



Our Fall Worship Series

THAT REMINDS ME...

We come to worship to remember who we are as God's people. We gather around words remembered from oral traditions and passed on by the community of faith as scripture. Some elements of our worship remind us of personal experiences and relationships that need attention or tending. Some elements of worship remind us of our connection to the world beyond our local spheres. During this worship series, consider whether God's work among us is to "re-mind" us, so that we can think, create, feel, and plan with the mind of Christ.



NOV. 10 — A LIFE OF WORSHIP

Job 19:23-27, Luke 20:27-28

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer, receiving new members

NOV. 17 — A LIFE OF MINISTRY

Psalms 98

Proclamation by EMU Chamber Choir, receiving new members

NOV. 19 — MONTHLY GATHERING

Join CMCers for a mid-week taco buffet at 6 pm followed by a presentation from the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network sponsored by our Outreach Commission at 7 pm. Learn more inside the newsletter on page 4.

NOV. 24 — REIGN OF CHRIST — A LIFE OF LOVE

Luke 23:33-43, Colossians 1:11-20

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer, Congregational Meeting



A WORD FROM PASTORAL JENNIFER

Each fall, Council and Pastoral Team spend time building relationships and sharing perspectives on CMC's current mission and vision. Next Saturday, Nov. 16, leaders will review the past year of ministry, choose a scripture passage for congregational focus throughout 2020, and prepare a recommendation regarding whether to affiliate with Allegheny Mennonite Conference or Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. Council and Pastoral Team will also prepare for the congregational meeting, which will be Sunday, Nov. 24, when, in addition to sharing Covenant Renewal "100 word testimonies" with each other around tables, members will make decisions about a new half-time position—Director of Children's Faith Formation, our budget, and whether to affirm the recommendation regarding conference affiliation.

—Pastor Jennifer

CMC PRAYS TOGETHER

- * Rose Shenk and Bruce Buckwalter serving with Mennonite Central Committee in Ethiopia
- * Recipients of the immigration detainee care kits
- * New Members joining CMC on Nov. 17

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Interim Blessings—Pastoral Team Recalls Two Former Elders

During most of 2019 CMC's Pastoral Team has included three pastors, three pastoral elders, and one young adult appointee. However, in recent months we have had just two pastors (Jennifer and Jason), two pastoral elders (Mike Brislen and Veva Mumaw) and our young adult appointee (Hannah Bailey). To better support the spiritual leadership of the congregation, in October Council affirmed Pastoral Team's interim ministry proposal to appoint two recent pastoral elders to return to the Pastoral Team for six or eight months. Linda Gnagey and Brian Martin Burkholder have graciously agreed to serve in this way and have just returned to Pastoral Team meetings. As Mike Brislen completes more

than three years on Pastoral Team at year's end, we're pleased that Jennifer North Bauman will be on the ballot for congregational affirmation for a three-year term as pastoral elder beginning in 2020. Additionally, having received excellent nominations from the congregation, Gifts Discernment Committee has recommended that after this interim period, by mid-2020, we seek congregational affirmation for a third pastoral elder. As you pray, please remember the team and those we will call to serve as pastor and pastoral elder in the future. We're blessed in this interim with strong pastoral gifts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have needs or concerns.

—Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Lead Pastor



Former Elders Brian Martin Burkholder, seen above serving communion, and Linda Gnagey, seen below canoeing with her grandkids at CMC's retreat, have been recalled to serve temporary appointments.



CMC to Consider “Twinning” with Gazans

Mennonite Churches in North America are responding to the siege of Gaza with a vision of peace and solidarity. Some congregations express their commitment to Gaza by cultivating fraternal relationships of mutuality with churches, mosques, hospitals, clinics, schools, and civic society organizations in Gaza, praying and working for a just peace in Gaza and throughout the world. The Mennonite Palestine Israel Network (MennoPIN) facilitates these “twinning” relationships as part of a campaign to “End the Siege in Gaza.”

As the people of Gaza continue to suffer under Israeli occupation, a crippling siege, frequent violence, and deprivations, overseas churches are troubled by the policies and practices of their own countries that are implicated in the injustices and sufferings of the people of Gaza. MennoPIN affiliates are concerned about how to be true sisters and brothers to each other as a global faith community that seeks peace and healing in a suffering world. In this manner they hope to become a testimony for love, nonviolence and active peace work as they

provide a response to the wounds, fear, and brokenness that injustice, occupation, and siege engender.

