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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.



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

May 2, 2018

## Worship with Us this Sunday, May 6

The sermon title is *The BIG Big Picture* and the Scripture is Ephesians 4:11-16. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The final message of self-examining extends this idea to an entire congregation. How might an entire group 'consider itself?'"

### Hymns this Sunday

All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord - HWB 21  
Joys are Flowing Like a River - HWB 301  
There are Many Gifts - HWB 304  
One is the Body - STJ 72

## Prayers

### Please pray for

- \*Clara Unzicker leaving for Ecuador with Goshen College Wednesday
- \*Deborah Spacek's continued recovery
- \*Ryan Miller traveling to Peru with Goshen College SST Wednesday

**This Week At 805 S Cottage**

Thur May 3      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sun May 6      Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am  
 Worship 9:30 am  
 Christian Education for Children 10:45 am  
 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am  
 Regional Hymn Sing 2:30 pm  
 JMYF and MYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm

Tues May 8      Wellness Committee 5:30 pm  
 Church Board 6:30 pm

Wed May 9      Pastoral Council 6:00 pm

Thur May 10      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
 Membership Orientation Class 7:00 pm

Sat May 12      Ropp Cemetery Work Day 9:00 am




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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Ben & Caroline Roeschley West: Joe Warfel
Welcome Table Ushers	Marcia Rossi Darvis & Shelly King, Jonah, Evan & Emma King
Sermon Worship Leader	Pastor Tim Schrag Melika Hershberger
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Scripture	Lydia Hedberg
Children's Time	Darrel Miller
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Technology	Nathan Miller
Toddler Nursery	Nancy Fisher
Preschool Nursery	Sarah Nichols




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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Paul Chang 5/7  
 Mary Jantze 5/7  
 Larry Reeser 5/7  
 Mike Evans 5/8  
 Blessing Hickman 5/9  
 Deb Stenger 5/10

Happy 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary to Blair Hall and Connie Reeser-Hall May 12

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### **Child Care Summer Volunteer Needed**

Child Care Summer Volunteer Needed for Head Start Family Literacy - 1-2:30 pm on Wednesday, once or twice per month. Two of our current volunteers are no longer available. The mom/toddler would like to continue. Can you help? Contact Pastor Jane.

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### **Family Fun Nights 2018**

Thank you to all the wonderful helpers that made these nights a success and we especially to want to extend a huge thank you to all the families that attended the 2018 Family Fun Nights. View pictures [here!](#)

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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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### **Joe & Roger's TransAmerica Bike Tour**

Roger Kennell, a member of Roanoke Mennonite Church, & Joe Culpepper will be bicycling Adventure Cycling's TransAmerica Trail starting April 30 in Yorktown, VA. This will be Joe's second time on the TransAmerica Trail & Roger's first long bike tour to celebrate his retirement. Their trip will take three months, ending in Astoria, OR at the end of July. If you would like to follow their adventure, Joe will be posting a daily blog with photos at [www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/joe2018](http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/joe2018). Please keep them in your prayers for a safe & fulfilling journey!

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### **Illinois State Baseball Tickets**

ISU baseball has invited our church to attend their game on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, free of charge. The Redbirds play Bradley University for the annual "Stuff the Duff" game, where they aim to set record attendance. Tickets are on the entry table in the church.



## 2018 Maple Lawn Market

The first event will be Saturday May 5, 8-11am. Over 25 vendors signed up to sell produce, baked goods, meals, arts, crafts, services, and much more! Clinton Park, 116 S. Clinton St., Eureka

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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 also 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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## Ropp Cemetery Work Day

Saturday, May 12  
from 9-noon

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## High School Graduation Reception

We will recognize our high school graduates with an informal reception between Worship and Christian Education on Sunday, May 13. This year's graduates include Alena Culbertson, Noah Engel, Josh Friesen, Lydia Hedberg, Nathan Miller, and Nathan Valverde. Congratulations to each one of you, and best wishes as you move forward toward your life goals!

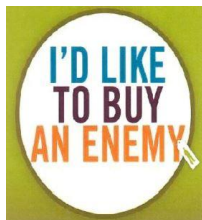
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## Affirming the Gifts of Others

Forms for affirming the gifts of others to fill the open Church Board position are on the entry table. Please turn these in to the church office or email suggestions to [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) by May 20. Thanks!

