



### A WORD FROM PASTOR BYRON

*Lent is one of the oldest observations in the Christian calendar. It can be viewed as preparation for the resurrection life of Easter, as a period of repentance, a calling to turn again to God, and the taking on of specific disciplines for the six and a half weeks before Easter. Our Lenten Devotional provides daily scripture readings with reflections written by members of Raleigh Mennonite Church, Shalom Mennonite Church, Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship and Community Mennonite Church. You are invited to spend some time this year reading and reflecting on these meditations. You can [sign up for receiving the scripture and reflection each day electronically in your inbox here](#), or you can ask for a printed copy. How might you enter more intentionally into the period of Lent?*  
—Pastor Byron Peachey

## Behold, I Send An Angel...

### Our February Worship Series

#### **FEBRUARY 23—TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

*Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9*

Faith in Action

#### **FEBRUARY 26—ASH WEDNESDAY**

As Community Mennonite Church we gather at 8 pm that evening for a contemplative service of scripture, song, and prayer. We also offer an anointing of ashes in the sign of the cross as we remember that we are dust and follow Christ toward the cross and beyond. Everyone is welcome.

## Show us

### Our Lenten Worship Series

#### **MARCH 1**

*Genesis 2:15-17, Matthew 4:1-11*

Sermon by Pastor Byron Peachey; Lords Supper

#### **MARCH 8**

*Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17*

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig; conference affiliation ritual

#### **MARCH 15**

*Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42*

Sermon by Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig

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# Contemplative Service Moves to 7 pm on Sundays

The contemplative worship service planning group would like to thank all who responded to our survey regarding the start time of our evening service. Based on the results we will be transitioning the start time of the service from 8 pm to the new time of 7 pm beginning Sunday, Mar. 1. This coincides with the 1 year anniversary of the service and the beginning of Lent.

We invite you to join us at our new time whether it will be your first time or your 50th. Perhaps this is an opportunity to embark on a new or renewed spiritual discipline during the season of Lent. We seek to hold an open space for anyone to come and be present to God with others who seek to be present.

We have also heard that during the summer months a later start time is

*“Perhaps this is an opportunity to embark on a new or renewed spiritual discipline during the season of Lent.”*

appreciated so we will switch the start time later when the morning worship time is also changed in June.

—Adam Yoder, *Contemplative Service Task Force Chair*

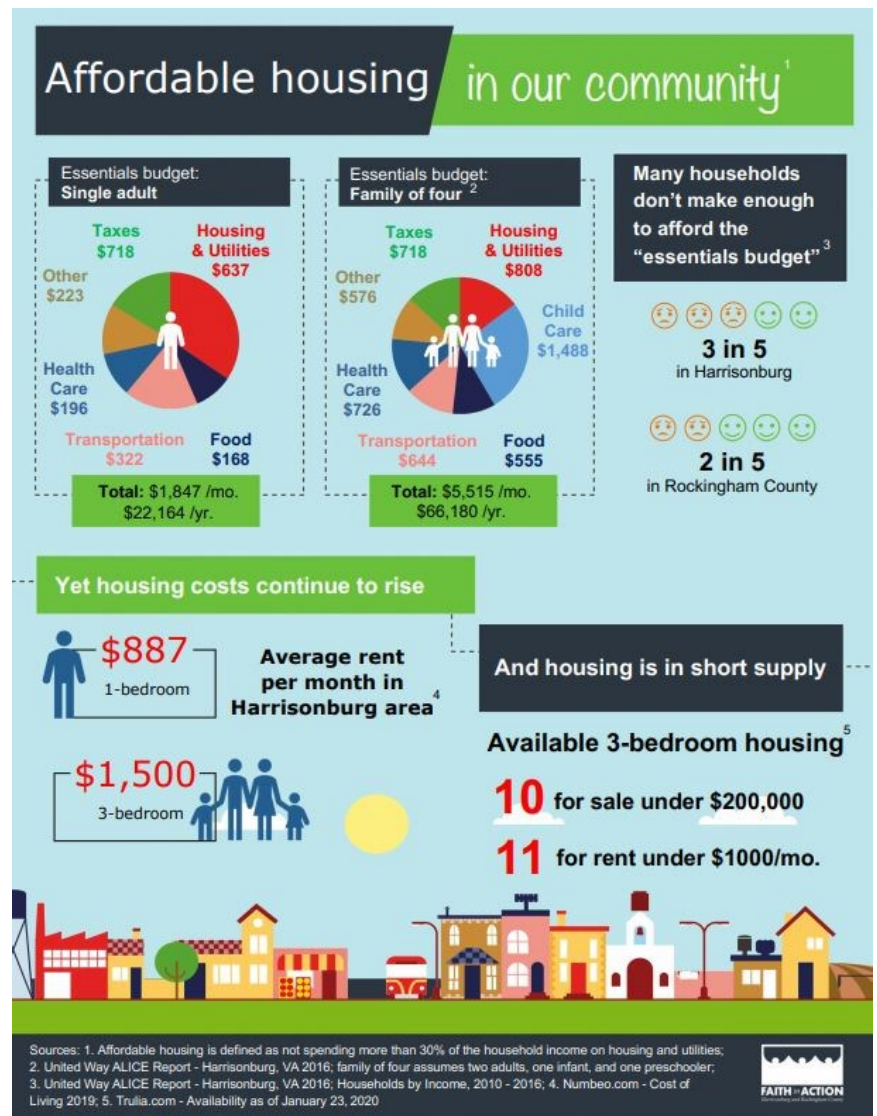
# FiA Announces Affordable Housing Campaign “Asks”

