

SING!

College Mennonite Church

October 2016



The Extended Family of God

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.*

*Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home
and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*

—Deuteronomy 6:4-9

In this issue:

- Restorative Justice and MVS
- What is Family Ministry?
- New members
- Handbell Ministry at CMC

This is the Shema, the “Great Commandment” that Jesus refers to in Matthew 22. We are to love the Lord with our whole selves and to live lives oriented toward God. Parents are instructed to recite these words, to talk about them, to take them along when they leave the home. This life oriented toward God is to be visible and felt in the family.

Families are the forming center for faith. It is in the context of family that we learn what is important in life. “Family” is not limited to those related by birth, but rather is expansive, encompassing all those who share life with each other. This extends beyond

those who live together to the big family of Christ, made up of adopted children of God.

In this issue of *Sing!*, pp. 4-5, we look at family ministry at College Mennonite Church, where we seek to make sure that each person has a family. We seek to equip parents and caregivers to be leaders in faith in their families. We seek to adopt each other as the extended family of God. And we seek, as the church family, to share lives together that are oriented toward God, that we might together live out the Great Commandment.

—Talashia Keim Yoder



Sing!

We worship together

EVERY SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. – Songs for Gathering

9:25 a.m. – Off-site Worship

Radio: WGCS 91.1 FM: the Globe

Online: www.collegemennonite.org

Greencroft Communities: Ch. 13

9:30 a.m. – Worship service

interpretation in Spanish and, on request, American Sign Language

11 a.m. – Fellowship and Christian education classes for all ages

Pastoral Team

Phil Waite, pastoral team leader

Gwen Gustafson-Zook, outreach & worship

Marty Lehman, administration

Daniel Yoder, Christian formation – youth

Pamela Yoder, pastoral care

Talashia Keim Yoder, family ministry

Ministry Coordinators

Claudia Granados, Hispanic ministries

Sheila S. Yoder, Deaf ministries

College Mennonite Church is a member of Mennonite Church USA, an Anabaptist community of believers.

To learn more go to:

www.collegemennonite.org

www.mennoniteusa.org



THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly
from my iniquity, and
cleanse me from my sin.

—Psalm 52:1-2

“Mercy” Worship Series: Bible Study Guide

This month we continue our worship series focusing on “Mercy.” If you would like to read along or to study the texts and stories for each Sunday, here is a suggested reading list:

Oct. 2	“How long, O Lord”	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9
Oct. 9	The story of Naaman	Psalm 11 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15
Oct. 16	The unjust judge	Psalm 121 Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 23	The Pharisee & tax collector	Psalm 84:1-7 Luke 18:9-14
Oct. 30	The story of Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10

“I See the Value of Service”

Reflections on Restorative Justice Work with Mennonite Voluntary Service



see the value of service as I work with youth and their families to give them alternatives to the traditional justice system. I see the value of service in providing programs that nurture relationships and build bridges towards happy and healthy communities of people working together to solve conflicts. I am grateful for the continued support from CMC, my home congregation, as I begin another year of service, and I look forward to the days when I will return to lovely Goshen.

—Eva Lapp

(second from the right in photo)

The warmth of summer sun in the desert, the cold of winter at -20 degrees, service and community-building at 7,500 ft. above sea level, and laughter around a table of young people doing service through Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) in Alamosa, Colorado—it has been a year! Last month I transitioned into

I see the value of service in ... building bridges towards happy and healthy communities...

my second VS term here in beautiful Alamosa. It's been a full year of learning about restorative justice and learning to live communally with others in a new and vibrant place.

As a VSer, I work at the Center for Restorative Programs as a program coordinator for several of the agency's restorative justice programs. CRP works with youth who are first-time offenders, providing alternative programs to keep them out of the criminal justice system and to help them take responsibility for the harm they have caused themselves and others. Currently, CRP has three primary programs for youth with alcohol/drug charges, traffic offenses, or a variety of other

charges (theft, harassment, property damage, physical fights). Youth may participate in a mediation with the victim in their case, or they may be referred to a restorative circle process, which they attend with supportive adults. I help out as a co-mediator, and I also coordinate and facilitate the restorative circles. CRP has been a wonderful place to get some on-the-ground experience in restorative justice work.

