

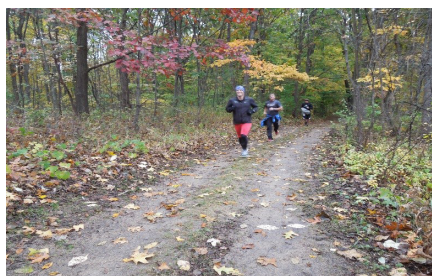
MAY 2015

Bring the whole family for biking, running, walking, worship and more

Family Day kicks off 2015 CDC Annual Meeting

Everyone is invited to a day of fun and fellowship to kick off this year's Central District Conference Annual Meeting.

While several events during the annual meeting are limited to delegates from CDC churches, Thursday's Family Day is open to everyone, including children.



Hit the green for a day of golfing or bring your family's bikes along for a scenic bikeride around Camp Friedenswald, during

the run/walk/bike-a-thon.

A variety of activities will be available that afternoon at the camp, including Frisbee golf, swimming, and boating. Or, take time to walk Friedenswald's trails and see all that southern Michigan nature has to offer.

Thursday attendees can enjoy a cookout together before heading to the first worship session of the annual meeting.



The evening will wrap up with ice cream and live music from The Schmaltzentrubers, an eclectic acoustic trio from Eighth Street Mennonite in Goshen.

FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

11 A.M., GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

Form your own team of two and join us at Black Squirrel Golf Club in Goshen at 11 a.m. to play golf using the Ryder Cup Format. Cost is \$75/person. Women, men, and youth are expected! Proceeds from the event go to the CDC Jubilee Fund.

For more information, see page 5.

1 P.M., RUN/WALK/BIKE-A-THON

Runners, walkers and bikers are invited to participate in our 2nd bike/run/walk event in the beautiful Camp Friedenswald area. In the spirit of treating our bodies like the temple they truly are, please consider getting outdoors with your brothers and sisters.

See what Camp Friedenswald and the surrounding area are like from a vantage point that opens our world to the sounds, smells and other experiences of being part of this amazing creation.

For more information, see page 6.

EXPLORE CAMP FRIEDENSWALD

You are welcome to explore and experience Camp Friedenswald throughout the day!

Activities for the afternoon include swimming and boating (no lifeguard on duty), Frisbee golf on camp's newly designed course, experiencing camp's unique fen environment from the Fen Viewing Platform or visiting the Red Oak Preserve.

5 P.M., COOKOUT

Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child age 8 and under. Please register in advance through the adult registration form or through the run/walk/bike registration form online.

7:30 P.M., WORSHIP

Join us for worship at Southside Fellowship (Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount) on the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) campus. Speaker for the evening is Mary Schertz. To learn more, see page 3.

9 P.M., ICE CREAM AND MUSIC

The Schmaltzentrubers will entertain us with music while we share ice cream together on the lawn in front of the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount.

Seminars explore song and scripture

This year, instead of the usual lineup of workshops, attendees will have the opportunity to attend one of two seminars during the CDC Annual Meeting.

THE ENGAGED SPIRITUALITY OF JESUS

Sing and celebrate with John Bell, a pastor and musician who breathes life into worship, music and the living Gospels. A much sought after speaker, Rev. Bell is a member of the Iona Community, an evangelical community dedicated to working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community, and renewal of worship. He travels the world reviving Christian worship.



Bell, of the Iona Community in Scotland—prolific composer, teacher on worship and music—will speak at Prairie Street Mennonite

Church (1316 Prairie St., Elkhart, Ind.) on **Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Cost is \$20. CDC delegates who wish to participate in this seminar are asked to register for the event on the adult registration form. The seminar runs from 9 a.m. to noon, then breaks for lunch and resumes at 1:30 p.m. CDC participants may choose to attend one or both sessions of this seminar.

Note: Prairie Street is not serving lunch, but there will be a light lunch/liturgical worship available for CDC participants at the Lambright Center at 12:15p.m.

