



Welcoming Rain

LMC Celebration of Church Life



April 3-4, 2020 • Petra Church, New Holland, PA

Join others in the LMC fellowship of churches for this two-day annual assembly. The event is free and everyone is invited. People from all across LMC come together once a year to worship, to learn, to fellowship, and to celebrate what God is doing in our midst!



The main speaker for the two-day event is **Bishop Glenn Kauffman**, pastor at Capitol Christian Fellowship, Lanham, Md. Capitol Christian Fellowship and the Baltimore/Washington district are in the midst of multiplication in their churches, including the start of two new faith communities. Come hear the stories of the Spirit at work in the lives of everyday people! Multiple language translation will be provided for both days.

Friday, April 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. — Leadership Assembly (all invited), receiving new congregations, recognizing new leaders

Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. — Celebration of Church Life, worship, teaching and ice cream

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. — Celebration of Church Life, worship, speakers, seminars, lunch, LMC Moderator Address



SATURDAY SEMINARS

All seminars are appropriate for adults with the exception of seminars designated for children.



Experiential Prayer seminars are led by prayer guides who will guide participants in Christian prayer practices that are less familiar. Participants should be prepared to actively engage.



Youth Interest – All seminars are open to both adults and youth. This icon identifies seminars that might be of particular interest to youth.



Children's seminars include the age range in the description. Parents may drop children off at the start of the seminar and then must pick them up at the end of the hour.

Seminar 1 / Lunch 1 – 11:45 a.m.

A Conversation with the Moderator

L. Keith Weaver, LMC

This session provides an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in LMC and engage in an open Q&A time with the Moderator (*translation available*).

Una Conversación con el Moderador

L. Keith Weaver, LMC

Esta sesión brinda la oportunidad de aprender más sobre lo que está sucediendo en LMC y participar en un tiempo abierto de preguntas y respuestas con el moderador (requiere auriculares de traducción).

Too Old, Too Small, Too Tired

Bishop Robert Brody

Join the discussion as we wrestle with ways to find hope for churches looking for the next chapter. Small or large, contemporary or traditional, Robert will present ideas that you probably won't like but that you ought to consider.

Questions About God and Our Suffering

William Higgins, STEP Course Instructor

We will look at four key questions: Does our suffering mean that we have sinned? Why does God allow us to suffer? Do these reasons explain all suffering? Where is God when we suffer?

Praying with Our Eyes

Doreen Miller, Gingrich Mennonite Church

This approach to prayer is praying with images in creation and in art. God only occasionally gives us visions, but God regularly invites us to see beauty and truth, to use our eyes to know and worship. Come and learn to "hear" God with your eyes.

God's Gift of Imaginative Prayer

Laurie Mellinger, West End Mennonite Fellowship

Jesus taught with stories and parables—inviting people to imagine: "Consider the lilies of the field..." "My sheep hear my voice..." "The sower went out to sow..." As we read Scripture, the Holy Spirit can guide our imaginations, helping us listen to God speaking to our hearts. Come explore praying with Scripture and imagination.

Praying with Color

Kristina Denlinger, West End Mennonite Fellowship

In this playful session, we will use lines, color and "doodles" rather than audible words as a form of intercessory prayer. After a short introduction, participants will have an opportunity to very briefly share a prayer request for the group to silently pray in color about. Everyone will leave with their own unique visual of their prayers. No art skills or supplies needed. Limited to 20 participants.

Receiving God's Love

Rachel Bucher, STEP Student

Before we can share God's Love, we need to first receive it for ourselves. We will talk about personal experience with God's Love and look at what Scripture has to say on this topic.

JOMO (the Joy of Missing Out)

Joshua Jefferson, Pastor, Sunnyside Mennonite Church

Stories about daily bread in an age of GRAIN (genetics, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology). Let's talk about setting the table for this next generation to delight in the Bread of Life.

Creating Space for youTH LEADERS

Nguyen Thanh Lam, Habecker Mennonite Church

This workshop looks back and prays forward on ideas and challenges faced and overcome by a multi-congregational/multi-ethnic Youth-Led VBS in Lancaster City. The focus is on creating space for congregational youth to gain experience in leadership and on the mission field, recognizing that they already possess gifts to use and that the mission field is here!

Muslim Journeys to Jesus

Bruce & Joyce Heckman, Immerge

Muslims finding Jesus as their Messiah and Lord are often overlooked by believers in churches today. This seminar will examine how different people came to know Jesus in this nation, what helped them, and what hindered them. We will unpack some of the common misunderstandings of Muslims and what God is doing among them.

