



Central  
District  
Conference

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Mennonite Church USA

# focus

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

**FEBRUARY 2012**

## Registrations due April 15 for CDC June family opportunity **Peacebuilders Family Camp**

Central District Conference's Missional Church Committee created a matching program, which launched "Reign of God" grants. This issue shares information about one of those programs: Peacebuilders Family Camp. It is sponsored by Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Paoli Mennonite and Emmaus Road Fellowship.

### By Rachel Giovarelli

Peacebuilders Family Camp brings families together for an incomparable summer experience at Koinonia Partners, Americus, Ga. The purpose of the camp, founded by Marilyn McGinnis and Jonah McDonald, is to build community among Mennonite families from the Central District Conference. It gives families the opportunity to experience peacemaking in action and form spiritual foundations in the peacemaking tradition.

Peacebuilders Family Camp, taking place this year June 11-16, provides a fun and exciting atmosphere for families while they enjoy together-time and learn about peacebuilding activities. Families will have the opportunity to participate in community-building, recreation, swimming at a local state park, bonfires, a movie night, and a hike at Providence Canyon State Park, as well as other activities.

Devotions, prayer and group activities will be daily components of the camp, with each day spent with different peacebuilding groups in the community. Some of the groups include:

- Koinonia Partners intentional peace community
- Cafe Campesino, a fair trade coffee roaster
- Ellenton Health clinic, serving migrant farm workers
- Habitat for Humanity
- Andersonville National Historic Site and National Prisoner of War Museum
- The Fuller Center for Housing, for a service project
- El Refugio, a hospitality house for families visiting detainees at Stewart Detention Center, Lumpkin, Ga.

The expectation, McGinnis said, is that "families will go home invigorated, with deepened family bonds and spiritual life, and an excitement and energy around continuing peace work in their home communities."

The camp takes place at the guest house of Koinonia Partners, where, McGinnis said, attendees will be "learning, working, breaking bread, and worshipping together with Koinonia's partner members and volunteers." Koinonia, originally an interracial Christian farming community, was founded in 1942 by Clarence Jordan during the struggle against segregation before the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. According to McDonald, "Through bombings, death threats, and KKK rallies, Koinonia held strong as a voice for peace and racial equality."

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# Peacebuilders Family Camp - *continued*

Even now, Koinonia makes a statement to the community with its production of fair-trade products, its continued focus on taking care of the people in the community, and its seeking racial justice and Christian peacemaking. Without Koinonia's influence, several of the organizations Peacebuilders is partnering with in America would not exist or would not have the form they do today.

By choosing Koinonia as the place for Peacebuilders Family Camp, McGinnis and McDonald said, the purpose is to "root our camp in the long tradition of Christian peacemaking and provide a model of living in beloved community. [...] Koinonia Partners is both a historical inspiration for peacemakers and a modern peace organization."

As part of the Central District Conference Reign of God grant, Peacebuilders Family Camp is receiving \$1,500 toward scholarships for CDC families who want to attend the camp but are financially unable. According to McDonald, the "goal is that no family is turned away for lack of financial resources." Paoli Mennonite, Emmaus Road, and Atlanta Mennonite are also sponsoring the camp financially and Peacebuilders is receiving encouragement and support from several other congregations.

The camp has been developed for families with children ages 8 and older, but couples without children and single adults are also encouraged to attend. Activities will be appropriate for all ages, and other options will be available when necessary for children, teens and adults.

Preregistration is now open at [www.peacebuilderscamp.org](http://www.peacebuilderscamp.org). Early registration and application information will be sent to preregistered families, giving them priority. The deadline for registration is April 15, 2012.

The cost of camp is \$600 for the first family member, \$300 for the second, \$250 for the third, \$150 for the fourth and \$100 for each family member in addition to four.

Peacebuilders will also hold a youth camp in late June for ages 10 to 14, which will have similar activities to the family camp. Jonah McDonald and Marilyn McGinnis consider themselves "honored to be able to host these camps and share with families and youth the powerful peacemaking witness of so many individuals and organizations in southwest Georgia."

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## Experience this summer in the peaceful woods

Here is preliminary information about the 2012 summer camping schedule at Camp Friedenswald. Summer camp registration is based upon the grade level the camper has completed in 2011-12. This summer's theme "Get Up!" is based upon stories of Jesus found in Luke's gospel. Watch for a camp brochure, listing more information, coming soon or visit the camp website.

### Camp Friedenswald's 2012 camp schedule

<b>June 11-16</b>	High School camp (grades 9-12)
<b>June 18-23</b>	Junior High camp (grades 7-8)
<b>June 18-20</b>	Primary camp (grades 1-2)
<b>June 25-30</b>	Pre-Junior Camp (grades 3-4)
<b>July 2-7</b>	Junior Camp (grades 5-6)
<b>July 9-13</b>	Family Furlough
<b>July 16-20</b>	Family Retreat

### Camp Friedenswald

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### 2012 adult fall retreats

*Watch for information coming later*

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