



Central
District
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

focus

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

JUNE 2013

First, Champaign-Urbana, celebrates 50th anniversary

Summer paths of CDC congregations

First, Champaign-Urbana

The congregation celebrates its 50th anniversary July 26-28. In addition to special worship services, events including work on construction of a Habitat for Humanity house that the congregation is funding. Also planned is a brunch for former and present pastors and spouses, an evening of music featuring past and current member musicians, and a picnic and program at Lake of the Woods. A special program involves a conversation about the guiding scripture and future vision of the congregation. The Jubilee theme is: "To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite

God's good creation is this year's children's summer Sunday school theme. Youth leaders have lessons plans with texts and themes that match worship. Children are dismissed for class during worship.

Assembly

MYF members plan a service trip June 30 to July 7 to Kitchener, Ontario. A congregation support group for members with aging/ill loved ones meet before church at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month.

First, Wadsworth

June's mission project is collecting food items for the Wadsworth Salvation Army's food pantry. On June 16, the congregation worship took place at Hubbard Valley Park. A picnic lunch followed worship.

Madison

Greasy Breakfast Group continues to meet as a mid-week before-work breakfast. The church website states: It's the breakfast that's greasy, not the group.

Silverwood

The June 16 worship service looked backward and forward. Vyron Schmidt, who was pastor as Silver Street Mennonite became Silverwood, preached. The events of 30 years ago were pivotal in Silverwood's congregational life. During the service, members reflected on the theme "Faithful God! Faithful People?"

First, Bluffton - Grace, Pandora

Following the Central District Conference annual meeting, Grace members worshiped with the First, Bluffton, congregation. Patti Shelly, keynote preacher at CDC conference, was the guest preacher. Her sermon, "Making Peace with Abraham," addressed some of her Middle East experience and some questions of interfaith dialogue.

Chicago Community

The congregation's Youth Group held a baked goods fundraiser and auctioned off some prizes following a late May worship service. Proceeds cover their Phoenix convention costs. In early June, members of the congregation held its annual church picnic following worship in Garfield Park.

Columbus

In June, the congregation held its summer rummage sale with proceeds going to Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Atlanta

Summer worship involves a potluck meal followed by worship centered on Dwelling in the Word.

Oak Grove

Penny Power has returned to Oak Grove. The congregation is collecting loose change for use on Mennonite Central Committee water projects around the world. Change will be turned in and counted at the Ohio Relief Sale. An anonymous matching gift up to \$500 is an extra challenge for Oak Grove members.

Emmaus Road

Peter and Jenna Liechty-Martin presented the sermon during the June 23 worship service.

First, Sugarcreek

The congregation participated in the Sugarcreek community garage sale in May. Proceeds were directed to the church treasury.

Hively Avenue

This summer's adult education hour focus is worship and what it means to members. The conversations and study may lead the congregation to do some fine tuning in planning worship in the future.

Cincinnati

A summer "guess who's coming to dinner" takes place on July 13. The congregation book club discussed "Garbology," by Edward Humes, following the June 30 worship service.

Faith

Deron Brill Bergstresser will be on a three-month sabbatical beginning July 7. In the plans are time for study and reflection on the Lord's Supper (communion practices). There will also be time spent on writing poetry and participating in jazz jams.

Trenton

The congregation Vacation Bible School was June 24-26.