



Show us

Our Lenten Worship Series

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

MARCH 17—MONTHLY GATHERING

Our monthly taco buffet will be served at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At 7 pm, CM Cer Elaine Zook Barge will be addressing the Trauma of Migration (see page 2). All are welcome!

MARCH 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

Biblical storytelling; parent-child dedication; compassion fund special offering



A WORD FROM PASTOR JENNIFER

During the season of Lent—40 days of preparation before the festive Easter season—we take up disciplines that draw us nearer to Christ in our daily lives. We also clear away some of the accumulated clutter and distraction that prevent us from experiencing what God would show us. Our 40 day season reflects Jesus' 40 day wilderness experience of testing and revelation. During Lent we want Jesus to show us who he is--in scripture and in our local community today. We also long for the Divine One to show us who we are. Haven't we, like Nicodemus, hidden ourselves behind our reputation or, like the Samaritan woman, suffered others' condemnation? Show us who You are. Show us who we truly are.

—Pastor Jennifer

PRAYER

- * For adult education classes focused on scripture, anti-racism and aging.
- * For CMC's Bible Quiz Team competing in PA on March 14-15.

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Delegates Head to Allegheny Mennonite Conference Meeting

CMC is now part of Allegheny Mennonite Conference. AMC voted in January that our membership would take effect when documents regarding our release from Virginia Mennonite Conference were received. That release occurred at the VMC delegate session on Feb. 1, and AMC received official notification of it on Feb. 19.

We look forward to finding our place in AMC and to learning to know its members and congregations.

CMC will send delegates to our first AMC meeting on March 7 in Hyattsville, Maryland. In addition to Pastor Jennifer and Pastor Jason, Gifts Discernment has chosen five congregational delegates: Alden Hostetter, Anna Showalter Hess, Angie Clemens, Heidi Derstine, and Jennifer North Bauman.

Any speculation that the committee chose mostly delegates whose names

start with A, for AMC, would be wildly irresponsible. These are wonderful people who will represent CMC well.

These delegates, and a change to our bylaws to update our conference affiliation, require congregational approval. We held a vote following worship on March 1. Both ballot initiatives were approved unanimously with the delegates candidates receiving 117 affirming votes and the bylaws change re-

ceiving 106 affirming votes.

Normally changes to the bylaws entail 30 days' notice to the congregation. This is a purely editorial change for accuracy and to finalize a decision made several months ago following long discussions. As council chair, I'm considering the 30-days condition met by virtue of those several votes and meetings.

—Jeremy Nafziger, CMC council chair



March Monthly Gathering: Addressing the Trauma of Migration

After two recent trips to the southern border (Texas/Arizona/Mexico) and hearing the stories of migrants, lawyers, service providers and border patrol, it was clear that the migration journey is full of trauma-producing events - leaving home, the journey itself and arrival in a new place.

Migration into the US has become more complicated and criminalized the past 3 years. A 'wall' has literally been created

by the Migration Protection Protocols (MPP), more commonly known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy. I will be sharing some learnings and stories from the people and places visited on the trips and some ideas for addressing the trauma of migration locally and on the border.

—Elena Zook Barge



A tent city at the Texas border in Matamoros (above); the border wall in Arizona (far left); a cemetery in the Arizona border town of Agua Prieta (left)

Ecumenical Earth Day Celebration Set For Apr. 19

CMC is participating in an ecumenical Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, April 19th at 10am at Turner Pavilion. The creation care theme will be fitting for the weekend the broader community is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and drawing attention to the climate crisis.

CMC will cancel our regular worship service, Sunday School and adult ed

...gathering for worship downtown will be a great opportunity for public Christian witness that our faith speaks to the issue of climate crisis...

for that morning. The planning team believes the public witness of canceling our regular morning services and

gathering for worship downtown will be a great opportunity for public Christian witness that our faith speaks to the issue of climate crisis and Christians have a role to play in healing our relationship with the earth. Please plan to attend this special service.

—Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig, on behalf of Worship Commission

Congregational Life Recap

Worship for the month of January and February focused on the themes, “Light for the World,” and “Behold, I Send an Angel,” respectively, built upon the theme verse that will guide the congregation for this year – “Behold, I send an angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared” (Ex. 23:20).

