

OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL

News & Views of Ohio Conference

JUL-AUG 2019



ohiomennoniteconference.org

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When disciples make disciples

By Laurie Oswald Robinson
KANSAS CITY

(Mennonite Mission Network) — Several years into her role as pastor at the 178-year-old Salem Mennonite Church in rural Elida, Ohio, Paula Snyder Belousek felt a growing dissatisfaction.

Something was missing.

Even though the congregation had faithfully followed Jesus for the long haul, older generations — rooted in traditional understandings of the Anabaptist faith — were passing away. And new people — often without roots in any church — were showing up, she said. People with significant brokenness were

searching for healing, and the church needed to respond.

“The former ways of putting newcomers into a six-week baptism class before baptizing them and saying, ‘Now you are a Christian,’ felt woefully inadequate for the situation in our day,” Snyder Belousek said during the Missional Disciple Initiative (MDI) gathering July 4 during Menno-Con 19.

“I felt we needed a deeper sense of community, a deeper kind of discipleship that walked with people as they developed and grew, and, yes, sometimes slipped backward, or fell away.”

In seeking resources to transition into something new, the Ohio Conference — of



which Salem is a member — reached out to Marvin Lorenzana, Mennonite Mission Network’s discipleship initiatives director. As leader of MDI, Lorenzana serves as a coach to pastors, congregations and ministries seeking

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Immigration care kits are practical way to help

In March, Ohio Conference delegates passed an immigration resolution. In part, the resolution states, “As delegates to Ohio Mennonite Conference, we commit ourselves to become better informed on the issues surrounding immigration, with a willingness to consider a variety of perspectives. Regard-

less of our own national origin, we will seek to reach out and build relationships with our neighbors, rooted in Christ’s love and compassion.” (See the [Immigration](#) page on the Ohio Conference website for the full resolution and other immigration resources.)

If you are looking for a practi-

cal way to relate to immigrants, consider donating to this effort from MCC Central States:

MCC Central States is distributing [immigration detainee care kits](#) through the South Texas Response Team to people as they are re-

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Editor: Ann H. Leaman

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EDITORIAL

More than just paper?

When Ohio Conference delegates discussed a resolution about immigration at the 2019 Annual Conference Assembly in March, retired pastor David Tijerina had this to say: “I really appreciate the resolution. It is well written. But it’s paper, and we read it, and then, what happens after that?”

Delegates did pass the immigration resolution, which calls for us to become bet-

ter informed about issues surrounding immigration. The resolution also says, “Regardless of our own national origin, we will seek to reach out and build relationships with our neighbors, rooted in Christ’s love and compassion.”

So, several months after delegates affirmed this resolution, what has happened? Has the resolution become just paper to us, something to file away and

forget about?

The Immigration Resource Team would like to hear what is happening in your congregation. Did delegates do a good job informing their churches about the various components of the resolution? How has it impacted your congregation? To contact the Immigration Resource Team with your reflections, please email dljinking@gmail.com.

— ahl

MMN offers prayer resources

**By Ann Leaman
Ohio Conference
Resource Advocate**

Did you know that the Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) website offers prayer-related resources?

Many people may already be acquainted with *Prayer Vine*, MMN’s monthly prayer newsletter which lists daily prayer requests for MMN workers and pro-

grams. Each issue of *Prayer Vine* is available both as a PDF and as a PowerPoint file.

The MMN website also has several other prayer-related resources, including blog posts about a variety of forms of prayer, such as centering prayer, the Jesus prayer and lectio divina (praying scripture).

In addition, interested indi-

viduals can sign up to be prayer partners for MMN. Prayer partners not only receive *Prayer Vine*, but also other communications from MMN, including *News Around the World*, a digest of ministry needs and stories.

You can find MMN’s prayer-related resources online at <http://bit.ly/MMNPrayerResources>. ■

Personnel of the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Moderator: TBD

Assistant Moderator: Paula Snyder Belousek — pastor@salemmennonite.com

Credentialing Ministry Chair: Verle Brubaker — pastor@maplegrovenennonite.org

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Cliff Brubaker to conclude his term as regional pastor Sept. 13

It was with considerable sadness but also with a clear sense of direction that Cliff Brubaker recently submitted his notice of resignation from serving as a regional pastor of Ohio Conference, effective Sept. 13, 2019.