I have also enjoyed my time getting to know the community here in the San Luis Valley. I play viola in the community orchestra and sing in the community chorale. I love exploring the valley and the surrounding mountains with my housemates. Alamosa is a small city of around 10,000 people, so there is a strong “small town” feel as I run into coworkers and clients on a daily basis when I'm out grocery shopping or going for a run in the park.

Serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service has been a life-giving experience for me as I've grown in my passion for working with and connecting with people in meaningful ways. Service has always been an important component of my faith, and I am grateful for this VS opportunity. I

A Story of Restorative Justice

“Danny” was referred to CRP's Rethinking Substances program for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. As a 15-year-old young man, he attended the program with his older brother as his supportive adult. Danny shared his story with honesty and full recognition of how the incident had impacted his family, particularly his younger brothers. After participating in the circle process, Danny and his brother decided that Danny would work to repair harm to his family by having weekly “family meetings” to discuss his experience with the program and to counsel his younger siblings about the consequences and health concerns related to underage drug use.

Danny successfully completed the program and gave excellent reviews of the “family meetings” that he organized. He was able to restore some trust with his brothers and establish a safe setting to support one another and discuss family issues. It was fun to see Danny participate so fully. Since completing the program, Danny has become involved as a teen intern at a non-profit in Alamosa, and he is taking big steps towards his future goals.



From Generation to Generation

Seeing God at Work Through Family Ministry at CMC



While some things about family life remain the same from generation to generation, our constantly changing culture means that each generation faces a new set of challenges. Current challenges to family life include a culture

The church has a prophetic role to play...

of fear, individualism, competition, and hyper-busyness, as well as the complexity of social media. Families are struggling to find space to breathe in the midst of this. The church has a prophetic role to play in giving families the support they need to simplify, to connect as faithful families, and to be a vital part of the living body of Christ.

The church family can be a big part of the answer to these challenges. And in return, families help us to see the work of God and to call us to something higher and bigger than the place we are now.

Many families in our congregation are not stereotypical North American Mennonites. We are a collection of people from 20 different religious traditions and nine different nationalities. Some families grew up in traditional Christian homes, but many did not. We are a mix of socio-economic backgrounds and education levels. Most families in our congregation have two parents working full time. Many don't have extended family living within two hours of Goshen. These families are diverse, beautiful, and in need of church family. —Talashia Keim Yoder

How Can I Engage in Family Ministry?

- ◆ At church meals, sit with families and youth. We don't want to sit just with people our age—and our kids behave better at a table with other adults!
- ◆ Talk with children and youth.
- ◆ When there is an intergenerational activity, attend it.
- ◆ Sit with or close to families and youth in worship and interact with them.
- ◆ Teach children's or youth Sunday school and you will get to know families and children!
- ◆ When you see a parent struggling to corral his or her children, help.
- ◆ Bring meals when there is a new baby or a family in transition/crisis.
- ◆ Invite a family over and cultivate that new relationship.
- ◆ Be an MYF Investor.
- ◆ Encourage your Sunday school class to join the MYF for a "Love Is a Verb" service night.
- ◆ Ask a few families of various life stages to have a potluck together.
- ◆ Engage in worship and faith practices with your whole self. When children observe adults being reserved about these things, the embodiment of faith is taught out of them.
- ◆ **Most importantly:** See each person as a creation of God, at a relevant and interesting point of their faith journey, and engage them where they are.

Lori's Story: "Church Was a Constant"



One of the darkest times in my life was during my separation and divorce 12 years ago. During that time, church was a constant. I always felt welcomed and supported and found that my children had a wealth of support and love the minute they walked through the church doors. My church family was a large part of my survival during that time. God places people in our lives at just the right time, when we need help the most, and God did that for me.

More recently, my Sunday school class (Growing Roots) and small group have helped my family grow in faith. My children love spending time with these families so much that when I am out of town, they attend small group anyway! The relationships that Jonah and Sarah have with the children as well as the adults in these groups have allowed them to experience both giving and receiving God's love. Sunday school and youth group are also important to my children, especially the relationships they form there with teachers, adult leaders, and pastors.