The church ‘celebrated’ Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 26, by serving donuts (‘fastnachts’) and reading through the Gospel of Matthew. An Ash Wednesday service, Feb. 27, included music, scripture readings, prayer and anointing ashes in the sign of the cross on persons’ foreheads.

Again this year the church prepared a devotional guide for the 40 days of Lent – from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday – written by persons from CMC, Shalom Mennonite Congregation of Harrisonburg, Raleigh (NC) Mennonite Church and Chapel Hill (NC) Mennonite Fellowship.

A contemplative worship service held Sunday evenings at CMC marked its first anniversary the end of February with a strong vote from the congregation to continue, but with an earlier 7 pm start time. The approximately one-hour service, held in the Fellowship Hall, provides time for silent reflection

and invites participants to “deepen our everyday connection to God, ourselves and the larger community through healing, action and contemplation for the sake of the world,” according to Adam Yoder, who initiated and gives leadership to the service.

CMC ended its 2019 fiscal year Dec. 31 with \$510,640 in contributions to the operating fund and a \$5,000 surplus, thanks to some less than anticipated expenses. CMC’s non-budgeted giving totaled \$79,636 with funds going toward a Mennonite Disaster Service housing project in West Virginia, piano replacement, a solar array for the church roof, Jay and Sheri Hartzler’s ministry in Romania, the anticipated new church hymnals and other projects.

Approximately 50 volunteers from CMC took part in the “Open Doors” ecumenical homeless shelter program Feb. 10-17 at Asbury United Methodist Church, downtown Harrisonburg. Open Doors hosted between 43 and 52 guests per night, each was served hot evening meals and breakfast with most sleeping overnight at the church; several CMC persons also stayed overnight with the clients. Minor medical attention and help with finding jobs and other needs were also offered during the week. (continues on next page)

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Jim & Kathy Yoder and Tom & Ruby Sawin were CMC’s Open Doors representatives. “The week went extremely well,” Jim Yoder said. “We’re grateful to partner with Asbury Church to staff a week of the shelter each year,” adding: “The need for affordable housing is great in Harrisonburg, and shelters like Open Doors can at least address the immediate needs of community members until longer term solutions can be found.”

A parent-child dedication was held Jan. 19 for Sophia Sauder, daughter of Zach and Juni Sauder, and Lydia Gingerich, daughter of Matt and Sara Hershberger Gingerich.

—Jim Bishop; this article was also published in the Mennonite World Review



Photo of CMCers in Worship by Jim Bishop

Young Adult Care Boxes

Every year, in the Spring, CMC sends care boxes to all young adults for the first 5 years after HS. We have 32 YAs this year. CMCers bring some things to send to them to let them know they are in our prayers and thoughts during this important time of decisions in their life. Items could include: candy, snacks, school supplies, encouraging notes, funny cards, etc! This year I have purchased \$1 plastic boxes. Parents, if you think your child would also like the box to use, send/give the whole thing to them. If not, transfer the items and bring the box back to church and I will reuse it next year! We will be collecting items on: Sundays Mar. 8, 15, 22. You can find updates from each of our young adults below. Thanks so much! —*Sheri Smucker*

Zach Bauman (2019) I am currently in my first year at Goshen College, playing soccer and singing in the men's choir. I am studying Environmental Science with a track in Ecology.

Lydia Beachy (2015) is currently in a year-long voluntary service assignment with Good Shepherd Volunteers, a Catholic service program. She lives in an apartment in Manhattan with other volunteers, and works in family foster care in the Bronx. Her term will be finished in July. Lydia is hoping to find a job in social work for the fall, and is especially interested in relocating to Richmond. Please pray for clarity about the next steps.

David Bude (2017) lives in Harrisonburg and is working at Wendy's. He hopes to start a new job at Massanutten in March. Veronica requests your prayers for this new job.

Lena Clemens (2017) After finishing the GRAD program at Blue Ridge last spring, Lena has been working part time at Cuban Burger and volunteering at BookSavers. She enjoys both of these jobs very much and is looking for additional work similar to what she is doing for some daytime work hours.

Renee Flory (2019) I'm currently studying Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, taking courses on a variety of humanities-based subjects. I would appreciate prayers as I balance academics, work, and personal goals in this challenging (but rewarding!) environment. Thank you!

