

This Sunday in Worship

September 14, 2025
9:30 am Worship



Drew Strait



11:30 CMC en Español

[Watch e-worship](#)

[Online Giving](#)

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, September 16

12:00 pm - Menno Action Prayers

Wednesday, September 17

4:00 pm - Stewardship Committee

5:00 pm - Prayer Choir

7:00 pm - MYF

Thursday, September 18

10:00 am - Volunteer Day

10:45 am - CMC Fellowship

Sunday, September 21

9:20 am - Gathering Songs

9:30 am - Worship Service

After Worship - Fellowship Time

- Children's Sunday School

10:45 am - Adult Sunday School

11:30 am - CMC en Español

News Items from the Church Board

Greetings from the CMC Board, this past Sunday we commissioned Merle Hostetler as our interim pastor for the next twelve months. He brings to us the wisdom of his years of pastoral ministry and administrative experience, his familiarity with this community, an open heart and deep faith! Welcome Merle - We look forward to having you in our community!

This past Sunday marked Madeline Maldonado's return from her four month sabbatical. Her first "official" day back was last Monday. Welcome back Mady, we missed you! And we look forward to hearing more from her about her learnings and travels in the near future.

Earlier this week, you all received a direct email "flock notes" from the CMC board. That communique contained the complete Final Report from the Clarifying & Strengthening Structures Task Force. A true gift to CMC! Thank you Task Force members, Liz Gunden, Alicia Maldonado-Zahra, Merlin Becker-Hoover, Jonah Hochstetler and Bruce Stahly, facilitated by Carlos Romero. We will dedicate a considerable amount of time to the report's recommendations and suggestions at our upcoming September 21st congregational meeting.

Patrick Vendrely

CMC Board Chair 2025-2027

Note from the Music Director: We don't have any brand new songs this week, but as I was choosing songs I noticed with some interest how quickly all the songs we are singing this week have become favorites. Except for VT 732, "Open my eyes," we didn't know any of these songs before Voices Together came out in 2020. VT 809, "Sing a new world into being" uses Beethoven's beloved "Ode to Joy" tune, but all the rest are examples of current song-writers crafting both texts and tunes that directly address our cultural and theological needs. There are many wonderful older songs, of course, and we generally sing a wide historical range of hymnody! But as Christian Nationalism (our topic this week) is a comparatively new phenomenon, I found that newer hymn writers had the most relevant texts.

Our instrumental ensemble has been expanding, and we have all been practicing flexibility and grace with each other! I continue to encourage anyone who wants to play to bring your instrument and help us support the congregational singing. Just contact me if you want to receive the weekly list of songs on Tuesday, and please also make sure to come to at least one of our rehearsals, which are usually Wednesday at 6:30 and Sunday at 8:15. This week, the ensemble will play on VT 6, 789, 732, and 798.

From the Worship Commission and Discipling Commission:

Christian Nationalism has been an underlying force in our culture for a long time - and now it has come out of the shadows. Last year, the Discipling Commission invited members to read Drew Strait's book, *Strange Worship*, as a beginning point to understanding ways we can resist this force. Now we take two Sundays to consider how we can faithfully worship God and belong to God's Kin-dom in the midst of Christian Nationalism. On Sunday, September 7, Pastor Suella will preach on "Citizens of God's Kin-dom" in the 9:30 service. And on Sunday, September 14, we are excited to have Drew Strait here as our guest preacher for both worship services. Drew will also lead a Sunday school time in the fellowship hall, hosted by Weavings. All are welcome to join!

*Drew J. Strait is a dad, pastor theologian, speaker, and professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. His writing and teaching focuses on political idolatry and peacemaking in early Christianity. Strait is a popular speaker on how faith communities can challenge Christian nationalism, violent extremism, and Christian supremacy with strategic nonviolence. To learn more, visit his [website](#).



From the Discipling Commission:

Our Faithful Families initiative is well underway! This first year, this grant opportunity funds 8 gatherings of families with children age 3 and younger. In each gathering, we eat together and work with equipping parents for practicing faith at home. Specifically, we are building our capacity to do this ministry with Spanish-speaking families. God has been present and at work in these gatherings!

The Discipling Commission is happy to announce Ignite Your Faith (small group) offerings!

- Anabaptist Community Bible Study: These small groups will focus around studying the Bible together following the process designed for the Anabaptist Community Bible. They will meet four times. Sign up by filling out [this form](#)! Or fill it out [in Spanish](#).
- Book Club for The Anxious Generation: This small group will meet during the Sunday school hour. We will read chapters between gatherings and discuss them during our times together. We will meet weekly, October 12-December 7. Sign up by filling out [this form](#)!
- Spirit Feast: This small group is for people who identify as women. You will be part of a self-led group that meets monthly for six months to eat together and share faith together. Sign up by filling out [this form](#)! Or fill it out [in Spanish](#).

From the Worship Commission

Someone might write a book about One Year in the Life of a One-Hour Worship Service,* and it probably would not cover everything. Certainly it would be hard to add up all the hours that go into planning, preparing, leading, presenting, preaching and the cumulative hours of attending, watching and listening. The Worship Commission did not keep track of all the people who did the many things during the past church year to make our worship services meaningful and inspiring. We trust everyone can recall times they were especially moved, inspired, blessed by something they heard or saw, sang or read, felt or tasted.

