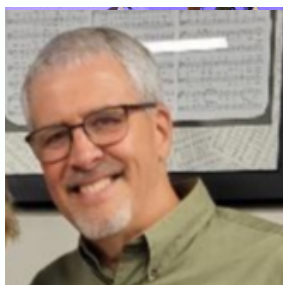


This Sunday in Worship

September 28, 2025
9:30 am Worship



Merle Hostetler

11:30 CMC en Español



David Maldonado

[Watch e-worship](#)

[Online Giving](#)

News Items from the Church Board

Hello CMCers!

Thank you for participating in our September congregational meeting last Sunday, as your board listens, we covet your voice. The [link to the zoom](#) meeting recording is included within this communique for those that either want to listen again, or were not able to attend. We are looking for more voices in this process which helps shape and focus our energies, please engage!

The congregational meeting minutes are attached. We will process these at our October congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, October 19th, 2:30p. Please watch for that agenda in future newsletters!

We have attached a summary from our table group discussions - "Recommended Purpose Statement - Table group responses". This is a compiled summary from all the groups, six pages. We will revert back on next steps as we finalize this statement, seeking congregational approval.

In our congregational meeting this past Sunday, we spoke about establishing a PCRT, which stands for "Pastor and Congregation Relations Team". We have attached the PCRT document, approved by CMC, that explains the role and job description of a PCRT member. The board will be working to establish this committee, one of the many recommendations in the Task Force Report.

Respectfully,

Patrick Vendrely
CMC Board Chair 2025-2027

[2025-09-21
Congregational Minutes](#)

[Recommended
Purpose Statement](#)

[Approved PCRT](#)

Looking Ahead

Monday, September 29

6:00 pm - Worship Commission

Wednesday, October 1

5:00 pm - Prayer Choir

6:00 pm - 1st Wednesdays @ CMC

7:00 pm - MYF, Genesis

7:00 pm - CMC Chorale

Thursday, October 2

9:00 am - Mennonite Women

10:00 am - Volunteer Day

10:45 am - CMC Fellowship

Sunday, October 5

10:00 am - Gathering Fellowship

10:20 am - Gathering Songs

10:30 am - Joint World Communion
Worship

4:00 pm - Service of Gratitude &
Grief

On October 5, at 4:00 p.m. we'll gather in the sanctuary for a Service of Gratitude and Grief. This service is responding to those among us who carry grief that College Mennonite Church is no longer the congregation we once were. This service will be a time within a context of worship for us to bring and name our grief, offering it into God's care.

This service is intended primarily for grief related to CMC. But there are many things in our world today to grieve, so bring any and all kinds of grief to this time of worship. Whether you personally carry grief or not, we are members of a community of faith where we share our joy and our grief.

Interim pastors Merle and Suella will lead us through this worship service, beginning in gratitude, then moving to offering our pain and grief, followed by remembering and sitting within resurrection light, and closing with a blessing.

All are welcome, to bring and offer grief and to support those who are grieving.

Affirmation for Commission Members

The Gifts Discernment Committee (GDC) reviewed all the responses from the commission affirmation survey. All individuals were strongly affirmed. We are blessed as a congregation to have the following individuals willing to serve CMC by continuing the work of the church.

Jonah Hochstetler, chair; Marisol Cardona and Tammy Bean are serving as the Community Life Commission. The GDC is still working to add additional members to this commission.

Jill Miller, Jane Short, Michelle Thomas, Jeffery Weaver and Lori Copsey are serving as the Discipling Commission. GDC is still working to find a chair for this commission. Merlin Becker-Hoover, chair; Amber Butler, Francisco Robles, Bill Clemens and Rob Brenneman are serving as the Worship Commission. Outreach Commission is in a phase of revisioning. May God empower all these leaders and bless them with joy in the work of the ministries they have been entrusted with.

Tina Hartman

"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

Mennonite Women

Mennonite Women Gathering – Thursday, October 2, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Join Mennonite Women for a wonderful time of working together to benefit service projects locally and around the world! We'll meet in the gathering rooms for fellowship, encouragement, and service. We end our time with a carry-in meal at noon—always a highlight of the day. If you've never attended before, this is a wonderful time to come and see what we're all about.

"Mennonite Women: Growing in faith, serving with love, walking together."

Thanks,
Sue Plank



Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge! Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 29,639 school kits! Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

Jennifer Steiner
Communications Director, MCC Great Lakes

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Christ. We wish to thank you for your donation to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), which help people in vulnerable situations around the world.

Item(s): School kits, comforter, kit bags

This August, MCC issued a school kit challenge. The goal was to collect 25,000 school kits in August to help 25,000 kids around the world go to school, like the children in Ethiopia who are thrilled to receive this gift of love.

Many children in Tigray have been out of school for three to four years because of an Ethiopian civil war, 2020-2022, that took place predominantly in the Tigray region. Many schools were destroyed and looted. As schools reopened in September 2023 and 2024, registration was lower than expected, partially due to families' inability to provide educational materials for their children. Therefore, these school kits will contribute to students' ability to go to school.

We are pleased to announce that the school kit challenge was successful. In all, 29,639 school kits were donated in August! Thank you for your generous support!

With gratitude,

Nadine Zook Miller

Material Resources Coordinator



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

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.

We are thrilled to invite you to Rooted in Community: A Night Out for CCYC. As current and alumni families, dedicated supporters, and friends, we are excited for you to join us. Many of you know that CCYC provides the highest quality of early childhood education to families in our community, regardless of a family's ability to pay. All funds raised this year will go towards our Sliding Fee Scholarship, allowing more kids in our community to flourish! CCYC is growing and we're excited to share with you.

Your invitation is attached. Just copy the URL or scan the QR code to reserve your tickets.

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 10th at The Table @ 108!

All our best,

Janet and the Board of Directors (Jim Caskey, Lauren Hodges, Rocio Arevelo-Espinosa, Corine Graber Alvarez, Liz Andes, Clayton Miller, Denise Murphy, and Ben Rheinheimer)



A MOMENT IN ANABAPTIST HISTORY

"A warm sense of community and all the benefits pertaining to it emerge when members of the body of Christ are committed to asking each other for forgiveness. Confession and forgiveness remove the barriers that prevent fellowship with God and with each other. Anabaptist Christians believe that forgiveness is essential for creating and nurturing community." (Palmer Becker, What is an Anabaptist Christian? rev. 2010.)