In his notice Cliff shared, “I count it an honor to have served the Ohio Conference for these 3+ years. This stretch of time in the history of the Conference has been turbulent and eventful on the one hand, and has also been a time of much hope with a growing sense of purpose in the Conference and among its leaders. I hold much respect for the Conference leaders and pastors as they have had the courage to stay a difficult course in trying times. I particularly note the Leadership Teams with which I have worked, the pastors with whom I have had the privilege of living life, and the dedicated staff persons who have been a gracious and caring presence in my life.

“In addition to the opportunities and challenges that have been part of my professional role, I have navigated, with the help and support of my colleagues and spouse, Marilyn, a number of significant passages in my personal life, including the replacement of a faulty heart valve and the recovery from surgery, two significant deaths in my family, the need to repair broken relationships in my fami-

ly, and learning to welcome and be a grandparent to three new little ones. My colleagues and friends in Conference have been most gracious, particularly at times when my engagement with my Conference work was not as steady as I would have liked.

“Several factors have contributed to my decision to bring my time with the Conference to an end at this time. During the past year, I have been challenged by friends, medical staff, and my own body to find a situation in which I would spend less time driving and more time caring for my body. Additionally, I have carried with me for many years a deep sense of call to prepare to provide spiritual direction to those who might desire to work with a spiritual director. The time is now here that I must give my attention and obedience to that sense of call. I intend to continue in a part-time role on pastoral staff with the Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, and will seek opportunity to gain skills and practice in spiritual direction and, in God’s timing, offer myself and my time in that role.

“With deep thankfulness to God and to you for these 3+ years of working together, I pray the same Spirit that birthed a church at Pentecost 2,000+ years ago will continue to blow gently and firmly upon the churches that make up the Ohio



Conference, and that the same Spirit that empowered the leaders of that small group will empower the leaders of the Ohio Conference to lead with wisdom, strength, and grace for God’s purposes. May it be so!”

It is with both sadness and deep gratitude on the part of Ohio Conference that we release Cliff from his responsibilities as regional pastor on Sept. 13, 2019, and affirm him in his pursuit of God’s new direction in his life. We are thankful to both Cliff and Marilyn for their 3 ½ years of faithful service to Conference, particularly of the several-month period they spent together traveling around Conference and listening deeply to the leaders of the vast majority of our congregations. We pray for God’s richest blessings on the two of them during this period of transition and look forward to our continued relationship as Cliff continues serving on the pastoral team at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold. ■

“With deep thankfulness to God and to you for these 3+ years of working together, I pray the same Spirit that birthed a church at Pentecost 2,000+ years ago will continue to blow gently and firmly upon the churches that make up the Ohio Conference.”

CONFERENCE MINISTER MUSINGS

The changing church landscape

The church landscape in 21st century America has radically changed over the past 20 years. We can no longer expect that the church model that existed for most of the 20th century is going to be effective for carrying out God's call upon our lives as disciples of Jesus: to go out and make more disciples of Jesus who are advancing the Kingdom of God in our own communities — the places where we live, work and play — today.

"...we need to be asking these questions: 'How many disciples are being made, and how is the church impacting the community in which it exists to advance the Kingdom of God?'"

Many would even debate whether or not the church that existed in the 20th century was faithful to its calling, but that is not our primary concern today. Our primary concern today is whether or not we are being faithful to God's calling on our lives during this time in the places he has called us to. For some, the places that God has called us to will be a long distance away, but for most of us the place that God has called us to is the place where we currently find ourselves. We are all called to be missionaries, whether we go far or we go near.

The church in America that existed in the 20th century was found mostly in church buildings, and success was often measured by how many attended on Sunday morning, the number of programs which

existed, and the money that was given to support the buildings, programs and staff. The churches that were viewed as most successful were those that were large and stable. Due to our rapidly changing culture, that type of church will become less and less common. For the church to grow in the 21st century it will need to be smaller, not so much about buildings, flexible, and able to mobilize its people to go and make disciples while serving as missionaries in their own communities. We can sit around and lament that the church today is not the church of the 20th century, but the fact is that we are already 20 years into the 21st century.