CMC's Outreach Commission has invited representatives from MennoPIN to share about Twinning at the Monthly Gathering on Tuesday, November 19. A free-will offering taco buffet will be served at 6 pm and followed by the presentation at 7 pm.

—Adapted from material by MennoPIN



SEEKING PEACE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

In 2017, Mennonite Church USA passed a resolution at its biennial convention in Orlando, FL, voting nearly unanimously to create an investment screen for the purpose of “withdrawing investments from companies that are profiting from the occupation.” The comprehensive resolution lifts up the rights of Palestinian refugees, citizens of Israel, and those living under occupation. It also focuses on ways Mennonites have been involved in harms against both Palestinians and Jews, and names concrete steps to address those harms, encouraging church members to build relationships with Palestinian-American, Muslim and Jewish communities in the United States.

Congregational Meeting Scheduled for Nov. 24

Mark your calendars for our congregational meeting, 11:45 am-1:30 pm, on Sunday, Nov. 24. At this meeting, we will hear reports on the many exciting things our congregation has taken on over the past year. We'll celebrate new members and children, and bid a fond farewell to members of our leadership teams whose terms are ending. The 2020 theme verse will be unveiled!

We also will discuss the process and timeline for moving forward in our decision to affiliate with another MC USA conference. Council and Pastoral Team will bring a recommendation

about which conference to join, and there will be time for discussion and questions. We will vote on this decision, as well as affirming people for new leadership roles. We will also have a vote on the budget for 2020.

Lunch and childcare will be provided. If children will attend childcare, it would help us plan if you could email Ben Bailey at office@cmcva.org. Lunch will include gluten free options; if you have additional dietary requirements, please contact Jen Ulrich.

—Aili Huber, Church Council Chair



Lunch and childcare will be provided at the congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Ministry Staff Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent survey about church staffing. More than 80 percent of respondents supported calling a new pastor and a half-time director of children's ministry position. I'd like to respond to some questions people raised about this decision.

WHY DO WE NEED THREE PASTORS?

Many guidelines recommend one full-time pastor for every 100 members of a congregation. We often cite 500 as the number of people who consider CMC their church. Although our Sunday morning attendance on an average week is typically half of that, most of the pastors' work doesn't happen on Sunday morning. They respond to pastoral care needs throughout the week, lead Bible studies, and convene care teams. As our congregation ages, pastoral care is becoming a bigger part of their job. We want our pastors to have the resources to provide that care while also supporting our commissions in their work, interacting with community members, and preparing for a meaningful worship service every week.

WHY CAN'T DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION BE PART OF A PASTOR'S JOB?

Our pastors already have very full plates. This role will provide focus and continuity for the children's programs, which require substantial coordination work. While we still will need significant volunteer support from the congregation, having someone who has this as their job will allow us to better support children and young families.

ISN'T JASON THE YOUTH MINISTER?

WHY DON'T THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FALL UNDER HIS JOB DESCRIPTION?

Jason's job title is associate pastor, rather than a youth minister. He does work with MYF and Youth Commission, but his job encompasses much more than that—he works with Outreach Commission, helps with the jail ministry, meets with people for premarital counseling, preaches regularly, and much more. He doesn't have the space in his schedule to give children's programs the level of support we think they need and deserve.

WHAT ARE THE BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW POSITION?

While we're still working on the exact numbers, Council has kept the unspent funds for 2019 pastoral salary and benefits in a reserve fund for future ministry. It will take time to hire another pastor, so we anticipate being able to fund an additional half-time position for at least two years from this reserve, if necessary.

—Aili Huber, Church Council Vice Chair

Fall in Germany—An Update From the Lapp Josts

Greetings from Bammental! Many people have welcomed and blessed us in numerous ways. At the same time, the first-month logistical and linguistic challenges have been steep, and we are definitely going through a time of transition. All in all, it has been a wonderful and promising experience so far.

We have settled into the Hausgemeinschaft (HG), an intentional community that we feel fortunate to stay in and learn about. The HG was formed decades ago by three married couples, which together own the two buildings where we all live. At any given time, 10-15 people live in the community. We are impressed with how the community shares meals, some space (though most space is private), vehicles, economically purchased and home-grown goods and goods, and warm friendship. The HG will surely feature prominently in our future updates.



