



## 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.



#### **SEPT. 29 — STRUGGLE MATTERS\***

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

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer; solar array special offering

#### **OCT. 6 — SPIRIT OF POWER, LOVE, & SELF-DISCIPLINE**

*II Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10*

World Communion Sunday; Sermon by Pastor Jennifer

#### **OCT. 13 — REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST**

*II Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19*

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer

#### **OCT. 20 — INTERRUPTING INJUSTICE**

*Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8*

CMC Biblical Storytellers

#### **OCT. 27 — MEETING GOD IN THE TEMPLE**

*II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14*

Sermon by Pastor

*\*last Sunday of our September Worship Series*

### A WORD FROM PASTORAL TEAM

The tradition of an all-church retreat is worth the effort! This year's theme, Exploring the Ecology of Faith Formation, was fitting for CMC. The opportunity for guided intergenerational conversations about faith will likely provoke more such conversations. Thanks to Jennifer Murch, who transcribed the faith formation questions we generated and discussed last Saturday, you can request these from the church office for use in your Sunday School class, family, small group, or committee.

Retreat resource leader Sara Bixler was joined by her husband, Ben, for some of the teaching and preaching. On Sunday they preached a sermon in two voices focusing on Hannah's vision for the Temple as a place of meeting and serving the God of justice. Hannah's contributions to her son Samuel's faith formation became a turning point in Israel's history, a prelude to the spiritual formation Mary provided to her son, Jesus. When you see members of the retreat committee, let them know your appreciation! They are: Shelby & Arwen Hertzler, Jonathan Murch, Linda Martin Burkholder, Heather Harris, and Ben & Hannah Bailey.

—Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig

# CMCers Gather and Vote to Leave VMC

On September 15, CMC members gathered for a meal and to make a decision about our affiliation with Virginia Mennonite Conference. After a review of the process timeline thus far, Rick Yoder, Nancy Heisey, Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Lonnie Yoder, and Ruth Jost—all of whom have been involved in this process or with VMC in recent years—shared prepared remarks on this decision. They presented a range of opinions, from conviction that we should leave VMC to deep ambivalence.

CMCers then engaged discussions at their tables on the question: "As we approach a vote, what are you thinking or feeling?" Facilitators from each table shared a summary of their table's discussion. Many members ex-

pressed sadness at being at this point in the journey, but there was a broad consensus that it is time to move away from VMC.

The final vote bore this out, with 143 members voting in favor of joining another conference, 17 voting to remain with VMC, and 7 abstaining. This process has been a challenging one; I appreciate the good faith with which everyone participated in it. It is my hope that CMC will continue to be a welcoming place for a diverse group of people.

*—Aili Huber on behalf of Church Council*

## The 50<sup>th</sup> Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale is Oct. 4-5

For more than 50 years the Virginia Mennonite Relief sale has raised money for the Mennonite Central Committee. MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches that share God's love for all in the name of Christ. MCC leads natural disaster relief efforts, community development, and peace work in more than 50 countries. Last year the sale raised more than \$350,000.

The relief sale offers a wide variety of foods, including baked goods, cheeses, meat, apple cider, apple butter, and produce that you can buy and consume later. The live and silent auctions offer a marvelous selection of quilts, woodwork, art, and other items. Visit [www.vareliefsale.com/auction](http://www.vareliefsale.com/auction) to see what is available this year. We are increasingly offering not just quilts and woodwork but also experiences. If you have enough quilts and woodwork, come to the auction anyway. If you can't find anything to buy or if you have money left over, please donate to SOS (sharing our surplus), which hopes to raise \$50,000 this year, or to My Coins Count.

All of the thousands of hours of work preparing for the sale are unpaid. CMC is one of the most active congregations supporting the sale. The Murch family leads in producing the sale's ever popular donuts. Adam Yoder runs the Indian food stand (with lamb donated by Matt and Sara Gingrich). Joe Yoder runs the hamburger and hot dog stand, staffed by our high and junior high MYF (This is Joe's last year. We need a replacement!) Sam Miller heads up the catfish fry.