Instead of asking the question, "How many people are regularly attending church on any given Sunday," we need to be asking these questions: "How many disciples are being made, and how is the church impacting the community in which it exists to advance the Kingdom of God?" Evaluating a church's success will need to be more qualitative than quantitative.

I believe that God has positioned Ohio Conference well for the changing church landscape, with the Missional Discipleship Groups initiative which currently has approximately a dozen churches participating, as well as our emphasis on discovering new ways to be missional in the communities in which our current churches are located. My prayer is that over the



next year we will expand both the number of churches that are participating in the Missional Discipleship Group* initiative and multiply the number of groups from the churches that are already participating. My prayer is that we will form missional communities throughout Conference who will support one another in reaching out to those in our communities who are unchurched and extending the kingdom of God.

My prayer is that we will explore the planting of missional communities in locations where there is no Anabaptist or Mennonite presence. This will most likely be in more urban areas such as Akron and/or Dayton. My prayer is that we will continue to build our relationships with the Congolese churches in the Akron and Cleveland areas. My prayer is that the same fresh wind that the Holy Spirit ushered into Conference several years ago will continue to blow as we are faithful to carry-

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Pine Grove's closing service marks 70 years of ministry

By Dick Barrett
Conference Minister

On June 9 Pine Grove Mennonite Church, just outside of Stryker, Ohio, held its last worship service. It was a time of both grief and celebration. Many recent and former members shared memories of God's faithfulness during the congregation's 70 years of ministry in the community.

Pastors Gary and Sandy Stuckey led the service, with Gary sharing a Pentecost Sunday message. Gary challenged each of the congregation's current members to discern where the Holy Spirit may be leading them as the church building closes.

Keith Short, an elder from Lockport Mennonite Church, which helped start Pine Grove back in 1949, read a letter of affirmation of Pine Grove's ministry in the community during its 70-year history. Ohio Conference Minister Dick Barrett, who worked with the congregation the past several months as they discerned God's will in preparing to close, shared from chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, noting that as painful as endings may be, they are part of God's plan.



Top photo: The Schmucker brothers, including from left to right, Earles, Wayne, Arlan and Jerry, sang several hymns at Pine Grove Mennonite Church's closing worship service. Bottom photo: song leaders at Pine Grove Mennonite Church's closing worship service were (left to right) Ruth Ann Yancey, Trudy Par-tee, Wendy Borton and Earles Schmucker.



A special treat was the impromptu request for a quartet of the "Schmucker Boys," who grew up in the congregation and were visiting for the final Sunday, to sing a couple of hymns from the past.

The service concluded with the congregation singing "To God Be the Glory" and "God Be

with You," as well as a blessing from the pastors.

Please continue to keep the members in your prayers as they discern where to worship and as another church discerns continuing God's ministry to the community from the church building. ■

Musings

Continued from page 4

ing out God's primary mission for the church of becoming better disciples of Jesus ourselves, making more disciples of Jesus, and extending His Kingdom throughout Ohio and be-

yond. May it be so for His glory and honor.

*To learn more about Missional Discipleship Groups, see the article on page 1, as well as

<http://bit.ly/MissionalDiscipleshipInitiative>. Participating Ohio Conference congregations are partnering with Mennonite Mission Network in this program. ■

Missional Discipleship Groups

Continued from page 1

intentional, authentic and relational discipleship-making. Within this three-level movement, Level 1 involves pastors joining Lorenzana or other MDI leaders in an every-other-week group called a Huddle. That's when pastors discuss how to best nurture the growth of their missional discipleship groups (MDGs).

An MDG is formed when a pastor invites a facilitator to lead a triad that meets regularly for relationship-building, prayer, Bible study and accountability. The facilitator chooses a second person, and together they seek to engage a third person to complete their group.

At the end of eight months, pastors are invited to consider moving into Levels 2 and 3 to grow their capacities to multiply other discipleship initiatives.

MDI was birthed about six years ago when Mission Network Racial/Ethnic congregations throughout Mennonite Church USA called for resources to help them to grow and to train church leaders through intentional discipling in their home communities, Lorenzana said. As MDI developed, many other kinds of congregations, such as the historic Salem, began seeking help, too. The number of congregations that are nurturing MDGs has grown from five the first year to 64 today.

