



Community Mennonite Church

A PEACE CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME

70 South High St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801

www.cmcva.org

CMC Newsletter

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Upcoming In Worship

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

During August and early September, CMC commissions are planning and leading worship (see the schedule below). During these weeks we are celebrating the many ways CMCers offer their gifts to the congregation, and giving thanks for the opportunities we have to worship, work, learn, serve, and play together with others in our church community.



Sunday, August 29. Congregational Worship at CMC @ 9:30 am

Worship service led by Worship Commission

Sunday, September 5. Congregational Worship at CMC @ 9:30 am

Worship service led by Outreach Commission

Sunday, September 12. Congregational Worship at CMC @ 9:30 am

Worship service led by Youth Commission

COVID News

- During Sunday morning worship, masks are required for everyone, even the vaccinated among us, in solidarity with those too young to have their shots yet and immunocompromised individuals.
- At the recommendation of the COVID advisory group, we are aiming for the worship service to be 60 minutes or less.
 - To reduce the risk of COVID transmission, following the worship service please move outside to visit in the playground or in the grassy areas. On days when it is hot outside, consider bringing an umbrella for shade while you are visiting outdoors after the service.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas please contact Pastor Jason, Pastor Joyce, Kathie Kurtz, Worship Commission Chair, or Jeremy Nafziger, Council Chair.

Announcements from Our Congregation

Fifth Sunday Offering for Students in Mennonite Education

The special offering for the fifth Sunday in August will be this Sunday, August 29, and will help subsidize tuition costs for our students in Mennonite educational institutions. Through the years, CMC has provided substantial financial support for our children to attend Eastern Mennonite School and for our young adults to attend a Mennonite college and/or a graduate or seminary program.

There is something special about Mennonite education and its historic commitment to teaching values that are consistent with our Anabaptist understandings of Christ-centered faith and practice. Our schools have created educational programs that prepare our graduates for lives of bold leadership and compassionate service in a variety of cultural contexts.

I have experienced and observed professors and teachers at our Mennonite schools who care deeply for their students. In turn, our students learn to care deeply for others, frequently forging life-long friendships.

In the 2020 budget year, Community Mennonite Church provided \$8,040 for 4 students at Eastern Mennonite Elementary School; \$35,030 for 10 students at EMHS; and \$33,000 for 17 undergraduate students at Mennonite colleges. Beginning in September of this year, CMC anticipates supporting 28 students at different education levels. The congregation plans to provide a total of approximately \$76,296.00 to help families with tuition costs through 2021.

Your support for this vital component of CMC's budget would be greatly appreciated and received with gratitude. Please designate your contribution to the "Mennonite Education Fund" as you give through any of the CMC channels available to you.

-- Heidi Hoover, Finance Committee Chair

Generosity With Neighbors

"Generosity with Neighbors" is CMC's one-time initiative to share surplus Compassion Fund money with people outside the congregation. This initiative was introduced to the congregation at last Sunday's worship service. If you or your household know of someone who could benefit from extra funds (up to \$500), feel free to fill out [this form](#) on GoogleForms. You can find out more detailed information by clicking that link. The deadline for submission is Monday, September 6. Questions? Contact Shannon Sneary Alabanza at 540-209-1234 or swsneary@gmail.com.

Announcement from the Adult Education Committee

Adult Education will have two offerings this fall, one beginning September 5 and another beginning September 12. Meeting time and place--and whether the classes are in person or via Zoom--is being determined this week.



Beginning September 5: "God's Approachable Community," a 3-month quarterly from *Salt & Light*, MennoMedia's Bible Study for Anabaptist Christians, written by Reta Halteman Finger. Teachers: Reta Halteman Finger, Lois Kauffman, and Bill White. Prepare to discover unexpected counter-cultural texts and interpretations! The first lesson involves truth vs. disinformation. Which is which? **If you plan to participate in this class, pick up your book at the church this coming Sunday, August 29, in the church office or stop by during the week.**

Beginning September 12: *Tongue-Tied: Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith*, a book study led by its author, Sarah Wenger Shenk (recently retired from 11 years as president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and one-time CMcer!) This study will run for 8 weeks.



CMC Bike Club

Calling any interested CMC bikers for a group social, no-drop ride. If interested, meet @ CMC Sunday at 5:00 pm for an hour or so, maybe more depending on interest. We'll sort out the route depending on who shows. No ride if pouring rain or lightning, but otherwise we're on! For those like me sorely missing the Bike Club group rides, this is my own attempt at finding a substitute! I know CMC is very bike-friendly so think of this as another coffee fellowship opportunity on wheels with BYOB, eh? Contact Hadley Jenner @ hhjenner@gmail.com OR (540) 908-6815 with questions or concerns.

