



Rod Houser &lt;rodhouser232@gmail.com&gt;

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**CMCL — Announcements for Sunday, December 11, 2022**

1 message

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**CMCL** <cmcl@communitymennonite.org>  
Reply-To: CMCL <cmcl@communitymennonite.org>  
To: rodhouser232@gmail.com

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 2:50 PM

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## Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster

### FALL WORSHIP -- HOURS & MASKS

Masks are optional for worship services and Christian Education.

FIRST SERVICE - 8:30 a.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN OVER 2 Y/O - 10:00 a.m.

SECOND SERVICE - 11:00 a.m.

## This Week -

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING, THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10—** Facilities Committee is looking for volunteers to help with various cleaning jobs this Saturday beginning at 8:30 AM. Cleaning supplies will be available at church, along with donuts and coffee. Any help will be greatly appreciated! Contact Scott Weaver with questions at 717-278-2978.

**CHRISTMAS JAMBOREE THIS SUNDAY 1-4 PM FOR GRADES K-12—** Gingerbread houses, pine cones crafts, elf games (no reindeer games), service project involving Kisses, play run-through. Let Pastor Amanda and Marilou know if you'll attend so we will have plenty of supplies.

We have been invited to the Material Resource Center in Ephrata this Saturday. If you are planning to go, please let Marilou know at [marilou@communitymennonite.org](mailto:marilou@communitymennonite.org). Carpooling could be worked out.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION—** In conjunction with our neighbor, Covenant United Methodist Church at [110 N. Mulberry Street](#), we are in need of volunteers to help in distribution of food boxes on the second Saturday of every month **starting December 10**. Volunteers should arrive at 9:30 a.m. to assist with unloading the truck as well as loading boxes into individual cars starting at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Beth Crosby or Frank Carano to volunteer. Thank you. [Beth.Crosby74@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.Crosby74@gmail.com) and [Fdcarano@gmail.com](mailto:Fdcarano@gmail.com),  
Peace & Justice Committee

**BLUE HOLIDAY/HOLIDAY GRIEF GATHERING, DECEMBER 14—** 7:00 PM, CMCL Church Sanctuary

Are the holidays always a difficult time for you?

Has it been a been a year with significant losses?

Are the holidays a time when long-time losses rise painfully to the surface?

Do you long for a place to name the complexity you feel this season?

You are welcome to join Pastoral Team members Ron Vogt and Christy Heatwole Kaufman for a time of reflection, sharing and solidarity on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 PM. RSVPs are not required, but would be helpful for planning. Questions or RSVP to [ronvogt220@gmail.com](mailto:ronvogt220@gmail.com)

**SOLSTICE SERVICE—** Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

Join us for a contemplative evening of music, meditation, poetry and story. Come and enter the stillness with us, welcoming the quiet of the dark and the promise of the light. Return to yourself for awhile during this busy season. If you have a candle lantern, please bring it. We will have some extra lanterns and candles for everyone.

**CALLING ALL CMCLers, WHATEVER YOUR AGE, TO SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS ON SANKOFA—**

**Sankofa**, a Ghanaian proverb meaning “go back and get what you lost/forgot so that you can move forward,” has been the theme for our journey toward dismantling racism over the past few months. **Now you are invited to reflect on what you have learned and what you will take with you going forward.** What have you learned from books, discussions, Church Retreat, Rev. Naomi, the trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, personal experiences and/or sermons?

For the coming month, you are invited to post images, quotes, doodles, videos, your scrap book page, and other materials that capture what you have gained on your Sankofa journey. Click on this link to upload your content: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QVKkG2vScWNFWAMA7> CLICK “Add photo” to add a photo or pre-recorded video. The Worship Committee plans to use this album a part of the congregational response during worship on January 15 when we welcome Susan and her family back from sabbatical.

**SENIOR YOUTH WREATH FUNDRAISER—** The CMCL Senior Youth are again offering their beautiful, hand-decorated wreaths uniquely designed for you to enjoy throughout the holidays. Extra wreaths are available to purchase in the courtyard. Please contact Pastor Amanda [amanda@communitymennonite.org](mailto:amanda@communitymennonite.org) with questions or payments.



