



ALLEGHENY MISCELLANY

The official newsletter of Allegheny Mennonite Conference

WHAT'S INSIDE OUR LATEST ISSUE:

WHERE IS YOUR CONFERENCE MINISTER?

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: HYATTSVILLE
MENNONITE CHURCH

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2026 CELEBRATION!

SAVE THE DATES:

NOVEMBER 7, 2026: AMC FALL
ASSEMBLY, 9AM-NOON ON ZOOM

JANUARY 15-17, 2027: WINTERVILLE AT
LAURELVILLE

MARCH 6, 2027: AMC SPRING ASSEMBLY,
9AM-3PM, WEST PHILADELPHIA

JULY 30-AUGUST 1, 2027: AMC
CELEBRATION WEEKEND AT LAURELVILLE



100 FOR \$10



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

Start a recurring gift of \$10/month (or any amount you
choose) to sustain and strengthen the work of Allegheny
Mennonite Conference!

WHERE IS YOUR CONFERENCE MINISTER?

October 11--Pittsburgh Mennonite

October 17--Constituency

Leadership Council Online

November 7--AMC Fall Online
Meeting

January 22-24--Leadership
Retreat

March 6--AMC Spring Delegate
Session, West Philadelphia

April 15-17--Constituency
Leadership Council, Dallas, TX

April 19-22 AMC Pastor' Study
Week at Laurelville

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



2026 AMC Celebration weekend

Article by: Amy Yoder
McGloughlin
Conference Minister

It's nearly a month following our annual Allegheny Mennonite Conference Celebration Weekend, and I'm still feeling euphoric about our time together. We had over 185 people attending the weekend, which is participation we've not seen in over a decade. I heard so many people express joy at being together.



Here are some highlights from the weekend:

We were in a new space, The Gathering Place, for our worship and business sessions. There was ample space for us to be together, and plenty of space for our Mennonite agencies to show their good work.



We officially welcomed Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church, and were introduced to two new congregations who wish to join us—First Mennonite Church, Canton (OH); and Open Door Church, South Philadelphia (PA).



So many kids and youth! We had vibrant children and youth programming, and I heard so many kids talking to their new friends about plans to see each other at Winterville or next year at Celebration weekend.



2026 AMC Celebration weekend

Our speaker, Bishop Dwayne Royster, gave us a strong challenge to change our communities, and address the systems that are harming our towns and neighborhoods. It's clear Dwayne has spent time in Mennonite circles—he complimented what we do well, and shone a light on the places where our theology is incongruous. If you haven't seen the videos of our sermons, check them out on the AMC website.



Our final worship closed with all of us gathering around the large worship space and singing "**Draw the Circle Wide.**" It was a powerful invitation to us to bring that wideness to our church communities.



This weekend reinforced our assertion that our conference assembly is truly a Celebration! We are celebrating what God is doing among us, and we are celebrating the joy of being with God's people.

If you've ever had the sense that Celebration is just about business, I assure you it is much more than that. It is a time for God's people of all ages to be together in the natural world, in worship and in community.

Mark your calendars for our next AMC meetings:

- November 7, 8-9:30am, zoom delegate session (we are holding abbreviated meetings, honoring that many of our delegates will be at the Militarism summit in Lancaster, PA.
- March 6, 2027, 9am-3:30pm, in person gathering, West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
- July 30-August 1, 2027, Annual Celebration Weekend at Laureville.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT HYATTSVILLE MENNONITE CHURCH

