



Our Advent Worship Series

DEC. 8 — SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer

DEC. 15 — THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer

DEC. 17 — MONTHLY GATHERING & HYMN SING

Join CMCers for a midweek meal at 6 pm and, at 7pm, an intergenerational Christmas hymn sing! Leah Wenger lead us in singing through the Christmas story with many old favorites, some less familiar songs we can learn together, and some new songs and changes that will be found in the new Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together*. There will truly be something that everyone can enjoy!

DEC. 22 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer

DEC. 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Worship begins at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

DEC. 29 — CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23

Christmas Breads potluck begins at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, congregational worship begins at 10 am, music Sunday (no sermon), no Sunday school or adult ed



A WORD FROM PASTOR JENNIFER

Every year I set aside a week during Advent for an annual retreat at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA. The monks who live here--some priests, others not--are Benedictines of the "strict observance" or Trappists. For me the Mon-Fri retreat is a time for seeking God in "grand silence" as the retreatants don't speak to one another. The worship services (5 per day) are drenched in scripture and the Madonna and Child in the newly renovated chapel is something to behold. This year I take with me our Advent question: What are you waiting for? Even if you don't commit a week to prayer and silence, when this Advent-Christmas season might you behold the beauty of the Advent-Christmas season, and release yourself a bit more to the One who is waiting for you?
—Pastor Jennifer

CMC PRAYS TOGETHER

- * Pray for CMCers and others who are distant from family and friends this season
- * Pray for persons who struggle with seasonal affective disorder and other health concerns during the darker days of winter

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Christmas Celebrations At CMC!

As a congregation we value the waiting of Advent as well as the celebration of Christmas. If you're craving Christmas carols, the Monthly Gathering, on Tuesday, Dec. 17th, will be a seasonal music hymn sing and you're welcome to request favorites from our hymnals. Come at 6 pm for a shared taco salad meal and stay to sing along at 7 pm.

The Christmas Eve worship service, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6 pm, will include

the scriptures announcing the good news of Jesus' birth, traditional Christmas hymns, a children's time, candle-light, and a special peace offering. Please bring your family and friends for this worship service to both give and receive in celebration of our joy in Christ. This is what we've been waiting for!

On Sunday, December 29th our church family will also enjoy Christmas Breads at 8:30 am followed by a music Sunday

worship service at 10 am. Bring sweet breads, fruit, or Christmas treats to share. However and wherever you are this Advent-Christmas season, we pray that you will experience time to reflect on the year past, receive the good news even in the face of poverty in a manger, and rejoice that God is with us—Emmanuel.

—Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig, on behalf of Pastoral Team

Sharing With Our Neighbors

On behalf of Community Mennonite Church, Outreach Commission (OC) determines how to share it's portion of CMC's overall budget with local non-profit organizations. In light of continuing needs and requests for funding various projects, OC's decision-making guidelines include preference for (1) those projects for which a relationship with CMC is strong and current; (2) local projects with more limited support for international efforts; (3) long-term and continuing projects, not just one-time or once-a-year events; (4) creative, new and promising projects. CMCers are invited to take a look at the chart on to the left, which show OC's plans to distribute funds to local non-profit organizations in 2020.

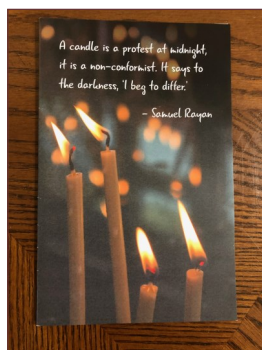
Regularly OC receives commendation from the organizations we financially support. Just last week a holiday card came from the Collins Center. In it, board member Amanda Miller Garber, wrote, "Time and time again, I'm amazed at the defiant hope that's woven throughout the fabric of the Collins Center organization. Whether they're engaged in education and prevention work, leading support groups, offering therapeutic services, or advocating for the most vulnerable among us, the Collins Center staff is relentless as they seek to eradicate sexual violence in our

community. Every day, in countless ways, they say to the darkness of sexual violence and abuse, "We beg to differ."

