

# Conference Calendar

## APR

- 12 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 19 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 22-23 Ohio MCC Comforter Bash, Kidron Community Park Recreation Building, Kidron
- 26 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 28 Leadership Team Retreat, Upper Sandusky Library

## MAY

- 3 Enneagram Workshop for Pastors, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, Mansfield
- 10 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 12 Leadership Team meeting, online
- 17 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 24 Youth Worker Seminar, online
- 27-30 Mennonite Church USA Special Delegate Assembly, Kansas City, Missouri

## JUN

- 23 Leadership Team meeting, online

## JUL

- 5-10 Indonesia 2022, Mennonite World Conference Assembly 17, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia, and online

## NOV

- 4-6 Pastors' Wives Retreat, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin

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For more information about the Ohio Conference, see the Conference website: [www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)  
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APRIL 2022

## Ohio MCC Comforter Bash brings together volunteers to help others around the world

**By Jennifer Steiner**  
**MCC Great Lakes**

Individuals and groups from northeast Ohio will gather April 22-23 for a hands-on project to bring warmth and comfort to people they will likely never meet.

The Ohio MCC Comforter Bash will take place at Kidron Community Park (Recreational Building at back of park), 4434 Kidron Road, Kidron, Ohio.

The event will take place Friday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Food will be available by donation throughout the days.*

Participants will work together to combine handmade comforter tops, warm batting and sturdy backing fabric into warm, durable and beautiful comforters. The squares of fabric that make up the comforter tops have already been sewn together, so volun-



Marleen Reinhardt (left) helps Chloe Obri, age 3, thread a needle to put knots in a comforter. Isaac Obri, age 5, works with his mother Sara Obri in the background. They joined hundreds of volunteers at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio, for the Great Winter Warm-up event on Jan. 17-18, 2020. Volunteers completed 122 comforters over the two-day period. (MCC photo/Jennifer Steiner)

teers will primarily knot the layers together.

The organizers have a goal of making 150 comforters over the two-day event. Each handmade comforter is

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*Supporting  
healthy, growing  
congregations*

## Comforter Bash

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Staff members\* from an MCC partner organization pose with an MCC comforter and relief kits that were distributed to community members of a low-income neighborhood in Tyre, Lebanon. Comforters and relief kits were part of a larger shipment of MCC humanitarian aid. (\*Names are not provided for security reasons.) (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

unique and provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

Sarah Doerksen, MCC Great Lakes Ohio Material Resources Coordinator, has been working with a local committee to plan the event. She says that making someone a handmade comforter may seem like a small thing, but the impact is actually priceless.

“By knotting and sewing comforters you are having a big effect on others,” said Doerksen. “You are reminding them that they are humans, and that other humans care about them. Those same types of feelings don’t come as easily from a store-bought blanket.”

She is also excited about the inter-generational opportunity this activity presents. “When we hear about all the crises happening around the world, it can feel overwhelming,” said Doerksen. “This is one way we can respond and teach children to model compassion.”

Last year, MCC shipped 45,787 comforters and blankets to Burkina Faso, Canada, Ecuador, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, the U.S., and Zambia.

MCC was founded in 1920 when groups of Mennonites and Mennonite Brethren formed a committee to provide food and other assistance to people affected by war and famine in southern Russia, which is present-day Ukraine.

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## Comforter Bash

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Today MCC provides humanitarian relief, encourages sustainable development and strengthens peacebuilding initiatives in more than 45 countries. Comforters and blankets have been part of MCC’s relief resources ever since the end of World War II.

This is the second Comforter Bash held in northeast Ohio. The first took place in January 2020 as part of MCC’s Great Winter Warm-up with events across the U.S., Canada and beyond. Building on the success of that event, an annual Ohio Comforter Bash was planned for April 2021 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers are excited to hold the community event again this year and invite people of all ages and abilities



Comforters were piled high at the Great Winter Warm-up on Jan. 17-18, 2020, at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio. Over the two-day period, 280 volunteers completed 122 comforters. (MCC photo/Jennifer Steiner)

to join the Comforter Bash on April 22-23. No experience is necessary, and all supplies and instruction will be provided.

For more information, see [mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash](https://mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash).

**March 22**  
**April 12, 19, 26**  
**May 10, 17, 24**  
7:00-8:15 p.m.

Please note starting date change!

Register at  
[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](https://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

Questions?  
Contact Alysa Short at  
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# Jesus as Model

## Youth Ministry Reimagined

Are you a **youth worker**? Could you use some **encouragement and support**? Then join Ohio Conference during the months of March, April and May as they offer **FREE online seminars** for youth workers to engage with leaders while learning from each other. Participants will be supported and encouraged in their important, yet challenging, role as youth leader.

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with other youth workers from around Conference and to share their stories of successes and challenges.