



## VMC News

### June

- Enjoy ‘**Music Under the Oaks**’ at **Trissels Mennonite Church** (11246 Hisers Lane, Broadway) on Sun June 18 at 4pm. Bring blanket or lawn chair for a **free concert with Tide Spring**, whose members include Ramona Shenk (guitar), Mike Shenk (mandolin), Dave Nealon (banjo, guitars, harmonica, mandolin), and Mark Currence (bass). The band showcases a variety of musical traditions—gospel, bluegrass, folk, old time, blues—with an emphasis on vocal harmonies. (Inside in case of rain.)
- Join CrossRoads from 7 to 8 PM on Sunday evenings from June 18 through August 13 for music and meditations at the **Summer Vespers series**. Summer vesper services are held in the Amphitheater on the CrossRoads campus each Sunday evening from mid-June to mid-August. Bring your own lawn chairs. Free-will offerings will support the mission and vision of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center. Find the full Vespers schedule at [www.vbmhc.org/summer-vespers/](http://www.vbmhc.org/summer-vespers/).
- **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](http://www.emu.edu/crossing-conference)
- An **All You Can Eat Fish Fry fundraising dinner** will support the work of Lezha Academic Center, a Christian school in Albania supported by Virginia Mennonite Missions. Join us Friday, June 23, beginning at 5pm at Shady Oak ( Weavers Mennonite Church). No reservations needed. Menu includes fresh fried fish, hush puppies, slaw and more. Desserts of freshly baked pies and cakes. Suggested donations of \$20 adult and \$10 for children under 12 will be greatly appreciated! For more information see the Lezha Academic Center (LAC) website or call 540-434-9727 and ask for Janet or 540-434-7169 and ask for Sam.
- Individuals involved in health-related professions are invited to the **Annual Gathering of Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship**, June 23-25 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA. The theme of this year's gathering is "Creating Healing Environments", and features several speakers, as well as a children's program. Co-sponsored by Mennonite Chaplains Association. More details and registration at [mennohealth.org/events/gathering](http://mennohealth.org/events/gathering)
- **Highland Retreat’s Annual Steak BBQ** will be held at Highland on Saturday, June 24. The day will feature a summer staff commissioning service (1:30 pm); a variety of afternoon activities, including a Cornhole tournament and swimming (3pm); and a tasty steak BBQ dinner (5pm) followed by music from The Walking Roots Band. Highland will provide steak, hot dogs, drink, and potatoes. Please bring a side salad or a dessert, and a donation to support the ministries of Highland Retreat. To reserve a \$10 campsite or A-frame cabin for the BBQ weekend, contact the office at [info@highlandretreat.org](mailto:info@highlandretreat.org) or (540)705-0554. Register for the Cornhole tournament at [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org).

· **Family Field Trip at CrossRoads** | VBMHC, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Come experience the magic of our school field trip program, now for the first time open to the public, bring the whole family! Enjoy basket making, carpenters, blacksmiths, games, animals, spinning, music, and more. RSVP at <https://www.vbmhc.org/events-calendar/family-field-day> and pay \$5 per person. Day of entrance passes are \$7.

· **Ted & Co is launching the premiere of their newest show, Discovery: A Comic Lament**, in Harrisonburg on Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 pm at the Harrisonburg First Church of the Brethren, 315 S. Dogwood Dr. Admission is free, but please come considering how you might support this important project. Starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, this play is about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. It finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice, land use, and Indigenous experience. A show about love, and loss of land, Discovery nudges us to question our stories with honesty and integrity. Created in partnership with the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, written by Alison Brookins, and directed by Phil Weaver-Stoesz.

· **Mennonite historian Ben Goossen** will talk about his book, *Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era*, on Sunday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church. Just released by Princeton University Press, *Chosen Nation* explores the how the global Mennonite church developed an uneasy relationship with Germany during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Despite the religion's origins in the Swiss and Dutch Reformation, as well as its longstanding pacifism, tens of thousands of members embraced militarist German nationalism. *Chosen Nation* is a sweeping history of this encounter and the debates it sparked among parliaments, dictatorships, and congregations across Eurasia and the Americas.

## **July and beyond**

· **Saulo Padilla is coming to Virginia Mennonite Conference Assembly** in Harrisonburg, Va., as we look at "**Neighbors: Strangers No More.**" Join us July 20-22 at Park View Mennonite Church, 1600 Park Rd. A Pastors' Summit for credentialed leaders will be the afternoon of Thursday, July 20, with an evening meal sponsored by Everence. Conference Assembly begins on the evening of July 20 at 7 p.m. Saulo's passion to work with immigrants comes from his own experience as an immigrant and the biblical commandment to love the stranger. Now the US Immigration Education Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee, he provides learning opportunities to constituents and the public about the need for better and safer mechanisms for people facing migration, the biblical call to welcome strangers, and advocates to reform the US immigration system. As part of his work, he coordinates immigration law trainings for non-profits offering immigration legal services to immigrant communities and leads learning tours to the U.S./Mexico borderlands for constituent and non-constituent groups. Born and raised in Guatemala for the first 15 years of his life, in 1986 he immigrated with his mother and siblings to Calgary, Alberta, to reunite with his father, who left Guatemala as a political refugee in 1980 during the internal conflict. Saulo lived in Calgary for 16 years, where he became a Canadian citizen. In 2001, he moved with his family to Goshen, Ind., to pursue studies at Goshen College. Goshen has been his home since then.

· **Attention, music-lovers!** The **Sing Me High Music Festival** is back, Aug. 25-26, 2017. The two day event is even bigger and better than the successful inaugural 2016 effort, and now that the line-up is set, we're looking for more volunteers, sponsors, and guests! Be one of the first 500 ticket-holders to get early bird pricing and some festival giveaways. Visit [www.singmehigh.com](http://www.singmehigh.com) for information about tickets, volunteering, or business sponsorships. Hope to see you at #singmehigh2017!

- The **Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians** are tentatively planning an **Old Order Mennonite Tour** in Rockingham County on September 16. It will begin at Weavers Mennonite Church at 9 am and end back at the church around 3 pm. It will include a visit to one of the churches, a school, buggy shop and a full lunch prepared and served in one of the Old Order Mennonite homes. The approximate cost will be around \$45 per person including the transportation, tour guide and lunch. Please email Jim Hershberger at [jimhersh254@gmail.com](mailto:jimhersh254@gmail.com) or call/text to j540 908 8005 if you are interested.
- **Save the Date for the MHI Friend's Dinner**, Friday, Sep. 22, 7-9 pm, at Park View Mennonite Church. There will be a Latino meal served by Mennonite Hispanic Initiative leaders from three different congregations plus a special program highlighting MHI's last year's accomplishments.
- **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](mailto:info@vbmhc.org) or 540-438-1275 for more information about the building, tenant expectations, and rental agreements.