Some of the 15 residents of the Hausgemeinschaft enjoy a meal together.

We began German courses in our second week here, and in October we both began month-long courses in our respective levels. Language study has been time consuming, but also very rewarding, as we can already see growth each week!

The launch into Sophie's work with the Bammental Mennonite community (Mennonitische Gemeinde Bammen-

tal) has been a slow but rewarding. As language ability is essential for pastoral work, much of her current work is language study. However, she co-led worship at the beginning of October. She will lead alone later this month as well as in December. Hopefully by the new year, she'll be comfortable enough with language to be more regularly involved in worship. Learning about the German Mennonite church and the Bammental congregation continues to be an exciting part of our daily life and work! We have found that people are open, friendly, and engaged in many different kinds of good work, and we look forward to building stronger connections.

David's work has also begun with a lot of learning. The German Mennonite Peace Committee (DMFK)—David's partner organization—financially and administratively supports a Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) unit on Lesbos, Greece, where a permanent humanitarian crisis of refugees from American wars is unfolding. Jakob Fehr, David's wonderful supervisor, also preaches in German churches, serves on CPT's board, and conducts various trainings and events. Long-term workers with DMFK usually develop their own interests and projects, and David hopes to study and support German Mennonite renewable energy development, as a part of divestment from fossil fuels. David has enjoyed working in German, visiting various churches with Jakob, and attending a theology conference with leaders from German Mennonite church. In the last month, David has been very busy helping remotely with solar projects at AMBS and Eastern Mennonite School, and also with the organization of an LLC that will facilitate solar investment.

Prayer requests at this time include a continuing positive transition. David would especially appreciate prayers for patience and peace of mind as he has been embroiled in much of the bureaucratic parts of our transition. The German system has very specific expectations and rules that have been frustrating so far, but we're happy to finally be nearing the end of this aspect of settling in. We'd also appreciate continued prayers for good health for our family members back at home, for David's father and nephew and for other people who struggle with relocating to a new place because they have to rather than as a choice.



CMCers David & Sophie Lapp Jost are currently serving in Bammental, Germany.

We look forward to sharing with you about the different things we learn and experience in this strange, but also, in some ways, familiar culture! And we look forward to sharing more about the church, intentional community, and peace and environmental work in this significantly different and beautiful country.

—Sophie & David Lapp Jost

CMC News & Announcements

CMCers are invited to a group prayer circle in the alcove at front of sanctuary from 11:45 am-12 pm on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Please consider making a pot of chili or cookies for the congregational meal on Nov. 24th. It will be a simple meal of chili with rice, carrots, and cookies. We'll have cheese for your chili as well. Please use [this link to Perfect Potluck to sign-up](#). We need some chili that is vegetarian as well as some that is gluten free. If you sign up for cookies please let us know how many dozens you can make. We'll need help with clean up as well. Contact Jennifer Ulrich if you have questions.

Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

Shalom Mennonite Congregation is now hiring for a nursery & safe congregation policy administrator. This person will supervise all aspects of Shalom's nursery and nursery workers, support our Safe Congregation Committee in implementing our policy, and may include additional general administrative support. Up to 25 hours per month, for a 12-month contract. Contact hiring@shalommc.org.

Everence is looking for a home for our MCC IVEP person beginning in mid-January. Her name is Tino Gumbo, she is from Zimbabwe. She has been a great addition to our team at Everence, she is kind, funny, and a hard worker. Please contact either Teresa Boshart Yoder or Evelin Gonzalez at Everence 437-7422. There is a monthly stipend that you get for hosting.

Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham is seeking a board treasurer, a faith-based, non-profit organization. The treasurer has financial oversight of organizational finances, member of board executive committee, and chairs the Finance Committee. For a position description and more information about this role and Bridge of Hope, please respond with your interest to board@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org.

EMU Music Faculty Concert Series, featuring Jacob Roege, violin, and CMcer Kathryn Schmidt, piano, will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, in Martin Chapel. A recital of works by Schubert, Poulenc, Amy Beach, and Jason Haney. Free admission; donations welcomed for EMU's Music Scholarship fund.

