



VMC News

April

Weavers Mennonite Church invites you to a musical drama "Jesus, the Way of the Cross" telling the Easter Story on Sunday, April 9, 7 pm.

A **Harmonia Sacra Singing** will be held at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church on Sunday April 2, at 7:00 pm. All are invited to come sing from this old hymn book, first published in Rockingham County by Joseph Funk in 1832.

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 tee-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!

Take your taste buds to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with **Our Community Place's next Night Out** on Monday, April 10. This hearty and finger-licking Congolese meal, brought to you by guest chef Marie Kabongo, centers around fresh ginger, garlic, and cumin. Learn more and reserve a table at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcnq2tpB6KaqSYxCuczEyXtRkA8TxFLjU9n2trFpNtAXDx7w/viewform>

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 WSVA 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.

Gemeinschaft Home's Annual Banquet will be at Park View Mennonite Church on Friday, April 21. The Gemeinschaft Home is a transitional community that helps prepare non-violent, non-sexual offenders for re-entry into their communities following incarceration. Banquet events will include a keynote address by Tecora Johnson, representing the Virginia Department of Corrections, as well as remarks by alumni. Doors open at 5:30 pm for silent auction, dinner served at 6pm. Please RSVP by April 14 at

execassistant@gemeinschafthome.org or call 540-434-1690. The church is located at 1600 College Ave., Harrisonburg.

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 their **Spring Lecture: "Welcome Your Neighbor"** with Pastor Matthew Bucher of Immanuel Mennonite Church. Pastor Bucher and his congregation designed the "Welcome Your Neighbor" sign that has spread throughout the city, country, and world. 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.

May and ongoing

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.

Family Life Resource Center will celebrate their 30th anniversary at a fundraising dinner on Saturday, May 6, 5:30 pm at Park View Mennonite Church, 1600 College Ave, Harrisonburg. The celebration features the motivational speaking of Harvey Yoder, LPC, as he relates to the importance of putting family first. The evening will also include special music by Cantore (men's a cappella group). Call 540-434-8450 or email services@flrc.org **by April 27** for seats. Donations for the work of FLRC will be taken at the event. See attached flier.

Mennonite Women of Virginia, Missions Day Event 2017 - Don't forget to register for the Missions Day Event on Saturday, May 6 at First Mennonite Church in Richmond, to fellowship and raise funds for women in missions! Only 16 seats left (\$27 rt) - if you want a ride on the bus, leaving from Harrisonburg and making a stop in Waynesboro ...and will also spend the afternoon at the beautiful Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (\$11). Your church office has registration brochures if you haven't received yours or you can go to virginiaconference.org/partners/mennonite-women-of-virginia/annual-missions-day-event-2017/ to register online. Please join us!

The **International Guest House** in Washington D.C. will celebrate its 50th year anniversary on May 6-7. The activities will include an open house on Saturday, 2-5 pm, and Sunday, 3-5 pm. Saturday events will also include a short program at 4:30 and evening tea at 7:30. The Sunday events will include an 11:00 worship service at Hyattsville Mennonite Church in Hyattsville, Md., focusing on the ministry of hospitality at the International Guest House over the past 50 years. A potluck lunch will immediately follow the service. The IGH is owned and operated by the Allegheny Mennonite Church through Hyattsville Mennonite Church. It is located at 1441 Kennedy St. NW, Washington D.C. For reservations or additional information, call IGH at 202.726.5808 or email igh.dc.us@gmail.com.

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.

A **benefit concert featuring The Walking Roots Band** will be on Thursday, May 25, beginning at 7 PM at Lindale Mennonite Church. Come out and support **Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham**, a ministry serving homeless and at-risk single mothers and their children right in our own community! Enjoy the wonderful musical talents of The Walking Roots Band, hear their new and original music that has captured audiences everywhere they perform. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door or by calling 540-478-2356.

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.

The Future Church Summit will be held at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando this July. 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. Visit www.convention.mennoniteusa.org

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

Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center announces a church building rental available in Augusta County. Historic 1875 Hildebrand Mennonite Church building will be available for rent in 2017. The church building is located 13 miles (20 minutes) east of Staunton, 7.5 miles (15 minutes) north of Waynesboro. 538 Hildebrand Church Rd, Waynesboro, VA 22980. Interested church groups contact Greg Yoder, VBMHC Executive Director, at info@vbmhc.org or 540-438-1275 for more information about the building, tenant expectations, and rental agreements.