Christian Gehman (2016) is a senior at Goshen College majoring in environmental science. He is hoping to work for the college this summer before hopefully joining an Americorp crew working on Appalachian trail maintenance.

Nathan Gehman (2018) is a freshman at Albright college in Reading PA majoring in computer science. He is enjoying being part of the esports team for the college.

Megan Good (2016) is in her last semester at EMU, studying writing. She is heavily involved with the student-run club The Sustainable Food Initiative, and has the joy this semester of taking voice lessons. Next year is still a big question mark for her, but she is looking forward to doing something new.

Kerinna Good (2019) I'm studying at Deep Springs College in eastern California. So far, I've taken classes on a range of topics from Platonic dialogues, Homer's poetry, history of agriculture, horsemanship, and local flora of the Deep Springs Valley. I would appreciate prayers for peace of mind and soul as I continue living and learning in this challenging environment

Lydia Heishman (2015) is in Philadelphia in Americorp. She is working in a school by building community networks that will support the school. Please pray for her as she considers the next steps. Americorp for another year, or something else.

Oliver Hertzler (2019) is currently living at home and working for Joe Yoder, learning a lot about politics while doing various renovation and construction projects. He plans to attend EMU in the fall; his major is undecided at this point.

Izzy Howard (2015) is in her last semester at Trinity College Dublin finishing her undergraduate dissertation. She finishes coursework in May, receives her degree in late Oct/early Nov (they are Irish and don't plan these things far in advance!), and plans to work for a year before entering a graduate program. She is considering several schools for grad work in both Ireland and the US. She asks for prayers for guidance, for openness, and for listening as she determines her next steps.

Eliza Johnson (2019) I am studying dance and visual art while also trying to learn more about the world. I would ask for prayers for my friends who have had a difficult time with the college transition or who have been dealing with unforeseen misfortune with their families back home.

Ryo Mazareigos (2016) It's my senior year at EMU and my major is psychology with a leadership minor. I want to do equine therapy as well as be a behavioral specialist in the school systems. Right now I am doing an internship at Cross Keys Equine Therapy and am loving it! They have asked me if I wanted to be an equine specialist for them after graduation and I have started training for that.

Maarten McDonald (2017) is currently at home working at Food Lion and figuring out life :-)

Elsje McDonald (2018) I am currently in the first year of the veterinary technology program at Blue Ridge Community College. This summer I will be doing an internship at a local animal hospital before heading back to school in the fall.

Adam Moyer (2016) I'm nearing the end of my four years at EMU. I came here as a Nursing major before switching to PreK-12 Spanish Education for three semesters. Now, I'm getting ready to walk the stage with a major in Spanish and minors in Journalism and Political Studies. I currently serve as Managing Editor for EMU's student newspaper and I serve as president of EMU's Young Democrats club, a student group that has helped register hundreds of voters and has promoted political action, awareness and discourse since its founding in 2018. I'm grateful for four incredible years at EMU that have challenged me and have helped shape me into the person I am today. Looking forward, my plan is to move to Washington, D.C. for at least six months, starting in July. I'm hoping to find a position on a presidential or congressional campaign, or a position with an environmental, immigration, or human rights NGO. I ask for your prayers and support as I finish out my final semester at EMU and prepare for a new phase of life in D.C. I'm currently looking with three others for a 2-room apartment in D.C. Please reach me if you have recommendations for jobs or affordable housing in D.C. Thank you all.

Rebecca Murch (2019) studies part time at Blue Ridge Community College and is the animal caretaker for Camp Still Meadows. During her free time she trains her mini pony, takes care of the animals at home, and daydreams about going to Europe to study dressage.

Jonathan Murch (2018) is currently neck deep in Eastern Mennonite University's nursing program. He spends most weekdays and evenings studying, and on the weekend he studies some more. It's a good thing he's loving the program. When he's not studying, he is singing and playing guitar, snowboarding at Massanutten, volunteering at the Singers Glen Rescue Squad, playing ultimate frisbee, hanging with friends, and thinking about studying. After graduating, Jonathan plans to spend several years in general nursing practice and then return to school to become a midwife. Prayers, treats, and check-ins are always welcomed and appreciated.