Throughout my children's lives, there have been people in our church who have made them feel important and loved. We have discussed these people at home, and we have thanked God for them when we pray. Recently, our sump pump quit working, which meant moving lots of furniture to tear out and replace carpet. Many people came to the rescue—in fact, we had more people offer to help than what we needed! Jonah said to me, "Wow, you have a lot of support!" My response was that **we** have a lot of support. We discussed how fortunate we are to be part of a church family. We also talked about making sure that we are supporting others when they need it.

My children have had many church people model for them ways to show love to others. Because of this, they are learning to show love to others through their actions and words. —Lori Hochstetler



Feeling the Love

When asked "How does our church family impact your family life?" members of Growing Roots Sunday school class responded:

- Regularly attending church, Sunday school, small group, and Wednesday evening activities has significantly upped our deliberate and intentional hours thinking about God.
- Preparing for and teaching children's Sunday school and children's time has deepened my faith.
- Discussions in our Sunday school class have given us ways to bring more things into our home to talk about with our children.
- Input about the church year has given us things to do as a family.
- Suggestions in Sunday school got us started reading a beginner's Bible with our children at nighttime.
- We often carry over discussion from church as we drive home and continue to process ideas together.
- Our choices in music in our home and in the car have become much more deliberate when we realized how much our children were taking in and singing along to songs. Bryan Moyer Suderman, *Kid's Praise*, and other worship CDs have become staples for us.
- We felt the love of our church family when people brought us meals after our children were born.
- Getting to know our children's Sunday school teachers has enriched our lives.
- We watch more closely for the ways that God's love comes through our children.

Welcoming New Members

Mary Louise White

Mary, who became of CMC member on June 12, is of Scottish descent, with both of her parents growing up in Scot-land. Her father came to the United States, and a year later he sent for her mother. All of their siblings also immigrated.

Mary describes her father as a person who lived a Christian lifestyle but didn't attend church. He always helped people in need, giving food to those who were hungry. He did not want to carry a gun when he was in the war. Instead he provided courier service, bringing messages to the front line.

Her mother, on the other hand, did attend church. She was a Methodist; Mary attended church with her and was baptized as a child in the Methodist church. Mary's mother is now 93 years old and still living in Mishawaka and attending the church where Mary grew up.

When Mary left home, she

stopped attending church. She saw a lot of hypocrisy in the church and didn't want to be a part of it. She had a boyfriend who was into witchcraft. She joined him for a time, but soon became concerned about some of their practices and rituals. She decided to return to church.

After getting married she began attending her husband's church, a Methodist church in Mishawaka. They had three children, but the marriage ended in divorce.

After her divorce she reconnect-ed with Freddy Welker, someone she had known earlier in her life. When Freddy needed assistance with living, due to health problems, Mary took him into her home. She helped care for him until his death in Sept. 2015.

Freddy has two sons whose children call her "Grandma Mary." Her daughter and children live in Indianapolis, and her youngest son was recently married. Her middle son is also married with stepchildren.



Mary feels blessed with children and grandchildren.

Freddy used to attend CMC and Goshen College. He introduced Mary to CMC. Mary has found it a welcoming congregation and decided to continue to attend after Freddy died.

Mary works part-time as a home health care aide. She enjoys working with children and hopes to join the CMC choir. —Marty Lehman

Annelise Green

At her baptism on July 10, Annelise shared her faith statement:

I know that God will always care for and love me. I always have and always will ask God questions. The way that I feel God talking or telling me something is a nudge or a voice



in my head.

Baptism is important to me because I want to follow, learn about, and do what God wants me to do. God knows that I want to do that, but I want everyone else to know that too.

There are so many people who have helped me on my faith journey that I can't name them all. One person is my Grandma Green. She heard God's call to go to the Dominican Republic to help a program called Kids Alive. She has shown me that when God calls us we need to listen. My mom and dad and my Grandma and Grandpa Gunden have helped me learn about God and Jesus. They have shown me how to follow God and Jesus. Carol Grieser has been my faith mentor for the past year. She has helped me learn about baptism, God, Jesus, and Anabaptists. My Sunday school



teachers have helped me learn more about God and Jesus as well.

