

Events & Announcements | Sept. 1, 2010

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- AMBS presentation by Dr. Wilbert Shenk on Sept. 7
- 2nd annual Front Porch Singspiration at Menno-Hof Sept. 12
- Michiana MEDA Kick-off event at Church Community Services Sept. 16
- Blessed are the Peacemakers: A Day of Reflection in South Bend Sept. 18
- NAMI Family to Family Education Program classes for caregivers of persons with mental illness
- Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches workshop at Bethel Mennonite Oct. 30 (brochure attached)
- Fall 2010 webinars and news from AMBS Church Leadership Center
- New resource from MCC: 4 facts of border enforcement

AMBS presentation by Dr. Wilbert Shenk on Sept. 7. The public is invited to hear Dr. Wilbert Shenk present on the question: "What can Mennonite Church USA learn from the experiences of other denominational mission programs about effective mission structures across the street and around the world?" on Tues., Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. in the AMBS dining hall. Open mic discussion will follow.

Come to Menno-Hof for the second annual Front Porch Singspiration at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12, for a cappella singing with the themes of baptism, discipleship and prayer. Pre-service singing will begin on the front porch of the Menno-Hof farmhouse at 4:45 p.m. Small groups from each of the four supporting church traditions (Amish, Amish Mennonite, Conservative Mennonite, and Mennonite Church USA) will sing during the worship service. An ice-cream social, access to museum exhibits, and more singing will follow the outside service. There will be a free will offering to support Menno-Hof's mission. Menno-Hof is located at 510 South Van Buren Street (S.R. 5), Shipshewana, Ind.

Michiana MEDA Kick-off Event at Church Community Services on Thurs., Sept 16, at 6:30 p.m. Join us at Church Community Services (907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart, Ind.) to hear from Executive Director Dean Preheim Bartel about how the organization supports the people in Elkhart County through emergency assistance and intensive job and life skills training. Special emphasis will be on the organization's program **Soup of Success**, whose mission "is to empower women, through education and resources, to build self esteem, develop independence and improve quality of life." CCS will cater the meal.

RSVP by Monday, Sept. 13, by e-mailing reservations@michianameda.org, by phoning 87-RSVP-MEDA or filling out the **RSVP form** online. (If you don't receive a confirmation email or phone call, please let us know.) Meal and program costs are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$5 for students. Please note any special dietary needs with reservation. The meal is payable at the event. --*Renee Hochstetler for the Michiana MEDA board*

Blessed are the Peacemakers: A Day of Reflection, Sat., Sept. 18, St. Matthew's Cathedral on S. Miami St., South Bend, Ind.

"We affirm Jesus' teaching and example on non-violence as normative for Christians." This was a joint word spoken by Mennonite World Conference and the Vatican to the World Council of Churches' *Decade to Overcome Violence*. How did this come about? What does this mean? What is the invitation here for us and the broader Christian church? We will ponder these and other questions during our day together. Catholic Bishop Rhoades will open our day with a morning prayer. Doug Kaufman will bring greetings from IN-MI Mennonite Conference. All are invited and welcomed.

This conversation is sponsored by Michiana Bridgefolk, a local network of Catholics and Mennonites. Please RSVP to 574-257-3377 or 574-291-0924 to help us with our planning. Download a **flier** and **schedule** for the event and the **eight page Mennonite-Catholic document** which will be the backdrop for our conversation. --*The Michiana Bridgefolk Steering Committee: Rick Becker, Nancy Cavadini, Jay Landry, André Gingerich Stoner, Biff Weidman*

The NAMI Family to Family Education Program is a series of 11 weekly classes structured to help caregivers understand and support individuals with a serious mental illness while maintaining their own

well-being. Classes will be held on Mondays, beginning Sept.13, 6 - 8:30 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 431 South Third St., Elkhart, Ind. There is no cost for the program, however registration is required. For more information or to register, call Gwen Preheim-Bartel at 574-533-1234, ext. 330, or Jeannie Stuckey at 574-266-0581. –*Gloria Holub, Oaklawn*

Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches workshop at Bethel Mennonite on Oct. 30

(brochure attached). This workshop is designed for pastors, church council members, pastor-parish committees, judicatory members and anyone interested in improving their ability to handle conflict effectively. Victoria Wilcox, assistant director with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, will lead the workshop. The preregistration fee is \$60 before Oct. 1; \$65 after Oct. 1. For five or more persons from the same congregation, the group discounted fee is \$50 per person before Oct. 1; \$55 after Oct. 1. The fee includes training manual, lunch and refreshment breaks. More information and a registration form are included in the attached brochure. Bethel Mennonite is located at 416 Washington St., West Liberty, Ohio.

Fall 2010 webinars hosted by AMBS Church Leadership Center. Register at least four days in advance for an early rate of \$45. Later registration rate: \$55. For more information go to www.ambs.edu/webinars.

- *Five approaches to preaching a biblical story* with Ryan Ahlgrim, pastor, First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, Ind. Thursday, Sept. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.
- *Advent planning – an unexpected hour* with Marlene Kropf, associate professor, AMBS, and Rosanna McFadden, AMBS student and freelance artist, Thurs., Oct. 21, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.
- *The Naked Anabaptist* with Stuart Murray, chair of the United Kingdom Anabaptist Network and editor of *Anabaptism Today*, Wed., Oct. 27, 2 – 3:15 p.m.
- *No more church as usual! No! More church as usual: Young adults and the church* with Sara Wenger Shenk, president, AMBS, Thurs, Nov. 18, 2 – 3:15 p.m.
- *Apocalypse and allegiance: worship, politics and devotion in the book of Revelation* with J. Nelson Kraybill, pastor, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind., Thurs, Dec. 2, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

New online calendar from AMBS. A new online calendar allows you to see AMBS events by category...and subscribe in order to get notices as new events are posted. Visit www.ambs.edu/calendars/events where you can select Church Leadership Center to see continuing education events, or Forums and Lectures to see special speakers. –*AMBS Church Leadership Center*

New resource from Mennonite Central Committee: "4 facts about border enforcement."

The MCC U.S. Washington Office has created a new online resource detailing the cost and impact of increased border enforcement. Get this along with an August legislative update at washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

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