Others contribute to the auction. Dorothy Jean Weaver usually donates a Middle Eastern dinner, Matt Gingrich is donating a bird walk, Carmen Wyse donates

feed sack baby quilts. The quilters donate quilts. Greg Yoder organizes music for the sale and will offer a Walking Roots concert in December. Marv Nisly and Timothy Jost serve on the board and Sam Miller is our congregational rep.

As always, we need lots of help setting up on Thursday and Friday and taking down on Saturday afternoon. We also desperately need baked goods. Some people who used to donate dozens of pies are no longer able to, and we need to fill in. Come October 4 and 5! For information about how to volunteer at the Relief Sale, turn to page 4.

*—Tim Jost, on behalf of outreach commission*



*Don't miss the donuts at the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, Oct. 4-5.*



# Blitz, Boating, and Baptism at Church Retreat

When we went to church retreat, I was very excited! Rebecca, Caroline, Jonathan, and I had to eat supper before we left because we left at 4 and they didn't serve supper on the first day. I brought my bike so I could ride around Brethren Woods. (That is where church retreat is.)

That night I got a cold from my friend Jedrek, and the next day was somewhat miserable. But I had fun at Ultimate Frisbee, Trivia, and Human Dutch Blitz.

During the Saturday morning session, the kids wrote questions about faith to the adults, and the adults wrote questions

about faith to the kids. My question was: Why is our church building so big? Does it have to be so big? Does God say it has to be so big?

On Sunday we had donuts for breakfast. Then I canoed on the lake with some of my friends, and I ferried some of them over to the fire circle. After that, we had church and Mira got baptized in the lake. Then we went home.

The end.

—Nicholas Murch





# Opportunities to Volunteer for the Relief Sale

**Contribute to the Kiddie Corner** — Items are being collected at the VMC offices on Parkwood Dr. Donations of books, toys, craft items, games, and puzzles are appreciated to help children participate in the fund raising! We also need volunteers to help operate the stand during the sale. Contact Greta Kreider.

**Seniors Potato Peeling** — Senior adults are invited to help peel potatoes before the relief sale from 1-6 pm at the CMC Kitchen. Contact Sharon & Dennis Showalter.

**Puerto Rican Pinchos Preparation** — Help needed in the morning on Thursday, Oct. 3 beginning around 8 am at the fairgrounds to help cut the chicken. Bring a cutting board and knife. Contact the Murches to sign up.

**Donuts** — Help needed on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 9 to help setup and Saturday, Oct. 5, from 12-2 to tear down. Contact Robert Showalter (robert@valmicro.com).

**Indian food** — Help needed for setup on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3 and 4. More help will be needed for take down on Saturday, Oct. 5. Contact Timothy Jost.

**Youth Hamburger & Hotdog Stand** — Middle school-aged JMYFers are invited to work the stand on Saturday from 10:30 am-12 pm. MYF High Schoolers will work the stand from 12-2 pm. Contact Pastor Jason.

**CMCers will also have the opportunity to sign up to help with relief sale after worship on Sunday, Sept. 29.**



## A Day Away for CMC's Staff Retreat

Our current CMC staff includes Church Administrator Ben Bailey, Pastors Jennifer and Jason, Custodians/Caretakers Craig Serrels and Kent Davis Sensenig, and Finance Administrator Delbert Wenger. Three of us work together from the church office and in the midst of various transitions we three decided to take a retreat day at the end of August. Thanks to Dan and Tina Beachy sharing their mountain cabin, we got out of the office to look at the big picture of our work together.

In the morning we reviewed CMC's Covenant Litany, which is usually in focus during our Covenant Renewal Sunday and as we receive new members. We were inspired by the many ways we see these intentions expressed in the lives of discipleship, worship, ministry, and love among individual CMCers and various CMC ministries. This congregational faith statement, our Covenant Litany, will be in focus on the November Sundays in our worship series, That reminds me... We also reviewed our own job descriptions and made observations that will help us adjust during this season of staff transition.

After lunch from A Bowl of Good, we invited David Brubaker from EMU to guide us in the Gilmore-Fraleigh workstyles assessment. We discussed how conditions of "calm" vs. "storm" affect each of us and how we can help bring out the best in each other as we work together. Periodic opportunities to gain perspective, ponder our work patterns, and clarify goals keep us in tune with God's call to CMC and our contributions as a team.

