



Central
District
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

focus

APRIL 2012

**KNOWING
CHRIST'S LOVE
- ANSWERING
GOD'S CALL**

Mennofolk Bluffton July 6-8

Celebrating Mennonite faith and culture through music and song

Central District Conference's Missional Church Committee created a matching program, which launched "Reign of God" grants. The purpose of the grants is to encourage and assist congregations interested in working together on projects.

This *focus* issue shares information about one of those programs: Mennofolk Bluffton, which takes place on the Bluffton University campus July 6-8. Sponsoring congregations are: Columbus Mennonite; Dayton Mennonite Fellowship; First, Bluffton; Grace, Pandora; and Shalom Community, Ann Arbor.



Mennofolk Bluffton: "It is a tapestry of songs offered to the wider world, which comes out of our collective experience of faith, music and Anabaptist values." That's how Wendy Chappell-Dick of First, Bluffton, and planning committee coordinator, puts into words her hopes for this summer's Mennofolk Bluffton event.

She continues: "We plan to use this festival to create a focus of healing in the world through addressing the wounds of war from a variety of perspectives. The planning committee hopes to raise funds for several projects including The Iraqi Student Project, The Wounded Warrior Fund, and Military Counseling by Mennonite Central Committee, as examples. The festival will conclude in a worship service pulling together the entire community formed from the experience.

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Mennonfolk Bluffton - *continued*

A complete list of performers and their bios are available on the Mennonfolk website: www.mennonfolk.org. A few examples of the performers follow:

Five Times Harder – Tom and Lois Harder for many years served as program directors and on the summer staff of Camp Friedenswald. The family has played together since Tom and Lois noticed the girls were singing along on their performances. Now Hilary, Madeline and Anna add their instrumental skills and personalities to the mix. The Harders love making music: sacred, classical, bluegrass, folk, jazz and secular.

Strange Light – A wife-husband duo from Athens, Ohio, their original songs braid together influences such as Over the Rhine, Patty Griffin, and Simon and Garfunkel—all the while dipping into old hymns. Athens-born Michael Lachman (keyboards, rhythm, vocals) has been a professional musician for 17 years. Becca Rossiter Lachman (vocals, ukulele, keyboards) raised in Kidron, Ohio, has performed as a singer-songwriter for over a decade.

Sour Cherry Pie – Phil Hart, Perry Leatherman and Steve Rolfe are members of Columbus Mennonite. Most of the music Sour Cherry Pie performs derives from the song writing that Phil Hart developed in the late '60s. Their music covers a range of folk/rock/acoustic/bluesy mix. Their style is very tasty as the name indicates.

andi and i – Andi and Al Tauber began playing music together after their marriage in 1989. They have played in church and coffeehouses. In 2003 they released a CD, "Harder." For the last five years Andi and Al have worked with Emmaus Ministries, Chicago. In addition to their regular performances, they present a program called "Stories from the Streets." It connects Christians with the men Emmaus Ministries serves by telling stories in a variety of methods, including music.

What you need to know:

Mennonfolk Bluffton: Friday to Sunday, July 6-8, Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio.

Cost: Tickets are \$15, cover the entire weekend. Children under 12 admitted free.

Friday and Saturday evening concerts open to the public with \$10 admission charge.

How to register: Contact wendy@mennofolk.org.

Website for complete details: www.mennonfolk.org.