

# OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

**NOV/DEC 2017** 



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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# Sending comforters with love

By Ellen Nussbaum It all began during this past summer with a vision: Ken Neuenschwander, leader of the Outreach and Service Ministry at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church (Kidron), and his daughter, Sara Obri, who attends Lee **Heights Mennonite** Church (Cleveland) and is on the MCC Great Lakes Board, began talking together about doing a joint comforter knotting bee with the two churches.

MCC is in need of com-



Sonnenberg and Lee Heights members joined together to knot comforters for Mennonite Central Committee.

forters, and so the vision grew.

Over the next few months, 65 comforter tops were

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# Learning more about mental illness

#### By Alysa Short

Members of Amish and Mennonite communities are helping researchers learn more about bipolar disorder. On Nov. 5, more than 100 people attended a presentation of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) held at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold,

Ohio, to learn more about this research. The event, coordinated by Bev Miller from Central, featured Dr. Francis McMahon, a researcher from the institute, which is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

While attendees learned about the causes of, treat-

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Bev Miller shares about her experience with bipolar disorder during a recent program at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold.



#### **VOL. LXXI, NO. 6 NOV/DEC 2017**

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Ohio Mennonite Evangel (USPS 404-500) is published six times per year by the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA. Box 210. Kidron OH 44636, telephone (330) 857-5421.

All material for publication should be submitted to the editor at 5854 Sunland St. NE, Louisville OH 44641, or via telephone: 330-453-0150, or e-mail: ohioevangel@gmail.com, one month prior to desired publication date.

Ohio Mennonite Evangel is distributed to all households of Ohio Conference congregations, other interested individuals and church agen-

Send subscription information and address changes to the editor at ohioevangel@gmail.com.

**EDITORIAL** 

# Have you joined God in mission lately?

Back in March, more than half a year ago, Ohio Conference delegates affirmed a direction statement which said in part that Ohio Conference would "put our best energy into being and becoming missional congregations together."

That statement sounds good, but what does it mean in practice? Recently, loel Shenk, pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church and a member of the Mission Planning Team, wrote an

essay for delegates to consider at fall cluster meetings titled, "What does it take to make mission missional?" In that essay, he described being missional this way: "To be missional is about recognizing what God is up to in our lives and in our communities, and then responding in faith to the movement of God's Spirit. To be missional requires that in order for our light to shine, our hearts and habits must be transformed more

and more to be like Jesus. In its very essence, to be missional is to intentionally make disciples of ourselves and our neighbors."

It seems to me that the first part of that equation might be fairly difficult in our age of short attention spans. How attentive are we to God's work in our neighborhoods? If we aren't paying enough attention to see where God is at work, how can we possibly join in?

— ahl

### Cliff Brubaker to take on new role

Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold has voted to call Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker to a .25 FTE role in its collaborative ministry team, and Cliff has accepted the congregation's call. He will begin his work at Zion on Jan. 1, 2018.

Cliff currently has two halftime roles with the Ohio Conference. He will contin-

ue his half-time role as regional pastor for the west half of the state into the future.

In addition, Cliff will contin- continue as coordinator for for the Conference through ative on a .25 FTE basis the end of 2017. In that role, he will continue to serve as the coordinator for the Gathered and Sent initiative. (To learn more

about Gathered and Sent, see http://bit.ly/ **GatheredandSent**.)

After Jan. 1, 2018, Cliff will ue his second half-time role the Gathered and Sent initiuntil Annual Conference Assembly in March or until a conference minister is called and in place, whichever comes first.

#### Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: Bob Sauder — <a href="mailto:sauderbob2@gmail.com">sauderbob2@gmail.com</a> Assistant Moderator: Thomas Dunn — thomas@crownhillmennonite.com Credentialing Ministry Chair: Andy Stoner — <a href="mailto:rpandy@juno.com">rpandy@juno.com</a> Gifts Discernment Ministry Chair: Mel Hathaway — <a href="mailto:smcpastor@embarqmail.com">smcpastor@embarqmail.com</a> Stewardship Minstry Co-Chair: Melanie Miller — mgfmiller@gmail.com Regional Pastor: Ralph Reinford — <a href="mailto:ralphreinford@gmail.com">ralphreinford@gmail.com</a> Regional Pastor: Cliff Brubaker — <a href="mailto:cliffbru7@gmail.com">cliffbru7@gmail.com</a>  $Administrative \ Secretary: \ Judy \ King -- \underline{ohmc@zoominternet.net}$ Finance Coordinator: Stan Helmuth — <a href="mailto:cboh1@zoominternet.net">cboh1@zoominternet.net</a>