A Work in Progress: Hearing, Understanding, and Following God's Call on My Life

Susan Hochstedler, STEP Student and Board Chair, Elizabethtown Mennonite Church

Two years ago Susan was feeling restless and dissatisfied despite serving her congregation in many ways and over a long time in church ministry. STEP provided her a place to test and use her spiritual gifts in new ways in the congregation. She will share how STEP confirmed her call to ministry.

The STEP Program: After 15 Years, So What?

Mark R. Wenger, Pastor, Franconia Mennonite Church

LMC launched the STEP pastoral training program in fall 2004. Wenger will examine the impact of STEP upon students and ministry leaders. Who has enrolled in STEP? What is the study like alongside full-time life? What are STEP alumni doing today? What is the value of STEP for those in and interested in ministry? Content will include student data, alumni testimonials, quotations and summary assessments.

Seeds of Hope Planted with Praying Hands

Grisel Cintron-Rodriguez, Restoration In Christ Church, Cheryl Drouillard & God's Girls, REACH Church

What does it mean to teach a child to walk in Faith? Children ages 4-7 will learn through storytelling, prayer and a Make-N-Take experience showing that following Jesus leads to living waters with the power to change a seed to fruit.

Children Equipped for Every Good Work

Michael & Erin Lichty, Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community

How does God speak through the lives of children? Through a hands-on science exploration, children ages 8-12 will learn how to share the Word of God so that it may speak to people of all languages for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Children will create a take-home prayer project to equip them to live in the Holy Scriptures.

Seminar 2 / Lunch 2 – 1:00 p.m.

The Why? Who? and How? of Church Planting

Jim Weick, Pastor, Bethlehem Community Fellowship

We will explore the reasons to send church planters; how to identify and prepare those who should go; and solid guidelines to increase the chances of success!

Profetas de Revolución: Historia del Anabautismo

Samuel López, CIES

Una mirada histórica al movimiento anabaptista como profetas de Dios en el siglo XVI y su proclamación de fidelidad a Dios a costa de la misma vida.

Praying with Scripture

Myron Miller, Gingrich Mennonite Church and Yvonne Garber, Byerland Mennonite Church

Encounter God through this ancient Christian prayer practice. In this session, we will engage Scripture in a way that affects both head and heart as we listen to God speaking to us personally through a Bible passage.

Prophetic Prayer

Troy & Michelle Landis, Pastors, Living Light Mennonite Church

Through listening to the heart of God for each other and sharing what we hear, we will bless each other through the practice of prophetic prayer in this session. A short Scriptural basis and practical tips will be given as a foundation. Then we will practice.

Hallowed Be Your Name

William Higgins, STEP Course Instructor

We will take a detailed look at what the first request of the Lord's prayer means (Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2). We will also explore how God uses us to fulfill this thoroughly missional request, and different ways that we can pray it.

Mentoring Today for Church Growth

Michael Booth, Pastor, RiversEdge Mennonite Fellowship

Mentoring and disciple making look very similar and are at the heart of the gospel. Explore why it's critical to have members of the church engaged in the evangelism process through mentoring.

Leadership Resiliency: Strategy for Leadership Effectiveness

Jim & Wendy Lavery

Research by Zenger Folkman identifies leadership resiliency as a top determining factor of leadership effectiveness. Highly resilient leaders are 87% more effective than low resilience leaders. Come learn Seven Proven Practices of Highly Resilient Leaders.

The Old Testament Prophets and Stories: Reading One in Light of the Other

Tim Darling, Pastor, Community Mennonite Fellowship

The Old Testament prophets and the histories are often read independently of each other. In fact, the times of the prophets intersperse with the books of Kings so that each lends texture and depth to the other. Come find out how this method of reading scripture in light of scripture can enrich your Bible reading.

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STEPing into Mission

Conrad Kanagy, Lead Minister, Elizabethtown Mennonite Church

The current STEP program does not offer a pathway for multiplication and church planting. But LMC is developing a "STEP-like" process that individual congregations can implement in their geographic contexts. This initiative will be tested at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church this fall.

Leading Missional Experiments in our Churches

Lynn Shertzer, STEP Course Instructor and Pastor, Slate Hill Mennonite Church

The capstone project in the final year of the STEP program is Leading a Missional Experiment. Come hear about the process of leading a missional experiment and how these experiments can transform how we intentionally reach beyond our walls. Several STEP students will share their experiences.

Seeds of Hope Planted with Praying Hands

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Seminar 3 – 2:15 p.m.

Teología Anabaptista: del la palabra al Hecho! (Sesión II)

Adalberto Santiago, CIES

Exploraremos los puntos doctrinales o teológicos de los Anabaptistas y como se desarrollaron en una práctica de discipulado; siguiendo a Jesús como modelo, uniendo la fe y la práctica en la vida.

