

# Perspective



Ohio Conference  
of Mennonite  
Church USA

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

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## **Four winter cluster meetings planned**

Ohio Conference will hold four winter cluster meetings for delegates to Annual Conference Assembly. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last about 90 minutes. The following meetings have been scheduled:

- Jan. 21 — Berlin Mennonite Church
- Jan. 23 — Salem Mennonite Church in Elida
- Jan. 28 — Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold
- Feb. 6 — Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton

## **Please keep Inlet Mennonite in your prayers**

It is with sadness that Ohio Conference shares the news of the sudden passing of Rick Jones, pastor of Inlet Mennonite Church in Wauseon for almost 30 years. Rick also served with Youth for Christ in Archbold for almost 40 years, many as executive director. Funeral arrangements are as follows:

- Friday, Dec. 20 — Visitation at St. John's Christian Church in Archbold, 3-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 21 — Memorial service at St. John's Christian Church, 11 a.m.

Burial will be on Saturday morning prior to the memorial service.

You may view the full obituary here: <http://www.shortfuneralhome.com/obituary/rick-jones>.

Please keep Rick's wife, Cindy, their three sons, other family members and friends and Inlet Mennonite Church in your prayers.

## **Remembering Grace Brunner**

A former Ohio Conference pastor, Grace Kathleen Brunner, 89, of Hesston, passed away Dec. 11, 2019. She was born July 12, 1930, in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of C.F. and Mary (Kolb) Derstine.

Grace and her husband, Paul, ministered at numerous churches over the decades. She was an associate pastor at Beech Mennonite Church in Louisville from 1987 to 1991. She was ordained for ministry in 1989.

***Perspective: 1) The inter-relation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.***

## ***Spiritual perspective***

Ohio Conference is offering a spiritual direction event for pastors Feb. 4 at Camp Luz in Kidron. If you plan to participate, register at <http://bit.ly/2020SpiritualDirectionEvent> by **Jan. 14**.

For more details, please see the event flier: <http://bit.ly/2020SpiritualDirectionFlier>.

## ***Please distribute Perspective copies to:***

- Pastor(s)
- Church chairperson
- Youth sponsor(s)
- Delegates
- Duplicate for other church leaders

A memorial service was held Dec. 16 at Hesston Mennonite Church. To view the complete obituary, please see <http://bit.ly/GraceBrunner>.

### **Deficit increases during November**

During November giving to the Ohio Conference was lower than expenses for the third month in a row, according to figures supplied by Ohio Conference Financial Coordinator Stan Helmuth.

Receipts during November totaled \$22,774, including \$18,909 in giving from congregations. Expenses for the month were \$37,046, resulting in an operating balance of -\$14,272 for the month. After the first eight months of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the year-to-date operating balance stands at -\$40,750.

### **Growing Disciples, Part 2 — Seeing God at Work**

The Ohio Conference Cast podcast is continuing its series exploring Missional Discipleship Groups. In the newest episode, guest host Lucas Johnson talks with several people who are participating in these weekly small groups.

Listen to this episode to hear Casey and Gail, two members of a women's small group, reflect on how God is working in their lives. You will also hear Cory, another small group participant, reflect on how the weekly discussion questions help him focus on how God is at work.

You can listen to this podcast on iTunes (search for "Ohio Conference Cast") or find it on the Ohio Conference website: <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

### **Join MCC's Great Winter Warm-up**

**Make plans to join MCC's Great Winter Warm-up at Toledo Mennonite!** Mennonite Central Committee will kick off its centennial celebration year with comforter knotting events across the U.S., Canada and Europe. On Saturday, Jan. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. people of all ages are invited to Toledo Mennonite Church, 5501 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, for the Great Winter Warm-up comforter knotting event. Toledo Mennonite is just one of many host sites for the Great Winter Warm-up. For more information, contact Lora Gingerich at [loragingerich@gmail.com](mailto:loragingerich@gmail.com). Can't make it to the Toledo event? Visit [greatwinterwarmup.org](http://greatwinterwarmup.org) for information about hosting your own event or knotting a comforter in your home.

Note: Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron will also host a comforter knotting event for Mennonite Central Committee Jan. 17-18. See <http://bit.ly/GreatWinterWarmup> for details.

### **The Mennonite seeks articles for February issue**

The Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the February 2020 issue focusing on the theme "the dignity of bodies." Submissions are due to [Editor@TheMennonite.org](mailto:Editor@TheMennonite.org) no later than Jan. 3. For more information about this theme, see <http://bit.ly/TheMennoniteFeb2020>.

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### **Prayer perspective**

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#### **R**egional Pastor Tony

Doehrmann requests prayer for several situations:

- Please pray for the Mark Bruner family and the West Clinton Mennonite congregation following Mark's death.
  - Please pray for the ongoing pastoral search processes at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in West Liberty, West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon, and Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Michigan.
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### **Pastoral perspective**

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**W**est Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon is seeking an associate pastor (up to .75 FTE) whose primary focus will be youth, young adults, Christian formation and outreach. It is also important that he or she has an interest in rural ministry. Please see the job posting for details: <http://bit.ly/WestClintonAssocPastor>. For more information contact Wes Graber, Search Team Chairperson, [wes\\_graber@hotmail.com](mailto:wes_graber@hotmail.com) or Dick Barrett, Ohio Conference Minister, [ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com](mailto:ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com).

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### **Perspective deadlines**

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Jan. 6 for Jan. 9 issue

Jan. 21 for Jan. 23 issue

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