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Spring Ahead! Daylight Savings Time is this Sunday!

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 7, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, March 11

The Scripture is John 3:14-21. The theme is "The Light of God's Love," as we prepare for the fourth Sunday of Lent.

Hymns this Sunday

To God be the Glory - HWB 102

For God So Loved Us - HWB 167

We Walk by Faith - HWB 570

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing - HWB 110

Prayers

Please pray for

*Joe Haney as he recovers from shoulder surgery.

*Stephanie Nester's brother Cory who has cystic fibrosis, and needs a lung transplant.

*Deborah Spacek as she recovers from heart surgery at Heartland Health Center in Normal.

*Mary Dyck as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Mar 8	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sun Mar 11	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

Mon Mar 12 Mennonite Women 9:30 am

Tues Mar 13 Wellness Committee 5:30 pm
Church Board 6:30 pm

Wed Mar 14 Pastoral Council 6:30 pm

Thur Mar 15 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Apple Pie Baking 8:00 am
Jobs Partnership Gathering 5:30 pm

Fri Mar 16 Shoofly Pie Baking 5:00 am
Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	South: Eric & Chellie Miller West: Terry Wiebenga
Welcome Table	Aldine Combs
Ushers	Paul & Mary Ann Watkins, Ben & Caroline Roeschley
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Josh Friesen
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	Josh Friesen
Children's Time	Louise Reeser
Accompanist	Denise Hedberg
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Kristy Hoffman
Preschool Nursery	Alena Culbertson



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Al Dick 3/13
Darrel Miller 3/13
Carroll Miller 3/15
Erma Stutzman 3/17

Happy 37th Anniversary to Larry Schrader and Elfriede Massier on March 14



We at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support for the work of MCC. Thank you, friends and supporters at **Mennonite Church of Normal**, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the donations, energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and with material resources, your congregation contributed **\$20,806.40** in 2017.

We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work. Whether in Lebanon, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ukraine or Appalachia, your support is sharing God's love and compassion through relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Thank you!

Krista Dutt, MCC Great Lakes



Cantus Novus Singing Ensemble

Spring Concert March 9th

MCN members Cindy Ropp, Bev Collins, Wayne Hochstetler, & Joe Culpepper are part of Cantus Novus community singing group. This is a four-part, 30 member chorus which presents a concert each Spring and Fall. Our Spring concert will be on Friday, March 9th at 7:00 here at MCN. The music will include classical (Haydn) and contemporary selections. Doors open at 6:30pm. There is no charge for the concert, although donations are welcomed. We hope to see you there.



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60th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

Still Time to Volunteer

Urgent need for volunteers in following areas:

- fish and chicken dinner on Friday evening
- serving ice cream on both Friday and Saturday
- assisting Ben Roeschley both Friday and Saturday

Anyone that ordered pie crusts can pick them up this Sunday March 11. See Gerry Schrock.

Questions please call Deb Stenger, Gerry Schrock , or Marcia Rossi



Your Hard Work Has Paid Off

Thank you to those giving their time, talents, and efforts at the 60th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. Please come and let us serve you as a thank you for all your hard work. Lunch will be provided by the Fellowship Committee at church on March 18, 2018 after the Sunday School hour. Avanti's spaghetti and bread, salad, and ice cream sandwiches will be provided. Please come for a relaxing time of fellowship to celebrate the hard work of all those involved.



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.



Family Game Night #2

When? Friday, March 23rd from 5:15 - 7:30ish

Where? At the church

What should I bring? Your family and any game-loving friends - all ages welcome!

What could I bring? Games and snacks, fruit or dessert to share

Feel free to RSVP, but if you just show up, that's great too. If you have any questions, contact Chris Culbertson



Join us for Menno Haven's Spring Work Day

Saturday, March 24 to ready to campus for guest groups and the summer camp season! Come for a day of fun, fellowship, and teamwork. For more information, see the flyer on the camp bulletin board, or call Menno Haven at 815-646-4344. If you can't make it on March 24, call Menno Haven to have your own personal work day.



