

#1 – Spring Study at Laurelville – April 24-27



Dr. Deb Bergen led a trauma informed event for eleven pastors and leaders as the 2023 installment of Allegheny’s annual Spring Study at Laurelville. “Harvesting Treasures” assisted these leaders in reviewing their own accumulated wisdom to make applications for the challenging issues we are facing in the church and in our society. Thanks to Deb for her gifts of wisdom and caring for these leaders.

These same leaders made contributions to Menno Media’s Anabaptist Community Bible Project by providing commentary for ***Exodus 19-20; Mark 1:29-45, 2:1-17; Psalm 22:12-21***. Look for their contributions when the Anabaptist Community Bible is released!

#2 – Celebration plans in the works

Allegheny’s Annual Celebration of Congregations and Conference is scheduled for August 4-6, 2023, at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant PA. West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship will lead our worship experiences around the theme “The Wind of Transformation.” **Glen Guyton, Mennonite Church USA Executive Director will be the featured speaker.** Everence will again sponsor an upgraded breakfast package and evening snacks. We are planning for children and youth activities, including childcare. More details and registration information coming soon!



#3 – Financial Update – Keep those cards and letters coming in!

During March and the first part of April, the AMC office experienced significant slowing of cash flow, precipitating a draw on reserves. Although we believe this was mostly a timing issue, we encourage congregations to review their planned contributions into the fiscal year end – June 30 – and send those planned contributions to coincide with what you intend the conference to receive by June 30. Thank you!

#4 – Welcome to new WPMF pastor – Jonny Rashid



Beginning May 1, West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship opens its next chapter of ministry with Pastor Jonny Rashid. We thank interim pastor, Will O’Brien, for his steady leadership over the past six months during the time of transition from former pastor Lorie Hershey’s long-term ministry, who ended her tenure last May. Blessings to WPMF in this exciting new time in the life of their congregation. A “Celebration of Call” service, including a ceremony of licensing is scheduled for May 21.

#5 -Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Shelly Kerchner is a writer and published author of [*Standing Tall & the Healing Power of Gratitude*](#) (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017), and an advocate for people with disabilities. She resides in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with her partner Tracy and attends Stahl Mennonite Church. Currently serving as the program manager for Open Waters for All, Shelly and her team aim to create expanded opportunities for water recreation on the region’s lakes and rivers, with a special focus on making these resources inclusive and accessible to all. Their first project is the installation of an adaptive kayak launch at a local dam, which they hope to have fully funded and installed by this summer. To view the whole story go to: [*Lessons Learned – My Journey through Addiction, Illness, and Disability*](#)