**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!—** The gallery committee is seeking CMCL artists to fill the 2023-2024 Parrot Gallery schedule. Even if you've had a Parrot Gallery exhibit in the past, but it's been a few years, feel free to throw your name into the mix. If interested, or just wanting more information, please contact a member of the committee: Mary Lou Weaver Houser, Cara Longacre Hurst, Marcy Sims or Beky Weidner.

**PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE INVITES THE PUBLIC TO AN INFORMATIVE FORUM, DEC. 14—**

The Peace & Justice Committee invites the public to an informative forum at CMCL, from 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, called **Don't Overbuild: A Townhall on Right-Sizing the New Jail**. Experts will discuss best practices in bail and other criminal justice procedures that could assure that the new Lancaster County jail is fiscally responsible and no bigger than necessary. Lancaster County plans to spend \$150 million on the new jail, making it the largest county-financed construction project ever.

Presenters will include Michelle Batt of Lancaster Bail Fund and the Rev. Jason Perkowski of POWER Interfaith. Invitees include the county commissioners, the warden, the district attorney and the president judge.

Some of the questions that will be addressed include:

- How can bail reform reduce the number of people languishing in jail before they get to trial?
- How could a stronger commitment to pretrial services impact the need for a large jail?
- What is the evidence that public safety isn't at risk when fewer people are detained before trial?
- What data will consultants use to determine the size of the new jail? Is the consultant considering how best practices could safely reduce the prison population?
- What can Lancaster County learn from Berks County's decision to understand how mental health programs can reduce the size of the jail planned there?
- Does it make sense to have a work-release program that allows qualified inmates to work for eight hours in the community, then return to sleep in jail?

The ACLU has sued Lancaster County, alleging unconstitutional bail practices. If the ACLU wins, what impact would the outcome have on the size of the new jail? The townhall is timely because CGL, the county's project consultant, is presenting a draft needs assessment at the Dec. 15 prison board meeting. The needs assessment will be the basis for decisions about the size and design of the jail. The county plans to hire an architect this winter, and groundbreaking is slated for Spring 2024.

**KEY/FOB UPDATE—** A number of FOBs are currently in circulation that are not identified with an authorized user. These FOBs are being disabled. If you discover that a FOB you have been using does not work, contact the church office to have the FOB associated with your name re-enabled.

**CMCL ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY—** According to ChurchTrac, there will no longer be a separate online photo directory on the CMCL website. The photos are now included in the Online Directory. However, each person will have to log in to Church Connect and allow their photo to be displayed. When an individual is listed on the Online Directory, only their name, and the names of their immediate family members (with the exception of children), will be listed. Members must then individually opt into the Online Directory through Church Connect for any of their information to be visible, including their family photo. Members have the ability to choose what information they want to share on the Online Directory. <https://www.churchtrac.com/support/connect/online-directory-overview>

- Login to the online directory at <https://cmcl.churchtrac.com/directory>
- In the upper LH corner of your "My Profile" page which opens upon your successful login, click on the three horizontal lines to open the drop down menu
- From the drop down menu, click on "Online Directory"
- At the top of the "Online Directory" page, click on the link "Mange what information I share with others"
- From the menu which appears, one can turn off or on what information you want others to be able to see in the online directory. If you want to share the photo which used to appear in CMCL's prior online photo directory, move the slider to the right

**NOTICE RE: OFFICE HOURS—** The church office will now regularly be open on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Thank you for your patience while we are looking for a new office coordinator. - *Staff Relations Committee*

**PASTOR SUSAN GASCHO-COOKE IS ON SABBATICAL LEAVE FROM OCT 10 - JAN 10—** During her absence, Pam Brubaker, M.Div. will be supplementing pastoral care, alongside Pastoral staff and Pastoral Team. NOTE: Pam works at Lancaster General as a chaplain; her usual days with CMCL will be Thursdays and Fridays.

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## HOLIDAY SERVICES

Please note times!