Eli Nafziger (2018) is in his second year at the College of William and Mary. He stayed in Williamsburg last summer to work on a synthetic biology research program, and is majoring in biology. He recently got to move to a nicer dorm room when his original room flooded due to a burst pipe.

Gussie Nafziger (2019) is a first-year student at Goshen College. She sings in Chamber Singers and Voices of the Earth, and is a music major with a writing minor.

Cora Metzler Sawin (2018) is a sophomore at EMU studying psychology with minors in Neuroscience and Biology. While school keeps her plenty busy, she often enjoys running and spending time with friends. Recently, she's also been getting into caring for plants to brighten her dorm room. That being said, she seems to be very bad at it. Thank you all for your contributions. I think I can speak for all students when I say it's deeply appreciated.

Adrian Shank Zehr (2016) enjoys interacting with customers and working with friends at A Bowl of Good cafe. They continue to volunteer as an intern with Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir and love being in a musical environment with children. Adrian shares an apartment with friends and plans to continue in all the same things during the coming year.

Noah Siderhurst (2029) I am currently studying at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. I'm a first-year this year, but I hope to declare a major in economics next year.

Olivia Smucker (2016) As graduation quickly approaches, Olivia is soaking up the last months of school by doing the things she likes best. She is involved in multiple theater productions, including Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" and directing a short bilingual play as part of a friend's senior project. She continues to be the arts page editor for the school paper, a member of the Voices of the Earth choir and spends as much time as possible with friends and roommates. Next year she will be taking a gap year with The Shalom Project in Lancaster, PA. Prayers are appreciated for managing final projects, transitioning into the next stage of life and maintaining strong relationships with friends and family.

Justus Sneary (2018) is finishing his second year at Hesston and has plans to transfer to a four year college or university in the fall. He is interested in the field of computer science. At Hesston he has made many interesting connections with people from various parts of the world, but he is getting weary of the cold winters and hopes to be at a school with a milder climate next year!

Ariel Vogel (2015) graduated from University of Richmond last May and works at Savage Apparel, a niche sportswear company in Richmond.

Corin Vogel (2018) is in his first year studying Political Science at Virginia Commonwealth U in Richmond. He enjoys living near his sister Ariel.

Robin Vogel (2019) is in her first year at Albright College in Reading, PA, as yet undeclared but active in theater and exploring a range of subjects.

Leah Wenger (2016) I am currently a Senior at EMU majoring in Psychology and Vocal Performance. I am enjoying plenty of involvements on campus and in the community these days, including conducting research, singing in choirs, serving on CMC's Pastoral Team, working internships at the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir and the HRC SB Summit House, and various roles that come along with being a Co-President of the Student Government Association. This past fall I played my last soccer season as EMU's goalkeeper, and ended the season with a .824 save percentage, the highest in my four years. I will be returning to EMU for one last semester this coming fall and plan to finish in December. As I look towards the future, I ask prayers for guidance and discernment as I determine my next steps. I hope to continue following my passions for music, people, and exploring the world around me, wherever they might lead.

Theo Yoder (2018) I am at EMU double majoring in biology on the pre med track and digital media and communications. I am volunteering as an EMT at Singers Glen Rescue Squad. I was also recently accepted for a research trip to Australia for 2 months (June-August) and am looking for thoughts and prayers as I travel.

Tobias Yoder (2019) is at Hesston College and majoring in aviation. He gathered friends to start playing ultimate frisbee and it's a favorite pastime activity.

Our Mission: Pleasant View supports individuals who have disabilities in living out their goals for meaningful work, relationships, and spiritual development.



In living out our mission, Pleasant View began supporting the formation of the Shenandoah Valley Faith and Light Communities in September 2000. *Each community "is made up of persons with an intellectual disability, their families and friends, particularly young friends, who meet together on a regular basis in a Christian spirit, to share friendship, pray together, fiesta and celebrate life."*
faithandlight.org

At each faith and light service, attendees are invited to share their joys and concerns. After each **joy** we all say and sign, "Lord, hear our **praise**."



After each **concern**, we all say and sign, "Lord, hear our **prayers**."

We invite you to try this one Sunday and lift up each other's joys and concerns in a new way.



