



**Central  
District  
Conference**

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# *focus*

**OCTOBER 2013**

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

CDC congregations active this fall with

## **Seminars and workshops**

*Central District Conference congregations embrace autumn with several special events. Here are some of those congregational activities.*

### **Hively Avenue**

“Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches,” is a one-day program sponsored by the congregation and led by the staff of Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16. The workshop is open to persons interested in improving their ability to handle conflict effectively, whether in the church, home, workplace or community. The cost to attend is \$30.

### **First, Champaign-Urbana**

Vurayayi Pugini, Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Recovery Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee, provided the keynote address at the congregation's two-day Food Security Forum, Oct. 19-20. The forum's topics ranged from “Shopping and cooking on a food stamp budget,” “Living with hunger - from the world to our own community,” “Building blocks for food security,” “Small scale solutions for food security” and “Farming for food security.”

### **First, Bluffton**

Aging Gracefully is a four-part Sunday evening series offered this fall. Topics are: “Spirituality and Aging,” Doug Luginbill, presenter; “Housing Options,” July Diller, presenter; “Financial and Legal Issues,” Jim Leonard, presenter; and “Embracing Life and Letting Go,” Ruth Guengerich, presenter.

### **Atlanta**

During the summer AMF followed an alternative worship format. A light potluck supper each week was followed by an informal service focused on parts of the passages identified for the Twelve Scriptures Project as texts for Dwelling in the Word.

### **Covenant, Sarasota**

Hesston College Bel Canto Singers presented excerpts of the program “Dwelling in the Thresholds,” during the Oct. 13 worship service. On Jan. 18, the congregation will host Ted Swartz, who will present “I'd Like To Buy An Enemy.” The performance is at the Sarasota Christian School.

## **Shalom, Harrisonburg**

A weekend congregational retreat titled "God's story/Our Story" was held Oct. 25-27. In the first session, participants heard and experienced Shalom's history. In the second session, participants looked at who they are now and how they experience Shalom through the five senses. In the final session, participants made connections with their individual stories as well as Shalom's story.

## **First, Sugarcreek**

An alternative Sunday school class is offered this fall. It is based on the book "God's Story, Our Story." The class provides an opportunity to learn, relearn or rejuvenate what it means to be a Mennonite.

## **Paoli**

Zenebe Abebe, director of Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes, spoke during the Oct. 13 worship service. His visit was a break from the congregation's current Sunday series, which explores Mennonite identity focusing on the practice of simply living.

## **Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite**

A four-Sunday worship series from Oct. 13 to Nov. 3 focuses on the major markers of human's life cycles and how people draw meaning from each. The series topics include: Birth, Baptism, Becoming elders and concludes with Death, on All Saints Sunday.

## **First, Wadsworth**

Changes seen in mission was the focus of an Oct. 20 Sunday school hour program. Sheldon and Marietta Sawatzky, who were in mission work in Taiwan for over 40 years, were the guest presenters. Sheldon served with Mennonite Mission Network and for several years was Secretary for Asia. Marietta coordinated MMN's "Prayer Vine."

## **Assembly**

A Lantern Festival took place Oct. 30. Youth of the congregation made lanterns and went caroling in the 11th Street neighborhood. The activity is coordinated by one of the congregation's small groups.

## **Faith**

Each Sunday in October the congregation held a bake sale for the Goshen Ministerial Association. Sales exceeded \$100.

## **Grace**

An all-church fall festival is Nov. 3, which includes a dinner and hayride. The annual Faith and Life book sale, with an MYF bake sale, breakfast and book signing is Nov. 22-23. A Christmas vespers service is Dec. 15. It includes music followed by light supper.

## **Cincinnati**

Oct. 27 was Camp Friedenswald Sunday. Justin Weaver, executive director, led an adult forum during the Sunday school hour. Jeff Boehr, program director, delivered the sermon.

## **Silverwood**

The Outreach Commission is sponsoring an Arab Artists in Exile art exhibit during Goshen's First Friday event in November. The exhibit includes paintings by Iraqi refugees.

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