



ALLEGHENY MISCELLANY

The official newsletter of Allegheny Mennonite Conference

SAVE THE DATES!

Faith and Life Gathering, Delegate Meeting:
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Pastors and Credentialed Leader Study Week:
April 20 at 1pm - April 23 at 1pm, 2026
Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA

2026 AMC Celebration Weekend:
July 31 - August 2, 2026
Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA

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CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH

Meet Stahl Mennonite Church by Jayne Byler, Pastor of Stahl Mennonite Church

Stahl Mennonite Church is one of the older members of AMC. It formed in 1882 on Soap Hollow Road on a tract of land donated by John Stahl - thus the name, as is common in the Johnstown area, is from the one who donated the land. Mennonites had been meeting in the area since 1866, but the terrain is hilly and travel was by horse and wagon, so establishing a meeting place closer to those in the area became desirable. In other words, Stahl was established to make it easier on our horses! The congregation has thrived ever since.





So now, 144 years later, when horses no longer are a consideration, what makes Stahl important in the Johnstown area. We are one of the remaining AMC congregations in the Johnstown area after the fracturing of the past decade. We attempt to live in the space between a traditional, conservative Johnstown community and a mixture of theologically progressive and traditional congregation participants. We are also located on the line between rural and urban with participants coming from farms as well as the city of Johnstown. Finding what binds us together rather than what pulls us apart has been part of our more recent journey. There has been a great deal of transition within the congregation. Some long-time members left while, more recently, we have been blessed by the participation of newer people, especially with children. Many are not from traditionally Mennonite backgrounds, yet are drawn to the Anabaptist values of community, Jesus focused, justice minded believers. The atmosphere is genuinely warm and welcoming. We are also known as the Soup Night church. In the fall, every Wednesday night we offer soup to anyone who wants to come and eat together. Soups of various kinds are brought by the congregation and people from the community and from the congregation sit together and enjoy one another's company. We have also become known at the local large hospital for our generosity. We chose to use our IGH funds to offer hotel lodging to family members of patients from out of town. This provides rest and space for weary families and an opportunity for hospital social workers to offer a needed resource. We are also known to a larger community of participants through our Sunday morning worship streaming. Since Covid we have been making worship available to people who regularly join from all over the US who because of distance or because of compromised health can not join us in person. We realize that we are, like many aging established rural congregations, in a time of transition. We have been meeting monthly for an hour before worship to share in conversation about who we are and who we are becoming within the community. The influx of children has blessed us with the question of how to incorporate multi-generations into the worship gathering. If it isn't about the horses anymore, than what is our community about? We are learning that we are enough as we are while opening ourselves to the Spirit of God to make us more.

AMC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL'S RETREAT

Leadership Council Retreat reflection by Jayne Byler

Nine members of the Leadership Council of AMC met the last weekend in January for our annual retreat. We had to, make three goals for the weekend. First, to review the business of the conference and what we have been doing and what are our plans for the coming year. Second to do an overarching review and vision of our Conference and who we are and how we are changing in a time of transition. Finally to complete our work on Friday afternoon so everyone could get back to their homes before the great snowstorm hit! I feel we accomplished all three.

You will hear the details of the business piece. It will come in the reports and budget and content of our March 7 Faith and Life Delegate meeting. So come to Pittsburgh Mennonite and see what all we are doing as a conference!

The visioning piece involved lots of post it notes of various shapes and sizes and the enthusiastic participation of the LC members. We talked about what the current realities are that are changing the shape of the conference including geography, staffing, stretched volunteers, finances and more. We added leaves of hope and potential, lightening bolts of current opportunities, photos of images of where we are and where we want to go.

Because the participation was energetic and everyone helped to get our work done even as we did grander envisioning, we were able to finish be late afternoon on Saturday. Everyone made it back to their various congregations before the snow cancelled most of our worship gatherings on Sunday morning.

I am extremely grateful for the group of people who are currently serving on Leadership Council. This is an amazing group of thoughtful and spiritually grounded believers who came together with a passion for the church and for how we live it out here in our piece of the world. We are in incredibly challenging times alongside immense potential to live into these days as Jesus followers. Thank you for the privilege of serving in gathering and facilitating this process over the past years.



(Back row) Tim Martin Johnson, Lee Good, Kirsten Peterson, Ken Litwiller, Jayne Byler, Tom Teneffoss. (Front row) Kim Fox, Deb Bergen, Amy Yoder McGloughlin

WHERE IS YOUR CONFERENCE MINISTER?

February 1-23 - Leading a Delegation to Palestine with Mennonite Men and MennoPIN

April 20-23 Pastor and Credentialed Leader Study Week at Laurelville with Dr. Drew Strait

July 31-August 2--AMC Celebration Weekend



SNOW, SPIRIT, AND SHENANIGANS AT LAURELVILLE: A LOOK BACK AT WINTERVILLE 2026!

By Leah Rittenhouse

Many AMC friends got to connect with each other and with the larger church at Laurelville in January. Winterville was jam-packed with friends, fun in the snow, and a big 'Cabin Olympics' competition--culminating in an award ceremony that featured interpretive dances, pies in faces, and giving a few staff new hairstyles. Winterville High, Laurelville's new retreat for high-school students, enjoyed a relaxed weekend filled with new friendships, contemplative practices, slaughter in the snow, and more. Both youth programs engaged with our Music and Worship Leader's retreat participants for intergenerational worship throughout the weekend. I think it's fair to say that a good time was had by all. Shout out to [AMC's YETI](#) for their leadership and support in our joint youth ministry! (Youth Engagement Team Initiative)



The winning teams of the Cabin Olympics got to choose a willing staff member and design a hair style for them. Cody (left) is rocking his new "checkerboard" haircut and Leah (right) is sporting a "unicorn mohawk"



A time of anointing during intergenerational worship



Winterville campers sledding



Allegheny
Mennonite
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

PASTORS AND LEADERS SPRING BIBLE STUDY

April 20, 2026 at 1:00 pm thru
April 23, 2026 at 12:00 pm
Laurelville Retreat Center

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2026
Open to all credentialed leaders

A THOUGHTFUL ANABAPTIST RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Dr. Drew Strait will join us to talk with Pastors and Credentialed Leaders about Christian Nationalism and how we might respond to it at this moment in our national history.

We'll have a morning and afternoon session every day, with ample time for learning, rest, conversation, and hiking.



Speaker

DR. DREW STRAIT

For more information and to register visit:
alleghenymennoniteconference.org/events/
(814) 443-2007





100 FOR \$10

CONSIDER GIVING TO “100 FOR \$10” STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY TOGETHER

What if 100 people gave just \$10 a month?

That simple idea is the heart of Allegheny Mennonite Conference’s new campaign: 100 for \$10 — small gifts with a big impact.

This initiative invites us to build a sustainable foundation for the vital, Spirit-led work we share across the conference. Together, we can grow something deeply rooted, relational, and lasting.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference is more than an administrative body. Conference has played a formative role in shaping individual lives.

Be Part of the Movement

- Be one of the 100: Start a recurring gift of \$10/month (or any amount you choose)
- Spread the word: Invite others in your congregation or network to join the mission



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