



#### A WORD FROM RETREAT COMMITTEE

We're putting the finishing touches on our plan for CMC's annual retreat and we are starting to get excited. This year we have a team trivia competition, a 10 second talent competition, a fresh new CMC band, and, the old favorite, GAGA! This all comes after the learning, of course.

We're looking forward to that part too. Sarah Bixler will be joining us to lead a resourcing activity unlike any other in recent retreat memory — it will be inter-generational! Putting into practice her ideas about faith formation across the lifespan, she and her husband, Ben, have planned to include CMCers of all ages in the activities on Friday night and Saturday morning!

Youngsters who have trouble sitting still for that long need not fret. A portion of Saturday morning will be exclusively for our children & youth. We have a cohort of CMC scientists ready to take them outside to get their hands dirty, exploring the ways that our environment and its inhabitants are connected.

See you out there!

—Ben & Hannah Bailey,  
on behalf of the retreat committee

#### PRAYER CONCERNS

- \* For our congregational meeting and voting process.
- \* For local efforts to respond to homelessness and housing needs.
- \* For healing and restoration among individuals, as a congregation and within our broader community.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VS Update .....	2
Discerning Staffing Needs .....	2
Generosity .....	3
Contemplative Service .....	3
Retreat.....	4
News, Need & Plenty.....	5

## An Undivided Life

### OUR SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

#### SEP 15 — SALVATION MATTERS

*Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10*

Music Sunday, congregational meal & meeting at 11:45 am

#### SEP 20-22 — THE ECOLOGY OF FAITH FORMATION @ Brethren Woods

Sermon by Sarah Bixler, baptisms, receiving new members, lunch at noon

#### SEP 29 — STRUGGLE MATTERS

*Psalms 146, I Timothy 6:6-19*

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer, solar array special offering

#### A NEW WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS OCT. 5!

#### A REMINDER ABOUT OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held this Sunday, Sept. 15, from 12-1:15 pm. We will reflect on our conference affiliation discernment process and vote on whether or not the congregation should remain in Virginia Mennonite Conference. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

# CMCers Welcomes Dean House Residents

Throughout the spring there were a number of young adults who indicated interest in the Dean House VS program, however, for a variety of reasons each of our first four contacts chose to pursue other opportunities. Thus we, the Dean House VS Committee, found ourselves scrambling to know what might be best for the unit this year. At the end of May, Sylvia Mast contacted us to explore what local organization partnerships were available for this year.

We began exploring with her the possibilities at Suitcase Clinic and the Harrisonburg -- Rockingham Free Clinic. We also indicated to her that, at that time, she was the only person considering our VS location and so we invited her to brainstorm possibilities of forming a communal living experience in new, creative ways. Sylvia let us know that her sister, Michaela, and their cousin, Julia, were looking for local housing because they had accepted vocational positions and thus quite interested in joining the Dean House VS home as renters. Throughout August we've checked in with Sylvia as she prepared for, and passed, her EMT Basic Certification, which was a requirement for volunteering at the Free Clinic.

Sylvia began at Suitcase Clinic on Tuesday, September 3rd. One highlight of CMC's Dean House VS Unit throughout its first two years has been the significant partnership that has developed with the Suitcase Clinic. Last year, Ali Zuercher spent part of her time

with the Suitcase Clinic and this year Sylvia will do the same. Suitcase Clinic practitioner, Tammy Kizer, recently described the partnership that's developed between the Suitcase Clinic and the Dean House VS Unit by stating, "...[it's] changed the entire way we do business!"

This past Monday, September 9th, Sylvia started at the Free Clinic, supervised by Meg Wightman, Clinical Services Director and former CMC pastor. Please pray for Sylvia as her local VS placements get underway and as Sylvia, Michaela and Julia establish communal living practices together. Please look for opportunities to get to know Sylvia, Michaela and Julia.

*-Jason Gerlach, on behalf of the VS Committee*



*Dean House residents Sylvia & Michaela Mast were introduced during the Sept. 8 worship service. Sylvia is participating in CMC's VS program.*

## To Equip the Saints for Ministry (Eph 4:12)

This month the Leadership Task Force is beginning our discernment re: CMC staffing needs including pastoral leadership, the proposed Director of Children's Ministry, and other needs within the congregation. Already we have consulted with several conference leaders across Mennonite Church USA about ministry staff.