Another recent letter was from Open Doors thermal shelter. It included a statistics sheet, which highlighted that Open Doors averages 44 guests per night. Many of the guests stay less than one month. Most commonly the guests are males (73%) between the ages of 31-50 (76%). As the temperature drops, Open Doors will be there for all those who have nowhere else to go on these cold nights.

Please listen for announcements in early 2020 as CMC will in charge of the Open Doors shelter during the week of February 10th through 17th. The host location will be Asbury United Methodist Church.

—Pastor Jason Gerlach, on behalf of Outreach Commission



Scholars Latino Initiative	\$ 600
Patchwork Pantry	\$ 750
New Bridges	\$ 1,500
Our Community Place	\$ 1,500
Mercy House	\$ 750
Roberta Webb Center	\$ 750
First Step	\$ 750
COSPU	\$ 750
Vine & Fig	\$ 750
Jail Ministry—J. Wagner	\$ 750
Collins Center	\$ 750
Open Doors	\$ 1,500
Highland Retreat	\$ 750
Gemeinschaft	\$ 750
Bridge of Hope	\$ 1,500
Menno Hispanic Initiative	\$ 750
Harrisonburg Free Clinic	\$ 750
Medical Suitcase Clinic	\$ 1,500
People Helping People	\$ 1,500
Faith in Action	\$ 1,500
Comnty Preschool	\$ 750
Skyline Literacy Support	\$ 1,500
Racial Equity Task Force	\$ 1,000
Vision Support	\$ 1,500
Outreach Commission	\$ 4,000
Service Grants	\$ 4,000
Com Preschool Schlrrshp	\$ 750
Local Outreach	\$ 33,600

Left: A note of gratitude from the Collins Center to CMC; Above: line item breakdown of CMC's local giving budget for 2020

Children's Disaster Services, For Not So "Handy" Helpers



After a disaster, have you wished you could help but don't want to do construction or clean-up? Trained volunteers with Children's Disaster Services (administered by Brethren Disaster Ministries) have provided a supportive presence for children following disasters within the U.S. since 1980.

Keaton and I recently became certified and want to get the word out to others

who may have interest. Volunteers are usually sent for 2 weeks, and all expenses are covered. The required training takes place in locations around the U.S., and on March 6-7, will be right here in Bridgewater!

Registration is now open and may fill up quickly. Training is from Friday afternoon through Saturday morning and an overnight stay is required. We have brochures or you can find information [on the CDS website](#).

—Betty Shenk



Keaton & Betty Shenk invite CMCers to consider helping mitigate the emotional toll of disasters by volunteering with the Children's Disaster Service.

A Week in the Life of CMC, An Update From Our Rental Manager

If we follow Jewish tradition and count Sunday the "first day" of the week, it is a busy beginning for CMC. Four groups of worshipers from three different congregations gather in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

CMC opens the and closes the church building each Sunday, with congregational worship in the morning and an evening contemplative service. In the afternoon, the sanctuary is filled with the lively worship and a rocking, youthful worship band of Iglesia Familiar Elyon, a bilingual group of about 40 souls who have leased our space for about a year.

Meanwhile, The Table, a house-church style Anabaptist-minded fellowship, gathers across the street in the Dean House, as they have for years. In the winter months, we might even squeeze in a youth-group bible-quizzing "meet" in the early afternoon, the only hours our building is available on the Lord's Day!

On weekdays, CMC's longest-running partner in ministry (30 years and counting), Community Preschool, hosts three classes of fifteen children in the downstairs classrooms and on

the playground. There are always some CMC kids in the mix, and on the Board, given the Preschool was originally launched by CMC (it now operates independently).

Across the street in the Dean House, you'll find the first-floor offices of both The Institute for Reform and Solutions, a local criminal justice reform advocacy organization, and COSPU, directed by our own Nelly Moreno Shenk and advocating for Central/Latin American immigrant neighbors who now call Harrisonburg home. During the noon hour on Mondays, the "Justice Coalition", an alliance of local criminal justice reform advocates, meets in the Dean House too.

Skyline Literacy periodically runs citizenship classes in the Dean House, and Iglesia Familiar Elyon hosts a bible study on Thursday evenings. You can even find a local dance group rehearsing on certain Saturday afternoons, making use of the classic wooden floors of the historic house.

