

Conference Calendar

APR

- 22 Leadership Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting
- 23 Ministry Development Team Meeting, via GoToMeeting

SEPT

- 11-13 Women's Retreat, Camp Luz, Kidron

OCT

- 10 Healthy Boundaries 201 Training, SpringHaven Counseling Center, Dundee

NOV

- 6-8 Joy in the Journey: An Event for the Wives of Ohio Conference Pastors, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin, Ohio
- 7 Healthy Boundaries 201 Training, Salem Mennonite Church, Elida

MAR

2021

- 4-5 Missional Conference, Central Christian School, Kidron
- 5-6 Annual Conference Assembly, Central Christian School, Kidron

Ohio Conference bulletin inserts are published six times per year by Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
Ann Leaman, editor: ohioevangel@gmail.com



In an anxious time: Be still and know

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress... He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
— Psalm 46:1-7, 10-11 (NIV)

We find ourselves in some very anxious times. I have heard many commentators on television use the word "unprecedented." I would challenge that idea. Perhaps what we are experiencing today in the United States is unprecedented in most of our life-



"Be still, and know that I am God!"

Psalm 46:10, NIV

times, but it is certainly not unprecedented in the history of other countries and especially in the history of the world. As a biblical people, we know the Scriptures are full of stories of people who experienced situations similar to this, some much worse.

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Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations

Be still and know

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It is in times like these when we are forced to confront the reality that our life here on earth is temporal, whether or not we believe in a God who is beyond what is happening today. For me, Psalm 46 is a good reminder of that reality. It's at times like this that we need to remember that the Lord Almighty is still with us. He continues to say, "Be still and know that I am God."

It is also in times like these when we need to pause, reflect and remind ourselves of what is most important in our lives — our faith, our family,

our church community. While many of us are able to gather around our most immediate family during this time, the ability to gather with extended family has become limited, and the ability to gather with church community in person is not a possibility for most. This is our opportunity as a community of churches to get creative. Fortunately, advances in technology allow us to communicate online, through social websites, to listen and watch sermons and worship music from our homes, and on

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MennoMedia provides free resources

While gatherings are limited because of COVID-19, MennoMedia is providing free online resources.

MennoMedia is offering a special issue of its daily devotional magazine, *Rejoice!*, as a free download from the MennoMedia website. The special publication, titled *Rejoice! A Time*

Such as This: Reflections on COVID-19, was written, edited, and designed by individuals volunteering their time to contribute their gifts for the benefit of their communities of faith. To download a copy, go to <https://store.mennomedia.org/Rejoice-C1272.aspx>.

MennoMedia is also offering free resources for Christian education. These materials are from MennoMedia's *Shine* curriculum, and they are free for use by churches for online learning or for families to use at home. You can find them at <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources>.



Be still and know

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and on. The opportunities are almost endless.

This is also a time not to forget those that are the most vulnerable (in many ways) — those who live alone, those who don't have family to check on them, the elderly, disabled, etc. Those are the people who really rely on their church communities for support. How might they feel connected during this time? Pick up the phone, write a letter, send a card. Not only do we need to use our modern technology, but we need to rely on the tried and true ways of communicating our love for one another.

It is in times like these when we need to pray. Pray for God's presence, pray for those who are the most vulnerable, pray for first responders and medical workers who are on the front lines in battling this pandemic, pray for our local, state, national and world leaders who are making decisions that affect millions of lives, and pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Be still and know that God is God.

— Dick Barrett, Conference Minister

Hope Series offers online prayer, more

Mennonite Mission Network is offering a new digital ministry called the Hope Series. The series includes prayer gatherings which are live streamed on Facebook Monday-Saturday at 1 p.m., as well as devo-

tional times and opportunities for group interactions. To learn more about the Hope Series, see <https://www.mennonitemission.net/resources/the-hope-series/>.