Last fall, Faith in Action, an ecumenical community organizing group of which CMC is a member, announced that their next campaign is aimed at making housing more affordable for working people in Harrisonburg. After gathering information from numerous stakeholders, FiA has decided to make the following asks of our community leaders:

1. The City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County jointly fund and administer an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The purpose of this Fund would be to encourage the preservation of existing affordable housing and creation of new affordable housing for households at 80% of area median income and below.
2. An appropriation of at least \$750,000 annually each from City and County to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
3. A Housing Advisory Committee be established comprised of both City and County staff as well as several community members from the population served, builders, realtors, service providers, and other members at-large, ensuring racial and economic equity to advise on both the inflow and outflow of Affordable Housing Trust funds.

For more information about Faith in Action, connect with one of CMC’s congregational representatives, Kent Davis Sensening, Brian Martin Burkholder, Aliese Gingerich, and Ben Bailey.

—Ben Bailey & Hadley Jenner, on behalf of CMC’s Faith in Action representatives



# The Hate U Give Kicks Off Anti-Oppression Film Series



Community  
Mennonite  
Church

70 S. High St.  
Harrisonburg  
540-433-4128

Film and  
Discussion

Friday, Feb 28  
6:30 p.m.

Movie runs 132 minutes;  
discussion following

*The Hate U Give* will be the first of several movies sponsored by the Anti-oppression Task Force to be shown at Community Mennonite. It presents the powerful story of a young black woman, Starr, who lives with her family in a black community but attends a more exclusive school in a white neighborhood.

Starr finds herself caught between two worlds, not sure sometimes in which she belongs, but after witnessing the shooting of her life-long friend, clarity slowly emerges and she understands

herself, and her power, in new ways.

The CMC Anti-oppression Task Force is launching a film & discussion series over the next several months to help people look more deeply at racism, privilege, racialized structures, etc. Plan to see the film and engage in the discussion following.

The movie is just over two hours in length and is rated PG-13.

—Linda Martin Burkholder, on behalf of the Anti-Oppression Task Force Films Committee

## APPLY NOW FOR CMC'S MENNONITE EDUCATION GRANTS

Attention parents of EMS students or Mennonite college/university students: It's time to fill out the application for Community Mennonite Church's matching grants for the 2020-2021 school year. CMC provides \$2000 each year (\$1000 per semester) to qualified students who attend a Mennonite Church college or university. In addition, CMC provides financial aid to EMS students who qualify. In order to be considered for this financial aid, please fill out the applicable form on the CMC website or click on the link below. Applications must be submitted no later than March 15, 2020.

[Click here to apply for a Mennonite higher ed grant.](#)

[Click here to apply for Eastern an Mennonite School grant.](#)

If you have questions about qualifications, please visit CMC's website or send an email to Shannon Sneary Alabanza.



## Enter Lent—Through Fat Tue & Ash Wed!

Celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) the last day before Lent begins on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 pm. We'll gather in the fellowship hall for donuts (!) and read straight through the Gospel of Matthew. Our Ash Wednesday service of prayer, scripture and songs begins with receiving ashes at 8 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the sanctuary. (Wednesday is always Patchwork Pantry, so please take note of the last of the grocery carts in the parking lot.)

—Pastor Jennifer, on behalf of Worship Commission





# SPRING 2020 ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Ed classes meet most Sundays from 10:30—11:30 am. Our new quarter begins Sunday, March 1st.

