

Beyond the Congregation – May 17, 2015

EVENTS – LOCAL & BEYOND

- **Conrad Grebel UC Theological Studies course** on “Baptism: Ecumenical Perspectives,” taught by John Rempel, May 19-22, 25-29. The church of Christ can't agree whether infants can be baptized or only those who confess a personal faith. The biggest reason for this is that each side has a different view of the church. The goal of this course is to enter the dynamic of recent dialogues on these issues among Mennonites, Lutherans, and Catholics, listen deeply, criticize honestly, and learn from each other. Auditors are welcome. For more information, contact Birgit Moscinski, 519-885-0220 x24264, birgit.moscinski@uwaterloo.ca
- **Nepal Disaster Fundraising Concert**, Sunday May 24, 4:00pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 49 Queen St. N, Kitchener. Free will offering for Mennonite Central Committee's response to the Nepal earthquake.
- **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate presents Alumni Music Recital Series**, Thursday May 28, 7:30pm, free will offering.
- **Donate for Zach Blood Donor Clinic** - Friday, May 29, 2:00-8:00 p.m., Elmira Lion's Hall, 40 South Street W., Elmira (no appointment necessary). Twelve-year-old Zach Cressman from St. Jacobs Mennonite has been receiving care in London since February for idiopathic aplastic anemia. He receives weekly platelet transfusions and bi-weekly blood transfusions. This will continue for many months. Please consider donating blood. Visit www.blood.ca for more information about Canadian Blood Services and eligibility criteria. Register with DONATE FOR ZACH, Partner # DONA071676. All donations made anywhere in Canada under this number will be included in Zach's count. For more information, please contact Andrea Horst (ahorst@rogers.com or 519-664-3374). "It's in you to give."
- ♪ **Spring Benefit Concert by The Jubilation Male Chorus** - Sunday evening, May 31 at 7:00 pm. A free-will offering will be received with proceeds to be divided equally between The Food Bank and The Community Justice Initiatives, both of Waterloo Region. This concert, directed by Music Director Robert Shantz, will be held at the Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church at 15 George Street, Waterloo. You are invited to come and say “Thanks” to some of our community volunteers and enjoy an evening of wonderful Christian music as well.
- **Youth Event at Crosshill Mennonite Church** Friday June 5, 7 pm until ? Rain or Shine! Bonfire and games at the home of Mike and Margaret Holst, 2210 Hackbart Road, Wellesley. If it is pouring rain we will go to the church at 2537 Hutchison Road, Crosshill.
- **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp annual BBQ and pie auction** is on Tuesday June 9 from 5:30 to 8:30. Proceeds support Hidden Acres summer camp ministry to underprivileged children. Regular meal \$15, small size \$11, take-out available. Advance tickets only, available from Mike and Carolyn Strathdee, or info@hiddenacres.ca
- **Fairview Mennonite Home Talent Show**, Wednesday June 10 @ 7:00pm in the Centre Auditorium. Free admission, concession available.
- **Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Bus Trip and annual meeting** Saturday, June 13, 1:00 pm, at Essex Kent Mennonite Historical Association, 31 Pickwick Dr., Leamington. Presentation on Essex County Mennonites and tour of their museum. Also tours of Essex County Mennonite churches and a local Mennonite greenhouse. Bus leaves Rockway Mennonite Collegiate at 8:00 a.m., returning early evening. For further information and to reserve a bus seat (\$40/\$30 for students) contact Sam Steiner: secretary@mhso.org 519-884-1040
- **Fairview Mennonite Home Strawberry Social**, Wednesday June 24 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, Centre Auditorium Fairview Vocal and Handbell Choirs Present: “All Things Bright and Beautiful; God Made Them”. Refreshment tickets \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12
- Family camping at **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp**, Friday June 26 to Sunday June 28. More info at www.hiddenacres.ca or to reserve a cabin, call (519)625-8602 or email info@hiddenacres.ca
- **CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre at CMU** – CommonWord provides thousands of home and congregational resources for sale, loan, and download. Take advantage of competitive pricing as well as free shipping and downloads. Largest Anabaptist resource centre in Canada. Visit commonword.ca today
- **Come visit Montreal and stay in our Summer Guestrooms! Rates start as low as \$45 per night.** A mission of the Mennonite church in Montreal since 1974, the Maison de l'amitié continues to welcome and support new arrivals to Canada and Quebec through our English and French language classes and our community-focussed student residence. You can support the ministries of the Maison de l'amitié this summer by having fun! Visit our website to find out more: www.residencema.ca
- **Canadian Mennonite University's Canadian School of Peacebuilding** invites you to come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding – on June 15 – 19; 22 – 26. More information is available at www.csop.cmu.ca or csop@cmu.ca
- **MennoHomes annual Bike-a-thon**, Out-Spok'n, will be held on Saturday June 20 at Elmira Mennonite Church. All proceeds to new affordable housing project in Elmira. Details at www.mennohomes.com or contact Dan Driedger at 226-476-2535 or ddridger@mennohomes.com
- Sunday, June 7, 2 :30 p.m. at **Detweiler Meetinghouse** (3445 Roseville Rd., near Roseville): “Ninth Annual Shaped Note Singing from the *Harmonia Sacra* Singing School and Hymn Book.” This is the oldest shaped note music book (1832) in continuous use. Led by Laurence Martin. A freewill offering in support of Meetinghouse operations will be held. Everyone welcome. More information: Laurence Martin, [\(519\) 208-4591](tel:5192084591)

