



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 21, 2018

## Worship with Us this Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday, Journeying with Jesus to the Cross. The service will consist primarily of Scripture readings, hymns, prayers, and choral music. The Scripture is Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26:36-56; 69-75; 27:1-2; 11-14, and Luke 23:20-34.

### Hymns this Sunday

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna - HWB 238  
For God Alone (sing 3 times) - STS 70  
Go to Dark Gethsemane -HWB 240  
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley - STS 80  
When We Are Tempted - STS 81

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## Prayers

### Please pray for

\*Holly Zehr's father, Bob Kurka, who after a stent in the hospital, is being placed on Hospice and will be returning home. The family asks for prayers for comfort and wisdom.

\*Please pray for Bennie Campbell, brother of Carol Lou Eisenhardt, as he recovers from an emergency surgery for restoration of vascular flow to his foot.

### We give thanks for

\*Deborah Spacek's recovery progressing to be able to return home after extended hospitalization and rehab following heart surgery.

### Condolences

\*We offer condolences to the family and friends of Russ Oyer. He passed away Monday night at the age of 97 after a brief illness. A memorial service will be held in April, date to be determined.

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## This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Mar 22      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Fri Mar 23      Family Game Night 5:15 pm

Sun Mar 25      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



Thur Mar 29      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

Fri Mar 30      Good Friday Song Service by Youth Musicians 7:00 pm

Sat Mar 31      MCN Blood Drive 8:00 am

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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Randy Zehr and Family West: Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Marge Weaver
Ushers	Adam Augspurger, Pascal Ngongo, David, Abby, & Joe Warfel
Worship Leader	Pastor Tim Schrag and Pastor Jane Roeschley
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Scripture	Pastor Tim Schrag and Pastor Jane Roeschley
Children's Time	Shelly King
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Emily Petri
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Bob Kauffman 3/25  
Meghan Reha 3/27  
Jeff Reiman 3/27  
Gail Fisher 3/28

Sophia Hubbs 3/28

Aaron Petri 3/29

Steve Stenger 3/29

Happy 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Joe and Mary Jantze March 26

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A big Thank You to anyone who participated in any way at the MCC Relief Sale.

You may have worked, you may have purchased items, and it all helps the Sale.

Members of our church have been giving funds to buy quilts for the Sale for many years.

This year along with the quilts purchased by funds from church members, others have purchased quilts for the auction.

We have received 7 items from the MCC Quilt room in Ephrata, PA to sell at auction.

We had Quilt items made by the Christmas SS class, and the Women's Group.

We had 20 items donated by the Hands All Around Quilt Guild that meets in our church.

We are also including the Quilt Challenges.

The total for all the above items is approximately \$22,000.00 in the quilt auction.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this for our MCC Relief Sale.

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The church office is looking for good, recent pictures of MCN'ers in worship and/or activities to put on the "slider" pictures on the MCN website. They should be in jpg format. Please send by email to

[officemanager@normalmennonite.org](mailto:officemanager@normalmennonite.org).

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### **Gardener Alert!**

For the first time, this year we will recycle the large, 9" diameter, 7" high (108 oz.) applesauce cans from the Relief Sale. Leo Desch, one of our faithful helpers, wondered if vegetable gardeners might want some of these cans for protecting vegetable plants when first set out from rabbits and other critters. Large 1' diameter, 1' high heavy plastic containers with lids, for storing bird seed, etc., are also available. Please call Schroeurs, 452-8700, if you would like either cans or buckets. Anything not spoken for will be recycled the Monday after church.

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David and Gabriella Harnish are looking for referrals or recommendations for in-home daycare providers. Either in Bloomington-Normal or anywhere north of Bloomington as far as Flanagan. They are looking for somewhere that would accept an infant part-time as of April 1. Please email Gabriella with ideas at [gabriellamh@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellamh@gmail.com).

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Free Range Chicken Eggs for sale at the Ron Ropp Homestead. \$3.00 a dozen. Call Julie at 309-452-5480 if interested.

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### Meals for Deborah

We now have the opportunity to help collaborate in Deborah's ongoing return to strength by providing her with noon meals for weekends. **There is an immediate need for this weekend!** Lois Hochstetler will be able to help guide you if you have questions. We may well extend this to beyond three weeks, but this is the request for now. Visits are also very welcome. Please call Deborah to arrange a good time.

To sign up to bring a meal, just go to [this Signup Genius link](#) and sign up. It's that simple!

