

Nothing bleak about winter for these congregations

Winter—and the beginning of a new year—can be opportunities for congregations to do something creative ... to spend time assessing goals and vision ... to play ... to study and pursue new insights. The vignettes come from Facebook posts by Central District Conference congregations. In the hope they will help all of us learn more about each other and catch ideas for how our own congregations can thrive in winter, focus shares these posts.

Paoli (Ind.) Mennonite Church



Paoli Mennonite Church, Paoli, Ind., began their maple syrup season on January 28, tapping 130 sugar maple trees and hanging collection bags. They harvested the first 125 gallons of sap on February 9. They anticipate that first half ton will yield three gallons of maple syrup.

Grace Mennonite Church Pandora, Ohio



For the morning worship service on Sunday, December 17, Grace Mennonite Church members enacted the story of the creation of "Silent Night," the Christmas hymn. The cast included a children's choir and a choir of church mice. (The production was written by Hal Hopson.)

Chicago (Ill.) Community Mennonite Church



During second hour on Sunday, December 17, children and youth at Chicago Community Mennonite Church helped pack Mennonite Central Committee school kits kids for areas of conflict and unrest around the world.

Milwaukee (Wisc.) Mennonite Church



Rebecca Keiser

Milwaukee Mennonite Fellowship enjoyed a winter retreat on Sunday, January 28, at Wehr Nature Center in Franklin, Wisc.

North Danvers Mennonite Church Danvers, Ill.

UNO Tournament
Sunday Feb. 18th 5:00 pm
 Plan to join us for an evening of fun for all ages!

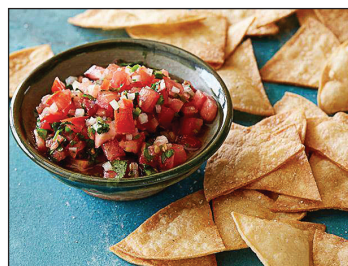
We will start the evening with supper, which will be provided, followed by the Uno Tournament. Uno is a simple and fun card game, suitable for young and old alike. Once you're eliminated, you are invited to move to other tables and play additional table games, watch the competition or visit.

Prizes will be awarded to the final four Uno players, with a top prize for first place. Please feel free to bring a snack to share as well as table games. Drinks will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see people of all ages.



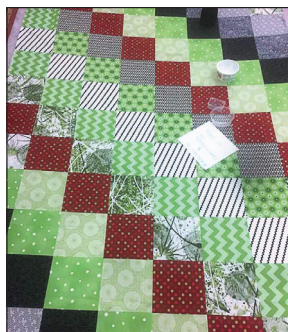
Silverwood Mennonite Church Goshen, Ind.



On Thursday, February 8, Silverwood began a four-week series—Mission, Chips & Salsa Conversations, led by the Outreach Commission. These are opportunities to reflect on what it means to be missional, with ample

time to share ways members are engaged in missional efforts in their families, neighborhoods, workplaces and the world. This is a time to share a past missional story or test an idea while enjoying chips and salsa.

First Mennonite Church Bluffton, Ohio



First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, invited people to join the fun of knotting comforters on Tuesday, January 30.

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