Welcome, Madeline and David!

Madeline and David Maldonado joined the CMC pastoral team on July 1. Before starting, they moved into a duplex not far from church. They even led a prayer at the June 30 immigration rally at the Elkhart County courthouse.

Madeline and David are not people who “let the grass grow under their feet,” as the saying goes. Since starting in July, they have taken time for orientation to the office. They have learned everything from where we keep pens to how we do worship planning. But they have not only focused on CMC! They recently visited the Center for Healing and Hope, Maple City Health Care Center, and many other community organizations.

Becoming familiar with the Goshen College campus and meeting with key GC employees is also part of their orientation. Since Madeline and David will be working with community outreach and with young adults, their connections with community organizations and Goshen College faculty, staff, and students are important contacts for them and for CMC.

Welcome, Madeline and David! It is great to have you on the CMC team!

—Marty Lehman
Coming This Fall

This fall, worship life at College Mennonite will focus on themes of “Unity” (September through October 7) and “Be fruitful and multiply” (October 14 through November).

Division has been a part of church life from the beginning. Paul’s letters address issues of division and unity. What is it that divides us? What unites us? Human communities have struggled with division from the beginning. How do these tendencies manifest themselves in the church? How can we find unity?

We will close this “Unity” series with World Communion Sunday on October 7, jointly with the Deaf Christian Fellowship.

Fall is a season when we celebrate fruitfulness. The Christian life is also marked by spiritual fruitfulness, evidenced by fruit of the spirit in daily living. Later this fall we celebrate God’s gift of a fruitful harvest of both produce and righteousness.

—Phil Waite
Summer Learning & Fun

Vacation Bible School

Continued on next page
Summer Activities Program

Special thanks to Horizons and Pathfinders Sunday School classes for helping make SAP a success this summer. The children had a great time and are looking forward to next year!

Joke Sharing
Biking

Menno-Hof Sunday Service
New Member Profiles

Steve & Maggie Harmon

Steve and Maggie Harmon became members at CMC on February 4. They are active members of the Growing Roots Sunday school class and parents of two children: Ellie, age 3, and Ben, age 1. Maggie grew up in a Chicago suburb in a Catholic home. She didn’t know there were non-Catholics until she saw a fellow student at her elementary school eating meat on a Friday. Her mother stayed at home to care for Maggie and her two younger brothers while they were young, but as they got older she took different office jobs while also working on a teaching degree. She received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in education. Maggie’s father was a paramedic for the Chicago Fire Department. Her parents were divorced when she was young.

Steve grew up in southern Illinois just north of St. Louis. His father is a family physician, and his mother is a clinical psychiatrist. Like Maggie, he also has two younger brothers. Steve’s father was raised Lutheran, and his mother came from a Grace Brethren background. His parents met while in college at Wheaton College. While growing up, his family attended both Baptist and Methodist churches. Steve was engaged in non-denominational religious worship while in college.

Maggie and Steve both attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where they met. They were both very involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. After college, they moved to Springfield, where Steve started medical school and Maggie taught high school French. Steve’s residency took them to South Bend Memorial Hospital. Maggie taught French at Jimtown High School during this time until Ellie was born.

While in South Bend, Steve was recruited to join Vista Community Health Center in Goshen as a family physician. Maggie is a stay-at-home mom right now. Welcome to College Mennonite, Steve and Maggie!

—Marty Lehman

Mikol Aspinwall

Mikol Aspinwall (age 16) was born in Los Angeles and lived for eleven years in Phoenix, which he describes as “a big city.” In Phoenix, Mikol was involved in worship at Laveen Baptist Church, and four years ago he was baptized.

At the age of 13, he accelerated his education progress by moving with his mother, Grace Aspinwall, to Goshen, where he enrolled in Goshen College. Now a senior at Goshen College, computer science is his major. This summer he worked for Mennonite.net, where he gained some administrative experience.

When asked about activities and sports that he likes, Mikol indicated that he prefers football and lacrosse. Mikol has been active in MYF at CMC and enjoys going with the MYF to work at Chain Reaction. He indicated that he can repair almost any bicycle.

On Sunday, May 13, Mikol was received into membership at College Mennonite Church via his statement of faith and rebaptism. Below is Mikol’s faith statement:

“Three years ago, I picked Goshen College. I had no idea what a Mennonite was, and I especially had no idea what I was getting into. What’s a West Coast city boy supposed to know? My first Sunday at College Mennonite Church, I was taken aback as I heard the beautiful music of which I’d never heard before. Who were these people from which I heard the sound of Christ? In this time of learning and growing, I’ve grown closer to God, the church, and Anabaptism. I’ve learned a lot about what it means to be a Mennonite and the power of peace. In the spirit of Anabaptism, I believe it is time to show all of you that this is a journey I am ready to commit to.

College Mennonite Church has shown me a way of peace, of love, of community, of faith, and of God. When I first became a Christian, this was the church that I envisioned. I’m blessed to call you all my church family, and I can’t wait to see what comes next. Glory to God!”

—Tom Holzinger
Luis Tapia

Luis Tapia became a member at College Mennonite Church on May 13. He is currently a student at AMBS, having just completed his first year of studies. Luis grew up in Valparaiso, Chile. He has a twin brother and a sister who is ten years younger. His father was an attorney working primarily with tax issues. His mother stayed at home with the children. When he was a teenager, his parents divorced.

After completing high school, Luis entered university to study English, hoping to work as a translator and interpreter. But he dropped out after one semester, a decision he now regrets. He wasn’t sure what to do with his life but started thinking about attending seminary. At the same time, his pastor encouraged him to consider attending seminary, which he did. He attended a Baptist seminary in Santiago, the capital of Chile. He completed a four-year degree at seminary (seminary in Chile is at the undergraduate level).