Prayer Requests

One of the ways CMCers can support one another at a distance is through prayer. If you have a prayer request to share with the pastors or the congregation, click on this [Prayer Link](#).



~ Pray for healing and strength for Katherine Archibold, church administrator, who was hospitalized this week for treatment of intestinal issues.

~ Pray for safety for young children and their parents as many children are returning to school and are not yet vaccinated against the COVID 19 virus.

~ Pray for strength and healing for those in our community who are living with long-term health challenges.

CMC's Calendar of Events

Click here to view [CMC's calendar events and activities](#). Some of these events take place on Zoom each week. Feel free to contact the person listed to get involved or learn more.

CMC Fall Church Retreat at Grand Caverns: Save the date for CMC's annual Fall Retreat! Plan for a one-day retreat getaway on Sunday, Sept. 19, 9 am-5 pm at Grand Caverns (Grottoes). Details will be communicated at the end of August, as decisions are made pending local COVID trends.



Kathie Kurtz's Book Launch: You are invited to a book launch party for Kathie Kurtz's new book, *The Blistering Morning Mist: A Memoir* on Tuesday, August 31, at 7 pm in the CMC Fellowship Hall. Kathie will give a brief introduction and read a few short excerpts. Books will be available for purchase. If you want your copy signed, Kathie will be glad to do so.

The current COVID policy asks that everyone wear masks in solidarity with those who cannot be vaccinated. Regretfully, no refreshments will be served. Once the meeting part of the event is over, people are encouraged to move outside for visiting.

Mission Board: Stop by the mission board in the Fellowship Hall to pick up a prayer card for Isaac and Jacinda Stahly-Dahl who are serving in Columbia. They will appreciate your prayers as they make connections with the Mennonite-Brethren churches there and help with an agricultural project.

Getting to Know Our Congregation

Getting To Know You: Nina Alabanza

Hello, Nina! Tell us a little about yourself!

I'm 16 years old, and a junior at HHS. I'm deeply invested in the arts, most notably visual arts, writing, theatre, and film. I also dabble in comedy, and I've performed several sets at my school. I'm energetic and outspoken, and have a strong sense of personal style and fashion. Being both a Filipino-American and a part of the LGBTQ+ community, I find it important to stay confident in who I am, and be true to myself and my identity.



What's your morning routine?

5:30- wake up to my alarm. go back to sleep.

5:40- wake up to my second alarm. go back to sleep.

5:50- wake up to my third alarm. go back to sleep.

6:00- wake up to my fourth alarm. Ponder if the world is really worth getting up for.

This is usually followed by dragging myself out of bed, blearily brushing my teeth and getting changed, doing my makeup, and getting my things ready for school.

You've got a free afternoon. How do you spend it?

Ideally, I'd drive out to meet up with some friends. Go to the movies, shopping, or just play video games at one of their houses.

What's something you're proud of?

Freshman year of high school, I won first place at my school for a Shakespearean monologue competition and proceeded to win second at the Virginia regional Shakespeare competition. Had I won first place, I would have gotten to go to NYC.

Do you have a mantra, or guiding principle?

"Do no harm but take no b.s."

Pet peeves?

I absolutely hate it when someone is being hypocritical. There are no words to describe how infuriating it is to listen to someone preach about not doing something, then turn around and do it themselves.

Introvert or extrovert?

Extrovert, by far.

What have you been listening to lately? Watching? Reading?

While I usually stick to my indie/folk music, I've been getting into female rap artists (such as Doja Cat, Cardi B, Megan Thee Stallion, and Lizzo) and hyperpop a lot more, which are

relatively out of my comfort zone. I've also made Criminal Minds my comfort show.

Any big plans for the future?

I want to go to a film college after high school, but I'm not sure which one. I'm also planning a trip this October with my dad, little brother, and one of my friends to go to a Comic-Con in Virginia Beach.

Quick stats:

Birthplace: Charlottesville

Home: Harrisonburg

Family members: Stepmom, Dad, older stepbrother, older stepsister, younger stepbrother.

Pets: 1 cat, 2 dogs, 5 chickens

Grade: 11th

Job: Currently a Dairy Queen employee

~ Written by Jennifer Murch ~

Birthdays, Anniversaries & More!

