

Events & Announcements | January 16, 2013

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite
Conference

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Last call to give feedback!

If you haven't taken our short survey yet, you can still do so until January 23. We greatly appreciate your input as we assess the effectiveness of Events & Announcements. To take the survey [click here](#) (6 questions total – it will only take a minute or two).

New! An asterisk (*) indicates an item listed in a previous Events & Announcements. A plus sign (+) indicates updated/new information for a previously listed item.

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Jubilee Food Justice Mission Trip – This Summer in Eastern Ohio

Goodness Grows—an agricultural outreach ministry for a non-traditional Presbyterian church with Mennonite connections—offers summer Food Justice Mission Trips to church youth groups and college groups. Experience some of the questions, opportunities and faith connections involved in building authentic local food systems. Work alongside community members, farmers, and kids growing fruit and vegetables in sustainable ways. See how urban lots in Youngstown, Ohio have been turned into productive farms and community gardens. Work in food desert areas to achieve food access. Share fresh produce during meals that highlight “Flavors of the Week.” Explore the Bible’s teachings on justice and stewardship while serving, resting, and discovering the beauty and bounty of God's creation. Weeklong trips may be scheduled between June 2 and August 17, 2013. The **registration deadline is January 28, 2013**. For more information, visit www.goodnessgrows4all.org/jubilee-food-justice-mission-trip.html.

MLK Dine and Dialogue at First Mennonite, Indianapolis

On Monday, January 21 at 12:30pm, First Mennonite Church is hosting a Dine and Dialogue to further the understanding and manifestation of the 'Beloved Community.' Enjoy a meal and spend time with community members sharing experiences and learning how we can become living expressions of peace, justice, and equality for one another. Topics will include: Peace at home/Intimate Partner Violence; Ministering from the Margins; Eradicating Disparities in Health Care; Fellowship in a Racialized Society, Education: A Civil Right & A Matter of Stewardship; Poverty - Unmasking the Pain and People Behind the Numbers. There is no cost to attend. However, PLEASE register so that we may prepare our guest presenters and the proper amount of food. Register by calling the church at 317-251-1980 or go to www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F45ACAF2AAB9-mlkdine.

Hudson Lake Chili Lunch

Invitation to Swanee Lake Area Council churches: Hudson Lake Mennonite Church is having their 16th annual chili/chili-dog lunch on Saturday, Feb. 2nd from noon to 2:00 EST. The dinner includes all-you-can eat chili and/or chili dogs, salad, garlic bread, corn bread, and a slice of homemade pie and ice cream. Suggested donation: Adults/\$6.00; Ages 3-10/\$3.00; under 3/free and a family/\$18.00. The proceeds will go toward: (1) Firstfruits giving—first 15%; (2) Caring fund – which helps residents in the community with emergency needs. In the event of bad weather, the lunch will be rescheduled to March 2nd. If the weather is snowy, please call 574-850-4407 before coming.

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). For more information and to **register online**, visit www.brethren.org/training/small-churches.html. If you have questions, contact Brenda Meyer at brenda@bentonchurch.org.

Phoenix Convention travel accommodations at Bethel College*

Bethel College invites youth groups, families or anyone making a road trip to Mennonite Church USA Convention 2013 in Phoenix this summer to stop overnight on the campus in North Newton, Kan., coming, going or both. The nights of June 30 and July 6 are available. Accommodations are in air-conditioned residence halls with two people to a room, linens provided, at a charge of \$10 per person per night. Bethel College Admissions will provide everyone with breakfast, and there are multiple restaurant options nearby if you need other meals. Reservations should be made by **May 1, 2013**, with Shirley Dietzel at 316-284-5202 (if calling after hours, leave a message telling when you'll be arriving and how many people need accommodations). No deposit required; payment may be made on arrival at Bethel. For driving directions, see the Bethel College website, www.bethelks.edu; put the address "300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117" into your favorite mapping program; or call 1-800-522-1887 during regular business hours.

AMBS Church Leadership Center

Free public lecture by Dr. Kim Tan*

Business leaders, pastors and other interested people are invited to a free public lecture as part of AMBS Pastors Week. "Enterprise Solutions to Alleviate Poverty" will be the focus of a presentation by Dr. Kim Tan, a venture capitalist and Bible teacher who brings a passion for Jubilee economics to his enterprises and investments. Join us at Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Elkhart on Tuesday evening, **January 29 at 7:00 p.m.**

Pastors Week: Leadership Clinics – Monday, January 28, 9am-3pm

Planting Peace Churches: The Heart of God's Shalom Strategy

Come catch a vision and develop imagination for planting peace churches and leave with tools and next steps. Hear stories of successes and challenges, experiments and risks. Learn ways to test calling and gifts. Consider different models for initiating and funding church plants. Explore various kinds of partnerships between church planters, sending congregations and area conferences. Spend time in conversation and prayer with others exploring church planting.

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 have extensive experience in pastoring, conference, denominational and agency related involvement.

Feeding the Spiritual Hungers of Contemporary Christians*

Perhaps nothing characterizes contemporary life more vividly than a profound longing for connection with others and with God. Group spiritual direction offers a way to feed this hunger and may be the simplest, most effective way for the church to engage people in ongoing growth outside of Sunday worship. In contrast to other groups—such as Sunday schools, small groups, women's or men's groups, support groups, or service groups—the central focus of direction groups is noticing and responding to the presence of God in each person's life.

Goshen College

Community Conversation with Dr. Wilbert Smith*

Wilbert Smith is an author and award-winning filmmaker who strives to capture the essence and power of the human spirit. His 2012 film, "Hole in the Head: A Life Revealed," chronicles the life of Vertus Hardiman, an Indiana native subjected as a child to radiation experiments that left him with severe physical deformities. The film raises hard-hitting questions about health care, race relations and forgiveness. Held in the Umble Center on **January 20 at 7pm**. Prior to the event there will be a screening of the documentary at 4pm in the Administration building, Room 28.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Dr. Wilbert Smith will be the featured presenter for Goshen College's 2013 MLK Jr. Study Day, "Shalom: that we may be whole," on Monday, January 21. The featured author is Dana Johnson.

For a full schedule of events leading up to and including MLK Jr. Day please visit

<http://www.goshen.edu/mao/programs/mlk/>.

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

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