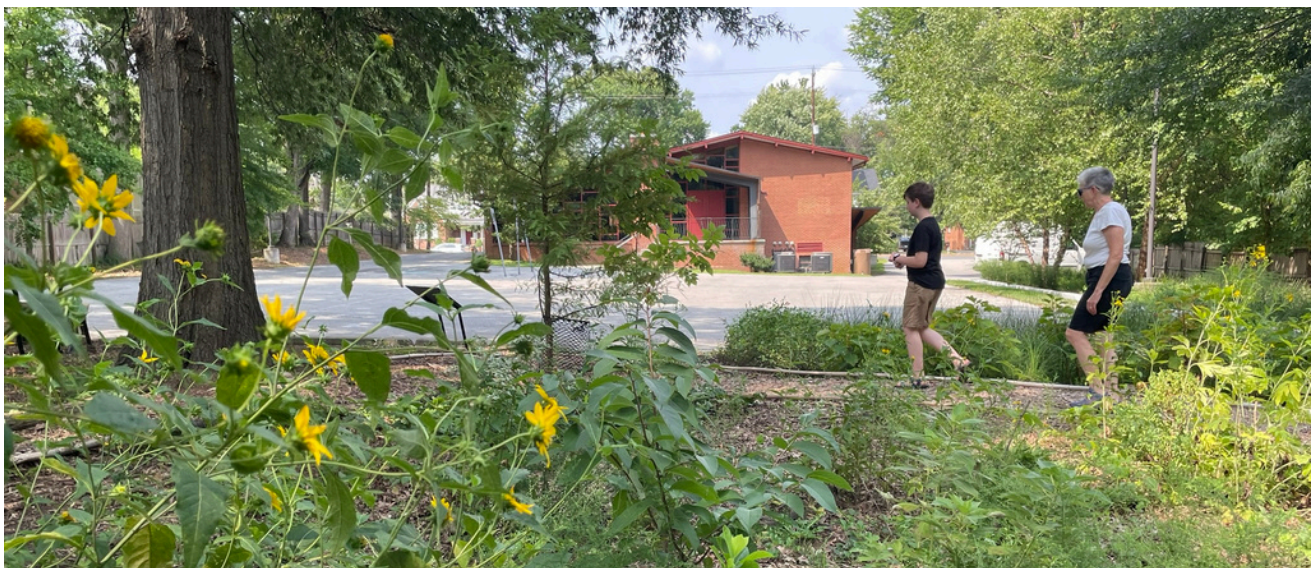
Article by: Cynthia Lapp
Pastor

Life is full at Hyattsville Mennonite Church. Our building gets used almost every day of the week for a church or community event. On Sundays HMC worships in the morning followed by Brownie troop activities. Sunday evenings The Church of the Holy Comforter (Anglican) meets for worship.

Tuesday evenings the local Rapid Response Choir and Indivisible use the building. Wednesday mornings our comforter group gathers to make comforters for Mennonite Central Committee and in the evening the Washington Women's Chorale practices everything from classical to jazz. Thursday and Friday local groups use our space as they work to make sure our neighbors have food. Saturday mornings folks are in the "back swamp," working steadily to reclaim the overgrown quarter acre and make sure the native plants are thriving.

All this building sharing has not thus far increased our membership but it has raised our profile in the community as a place where people care about justice, and things happen. But it is not just in the building that church happens.

On June 7, Hyattsville Mennonite celebrated the 40th anniversary of welcoming the first out gay man into membership by canceling worship and taking to the streets as we participated in a local Pride Parade.



Over sixty folks of all ages gathered at 9am wearing matching t-shirts in an array of rainbow colors and carrying colorful signs the youth made. The back of the shirts featured part of our mission statement: **"Following Jesus: seeking equity, justice and peace."** As we decorated a member's pick-up truck displaying colorful quilts made by the HMC comforter group, a woman approached asking if we were really a church. She grew up Baptist and couldn't imagine that a church would be at a Pride event. She was assured that we are a real church and that she could join us for worship Sundays at 11. "Not at the break of dawn?" she asked.

As we walked the short parade route, we sang, "We are marching in the light of God" changing the words to "We are marching in the Pride Parade." The song morphed some more as we sang "We are humble in the Pride Parade," and eventually "We are sweating in the Pride Parade."

Thankfully the parade route ended at a gelato place. What better way for Mennonites to celebrate than to eat ice cream at 10:30 am? It was a joyous and memorable way to be church together.

Now that we know how short the parade route is, we might even be able to be in the parade and have worship next year.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D84ufCrcoY>

**"Following Jesus:
seeking equity,
justice and
peace."**



Photo credit: Rachel Schrock

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