Communion

In two weeks - March 25, 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 needs through being the Body of Christ.



Mennonite Church Blood Drive

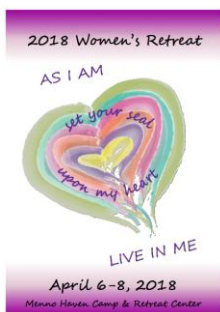
Saturday, March 31 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

For appointments please call the church office or click [here to schedule](#).

Walk-In's welcome!

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Women's Retreat @ Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center

April 6 - 8, 2018. 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...](#)



New Picture Directory

Do you ever wonder who you are sitting by in church? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished that you could put a name with a face? Are you new to our church and wish that you had something to help you put names with faces? Well, help is on the way! We are producing a NEW pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 color portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. We look forward to “seeing you in pictures”.

EASY ways to Schedule Your Appointment!

Visit the our Website at www.normalmennonite.org

1. Click on the “Lifetouch Portrait Sign Up” button (under Newsroom)
2. Click the green link that says click to be redirected.
3. After being redirected to Lifetouch, Select the **NUMBER** in group that will be photographed.
 4. Click on the desired **DAY** that you are available.
 5. Choose from the available **TIMES** and click the “**Book It**” button
 6. Click on “New User” or “Returning User”
 7. Enter your name, phone number and email address.
 8. Create a user name & password.
 9. Review information then click **FINALIZE** to complete

An e-mail confirmation will be sent to you immediately to confirm your appointment along with an e-mail reminder three days prior to your session. The email Reminder will include a valuable coupon toward portrait purchase.

OR

Schedule your appointment at Church!

There will be a sign up table at church starting: 3/11/18



URGENT NEED FOR HOUSEWARMER PROJECTS!

Mennonite Women USA partners with Mennonite Disaster Service to provide hand-crafted wall-hangings for each re-built home dedication. Because of extremely high demand, the supply of wall hangings is depleted.

Becky Koller, volunteer coordinator for this ministry, shares this story. "I recently presented a wall-hanging at a home dedication, and the home owner tearfully responded, "Oh my goodness, someone who doesn't even know me made something this beautiful for me?" The wall-hangings become a treasured, beautiful reminder of the way MDS and MW USA care for those who have struggled with disaster.

Becky reports that she is regularly sending several wall-hangings per month to the Mennonite Disaster Service home office in Lititz, PA for distribution by project managers to homeowners. Please find full instructions for sewing and sending a quilted wall-hanging [here](#).



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@ncc.org or Amy Reiman at a.reiman98@gmail.com for more information.



Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2018

Whether you're newly interested in effective advocacy from a Christ-centered perspective or you're an experienced advocate wanting to network and explore issues, join MCC at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days near Washington DC on April 20-23. The event will focus on the up-rootedness of our world, exploring ways to seek change and advance hope through prayer, worship, advocacy, training and networking. MCC Great Lakes is sending a 12-passenger van to the event and has spots available. To secure your spot or for more information, contact Susan Mark Landis at SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com. For more information on the gathering, visit advocacydays.org.



Partners in Healing

MCN has been asked to pray for the Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit at Advocate BroMenn in 2018. Located on 5 West, Advocate BroMenn's 39-bed Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit serves patients with conditions such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, gastrointestinal problems, cancer, open wounds and sickle cell anemia.

The staff, patients and families who serve or need the services very much appreciate your prayers. In the coming weeks, more specific prayer requests will be shared.



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

Voice of the Day

"Believe God's love and power more than you believe your own feelings and experiences. Your rock is Christ, and it is not the rock that ebbs and flows but the sea."

Samuel Rutherford



Building Use

Cantus Novus Choir Concert

March 9, 7:00 pm

Wild Ones Meeting

March 12, 5:30 pm

HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

March 15, 6:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



The supermarket near our house has an automatic mister to keep the produce fresh.

Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of a thunderstorm.

When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cackle.

At this point I have been too afraid to go down the toilet paper aisle.