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## Mother's Day Production

[Ted & Company TheaterWorks](#) will be at the Champaign-Urbana Mennonite Church, May 13th at 4:00 pm, featuring I'd Like to Buy an Enemy which addresses concepts like othering and identity-making. Join an interfaith audience for a fun and thought-provoking show followed by a feedback session led by Ted Swartz. Your participation will help generate conversation about the gifts and challenges inherent in understanding faith traditions that are different from our own.

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## MDS Volunteers Needed

Dates available for volunteers representing our congregation and interested in working at the Ottawa/Naplate Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) project for the next four weeks include weekdays and Saturdays of May 14-19

and May 28-June 2. Friday, May 25 and Saturday, May 26 are also available. Volunteers can include high school students.

Tasks include dry wall hanging, wall framing, painting, and installing trim and cabinets. Plan is to meet at MCN parking lot and commute to the Ottawa area leaving at 6:00 AM and returning at 6:00 PM. If interested in working one or more days, please contact Lauren or Lynn at the church office or Pastor Jane, Gerry Schrock, or Loren Moshier. Volunteer registration forms are available in the MCN office.

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## Free Legal Advice Fair

Have a legal question? Need legal help?

Where: Mid Central Community Action, 1301 W. Washington, Bloomington

When: Saturday, May 19, 9-11:30am

To set up an appointment with a lawyer, please call Stacy at 309-827-5021 ext. 6801 or visit [www.legaladvicefair.acuityscheduling.com](http://www.legaladvicefair.acuityscheduling.com). You must meet Prairie State Legal Services' financial eligibility guidelines.

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## Senior Cello Recital

Please join us for Lydia Hedberg's Senior Cello Recital! She will be playing Kabelevsky's First Cello Concerto movements two and three, selections from Bach Suite No. 1, and Variations on a Slovakian Theme by Martinu. It will be at 2:00 on Saturday, May 19th in the sanctuary of Mennoite Church of Normal. A cookie reception will follow the recital.

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## Run so they can have fun!

Sign up for Menno Haven's 5k Trail Run / 2K Walk at 9am Monday, May 28th. All proceeds will go towards camper scholarships. Register by May 8th to save \$5 and get a free t-shirt. Go to [mennohaven.com](http://mennohaven.com) for details. After the 5k/2k stay for Rally Day, Menno Haven's Open House.

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## Funks Grove National Trails Day Celebration

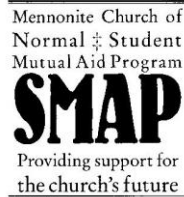
Saturday, June 2nd, 10-3pm

Event Headquarters: Sugar Grove Nature Center

Free!

Raptor Show, Fun Activities, Guided Hikes, and Much More!

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### SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Student Mutual Aid Program [SMAP] fundraiser will be held Sunday June 10 at 4:30 pm; eating at 5:00pm at Eric and Chellie Miller's. Everyone is invited; food and childcare is provided. Pledges will be taken to cover tuition costs for our young persons pursuing degrees at Mennonite colleges and universities.

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### Empowering Women: Claiming Healthy Personal Boundaries Workshop

[Mennonite Women USA](https://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/) and [Dove's Nest](https://www.dovesnest.net/) 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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### Hygiene Kits

During the month of May, Mennonite Women will be collecting Hygiene Kits. The bags are in the back of the Sanctuary for you to take home to fill with the necessary supplies. The contents to include in each:

- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-tooth comb (6-8 in)
- 1 adult-size toothbrush (IN MANUFACTURER'S ORIGINAL PACKAGING)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)

Mennonite Women has sewn bags that are located in the back of the sanctuary. Completed bags are to be placed in the large red tub. Or, if you would prefer, you can just purchase the supplies and Mennonite Women will fill the bags.

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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

“The dark night is over and dawn has begun. Rise, hope of all ages, arise like the sun! All speech, flow to music; all hearts, beat as one.” John Greenleaf Whittier

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## Building Use

HAAQG Salad Supper

May 3, 6:30 pm

HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

May 10, 6:00 pm

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## Today's Chuckle





A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, and some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice-looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

"Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then began eyeing each other's cups.

"Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups . . . enjoy your coffee.