# 

pieced and donated by Rachel Kauffman of Bellfontaine, Ohio, a friend of Sara's. Backs and batting were prepared for each comforter by the Quilt Committee at Sonnenberg. Sticks, stands, clamps, pins, knotting thread, etc., were gathered to accommodate putting 32 comforters in frames.

On Thursday afternoon, Oct. 5, women from Lee Heights and Sonnenberg gathered to put comforters in frames. Then on Saturday, Oct. 7, the designated

missions weekend at Sonnenberg with resource person Eric Kurtz, MCC Great Lakes Executive Director, the knotting bee was held. Sixtyfive persons from ages 3 to 88, from Lee Heights and Sonnenberg, as well as others from the Kidron community, worked together between the hours of I to 7 p.m., to

knot comforters in the foyer of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church.

The evening extended to about 8 p.m. in order to complete the comforters that were in frames for a total of 43 comforters completed that day! There is still work to be done, because all of the completed comforters still need to have the edges bound, and the extra comforters will be completed at a later date. At the end of the day, there were many tired fingers

and backs. Friends from Lee Heights left to travel back to their homes in Cleveland. Sonnenbergers had a shorter trip home, but everyone left having learned to know new friends, knowing that they had built relationships between the two churches, as well as with a good feeling of knowing that they were working together to bless those in need and show their love with a gift of a comforter through the work of MCC. ■





Members of Sonneberg Mennonite Church in Kidron and Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland worked together to knot comforters for Mennonite Central Committee during a "knotting bee" at Sonnenberg on Oct. 7. Several other people from the Kidron community also participated. Rachel Kauffman of Bellefontaine pieced the comforters.

### Bipolar disorder Continued from page 1

During a program at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold, Dr. **Francis** McMahon (at left) and Layla Kassem discuss the Amish-Mennonite Bipolar Disorder Genetics Study being conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health.

"Although mental illness can be misunderstood and underestimated by many, it affects up to one in every four members of the general bobulation."



ment for and family impact on mental illnesses, Miller also shared her personal experience with bipolar. "Being bipolar is a life sentence, but I'm not in prison for it," shared Miller. "I don't want you to treat me any different knowing this about me." As she shared, Bev gave the audience concrete ways to show her they care, ranging from greeting with, "It's good to see you," instead of, "How are you?" to "Walk with us gently, step by step."

Although mental illness can be misunderstood and underestimated by many, it affects up to one in every four members of the general population, according to McMahon. Mental illness is something that can't be seen and is defined as a broad range of conditions that disrupt thoughts, emotions, and behavior. Although it causes distress and disability, there is no known specific physical cause, often making it a harder to accept illness for many. While there are three main classes of mental illness - mood, anxiety and psychotic disorders — the event at Central Mennonite Church focused on bipolar.

Miller's connection to the NIMH began in 2012 when she became aware of an Amish-Mennonite Bipolar Disorder Genetics Study being conducted by the institute to identify genes that contribute to bipolar disorder in people of Amish or Mennonite ancestry. The study is completely confidential with no costs to participants. When questioned by an audience member why the NIMH is focusing on these specific groups, Layla Kassem, a member of the clinical team who has worked only with Amish and Mennonites since the beginning of the study in 2009, responded that these groups tend to have large family sizes, community is the center of their life, and large groups of family members live

in a relatively close geographical area. This means, for example, that everyone is eating the same thing. And in the case of Anabaptists, "it's chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and everyone is eating pie," she said, as if she herself had become a member of the community.

Geneticists continue to study the role of genes in mental illnesses. And while there is still much to learn, the continued research for AmBiGen, the name of the study, is helping to shine light on how the combination of genes and life's circumstances affect mental illness. Because it is known that strong family bonds promote mental health and relatives share things that protect against mental illness, the researchers are continuing their pursuit of Amish and Mennonites who will participate in this study. Due to superior record keeping of these Anabaptists, the NIMH has been able to create a database of family information that dates back 12 generations, information integral to their continued study.

