



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

February 14, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, February 18

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. The Scripture is Psalm 25:1-10, Genesis 9:8-17, and Psalm 36:5-9. An everlasting covenant is made between God, the people, and every living creature. God's intention for relationship is expansive! Yet we, in our narrow-mindedness, often exclude. How might we expand our understanding of God's ways to realize that all are included in God's covenant?

Prayers

Please pray for

*Deborah Spacek who is continuing to recover in South Bend.

*Aime and Zizi Loso who will be moving to Iowa soon.

*Marie Nsambu who will be moving to Texas soon.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

- Thur Feb 15 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
- Sun Feb 18 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
JMYF and MYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
- Wed Feb 21 Peace and Justice Committee 5:00 pm
- Thur Feb 22 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: David & Abby Warfel West: Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Mary Jantze
Ushers	Lauren Satchwell, Terry Wiebenga, Randy, Holly, & Jaron Zehr
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Lucy Unzicker
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Scripture	JB Ponnou-Delafon
Children's Time	Shelly King
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Technology	Rick Harnish
Toddler Nursery	Nancy Fisher
Preschool Nursery	Claire Dyck



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Bennie Brown 2/18
Emari Stalter 2/18
Shannon Unzicker 2/18
Kristi Stalter 2/21

Happy 47th Anniversary to Loren and Deanna Moshier on February 20



40 Activities for Lent

Looking for Lent activities for the whole family? Try our Lent activity calendar!

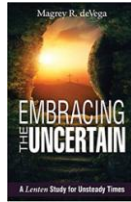
Lent is a time of remembering Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness that prepared him for ministry. Starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, join others across the United States in activities that encourage and prepare us to work for peace in our communities and world. You can find the calendar here: <http://www.mennonitemission.net/lent>.



Game Night for Families with Young Children

Friday, February 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 in the Fellowship Area of MCN, North Main Cluster will hold a game night

for families with children 5th grade and younger. North Main Cluster is sponsoring the event and all families with young children are invited. Please RSVP to Lynn Reha or Chris Culbertson.



Lenten Sunday School Study

Beginning Sunday, February 18th, a Lenten study using the book “Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times” by Magrey R. deVegas will be offered during the CE hour. This six-week study will use characters from scripture to focus on the uncertainties of life such as worry, mortality, forgiveness, faith, etc. This class will meet during the six weeks of Lent. If you are not currently attending a class, you are welcome to participate in this study. Although the book is not required, it is an excellent read. The book is available through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Christianbooks.com](https://www.christianbooks.com). The class will be taught by Lynette Miller and be held in Pastor Tim’s office.



Homebuilders

Matt Harms will be the presenter at the Homebuilders program at 6:30 PM on Sunday, February 18th at the MRC. Over the past three and a half years, Matt has worked a number of trail-related projects. Starting in September 2014, Matt spent two and a half years supporting grass-roots partners in developing community-to-community walking and hiking trails in the Middle East—primarily in the occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel, Jordan and Sinai. In the spring of 2017, Matt left the Middle East and walked the Camino Portugués and Camino del Norte—two of the many pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela—and he is in the process of finishing two guidebooks on the routes. (One is published and the second will be published within the next two months.) And, this summer, Matt biked the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route along the length of the Continental Divide between Banff, Alberta and New Mexico.

Matt Harms is the grandson of Hazel Yoder and the son of Doug and Dawn Yoder-Harms. He not only worked on trails where Jesus walked, but has experienced trails in other very interesting places.



Surprise Luncheons! Feb 25, 2018

The goal is to get us into each others’ homes to get to know each other in a way that is different from what happens at church and in our more formal programming. If you have some experience in hosting church families, perhaps you should be guests this year. If you are nervous about having people in your home, we will make it as easy as possible. Try it, you might like it!

This year we are having pizza! The host will provide the crust and sauce. Each guest/guest family will be asked to bring toppings of their choice. The host family will also provide drinks, and a game that will be suitable for the ages of the guests in your group. Information about sign up was placed in your mailboxes on Feb 4.



Join First Mennonite Church of Morton for a great night of music!

The Internationally known "[Ball Brothers](#)" Christian quartet will be in concert at First Mennonite Church 250 S Baltimore Ave. Morton, IL on Saturday, March 3rd 6:00 PM.

Tickets are \$10.

For more information or to purchase tickets call (309) 266-7591 or email gknee@mtco.com.



60th Anniversary Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

March 16-17 @ Interstate Center, Bloomington

Sign up sheets, supplies and information available starting this Sunday.

Please checkout tables in atrium area and signup to be a volunteer. Everyone can play a part to promote and assist with this sale for the purpose of alleviating suffering at home and abroad. Money from the sale is used to provide help for people in need locally, nationally and to 54 countries around the world.

Questions may be directed to Deb Stenger (309) 826-0332 or Gerry Schrock (309) 452-7345.

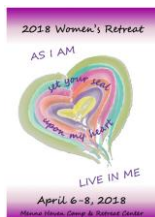


Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunities

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.



Save the Date!

April 6 - 8: 2018 Women's Retreat @ Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center featuring speaker Pastor Jane Roeschley.

Re-walk a most ancient of spiritual pathways: that we are born blessed and beloved, that we are invited to conversion and transformation through encounters with Jesus, and that God works in the world through us as we are, and as we are becoming.

Come expecting to hear stories, learn about a powerful tool for spiritual transformation, engage in creative reflection activities, and prepare to live your calling with God in the world.

[Read more...](#)



Save the Date!

The Peace and Justice Committee is sponsoring the folk music and social commentary of Tom Neilson on Friday, April 20th at 7 p.m. Come hear the music of Tom Neilson, a folk artist combining music with satire and social commentary. Touching on issues as varied as the environment, unjust corporate privilege, racial justice, and peace, his music has been called “creative and compelling,” “raucous satire and quick wit,” and “thoughtful.”

Plan to come hear him at the Mennonite Church of Normal, located at 805 Cottage Ave. Donations will be taken at the door- everyone in our community is welcome to attend.

Find out more: <http://tomneilsonmusic.com.hostbaby.com/index/>

Hear Tom’s music: <http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=244216>



Meals for Northwest Neighborhood Community Center

Northwest Neighborhood Community Center (NNCC) serves meals to approximately 40 families on Tuesdays and 65 families on Thursdays. They are in need of volunteers to prepare and serve the food. The prep time begins between 3:30 and 4 pm, depending on the meal. Midwest Food Bank provides the food; it just needs to be prepared in the NNCC kitchen. Please consider if you might be available for a one-time commitment to prepare and serve a meal on any of the open dates listed on [this link](#). Other options for providing food include donating money for the cost of a meal, or providing a meal from a local restaurant or caterer and delivering it on a selected date. Please continue to keep NNCC in your prayers as its work takes root in this community. Contact Sarah Tunall at Sarah.Tunall@nncc.org or Amy Reiman at a.reiman98@gmail.com for more information.



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, or a donation may be made to MCN, for use by the Outreach Committee, to purchase the items on your behalf. Contributing partial kits, or just some of the items, is more than OK.

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.



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

"Nothing can separate you from God's love absolutely nothing. God is enough for time, God is enough for eternity. God is enough!" Hannah Whitall Smith



Building Use

HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

February 15, 6:00 pm

Cantus Novus Choir Rehearsal

February 18, 2:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. 'Yes,' came the answer from Tony who was a bit of a chauvinist, 'I've bought her a belt and a bag.'

'That was very kind of you,' Jim added, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.'

Tony smiled as he replied, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.'