

Events & Announcements | April 3, 2013

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite
Conference

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Note: 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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Strengthening Your Small Congregation*

This one day workshop is coming up very soon! If you are a pastor or lay leader of a small congregation, consider attending the Strengthening Your Small Congregation workshop on April 13. 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 IN-MI Conference. IN-MI pastors can apply for a registration scholarship, and two or three registrants from the same congregation will get a registration discount. The event will be held from 8:45am to 4:00pm at Camp Mack (Church of the Brethren camp in Milford, IN). Find more details at www.brethren.org/training/small-churches.html and register online by April 5. View the flier [here](#).

Funk Fest 2013 at Prairie Street*

“Arts in Worship and Witness” will be the focus of Funk Fest 2013 on Saturday April 13, 9am-2pm at Prairie Street Mennonite (1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart, IN 46516). Named for the 1871 founder of Prairie Street congregation, John F. Funk, Funk Fest each year highlights some aspect of the driving forces of Funk’s vocation—mission, mentoring, music, migration and media. Featured presenters this year are James Krabill

(editor of *Worship and Mission for the Global Church*) and Mary Oyer (beloved college/seminary professor and global teacher on the arts and faith). Discussion and teaching at this seminar will highlight practical application of global worship in the life of a congregation. Suggested donation for participants is \$10; no advance registration required. There will be an option of purchasing a pizza lunch for \$5, or you can bring a sack lunch. For more information, call 574-293-0377 or email office@praiestreetmc.org.

“Breaking Down Barriers” film premiere

Join us for the FREE premiere of the film “Breaking Down Barriers: The Journeys of the Apostle Paul” on Wednesday, April 17 from 7-8pm at the Goshen Theater (216 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526). “Breaking Down Barriers” is a locally produced film by students and faculty at FiveCore Media, a division of the award-winning Goshen College Communication Department. Guides Bob Yoder, Goshen College Campus Pastor, and David Sparks, Director of Footstep Ministries, take you on a journey across Greece and Rome to ancient cities like Philippi, Corinth, Rome, Athens, and Thessaloniki to explore how the Apostle Paul reached out to others to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact executive producer Seth Conley at sconley@goshen.edu or check out the trailer at www.goshen.edu/communication/journeys.

Travels with STAND – Open house and book signing

On Saturday, April 27 from 2-5pm, author Steve Ramer and friends will host an open house and book signing for the recently published *Travels with STAND* at Harvest Community Church (formerly Zion Chapel) on C.R. 34 in Goshen, IN. This book tells the story of five college students who embarked on a seven month journey following their graduation from Hesston College. The title STAND derives from the first letter of each young man’s name: Steve, Tim, Alvaro, Nick and Dan. Their journey by van takes them to the jungles of Ecuador, the high desert plateaus of Peru and Bolivia, the beaches of Rio De Janeiro, and as far south as San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. Perhaps the biggest challenge faced was learning to live together as a community while trying to navigate completely foreign geography, as well as local cultures, without the instant electronic resources we take for granted today.

AMBS Webinar – Discerning the Powers:

Moral Discernment, Theology and Mission

This webinar will discuss the theology of the principalities and powers in light of its biblical roots and contemporary theological treatment in the work of Berkhof, Yoder, Wink and others. Going beyond these recent thinkers, we will examine "powers theology" as a practical theology for the church's mission. We will also look at possibilities for reconciliation between socio-political and spiritual understandings of the powers. Held on Wednesday, May 1, 2-3:30pm and presented by AMBS Professor Jamie Pitts. For more details and to register, visit www.ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Webinars.cfm.

AMBS seeks Volunteer Coordinator

We are seeking a qualified individual or couple to coordinate the work of our short term and local volunteers, connecting these volunteers with assignments from faculty and staff. If you like to work with people, have basic computer skills and are well organized, please consider this volunteer assignment for a one-year, renewable term. The position opens August 1; start date is negotiable. For details, visit www.ambs.edu/about/Volunteer-at-AMBS.cfm.

Mediation training in Columbus, OH*

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) will offer its Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders May 6-10 at First English Lutheran Church, 1015 Main St., Columbus, OH. A combination of lectures, discussion, and guided practice in role plays, the training will equip people in skills for mediating interpersonal, multi-party, and congregational conflict. Tuition for this five-day training is \$695 if paid by

April 5, and \$795 after that date. For registration information, call LMPC at 630-627-0507, or email admin@LMPeaceCenter.org, or visit the website at www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Workshop: The Recession and Its Implications for Congregational Life

Congregations are invited to explore the findings, data and implications of the 2012 Congregational Economic Impact study. William Enright, executive director of Indiana University's Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, will lead participants in a look at the challenges of inflation for congregational life, the importance of being realistic and proactive about congregational finances, fundraising as ministry, tools by which to navigate the new landscape, and more. Two workshop locations are offered: Merrillville, IN, on May 15, 9am-4pm (Central time) or Greenwood, IN, on May 16, 9am-4pm (Eastern time). For additional details and online registration, visit the [Center for Congregations website](#).

Pentecost Celebration at First Mennonite, Indianapolis

First Mennonite Church of Indianapolis invites you to participate in a community Pentecost celebration on Sunday, May 19 at 2pm. The celebration will be outside, weather permitting, and will include great fellowship, singing, worship, prophetic preaching, and shared communion. Donations of powdered milk and toilet paper will be collected for the Damien Center. Join us as we express our love for God and neighbors in spiritual and practical ways. For more information, contact Kelly Oglesby at 317-835-1658.

Short videos sought for Phoenix convention*

Mennonite Church USA's Denominational Ministry would like to hear from you! Your church is invited to make a short YouTube video to show at convention Phoenix 2013. Organizers of the Call Wall would like to show short YouTube videos (no more than 59 seconds long) from youth or small groups and congregations answering these two questions: 1) What qualities do you believe are important for a pastor to have? 2) What are the essential elements of a "calling congregation"? The deadline is May 31st. For more information, visit <http://mennoniteusa.org/2012/11/20/cultivating-call-in-59-seconds>.

Goshen College

Free brush-up performance for Youth Groups

The Goshen College Theater Department is extending an invitation to area church youth groups to attend a FREE midweek brush-up performance of our mainstage production, THE DIVINERS by Jim Leonard Jr. The date for the brush-up is April 10th and will begin promptly at 7:30pm. If you are interested in bringing a group (or even a few individuals), please RSVP by contacting Sandy Slabaugh at sandys@goshen.edu or 574-535-7283. If you have further questions about the production before deciding, please contact Doug Liechty Caskey at douglc@goshen.edu or 574-535-7393.

Mary K. Oyer's 90th Birthday Celebration

Goshen College Professor Emerita Mary Oyer turns 90 years old this month. On April 20, guests are invited by the GC Music Department and Music Center to take part in several events in honor of her extraordinary life and legacy. Festivities include a hymn sing, discussion of her work involving African music, an African themed dinner, and more. For more information, visit www.goshen.edu/news/events.

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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