• **Skylight Festival** is coming to Paris, Ontario from July 31 to August 2. The festival offers music, art, film and inspiring conversations on faith, peace and justice – in a celebratory space created to nurture a narrative of hope, joy and transformation. All are welcome. Free camping for everyone. Register NOW to get the Box Office Special price of only \$119 for the first 50 registrants. Regular price is \$179 so register today! All the information can be found on our website www.skylightfestival.ca including our current line-up of inspiring musicians, speakers and artists. Be sure to “like” our Facebook page [facebook.com/skylightfestival](https://www.facebook.com/skylightfestival)

NEW HAMBURG MENNONITE RELIEF SALE – May 29 & 30

Plan on attending the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale.

- **Donate & roll coins** at the My Coins Count (<http://mcc.org/get-involved/my-coins-count>) tent.
- **Come to the Friday evening Indoors Auction** featuring items for the inside of the home.
- **Come and sample food** from three new food venues!
- **Volunteers Needed:** Setup and Cleanup volunteers are needed for Thursday, Friday and Saturday: for details contact John Reimer at johnreimer@sentex.ca.
- **Run for Relief:** Register for the 5k Run or 2k Walk.
- **Play Music:** Busking-style musicians are needed Friday evening or Saturday (contact Dan at dan@ddajohnson.com)
- **Plants:** Start plant cuttings and bulbs now, and bring them to our Plant Tent at the Sale. Details of these opportunities to get involved can be found at our website (www.nhmrs.com) or email johnreimer@sentex.ca .

The plant tent sells houseplants, perennials, and seedlings for vegetables and herbs. Contact Ruth Zehr at (519)662-1556 or rrzehr@netflash.net

\$ My Coins Count (formerly Penny Power) jar is in the foyer to collect coins for MCC. This will be taken to the New Hamburg Relief Sale at the end of May. Bring your coins and ask a child to drop them in!!

- **Rhubarb** If you have an extra rhubarb, bring to the rhubarb tent.
- **Yeast baking** (with name and contact info) to the Yeast baking venue. Contact Darlene at ddriedger@simplycreative.ca for more information.

♪ **Martin Family Singers & Waterloo Chamber Orchestra** presents Hayden's Creation (excerpts) Symphony 101 on Sunday, May 24 at 7:30 at Steinmann's Mennonite Church. Soloists are Stephanie Kramer, Elaine Pearce, Brandon Leis and Roy Lichti. All proceeds to the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale. Tickets available at MCC Ontario and Mennonite Savings & Credit Union branches.

SUMMER CAMPS

☺ **Summer 2015 camp brochures** are in the literature racks for Fraser Lake Mennonite Camp, Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre, Silver Lake Mennonite Camp & more.

- **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp** – Registration is now open for Summer 2015 with programming available for campers ages 6-16 including Mini Camp, Teen Camp, Family Camp and many others. Space is limited so be sure to register early. Campership Funds (subsidies) are available. For more information, please visit www.slmc.ca or contact Dave Erb at dave@slmc.ca or 519-422-1401.
- **Summer Job Opportunities at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp** - If you would like to spend your summer out in nature, positively impacting the lives of hundreds of young people, building great relationships with the other staff members and sharing and developing your faith, then check out Hidden Acres. For more information or to fill out an application, go to our website at www.hiddenacres.ca or contact Chris Pot at 519-625-8602 or chrispot@hiddenacres.ca
- **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp has asked our church to supply 5 volunteers** for the week of Camp 5 from August 9-15, during their summer camp program. Primarily they are looking for people to help prepare meals in the kitchen and help with various maintenance tasks. See details on hall bulletin board.
- **Ontario Mennonite Music Camp (OMMC)** registration is now open for summer 2015! OMMC is a wonderful opportunity for youth age 12 to 16 to form friendships, enhance their musical abilities, grow in their faith, and develop leadership skills. This overnight camp will be held at Conrad Grebel University College Aug 16 - 28, 2015. Register online at www.grebel.ca/ommc (before May 31st for the early bird rate.)
- **Camp Shalom Cambridge** is looking for counselors, kitchen and maintenance staff. If you love Jesus and like working with kids or individuals with special needs, then this might be for you. All positions are paid and you must be 17 before Dec. 31st, 2015 to apply. Visit www.countrysidecamp.com to apply.

