

Perspective



www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Editor: Ann H. Leaman 5854 Sunland St. N.E., Louisville OH 44641 Phone: 330-453-0150 Email: ohioevangel@gmail.com

Prayer for Unity — Easter Week 2023

Lord, the truths that we hold feel so right that staying united with those we disagree with is inconceivable.

If they were our enemies, we would know that you call us to love them. But they are our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Blessed are we who recognize that the divide is deep and the enmity is strong.

We are attached to our hostilities, not only as symbols of who we are, but also by the values and principles that we uphold.

Jesus, help us to be faithful to your command to love all and to be united for your name's sake.

We ask: "How is it possible to be united and to hold to our integrity?"

We desire no false peace and we desire to follow your call to be reconciled with one another.

Blessed are we who say, "O God, do for us what we can't do for ourselves."

Give us the desire to speak the truth in love to each other and to hear the humanity underneath the hurt.

Give us the wisdom and the skills to communicate well and the patience that can bear when things get difficult.

When the temptation comes to fight or flight, hold us to Jesus and to the cross, "not our will be done but your will be done."

— Dick Barrett, Conference Minister

Adapted from a blessing in *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, Convergent Books, 2023, p. 164-165.



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.

MC USA perspective

The Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) of Mennonite Church USA met March 23-25 in San Antonio, Texas. The CLC provided feedback on three proposed organizational resolutions from the Executive Board at its meeting. See a report about the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3-23CLCMeeting>.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

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

Sharon work camp to focus on local service

Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City is hosting its annual work camp June 18-24. Work camp participants, middle school age and older, work at service projects in the local area.



People from other congregations, both adults and youth, are welcome to participate in work camp. Youth work camp participants need to have finished at least sixth grade. Youth from other congregations are **not** required to bring along an adult as part of their participation.

For more information, contact Jared Chase at jchase2882@gmail.com. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/RJAQAtw5T7Ly2oB57>. To listen to a podcast describing Sharon Mennonite's work camp, go to <http://bit.ly/SharonWorkCamp>.

Ohio MCC Comforter Bash set for April 21-22

Mennonite Central Committee will hold the second annual Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, in the recreation building at the Kidron Community Park, 4434 Kidron Road, Kidron.

Everyone is invited to knot comforters for Mennonite Central Committee at this event. MCC will distribute the comforters to people in need around the world.

The Comforter Bash will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 21, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. This is a drop-in event; volunteers are invited to come and go as their schedules allow.

Journey Award honors stewardship role models

Who is your role model when it comes to being a responsible steward of their gifts and resources – including time, talent, money, health and the earth? Nominate them for the annual Everence® Journey Award!

Nominations are due by April 30. See <https://evrnce.com/igf> for more information or to nominate someone.

EMU to host peacebuilding conference

Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, will hold the third Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival June 15-18. The theme of this gathering is "Coming Together: The Journey of Faith and Peace."

The Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival brings together Mennonite practitioners, artists and theologians from around the world to learn, share and discuss their work for peace. The gathering will feature speakers, presenters, workshops, concerts, and shows. For more information or to register, see the EMU website: <https://bit.ly/2023EMUPeacebuilding>.

Resource perspective

Grace & Groundings, Ohio Conference's racial reconciliation resource team, is inviting all Ohio Conference churches to set aside Sunday, June 18, as Social Justice Sunday, in recognition of Juneteenth the following day. (If June 18 does not work well for your congregation, please consider setting aside a different Sunday as Social Justice Sunday.) The team is preparing worship planning resources for Social Justice Sunday to help guide your planning. These resources should be available on the Ohio Conference website next week.

Workshop perspective

The 2023 Missional Workshop scheduled for April 15 has been canceled. Registration fees are being refunded.

Seminary perspective

This issue of *Perspective* includes bulletin announcements for April from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Please share these announcements with your congregation.

Perspective deadlines

April 25 for April 27 issue
May 9 for May 11 issue
