

# OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

*News & Views of Ohio Conference*

JUL/AUG 2017



[ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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## Mennonite Mission Network offers training in discipleship, mission

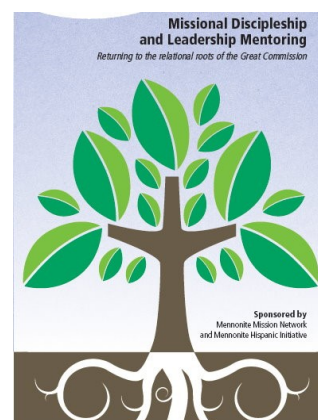
Ohio Conference is partnering with Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) to offer the Missional Discipleship Initiative to Conference churches.

The Missional Discipleship Initiative (MDI) helps local congregations work at leadership development and intentional disciple-making.

MDI uses two main tools to achieve these goals. First, MDI uses online Learning Circles (also known as "Huddles") for leaders. Second, MDI utilizes Missional Discipleship Groups, which are three-person small

groups which meet face to face each week.

Marvin Lorenzana, the director for discipleship initiatives at MMN, coordinates the Missional Discipleship Initiative. "Our goal is to help leaders engage the missional church conversation while also experimenting with hands-on discipleship tools such as Missional Discipleship Groups (MDGs) for eight months," he said. "The final goal is that you learn to contextualize what the Missional Discipleship Initiative has to offer to your reality in Ohio Conference. Also, the bi-



weekly virtual huddle allows implementing leaders to engage the conversation while offering support and encouragement to one another."

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## Festival raises funds, builds community

What started out as a fundraiser turned out to be something more. On June 24 Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan, held a Strawberry Festival on the church grounds to showcase the congregation's new unfinished building and to help raise funds to complete it.

Salem's new building sits behind the current structure in

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The Bel Canto Singers from Hillsdale, Michigan, was one of three musical groups providing entertainment at Salem Mennonite Church's Strawberry Festival June 24.



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Editor: Ann H. Leaman

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## EDITORIAL

# Prayer and enemies

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” — Matthew 5:44

I admit that sometimes it’s easy for me to hear someone speak and then quickly put what they have said out of my mind. But once in a while, something I hear latches on to my mind and won’t let go. Such is the case with something I heard about two months ago when I attended the Worship Resourcing Seminar at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church.

During one of the sessions that day, speaker Rachel Miller Jacobs was talking about worship habits which form us. And ever since I have been thinking about what she said about prayer, and more specifically praying for our enemies.

She said, “Loving and praying for enemies — Jesus calls us to do that. I will confess to you I was probably truly 50 until it actually occurred to me that I should pray for enemies. It seemed like something for somebody else to do. Or that I should pray for their flourishing rather than for God to convert them to my point of view.

“This is not easy to do. To pray for our enemies, and to pray that they might flourish, not that they would be converted to our point of view, or easier for us to live with, but that they might have everything that they need.”

In general, I am pretty hesitant to label people as my enemies. But after considering what Rachel Miller

Jacobs talked about, I think that usually when I pray about the difficult people in my life, I am more likely to ask God to help them become easier for me to live with or to act more reasonably (at least to my mind). How will things change if I start praying for their flourishing? It’s a challenging thought.

Dare I say it? A lot of people I know seem to be calling out others as enemies lately. I see numerous people who are quick to assume that others have evil intent, especially when dealing with them online. How will our relationships change if we start praying for our enemies in this way?

— ahl

## Podcasts feature MC USA convention topics

If you missed the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Orlando July 4-8, don’t despair. You can learn more about the con-

vention and hear impressions from Ohio Conference participants by listening to the Ohio Conference Cast podcast series. To

hear these podcasts, go to <https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/podcasts>. ■

## Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Missional Discipleship Initiative

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- MDI is focused on renewal in local congregations through small group discipleship.
- The main resource used in MDI is *Lifeshapes* by Mike Breen (3DM Publishing).
- MDI will be contextualized to meet the missional goals of Ohio Conference.
- The following topics will be highlighted in MDI groups:
  - missional habits/practices, missional experimentation in the local congregation, and engaging third places.
  - MDI cohort(s) will launch on Oct. 1 in Ohio Conference (one in western Ohio and a potential one in the east).
  - MDI cohorts will meet online every two weeks for an hour and 15 minutes for a total

of eight months with a possible extension to one year.