There still remains time and room for other uses, so if you know someone/some group looking for a space to rent, let me know. Oh, and of course upstairs on the 2nd floor is our still new-



Kent Davis Sensenig is a CMC custodian and rental manager extraordinaire!

ish Voluntary Service Unit, with three young adult residents living together and serving our community this year.

Popping back to the main building, every Wednesday night it's hopping! Patchwork Pantry brings together 50-60 clients and volunteers from all walks of life for two hours (including JMU and EMU students doing community-service learning and an ecumenical assortment of church groups and long-term individual Pantry workers). Many CMCers volunteer with the Pantry, interviewing, translating, doing intake, produce bagging and distribution, cart-pushing, hosting, talking and praying with folks in the

sanctuary, picking up the cardboard afterwards for recycling, or supervision of the whole grand mess! During the first hour of Patchwork Pantry, while clients wait in our sanctuary, CMC's "Kid's Club", one chapter of a multi-congregation Virginia Mennonite Missions-sponsored outreach program, hangs out with any children who show up. They share bible stories, food, games, crafts, songs, and a caring heart and ear. By the end of most Wednesday nights you'll also find Pastor Jason, who earlier in the evening coordinated Kid's Club, and the MYF high school-aged youth group gathered on the 2nd floor. Typically, Skyline Literacy citizenship classes and a CMC committee meeting of some kind are also coinciding in the upstairs meeting rooms. Whew! Oh what a night...

What else to say? The building also periodically plays host to choir/music rehearsals and performances of one kind or another; arts exhibits and theatrical shows by local creators; weddings and funerals; CMC "seniors" group events; Monthly Gatherings (for adults and Jr. MYF, over in the Dean House); a myriad of CMC council, commission, committee, staff, support-group, and bible-study meetings; Rosetta Stone parking, 5-days a week; an informal "office" for Jason Wagner, who does prison ministry on behalf of VMC; advocacy group meetings by Faith in Action, Fuego, Indivisible, Vanita, and others, etc.

Beyond being a church, our building is a community center. My parents were part of a team of Mennonite missionaries doing something similar in Saigon, Vietnam, in conjunction with an emerging Vietnamese Mennonite Church, so it feels good to walk in a similar—if contextually quite different—path in my role as church custodian, rental manager, and lay volunteer.

I am grateful for CMC custodian, Craig Serrels; property committee

members, Sam Miller (chair), Ray Horst, Tom Sawin, Mike Zook, and Ruth Jost; Church Administrator, Ben Bailey; and Administration Commission Chair, Larry Miller; for helping us all keep our heads above water, and all the CMCers out there who give of your time, talents, and "tenth" (money!) to

keep this church-as-community-center rolling along into a fourth decade on S. High St., following fumblingly in the way of Jesus, as the Spirit empowers us and we are able to see the path.

—Kent Davis Sensenig, Rental Manager

WELCOMING NEW ATTENDERS TO CMC!

On Sunday, Dec. 1, pastoral team welcomed ten new attenders over brunch during the Sunday school hour. Say "hi" to these newcomers during fellowship time in the coming weeks.



Sherill & Darrel Hostetter recently returned to Harrisonburg after spending many years living in Pennsylvania.



Kim Johnson lives in Harrisonburg and teaches English at Broadway High School.



Waega Samuel is serving with MCC's IVEP, working at EMHS, and living with John & Sher Waidelich



Wilbur Bauman, father of Angie Clemens, is retired and recently moved to Virginia from Ohio.



Alyson Campbell & Geoff Kurtz, son of Wayne & Kathie, live in Brooklyn and are on a one year sabbatical in Harrisonburg.



Jessica, daughter of Rick & Carolyn Yoder, & Brad Miller Yoder moved to Harrisonburg from Denver with their children Cree & Silas



Hannah Wills lives outside of Harrisonburg with her three children and is studying art education.

CMC News & Announcements

CMC seniors potluck and Christmas carol singing, December 10 at 6pm in the CMC fellowship hall. Seniors with the last name beginning with A-N bring a vegetable dish or salad; O-Z bring a dessert. Meat will be provided.