**Blue Holiday/Holiday Grief Gathering—** December 14, 7 PM

**Advent Worship IV: Love**— December 18, 8:30 AM

**Worship/Children's Christmas Pageant**— December 18, 11 AM

**Solstice Contemplative Service**— Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM

**Christmas Eve Candle Lighting**— Saturday, December 24, 7 PM

**Christmas Day** (one service)— Sunday, December 25, 10 AM

**New Year's Day** (one service)— Sunday, January 1, 10 AM

## GRANT STREET BUILDING UPDATE

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**GRANT STREET BUILDING WORKDAY**— The ad hoc Grant Street Construction Committee will have another workday on Saturday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>** and Saturday, **January 14<sup>th</sup>**. We are looking for folks with the ability to lift 50+ pounds and know how to use a hammer or a broom. Gloves/dust masks/eye protection are recommended (depending on number of volunteers some supplies will be available at the site), a hammer and tool belt are optional but very helpful. We will continue to focus on framing interior walls, installing new windows and general cleanup (but subject to change). If interested or would like more information or have questions please reach out to any of us on the committee. —Steve Walter-Text/Call 717.823.7570 (on behalf of the rest of the committee), Don Stoltzfus, Kelvin Mack Boll, Lynn Bergey.

P.S. If there is interest to help during the week, please contact me as well. There is a smaller group (primarily Don and Lynn) working during the week and would welcome any help.











## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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*Adult Christian Education: November 20–January 15*

### ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PEER GROUPS

Age 20 something to 40: Location to be announced

Age 41–55: Location to be announced

### WINTERING

*So often we think of the need to retreat from the high energy of the holiday season: Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. Instead of retreating let's embrace the high energy and expectations while including practices of reflection, contemplation and opening.*

#### Wintering

**Contemplative Practices for Thanksgiving and Advent**

**November 20— Meditative Circle Art Prayer**

*Brenda Sauder, presenter*



Attendees will be invited into a quiet listening prayer space using the simple method of drawing circles. You will take away a completed art piece that can remind you, during the busyness of Advent, of the simple practice of listening prayer. If you have a favorite black pen, bring it along; otherwise, all supplies provided.

### **December 4— Advent Visuals**

*Mary Lou Weaver Houser, presenter*

Three themes of advent—annunciation, attunement, and animation—will be explored with a variety of art pieces. In our historic moments of collapse, how are you finding your way?

### **December 11— Advent in Unexpected Places—A Short Walk in Downtown Lancaster**

*Jim Bowman, presenter*

Bring your camera or smartphone to capture images of things you see that speak Advent to you. Prior to the walk, Jim Bowman will share from his experience as a photographer how to be aware of your surroundings so that you notice what you may overlook. You will be invited to submit your images following the walk to be compiled for sharing with the wider CMCL congregation.

### **December 18—Christmas Pageant**

### **December 25, January 1—No Christian Ed**

### **Wintering**

### ***Bringing in the New Year***

### **January 8**

*Ellen Kanagy, presenter*

### **January 15**

*Pam Brubaker, presenter*

#### **PASTORAL INFORMATION:**

#### **PASTORAL CARE DECEMBER 9-11**

Dec. 9 - Pam Brubaker  
(717-917-8719)

Dec. 10-11 - Pastor Leslie

**PRAYER CONCERNS—** Email  
Pastor Leslie with your prayer

#### **Church Report**

#### **November 27—**

**Attendance 1st service: 49**

**Attendance 2nd service: 69**

**Zoom: 25**

#### **December 4—**

**Attendance 1st service: 52**

**Attendance 2nd service: 76**

**Zoom: 21**

concerns

[leslie@communitymennonite.org](mailto:leslie@communitymennonite.org)

## COMMUNITY / GENERAL MENNONITE

**FRIENDS OF MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**—Join MCC for a special event, *The Epicenter*, on **December 10** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the [MCC East Coast Material Resources Center](#) (MRC) which is located at [517 West Trout Run Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522](#). Come prepared to volunteer and donate school kits. Your contributions are an opportunity to be the hands of Jesus Christ and reach places where you never thought your service would go. *Please note that lunch will not be provided.*

RSVP and learn more by calling the Ephrata MRC at (717) 733-2847 or contact Rolando Flores-Rentas, Southcentral PA Program Coordinator, at [RolandoFloresRentas@mcc.org](mailto:RolandoFloresRentas@mcc.org). This event is part of our [MCC Holiday Open House series](#) on the East Coast.

**LOCAL YARN AND FIBER FOR SALE** on Sunday, **December 11**. Jess King and Chad Martin will be selling hand-dyed yarn (including some specialty hand-spun items) and fiber products at a pop-up shop at [354 N. Queen St](#) in Lancaster. All products are made from fiber from their Angora goats! Stop by anytime from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, or contact Jess or Chad for more info.