Enrollment is open until July 31.

**If your congregation would like to participate, contact Marvin Lorenzana at [MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net) or (540) 209-1450.**

To learn more about MDI, see the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConfMDI>. ■

## Festival

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the middle of a hay field more than three miles from the nearest main road. Due to its setting, the congregation has designed the building to look like a barn. By the time the Strawberry Festival was held, the exterior was almost entirely finished, and the rough wiring and plumbing were installed. The work to date has been paid for by pledges through 2018.

Originally, the congregation began planning the festival as a way to raise needed funds to finish the building. Bob Sauder, Ohio Conference moderator and a member of Salem Mennonite, said, "As we planned, it

soon morphed into a way to present our mission for our church. Our goal for this new structure is for it to be something that will be available for community use beyond our Sunday morning worship times. It's our desire for this to be a safe haven for people to gather and enjoy each other's company and in that enjoyment perhaps God's healing and hope can flow to the community."

The festival was successful far beyond expectations. The weather was beautiful, and about 700 people attended. In addition to a hog roast and a



meal including strawberry shortcake, the event included an auction, a silent auction, live music, and activities for children. The festival raised more than \$45,000, and with additional donations which were given later, almost \$50,000 has been raised.

"The preparation leading up to the event seemed like a lot of work. In retrospect those efforts were minuscule compared to what God did for us," said Bob Sauder. ■

Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan, raised funds for its new building by hosting a Strawberry Festival June 24. At left, diners enjoy food in the unfinished building. At right, silent auction items are on display. To see more photos, go to <http://bit.ly/SalemStrawberryFestival>.



## Oak Grove celebrates the arts

More than 20 artists from Oak Grove exhibited work during "Celebrating the Arts."

Above, Ellen Nikkel created this three-dimensional art quilt. Below, Steve Murray and Dora Short color at the Art Therapy table.



**By Joanne Murray**  
Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville hosted "Celebrating the Arts," a visual art exhibit with background

instrumental music. This event was held April 29-30 and featured the work of more than 20 church artists. People of all ages from Oak Grove partici-

pated by bringing their creations to the church Fellowship Center, where they were displayed.

This first event was open to the public as an outreach to the community and beyond. Adults exhibited paintings, drawings, wood block renditions, fiber and metal art, traditional and three-dimensional quilts, and wooden bowls that were hand crafted on a lathe, as well as fiber and metal art depicting Bible stories. Children's Sunday school teachers also exhibited the work of their students, including collages, paintings, and figures that illustrated Bible stories.

Youth and senior citizens were coloring at the art therapy table as guests listened to the live music and viewed the exhibit. A creative vegetable train was on hand to sample, as well as appetizers and juice for refreshments.

A tri-fold of photos documenting some of the work was displayed in the church foyer the following Sunday.

*Joanne Murray is chair of the Oak Grove Arts Committee. ■*

## Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale set for Aug. 4-5

Wooster, Ohio — The 52nd Annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale will take place at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster on Aug. 4-5.

The 2017 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale will include live music, breakfast, food and vendor

booths and children's activities, as well as a 5K run and a volleyball tournament. Multiple auctions will be held, including a silent auction, wood and tool auction, and a quilt auction.

The Relief Sale begins on Friday at 4 p.m. with food and vendor

booths. The volleyball tournament begins at 6 p.m., and a musical program featuring John Schmid and the Troyer Twins will begin at 7 p.m.

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# Hispanic retreat focuses on peace



**By Raul Tadeo**

On the weekend of June 16-18, Hispanic families came together at Camp Luz in Kidron, including 42 children, and 102 youth and adults. Families came from churches of western Ohio, Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster and Iglesia Christiana of Columbus, Ohio.

