.662.2264](tel:800.662.2264).



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>



Would you like to be of service to your church community? We are beginning to work on our schedule for Ushers, Greeters and the Welcome Table.

If you have done it in the past year and want to continue, you do not need to contact me, unless you want to have your name removed.

If you have not participated before but would like to be a part of this ministry, please email or call Louise Reeser. reeserfarms@gmail.com, or 826-3423.

Thank you to all those who have served this past year. You are making a valuable contribution to our Sunday morning service.



Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunities

March 22 or May 11 or August 20

6pm - 8pm each day

Come join us in a fun evening of service to others at Midwest Food Bank! Anyone 10 yrs or older is welcome. We are limited to 20 individuals for each date. Sign up at [Signup Genius](#) or contact the church office.



Communion Changed to February 4

In a little over 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.



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 duffel bags are also needed in which to pack the kits. Bring to the red tub in the atrium, or a donation may be made to MCN, for use by the Outreach Committee, to purchase the items on your behalf.

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.



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!



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.

Voice of the Day

“The greater your knowledge of the goodness and grace of God on your life, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm.”

Matt Chandler



Building Use

IMC Planning Meeting

January 20, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cantus Novus Choir Rehearsal

January 21, 2:30 pm

Head Start Parent Meeting

January 24, 4:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off- let the Church help

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge--Up Yours.'