

April 9 is OMW Day of Inspiration

Janice Hershberger will be the featured speaker at Ohio Mennonite Women's Spring Day of Inspiration on Saturday, April 9, at Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman. She will focus on the theme "Invitation to Rest," based on Matthew 11:28-30.

The Spring Day of Inspiration will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and rolls, and the morning program will start at 10 a.m. The day also will include lunch, workshops and an afternoon program, concluding at 3 p.m.

Janice Hershberger has an M.A. in pastoral counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary. She has been a clinical counselor for more than 20 years, currently working at SpringHaven Counseling in Mt. Eaton, Ohio. She has also received training in spiritual direction through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., and enjoys working with people in that capacity as well.



Men's Retreat date is changed

Camp Luz in Kidron has changed the date of its annual Men's Retreat, which has traditionally been held in March. The retreat will now take place April 8-10.



Doug Zehr, pastor of Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville, will

be the retreat speaker. He will be speaking on the topic "Fearless Faith in Fearful Times," based on the book of Daniel.

In addition, Camp Luz is bringing back the Father-Son Retreat. It will be held April 29-30, 2016, and Todd Martin, pastor at Smithville Mennonite Church, will be the speaker.

For details about either retreat, please see www.cاملuz.com.

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
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FEBRUARY 2016

Year of Mission is coming to Conference

By Jacob Dodson
Pastor, Wooster Mennonite

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA exists to nurture healthy congregations in worship, faith and witness. One of the best ways for the Conference to fulfill this purpose is by engaging in a

Year of Mission in 2016-17. During this year the Conference will encourage members of local congregations to do mission in their own context and promote greater missional engagement and identity in local congregations.

Jesus provides the best framework for mission. He balanced the **upward** relationship with His Father, the **inward** relationship with His disciples, and the **outward** relationship with the

lost and broken world. (See Luke 6:12-19.)

A Year of Mission will provide opportunities for congregations to dive into mission in their Sunday worship

through banners, visuals, stories, and prayers (**upward**), discipleship, sermons, classes, and small groups (**inward**), and outreach events and evangelistic/service/

social ministry opportunities (**outward**).

The question needs to be asked: "What is mission?" Scripture provides many descriptions of mission such as being sent (John 20:21-22), making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20a), bearing witness (Acts 1:8), pursuing reconcilia-

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Ohio Conference
Year of
mission

Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

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tion (2 Corinthians 5:19-20a), and transforming brokenness (Luke 4:17b-21). *Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective* reminds us: "The mission of the church involves both word and deed, evangelism and service, proclaiming Christ's message and demonstrating, by the life of the church, the nature of the new creation in Christ" (Article 10, comment 2).

To kick off the Year of Mission there will be a training event immediately before Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) in March with Lance Ford and Brad Brisco of the Forge Network titled "Becoming Missional: Re-learning How to Be Sent." There also will be a presentation on the Year of Mission at one of the workshops during ACA. A Year of Mission information packet is also currently in development with the intent of distributing it to Ohio Conference congregations and ministries.

Please consider embarking on this missional journey with Ohio Conference colleagues and partners. Attending the Becoming Missional seminar and Year of Mission workshop at ACA is a good first step. Please also lift up in prayer this year's missional vision for Ohio Conference. It is exciting to imagine how we can encourage and support one another in answering God's call to go and minister to a hurting world.

Year of Mission Kickoff Events

Training Event: "Becoming Missional: Relearning How to Be Sent"

Location: Central Mennonite Church, 21703 State Route 2, Archbold, Ohio

Dates: Thursday, March 10, 5:30 p.m.–8 p.m. and Friday, March 11, 8:30 a.m.–noon

Presenters: Brad Brisco and Lance Ford of Forge Ministries

Cost: \$20 per person for those attending Annual Conference Assembly and \$40 for all others

Additional information: See <http://bit.ly/BecomingMissionalTraining> to learn more or to register online.

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Annual Conference Assembly

Workshop: "Fully Engaged: Mission in a Mennonite Perspective"

Location: Central Mennonite Church, 21703 State Route 2, Archbold, Ohio

Date: Saturday, March 12, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Presenters: Jason Rissler, church planter; Kevin Kanagy, co-pastor of Friendship Mennonite Church; and Jacob Dodson, pastor of Wooster Mennonite Church

Registration: ACA participants may pick this as one of their two workshop choices when registering

Spring brings workshops, retreats

This spring members of Ohio Conference congregations have the opportunity to take part in a variety of workshops and retreats sponsored by the Ohio Conference and other

related organizations. More information about the events featured here can be found in the "Events" section of the Ohio Conference website at www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.

MCC Peace Gathering coming to Kidron

The MCC Peace Gathering is coming to Kidron, Ohio, this spring.

Everyone is invited to join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great

other invited presenters in leading public workshops on immigration, gun violence/incarceration, Iran, school bullying and anti-oppression.

Following the seminars, there will be a question-and-answer time with all the presenters. Lunch will be provided.

The MCC Peace Gathering will take place at Kidron Mennonite Church, 3987 Kidron Road, Kidron, Ohio. RSVP to Jorge Vielman, Peace & Justice Coordinator, at JorgeVielman@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.



Lakes for an informative day of workshops, worship and dialogue on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with worship and end at 5 p.m. MCC U.S. staff will join

Camp Luz to host Couples in Ministry

Ohio Conference will hold a Couples in Ministry Retreat Day on Monday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Camp Luz in Kidron. David and Janice Sutter will be the resource persons for this event, and the

theme will be "Married and in Ministry: Partnership in Work and Play." This retreat is free of charge for couples in ministry. Lunch will be provided.