## **On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, & Growing Old**

*"WE GROW OLD AND DIE IN THE SAME WAY WE'VE LIVED OUR LIVES. THAT'S WHY THIS BOOK IS NOT ABOUT GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY. MY LIFE HAS BEEN GRACED, BUT IT CERTAINLY HASN'T BEEN GRACEFUL, I'VE DONE MORE THAN MY SHARE OF FALLING DOWN, GETTING UP, AND FALLING DOWN AGAIN. THE FALLING DOWN IS DUE TO MISSTEPS AND GRAVITY. THE GETTING UP IS DUE TO GRACE, MEDIATED BY PEOPLE TO WHOM I OWE GREAT DEBTS OF GRATITUDE." -PARKER PALMER*

If you are getting older (about to hit 30, 40, 80?!) and want to reflect together on what that means as people of faith, this class is for you! Using Quaker spiritual writer, teacher, and activist Parker Palmer's latest book (2018) as a springboard, each week we will hear from different elders among us about what they've learned along the way, the good, the bad, and even the ugly.

*FACILITATORS: KEITH GNAGEY, KENT DAVIS SENSENIG*

*LOCATION: CHURCH 203*

## **Revealing Revelation**

To many Christians, the book of Revelation is an incomprehensible book full of violence, so it's best to stay away from it. Others use parts of Revelation selectively to predict when they think the end of the world will come. Instead, Revelation is a special kind of literature called apocalyptic, which presents a timeless struggle between good and evil. It is full of symbols from the first century, as well as majestic hymns to Christ as the Lamb of God. Reta Finger will lead our discussion, using online lessons she wrote. No book to buy!

*FACILITATOR: RETA FINGER*

*LOCATION: CHURCH 109*

## **Racial Equity and the Church Book Discussions**

This class will be one way to continue the conversation on racial equity that began with our Adult Ed series last year and that continued with our monthly potlucks in the fall. Instead of a survey course, we will host facilitated conversations on two books guided the big question: what can we learn together about the work to dismantle racism in ourselves, in our congregation, and in our community? For the first half of the course we will read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo; for the second half we will read *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram Kendi. With this format, folks are welcome to join either or both book discussions.

*FACILITATORS: TIM SEIDEL, MIKE BRISLEN, KIM COPELAND, JENNIFER DAVIS SENSENIG*

*LOCATION: DEAN HOUSE 3*

## **The Donut Group**

Whatever men want to gather together in the prayer room up by the bell tower during the Sunday school hour. There is no agenda and sometimes it gets serious when we share problems we are having; everything is confidential that it said in the group. There are no longer doughnuts involved but the name is to show the casualness of the group.

*FACILITATOR: TOM SAWIN*

*LOCATION: BELL TOWER PRAYER ROOM*

## **Quilting & Conversation**

Quilting and conversation class- The group works on small quilts or wall hangings usually to be given to the Virginia Menonite Relief Sale in early October. Come quilt with us or sit with us and have a conversation. All are invited.

*FACILITATOR: MARTHAJUNE GRABER*

*LOCATION: COAT ROOM*

# CMC News & Announcements

## **Dan and Hannah Hall and big sister, Lily, are preparing to welcome not one, but two babies in mid April!**

Their small group is hosting a "babies shower" this upcoming Saturday, Feb. 22, in the fellowship hall between 10 and 11:30 am. Drop by for some brunch type foods, join the celebration and sign up for practical ways you might help in the months after this family expands. Gifts are welcome, both new and used. Andrea Wenger has details, which are also shared on the CMC Women's Facebook page.

**Potluck is Mar. 1 after Sunday School.** Please bring food to share and plates, cups and silverware as this saves time with clean up. We could use 3 or 4 people to help with washing and drying dishes as we clean up. Please consider helping with this or putting tables and chairs away. Hospitality Committee is very grateful for the help from the young people in Joe and Mim Yoder's Sunday School classes who help with set up each month. —Jennifer Ulrich, on behalf of Hospitality Committee

**Receive the Lent Devotional in your Inbox**—Each year CMC jointly produces a Lent Devotional with contributions from CMC, Shalom Mennonite Congregation, Raleigh Mennonite Church and Chapel Hill Mennonite Church. To receive the devotional each day during Lent, [click here](#).

**EnLIGHTening EXPERIENCE** —A double-poster photo review of our January worship services on the theme, "Light for the World," is shining brightly for one more week on the "CMC: Today" bulletin board on the east wall of the fellowship hall. To its left, courtesy of Mr. Peabody's Wayback Machine, a pictorial collage of March-April 2013 activities and a photo display on the worship theme, "Journey With Jesus" from Jan.-Feb., 2017, both on the "CMC: Yesterday" bulletin board. Enjoy, noch einmal. Danke schon! —Jim Bischoff

## Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

**Eastern Mennonite Middle and High School Visitation Day is Mar. 27.** Shadow To register or ask questions call (540) 236-6021 or email [admissions@easternmennonite.org](mailto:admissions@easternmennonite.org). Morning drop in times are 7:30 to 9 am on Mar. 10, Apr. 15, and May 6.

