

# Conference Calendar

## NOV

- 8-10 Ohio Conference Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge
- 8-10 Fall Youth Retreat, Camp Luz

## JAN 2014

- 7 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Bellefontaine
- 17-19 Junior High Retreat, Camp Luz

## FEB

- 7-8 Youth Leadership Project Retreat, Camp Luz
- 21-22 Healthy Congregations Workshop, Quality Inn, Mansfield

## MAR

- 7-8 Annual Conference Assembly, Bluffton University, Bluffton

## APR

- 3-4 Fairlawn Haven Auxiliary Open House and Auction, Founder's Hall, Archbold
- 5 Spring Day of Inspiration, Ohio Mennonite Women, Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland

## JUN

- 20-21 Black Swamp Benefit Bazaar, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon
- 27-29 Ohio Youth Event, Bluffton University

## SEPT

- 13 Leadership and Anxiety in the Church Seminar, Central Mennonite, Archbold

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## Lombard Mennonite Peace Center staff to lead two training events

How can congregations deal with conflicts and differences of opinions in healthy ways? Staff members from Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will provide leadership at two Ohio Conference-sponsored training events focusing on dealing with conflict and anxiety.



### 'Healthy Congregations'

"Healthy Congregations" is the theme of a workshop Ohio Conference will be offering Feb. 21-22, 2014, at the Quality Inn & Suites in Mansfield. The Conference is encouraging pastors to bring a team of leaders from their congregation to participate in this workshop.

"Healthy Congregations" is a workshop designed by Peter Steinke, author of the books *How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems* and *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. A key concept to be presented is the idea of

"self-differentiation," which is people's ability to calmly articulate what they think and value while staying in active relationship with those who disagree.

Cost for the "Healthy Congregations" workshop is \$175 per person single occupancy and \$140 per person double occupancy. **Groups of three or more from the same congregation will receive a discount of \$20 per person.**

To receive the best registration rates, participants must register by **Wednesday**.

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Supporting  
healthy, growing  
congregations

# Healthy congregations

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**day, Nov. 27.** After that date, the registration fee increases by \$15 per person. The registration fee covers the workshop, hotel room, a continental breakfast and catered lunch on Saturday and snacks on Friday evening and Saturday.

The deadline to register is Jan. 10, 2014. To register online, go to the Ohio Conference website at [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org) and click on "Register."

## 'Leadership and Anxiety in the Church'

A follow-up event, "Leadership and Anxiety in the Church," will take place Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014, at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold. This seminar will look at the challenge presented by the rising level of anxiety experienced in churches today, as well as the role that self-differentiated leadership can play in calming this anxiety.

Topics included in this one-day seminar include the following:

- The Road to Damascus: The Church and Change in an Age of Anxiety
- "They Know Not What They Do": The Scapegoat Mechanism and Church Conflict
- The Importance of Not Being Earnest: Reversals, Playfulness and Paradox
- The Road to Damascus: Lessons for Leadership in Anxious Times

Registration cost for "Leadership and Anxiety in the Church" is \$80 per person. Groups of three or more from the same congregation will receive a discount of \$10 per person. For more information or to register, visit the Ohio Conference website at [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org) and click on "Register."



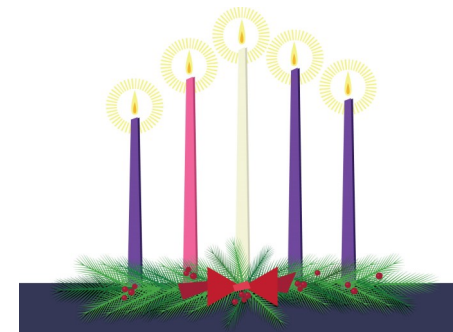
# Resource Corner: Ideas for Advent

**By Kris Nussbaum**  
**Ohio Conference**  
**Resource Advocate**

As the air cools and leaves start to turn, we embrace autumn. Winter still seems pretty far away as we enjoy bonfires and soccer games, hayrides and walks in the woods. But for those of us who are church workers, this is the time of year when we realize that Advent is just ahead, and if we don't have an idea of what we're doing, it's time to figure it out!

Each year we hear the Christmas season statistics. In 2012, Black Friday weekend shoppers spent \$59.1 billion dollars. Thirty percent of Black Friday shoppers said they spent less in 2012 than in other years due to the lagging economy. Fifteen percent of Black Friday shoppers spent more than they had budgeted. Christmas shopping, or end-of-year shopping, is a huge fiscal event for our country. And each year I hear people ask, "How can we be a people apart from this maniacal consumerism?"

One way to step outside the spending frenzy is to limit your spending to consciously smaller amounts than our secular neighbors are spending. Another is to follow the simplicity rule of each person receiving "something fun, something to wear, something to read and something to share." Still another is to lavishly give



gifts...to someone who can't say thanks.

Mennonite Mission Network has a great vehicle for doing this. Their gift catalog allows you to choose from a number of projects to exercise your seasonal generosity. Whether it's helping where the greatest need exists, building churches in England or funding mission workers throughout the world, letting someone you love know that you have honored them by giving in their name is a gift with eternal value. To see MMN's gift catalog, go to [www.mennonitemission.net/donate/pages/giftcatalog.aspx](http://www.mennonitemission.net/donate/pages/giftcatalog.aspx).

Blessings this year as you engage with Advent. I encourage you to think creatively about giving as you anticipate the coming Christ.

*If you have questions about what resources are available from Mennonite agencies, please contact Kris Nussbaum, Ohio Conference Resource Advocate, at [kris@kidronmennonite.com](mailto:kris@kidronmennonite.com).*