In October expect an update from the Leadership Task Force and an opportunity for the congregation to contribute to this discernment. Leadership Task Force members are Aili Huber (Council Chair), Jeremy Nafziger (Council Vice Chair), Larry Miller (Admin Commission Chair) and Pastor Jennifer.

*— Jennifer Davis Sensenig & Aili Huber, on behalf of the Leadership Taskforce*

*"A next step is a meeting with several CMCers who have worked directly in areas where there is currently a felt need for greater staff leadership and support." -Leadership Taskforce*

A next step is a meeting with several CMCers who have worked directly in areas where there is currently a felt need for greater staff leadership and support. While we are in no rush, we also want to move this process forward, so that our current staff and volunteer leaders are not unduly burdened by the many thriving ministries of our congregation.



*Pastor Jennifer leads a women's bible study every Wednesday morning, from 8:30-9:45 am.*

# How are you Generous?

There are many ways to be generous. Research indicates that we differ individually and generationally in how we express generosity. Offering hospitality, financial support, giving gifts, providing emotional/relational support, and service/volunteering are the five primary ways that Americans live generously. At CMC we celebrate all these expressions.

Last year Council decided to create four special giving projects beyond our 2019 budget. Here's an update on the giving projects and expressions of financial generosity.

- \* **Grants for CMC students in Mennonite undergrad programs.** Our goal was \$10,000 and we've raised \$9,983.02. So we're looking for the \$16.98 donation!
- \* **Bat Exclusion.** Our goal was to raise \$10,000. The work had to be done and the final cost was \$9315. We've raised just under \$4000. Good news here. The bats once living in the CMC building have other local homes.
- \* **Solar Array.** Our goal was \$52,000 for an 85 panel solar array on the south facing roof of the sanctuary. This would cover 1/3 of our electricity consumption. Factoring in maintenance, this array would save us about \$3,600/yr now and adjusting for inflation, would save approximately \$5,500/yr in 25 years. We've raised \$6250 so far and will receive offerings and pledges on Sunday, Sep 29th in order to move forward. Thanks to the Green Congregation committee, Voluntary Carbon Tax contributors as well as early donors, for a great beginning.
- \* **Voices Together.** We're ordering the new Mennonite hymnal to arrive in 2020 because the music will enrich our worship life. Even before we made a big announcement about this special offering a CMC household contributed beyond the goal of \$4000.



*This aerial photo shows which portion of the church's roof could host solar panels.*

Thank you! -Jennifer Davis Sensenig, on behalf of the Leadership Taskforce

## “Come and Be” at the Contemplative Service

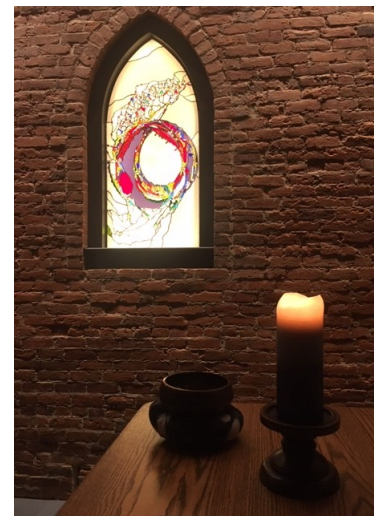
CMC's contemplative worship service continues to meet at 8 pm each Sunday evening. The number of participants has increased, as well as the energy. The consistent hope is to hold an open environment for participants to connect with the Spirit. We meet in a semi-circle of chairs in the fellowship hall in front of the stained glass window. Participants have commented they appreciate the outline of the service, the energy of the space and the connection to God. We begin with an opening candle lighting and bowl ringing in. The seven Rs become the outline for every service, but each piece is expressed differently week to week based on the theme.

- \* **Ritual** – We recognize the presence of God together.
- \* **Relating** – We attend to one another through invitation.
- \* **Receiving** – We attend to God through one of many contemplative practices.
- \* **Ruminating** – We listen for what is emerging within us and within this community.
- \* **Reflecting** – We listen for the invitation; what God is calling us to do.
- \* **Responding** – Out of listening, we move to action.
- \* **Returning**— We offer ourselves/our actions to God.

We close with the sending song, “Surely God is in this place”. Silence and space to be still are always included. Contemplative practices are embodied through a variety of experiences. Past services have involved deep breathing, journaling, art, walking and singing to name a few.

Come and be.

