

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Planning for Sunday school amid church closures

While gatherings are limited because of COVID-19, MennoMedia is offering free online resources for Christian education. These materials are from MennoMedia's *Shine* curriculum, and they are free for use by churches for online learning or to send to parents for use at home. You can find them at <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources>.

Webinar to focus on youth ministry

Shana Peachey Boshart, MC USA denominational minister for faith formation, will host a one-hour webinar called "Virtual Tools for Real Youth Ministry" on **Tuesday, April 7, at 4 p.m. EDT**. To learn more about this webinar and get more suggestions for working with youth during this time of social distancing, see the latest *Faith Formation* e-newsletter from Mennonite Church USA: <http://bit.ly/FaithFormationYouth>.

Everence offers support during COVID-19 outbreak

Everence has expanded its services to members during the outbreak of COVID-19. Some of these expanded services include waiving ATM fees, allowing borrowers to skip a pay on certain loans, and a sharing fund increase for churches with an advocate. For more details, see the Everence website: <https://www.everence.com/resources/supporting-you-during-the-covid-19-outbreak>.

Please continue giving to your congregation

While these are very difficult times in relation to our physical health, they are also becoming challenging times economically. Many people have been laid off or their income has been cut. This is also a difficult time economically for our churches, conference, national body and agencies. Staffs need to be paid, buildings need to be maintained even if people can't meet, and ministry needs continue.

If you are able, please find ways that you may continue to financially give to your church. The method may be through checks, online payments, etc., and will vary by congregation. We encourage you to contact your local congregation for direction.

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.

Leader's perspective

Conference Minister Dick Barrett shares thoughts about our Lenten journey in a blog post titled "What is Truth?" A copy is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Conference plans fall retreat for wives of pastors

Ohio Conference will hold a retreat for pastors' wives Nov. 6-8. *Joy in the Journey: An Event for the Wives of Ohio Conference Pastors* will take place at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Miriam Zehr, associate pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville, will be the retreat speaker.



The cost for this retreat is \$125 per person. Registration is due by Oct. 9. Please see the retreat brochure for details. Online registration is available at <http://bit.ly/OCPastorsWives>.

A retreat brochure and paper registration form are included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Anabaptist Worship Network offers connections

Are you interested in sharing ideas with others who are planning worship? Anabaptist Worship Network, a new Facebook group conversation, is hosted by Katie Graber and Anneli Loepp Thiesen. This Facebook group is a meetup for pastors, worship leaders, song leaders, and those interested in Anabaptist worship. Participants can ask questions, share ideas and resources, and make connections. To participate, go to www.facebook.com/groups/166908377683455/.

We want to hear from you

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development Team is seeking stories from our Ohio Conference congregations about how they are working with youth and young adults. We would like to hear from you. What have been your successes? How have you learned from your failures? Where is God working now? If you have a story that you would be willing to share with the Conference, please contact Ann Leaman at ohioevangel@gmail.com.

Explore resources for moving faith formation online

Many churches have cancelled gathered faith formation programs (and even Sunday worship) to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus in their communities. But that doesn't mean faith formation needs to stop. One way we can respond is to move faith formation online and into people's homes and personal lives. John Roberto has compiled a list of resources for congregations seeking to use online tools for faith formation. This list is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Service Adventure seeks unit leader

Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role? Become a unit leader in Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17-20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the household. An opening is available at the Service Adventure unit in Jackson, Mississippi. This is a two-year term beginning in July 2020. Learn more by contacting SusanN@MennoniteMission.net.

Resource perspective

Central District Conference has compiled a list of resources related to COVID-19. Some highlights include a link to a 50-page guide with information about how congregations can use streaming platforms for church services, financial resources to help churches apply for a small business loan through the recently passed Care Act, and Everence's resources for supporting congregational members with needs. This list of resources is available at <https://mcusacdc.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources>.

Writing perspective

The Mennonite Inc. invites your original submissions for the June 2020 issue focusing on the theme "community in the face of COVID-19." Submissions are due to Editor@TheMennonite.org no later than May 1. For more information about this theme, see bit.ly/TheMennoniteJune2020.

Perspective deadlines

April 13 for April 16 issue

May 4 for May 7 issue
