

Community Mennonite Church

Newsletter

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Beyond Solar Panels: Tax Yourself For The Carbon You Use!

On July 9 installation of the CMC solar panel systems on the church sanctuary roof and on the Dean House will begin. Materials have already arrived as we saw in the service on July 5. The church has successfully raised all the funds needed to cover this project, through fifth Sunday offering, or through voluntary carbon tax funds. The voluntary carbon tax will continue to raise money for future green congregation projects and we encourage you to participate in this effort.

The voluntary carbon tax was an idea that originally rose with Ray Gingerich, and members of other churches, to address climate change in a way that the government has failed to do. Their idea was to raise money by taxing ourselves based on carbon use. The simplest of these ideas is to tax ourselves based on the gasoline we consume. The Green Congregation Committee has created some guidelines for this including a \$0.50 per gallon tax on gasoline (or propane), \$0.02 per mile of airline flight, \$2.86 per therm (1000 cubic feet) of natural gas, and \$0.022 per kilowatt-hour of electricity. As guidelines that are voluntary, you may use your own numbers for these taxes. The idea is to keep you aware of your own contribution to the problem of climate change.

Contributing your voluntary tax is easy. First, go to the voluntary carbon tax calculator (<https://www.sustainableclimatesolutions.org/carbon-tax-calculator-full/>) to estimate your voluntary carbon tax. Then contribute to CMC through any of the normal means (for instance, online), designating the gift as “voluntary carbon tax”, or “green congregation committee.

We think of this fund as going beyond CMC. We would like to help others who want to reduce their own carbon footprint, especially those who do not have the financial resources to do this on their own. Some suggestions include funding a solar system on a Habitat for Humanity house and providing money for low-income households to insulate and tighten their housing envelope. If you have other ideas you would like us to consider, please pass them on to the committee, which includes Wayne Teel (chair), Brian Burkholder, Stefan Hess, Doug Graber Neufeld, Randy Reichenbach, David Shenk, and Kathy Yoder. We are especially interested in ideas that connect climate change and environmental justice.

-Wayne Teel, on behalf of the Green Congregation Committee

Our Current Worship Series



- Sunday, July. 12 - Music Sunday
- Sunday, July. 19 - Faith in the Neighborhood (James 1:17-27)
- Sunday, July. 26 - Mission of the Church (Galatians 5:22-26)
- Sunday, Aug. 2 - Allegheny Mennonite Conference Live Stream 10:30 am

CMC News & Announcements

Pastoral Candidate Week with Joyce Peachey Lind

Joyce Peachey Lind is the candidate to become CMC's Associate Pastor. Here are chances to learn more about her.

- Sun., July 26 - Worship Service - Joyce will provide the meditation and the children's time for the worship video.
- Sun., July 26, 11:00 am - Q&A gathering via Zoom #1
- Sun., July 26, 3:00 pm - Q&A gathering via Zoom #2
- Tues., July 28, 7:00 pm - Q&A gathering via Zoom #3

Plan to attend one of these Zoom gatherings. Joyce will begin each session by introducing herself to the group. Then we'll have time for questions and answers.

- Wed., July 29, 10 am - Children's time via Zoom - Joyce will interact with pre-K and early elementary age children.

We'll provide more details in the future about how to join the Zoom meetings. A congregational vote will occur the week of August 2-7. Mark your calendar!

-Dave Smucker for the Pastoral Search Committee

Reporting On An Apocalypse

"Apocalypse" [Gk: αποκάλυψις] a revelation/disclosure

CMC's Sunday school class, studying "Revelation" and lead by Reta Finger, has been a most helpful disclosure. For many, perhaps, the book of Revelation may often conjure up a reaction like: confusing, mysterious, convoluted, although its message is solid:

" . . . from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

We used [Reta's blog](#), which covers the book of Revelation in 38 lessons, as a guide. No small task! Thanks, Reta for this amazing effort. Here are few of the key things that the study revealed, which were pivotal in getting a grasp on Revelation:

- understanding the literary genre of apocalyptic or revelatory writing
- the use of symbols and imagery
- telling the story of the vision in cycles, repeating and intensifying
- putting proper meaning into the use of numbers
- the writing is to *and* for 1st century Christians; therefore, the interpretation is in the first-century context. The people understood what John, the writer, was alluding to. (goodbye dispensationalists, goodbye millennialists)

You can see an interesting summary in the caricature art form that Rhoda Derstine shared with our class about Revelation. It is put out by [the BibleProject](#).

-David Stenson

CMC Report - The Last Hurrah!

I submitted [my final'congregational report to Mennonite World Review](#). I have done this every-other-month report for CMC since the church news feature began in 1992. The MWR and The Mennonite are merging to become a new publication, Anabaptist World, Inc. and these reports section will be discontinued. It was a fun run; think I'll miss doing it!