ANNIVERSARIES!		
Tues	Aug 24	John & Jennifer Murch
Tues	Aug 24	Jason & Wendy Gerlach
Sat	Aug 28	Bill White & Lois Kauffman

BIRTHDAYS!		
Mon	Aug 23	David Stenson Laurie Yoder
Tues	Aug 24	Adrienne Griggs Dave Smucker
Thurs	Aug 26	Ava Derstine
Fri	Aug 27	Eliza Johnson

Notes From the Harrisonburg Area & Beyond

Sing Me High Festival, August 27-28: Plan to attend the 6th Annual



Sing Me High Festival this weekend, August 27 and 28, from 4-9 pm at the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center. [Visit their website](#) for ticket information.

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Covid-19 Remembrance

Event, Friday, August 27 at 11 am at Court Square: Community members from across Harrisonburg and Rockingham County will come together to reflect on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to recognize and remember those our community has lost. All houses of worship in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County are invited to ring their bells on Friday, August 27, at 11 am to recognize those lost or impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the ringing of the bells, the COVID-19 Remembrance Event will begin at Court Square.

New Beginnings Montessori: There is a new Montessori school coming to Rockingham County. Crystal Yoder is opening [New Beginnings Montessori](#) this Fall. She wants to invite the supporting family of Community Mennonite to an upcoming event at [7021 Arch Drive Mount Crawford, VA 22841](#). If you have any questions, please call Crystal Yoder at (540) 908-7565.

Saturday, August 28th: New Beginnings Montessori Open House, 2-4 pm. We are inviting our surrounding community, friends, and family to a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. This is a chance to explore New Beginnings' classrooms and outdoor areas, and to celebrate our opening with us!

Airport Driver Needed This Friday: Eastern Mennonite School has a Korean student arriving for the school year on Friday, Sept 27. Arrival is at Dulles Airport around 4:25 PM. Driver must use a personal vehicle for the round trip. Trip pay will be \$100, and EMS will reimburse for mileage and parking. Contact Marsha Thomas ASAP at thomasm@emhs.net or 540-236-6021 if you are interested!

Update from Claire Waidelich

Work. I am volunteering with an organization here in San Francisco called Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH). This year I have been working with the Fund Development team and Operations/Administrative team. One of my responsibilities has been producing the Tenant Newsletter that comes out every other month. I work on content and page design. It is like making a school newspaper for the tenants and is a lot of fun. Along with that I am also working in their databases and learning office software tools. Covid has prevented me from being able to get much human interaction this year since I work from home. Things have been pretty shut down in San Francisco all year. That is lessening lately which hopefully will continue.

Upcoming Work. Next year, the plan is for me to have more time on site. Because we are moving offices I think I will be working from home some too. I will be working with our new Community Development Manager who manages projects related to community building and facilitation. I cannot wait to start that work in the coming year.

Community. Polly, the other MVSer in our unit and I have become great friends this year and have had a lot of cool adventures using public transportation. Some kind church members allowed us to borrow their car for a long weekend to travel down Pacific Coast Highway 1. We made stops to see rocky beaches and a field of flowers. It has been fun this year despite not being able to interact with people in the city and church community.

This year has been a good experience for me. As I learn to live in community I have learned to communicate better and to know when to give space. This year has been particularly difficult for me since I personally really like a lot of human interaction. I am fairly chatty and just love to get to know people. I also have been spending more time with myself this year which is a new thing for me since for the last four years I have been sharing a room with a roommate. I typically do a lot of things out of the interest of others and so this year has really stretched me to think about "What does Claire want to do".

Upcoming Community. For the coming year which begins at the end of August we are expecting three additions to our MVS house unit. This will be a big change for us. For the past year we had only two MVSeers. The house also accommodated two associates who rented out rooms and had jobs and contributed to our community living. Next year everyone in the house will be a volunteer. We will all need to work to create a community where we can all live and grow together.

I hope you will continue to support me by keeping me in your prayers and thoughts. Again this year I will need some financial assistance. If you feel led to contribute you can do so with this link <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/CWaidelich>

Need & Plenty

Concrete garden benches available for free. CMC is replacing the concrete garden benches in the playground with wooden ones hand crafted by Dwight Kauffman. The existing concrete benches are still in fine shape. Contact Eric Saner (esaner@gmail.com) if you'd like to have one or more of them. Please note: they are heavy!

Check out CMC's [Lending List](#) of items that members are willing to share. The password is *greenstreet*. Items that are available to borrow include sporting and camping gear, tools, and kitchen equipment, etc. Please fill out this form if you have an item that you'd like to add to the [list](#).



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CMC Church Office

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