WHO WE ARE

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster is an inclusive, progressive, Mennonite/Anabaptist Christian peace church. We are a member congregation of the Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church USA, and of the Supportive Communities Network. To read our full covenant, core values and statement on LGBTQ inclusion, as well as more information about our congregation and denomination, please visit our website:

VT
www.communitymennonite.org/about-us/what-we-believe/

CMCL VISION PRAYER

Through your grace, O God, form us into a community called to follow Jesus, known and loved by you, nourished throughout our lives by worship, relationships and the biblical story, open to new voices and new dreams, committed to one another in times of celebration and difficulty, responsive to human need with justice and compassion. May your Spirit draw us together into your new creation.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

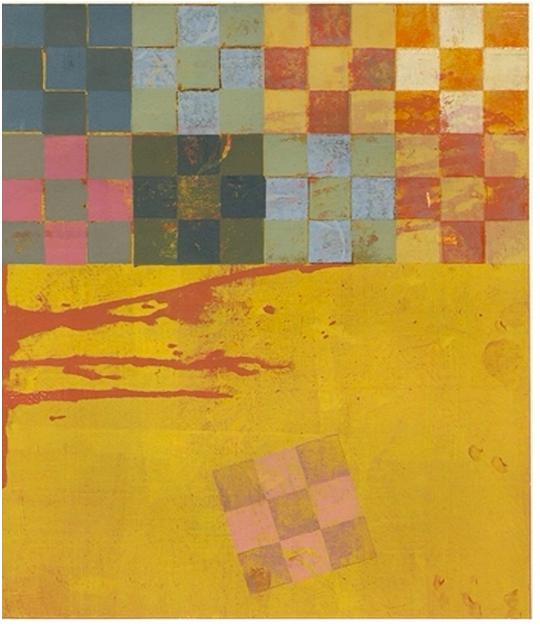
We acknowledge that Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster owns land that was inhabited by the Susquehannock confederacy (also known as the Conestoga) and Lenape people at the time of European contact. We lament our ancestors' complicity in land theft from Indigenous Peoples and how we benefit from a legacy of exploitation and genocide. We intend for this statement to be a first step in a journey of healing and reconciliation.

DISMANTLING RACISM STATEMENT

The predominantly white CMCL community acknowledges a history of unearned privilege and opportunity that occurred at the expense of those of color. We commit to move beyond mere words to tangible reparative acts, increasingly reflected in our annual church budget and through individual contributions. We see this lifelong process of learning and action to be transformational yet acknowledge this is only a step.



who were we at the beginning? who are we now? who we will become?



328 WEST ORANGE ST. LANCASTER, PA 17603

September 14, 2025

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

Worship Leader: Susan Gascho-Cooke

Prelude

Come Let Us Return by Fr. Kelly, Bro. Colgan, Fr. Ratchford

Prelude & Offertory:

Luke Good. Dan Laubach, Leon Miller, Mary Alice Ressler, Daryl Snider, Ron Umble,

Lighting of the Peace Candle "A Prayer in Times of Violence"

by Pádraig Ó Tuama

Welcome & Call to Worship by Mary Oliver, from Thirst, adapted "More Beautiful than the Honey Locust Tree Are the Words of the Lord"

Gathering Songs

What Is This Place VT 22 see insert Reader: All who love and serve your city

Deb Napolitan

Stock Weinstock

Children's Time

Come and See

VT 282

Song Leader: Offering Prayer & Offertory Marty Kelley

by Brian A. Schmidt Lux Arterna

Children's Time: Pam Brubaker

Scripture

Reflection

Special Music: Daryl Snider

Communion **Special Music during Communion**

Sound: All My Favorite People are Broken Monte Garber

by Over the Rhine

Zoom Technician: Marcia Towers

Greeters:

Joanne Leatherman Larry Groff

Ushers: Pauline Zimmerman John Kanagy

> **Foyer Monitor:** Joseph Gascho

> > Alicia Jantzi

Crescentia Volz

Fishbowl Volunteers: Christy Heatwole Kauffman

Worship Environment: Alicia Smith

The blanket in the front of the sanctuary was presented to CMCL by Circle Legacy this spring.

Reading "In the Midst of a World"

In the midst of a world marked by tragedy and beauty there must be those who bear witness against unnecessary destruction and who, with faith, rise and lead in freedom, with grace and power. There must be those who

speak honestly and do not avoid seeing what must be seen of sorrow and outrage.

or tenderness. and wonder. There must be those whose grief troubles the water while their voices sing

and speak refreshed worlds.

Sharing Time

Loving God...hear our prayers

by Rebecca Parker There must be those who are restless for respectful and loving companionship among human beings.

whose presence invites people to be themselves without fear. There must be those who gather with the congregation of remembrance and compassion

draw water from old wells. and walk the simple path

of love for neighbor.

Reading "Prayer for this church" by Nancy Shaffer, from *Instructions for Joy*

May each one among us have skin that longs to touch other skin: fingertips that long for other fingertips or whole hands and even arms; bodies that want to stand next to other bodies, not alone. while singing and bending, stirring soup. May ones whose skin doesn't cry out for other skin wish it did, and so teach it, so that no one stands alone and no one aches and does not say so.

May our doors be so open it is drafty inside, and people sometimes shout because noises without come also within. May those sheltered here sometimes cry, all at once, letting tear water clean what words by themselves cannot. In silent times, may every one present hear every one else breathing, and know this is not separate from how the world breathes all night.

May we notice each one who is new and invite her to stay. May our list of names for the Holy not ever be finished; and may we hear God chuckling with us as we find still more.

Announcements & Introduction of Visitors

Closing Song

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, vs 1 and 4

VT 156

Benediction

CMCL Vision Prayer

see back page of bulletin