What happened after Salem Mennonite formed MDGs was nothing short of miraculous transformation, Snyder Belousek said. But these "miracles," while Holy Spirit induced, do not fall from the



People interested in Missional Discipleship Groups met at Menno-Con19 In Kansas City, Missouri. Attendees included (left to right) Paula Snyder Belousek, pastor of Salem Mennonite Church in Elida; Karla Minter, church relations associate, Mission Network; Mariana Lorenzana, Harrisonburg, Virginia; Marvin Lorenzana, Mission Network's discipleship initiative director; Philip Lynn, inquirer from New York City; Sandy Miller, director of Church Relations for Mission Network; and Corben Weaver Boshart, pastor at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio. Photo by Laurie Oswald Robinson.

sky. They are the fruit of dogged patience required in helping people break lifetime patterns that hinder their formation in Christ.

Snyder Belousek shared an example. A couple of years ago, Salem Mennonite required newcomers who wanted to develop more Christian commitment to be part of an MDG. One such member went on a heroin bender. Another member confessed that his girlfriend had become pregnant. "But because they were part of these small groups of close relationships, their fellow MDG members were able to help these guys pick themselves up and get back on the path with Jesus," she said. She added that the heroin addict became clean again. And the other young man was mentored in how to be a father.

"Every time I turn around, there is one person in one of these groups who is bringing in someone new from our community," she said. "We are a small congregation that has a

small capacity to create new groups. And yet, it is all very life-giving. It emphasizes the importance of relationships in following Jesus, and is invitational rather than promotional."

Lorenzana said the overall purpose of MDGs are not for preaching, but for authentically sharing one's victories and struggles, encouraging holistic spiritual maturity in one's life, and building capacity to help others grow as disciples. "It's all about growing people and multiplying disciples," he said. "Discipleship-making is about a person-to-person movement, not a program."

Currently, new MDI enrollees are being recruited. For more information about how to enroll or to seek resources and coaching from Lorenzana, log on to the Mission Network website at <http://bit.ly/WhatIsMDI>. You may also directly email or call Lorenzana at MarvinL@MennoniteMission.net; 1-866-866-2872 (toll-free).



**"Every time I turn around, there is one person in one of these groups who is bringing in someone new from our community."
— Paula Snyder Belousek**

Ohio Conference partners with seminary for leadership development program

Developing leaders is a ‘Journey’

Ohio Conference is partnering with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, to provide a part-time long-distance leadership development program.

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program is a three-year certificate program designed for people exploring a call to ministry. The program is also for pastors and other congregational leaders who have already been called to serve but who lack specific training in ministry.

The Ohio Conference is now one of three conferences from Mennonite Church USA sponsoring Journey. The other two conferences are Indiana-Michigan and Central District.

This spring the Ohio Conference Leadership Team approved a proposal to become a sponsoring conference for the Journey program. “At a time when it is getting harder and



Jeremy Clevenger (right), a Journey participant, and his mentor, Jacob Dodson, both of Wooster (Ohio) Mennonite Church, took part in the September 2018 Journey Weekend Learning Event at Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Michigan. Photo by Jason Bryant.

harder to fill pastoral openings, this program appears to be a valuable resource for leadership development,” said Conference Minister Dick Barrett.

The sponsoring conferences do not provide financial support for the Journey program. Instead, the conference minister from each sponsoring conference serves on the board overseeing the program. In return, individuals from the sponsoring conferences are able to participate in the Journey program for a reduced rate.

Journey involves work in three different learning environments:

- Online coursework with other participants
- Short annual visits to Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Michigan, and AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana
- Meetings with a local pastoral mentor every two weeks

Ohio Conference already has several individuals who are par-

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“At a time when it is getting harder and harder to fill pastoral openings, this program appears to be a valuable resource for leadership development.”

— Conference Minister Dick Barrett

More facts about Journey

The Journey program is divided into five units, with each unit lasting 20-22 weeks. During each unit, participants are expected to do at least five hours of study per week.