Radical Hospitality: Risking Welcome for the Sake of the Kingdom

Krishana Suckau, STEP Course Instructor

Jesus both embodied and relied upon hospitality. In addition to exploring the biblical foundations of hospitality, this seminar will highlight examples of Christian hospitality and offer suggestions for how Christian communities can extend radical welcome in Jesus' name.

Spiritual Life Required

Antonio Ulloa, EMM

This session will provide a brief overview of God's amazing provision to empower all believers for a victorious and productive Christian life.

Why Eschatology Matters. 2020 Reflections on John's Revelation

Bishop Stephen Weaver

Do you know that the lens we bring to thinking about the "Last Days" affects our daily Christian witness? John's Revelation was written for real people in real congregations who were in the fight of their life. Their struggle continues to be our struggle. We will overview how Christians down through the centuries have interacted with Revelation and its message.

Engaging Our Members: From Visitor to Active Member, Engagement that Causes Growth

Jon Haley, Director of Denominational Partnerships for Servant Keeper

Growth seldom happens by accident. From first time visitor to long time member, explore proven methods that growing churches embrace to engage their members. This workshop will discuss many specific actions you can start right away including visitor follow-up that leads to retention, helping attendees get more involved in the ministry, and making sure members understand the vision of the ministry.

Fivefold Ministry or APEST: Laying the Foundations

Bishop Keith Blank

Whether we call it the fivefold ministry in Ephesians 4:12-13, or APEST (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher), it is important for individuals and churches to discern these vocational gifts, develop a common understanding of them and define the healthy character traits of each, so that they can be expressed in ways that bring God all of the glory.

Multiply Your Life: Reflections from Planting a Church

Monica & Chadwick Neufeld, Pastors, Harbor Fellowship

Stories and reflections from a church planting couple who never thought they would plant a church. They will encourage you to expand your kingdom influence in any location, stage of life, or church context.

MCC at 100

Joe Miller and Ken Sensenig, MCC U.S.

Biblical understandings in 1920 motivated North American Mennonites to respond to suffering in Russia. For the last century, a Biblical invitation to discipleship has shaped and reshaped the response of North American Mennonites to global challenges. Join a discussion of how past actions may shape future responses.

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The Global Church in our Backyard

Shankar Rai; Mya Ray, Tha Su, Khamsene Saengdy, SEED Students; Dawn & Chris Landes, Pastors, Habecker Mennonite Church

Our neighborhoods and churches have been blessed with the gifts of immigrants. Come hear stories of recent immigrants. See how God is working in those churches and the challenges, joys, and unique issues those churches and church leaders face. Learn about SEED, a new church leadership development program for English-language learners.



Muslim Journeys to Jesus

Bruce & Joyce Heckman, Immerge

Muslims finding Jesus as their Messiah and Lord are often overlooked by believers in churches today. This seminar will examine how different people came to know Jesus in this nation, what helped them, and what hindered them. We will unpack some of the common misunderstandings of Muslims and what God is doing among them.



Youth Panel

Joshua Jefferson, Pastor, Sunnyside Mennonite Church and Youth

An open space where youth (grades 9-12) will be able to share their thoughts on church, their role in the church today, technology and church, and other various hot topics. We encourage pastors and church leaders to attend, listen, and discuss with the youth of today.



STEP and Mission: the Lost, the Leaders, and the Led by the Spirit

Bishop Tuyen Nguyen, STEP Instructor

STEP has been a school for bi-vocational church leaders of Vietnamese Mennonite churches. STEP helps us to know the intimate relationship with Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the will and love of the Father so we can grow by engaging in Mission. Nguyen will share examples of success and failure of crossing geographic and cultural barriers to make disciples.



Equipping Faithful and Effective Preachers

Thomas Eshleman, STEP Instructor and Pastor, Groffdale Mennonite Church

In a world of distractions and short attention spans, faithful preaching is essential. STEP instruction emphasizes preaching grounded in Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit with an invitation to change. We seek to equip preachers to deliver sermons with clarity and conviction. STEP preaching instruction is practical and relevant for beginning preachers as well as those with years of experience.



Sing A Hallelujah for Answered Prayers

Nguyen Thanh Lam, Habecker Mennonite Church

Does God answer prayers? Yes! Sometimes the answer is a YES, a NO or a NOT RIGHT NOW. God's wisdom is abundant and diverse representing all languages on Earth as are in Heaven. Through songs of worship in various languages, children ages 4-12 will learn that God's Word is to be obeyed. We are to praise God at all times.



Registration for Celebration of Church Life

To assist LMC with logistical planning, please register at ccl2020.eventbrite.com or call 717-293-5246 ext. 100.