Anyone who suffers from bipolar who would be interested in becoming a part of this study should contact the National Institute of Mental Health. Study participants will receive a mental health interview and provide a blood sample; many are asked to fill out some additional tests about thinking, memory and emotions. Some are asked to provide a skin sample. "Everyone was very kind and still is," explained Bev, about her

Continued on page 5

# Credentialing Ministry shares its mission

Our mission as a team is to license and ordain pastors and chaplains who serve in Ohio Conference and provide them with encouragement, support, and accountability. The ordination process takes 2-5 years and includes meeting with a mentor, completing leadership and psychological testing, and participation in a pastor peer group. We want our pastors and chaplains to be healthy as they live out their calling. We offer financial assistance for formal educational training for growth in ministerial competence and invite pastors and chaplains to participate in training opportunities through Ohio Conference such as the Healthy Boundaries training taking place this fall. (For more information about Healthy Boundaries, see http://bit.ly/

OCHealthyBoundaries.)

The team works closely with the regional pastors, who are the link to the congregations and incoming pastors as well as when there are ministerial issues that need to be addressed.

We conduct our ministry according to the guidelines specified in A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership: Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA as well as Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (available on the Ohio Confer-

ence website at <a href="http://bit.ly/MisconductPolicy">http://bit.ly/MisconductPolicy</a> or on the Mennonite Church USA website: <a href="mennoniteusa.org">mennoniteusa.org</a>). These resources help our conference and denomination ensure that our licensing and accountability structures are orderly, consistent, and fair. If you ever have any questions about the Credentialing Ministry in Ohio Conference, please feel to contact our chairperson, Andy Stoner, at

astoner45@gmail.com.

Credentialing Ministry
Andy Stoner, chair
Jacob Dodson
LaVonne Hartman
Vickie Yoder
Miriam Zehr

"We want our pastors to be healthy as they live out their calling."

### Credentialing deals with misconduct, restoration

When we credential and install new pastors in congregations, we try to faithfully announce this good news. For accountability, we must also announce less positive things.

Recently, Rick Stoner from Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City had his ministerial credentials suspended for one year for sexual misconduct. He chose to terminate his credentials and leave pastoral ministries.

Ned Wyse from the Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, Michigan, has also been disciplined for sexual misconduct. He has received a one-year suspension of his ministerial credentials with restorative actions. Ned has admitted his wrongdoing and has accepted the conditions for the restoration of his ministerial credentials.

For accountability, the Ohio Conference has begun

following guidelines developed by Mennonite Church USA for notifying members when credentialed persons are disciplined because of sexual misconduct. Mennonite Church USA has asked all area conferences to inform members when such misconduct occurs. For more information about policies regarding sexual misconduct, please see Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (available on the Ohio Conference website at http://bit.ly/ MisconductPolicy). ■

# Bipolar disorder

Continued from page 4

participation. She encourages others to take part in the study, because by participating they will be "helping others in the

future who are suffering."

If you or someone or someone within your family is interested in participating in the National

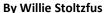
Institute of Mental Health's Am-BiGen (Amish-Mennonite Bipolar Disorder Genetics) study, call (301) 594-0576 or contact <a href="mailto:emily.besancon@mail.nih.gov">emily.besancon@mail.nih.gov</a>.

#### Ohio Mennonite Women celebrate together

# Quilting the memories of time

At left: All women attending the Time of Celebration at Camp Luz receieved a quilt magnet, pictured here atop an actual quilt. At right: A display lists words related to the mission of Ohio Mennonite Women.





Quilts were the theme of the Time of Celebration during Women's Retreat on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017, at Camp Luz — a time of celebration and closure for the **Ohio Mennonite Women** (OMW) as an organization. The Camp Luz chapel was decorated with various colorful quilts, a reminder of the rich tradition, and the many pieces of our lives that have come together over the years. The quilts were a unique treasure evidence of many hours women spent sewing together and sharing their gifts and stories with oth-

Willie Stoltzfus and Roxanne Kauffman, who served as cochairs, led the Time of Celebration event.