Contact Pleasant View, Inc. for ideas for ways you can support Individuals with disabilities at your church and in the community. Dave Gullman 540-433-8960
www.pleasantviewinc.org



CMCERS RECIEVE DISCOUNTS AT HIGHLAND SUMMER CAMPS

In partnership with highland Reteat, CMCers' children receive discounted registration for summer camps. If Interested, follow these instructions:

1. Make sure you know your code and what it means. Note that you will need to enter the same code twice.

CMC's Code: CYM22

CMC's portion: \$75

Highland's portion: \$37.50

Total discount: \$112.50

2. Complete [the online registration form](#).
3. As you go through the registration form, one of the fields will allow you to enter your coupon code. You may do so at that point, or wait until you're ready to make a payment.
4. After you have completed the registration form, you will see a registration balance on the main dashboard. If you have registered more than one camper, the sibling discount should have automatically been applied, and if you entered the coupon code, Highland's portion should also already be removed from the total fee. ("View Transactions" for these details.)
5. You'll need to pay a deposit to finalize your registration. When you click the "Make a Payment" button, you will be given the option to enter coupon codes and transfer codes. Make sure to enter your code in both fields, unless you're sure the coupon code has already been applied. When you get to the payment screen, your new balance should accurately show the part that remains for your family, with all the discounts applied.

If you have a question, email bookkeeper@highlandretreat.org or calling (540) 705-0554 x104 on a Tuesday or Friday.

CMC News & Announcements

The time has come to update our congregation's group subscription to the, soon-to-be merged, Mennonite/Mennonite World Review. If you would like to renew or begin a subscription and benefit from our congregation's group rate, please deliver a \$37 check, payable to CMC, to the church office by Friday, Mar. 27. Your copy of the magazine will be mailed to the address you have listed in our Breeze directory unless you indicate otherwise. —Ben Bailey

Thank you for remembering us and our family during the weeks of my father's acute illness and death. We felt upheld by the congregation's prayers and many expressions of love and care. In addition to the blessing of returning to my pastoral responsibilities, I also appreciate your grace during this season of grieving which is so spiritually and emotionally taxing. In Christ, Pastor Jennifer & Kent

There will be a table set up in the fellowship hall immediately following the service for people interested in knowing more about the voluntary carbon tax group that has been started at CMC. Stop by to learn more about how voluntarily taxing yourself on your carbon consumption can contribute to sustainability projects, such as solar panels for our church roof, and a raised consciousness about the environmental impacts of our lifestyle choices. We'd love for more people to join this exciting initiative!

Notes from the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

Join Highland Retreat for a Benefit Auction to support Highland Summer Camps! The event will be on Saturday, Mar. 7, at the Eastern Mennonite School dining hall. Doors open at 8 am for the silent auction and breakfast buffet; all donations for the breakfast will go to the camp scholarship fund. The live auction will begin at 9:30 am. Children can participate in a scavenger hunt activity (with prizes!) during the auction. We'd love to see you there! See highlandretreat.org for more details, or head straight to charityauction.bid/HighlandRetreat for the online auction.

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 50th annual spring concert on Friday, Apr. 17 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, Apr. 19, at 3 pm at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. CMC members singing with the SVCS are Dave and Sue Cockley and Dorothy Jean Weaver. Tickets are available at the door, Bridgewater Foods (Bridgewater), and on-line at www.singshenandoah.org. Admission is \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students.

Need & Plenty

CMC ARE OFFERING...

...free garden space 1514 College Avenue for use by an interested (and faithful!) gardener. Please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver for further details at your earliest convenience.

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, Mar. 20, 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, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
Every Wednesday	Women's Bible Study, 8:30-9:45 am, CH 109
1st & 3rd Wednesday	Kids' Club, 6 pm, Basement
Tuesday, Mar. 17	Monthly Gathering, 6-8 pm; Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Mar. 28	Anti-Oppression Film Series, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
Sunday, Apr. 12	Easter Breads, 8:30 am, Fellowship Hall 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

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

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

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

<u>2020 Donations</u>	
YTD: \$97,909.69	
Week (02/24-03/01)	\$10,184
Week (02/17-02/23)	\$6,456
Week (02/10-02/16):	\$19,376
Week (02/03-02/09):	\$7,598
Week (01/27-02/02):	\$12,921
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
	\$97,909.69

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.*