—Pastor Jennifer



CMC Pastors Jennifer and Jason (right & left) with Church Administrator Ben Bailey (center) at a staff retreat in August.

# CMC News & Announcements

**Our monthly potluck is Sunday, Oct. 6, after Sunday School.** Please bring food to share and your own plates, silverware, and cups as this saves time on clean up. We could use a little help with setup but mostly need help with cleanup including wiping off tables and putting them away, putting chairs away, and washing dishes. If you can help out, please contact Jennifer Ulrich.

**Are you interested in joining a small group?** Or just want to find out about what small groups and how they function at CMC? The Small Group Committee will host a small group information meeting during the Oct. 6 potluck. Get your food and then head to Room 109 where we'll eat and talk together. There will be an opportunity to form new small groups at that meeting, and we'll have information about which small groups have openings for new members.—Jan Jennifer, on behalf of small group committee

**Pastor Jennifer was on (another) retreat this week.** For the past year Pastor Jennifer has been part of a cohort of Anabaptist women who are lead pastors. The group convened last September in a face-to-face retreat and have since met monthly on zoom calls. The final gathering is also a retreat. This cohort and facilitation was made possible by a grant administered by former CMcer Brenda Martin Hurst.

**Mennonite Disaster Service needs volunteers to help with painting at the Clendenin project.** MDS will provide transportation, food, and lodging. Other projects on the horizon are trim, flooring installation, installing the kitchen cabinets. — Sam Miller

## Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

[Please click on this link to read the full petition calling upon the Harrisonburg City Council to act and create a low-barrier shelter for people without homes in Harrisonburg.](#) Hundreds of Harrisonburg residents have already signed this petition in its hard copy form which is being circulated by unsheltered residents of Harrisonburg and their community supporters. Adding your name to the list will help create the political will needed to persuade the City Council to act.

**MCC High School Essay and Video Contest** — Calling all high school students! MCC's annual essay contest is now open, and we have an exciting change to announce. In addition to essays, we are now accepting short (2-3 minute) videos as well. Prizes of \$750 will be awarded for the top essay and the top video. Students are invited to examine one of these three topics: climate change, gun violence, or immigration. The deadline for entering is Jan. 24, 2020, and winners will be announced in late March. For more information, visit [mcc.org/essay-contest](http://mcc.org/essay-contest).

**Gather on Indigenous Peoples' Day at EMU, Monday, Oct. 14, for a Ted & Company TheaterWorks production of We Own This Now** starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne. General admission for the 7:30 p.m. performance is a suggested donation of \$10-\$20 cash at the door. The EMU University Commons Mainstage Theater doors open at 7 p.m.

**Registration is now open for the "E3 Collective: Nazareth and Bethlehem,"** May 8-25, 2020. This trip will focus on varied work projects at Nazareth Village, Nazareth, Israel, and at Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem, Palestine. The trip will be co-led by Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor Emerita of New Testament, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and Craig Maven, Lead Pastor, Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. For more information and/or a brochure, please contact Dorothy Jean at (540) 432-4276 (o) or at (540) 433-3336 (h).

## Need & Plenty

**CMCers are seeking...**

**... a no longer used wooden playhouse** that is taking up space in your yard. Our son, Luke, has been drawing up plans for an elaborate outdoor play space and we would love to find something to repurpose. —Jesse & Maria Rodriguez

**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, Oct. 11.

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
Thurs, Oct. 2	CMC Seniors Potato Peeling for Relief Sale, 1-6 pm, Kitchen
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
Tues, Oct. 15	Monthly Gathering, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sun, Nov. 24	Congregational Meeting, 11:45 am, Sanctuary
Tues, Dec. 10	CMC Seniors Christmas Potluck, TBD, Fellowship Hall

## 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  
Hannah Bailey, young-adult appointee

Mike Brislen

### 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 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. 18, 2019

Annual donation budget: \$510,640

YTD budget: \$363,340

YTD giving: \$324,041

YTD +/- budget: \$363,340

### 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.**



### October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

It's almost October—time to get out your sweaters, warm up some apple cider, and write a note to your pastors about how much they rock! This year, we would like to encourage CMCers to celebrate our pastors with a card shower. Please find some time during October to thank Jennifer and Jason for some specific way they have encouraged you this year.

-Aili Huber, Church Council chair