



- The **Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center fall lecture** is Sunday, October 30, at 4 p.m. at Community Mennonite Church. Dr. Steve Longenecker will speak on a timely subject, "The Politics of Anabaptism." He will discuss the political behavior of American Anabaptists in the past and identify patterns and trends. The lecture asks how the Anabaptist political past is still useful and how the politics of Anabaptism remain relevant in the current environment. The church is at 70 S. High St. in Harrisonburg. A free-will offering will be received to benefit the work of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center. Please join us.
- **As a small token of our gratitude** for the ways in which you have prayed earnestly and given generously to the work that God is doing through Virginia Mennonite Missions, we invite you to a **Donor & Prayer Partner Banquet**. Join us for an evening of food, music and stories of our work in the past year at 6:30 pm on Saturday, November 19, in the Fellowship Hall of Zion Mennonite Church, 3260 Zion Church Rd., Broadway, Virginia. If you plan to attend, please RSVP (for one or two persons) by November 4 by calling or emailing Melanie at (540) 434-9727 or melanie.sherer@vmmissions.org
- The **Festival of Praise** is an annual praise-filled concert of men's *a cappella* singing groups and combined chorus directed by Jared Stutzman. This year, the Festival celebrates 15 years of song and raising money for Virginia Mennonite Missions. Join us on Sunday, November 6 at 4:00 pm at Eastern Mennonite School, 801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va. There will be an offering to benefit VMissions.
- The **Bridge of Hope Annual Locavore Luncheon & Fashion Show** will be Saturday, November 12, at Park View Mennonite Church. Come enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Bowl of Good and created by local food blogger, Jennifer Murch. Browse and bid on the silent auction items, and be entertained by the fashion show featuring clothing from Gift & Thrift and accessories from Ten Thousand Villages. All proceeds to benefit Bridge of Hope, a ministry serving homeless and at-risk single mothers and their children in our community. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25, or contact a board member or call our office, 478-2356, to reserve a ticket. Doors will open for the silent auction at 11:15 with the meal beginning at 12.
- Join **Our Community Place** for a delicious and autumnal **Night Out!** On Saturday, November 12, we will feature a Harvest Feast: from maple dressing salad, to fall-themed soups and entrees, all the way to delicious apple and pumpkin desserts, you won't want to miss out! Visit www.ourcommunityplace.org/no to view the menu and reserve your table. \$25 per person. All proceeds go to support the mission of Our Community Place.
- **A retreat for inner healing:** Tilda Norberg will be leading a two-day **Opening to Grace Retreat** at Highland Retreat Center in Bergton, Va., November 17-19, 2016.
- **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** is a class for believers from all walks of life to get threaded into God's story and experience God's heart for all peoples. *Perspectives* will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they are relevant to your life. The Spring 2017 class will meet at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Center, 711 S. High St, Harrisonburg, Va. The first two

sessions are free. For registration details, find the class at perspectives.org or contact Carol Tobin at 540-435-9887.

- Ever wonder why it's so hard to get along with those who aren't like us? Come to **School for Leadership Training**, January 16-18, 2017 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary to learn more about how we can live into Jesus' teaching to love our neighbor. Learn more and register at www.emu.edu/slt.
- **Save the Date: The next Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 in the Williamsburg, Va., area. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage."
 - The **Center for Interfaith Engagement** will host Rev. Steven Martin at EMU, from Sunday, October 30 to Wednesday, November 2. He is a filmmaker, photographer, interfaith engagement practitioner, ordained Methodist pastor, and Director of Communications and Development for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC). His 2005 film for PBS, "Theologians Under Hitler" was critically acclaimed and has had a resurgence of interest in the last year. The film earned Rev. Martin an honor from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2007. His office is directly across from the U.S. Supreme Court and the Capital Building in Washington, D.C., and therefore has allowed Steven to speak into pressing interfaith issues and concerns about Islamophobia and intra-faith engagement to those who legislate policies, etc. We invite you to attend any of the events here on campus next week. All events are free and open to the public. Donations toward expenses will be gratefully accepted. Rev. Martin's visit to EMU is being co-sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Engagement and Eastern Mennonite Seminary.
 - **Sunday, Oct. 30** - 8:30pm: Film screening "Theologians Under Hitler" - Common Grounds Coffeehouse, (Univ. Commons) (Free, 1-hour film, followed by Q&A time with the filmmaker.) Note: This film will be shown twice during Steven's visit.
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 1** - 11am – 12pm: "Loving our Enemies" - Seminary Chapel: - Martin Chapel, Seminary. 7:00pm: Film screening "Theologians Under Hitler" – Seminary, Rm. 123 (This is the second screening of the film, with Q&A time with the filmmaker.)
 - **Wednesday, Nov. 2** 12:00pm-1:00pm - "Interfaith Peacebuilding in the U.S." West Dining Room, Northlawn. Presentation, Q&A & discussion time. Bring your own lunch, or buy lunch from the Dining Hall.

Courses and learning tours:

- **Registration is now open for "Places, People, & Prayers, A Cross-Cultural Encounter with the Holy Land,"** an Israel/Palestine study tour offered May 4-27, 2017, through Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Trip leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, and Kevin A. Clark, EMS Campus Pastor. "Places, People, & Prayers" is open to all interested travelers, with or without seminary credit. NOTE: All MCUSA pastors are eligible to apply to the MCUSA "Come and See" program for a \$500 scholarship to assist with trip costs. If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu at your earliest.
- Register now for **Christmas in Egypt**, a *Partners in Mission* learning tour through Virginia Mennonite Missions, with leaders Esther and David Stenson. Build relationships through conversations and worship, deepen discipleship through cross-cultural encounters with Egyptians, Christian and Muslim, and visit ministry sites in Port Said, Cairo, Alexandria, and Anafora. The tour will be December 16-27, 2016. Cost is \$3,250 (scholarships are available). For more information, contact Martin at partners@vmmissions.org or call (540) 434-9727 or (800) 707-5535.