Thank you all for your presence and participation every week. We have been challenged, blessed and honored to serve this year. (*with apologies to A. Solzhenitsyn)--CMC Worship Commission: Amber Butler, Anne Marie Weaver, Deb Kauffman, Francisco Robles, Gabi Ochoa, Merlin Becker-Hoover, Talashia Keim Yoder

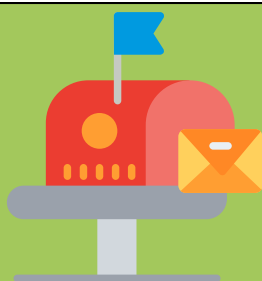
“We are from...”

Our fall worship series will take us, in broad strokes, through the biblical story. In conversations among the pastoral team and worship commission, it became clear that it's time to rehearse this Big Story together again. This fall, our interpretive lens for rehearsing the story will be “reflecting back and hoping forward.”

Our series title, “We are from...,” is an outgrowth of meaningful communal experiences of our past few months. In this time of reflecting back and hoping forward, we have found meaning in remembering where we are from - and coming to the realization that we are also from this moment we find ourselves in! We are from the Bible stories and the Big Story, we are from our individual and collective stories, we are from our current moment, and we are even from a future that has yet to be revealed - because God always has been and always will be. So this fall as we tell our stories, we will reflect back with gratitude and look ahead with hope.

Outline for the Fall (details may change as the Spirit moves!)

- September 21: “We are from...a Rainbow Sign” (Primeval History) - Genesis 7-17
- September 28: “We are from...Hope in the Desert” (Family of God) - Genesis 21:8-21
- October 5: “We are from...a Feast for Remembering” (People of God) - Exodus 13:3-10
 - * This is also World Communion Sunday! We will have a joint worship service at 10:30 this day - and we are excited to collaborate with Goshen College on this service! There will be no Sunday school, but there will be a fellowship time with food.
- October 12: “We are from...Stories and Stones” (A New Land) - Joshua 4:20-24
- October 19: “We are from...God in the Storm” (Prophets and Kings) - 1 Kings 19:1-13
- October 26: “We are from...A Cry For Help” (People in Exile) - Psalm 44
- November 2: “We are from...In the Beginning” (The Messiah is Born) - John 1:1-5
 - * This Sunday is All Saints Day
- November 9: “We are from...A Chat at the Well” (Life and Teachings of Jesus) - John 4:4-29
- November 16: “We are from...’You Will See Him There’” (Death and Resurrection) - Matthew 29:1-10
- November 23: “We are from...Eating and Celebrating Together” (Early Church) - Acts 2:42-47



Check your Literature Boxes!

The CMC Office is now placing documents such as financial statements, letters from ministry groups, etc. in your church mailbox instead of mailing them through USPS. The literature boxes have also recently been updated, so you may find your box has shifted locations a bit from where it was previously. If you have any questions about the use of literature boxes, reach out to Addie at addie@collegemennonite.org Thanks!



Check your CMC literature box for new Lapp-Jost prayer cards. Hopefully these prayer cards will remind you to pray regularly for the Lapp-Jost ministry.

- Lapp-Jost Ministry Support Team

-Marty Lehman



Diane Hertzler and David Janzen warmly welcome the CMC congregation to attend their wedding ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the CMC sanctuary. Due to the size of their guest list, however, the light meal following the wedding will be limited to those who have received a written invitation.

Their street address after Sept. 28 will be 1724 S. 12th St., Goshen, IN, 46526.



September 26-27, 2025

Please consider how you can donate baked goods for the Relief Sale **September 26 th and 27th**. Containers for pie, bread, cookies, sweet rolls and cakes will be in the hallway starting this Sunday. As usual all donated items will be collected by the church offices doors on **Friday, September 26th up until noon** when they will then be delivered to the sale. This also includes plants.

-Mary Jo Short

Some ideas for an announcement for church bulletin or verbally. Sometimes we need to be reminded of what our baking can do for others. An hour or two can make a big difference in the lives of people around the world.

One batch (3 doz) of cookies can provide winter clothing for a child in Syria

OR school meals in Burundi

OR 10 chickens for 2 families in India

OR 10 fruit trees for a family in Bangladesh

One Pie will provide an eco-friendly stove in Malawi

Two Pies can start a garden in India

Three Pies can provide emergency food for a family in Sudan

One pan cinnamon rolls provides a school uniform for a student in Egypt

Two pans cinnamon rolls provides books for a peace library in Rwanda

Three pans cinnamon rolls can stock a family pond in Cambodia

These are only a few possibilities. Just think what you can do on a family night, or a small group project or Sunday School class party, or you can come up with your ideas.

MY COINS COUNT

It's time for My Coins Count! We will be collecting coins from Sunday, August 31- Sunday, September 21, to take to the MCC Relief Sale, to be used for water projects around the world. Bring coins each week and join in this simple, playful way of sustaining life.



How can we be silent?! As people die of starvation in Gaza and the destruction continues, some of us want to do more than pray alone and give money for aid. Join a group of peacebuilders to pray together in silence, with spoken words, with scripture, and in song. We will pray not only for Gaza, but also for Ukraine and other places of violence, and for immigrants everywhere. The group will meet in the CMC sanctuary on **Tuesday, September 16**, from noon until 1 p.m. All are welcome for the hour or for part of the hour.



A MOMENT IN ANABAPTIST HISTORY

"Following Christ is the forgotten theme of the Reformation. Lutheran Protestantism ceded the ethic of discipleship to the Anabaptist churches." ([A Lutheran perspective] Jürgen Moltmann, most recently Professor for Systematic Theology, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, 1981.)