Special memories were shared by Jackie (Nalungo) Aduma, Susan Hofstetter and Myrna

Ramseyer, as well as many others who were present. The women in attendance enjoyed time of fellowship, sharing wonderful memories about the impact of other women and the organization on their lives. Willie read the children's book Oma's Quilt by Paulette Bourgeois, a story about a girl and her mother who created a quilt for Oma of her many treasured memories. Anita Hooley Yoder, author of Circles of Sisterhood, shared stories and significant contributions by Ohio women to organized women's programs. The book is the history of mission, service and fellowship in Mennonite Women's organizations.

The rich memories reflected the significance of OMW, a gathering of women with the goal "to minister to the women of Ohio Conference of the Mennonite Church USA, by resourcing women's groups and individual women, as we nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, utilize our gifts, hear each other, and engage in mission and service."



Special thanks was expressed to all the women and churches who have supported the OMW missionaries and agencies, as well as the many women who provided leadership to OMW on the past. Women were encouraged to continue to give support financially by making donations directly to the missionaries and agencies. (Addresses for these missionaries and agencies are posted on Conference website.)

Willie and Roxanne, as well as Anita Hooley Yoder, challenged the women to embrace the history and contributions of women, to continue telling stories and to find ways to connect with other women, mentoring and leading through other venues at a local level, close to home.

The program closed with a litany of lament, celebration and hope (see pages 8 and 9), singing and prayer. Each woman

Continued on page 7

"[They] challenged the women to embrace the history and contributions of women, to continue telling stories and to find ways to connect with other women, mentoring and leading through other venues at a local level, close to home."





Clockwise from top left: OMW Co-chair Willie Stoltzfus reads the book Oma's Quilt; Jackie Aduma shares memories from her time with Ohio Mennonite Women; women attending the celebration were able to look at stories from past meetings of Ohio Mennonite Women; and OMW Co-Chair Roxanne Kauffman speaks to the group. Photos by Heidi Childs and Willie Stoltzfus. See page 9 for more photos.





### **OMW** Celebration

Continued from page 6

present received a small quilt magnet, as a reminder of the many contributions of OMW and a challenge to find ways to connect in the future. The *Time of Celebration* ended with fellowship, sharing of cake (provided by Camp Luz), looking at OMW memorabilia and ongoing storytelling.

#### Note:

The Executive Board made the decision to dissolve the organization on July 29, 2017.

OMW Executive Board at the time of dissolution: Cochairs: Willie Stoltzfus and Roxanne Kauffman (who also filled the vacant positions of Vice-chair and Secretary of OMW for the past several years); Treasurer: Melanie Miller; Day of Inspiration Coordinators: Myrna Ramseyer and Angela Steiner.

# Missionaries and agencies most recently supported by OMW:

Adriel School; Camp Luz; Sunshine Foundation; Mennonite Women USA; Nafzigers in Nepal with Mennonite Mission Network; Bridge of Hope School – Liberia; and The Well, Sutters in Thailand. (For addresses of these missionaries and agencies, see <a href="http://bit.ly/OhioMennoniteWomen.">http://bit.ly/OhioMennoniteWomen.</a>)

### Ohio Mennonite Women — A Patchwork Quilt

Litany of Lament, Celebration and Hope Sept. 16, 2017

Leader: Lord God, Designer and Creator, Quilter and Weaver of all,

We come to you in lament, celebration and hope.

Women: We are your patchwork quilt, fabrics and pieces, all brought together, intricate-

ly interwoven,

Leader: Quilted together by the love of God.

Women: You created our inmost being, knit together in our mothers' womb,

Leader: Quilted together by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, quilted together in faith

by the Holy Spirit to share the good news,

Women: We were called to serve.

**Leader:** O Lord our God, for the vision of those who planned for this organization, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at the time of origin of Ohio Mennonite Women until this day,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For those who have served so faithfully in leadership and those who served "behind the scenes."

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For those who have willingly given of their time, energy and gifts to create, teach, encourage, sponsor and counsel,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For those who have been a part of our fellowship for so many years, dedicated to serving in so many ways,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, support one another on this journey of life, and give strength to one another when our paths crossed,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For the women who worshiped you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength, and women who came seeking to know you,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For young girls and women who have been touched through OMW as they learned the ways of the Lord, and now serve him around the world,

Women: We give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** For the generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community through our service, actions and gifts, and the opportunity to serve together, for the wisdom you grant to us through

Continued on page 9







Litany Continued from page 8

our sisters in Christ,

Women: For this we give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** Like a quilt, the women of Ohio brought their gifts, colorful fabrics in various shapes and sizes, provided support and warmth in the warmest and coldest of times, present in every season of life, supporting and encouraging one another and others around the world. But you, O Lord, are the Master Quilt Maker, who brought us together to serve as we were called.