About Bell: John Bell is listed as composer, lyricist or arranger in 17 out of 118 songs in our Sing the Journey song book. That's nearly 15%!

John was born in Kilmarnock, and after ordination began his ministry with a post in youth work in Glasgow. He later joined the Iona Community, and with his colleague, Graham Maule, was drawn to concentrate on congregational song, liturgy and the sharing of scripture, a ministry which led to the Wild Goose Resource Group.

RETHINKING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER AND THE BIBLE

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, Associate dean for leadership education and director of the AMBS Church Leadership Center will speak on **Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. to noon** at AMBS in Room #116 of Waltner Hall. Topic: "Rethinking our Relationship with Each Other and the Bible." Please sign up on the Adult Registration Form online.

Note: Lunch will be available following the seminar at the Lambright Center at 12:15p.

Following is an excerpt of a piece by Jewel on the topic. See the CDC website for the full piece.

Since our founding, we Mennonites have claimed the Bible as the central source of authority for our faith and life. The Bible, we have said, is how we learn about God, and most importantly, about Jesus Christ, the One whom we together seek to follow.

Yet these days it seems many of us are not spending a whole lot of time with the Bible. "The estrangement of many North American



Mennonite Christians from the Bible—their sense that they know the book, that it's over-familiar or irrelevant, and their captivity to American ills of individualism, consumerism and over-busyness—all of these make it hard to indwell the ancient text and make it life-giving today," writes Alan Kreider.

And when it comes to difficult conversations like we're having about sexuality, some among us have little hope that Scripture can be our guide. Because the Scripture has been misused and co-opted for political purposes and made into a tool of oppression, they say we should steer clear of it in discerning difficult matters.

Others among us are quick to claim the Bible is on their side in the sexuality debates. They quote the Bible readily. They will tell you something like, "I go with the Bible on this one." This is code for, "There will be no discussion of inclusion or same sex covenants in my church. I know what the Bible says. Case closed."

Visit the CDC website to read Jewel's piece in its entirety.

Worship sessions on how “Christ illuminates”

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 7:30 P.M.

Theme: Christ Illuminates through Texts of Suffering. Communion will be served during worship.

Speaker: Mary Schertz of Assembly Mennonite Church, Professor of New Testament at AMBS, and Director; Co-editor, Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology

Text: Luke 24:13-27

Sermon Title: Risen Christ: Wounded Healer



FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 7:45 P.M.

Theme: Christ Illuminates at the Table of Blessing. Communion will be served during worship and an Offering will be taken.

Speaker: Jeremy Shue, pastoral team leader of Silverwood Mennonite Church

Text: Luke 24: 13-32

Sermon Title: Eyes Wide Shut

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 12:15 P.M.

Theme: Christ Illuminates in the Courage of Returning

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Liturgical Meal, including Communion - no speaker

Photo to left: singing during worship during 2014's annual meeting.

Kids' activities include visit to Camp Friedenswald, swimming party during annual meeting

For children in kindergarten through sixth-grade:

Thursday, 4:30 p.m. through the conclusion of worship

Childcare will be provided for all children at Southside Fellowship (Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount basement), including those whose parents attend the Pastor Appreciation Dinner. Dinner will be provided. If the weather is nice, we will have outdoor games. If it is rainy, we will have indoor games and crafts in the basement. Entertainment for the evening will include a magic show by Jep Hostetler.



Children's time during worship during 2014's annual meeting.

Friday, 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Drop off and pick up at the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount. Lunch and dinner will be provided at Camp Friedenswald.

8:30 a.m. Leave for Camp Friedenswald

9 p.m. Return to the Sermon on the Mount Chapel

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Drop off at Sermon of the Mount Chapel. Leave for Harley/Starla Yoder's for swimming and outdoor games. Snack provided.

Noon Return to the Sermon on the Mount Chapel for pick up at noon

If rainy, we will have crafts and games in the church basement. All children need to have a Medical Release and Field Trip/Swimming Permission Form on file before the child may participate in children's activities. The form may be downloaded and sent to the conference office or picked up at the registration table on site.