It is time for Community Preschool's poinsettia fundraiser. The sign-up board will be in the Fellowship Hall. Orders are due by Nov. 22. Church members can pick up the flowers on Dec. 5 after 11 am. They will be located in the back of the church. Please pay for flowers when you sign up for them. Thank you for your support!!

Need & Plenty

CMCERS ARE SEEKING...

...transportation back to the Lancaster or Reading PA area on Sunday after Thanksgiving for Nathan and maybe Robin Vogel. Wondering if anyone has friends or family visiting who are heading back that day and would have room for a couple of college students. Please contact Carmen Wyse.

OR OFFERING...

...nothing right now. Submit your things you have to share at office@cmcva.org. The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday, Nov. 6.

Submit listings at office@cmcva.org. To contact a CMcer about a Need & Plenty listing, look them up in the Breeze Directory on the church website. Or look for them in the Fellowship Hall after worship!



Don't forget about our Lending List for large, weird, or banal items that you don't know you need or are afraid to ask for. You can find it on our website under the CMCers tab.

UPCOMING CMC EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Every Sunday | Congregational Worship Service, 9 am, Sanctuary Sunday School & Adult Ed, 10:45 am, various locations Contemplative Worship Service, 8 pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Every Wednesday | Women's Bible Study, 8:30-9:45 am, Room 109 Kids' Club, 6pm, Basement |
| Tues, Nov. 19 | Monthly Gathering, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Sun, Nov. 24 | Congregational Meeting, 11:45 am, Sanctuary |
| Sun, Dec. 1 | Prayer Gathering, 11:45 am-12 pm, Prayer Alcove New Attenders Brunch, 10:30 am, Room 109 CMC Seniors Christmas Potluck, TBD, Fellowship Hall |
| Tues, Dec. 10 | Monthly Gathering, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Tues, Dec. 17 | Christmas Eve Worship, 6 pm, Sanctuary |
| Tues, Dec. 24 | Christmas Breads, 8:30 am, Fellowship Hall |
| Sun, Dec. 29 | Monthly Potluck, 11:45 am, Fellowship Hall |
| Sun, Jan. 5 | |

PASTORAL TEAM, CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM

Lead Pastor

Jennifer Davis Sensenig
Mon-Thu 9-4 (Fri Sabbath)
jennifer.davis.sensenig@cmcva.org
540-560-5126

Associate Pastor

Jason Gerlach
Mon, Wed-Fri, 8:30-3 (off Tue)
jason.gerlach@cmcva.org
540-421-8155

Pastoral Elders

Veva Mumaw
Linda Gnagey
Hannah Bailey, young-adult appointee

Mike Brislen
Brian Martin Burkholder

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair, Aili Huber
councilchair@cmcva.org

Vice Chair, Jeremy Nafziger
councilvicechair@cmcva.org

Administrative Chair, Larry Miller
admincommission@cmcva.org

Community Life Chair, Lonnie Yoder
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Outreach Chair, Dennis Showalter
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Worship Chair, Greg Yoder
worshipcommission@cmcva.org

Youth Chair, Traci Yoder Stoltzfus
youthcommission@cmcva.org

Member-at-Large, Kathleen Leigh
councilmemberatlarge@cmcva.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Church Administrator, Ben Bailey
Finance Administrator, Delbert Wenger

Custodians, Kent Davis Sensenig,
Craig Serrels

Community Mennonite Church

70 South High St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Church Office hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm; Wed closed
office@cmcva.org, (540) 433-2148, www.cmcva.org

Giving Update

As of Nov. 7, 2019
Annual donation budget: \$510,640
YTD budget: \$432,080
YTD giving: \$388,742
YTD +/- budget: -\$43,356

Ways to Give

By cash or check — Either place your contribution in the offering basket or mail checks to the church. Use the memo line to indicate a particular fund ("Compassion Fund," "General Fund," etc.).

By text message — Text the amount you wish to donate (e.g. "\$25") to 540-779-1276. The first time, you'll receive a link to register your information. Undesignated funds will go to CMC's general fund.

On our website — Click "donate" on the top right corner of our website at cmcva.org.

On your smartphone — Search for "GivePlus Church" in the Android or iPhone app store. Once you've installed it, search for "Community Mennonite Church."

*CMC follows
Safe Church practices.*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

...for our congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 24. A meal and childcare will be provided. We will vote on a number of items, including our upcoming Pastoral Search Committee and the 2020 budget.