Local Hispanics appreciated getting acquainted with Hispanic Mennonites from other Ohio churches. Meal times were the best times to sit around tables to eat and to make new acquaintances. All appreciated the well-prepared meals provided by the Camp cooks. Especially appreciated was the one of frijoles (beans) and tortillas.

The topic chosen for the weekend was “PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU” (John 14:27). Two main messages by Pastor Rafael Barahona dealt with “peace in the home” and “peace in the church.” The adults were divided into small groups to discuss these topics and talk about what this truth means for our Hispanic homes and churches. The adults had their sessions in Spanish, while all the activities for the children and youth were in English. All the groups had Bible studies plus boating, swimming in the camp’s new pool and organized games.

Everywhere we looked we saw blue T-shirts. Most of those

who assisted wore T-shirts with the words “MY PEACE I LEAVE YOU” (in Spanish). Many families spoke of staying up very late. The women talked while the boys and men played soccer and basketball, often into the morning hours.

One highlight of the retreat was when in a worship service persons responded to an invitation to commit their lives to Christ or renew their commitments. A good number of persons went forward for prayer. Everyone left the camp revived and encouraged, saying “Esperamos vernos en 2018.” (We hope to see you in 2018.) ■

## Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale

Continued from page 4

Friday’s guests will be able to preview Saturday’s auction items and participate in a silent auction of theme baskets and other donated items.

On Saturday breakfast begins at 7 a.m. The Run for Relief 5K will start at 8 a.m., followed by the wood and tool auction at 9 a.m. The quilt auction will begin

at 9:30 a.m. To preview auction items online, see [www.ohiomccreliefsale.org](http://www.ohiomccreliefsale.org).

Brochures, registration information and forms for the volleyball tournament and Run for Relief 5K are online. Information about entry fees for specific events can be found on the website.

Proceeds from the sale go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). MCC is the relief, service and development agency of North American Mennonites and Brethren in Christ.

Admission and parking are free. ADA parking and wheelchairs are available. ■



## ABOUT PEOPLE

### Pastoral notes

Marilyn Rossiter, pictured here with her husband, Hank Rossiter, was ordained for Christian ministry on Sunday, July 2, at Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton.



**Marilyn Rossiter**, pastor of Summit Mennonite Church, was ordained for Christian ministry on Sunday, July 2, at Summit Mennonite during the morning

worship service. Anita Amstutz gave the sermon, "Chosen, Called, and Cared For," and Christine Nafziger presented a scripture reading and musical

reflection based on Luke 5:1-16. Special music was provided by a nine-member women's group which included Julia Beyeler, Becca J.R. Lachman, Pam Zook, Karen Steiner, Vivian Jaberg, Susan Moyer, Sarah Nussbaum, Hannah Troyer and Marilyn Rossiter. Ohio Conference Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the ordination ceremony.

Marilyn began her service as pastor of Summit Mennonite Church in 2014. Previously she served as a minister of music at Kidron Mennonite Church. In addition, she and her husband, Hank, have served with Mennonite Mission Network in San Francisco, Phoenix and Liberia.

Many of Marilyn's friends and family participated in the worship service. Following the service, the congregation celebrated Marilyn's ordination with a carry-in meal. ■

### Bluffton University

BLUFFTON, Ohio — **Zachary Kornhaus** of Fredericksburg, Ohio, earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry during Bluffton University's 117th annual commencement ceremony on May 7. His home congregation is Martins Mennonite Church in Orrville. ■

Two students from Ohio Conference congregations participated in cross-cultural experiences during May as part of the Bluffton University curriculum.

**Bailey Short** of Archbold participated in a Bluffton University

cross-cultural experience in Botswana.

Short, along with other Bluffton students learned about the culture and history of this country while living with a host family. Students participating in this program had the opportunity to travel to the capital city and had opportunities to serve the village.

Short is the daughter of Ryan and Lindsey Short. She is a senior majoring in dietetics. A member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, she is a 2014 graduate of Archbold High School.

**Shayla Hayes** of Archbold participated in a Bluffton University cross-cultural experience in Chicago.

Hayes and other Bluffton students collaborated with the Olive Branch Mission, located in South Side Chicago. Students who participated in this program have a better understanding of the social, racial and economic struggles facing low income families in an urban environment and saw one Christian response to these issues.