A registration fee of \$20/child (\$25/child after June 5) may be paid through the adult registration process. The registration fee includes Friday lunch and dinner.

2015 CDC Annual Meeting Official Schedule

THURSDAY - FAMILY DAY

Family Day events are open to everyone! You do not need to register for the annual meeting to attend.

11 a.m. Golf Outing at Black Squirrel Golf Club. 1017 Larimer Dr, Goshen, Indiana 46526

1 p.m. Run/Walk/Bike-a-thon at Camp Friedenswald, 15406 Watercress Way, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031

2 p.m. Registration for Annual Meeting at Southside Fellowship (Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, AMBS campus)

5 p.m. Pastor Appreciation Dinner at the Lambright Center, AMBS, 3003 Benham Ave, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

5 p.m. Cookout at Camp Friedenswald. \$10/person, \$5/child age 8 and under

7:30 p.m. WORSHIP at Southside Fellowship (Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, AMBS campus)
Speaker: Mary Schertz from Assembly Mennonite Church

9 p.m. Outdoor Concert and ice cream on the lawn in front of Southside Fellowship. Schmaltzentrubers providing the music.



FRIDAY

Delegate Session 1 in Lambright Center

8:30 am

Welcome/Introductions

ACTION: 2014 Minutes

State of Conference Address

Treasurers Report and Presentation of the 2015-2016 Spending Plan

ACTION: 2015-2016 Slate of Nominees/Commissioning

9:20 a.m.

Getting acquainted around tables

Congregational Story

9:45 a.m. BREAK/Snacks in the Lounge (Waltner Hall)

10:15 a.m. Sexuality Task Group Report

11 a.m. Missional Church Committee Report

Hearing from MC USA

Introduction of Guests

Announcements

11:45 a.m. LUNCH in Lambright Center

12:45 p.m. VISITING/DISPLAYS/BOOKSIGNINGS in the Library

Delegate Session 2 in Lambright Center

1:15 p.m.

Congregational Story

Dwelling in the Word

1:45 p.m. Prep for Kansas City 2015

3 p.m. BREAK/Snacks in the Lounge (Waltner Hall)

Delegate Session 3 in Lambright Center

3:30 p.m.

Congregational Story

ACTION: 2015-2016 Spending Plan

ACTION: Constitutional Change re: Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee

ACTION: Constitutional Change re number of members on the Missional Church Committee
MCC Great Lakes Report

3:45 p.m. Ministerial Committee Report: Recognition of new pastors/credentialed leaders and remembering pastors who have died

4:15 p.m.

Open Mic

Listening Committee Report

Close of Delegate Sessions

5 p.m. Transition to Dinner

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4...

Schedule

5:30 p.m.

DINNER

-Mennonite Men in Lambright Center
-Mennonite Women in the Fellowship Hall at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, 800 E Hively Ave, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

Those not attending either the Mennonite Men's or Mennonite Women's dinners will need to make their own arrangements. A list of area restaurants is available in delegate packets.

7 p.m. FREE TIME

7:45 p.m. WORSHIP at Southside Fellowship (Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, AMBS campus)

Speaker: Jeremy Shue from Silverwood Mennonite Church

9:15 p.m. Snacks and fellowship in the Lounge (Waltner Hall)

SATURDAY - Seminars and Worship

9 a.m.

SEMINARS

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker: *Rethinking our Relationship with each Other and the Bible*, AMBS, Room TBA

OR

John Bell: *The Engaged Spirituality of Jesus* at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1316 Prairie St, Elkhart, IN 46516. Cost: \$20/person

12:15 p.m.

Worship in Lambright Center
Liturgical Meal

1:15 p.m. Close of Annual Meeting

1:30 p.m. John Bell seminar continues at Prairie Street

DON'T MISS OUT!

- TO REGISTER,
- SEE DELEGATE RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS,
- AND
- FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VISIT

WWW.CENTRALDISTRICT.MENNONITE.NET

Golf Outing Fundraiser

Golfers will form two person teams and will use a Ryder Cup format. (Holes 1-6 will be alternate shot; 7-12 will be best ball scramble, and 13-18 will be stroke play.)

