



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

April 18, 2018

## Worship with Us this Sunday, April 22

The sermon title is *These Exams are Never Final* and the Scripture is Psalm 103:2-5; Psalm 139: 1-3,7.

### Hymns this Sunday

- I Sing the Mighty Power of God - HWB 46
- Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven! - HWB 65
- O Bless the Lord, My Soul - HWB 600
- The Lord Lift You Up - STJ 73

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## Prayers

### Please pray for

- \*Kay Reimer, who is experiencing back pain.
- \*Joe Jantze, who is continuing to recover from blood clots in his lungs.
- \*Caroline Headley, as she plans to retire in June.

### We give thanks for

- \*Anniversaries
- \*Voices of Peace
- \*Jo Ropp is moving to Room 452 at McLean County Nursing Home, and anticipating returning home at the end of the week.
- \*A fruitful Women's Retreat at Camp Menno Haven

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## This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Apr 19

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Fri Apr 20      Family Fun Night 5:30 pm  
Tom Neilson Concert 7:00 pm

Sat Apr 21      Dr. Russell L. Oyer Memorial Service 11:00 am

Sun Apr 22      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

Tues Apr 24     Peace & Justice Committee 5:00 pm  
Cluster Leaders Meeting (MRC) 6:30 pm

Thur Apr 26     Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
Membership Orientation Class 7:00 pm

## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	David & Abby Warfel
	West: Cindy Ropp
Welcome Table	Mary Ann King
Ushers	David Voegtlin, Terry Wiebenga Randy, Holly, & Jaron Zehr
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Joe Culpepper
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	David Harnish
Children's Time	Chris Culbertson
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Technology	Adam Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	JB & Erin Ponnou-Delaffon
Preschool Nursery	Nancy Fisher



## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jim Bortell 4/22  
Deacon Kauffman 4/22  
Mary Dyck 4/23  
Alyssa Company 4/25  
Ben Roeschley 4/25  
Roberta Bortell 4/26

Bryan Oyer 4/27

Happy 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Grant and Dorothy Zehr April 26

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## St. Patrick's Prayer from Rev. Bortell's Sermon last Sunday

As I arise today,  
may the strength of God pilot me,  
the power of God uphold me,  
the wisdom of God guide me.  
May the eye of God look before me,  
the ear of God hear me,  
the word of God speak for me.  
May the hand of God protect me,  
the way of God lie before me,  
the shield of God defend me,  
the host of God save me.  
May Christ shield me today.  
Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,  
Christ when I stand,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Amen

[The Lord's Prayer with Hand Motions](#)

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## Family Fun Nights 2018!

Come and enjoy supper, singing, Bible stories and hands on activities with your church family. All ages are welcome - supper and nursery are provided. Don't miss experiencing Wind and Waves with us on Fridays April 13, 20, and 27 from 5:30 - 7:30. Sign up through [this link](#). View pictures from the first one [here](#).

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## Tom Neilson in Concert

Friday April 20th at 7 p.m.

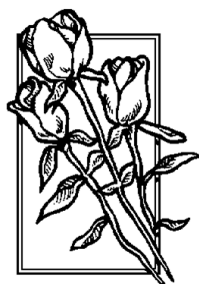
Come hear the music of Tom Neilson, a folk artist combining music with satire and social commentary. Touching on issues as varied as the environment, unjust corporate privilege, racial justice, and peace, his music has been called “creative and compelling,” “raucous satire and quick wit,” and “thoughtful.”

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](#)

[Hear Tom’s music](#)

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## Memorial Service

Dr. Russell L. Oyer's memorial service is this Saturday, April 21, at 11:00 am.

We are still in need of salads and desserts. Please deliver to the church Friday evening ( church will be open for family fun night ) or no later than 10 AM Saturday.

Email Marcia Rossi at [marcirossi@aol.com](mailto:marcirossi@aol.com) or call 309-452-8770 to let her know you can help.

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## Meals for Deborah

Deborah Spacek continues to improve. Visits and weekend lunches are still welcome. With Peace Meals Monday through Friday, they are not crucial. Thanks to all who have supported her and welcomed her home.

To sign up to bring a meal, just go to [this Signup Genius link](#) and sign up.

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## Annual Evaluations of Pastoral Staff

The Church Board has chosen May as Annual Evaluation month for all staff. The congregation has an opportunity for input during the last 2 weeks of April. If you would like to make a comment, please select the appropriate form from the Entrance Table, complete and sign it, and turn it in to the church office. The form will also be available under Helpful Documents on the MCN Website. (<https://www.normalmennonite.org/helpful-documents/>).

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SERMON  
RESPONSE

## New Adult Sunday School Option

Pastor Tim Schrag will be leading a sermon response class beginning this Sunday. During this class participants will have a chance to engage in focused interaction around the theme of the morning message. The emphasis will be on discovering concrete, practical applications to our individual lives which can be gleaned from the sermon.

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## An Acoustic Evening of Stories and Songs

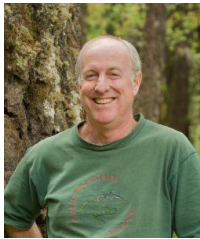
Sunday, April 22 @ 6:00 pm

First Christian Church, Clinton, IL

100 N. Jackson St., Clinton

For tickets or more information call First Christian Church at (217) 935-3139

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## Creating Living Landscapes

Tuesday, April 24, 7:00-8:30 pm

Astroth Community Center, Heartland Community College

Free and open to the public

Noted ecologist and bestselling author Doug Tallamy will show you how to

- create a vibrant, living landscape in your yard
- Attract pollinators and other beneficial insects
- Support a healthy ecosystem with native flowers, shrubs, and trees

Presented by Wild Ones, IL Prairie Chapter

[Read More](#)

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(Picture, 2017)

## Bluebell Hike at Humiston Woods

Wednesday, April 25, 10:30 am. Join us! Bring a sack lunch. - Pastor Jane & Abby, Sam and Joe Warfel

E 2100 N Rd, Pontiac, IL 61764



**PLEASE  
NOTE:**

### **MCN Membership Orientation Class**

There will be a two-session orientation class for persons interested in considering membership at MCN. Classes will be at 7 pm on Thursday evenings, April 26 and May 3. Persons interested should contact Pastor Schrag.