Journey is designed to help participants develop strengths in six areas:

- Spiritual disciplines
- Theological and biblical studies

- Character development
- Mentoring and community
- Gift development
- Leadership skills

Cost for members of Ohio Conference congregations is \$450 per unit, plus the cost of lodging and meals at weekend learning events.

To learn more about Journey, please see the program bro-

chure at <http://bit.ly/2019JourneyBrochure>. The AMBS website also has answers to some frequently asked questions about the program. See <http://bit.ly/AMBSJourneyFAQ>.

A feature article about Journey appeared in the January-February issue of *Ohio Mennonite Evangel*. You can read it here: <http://bit.ly/JourneyTransformsLearners>. ■

Summit Mennonite members volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers from Summit Mennonite worked with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County this spring. In the left picture are (left to right) Hank Rossiter, Marilyn Rossiter and Cindy Larson. In the picture at right, Jack Rohrer and Cliff Lowe (a friend of Summit) work while on ladders.



During the last week of April and the first week of May, members and friends of Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton, Ohio worked with Habitat for Humanity of Summit Coun-

ty at three different home building sites. They did landscaping, hung dry wall (on the ceiling!) and installed siding, along with cutting lumber for heating and cooling duct instal-

lation. Hank Rossiter said, "We had a wonderful time meeting new people and learning new skills. As one participant said, 'it was a hoot!'" ■

Journey at AMBS

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ticipating in the Journey program. Jeremy Clevenger of Wooster Mennonite Church is a current participant in the program, with Jacob Dodson, pastor of Wooster Mennonite, serving as his mentor. Marilyn Rossiter, pastor of Summit Mennonite Church, is a mentor for a participant from Central District Conference.

The fall 2019 Journey program will begin with a face-to-face

gathering Friday evening through Saturday noon, Sept. 6-8, followed by online work beginning Sept. 11.

The registration deadline for the fall is Aug. 6. In recognition of Ohio Conference's status as a newly supporting conference, Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, AMBS Dean of Lifelong Learning, has extended the \$100 early registration discount for anyone from Ohio Conference

who signs up for this program by the Aug. 6 registration deadline.

Some scholarship funds may be available from the Ohio Conference for those interested in participating in Journey. Please contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com for more information. ■

ABOUT PEOPLE

Pastoral notes

On Sunday, May 19, Lucas Johnson was licensed for ministry and installed at Valley View Mennonite in Spartansburg, Pennsylvania. He joins Pastor Robb Esh, who is planning to retire by the end of the year. Lucas has not been given an official title yet, but he leads in music and preaches occasionally.

Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford led the installation ceremony. He also preached from Acts 1:1-8, "Who will carry on the work of Jesus?" Following the worship service, the congregation shared a meal together. ■



Regional Pastor Ralph Reinford (left) licensed Lucas Johnson for ministry at Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pennsylvania, on May 19.

Eastern Mennonite University

Eastern Mennonite University has awarded Yoder Scholarships to five students beginning their studies this fall, including one from Crown Hill Mennonite Church, Caleb Hostetler of Marshallville, Ohio.

Established in 1993 and named for alumni Carol and Paul R. Yoder Jr., the scholarships cover full tuition and include admission into EMU's Honors Program.

They were chosen from a field of over 50 applicants who interviewed during Honors Weekend in February and who had an average SAT score of 1352, average ACT score of 30.2 and an average high school grade-point average of 4.2.

The EMU honors faculty conduct the Yoder Scholars competition, evaluating candidates'

academic performance, community and extra-curricular involvement, creativity, clarity of thought, and leadership potential. Participation in the competition requires candidates to provide two response pieces; a substantial example of academic work with teacher feedback; a resume indicating school, church and civic involvement; and two references.

"We are looking for high-caliber creative students with wide-ranging interests and strong leadership abilities," said history professor Mark Metzler Sawin, director of the [honors program at EMU](#).

Many EMU honors students – many of whom complete more than one major – receive unique academic and co-curricular opportunities along



Caleb Hostetler

with intensive mentoring from faculty.

While Caleb Hostetler's not sure which STEM major he'll pursue – "I plan to study engineering. Or computer science... Or mathematics," he said – Caleb Hostetler is sure that he wants to use those skills in outreach or missions settings. He recently spent six months in southeast Asia,

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where he taught in a grade school.