MCC – MCCO – MCEC – MDS – MEDA – MC CANADA – MSCU – MDS NEWS & EVENTS

• From May 29-June 3, people will be gathering in Ottawa to mark the ceremonial close of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If you aren't able to attend, **Mennonite Church Canada** suggests **5 Things You Can Do Anywhere In Canada** to show your commitment to reconciliation: <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/node/638>

• **Mennonite Disaster Service has a service opportunity** for the whole family. Families of children and adults of all ages are encouraged to serve together building cabins for a week at Camp Elim near Swift Current, Saskatchewan between August 3 & 28. For more info and to register call 866-261-1274 or at mcs.mennonite.net/projects/campelimfamily project.

• **Do you have a passion for sewing or quilting** and love to share your skills with others. MCC Ontario is seeking volunteers to run several sewing and quilting classes at 50 Kent. If you are interested please call Wendy Cotter at 519-745-8458 x 248 or go to mcccana.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/sewing-quilting-teachers for more info.

• **Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support (MCRS) has focused on the growing need for support** for the reunification of local refugee claimant families. Many families are split up due to war and conflict - one family member escapes, taking a dangerous path that will bring them to Canada. If their refugee claim is accepted they can begin the process of bringing their loved ones to safety. They are often separated for prolonged periods, due to policies that delay reunification. Sometimes they are forced to wait years to be reunited with their spouses and children, who may be in situations of danger or persecution. And children are the hardest hit.

Learn more about how you can help - and do contact me if you have any queries, by telephone at 519-571-1912 ext. 4.

Or via email at resourcedevelopment@mcrs.ca Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

• **MCC urgently needs KIT BAGS:** Please help us replenish our inventory. Use medium or lightweight fabric. Sewing instructions are available at mcco.ca/kits or by calling Wendy Cotter at 519-745-8458 ext 248.

Come early for a bus tour of the local area and experience the diversity of the Aylmer area Low German Mennonite Communities' businesses, churches, schools and culture. Up close and personal with your guide, Abe Harms. The cost will be \$10 per person.

• **MCC Ontario Annual General Meeting** Thursday, June 18 Sommerfeld Mennonite Church, Aylmer. 3:30 pm tour of the local Low German Community; 6-6:45 pm - Supper served (no charge, but advance registration is required); 7 pm - Worship, speakers and business meeting

• Mennonite Savings and Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement and Conrad Grebel University College are pleased to announce the extension of **Taking Community from the Farm to the World**, an exhibition of David L Hunsberger's iconic photographs. On display until August 14, 2015 at Conrad Grebel, 140 Westmount Rd N, Waterloo, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm..

Mennonite World Conference

• **Experience an Assembly Scattered event:** The North American church is ready and eager to host you in their communities. Consider planning a few extra days, either before or after PA 2015 in Harrisburg, to see God at work at one of 15 Assembly Scattered locations. From the Pacific region's multi-cultural gateway of Los Angeles to the east coast historic city of Philadelphia, and from the far north in Anchorage, Alaska to the southern metropolis of Miami, Florida, the church is beckoning you. Experience firsthand the complexity of immigration issues at the Texas-Mexico border with the San Antonio Mennonite Church. Learn about Mennonite Brethren churches started in North Carolina during segregation in the south and their vibrant ministries in the mountain communities, or the work of churches in Central Kansas or Harrisonburg, VA. For more information on these and other incredible opportunities to experience the rich diversity of MWC churches in the US, go to <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/pennsylvania-2015/assembly-scattered>

• **Call for Worship and Contemporary Art** -- Art of many kinds will be on display at PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference that will be held July 21-26 in Harrisburg, PA. Artists are invited to submit contemporary art for a juried exhibit. Churches are invited to display worship art (banners, tapestries, or other

• **Thinking of registering for PA 2015?** The time is now! Register while options are still available for tours and service opportunities. PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference, will be held July 21-26 in Harrisburg, PA. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/PA2015>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

• **MCEC's interactive web space**, theexchange is a place to connect with others and to find and to share resources. A 10 hour/week contract position is being established to promote and assist in its use. Individuals who have expertise with social media technology, are comfortable communicating with congregational leaders and pastors, and who have an awareness of the MCEC ministry context are invited to inquire.

Contact Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister - jsteckley@mcec.ca (226) 476-2500 ext. 707