



ALLEGHENY MISCELLANY

The official newsletter of Allegheny Mennonite Conference

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100 FOR \$10



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

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

SAVE THE DATES!

2026 AMC Celebration Weekend:

July 31 - August 2, 2026

Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA

Registration is open! Visit the *Events* section of our website to register today!

WHERE IS YOUR CONFERENCE MINISTER?

June 28--Friendship Mennonite Church

July 31-August 2--AMC Celebration Weekend

August 15--West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

July 6-11, 2027--Mennonite Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio



CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Article by: Crossroads Community Church

Hello Allegheny Mountain Conference, Greetings from Crossroads Community Church! While we may be a small congregation in number, we have a big heart for Jesus, fellowship, and community. We are grateful for the many ways God continues to work among us and through us.



Perhaps the most exciting development for our congregation over the past year began late last summer when we were approached by a group of believers who were starting a new congregation and meeting at a local funeral home. Their church, God's Calling Community Church, asked if they could use our building for Saturday evening worship services. We welcomed them, and what began as sharing a building has become a wonderful example of believers from different traditions praying, worshipping, and serving together.

Over the past year, we have shared in fellowship meals, worship, and prayer together. We gathered for a Thanksgiving meal as one church family, and during the spring and summer of 2026 we met on Tuesday and Friday evenings for prayer and community walks. These times have strengthened friendships, encouraged our faith, and reminded us of the importance of praying for the communities around us.

We have also shared in special worship services together. God's Calling Community Church joined us for our Maundy Thursday service, and we joined them for their Good Friday service. These moments of worship and fellowship have been a blessing to both congregations and a reminder that we are all part of the same body of Christ.



Crossroads Community Church also supports missions beyond our local community through Cleft of the Rock Ministries and its water project in Panama, helping provide wells for the Ngäbe people.

One of the highlights of our summer is our annual church picnic and outdoor worship service in August. It is always a special time of food, fellowship, laughter, and worship together in God's creation. This summer we will also celebrate two graduating high school seniors as they begin new chapters in their lives.

When members were asked what makes Crossroads Community Church special, several themes emerged. Crossroads is "a place of grace," "a place where fellowship doesn't end with the closing prayer," and a place where "shame and chains are left at the door." Perhaps most importantly, it is a place where people see beyond the burdens we carry and recognize the person God created us to be.

As we look ahead, we remain thankful for the ways God continues to bring people together, open doors for ministry, and remind us that the Church is built through faith, fellowship, prayer, and love.



Members of Corsroads Community Church



Members of Corsroads Community Church

WEST PHILLY WILD CHURCH

Article by: Carol Martin Johnson

Some time ago my spiritual director suggested I might like the book "Church of the Wild, How Nature Invites Us Into the Sacred", by Victoria Looz. As I read that book, I felt like I was reading about my own experience of Divine - the author just found words for it. I attended a few wild church services and realized I wanted to have a wild church here in my neighborhood in Philadelphia. Starting a wild church became, to quote Parker Palmer "something I couldn't not do."

We held our first West Philly Wild Church service in September 2025 on the ancestral lands of the Lenni-Lenape in Bartram's Garden in Southwest Philadelphia. Bartram's Garden, is located on the banks of the Schuylkill River in the Delaware watershed. It is the oldest surviving botanical garden in the US and today is a 50-acre public park.

A wild church is a gathering of people who meet outside to build relationship with the natural world and to connect to our Creator through creation. In this time when our world is unraveling, the earth and her creatures, the Holy Wild, may have wisdom to share with us if we can be open and listen. Wild church offers a place to do just this.

Although wild church happens outside, it is not regular church happening outside. The wild church movement is about rewilding our spirituality. It is a way of connecting to God through creation, seeing humans as part of creation, having a conversation and relationship with other-than-human beings, and valuing those relationships. It involves a lot of listening – listening to trees, flowers, water, rocks, birds, for what they may want to communicate with us.

Two of us from West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship take turns leading our wild church service. Leading the service is about creating and holding the container – it is the natural world that speaks to all of us. We are there to listen and be present. If you have never attended a wild church service, you can attend one on Saturday afternoon at AMC Celebration weekend. Maybe there is a wild church already meeting near you, check out this map [Wild Church Network Map](#). Or maybe now is the time for you to start a wild church!



Wild Church participants



Wild Church in the Fall



Wild Church in the Winter



STORIED LAND: DELEGATION TO PALESTINE, OCTOBER 13-27, 2027

Our two-week sojourn in Palestine will bring us into multifold contact with this land. We will visit the locations Amy Yoder McGloughlin writes about in her book, *Storied Land*, and pay attention to the connection between the biblical story and the stories of Palestinians today. Our itinerary will take us to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and the South Hebron Hills. We will meet with local religious leaders, farmers, activists and community leaders to learn more about the land and our faith, and discover how deeply they are connected. The forming itinerary can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3SfE5IN>

This is a trip for anyone ages 18 and older that can manage the physical and emotional rigors of this trip. This includes stairs and steep hills, hearing traumatic stories and bearing witness to the occupation.

The cost of the trip is \$2,000 per person, not including airfare to and from the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, costs between the airport and Jerusalem, and about half of the dinners. Trip costs cover lodging, most meals, ground transportation, sightseeing, and tips. This trip directly supports Palestinian organizations, businesses, and families who will provide presentations, housing, food, and other services. Given the current instabilities of the region, the trip may be canceled. Therefore, we require you to purchase refundable flights.

To secure your spot on the delegation, once you receive a confirmation from your delegation leaders, you must submit \$400. The remaining \$1,600 is due four weeks before the delegation embarks (September 12, 2027). Your trip costs will only be refunded if the delegation is cancelled.

Your delegation leaders are Amy Yoder McGloughlin and Eric Massanari. Amy is a Conference Minister with Allegheny Mennonite Conference and the Denominational Minister for Education with Mennonite Church USA. She travels to Palestine every year and has been a delegation leader to Palestine many times. Amy will provide logistics for the trip, using her deep relationships and knowledge of the area. Eric Massanari is a Conference Minister with Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and a Spiritual Director. Eric will be providing spiritual support and grounding for us on this delegation. If you have questions about this delegation, contact Amy at amy.yoder.mcgoughlin@gmail.com

If you are interested in going, you can register here: <https://forms.gle/vTvRvgmhQzTlrTFr8>

CELEBRATION 2026 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration is open for this year's Allegheny Mennonite Conference Celebration Weekend at Laurelville, **July 31-August 2, 2026!** Visit the *Events* section of our website or scan the QR code to register. <https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/>

We're excited to introduce a *new and improved online registration* process to make signing up easier and more convenient for everyone.

This year, we're also offering special discounts to welcome new participants: first-time attendees will receive *\$100 off per adult, \$25 per child*, and youth grades 7th thru 12th can attend for an *all-inclusive price of \$50*.

Last year's Celebration brought together participants from 13 of our 18 congregations for a joyful time of worship, music, outdoor activities, and community building. We hope to welcome even more participants this year.

We look forward to gathering again, don't miss it!



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Have something you want us to share in the Miscellany?

Email us at office@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

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