-Adam Yoder, on behalf of the contemplative service planning team



*CMCers gather for the contemplative service each Sunday at 8 pm.*



# What to Expect at Retreat

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RETREAT COMMITTEE:

- Intergenerational conversations facilitated by Sarah Bixler and her husband, Ben.
- Hands-on activities for CMC children & youth centered on Ecology and facilitated by CMCer scientists.
- A church-wide game, this year it's a giant Dutch Blitz tournament!
- Team trivia with music by a band of CMCers.
- Lots of coffee, made by our very own barefoot barista, Shelby Hertzler.
- A 10-second talent competition. Can you make the congregation say "Wow!" in 10 seconds or less?
- The great outdoors! Or mandala coloring and chit-chat if you prefer.
- A more horizontal camping area, you aren't rolling out of your tents. Or cabins that are not too rustic for the same price. Ask us about them!



*CMCers of all ages enjoy the church-wide game at the 2017 retreat.*

*To register for retreat, go to [cmcva.org](http://cmcva.org) or visit the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Sept. 15.*

*The deadline is 11:59 pm that night!*



## CMC NOW AND THEN

Just when you thought you'd seen everything - there's yet another photo collage of photographs and memories from the current worship series, "An Undivided Life," now up and running on the "CMC Today" bulletin board on the east wall of the fellowship hall. Check it out, then do the Cupid Shuffle to the left, to the left (I'm all a-quiver) and see a photo retrospective of our church retreat from ten years ago, 2009, on the "CMC Yesterday" bulletin board. The eyes have it . . . -Jim Bishop

*CMCers welcomed two Children to the congregation this summer. Olivier Yoder (top left), son of Belen & Philip, was dedicated on Jul. 28. Arthur Basil Wittmer (bottom left), son of Hannah & Micah was dedicated on Sept. 8.*

## CMC News & Announcements

**Kids' Club has started back up again for the fall/winter.** Use the link below to sign up to bring a simple meal to share with the kids! <https://takethemameal.com/ETAJ9251>

**All are invited to a drop-in baby shower celebrating Jessica Hostetler and Justin Roth** on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2-4 pm at [Westover Park \(Shelter 1\)](#). Find their registry at [babylist.com](#) by searching either of their names. -Katie Derstine

**Patchwork Pantry needs plastic grocery bags.** Please bring them to the CMC kitchen. Also, **Pantry needs help Wednesdays from 11 am - 1 pm** (approximately) unloading the food truck and setting up for Wed. night. One does need to be able to lift heavy boxes. -Jennifer Ulrich ([ulrichjm@comcast.net](mailto:ulrichjm@comcast.net))

**Items for the Kiddie Corner are being collected at the VMC offices on Parkwood Dr.** It's not too early to help out with the Relief Sale! Donations of books, toys, craft items, games and puzzles are appreciated to help children participate in the fund raising! I welcome help operating the stand during the sale. - Greta Kreider ([leinbach.kreider@gmail.com](mailto:leinbach.kreider@gmail.com))

**We could use a little help in the Church Office on a few fronts.** We're looking for a pool of volunteer receptionists to cover the office Wednesdays, someone to transport 10ish CMC sanctuary chairs to and from Grottos during daytime business hours, and someone who loves velcro and laminating to help us convert our CMC mailbox labels to a system that is easier to alphabetize. -Ben Bailey ([office@cmcva.org](mailto:office@cmcva.org))

## Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

**It is time for Community Preschool Mum fundraiser:** The sign up board is in the fellowship hall and orders are due by Sept. 18th. Church members can pick up the flowers on Sept. 26th anytime after 12:00 at CMC. Please pay for flowers when you sign up for them. Thank You!

**Join the Welcoming Harrisonburg Council and Reel Change Film Festival for a free viewing of Human Flow** on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 5:45 at Court Square Theater. The documentary film artfully captures how human lives and stories have been drastically altered by the need to migrate due to famine, climate change and war. Playback Theater will facilitate a short audience reflection following the film.

**The Institute for Reform & Solutions is hosting a conference titled Community Criminal Justice Days III.** The theme is "Breaking the Cycle." This year's event takes place at Eastern Mennonite University on Oct. 17-18, 2019. -Ruth Jost

**Receive a gift from IRS.** If you are over 70 1/2, take advantage of tax benefits of giving to our church or a charity out of your IRA-required minimum distributions. Learn more from our faith-based partner Everence at [everence.com/type-of-gifts](http://everence.com/type-of-gifts).