Women: For this we give you thanks, O Lord.

**Leader:** We lament this season of closure and endings, we acknowledge the disappointment, sadness and loss of what was, and is no more. But we also embrace the richness of what we have experienced together in the past — a patchwork quilt of sisters — a picture of beauty.

**ALL:** Guide us, Lord as we end this season and experience new beginnings. Give us courage. Give us endurance. Give us joy.

Leader: Lord God, Designer and Creator, Quilter and Weaver of all,

Forgive us for the times we have sought our worth in our work, and not in you. May we persist in what you have called us to do — to be ever-reaching, ever-growing, ever-loving, ever-welcoming as we share YOUR love with other women in our own circles, communities and around the world.

Excerpts used and paraphrased by Willie Stoltzfus - 9/11/17

From: A service written by a W/ELCA member from Oberlin, Kansas: Eleanor Johnson; Prayer for Sisterhood by Lara Hall Blosser, Prayer for Women at Work by Anna Liechty Sawatzky.

#### **Prayer of Closing:**

Let us pray: Almighty God, Designer and Creator of all,

You have given each of us our own distinct pattern and purpose.

Help us to let your light shine through us and reflect that beauty within. You have uniquely stitched us all together for your purpose.

May we serve as you call us to serve.

Guide us, now we pray.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Clockwise from top left: Anita Hooley Yoder, author of Circles of Sisterhood, talks about the history of Mennonite Women; Melanie Miller, OMW Treasurer, cuts cake for the celebration; women enjoy refreshments as part of the celebration. To see more photos, go to <a href="http://bit.ly/">http://bit.ly/</a> OMWTimeofCelebration.

# MennoMedia

The MennoMedia Board has named Amy Gingerich as the new executive director and publisher at MennoMedia and its book imprint Herald Press, effective early 2018.

Gingerich has served as editor at Herald Press books and editorial director at MennoMedia since 2009. Under her leadership Herald Press has targeted its book publishing in two veins: one that helps describe Amish and Mennonites to tourist markets and one that helps Christians unpack implicit Anabaptist values such as community and discipleship. Recent bestselling Herald Press titles she has acguired include the Mennonite Girls Can Cook series, Anabaptist Essentials: Ten Signs of a Unique Christian Faith, Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism and Very Married: Field Notes on Love and Fidelity. Her work also involves oversight of Sunday school curricula,

periodicals, and the forthcoming Mennonite hymnal to be released in 2020.

"We are convinced that Amy's experience and track record with MennoMedia and Herald Press during the past decade are the best preparation for the agency's needs for its next chapter," said Lee Schmucker, MennoMedia Board Chair. "We were looking for someone who has a track record in creating Christian formation resources and publishing religious books as well as someone who understood Anabaptism and its potential markets."

"I am honored to be asked to lead MennoMedia into the future. This is a challenging time for publishers but an equally exciting time as we hone our messages and create fresh content," Gingerich added.

Gingerich's appointment has already been approved by the



boards of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.

Prior to her work as editorial director, Gingerich was managing editor of the *Gather 'Round* Sunday school curriculum copublished by Mennonite Publishing Network and Brethren Press. She also worked as a newspaper reporter and editor in California for five years.

Gingerich lives in Hudson,
Ohio, with her husband Ryan
Claassen and their two children. She attends Friendship
Mennonite Church in Bedford
Heights, Ohio. She will continue
to work primarily from Ohio.

#### Pastoral notes

Verle Brubaker (at right) is serving Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville as intentional interim pastor. He is pictured with his wife, Maralee.



On Sept. 17 Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford installed Verle Brubaker as intentional interim pastor at Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Hartville during the worship service. Verle and his wife, Maralee, moved to North Canton from Quakertown, Pennsylvania, where they served in the Franconia Conference for a number of years. "Verle has broad church experience, and we welcome the Brubakers to the Ohio Conference," said Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford.