**MCCL INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM TO SING HALLELUJAH CHORUS AT PARK CITY, DECEMBER 10** —

You are invited to participate in a spontaneous singing of the Hallelujah Chorus on Saturday, December 10 at 11 a.m. in the lower food court at Park City Shopping Center, Lancaster. If you would like to sing, please respond by signing up at <https://bit.ly/MCCLsinging> or by calling 717- 455-7025. An optional rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, December 6 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite Church. To review your voice part, please visit [www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org](http://www.mennonitechilrenschoir.org).

**HOLIDAYS AND FINANCIAL STRESS**—For some of us, the holidays can be particularly challenging when it comes to spending and meeting financial obligations. Increased inflation, economic instability, and the pressure to overspend on the holidays can add to an already stressful time of the year. Everence has resources to assist those who are struggling with managing finances. Since 2008 Everence has partnered with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to provide free confidential financial counseling services. You do not need to be a customer of Everence to use this valuable service. [Click here to learn more.](#) Tenfold is another free resource for those struggling with finances with a focus on affordable housing and employment. Tenfold also provides free financial counseling services and can assist with debt consolidation/reduction plans. [Click here for more information.](#) Please contact me if you have any questions about [Everence](#).

Dave Cattell, Everence Advocate for CMCL  
[davidcc1956@yahoo.com](mailto:davidcc1956@yahoo.com), 484-868-7547

**ANNUAL MUSIC AND WORSHIP LEADERS RETREAT**—Laurelville Retreat Center in Southwestern Pa., will host its annual Music & Worship Leaders Retreat from January 20-22, 2023. The event is in-person and limited to 150. A virtual recording of some segments can be purchased to watch at a later date. The retreat gives music and worship leaders a space to learn, recharge, and connect with their peers through valuable workshops, seminars, resources, fellowship time, worship, and plenty of music.

This year's theme is "lament and hope" with guest speaker Safwat Marzouk, author and theologian. Register at [laurelville.org](http://laurelville.org) or call 724-423-2056 weekdays. Deadline to register is 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9, 2022. Questions? [Mary@laurelville.org](mailto:Mary@laurelville.org).

**NATURAL PRESERVE AT AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH** —Akron Mennonite Church is turning four acres into a natural preserve using part of it to encourage more environmentally friendly burial options. Green burial options, a columbarium and memory wall will create attractive alternatives to traditional, more expensive and ground polluting embalming methods. CMCL has committed to joining and contributing \$5,000. Currently, we're at \$3,500. If anyone is interested in supporting this initiative, please consider sending a check to the church with green cemetery in the memo line. Any questions, please email me at [calvinesh@gmail.com](mailto:calvinesh@gmail.com).

**FOOD HUB DONATIONS**— Seeking canned foods with pull tabs or food pouches such as tuna/chicken, meats, fruits, and meal helpers such as Hamburger helper, rice sides, etc. They are also in need of socks, underwear, gloves, sleeping bags, rain ponchos, umbrella, wheeled suitcases, and hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, laundry detergent and diapers. There is a bin for the Food Hub in the church lower level, near the mailboxes. Thank you, Frank and Beth for the Peace & Justice Committee

**MENNONITE ARTS WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 3-5, 2023**—Mennonite Arts Weekend will take place in Cincinnati Ohio. Pamphlets are on the shelves by the mailboxes and a poster is on the bulletin board. *Girl Named Tom* will be among the musicians this year. Go to <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw/> for the list of presenters and registration, location, and lodging information. Questions? See Renee King, Lynn Sommer or Marylou Weaver Houser.

*Come celebrate artists at Mennonite Arts Weekend on Feb. 3-5, 2023. There will be presentations, workshops, children's activities, and a concert by Girl Named Tom.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER** invites applicants for a position of Office Coordinator (.625 FTE/25 hours weekly). This position requires someone who is self-directed, can work with minimal supervision, can work for and with multiple clergy and lay leaders, and can balance multiple time and deadline demands. Previous experience in a similar position desirable. Primary responsibilities include administrative support for communications, facilities management, technology, and general clerical support for pastoral staff. Health, retirement and other benefits included. For more information, including a full job description, or to express interest, please contact [src@communitymennonite.org](mailto:src@communitymennonite.org). [Posting to the wider community in late November.]

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