**Make Medicare an easy step.** Gain confidence and clarity about moving to Medicare with guidance from Everence, a faith-based organization that partners with our church. Attend educational workshops to learn your key steps to get Medicare, how to move from your current coverage, and enrollment details and deadlines. Visit [everence.com/easy-step](http://everence.com/easy-step).

## Need & Plenty

CMCers are seeking...

**...a car to borrow for a few weeks.** I introduced Sandra Reisinger on Sunday. A bit of back story; before arriving here she was in an accident and her car was totaled by the other driver. She has a car rental until September 6 and is in the process of looking for a replacement. This will take some time as the insurance remains a bit of a mystery. If there is anyone who can lend her a car for a few weeks until she finds a replacement it would be appreciated as she is also in the process of searching for work. Or, if anyone has a good lead on an economical used car, she would also appreciate being introduced to the seller and the car. Sandra can be reached at 814-258-2821. Thank you. -Andrea Wenger

**...a toddler or twin bed and dresser.** We're outfitting our guest/office/storage/music room for our growing family. - Ben & Hannah Bailey

CMCers are offering...

**...nothing right now.** Submit your things you have to share at [office@cmcva.org](mailto:office@cmcva.org). The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday, Sept. 27.

Submit listings at [office@cmcva.org](mailto: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!

## UPCOMING CMC EVENTS

Every Sunday	Congregational Worship Service, 9 am, Sanctuary Contemplative Worship Service, 8 pm, Fellowship Hall
Every Wednesday	Women's Bible Study, 8:30-9:45 am, Room 109, Childcare Available Kids' Club, 6pm, Basement
Sun, Sept. 15	Congregational Meeting, 11:45 am, Sanctuary Retreat Registration Deadline, 11:59 pm, <a href="http://cmcva.org">cmcva.org</a>
Fri-Sun, Sept. 20-22	CMC's Annual Retreat, Camp Brethren Woods
Mon, Sept. 23	CMC Seniors African American Museum Trip, Washington DC
Fri-Sat, Oct. 4-5	Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, Rockingham County Fair Grounds
Sun, Oct. 6	Monthly Potluck, after Sunday School, Fellowship Hall Small Group Information Meeting, during Potluck, Room 109
Sun, Nov. 24	Congregational Meeting, 11:45 am, Sanctuary

## PASTORAL TEAM, CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF

### PASTORAL TEAM

#### Lead Pastor

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

#### Pastoral Elders

Veva Mumaw  
Hannah Bailey, young-adult appointee

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Council Chair**, Aili Huber  
[councilchair@cmcva.org](mailto:councilchair@cmcva.org)

**Vice Chair**, Jeremy Nafziger  
[councilvicechair@cmcva.org](mailto:councilvicechair@cmcva.org)

**Administrative Chair**, Larry Miller  
[admincommission@cmcva.org](mailto:admincommission@cmcva.org)

**Community Life Chair**, Lonnie Yoder  
[communitylifecommission@cmcva.org](mailto:communitylifecommission@cmcva.org)

#### Associate Pastor

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

Mike Brislen

**Outreach Chair**, Dennis Showalter  
[outreachcommission@cmcva.org](mailto:outreachcommission@cmcva.org)

**Worship Chair**, Greg Yoder  
[worshipcommission@cmcva.org](mailto:worshipcommission@cmcva.org)

**Youth Chair**, Traci Yoder Stoltzfus  
[youthcommission@cmcva.org](mailto:youthcommission@cmcva.org)

**Member-at-Large**, Kathleen Leigh  
[councilmemberatlarge@cmcva.org](mailto: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 9am-4:30pm; Wed closed

**office@cmcva.org**, (540) 433-2148, [www.cmcva.org](http://www.cmcva.org)

### Giving Update

As of Sept. 12, 2019

Annual donation budget: \$510,640

YTD budget: \$353,520

YTD giving: \$314,385

YTD +/- budget: -\$39,135

### 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](http://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.*



## WILL YOU READ CMC'S NEWSLETTER ONLINE?

This newsletter will be distributed via email and CMC mailboxes every two weeks. **To opt out of receiving a hardcopy in your mailbox, please email [office@cmcva.org](mailto:office@cmcva.org) or write "opt-out" and your name on a copy of the newsletter and leave it on my desk in the church office. Please feel free to contribute content for our congregational newsletter.** Just shoot me an email with your idea or talk to me after church.

Thanks!

-Ben Bailey, Church Administrator