

Prayers and Praises

Charlottesville: We pray for the Spirit of Healing in our city: For all the citizens in the city, for our schools, schoolboards, administrators, teachers and children. For an end to racism and racial prejudice.

VMMissions: Yugo and Grace, who serve in Southeast Asia, are hoping to spend several months in the U.S. this year. Pray for preparations, including finding affordable tickets, applying for Yugo's visa, and fundraising.

Mennonite Mission Network: Do you know someone aged 15-22 who might benefit from Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture programs in Benin, Indonesia, Japan or Peru? Pray for participants who want to build the global church through relationships with God's people around the world

Pray for the local services for people in need: Love Inc., Shelter for Help in Emergency, Food Bank, Salvation Army, IMPACT – a justice ministry and PACEM- the initiative for the homeless.



Charlottesville
Mennonite
Church

701 Monticello Ave.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Pastors: Roy & Maren Hange
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2nd Sunday in Lent - March 17, 2019

Gathering in God's presence

Preservice Music

Call to worship *based on Psalm 103*

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

People: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals

**all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People; The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Opening prayer

Hymns	A wonderful savior is Jesus	HWB 598
	There is a place of quiet rest	HWB 5

Noticing God's presence

Children's story

Hymn	Jesus, rock of ages	HWB 515
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Scripture	Exodus 20:5-7; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ps 103:17-18
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Sermon	"It's not his fault"
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Hymn	The Lord's my shepherd	STS 99
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Responding to God's presence

Sharing of joys and concerns /visitor introductions

Pastoral Prayer

Offering	Praise God	HWB 119
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Hymn	Lead me, Lord	HWB 538
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Benediction

Everyone is welcome to stay for the fellowship meal immediately following the worship service.

Today

Sermon: Rev. Paula Owens Parker Maren Hange

Worship: Roy/Maren Hange Roy Hange

Music: Holly Scott Dottie Scott

Next Sunday

This Week

Tuesday	Men's Breakfast at Bodo's on Preston	7 am
Wedn	Lectio Divina Group	10 am
March 24	Johnson Baby Shower	12 pm

Upcoming Events

March 27	Ad Council Meeting	7 pm
March 31	Hymnsing	
April 7	Sermon: Joan Kulp; MCC Learning Tour to Honduras and Migration	
April 11	Nehemiah Action meeting	6 pm
April 18	Maundy Thursday supper	6 pm
April 19	Good Friday	
April 21	Easter breakfast	9 am
May 17-19	Annual church retreat	

Announcements

Please email all bulletin announcements by Thursday evening to Linda. Please include the word "Bulletin" in the subject line of the heading.

March memory verse: *O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1*

Report on Justice Ministry Network Rally March 12, 2019

The Affordable Housing Crisis

In the city, there are 3,000 families that make less than \$46,000 who are struggling to keep the roof over their heads. This results in half of all renters in the city burdened by their housing. In the urban ring of Charlottesville, which includes the highway 29 North corridor to the airport, over 4,000 families pay more than half of their income in housing costs. In Albemarle County 2,800 senior households struggle to afford their housing. Of those, 933 households pay more than half of their income toward housing.

Both localities have waitlists of at least 3 years for the Housing Choice Voucher, a federally funded program that will pay 30% of one's rent. Rents in the region have increased by 42% between 2011 and 2018, with residents experiencing a rent increase of 7% in 2017 alone. These startling figures will certainly grow as our population grows and as the housing market becomes tighter and more expensive.

Building New Affordable Homes is the Solution

Both our localities have shortages in the availability of affordable homes. In Albemarle County there are 77 seniors on the waitlist for age restricted and accessible affordable housing units. In Charlottesville City experts estimate 1200 brand new units are needed to address their housing gaps. New affordable homes can be built with significant investment from the localities and creating policies that will better allow affordable development.

What We Want in the City

From last year's Nehemiah Action, we still want zoning changes that will allow for more affordable development and for the site approval process to be expedited for projects with 20% affordable units. We will continue to monitor these and gain an understanding that affordable housing should be available in every neighborhood of the city. We also want the City Council to allocate \$1.55 million in the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund and a commitment to keep it funded. This year's proposed budget does not include any funding for the fund and interim City

Manager Mike Murphy recommends that for the next 5 years. He proposes \$10.3 million in other areas including redeveloping public housing, which is needed. However, in the middle of a housing crisis we cannot afford to lose a tool that can provide more affordable housing!

What We Want in the County

Similar to our request from last year's Nehemiah Action, we want \$1.5 million in the Housing Fund to build and preserve affordable homes and for it to prioritize the building of 150 accessible units for seniors that make less than \$35,000 per year by 2023. Last year Supervisors Ned Gallaway, Anne Mallek and Norman Dill committed to creating plans to make the Housing Fund permanent with earmarked annual revenue, a diverse advisory body for the fund and build 150 accessible units for seniors that make less than \$35,000 by 2023. While the Housing Fund is proposed to be funded again at \$700,000, there has been little to no movement on the rest of our proposals. Housing Funds that are established in this way are best practices and also considered housing trust funds. Over 700 housing trust funds exist around the nation and, including Virginia. They are able to leverage, on average, \$8.50 for every \$1 in the fund, increasing the amount of money available to developers to build more affordable homes.

Nehemiah Action Assembly: Thursday, April 11, 6:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm) Martin Luther King Performing Arts Center, Charlottesville High School

Our goal is to have 1,200 citizens gather in order to seek justice for our community. Together we have the power to ask for commitments to large, sustainable solutions to the problems we all face.