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### 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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## Homebuilders

Homebuilders will be 7:00 pm on Sunday, March 25 at the MRC Community Building.  
The speaker will be Jill Blair who is running for the Illinois House of Representatives in the 88th District.  
Jill is a Communications Analyst at Country Financial. All are invited.

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## Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service

Thursday, March 29, 6:30 pm

Come worship with us. This service includes scriptures, prayer, quiet music, Communion and the voluntary opportunity to practice foot washing.

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## Contemporary Good Friday Service

March 30, at 7pm

Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate expression of love, and we have many ways to acknowledge this gift. Join us at 7 pm for about 45 minutes of youth-led contemporary worship music interlaced with non-traditional reflections on love and the cross as we prepare for Easter.

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## 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](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

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## Eagle Scout Ceremony

Nathan Miller has earned the Eagle Scout rank and will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, March 31, 3:00pm at the Mennonite Church of Normal. Reception following ceremony. All are invited.

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## MCN Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to come early to church on Easter Sunday for our traditional Easter Breakfast. This is always a joyous time of greeting church friends and visiting family. Serving is scheduled from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Please RSVP below and also see where you might sign up to help with set up or clean up, and/or to bring a breakfast casserole or breakfast bread (coffee cake, muffins, cinnamon rolls, etc.) Everything else will be provided. Serving will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. [Click here for the SignUpGenius Link](#). Signup sheets are also on the bulletin board in the Atrium, or see Gerry Schrock to sign up or with questions.

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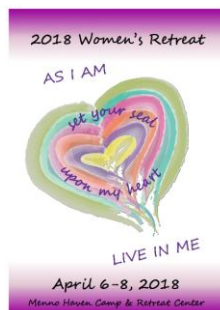
## Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Gathering

Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 pm

You're invited to an Inside MEDA event hosted by Eric and Chellie Miller at the Mennonite Residential Community Building at 7:00 pm. Come to enjoy light snacks, and each other's company, as we hear stories from the Millers' visit to MiCredito in Nicaragua, Bethany Nussbaum's trip to Myanmar, and experience a day in the life of a MEDA farmer.

Please RSVP, text or call, to Eric (309.831.6585) or Chellie (309.212.2408) by Wed, April 4.

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## 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 Lifetouch 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.

To make our directory a success we need a few volunteers. Lauren Satchwell is coordinating the volunteers for our new directory. If you are interested in helping during our photography sign-ups, or serving as a host or hostess during the actual photography sessions, contact Lauren at (309-830-6827) or call the church office.

### EASY ways to Schedule Your Appointment!

Visit the our Website at [www.normalmennonite.org](http://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 is a sign up table in the atrium.

### Can't make it during our dates?

Call the toll free number (866-756-0281) and schedule at one of the area churches.

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## First Impressions: Connecting your congregation and community in the digital age

Roanoke Mennonite Church is hosting this training by Dustin Wyse-Fisher, on Saturday, May 12, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MCN would like to have representation at this training. Let the church office know if you are interested in going.

People used to form a first impression of your church when they walked through the doors on Sunday morning.

Now they do it with a google search. What they discover about your church on the web will form their first impression of your church.

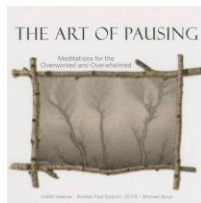
Will they encounter a clear and consistent message? Will they be able to sense the kind of community you are by what they see, read, and hear?

[READ MORE](#)



## MCC Borderlands Learning Tour

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes welcomes you to join us on a learning tour designed to bring awareness to the issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place on May 23-27 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information, including a tentative schedule and online registration, visit [mcc.org/borderlands-tour](http://mcc.org/borderlands-tour) or call Jorge Vielman at (574) 534-4133.



## Save the Date

**A Sacred Pause Retreat, August 17-18, Chiara Center, Springfield, IL** (so-sponsored by Wellness and Worship Committees). Plan ahead now to come away for a 24-hour time apart of pausing for spiritual rejuvenation. Judy Valente, author of the book, *The Art of Pausing*, will be our presenter. Time for quiet walks and reflection, too. Estimated cost \$75-\$100/person. Questions: talk to Pastor Jane.



## 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 Danner's weekly message to IMC churches.

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## Voice of the Day

“Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.”

**Thomas Merton**

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## Building Use

**Head Start Parent Meeting**

March 21, 3-5:00 pm

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## Today's Chuckle



EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM A JIGSAW PUZZLE

By Jacquie Sewell (with apologies to Robert Fulghum)

1. Don't force a fit--if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see #4).
6. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
11. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.