



VMC News

March

The **Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony's** spring concert is on Sunday, March 26, at 4 p.m. in Eastern Mennonite University's Lehman Auditorium and will feature two local soloists. A suggested donation of \$7 is requested to benefit the symphony, which is part of EMU's Preparatory Music program.

Was the Cultural Revolution in Mao's China really such a disaster? Dr. Dongping Han, professor at Warren-Wilson College and a native of rural China, offers the 2017 Albert N. Keim Lecture on Tuesday, March 28, at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). The lecture, titled "The Cultural Revolution: A Reinterpretation from Today's China," will be at 5 p.m. in the Strite Conference Room (#105) of EMU's Campus Center. It is sponsored by the Albert N. Keim Lecture Series and the EMU History Department.

In light of extraordinary needs for MCC refugee relief, there will be a special meeting at 7 pm Wednesday, March 29, at Village Hall at VMRC to discuss ways of increasing this year's Virginia Relief Sale income, by not only encouraging increased support of auction and food sales efforts, but by attendees making generous credit card or check contributions as well. All interested persons are welcome.

April

The local church community is cordially invited to attend the inauguration of Eastern Mennonite University's ninth president, Dr. Susan Schutlz Huxman, on April 7 at 1 p.m. in Yoder Arena (University Commons). A live stream of the ceremony is available at <http://emu.edu/live-video/>. There will be a reception following the ceremony.

As a part of its 30 year anniversary observance, the **Family Life Resource Center** is offering a **Marriage Maintenance** class series at the Center starting April 3 and meeting for four Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. There is no charge for the class, led by Harvey Yoder, but contributions to the Center's scholarship fund are welcome. Call 540-434-8450 to register.

Tell someone about **Highland Summer Camps!** Campers who register by April 2 receive a free camp t-shirt and have the best chance of attending their camp of choice. Visit highlandretreat.org for more info or to register. Thanks for helping us get the word out!

Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center invites you to join us for our annual **Easter Sunrise service**, Sunday, April 16 at 6:30 AM. Watch as the sun rises over the Shenandoah Valley, and join us in celebrating the resurrected Christ. This year, join us for a John 21 fish and bread breakfast appetizer immediately following the service. And, of course, we'll be done in time for you to make it to your regularly

scheduled church service! 1921 Heritage Center Way, Harrisonburg, 22801, between WSVB and Harrisonburg High School on Garbers Church Rd. A free-will offering will be received to support the mission and vision of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.

Bike Shenandoah, a family friendly and healthy way to support six local agencies, is for the first time adding a **spring ride of 62 miles** (metric century) on Saturday, April 22. The ride will be centered in Dayton, Va., with Mole Hill Bikes providing two rest stops. Registration costs \$50. If you have further questions, call Steve Carpenter, president of Bike Shenandoah, at 540 908-3933. See bikeshenandoah.org

Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center invites you to our Spring Lecture "Welcome Your Neighbor" with Pastor Matthew Bucher. Pastor Bucher grew up in the Church of the Brethren and now serves in a Mennonite setting at Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. Come be part of the conversation at 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 23 at Sunrise Church of the Brethren, 1496 S Main St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. A free-will offering will be received to support the mission and vision of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.

Celebrating Congregational Life, a one-day seminar sponsored by Virginia Mennonite Conference and Virginia Mennonite Missions, is for lay leaders and pastors to be equipped for the missional impulses that nurture congregational life and the mission of the church. Join us on April 22, 8 am — 2:30 pm at Eastern Mennonite School, 801 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, Va. The keynote Speaker is Dr. Art McPhee, pastor, teacher and church planter, speaking on "The Missional Church." Twelve workshops on a variety of topics will be offered (choose 3). Cost is \$30 per registrant (includes lunch). Register at virginiacommunity.org/news/ccl-seminar by **April 6**.

May and beyond

The next Credentialed Leaders Consultation, addressing racism in society and the faith community, will be held Friday, May 5, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Shady Oak (Weavers Mennonite Church), in Harrisonburg. Shady Oak is the building off to the side of the church. More details about the topic and presenters, and registration, will be coming soon.

Mennonite Women of Virginia invite you to their **Annual Missions Day** on Saturday, May 6, in Richmond, Va. A bus will be leaving Harrisonburg at 7:00 a.m. and stopping along the way for persons in the Staunton, Waynesboro, and Charlottesville areas. Learn more and register at virginiacommunity.org/partners/mennonite-women-of-virginia/annual-missions-day-event-2017/.

Virginia Mennonite Missions will again host a **fundraising dinner and auction** to raise funds for workers on Saturday, May 20, through the efforts of their Ministry Support Teams. A new feature this year is a silent auction in addition to the live one. This is a great way for MSTs to raise support for their workers by collecting items for the auction. These should be in new or very good used condition. Live auction items will be valued at \$25 or more; lesser valued items will be put in silent auction. We also welcome items that benefit our general Mission Fund. Join us at Eastern Mennonite School, 801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va. The meal begins at 5:00; live auction begins at 6:00 p.m. **Please contact Steve Leaman at VMissions for more information or if you have items to donate:** steve.leaman@vmmissions.org or (540) 434-9727. Items may be stored by VMissions in advance if desired.

The Joshua Center in Albania has a budget short fall this year and Norma Teles' MST invites your support through **Bible school offerings** to meet this need. Children would be supporting other children who have

few chances to have a good education or to learn about Jesus. The Joshua Center does both. Please consider this for this year's offering project.

Interested in creating positive social change in your community? Whether you are a pastor, lay leader, congregational member, or church elder, the **Summer Peacebuilding Institute** can help you gain the skills to help your church help its community. Over 20 courses in leadership, trauma awareness, restorative justice, dignity, and peace education are offered each year in May and June at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA. For more information about courses and costs, visit www.emu.edu/spi. Partial scholarships are available to help congregations with tight budgets. **Register now for Kaleidoscope Summer Camp** at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Camps are available for ages 7 to 18 and run from June 25 through August 3, featuring fun activities, great counselors, Christ-centered worship, amazing food and new friends. Information is at www.wcrc.info or call us at 866-566-9272.

Orlando 2017: the attached article by author Ervin Stutzman, which appeared in the March issue of *The Mennonite*, highlights plans for the **Future Church Summit** to be held at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando this July. Note that MC USA is offering a 50 percent rebate on registration for representatives of congregations who've not sent a delegate to an assembly for the last three conventions.

Crossing the Line: Women of Anabaptist Traditions Encounter Borders and Boundaries - On June 22-25, over 75 scholars, poets, artists, musicians and dancers representing thirteen countries and ethnic groups will converge on Eastern Mennonite University to discuss, examine and celebrate how women of Anabaptist traditions have encountered borders, challenged boundaries, and crossed lines. Register now at www.emu.edu/crossing-conference