He has also been a children's ministry leader at Orrville Mennonite Church and a church sound board operator, and he has worked in sheet metal fabrication, retail work, and programming and computer repair.

A National Merit Finalist, Hostetler is a 2018 graduate of Smithville High School, where he lettered four years on his state-qualifying varsity cross country team. He was a march-

ing squad and percussion section leader for the marching band and first chair percussionist in the Tri-County Honors Band for two years. He also served as president and vice president of the foreign language club, and took calculus and chemistry classes at University of Akron – Wayne College.

At EMU, Hostetler plans to compete in STEM contests such as [Kryptos](#), study piano performance, run on the cross country team, and immerse himself in the university culture.

"Having a tight-knit community where you know mostly everyone around campus really appeals to me, and from what I have heard EMU does that really well," he said. "I am excited to live at EMU in Harrisonburg, a diverse area where I can meet new people with novel and interesting experiences of the world. I hope that coming to EMU will give me a broader understanding of people in this country and the world as a whole." ■

Six students from Ohio Conference congregations were among the 486 individuals who received their degrees during Eastern Mennonite University's 101st commencement ceremony in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on Sunday, May 5.

Debora Ann Dutcher of Berlin Mennonite Church earned a master's degree in education.

Patrick William Graber of Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education with licensure in grades 6-12.

Christina Joy Kauffman of Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty earned a bachelor's degree in digital media.

Hardaye B. Ramjit of Lee Heights Community Church in

Cleveland earned a master's degree in Christian leadership from Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Andrew Moses Troyer of First Mennonite Church in Canton earned a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Benjamin Jerel Zook of First Mennonite Church in Canton earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. ■

Bluffton University

Three students from Ohio Conference congregations received bachelor's degrees during Bluffton University's 119th annual commencement ceremony on May 5.

Katelyn Amstutz of Dalton earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a chemistry minor. Amstutz was the recipient of the Biology Distinguished Schol-

ar Award. She also received a Departmental Honors Award in Biology for her project in Digitizing and Analyzing a Small Herbarium. Amstutz graduated as a member of the Honors Program, the C. Henry Smith Scholar Program, and the 2018-19 Pi Delta Society. She is a member of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron.

Angel Huerta of Archbold earned a bachelor's degree in social work. She is a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold.

Kathryn Roth of Pettisville earned a bachelor's degree in English. She is a member of West Clinton Mennonite Church. ■

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ABOUT PEOPLE Continued from page 10

Goshen College

Seven students from Ohio Conference congregations graduated from Goshen College on April 28.

Mara Beck of Woodstock, Vermont, earned a bachelor's degree in social work. Mara is a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold and is the daughter of Kerry and Marybeth Beck.

Joshua Liechty of Archbold earned a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry. Joshua is a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold and is the son of Christopher and Holly Liechty.

Leah Horner of North Canton earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in business, women's studies and peace and justice studies. Leah is a member of Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton and is the daughter of Terry and Joanne Horner.

Rowan Miller of Millersburg earned a bachelor's degree in social work. Rowan is a member of Berlin Mennonite Church and is the son of Maynard and Emily Miller.

Johanna Roth of Archbold earned a bachelor's degree in

nursing. Johanna is a member of West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon and is the daughter of Stan and Susan Roth.

Alex Steiner of West Liberty earned a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry. Alex is a member of Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty and is the son of Doug and Ellen Steiner.

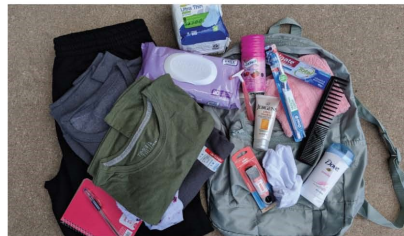
Katie Yoder of Stryker earned a bachelor's degree in history and social research, with a minor in Spanish. Katie is a member of Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold and is the daughter of Scott and Barbara Yoder. ■

Immigration detainee care kits Continued from page 1

leased from immigration detention centers to rebuild dignity and share Christ's love.