On Sept. 24 Matthew Peterson was installed as pastor of Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana during the morning worship service. Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford preached the sermon, "Building the Church Together," based on Ephesians 4:1-16, and led the installation ceremony.

Matthew, Christiana, and their four children come from Plow Creek Mennonite Fellowship in Tiskilwa, Illinois, where he was farm manager and lay pastor at the Plow Creek Intentional Community. "Matthew and

Corben Weaver Boshart was installed as a member of the collaborative ministry team at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Using a play on the word "install," the service opened as Corben was wheeled into the sanctuary on a hand cart as if he were an appliance. Handymen Mike Zimmerman and Chris Liechty talked back and forth to each other about installing a new "model" during this opening skit.

Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker led the installation ceremony and preached the sermon, titled "Gifted and Prepared to Equip," based on Psalm 22: 9-11, 24-31 and Matthew 28:16-20. He specifically noted Corben's deep sense of call to both being a disciple and making disciples.

The service also included words of blessing from Pastor Doug Hochstetler and Bruce Whiteman, chair of the elders from North Main Street Men-



Christiana are gifted young leaders and we are very excited about what God will do

through them," said Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford. ■



nonite Church in Goshen, Indiana, where Corben had served as a pastoral intern.

Following the worship service, the congregation had a celebration potluck meal with communion around the tables. A 2017 graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, Corben is a native of Wellman, Iowa. He is married to Mara Weaver Boshart.

Matthew Peterson was installed as pastor of Midway Mennonite Church on Sept. 24. Pictured left to right are Christiana Peterson, Matthew Peterson and Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford.

Corben Weaver Boshart (pictured at right) was installed as a member of the Zion Mennonite Church collaborative ministry team on Oct. 8. At left, in a skit which opened the worship service, handymen Mike Zimmerman and Chris Liechty discuss the reliability and longevity of this particular "model" of minister.

### Conference Calendar

#### NOV

- 10-12 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mohican State Park Lodge, Perrysville
- 10-12 Youth Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

#### DEC

9 Healthy Boundaries Training, SpringHaven Counseling Center, Dundee

#### **JAN 2018**

- 12-14 Jr. High Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
  - 13 Healthy Boundaries Training, First Mennonite Church, Bluffton
  - 18 Pastors' Meeting, Berlin Mennonite Church
- 19-20 Mother-Daughter Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

#### MAR

- 8-9 Missional Conference, Bluffton University, Bluffton
- 9-10 Annual Conference Assembly, Bluffton University, Bluffton

#### APR

- 6-8 Men's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron
- 21 Healthy Boundaries Training, Archbold area
- 27-28 Father-Son Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

# Back page briefings...

OHIO MENNONITE
EVANGEL
News & Views of Obio Conference

For more Ohio Conference news, visit the Ohio Conference website: ohiomennoniteconference.org

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA is seeking a part-time (50 percent) Conference Minister with a vision of the church in mission to lead a conference made up of 51 congregations spanning Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, primarily in small town and rural communities. Accepting applications immediately

with a projected start date of March 2018. For a full job description consult: http://bit.ly/

#### OHConferenceMinister.

Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply. To apply, send a Ministerial Leadership Inquiry Form and submit a letter of interest by Nov. 30, 2017, to John Rohrer, search committee chair, at rohrer.john@gmail.com.

LANCASTER, Pa. — You're 55 or older, and you want to put your faith into action. Wondering where to go? Visit Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) and Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC's) newly created Anabaptist Service Opportunities Portal at ASOPortal.org to discover all the short-term, international service opportunities being offered by both EMM and MCC for volunteers ages 55 and old-

One-course options with AMBS. Try out a seminary course through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary without being admitted to a degree or certificate program. You can take up to two courses, and your first class — campus, online or hybrid — is 50 percent off. See <a href="https://www.ambs.edu/academics/one-course-options">www.ambs.edu/academics/one-course-options</a> for details.

Glenn Nofziger, associate pastor at Martins
Creek Mennonite
Church, will be the featured speaker at the Jr.
High Retreat at Camp Luz
Jan. 12-14. Cost of the retreat is \$90 per youth and
\$30 per sponsor. See
www.campluz.com for details.