

Allegheny Miscellany

ALLEGHENY
MENNONTIE
CONFERENCE
#78
October 2024

We Were Made for Such a Time as This

A few weeks ago, I met with Allegheny Conference Pastors. We talked for a long time about the current political climate and how our congregations are doing as we near this very important, very anxiety-producing election. Many of us around the table expressed anxiety about what may happen after the election.

I admit that I worry about the political landscape in the next few months and years. How will it impact those that I love? How will it impact members of our congregations and communities?

When I worry, I often go through the worst possible scenarios, and discern how I will respond in those moments. And here's what I've been thinking about these days--we were made for times like this.

Jesus lived in times like this, where the empire squeezed him and his people with taxes, used violence to quell movements of liberation, and smashed the voices of people that spoke peace. He showed us how to live in his teachings and in his actions.

Jesus' ancestors lived in times like this. Esther lived in the empire, the Queen to a malevolent King. And when her own people were being oppressed by legislative order of her king, she was afraid. It was her uncle that reminded her to be brave, to do the right thing, saying "You were made for such a time as this."

No matter what this election holds for you, your community, and your congregation, I know that we are made for this moment. We have our shared scripture, full of stories of our spiritual ancestors who have taken risks for the sake of their neighbors, who have lived out the gospel of love, despite their fear and anxiety, and who have followed Jesus even if it cost them everything.

We live in uncertain times, friends. But we have stories for such a time as this. We have stories from scripture, from our spiritual ancestors, and from our own family to remind us of what we must do. What do we do in times like this? We have so many stories to draw upon. And with the help, encouragement, and support from each other, we will do what is right. We will follow in the way of Jesus.

Amy Yoder McGloughlin
Conference Minister
Allegheny Mennonite Conference

Where's your Conference Minister?



To invite your Conference Minister to preach or worship in your congregation, email her at amy@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

November 3--Morgantown COB/Mennonite Church

December 4-7--Conference Minister Retreat in Puerto Rico

December 10--Pastor Peer Gathering

December 15--West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

January 5, 2025--Community Mennonite Church of Harrisonburg

January 6-8--Shalom Academy, Eastern Mennonite University

January 24-25--Leadership Council Retreat

January 26--Stahl Mennonite Church

February 4--Pastor Peer Gathering

February 9-14--Interim Pastor Training at Princeton Seminary

February 16--Butanese Nepali Church

February 17-20--Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Pastor's Week

February 22-March 6--Trip to Palestine, depending on regional conditions

March 8--Allegheny Conference Gathering

May 1-3--Fabulous Fierce and Sacred

2025

LAUREL VILLE SUMMER CAMP DATES



June 18-20 - Mini Camp - ages 6-8
June 22-27 - Explorer's Camp - ages 8-10
June 29-July 4 - Navigator's Camp - ages 9-11
July 6-11 - Seeker's Camp - ages 12-14
July 13-18 - Disciple's Camp - ages 14-17
July 27-Aug 1 - Discoverer's Camp - ages 11-13



More info:
724-423-2056 or
program@laurelville.org



**WINTERVILLE
AT LAUREL VILLE**

Dress Accordingly :
CLOTHE YOURSELF IN LOVE
Colossians 3:10-14



For Students in Grades 2- 8
January 17-19 2025
\$ 140 per Camper

www.laurelville.org or 724-423-2056

A Double Offering from Laurelville--Winterville and Worship/Song Leaders Retreat, January 17-19, 2025

Laurelville has two exciting weekend retreats coming up in January. This year we're offering 2 programs in 1 weekend: January 17-19, 2025. Our longstanding Music and Worship Leaders Retreat will gather and engage creative individuals from across Mennonite Church USA who are passionate about worship. This retreat offers rich resources, fellowship, inspiration, and a chance to experience powerful worship. This year we'll dwell with the theme of health and wholeness as it relates to worship. Through discussion, worship, and plenary, we will use the lens of peacebuilding, mental health practices, and wellbeing in general to resource our worship and spiritual practices. We hope to create a space where you can deepen your own spiritual life while equipping you with strategies for leading others.

At the same time, Winterville, our growing youth weekend will be ministering to and having a blast with students in grades 2-8. This high energy weekend is a lot like our summer camp--only shorter, and hopefully there's snow.

Children and youth from across the conference and across town will gather together for a weekend filled with fun and games, sledding and snowball fights (if weather allows), and making new friends or reconnecting with old ones. Most importantly we'll be engaging with scripture through music, interactive teaching, and times of reflection. This year's theme is "Dress Accordingly: Clothe yourself in love," based on Colossians 3:10-14.

Make it a weekend for the whole family--drop your kids off at Winterville and go enjoy a weekend of worship! Find more info and registration at www.laurelville.org or call 724-423-2056.



Leah Rittenhouse,
Youth Program Manager at Laurelville
Retreat Center

Mark your Calendar!

January 17-19, 2025 Laurelville Worship and Song Leaders Retreat

January 17-19, 2025 Winterville Weekend

March 8, 2025, AMC delegate meeting, location TBD

August 1-3, 2025 Allegheny Celebration Weekend at Laurelville