While Luis was attending seminary, his pastor resigned and the congregation asked him to be their interim pastor. Luis agreed to this, which meant returning home every weekend. After he completed his seminary degree, the congregation called him to be their pastor. He was ordained two years later.

Luis continued his education while pastoring. He attended a Catholic university in Valparaiso to study philosophy. He also studied education, with the goal of teaching philosophy at the high-school level. When he completed these degrees, he left his pastoral role and taught high school philosophy for a year. He decided high school teaching was not his calling.

While pastoring he met his wife Jennifer. They dated for a number of years before being married in 2004. They went to Ecuador (where she had lived for eight years) for vacation. This led to a pastoral role in the Mennonite congregation in Quito, where they served for three years.

Through Mennonite connections at Goshen College and the Quito church, Luis learned of CMC. He came for several months to work on his English before returning to begin his seminary studies. Currently he lives, with his wife Jennifer and their dog Bruno, on the AMBS campus.

—Marty Lehman

Robert Josiah Yoder

Josiah Yoder, age 12, son of Bob and Pamela, just began seventh grade at Bethany Christian Schools and looks forward to playing soccer and baseball this year. Along with his dad, Josiah shares a love for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Josiah played chess from second to sixth grade, but now considers himself “retired.”

Josiah is compassionate and thoughtful, but also has a silly side. He likes to play pranks and try out new dance moves. He enjoys hanging out with friends and even his sister, Mira. He is a good artist and creative writer. In May, Josiah was baptized after spending over a year walking with his faith mentor, Seth Yoder; Josiah is grateful for time and care Seth shared with him. Josiah has expressed a desire to become a peacemaker when he grows up. He was deeply touched when he learned about M. J. Sharp’s work and the tragic circumstances of his death. One of Josiah’s favorite Scripture passages is Psalm 21. Below is a portion of his faith statement:

“Many kinds of people have helped me in different ways … through what I call a “maze of faith.” These generous people have also reminded me of Christ whenever I have been blinded from Christ. I treasure a certain moment in my heart, and I believe that I will for the rest my life. This moment is what some people call a ‘thin moment’ … when people believe they have seen the ‘thin’ verge between heaven and earth. My special moment was during New Year’s Eve (2017) in Pennsylvania. Doing what any sixth-grade boy would do, I stayed up much of the night because of drinking too much Coca-Cola. I was anxious, with numerous things on my mind. I was barely awake when I went to wash my face. I looked in the mirror straight into my eyes and saw pure light, which had taken over my body. I felt filled with the love of God. … This felt very brief, as if it only went on for thirty seconds, but my parents said I had been staring into the mirror for practically twenty minutes. This surprised me and reminded me about the mysteries of Christ. This was during about the middle stage of Seth and my meeting for faith mentoring, and it reminded me how much this congregation means to me. I have been here for seven years, and I’m ready to be given to this community of Christ. For me, this means I will learn from my elders, and we will serve one another for duties of God. Baptism is a guide for me to be given to Christ. Thank you to everyone who have helped me on my faith journey.”

—Pamela Yoder
Casting Hope

In the early 1800s, someone explored how tactics and best practices in the educational system could be used in the church as a tool for discipleship. Through experiments in different contexts, Sunday school was born.

At this point in history, churches are exploring ways that employment and job skills learned at church can become tools for discipleship. Churches are becoming places where youth and others are learning the value of fairness, respect, commitment, responsibility, hard work, rest, reliability. To be sure, these are skills that can be learned at any place of employment. However, learned in the context of the church and as a form of discipleship, we are forming youth with Good News.

This radical Good News is that God has made us to be whole people. There is no longer a virtual self and a real life self, a career self and a hobby self, a family self and a friends self, a church self and a secular self. God took different pieces of our parents, different elements from creation and “knit us together in our mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13).

This can become our distinct Christian message in our context and time in history. This is our Good News to share. We, the church, have the privilege of blurring the lines that divide and doing the work of reconciliation.

In February, Jessica Whicker and I went to a Hatch-a-thon, a workshop that helps churches move an entrepreneurial ministry idea from concept to launch. Jessica went with ideas for the kitchen to be a place of outreach and education in the community. I went with ideas for youth to find flexible employment that fits their schedule and gives them the opportunity to be mentored into a skill that they have interest in. We came back with a prototype for a worm farm ministry.

What if what you throw away could make the future better? What if your trash could make the Goshen of your grandchildren a healthier place? What if you could tell youth in the community, “My church can give you a job”?

As a dad, I want the soil of Goshen to be a healthy place for my children. As a pastor, I want the soil of Goshen to be a source of health for all the plants, animals, and humans that call Goshen home.

I believe College Mennonite has a unique opportunity for a new kind of multifaceted ministry. We are casting hope for future health, for healthy children, and for a community that continues to thrive.

“Casting Hope” will employ youth and provide the Goshen community with locally sourced and created vermicompost. Give us your tired old food scraps, your poor old newspapers, your leaves that have been huddling in a pile and looking for new life. We will share them with our wiggly worm friends that will manufacture the healthiest soil in Goshen. These little factories of health will take your trash and resurrect it into something new. Our worm caretakers will harvest the worm castings, and we will sell you the healthiest soil in Goshen for your indoor plants and gardens, as well as liquid fertilizer and healthy worms for your pet chickens and lizards.

Is this a business? Is this a ministry? Is this mentoring? Is this creation care? Is this discipleship? Is this outreach? Is this something that has never been done? Is this something CMC has the gifts and skills to create? Is this crazy? Yes! And the Holy Spirit keeps blurring the lines and making this idea worm its way into something that can be an answer to many needs in our community. Casting Hope—God’s way of healing Goshen one worm at a time.

—Daniel Yoder