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### **Mental Health First Aid Class**

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018 8:00am–5:00pm

Location: North Danvers Mennonite Church

5517 E 1950 North Rd.

Danvers, IL 61732

Fee: \$10.00 (includes lunch and course materials)

Registration: Please contact Terri Kelly at [northdanversch@gmail.com](mailto:northdanversch@gmail.com) or 309-963-4554 to register.

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### **Regional Hymn Sing**

Let your voice resonate! Join a regional hymn sing at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6 at Mennonite Church of Normal, for a glimpse into the work of the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee. The new hymnal is projected for release in 2020. Bradley Kauffman, general editor for the new hymnal, will lead the singing of your heartsongs, as well as introduce new music being considered for the collection. After the hymn sing there will be an informal reception with refreshments where Bradley will answer questions. An offering will be received to support the production phase of the new collection. An opportunity to honor a loved one with a line in the hymnal will be presented. Come add your voice in sharing hopes and dreams for a new hymnal as we sing praise to God! For more information contact Steve Carpenter at (540) 908-3933 or [SteveC@MennoMedia.org](mailto:SteveC@MennoMedia.org)

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### **Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunities**

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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### **First Impressions: Connecting Your Congregation & 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](#)

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### MDS Volunteers Needed

The Long Term Recovery Team in Ottawa is looking for volunteers as they are rehabing homes damaged by June 2017 tornadoes. Day volunteers are welcome and needed, as well as Saturday work crews. MDS is looking for licensed roof contractors, carpenters for framing, and a demolition crew to remove an internal chimney.

In May and June, they will need:

- Cooks
- Drywall and tapers
- Trim carpenters
- Cabinet installers
- Painters

To volunteer, text or call Jill McHugh, volunteer coordinator at (708) 522-8080 or email [LMDSunit@gmail.com](mailto:LMDSunit@gmail.com).  
Contact Gerry Schrock with questions.

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### Empowering Women: Claiming Healthy Personal Boundaries Workshop

[Mennonite Women USA](#) and [Dove's Nest](#) are partnering this July for a 2-day workshop in Omaha, NE entitled, "Empowering Women: Claiming Healthy Personal Boundaries". This is a workshop for teen girls ages 13-up and women of all ages. Speakers include Brenda Yoder, Jenny Castro, and Carol Hurst. Scholarships are available if cost is a hindrance to attend. Click the link below for more information:

<https://dovesnest.net/Claiming-Healthy-Personal-Boundaries>

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### Announcement for CDC congregations:

When God calls someone to ministry, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Central District Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The deadline to apply for fall 2018 is July 17. For more information visit [www.ams.edu/journey](http://www.ams.edu/journey) or contact your pastor, or Doug Luginbill at [confmin@mcusacdc.org](mailto:confmin@mcusacdc.org) or at 574-534-1485.

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## MCC's SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People)

SWAP home repair program has summer positions open in both West Virginia and Kentucky. The assignments run from May 30 - approximately August 11. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but positions are not limited to young adults. More information about SWAP and an application are available at [swap.mcc.org](http://swap.mcc.org) or by calling 606-633-5065. In both positions, an exceptional 18-year-old might be considered. A stipend, room and board and travel expenses are provided.

- [Job Site Coordinators](#) - Will be the liaison between homeowners and volunteers. Carpentry skills are helpful but not required. Must be willing to learn, follow instruction and work well with others, both homeowners and volunteers, youth and adults.
  - [Meals Coordinators](#) - Will assist the Location Coordinator with menu planning, meal preparation, kitchen duties and other. Should be able to work well with staff and volunteers, both youth and adults.
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## 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.

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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

"There is nothing wrong with a traffic law which says you have to stop for a red light. But when a fire is raging, the fire truck goes right through that red light... Or, when a person is bleeding to death, the ambulance goes through those red lights at top speed... Disinherited people all over the world are bleeding to death from deep social and economic wounds. They need brigades of ambulance drivers who will have to ignore red lights of the present system until the emergency is solved... Massive civil disobedience is a strategy for social change which is at least as forceful as an ambulance with its sirens on full."

Martin Luther King Jr.

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### Building Use

HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

April 19, 6:00 pm

Head Start Open Enrollment

April 26, 4:00 pm

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### Today's Chuckle



A young man, who was also an avid golfer, found himself with a few hours to spare one afternoon. He figured that if he hurried and played very fast, he could get in 9 holes before he had to head home. Just as he was about to tee off, an old gentleman shuffled onto the tee and asked if he could accompany the young man as he was golfing alone. Not being able to say no, he allowed the old man to join him.

To his surprise, the old man played fairly quickly. He didn't hit the ball far, but plodded along consistently and didn't waste much time. Finally, they reached the 9th fairway and the young man found himself with a tough shot. There was a large pine tree right in front of his ball and directly between his ball and the green. After several minutes of debating how to hit the shot, the old man finally said, "You know, when I was your age, I'd hit the ball right over that tree."

With that challenge placed before him, the youngster swung hard, hit the ball up, right smack into the top of the tree trunk and it thudded back on the ground not a foot from where it had originally laid.

The old man offered one more comment, "Of course, when I was your age, that pine tree was only 3 feet tall."