



# Events & Announcements | November 21, 2012

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

109 E. Clinton, Suite 100  
Goshen, IN 46528  
Phone: (574) 534-4006

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## Strengthening Your Small Congregation

If you are a pastor or lay leader of a small congregation, mark your calendars for April 13, 2013 and plan to spend a day with leaders who know what it’s like to do church in a congregation of 25, 50, or 75, and who believe that small churches are key to what God is doing in the world!

- Benefit from the experience of congregational consultant and former American Baptist pastor Margaret Marcuson on *Leaders that Last: Sustaining Yourself in Small Church Ministry*.
- Choose from breakout sessions on discerning the future of your congregation, worship and music, Sunday school & Christian formation, leadership structures, community outreach, and sustainable finances, all geared to the strengths and challenges of the small congregation.
- Network with small congregations in your geographical area for resource sharing and support.

This event is co-sponsored by the Indiana-Michigan Conference. Indiana-Michigan pastors can apply for a registration scholarship, and two or three registrants from the same congregation will get a registration discount. This event will be held from 8:45am to 4:00pm at Camp Mack (Church of the Brethren camp in Milford IN). Register online at [http://support.brethren.org/site/Survey?ACTION\\_REQUIRED=URI\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=4960](http://support.brethren.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=4960). For more information, contact Brenda Meyer at [brenda@bentonchurch.org](mailto:brenda@bentonchurch.org).

## AMBS Church Leadership Center

### Lent Planner: Ashamed No More

Using the Mennonite Church Lent theme, Ashamed No More, this planner introduces leaders to lectionary-based resources for the season of Lent. The day will open with ideas and opportunities

for scripture presentations, children's time, prayer, music and visual elements for the weeks of Lent. Worship resources published in Leader magazine provide the foundation for the day's explorations. The date for this event is Saturday, January 19. Get details and register by January 7. More info online at <http://ambs.innersync.com/churchleadershipcenter/Lent-planner.cfm>.

### **Webinar: Lent Planning: Ashamed No More**

Participants will be introduced to the Lent theme and scriptures and will explore how to use and adapt worship resources published in Leader magazine. The webinar will be held Thursday, February 7, 7:30-8:45 p.m. and presented by Rachel Miller Jacobs. Get details and register by February 3. More info online at <http://ambs.innersync.com/churchleadershipcenter/Webinars.cfm>.

### **Congregational Finances and the Role of the Pastor**

This interactive clinic will highlight money-related issues which impact pastors daily. Some congregations expect the pastor to engage at all levels and others try to separate the pastor as much as possible from the financial work of the church. The three presenters—Terry Shue, Vyron Schmidt, and Beryl Jantzi—have extensive experience in pastoring, conference, denominational and agency-related involvement. Date: Monday, January 28. Get details and register by January 7. More info online at <http://ambs.innersync.com/churchleadershipcenter/Leadership-Clinics.cfm>.

## **Ten Thousand Villages fundraiser for Bethany Christian Schools**

Ten Thousand Villages in Goshen (206 S. Main St.) will donate 20 percent of sales on Thursday, November 29, to Bethany Christian Schools. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany. Store hours for this benefit are 4-8 p.m.

## **Cotton Patch Gospel performance at First Mennonite**

Phil Kaufmann will be performing his one man show, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 3:00 pm at First Mennonite, Berne, IN. Proceeds from the performance are donated to local food banks, MCC for food security programs and WHY Hunger. This is a fun program, and presented in a unique and engaging way. More information is online at [www.cpgfoodproject.org](http://www.cpgfoodproject.org).

## **Urgent need for relief kits**

Recent shipments of relief kits to Syrian refugees in Jordan have depleted the supply that Mennonite Central Committee keeps in reserve. Please help us restock to be able to act quickly in a crisis or disaster. To see how many towels, tubes of toothpaste and other items are needed in each kit, and to find a drop-off location, visit [mcc.org/kits/relief](http://mcc.org/kits/relief). Also, your gifts of money are urgently needed to respond to the crisis in the region, along with your prayers for peace.

## **MCC Peace Essay contest:**

MCC is accepting essay entries from Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and from any youth who attend Mennonite high schools, within the United States and Puerto Rico. Grand prize is \$300, and three honorable mention winners will each be awarded \$100. The deadline for submissions is January 25, 2013. For information, rules and topics, go to <http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays>.

## **2013 Celebrate MCC – Faith in Action**

Please save the dates and plan to attend our celebration on Feb. 22 & 23, 2013 at East Goshen Mennonite Church. More details will be coming as they develop.

## Goshen College

***A Festival of Carols*** ushers in this year's sacred season with music by singers and instrumentalists, and with gathered audience participation in traditional carols. This festive occasion will be held in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. Reserved seating tickets (\$15) are available at the GC Welcome Center (574-535-7566) or online at [www.goshen.edu/tickets](http://www.goshen.edu/tickets).

### **Advent devotions online**

As churches and individual Christians around the world prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, Goshen College is again offering an online spiritual resource at [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions) to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent and celebrate Christmas. Beginning Nov. 26 (the Monday prior to the first Sunday in Advent) and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the Sunday's upcoming lectionary Scripture passages, available online, by daily e-mail or via an RSS feed. Many writers will reflect on the Advent theme: "Flood of Mercy," taken from Mennonite Church USA worship resources.

### **Shaping Families: Child Abuse and Neglect.**

November 27, 7am, WGCS, 91.1 FM. Jeannette Harder, author of a Herald Press book especially for churches on protecting children, *Let the Children Come: Preparing Faith Communities to End Child Abuse and Neglect*, will be the featured guest on Shaping Families this week. Visit [www.shapingfamilies.com](http://www.shapingfamilies.com) to download a podcast or the transcript after November 24.

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*Events & Announcements* serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please e-mail [communications@im.mennonite.net](mailto:communications@im.mennonite.net)

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