We are asking golfers to register with Central District Conference office online below or download the registration form and send it to Central District Conference, 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528. Entry fees should be paid to the CDC office, and they will then issue payment to the golf course. As a courtesy to the golf course (who is giving us a reduced rate for the day) we are asking golfers to register by Monday, June 8.

When: Thursday, June 11, 2015

Where: Black Squirrel Golf Course, 1017 Larimer Drive, Goshen

Who: All ages - men, women, and youth

Tee Time: 11 a.m. Eastern

Entry Fee/Donations: The \$75 entry fee includes greens fees, riding cart and prizes to add competitive incentive for good play. Forty-five dollars of this entry fee will go directly to the CDC Jubilee Fund.

Questions: Please contact Don Blosser at donwb@goshen.edu, 574 536 3497

Payment: Pay online (below) or make checks payable to Central District Conference and send to CDC office, 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528.

Register online or download registration form and send with payment to CDC office at 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528.

Don't forget your bikes or good walking/running shoes!

See Friedenswald's beauty in second annual run/walk/bike-a-thon

Runners, walkers and bikers are invited to participate in our second bike/run/walk event in the beautiful Camp Friedenswald area. In the spirit of treating our bodies like the temple they truly are, please consider getting outdoors with your brothers and sisters. See what Camp Friedenswald and the surrounding area are like from a vantage point that opens our world to the sounds, smells and other experiences of being part of this amazing creation.

When: Thursday, June 11, 2015

Where: 5k and 10k run/walk routes are mostly on camp trails through the woods. Bike routes of 13, 17, 22 and 26.5 miles begin and end at Camp Friedenswald and lead bikers on paved countryside roads of Southern Michigan. Check in at the Main Office in the Dining Hall.

Who: All ages - men, women, youth, and children

Time: 1 p.m. Eastern

Fundraising Details: Proceeds from the Run/Walk/Bike-a-thon will go to the Jubilee Fund of CDC. Suggested donations are \$200 for a family of four or \$100 for individuals. Money can be donated by participant or raised by garnering sponsors for the event. Event t-shirts will be provided to participants raising the suggested donation (two shirts per family/one shirt per individual). Extra shirts can be ordered at \$10 each.

What to Bring:

- Bikes, running shoes, water bottles, etc
- A GPS device for navigating roads would be helpful.
- A cell phone is also important

Provided:

- Printed map of routes
- Changing facilities and showers are available in the Chapel/Activity Centre

Bike Rentals:

Bike rental will be available at cost and must be registered for in advance. Please register as soon as possible if you will be needing a bike.

Cookout: A cookout will begin at 5pm. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child age 8 and under. Please register in advance online or on your downloaded registration form.

You are also welcome to explore and experience Camp Friedenswald throughout the day! Activities for the afternoon include swimming and boating (no lifeguard on duty), Frisbee Gold on camp's newly designed course, experiencing camp's unique fen environment from the Fen Viewing Platform or visiting the Red Oak Preserve.

Questions: Please contact Merritt Lehman at 574-264-1444

Register online or download registration form and send with payment to CDC office at 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528.

Payment: Make checks payable to Central District Conference and send to CDC office, 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528. If also registering for the annual meeting, fees for the bike/run/walk event may be included with registration fees on the adult registration form.

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORTER

Volume 59, Number 3, March 2014

Editors: Marlys Weaver-Stoesz

E-mail: marlys.weaver@gmail.com

The Reporter is published six times a year. It is the official organ of communication among the churches of Central District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA. It is distributed free to CDC congregations through the CDC spending plan.

Central District Office:

Lois Johns Kaufmann, conference minister

Emma Hartman, administrator

1015 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528

Toll-free: 800-662-2264

Phone: 574-534-1485

Fax: 574-534-8654

E-mail: office@mcusacdc.org

Web address: www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net