My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23 because it comforts me. It reminds me that God will never let me out of his sight.

Finding a Place for Everyone in Worship

33 Years of Handbell Ministry at CMC

Dan Steiner has put away his last case of bells. After more than 33 years with CMC's handbell ministry, he is retiring.

Dan was introduced to handbells in the late '60s while working at Aux Chandelles, later part of ADEC. A visiting group from Cardinal Center in Warsaw, another program for children with disabilities, performed with handbells. Dan saw possibilities for his own work, and a bell choir was formed after a board member donated money for the bells. June Wilson, director of the Cardinal Center choir, had published a book of hand signals for

bell chords, which Dan adopted and adapted. He led the bell choir until 1977, when he took a leave of absence, and again when he rejoined the staff in 1986.

Meanwhile, Dan joined the CMC staff in 1980 as associate minister for children's education. A number of folks with developmental disabilities were attending CMC, and in 1982 Dan started the Ringing Hands bell choir with bells borrowed from Goshen Middle School. The next year the Smucker family

donated money for a three-octave set of Malmark handbells in memory of Dr. Ernest Smucker. Two more octaves were added later. Ringing Hands became Shalom Ringers, and it wasn't long until Dan also started the Jubilate! Handbell Choir; he handed over the reins for that to Eric Zehr in the early '90s. Don Garber became director of Shalom Ringers about 2010; Dan continued as accompanist.

Among the highlights that Dan remembers were the handbell festivals sponsored by Jubilee Ringers of Elkhart County in the



1990s. Both of CMC's choirs participated, along with choirs from other churches. During the day the choirs would rehearse compositions they had practiced individually beforehand. Individual choirs performed in the evening, but the focus was on the combined choir pieces. Ten or more choirs ringing together made quite a sound!

Dan also fondly remembers the Palm Sunday performances of Edward Leinbach's "Hosanna" at CMC, which included both handbell choirs plus adult and children's choirs. And he enjoyed taking the choirs "on the road" (as Dirk Vardaman puts it), giving programs at Greencroft, other churches, and nursing homes. But he especially liked composing and arranging music for the Shalom Ringers, starting with a music writer program for his Apple IIe.

Dan sees a continuing future for handbells at CMC, providing an opportunity to contribute to worship for persons who might otherwise not be able to. —Don Garber

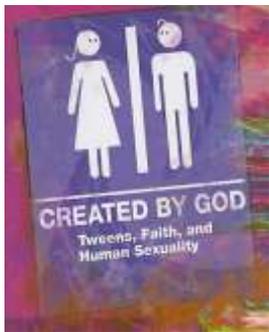


Youth “Meet and Greet”

Do you know these people?
They want to know you.
Come meet as many
CMC junior high and high school
youth as you can
on
Sunday, Oct. 9
10:45-11:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.



Created by God!



Our 5th-7th graders will participate in “**Created by God**” the weekend of Nov. 3-6. This is a great opportunity to learn, grow, and celebrate the fact that we have each been wonderfully created by God and are called to responsible living as sexual beings. Please be in prayer for the youth, parents, adult volunteers, and our event leader, Dr.

Jim Ritchie, as we prepare for this weekend of talking, singing, laughing, and learning together.

Are You Missing the Fun?



College students gather at the CMC supper table on Wednesday. Come join them and CMCers of all ages for food and fellowship—Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26!

Mark Your Calendar

- **Oct. 2** Taizé worship service led by Goshen College students (7 p.m. in Newcomer 19)
- **Wednesday evenings meal and activities**
6 p.m. Evening meal in the Fellowship Hall
6:45 p.m. Activities for all ages
- **Nov. 6** All Saints Remembrance during Sunday morning worship service

Sing! is a monthly publication of College Mennonite Church. Send inquiries to communications@collegemennonite.org.

Sandra Shenk Lapp, managing editor
Don Garber, copy editor
Photographers include Dottie Kauffmann, Rex Hooley

COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH
1900 S Main St. Goshen IN 46526-5218
Office hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.–Thurs.
Phone: (574) 535-7262
E-mail: cmc@collegemennonite.org
Web site: www.collegemennonite.org