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## ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 6

Hayes, the daughter of Aaron and Jenny Brown, is a junior majoring in early childhood education and intervention specialist. A member of Central Mennonite Church in Archbold,

she is a 2014 graduate of Archbold High School.

These cross-cultural experiences fulfilled Bluffton's undergraduate cross-cultural requirement

that must be completed before graduation. Students can either complete a cross-cultural experience or take six credit hours in one foreign language. ■

## AMBS

ELKHART, Indiana (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) — **Darrin W. Snyder Belousek** of Lima, Ohio, graduated May 20 from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, with a Certificate in Theological Studies.

Snyder Belousek plans to continue to teach at Ohio Northern University in Ada. He previously earned a Bachelor of Science from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. A member of Salem Mennonite Church

in Elida, Ohio, he is married to Paula Snyder Belousek; they have three children.

The AMBS commencement service at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., marked the graduation for 21 students. Mary H. Schertz, Ph.D., professor of New Testament at AMBS, presented the commencement address.

Eleven graduates earned the Master of Divinity degree. Three earned the Master of Arts in Christian Formation; two the Master of Arts: Peace Studies; and one the Master of

Arts: Theological Studies. Four students received a Certificate in Theological Studies, representing one year of study.

The graduating class included seven women and 14 men from Canada, Ethiopia, South Korea, Tanzania and the United States. Fifteen of the graduates are affiliated with Mennonite groups (including Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Church Canada and the *Meserete Kristos* Church in Ethiopia); the rest represent Baptist, Church of the Brethren, Missionary Church and United Methodist Church denominations. ■

## RESOURCE CORNER

# Free faith formation resources are online

Calling all Anabaptists: Central Plains Mennonite Conference has a gift for you. Central Plains Mennonite Conference has gathered a wide variety of resources for people interested in faith formation and teaching people of all ages on its Anabaptist Faith Formation website: <http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org/>.

All resources on the website are free to use. The site has downloadable resources for working with children and parents, youth and adults, as well as recommendations for resources from other sites. Also included are downloadable resources related to Bible study and prayer practices. ■



## Conference Calendar

### AUG

- 4-5 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster
- 11-12 Girls Jamboree, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 23 Ministry Development Team Meeting, Location TBA

### SEPT

- 9-10 Wooster Mennonite Church Anniversary Celebration, Wooster Mennonite
- 10-11 New Pastor Orientation, Holmes County and Wayne County
- 15-17 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

### OCT

- 21 Adriel Benefit Auction, Adriel, West Liberty

### NOV

- 10-12 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Perrysville

### MAR 2018

- 8-10 Missional Event/Annual Conference Assembly, Bluffton University, Bluffton

application to Ohio Conference, Box 210, Kidron OH 44636. To apply online or learn more about the grant process, go to <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.

**Wooster Mennonite Church will be celebrating 75 years of worship, fellowship, and mission Sept. 9-10, 2017.** Many have attended Wooster Mennonite over the years, and all are invited to attend this special celebration to share memories, stories, and ways God has been faithful.

Activities for the weekend include an open house on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A special anniversary worship service with the theme "Vision, Venture and Victory" will take place Sunday, Sept. 10, from 10:30 a.m. to noon and will focus on the vision of Pastor Rudy Stauffer, a founding member of the church. A celebration meal will follow. A new peace pole will be dedicated beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, please contact Wooster Mennonite at [pastor@woostermennonite.org](mailto:pastor@woostermennonite.org) and include your email address. ■

## Back page briefings...

**Mennonite World Conference** encourages congregations to celebrate Peace Sunday on Sept. 24. To see Peace Sunday worship materials, go to <http://bit.ly/2017PeaceSunday>.

**The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT)** is accepting grant proposals from

Conference congregations for projects and mission initiatives. This year the MDT has \$24,992 available for grants.

Priority will be given to projects involving multiple congregations. Applications must be submitted to the Conference office by Aug. 9, 2017. You may either submit an online application or mail a printed

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