## Need & Plenty

### CMCERS ARE SEEKING ...

#### **...a small apartment without stairs.**

Veronica Nywalla is seeking to move from her current home to a rental. She would like a new place within the next 1-3 months. If you know of a place that might be available for her to rent in the near future, please let her know, or you can also communicate with Esther Stenson or Pastor Byron.

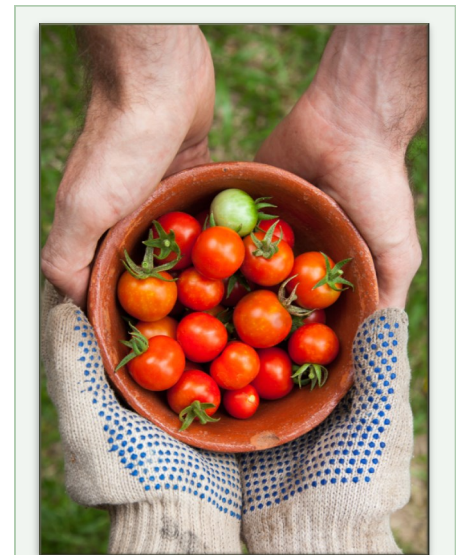
**...a babysitter in Harrisonburg that can start in either late March or early April.** Exact dates are yet to be determined. It would be three to four days a week for about 7 hours. Drop off times in the morning would vary, but it would be until about 4 in the afternoon. We would also like someone who has had experience watching children and is CPR certified. Please contact Zach and Juni Sauder

Thanks for helping us out. We appreciate it. If anyone is interested they can either email me or Juni at [junimaria.schirch@gmail.com](mailto:junimaria.schirch@gmail.com).

**...childcare workers.** Several seminary students who have infants and young children are wondering whether it would be possible to have a list of on-call childcare folks who could help out at the seminary on long class days, primarily Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please contact Nancy Heisey.

### CMCERS ARE OFFERING...

**...nothing right now.** CMCers may submit things they have to share for free or at a significant discount to [office@cmcva.org](mailto:office@cmcva.org). The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday, Mar. 6, 2020.



*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 Contemplative Worship Service, 8 pm, Fellowship Hall Women's Bible Study, 8:30-9:45 am, CH 109 Kids' Club, 6 pm, Basement
Every Wednesday 1st & 3rd Wednesday	Mardi Gras Gospel reading & donuts, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday Service, 8pm, Sanctuary
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Anti-Oppression Film Series, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
Friday, Feb. 28	Spring Adult Ed. quarter begins, 10:30 am, various locations
Sunday, Mar. 1	Monthly Potluck, 11:45 am, Fellowship Hall Group prayer circle, 11:45 am-12:00 pm, prayer alcove Monthly Gathering, 6-8 pm; Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Mar. 17	Easter Breads, 8:30 am, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Apr. 12	Easter Worship, 10:00 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  
(540) 560-5126

**Interim Pastor,** Byron Peachey  
Mon. 9-1, Wed. 11-4, Thur. 11-3  
byron.peachey@cmcva.org  
(540) 209-2423

### Pastoral Elders

Jennifer North Bauman  
Linda Gnagey  
Keaton Shenk

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

Brian Martin Burkholder  
Veva Mumaw  
Leah Wenger, young adult appointee

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Council Chair,** Jeremy Nafziger  
councilchair@cmcva.org

**Vice-Chair,** Sue Swartz  
councilvicechair@cmcva.org

**Administrative Chair,** Heidi Derstine  
admincommission@cmcva.org

**Community Life Chair,** Lonnie Yoder  
communitylifecommission@cmcva.org

**Outreach Chair,** Jeff Mumaw  
outreachcommission@cmcva.org

**Worship Chair,** Shirley Showalter  
worshipcommission@cmcva.org

**Youth Chair,** Traci Yoder Stoltzfus  
youthcommission@cmcva.org

**Member-at-Large,** Jonathan Murch  
councilmemberatlarge@cmcva.org

### CHURCH STAFF

**Church Administrator,** Ben Bailey  
Mon, Tues, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm

**Finance Administrator,** Delbert Wenger

**Temporary Administrator,** John Leonard  
Wed 12:30-4:00 pm, Thurs 9 am-4 pm

**Custodians,** Kent Davis Sensenig,  
Craig Serrels

### Community Mennonite Church

70 South High St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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

### GIVING UPDATE

<b>2020 Donations</b>	
YTD: \$80,379.65	
Week (02/10-02/16):	\$19,376
Week (02/03-02/09):	\$6,798
Week (01/27-02/02):	\$12,831
Week (01/20-01/26):	\$16,042
Week (01/13-01/19):	\$4,445
Week (01/06-01/12):	\$6,731
Week (01/01-01/05):	\$14,156

### 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 "Give" on the top right corner of our website, 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.*