At our next Kids' Club on Wednesday, December 18th, we are going to be telling the story of the birth of Jesus and decorating Christmas cookies! We are in need of some dozen plain Christmas sugar cookies to be donated. Please contact Pastor Jason or Hannah Hall if you would like to make some. Also, all are welcome to attend 6pm-7:15pm on December 18!

Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

Singing Light, a Walking Roots Band Christmas MCC Benefit Concert will be Dec. 8, at 7 pm in the theater at Eastern Mennonite School. The Mennonite Central Committee Benefit Concert is in partnership with the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale. Ticket info at singinlight.org.

The Eastern Mennonite University Department of Music and Campus Ministries will host the annual Christmas Lessons and Carols service in Martin Chapel on Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 pm. A freewill offering will benefit the Campus Ministries Compassion Fund. In the classic approach to lessons and carols, scripture passages will feature the image of light and trace themes of need and longing, stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, and the celebration of "God with us!" In addition to congregational singing with the EMU University Choir, musical selections will be offered by the EMU music department's faculty and students. Join us as we welcome the light of God's Son into the world this Christmas season!

Dispatches from the Great Burning: What My Mennonite Ancestors & the Gobi Bear Taught Me About Surviving the Climate Emergency connects a woman's leap into activism, her trip to Mongolia to see the endangered Gobi bear, the toxic world that has threatened her health and fertility, and stories from her Mennonite ancestors (some you may know, some you may not). My sister Helen, an actor living in Oakland, will be doing a house performance at my place December 21, 7 - 8 p.m. and I hope you & yours will join with my family to see it (Not for children). Please RSVP—Ruth Jost

The gift of nurture and belonging! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals which seeks to nurture the integration of faith and practice, to provide opportunities for dialogue on health related issues, and to address specific needs through education, advocacy, and service. If you embrace Anabaptism and are involved in healthcare, we invite you to learn more and "Join the Conversation" at our website.

Donating to charities before Dec. 31? Some donations remain tax deductible under current law, including charitable distributions from individual retirement accounts, gifts of commodities and large gifts to donor advised funds. Learn more from our partner Everence at their website.

Apply now for a 2020 scholarship. Everence wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are or become Everence members and you will be enrolled in a college or trade school next fall, apply for an Everence College Scholarship of up to \$3,000 before March 10. Visit everence.com for more info.

Need & Plenty

CMCERS ARE SEEKING...

...nothing right now. CMCers may submit things they have to share for free or at a significant discount to office@cmcva.org. The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday, Jan. 9, 2020.

CMCERS OFFERING...

...a problematic color printer. Free to anyone if you want to figure it out! —Ruth Jost

...Eastern Red Cedar trees that will be thinned this winter to make more room for native hardwoods. They are free if you cut it yourself, \$10 if you want to choose a cut one. I'll have a selection of different sizes to choose from. —Lee Good



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

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

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

communitylifecommission@cmcva.org

Outreach Chair, Dennis Showalter

outreachcommission@cmcva.org

Worship Chair, Greg Yoder

worshipcommission@cmcva.org

Youth Chair, Traci Yoder Stoltzfus

youthcommission@cmcva.org

Member-at-Large, Kathleen Leigh

councilmemberatlarge@cmcva.org

CHURCH STAFF

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

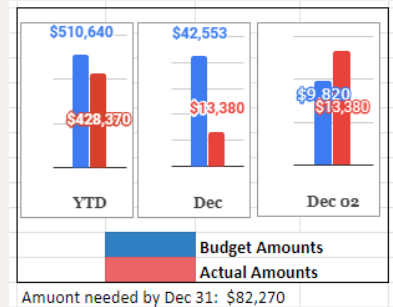
office@cmcva.org, (540) 433-2148, www.cmcva.org

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 2020.

I will be on Parental leave for two weeks in December, so we will skip a newsletter or two. Meanwhile, important information will be shared weekly with the bulletin by email and announced in worship on Sunday mornings.

-Ben Bailey, Church Administrator

GIVING UPDATE



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*