Kate Mast of MCC Central States says, "As of right now, only the Central States office is accepting these kits. They can be made and either shipped to our office (121 East 30th Street, North Newton, KS 67117), or sent with someone traveling from Ohio to this area of Kansas. Another idea is to purchase the items online and have them shipped to our address."

If you prefer, you can make a donation to MCC for these kits online at this link: <http://bit.ly/MCCCashForKits>. Please note "immigration detainee care kit" in the comment box. ■



IMMIGRATION DETAINEE CARE KITS

When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the detention center.

MCC is partnering with the *South Texas Response Team*, a group of local pastors working with Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, Loaves and Fishes in Harlingen, Angry Tias & Abuelas in the Rio Grande Valley and other partners to distribute kits to people as they leave detention and are taken to bus stations or airports to reconnect with their families.

CLOTHING

Please compile packs sizes small, medium or large for both men and women.

- ~ 1 jogging suit (new; sweatpants and sweat-shirt; can be purchased as separate items)
- ~ 1 t-shirt (new, crew or v-neck)
- ~ 1 pair of socks (new)
- ~ 1 pair of underwear (new)

MISCELLANEOUS

- ~ 1 pair of shoelaces (outdoor or sport style; any color)
- ~ 1 pen (black)
- ~ 1 small notebook
- ~ adult size backpack or small duffel bag

HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Please put these items in one-gallon closable plastic bag.

- ~ 1 washcloth
- ~ 1 bath towel
- ~ 1 adult-sized toothbrush (new; in package)
- ~ 1 small toothpaste (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 package bath wipes (premoistened soft wipes)
- ~ 1 razor (disposable)
- ~ 1 small shaving cream (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 comb (wide-tooth)
- ~ 1 small deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 small body lotion (2-3 oz.)

For female packs only

- ~ sanitary napkins (18-24 count; ultra-thin)

Please limit donations to these NEW items. Compile in backpacks or small duffel bags. Please mark them with a label stating "Male" or "Female" and also the clothing size "Small, Medium or Large." Drop kits off at the MCC Material Resources Center at MCC 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

Questions? Contact katemast@mcc.org or call 316.283.2720.



mcc.org/immigrationkit

Conference Calendar

AUG

- 2-3 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale and Auction, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster
- 15 Leadership Team Meeting, Location TBD

SEPT

- 12 All-Ohio Conference Credentialed Ministers' Gathering, Upper Sandusky Library, Upper Sandusky
- 13-15 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

NOV

- 15-17 Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mills Park Hotel, Yellow Springs, Ohio

MAR 2020

- 7 Annual Conference Assembly, Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City

JUN

- 26-28 2020 Intergenerational Missional Festival, Bluffton University, Bluffton

congregations and related organizations for projects and ministry initiatives. This year the Conference has **\$24,750** available for grants. To submit your proposal, go to <http://bit.ly/OCMinistryGrants>.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) invites all Mennonite congregations to observe World Peace Sunday on Sept. 22. The theme for the 2019 World Peace Sunday is "A peace that passes all understanding..." MWC has developed worship planning materials for this special Sunday. To download these materials, go to <http://bit.ly/MWCPeaceSunday>.

Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, superintendent of Central Christian School, will be the featured speaker at the annual Women's Retreat at Camp Luz Sept. 13-15. She will focus on the theme "Be Strong and Courageous," based on Joshua 1:9. Registration cost for the full retreat is \$95. To learn more, see the [retreat brochure](#). To register online, go to <https://www.campuz.com/womens-retreat.html>. Registration is due by Monday, Sept. 9.

Back page briefings...

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA is seeking a part-time (50 percent) Regional Pastor for the western region of the state beginning in September. The individual will primarily serve as pastor to the pastors and as a liaison between the Conference and congregations. Previous pastoral experience required. Women and men from all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply. For a full job descrip-

tion consult: <http://bit.ly/OCRegionalPastorWest>. To apply, submit a letter of interest to Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com.

There is still time to apply for an Ohio Conference Ministry Grant. **Aug. 5** is the deadline to submit a grant proposal to the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT). The MDT is accepting proposals from Conference

OHIO MENNONITE
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News & Views of Ohio Conference

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