-Jim Bishop



CMC-Wide Art Card Swap

We are organizing a CMC wide art card trade. Those that would like to participate will receive 3.5" X 2.5" cards to decorate in any way you wish. You can paint it, draw on it, collage it, glue things on it, write on it, or anything else you can come up with. Once completed you will mail back the cards by August 15th we would then mix up the cards and everyone will receive 3 different cards back that other people have decorated. We would love to have all ages and skill levels participate. If mentors/mentees would like to do this together we will make sure you get at least one card from each other if both participate and you let us know who your mentor/mentee is. If interested or have questions please email elsjemcdonald@gmail.com or anneke.c.mcdonald@gmail.com. sign up by July 13 and have your cards mailed back to us by August 15 "

-Elsje & Anneke McDonald

CMC Coffee Hour by Zoom

CMC Pastoral Team will host a coffee hour by zoom on Sunday mornings, July 19 and August 2 at 9:30 am. If you haven't yet participated, here's what you can expect: gather as a large group, divide groups of 6-10 ("breakout rooms") each hosted by a PT member, share around the circle from our lives and respond to each other, and then return to the large group for a closing prayer.

-Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig, on behalf of Pastoral Team



Who Chooses The Scriptures We Read In Worship?

Beginning in September CMC will use the "narrative lectionary" which is an alternative to the Revised Common Lectionary, which we often use to select our scripture readings for worship. If you're a CMCers who studies Bible and theology (professionally or otherwise!) you're welcome to attend a zoom conversation on Wed, July 15th at 4 pm about this new lectionary. We'll discuss this resource and the rationale for using it. [Check out this link to get oriented](#). And please contact Pastor Jennifer for a link to be part of the conversation. Who chooses the scriptures we read in worship.

-Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig, on behalf of Worship Commission



CMC College & University Educators

Pastoral Team is checking in with CMC educators about your school's re-opening plans and how you're thinking and feeling about the fall semester. Please join us for a conversation Mon, July 13, at 4 pm. Ben will send the zoom link that afternoon.

-Pastor Jennifer, on behalf of Pastoral Team



This Week In Our Life Together

Some of the following events take place on Zoom each week. Feel free to contact the person listed to get involved or learn more!

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact
Wed.	July 8	7 pm	Mennonite Youth Fellowship	Pastor Jason
Thurs.	July 9	8:30 am	Women’s Bible Study	Pastor Jennifer
Sun.	July 12	8 am	Worship video distributed via email	Ben Bailey
		11 am	Adult Education - Revealing Revelation	Reta Finger
			Adult Education - Racial Equity Book Study	Tim Seidel
		7 pm	Contemplative Service	Adam Yoder
Mon.	July 13	3 pm	Meeting for High School Seniors	Pastor Jason
Tues.	July 14	7:30 am	Men’s Bible Study	Pastor Jason & Larry Miller
		7 pm	Worship Commission meeting	Shirley Showalter
Wed.	July 15	8:30 am	Women’s Bible Study	Pastor Jennifer
		7 pm	Next newsletter published	Ben Bailey

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & More!

Day	Date	Celebration
Wed.	July 8	Reuben Gingerich’s birthday
Fri.	July 10	Valerie Serrels
Sat.	July 11	Jakob Gerlach’s birthday
		Rebecca Murch’s birthday
		Jesse Rodriguez birthday
		Kristina Yoder birthday
Sun.	July 12	Kristina Yoder birthday
Mon.	July 13	James Good’s birthday
		Zachary Bauman’s birthday
Wed.	July 15	Hannah Wittmer birthday



Notes From the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

Bible Stories to Share With Children or Grandchildren!

The Museum of the Bible in Washington DC produces a new Bible story episode (5-8 min) every Tue at 1 pm. Check out their Facebook page or find the first 12 episodes here, as well as coloring pages to accompany each story. -Jennifer Davis Sensenig



Thanks for sharing the wealth!

A big thank you for those who contributed to the Great Community Give, especially towards Faith in Action (which just reached our goal of \$10,000...yeah!) and Patchwork Pantry (which went a bit beyond its goal of \$2000). Combined with a recent multi-year, human-rights grant received by Faith in Action, we feel well-positioned to continue our affordable housing trust fund advocacy on behalf of our "ALICE" (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) working-class neighbors in city and county, as we enter into an eviction crisis in our community. -Kent Davis Sensenig

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Need & Plenty

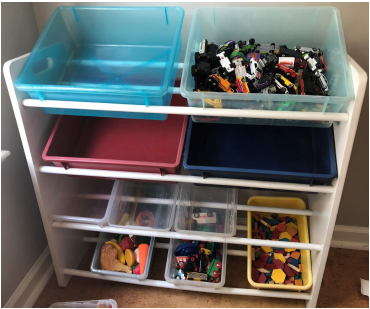
CMCers are seeking...

...nothing right now. Check back next week!



CMCers are offering...

...an audiobook copy of *A People’s History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn. I’ve found this to be a very useful supplement to contemporary books about racial equity. It’s long, but you can chip away at it while you do the dishes or drive to your summer vacation. -Ben Bailey



...children's books and several other items. The pictures show the furniture, which is for young children. I also have many children's books for ages kindergarten and under. -Sandy Burkhalter

