



- **Come to a 'Walk Through Bethlehem'** (Outdoor Live Nativity) on Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Weavers Mennonite Church. Stroll the streets of Bethlehem the day Jesus was born: meet the wise men, shepherds, animals, townspeople, craftsmen, angels, Mary & Joseph and baby Jesus in a manger! Finally, end your experience in the Bethlehem Cafe with a hot drink and cookies. This event is free.
- The community is invited to a **Christmas Lessons and Carols service** featuring music from the EMU vocal ensemble Emulate and scriptural readings from the EMU theater and campus ministries programs. Gather on the EMU campus in Lehman Auditorium from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12.
- **Eastern Mennonite School presents Handel's Messiah** on December 13 and December 15, both at 7:30 PM in the EMS Auditorium - 801 Parkwood Drive). Join us as as our Junior and Senior Choir chorus (120 student voices!) sing the Christmas portion and selections from the Easter portion of Handel's Messiah. They'll be accompanied by an orchestra of professional and student musicians, including harpsichord. FREE and open to the public. Invite your friends and family for this joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior!
- **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. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va. The first two sessions are free. For registration details, find the class at [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org) or contact Carol Tobin at 540-435-9887.
- The **School for Leadership Training**, January 16-18, 2017 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary will explore why it's so hard to get along with those who aren't like us as we learn more about how we can live into Jesus' teaching to love our neighbor. Learn more and register at [www.emu.edu/slt](http://www.emu.edu/slt).
- **Virginia Mennonite Conference Winter Delegate Session** will be February 4 at Waynesboro Mennonite Church from 8:00 - 3:00. The church is located at 1801 Monroe St, Waynesboro, VA.
- **Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Va. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage." Learn more and register at [virginiacommunity.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/](http://virginiacommunity.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:partners@vmmissions.org) or call (540) 434-9727 or (800) 707-5535.