

# E-HEADLINER

## **HEADLINER NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2020**

We publish a printed newsletter that is mailed to over 2,200 households prior to the beginning of January, March, May, July, September and November. Due to the pandemic, we did not publish a May 2020 newsletter. Instead we increased the number of E-Headliner issues distributed by e-mail to over 1,000 addresses.

We will be mailing a July 2020 HEADLINER to a greatly reduced number of addresses. However, the July issue is posted on the district website. Please go to [www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org) and use the July 2020 button on the opening page.

The September 2020 HEADLINER will be mailed to the ordinary mailing list. The September issue is traditionally the District Conference issue.



## **"NEW WORLD COMING" – A DENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP GATHERING – JULY 1, 2020**

On July 1, 2020, a Denominational Worship Gathering will take place virtually at 8:00 p.m. (ET). It will center around the theme: "New World Coming!"

The service will feature the preaching of Kayla Alphonse and Paul Munday, with a wide array of music, including selections by Jacob Crouse, Janelle Flory Schrock and Kendra Flory, the Keister Sisters, Shawn Kirchner, Nancy Faus Mullen, and Josh Tindall. Two of the hymns of the denominational virtual choir will be offered: 'Move in Our Midst,' and 'I See A New World Coming.'

General Secretary David Steele will offer prayers for the church. A wide array of persons from around the denomination will offer other expressions of worship leadership.

A series of congregational stories will also be featured, lifting-up the missional fervor and outreach of the Church of the Brethren from around the world.

In a season of disruption and despair, the service will point to the God in Christ who makes a way where there seems to be no way (Isaiah 43:19) -- encouraging us to build new worlds in God's name (Luke 4:18-19) -- seeing with eyes of faith, the vision of the Lamb (2 Corinthians 5:7) -- as a weary earth sings -- nevertheless -- a New Song of New Creation, in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:1-8)!

A worship bulletin will be available by June 24th at [www.brethren.org/ac/virtual](http://www.brethren.org/ac/virtual)

## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE – JULY 1, 2020**

Mark your family calendar for a 25-minute children's worship experience on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. (ET) where you'll meet Louise Boid, a colorfully opinionated bird from Brooklyn, NY. as she moves to central Pennsylvania to get away from those noisy New York City ducks and pigeons! Louise Boid is brought to us by "The Puppet and Story Works" founded by Dotti and Steve Seitz of Manheim, Pennsylvania.

You'll also experience a storyteller, Linda Himes from LaVerne Church of the Brethren, sharing the message of God's love for each of God's children, yourself included!

There will be songs, led by Carol Higgs Elmore, Minister of Nurture and Music at the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, interspersed throughout that will keep you singing and moving. Finally, Louise Boid will sing her latest rendition of Rockin Robin!"

We hope you'll join us for a delightful children's worship time, immediately preceding the denominational worship service. Both of these worship times are planned and sponsored by the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

### **ONLINE CONCERT - JULY 2, 2020**

An hour-long music celebration featuring Church of the Brethren musicians from across the church will be presented online July 2, 2020, the evening after the Denominational Worship Gather and Children's Worship Service.

The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee is securing musical offerings from a wide variety of Brethren musicians, providing a variety of musical styles and instruments.

Contributors to the concert will include Brethren singer/songwriters Joseph Helfrich, Michael Stern, Shawn Kirchner, Seth Hendricks, Terry and Andy Murray, Jacob Crouse and Bittersweet Gospel Band. In addition, selections are scheduled from the Miami First Church of the Brethren, the women's choir from EYN Mubi, and several memorable excerpts from recent Annual Conferences.

In addition, a longtime friend of the Church of the Brethren, Ken Medema, has agreed to write and record a song specifically for the event.

The concert will be hosted by Program and Arrangements Committee members Emily Shonk Edwards and Carol Elmore.

We hope you'll join us for this cross section of inspirational music from around the church, as part of the two-day activities in lieu of an actual in-person Annual Conference gathering.

### **BRETHREN IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC - JULY 7, 2020**

A special course from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson College is coming up in July will be "Brethren in the Age of Pandemic: A century ago and today" and presented by Frank Ramirez. The class will be held online Tuesday evening, July 7 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. CST.

This isn't the first rodeo for the Brethren, when it comes to closing churches and changing habits in the face of a global pandemic. What happened to the Brethren a century ago, and what lessons can we learn as we redefine what it means for us to be the church? This special hour and a half Ventures course will explore the history of Brethren in times of pandemic.

Frank Ramirez, pastor of the Union Center Church of the Brethren in Nappanee, Indiana, is a prolific writer, well known for his feature "Out of Context" in the Guide for Biblical Studies. He and his wife Jennie share three adult children and six grandchildren.

Registration and more information about Ventures in Christian Discipleship are available at [www.mcpherson.edu/ventures](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures). (Please note: Online registration is available, however, due to website conversion, CEU payments cannot be accepted online at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Kendra Flory at [floryk@mcpherson.edu](mailto:floryk@mcpherson.edu).)

If you would like to make a donation to Ventures, please go to our website and under the designation menu, select "Ventures in Christian Discipleship" by scrolling to the bottom.

**CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE – SHENANDOAH CENTER – BEGINNING JULY 18, 2020**

The Shenandoah Center of the Christian Growth Institute is presenting the **Teaching and Learning** course using the video conferencing platform Zoom on July 18, July 25 and August 15, 2020 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. George Bowers and Mark Bowyers will serve as instructors for the course.

The text books, which may be purchased at various online sources, are Christian Education Handbook: A Revised and Completely Updated Edition, (Broadman and Holman, 1996) edited by Bruce P. Powers, and What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know: 24 Secrets That Can Help You Change Lives, (Bethany House, 2001) Elmer L. Towns.

A second offering, **Introduction to Theology**, will be presented using Zoom on July 11, August 8, and August 22, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with Glenn Bollinger as instructor for the course.

The text books are Dunker Guide to Brethren Beliefs, (Brethren Press, 2012) Judith Gible; Another Way of Believing, (Brethren Press, 2005) Dale W. Brown; What's Theology Got To Do With It?, (Alban Books, 2005) Anthony Robinson; and Mere Christianity, (Geoffrey Bles, 1952), C.S. Lewis.

The fee for each course is \$100.00 not inclusive of the text books. If the course is taken for continuing education, the audit fee is \$25.00. The syllabus and registration forms are available by request at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com) All checks should be made payable to: Virgina District – Church of the Brethren. Please mail registration and fee to: Sarah Long, P.O. Box 67, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR MINISTRY – BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering *Spiritual Practices for Ministry* taught by Reba Herder. This will be an online course beginning September 9.

During this course students will explore the following: what it means to pray without ceasing, ways to creatively honor the Sabbath, what the Bible says about spiritual practices, spiritual practices for different learning styles, how we get in the way of our relationship with God, and how spiritual practices can help congregations thrive.

Please consider participating in this course. **The registration deadline is August 4, 2020.** This course is also available for Continuing Education credit or Personal Enrichment. Feel free to share this information with friends and colleagues.

**Taking an Online Course for CEU's**

All of the Brethren Academy's TRIM courses can be taken for Continuing Education Units. (CEU's). Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors.

These online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy provides each student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. They will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed.

New lessons are posted each Wednesday once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

To successfully complete an online course for continuing education units, a student needs to complete the assigned readings, participate fully in class and meet instructor's attendance requirement. A continuing education student is not required to complete papers or take exams. However, any continuing education student who chooses to go this extra step may expect the instructor to respond to their work.

Successful completion of a TRIM class earns 2.0 CEUs.

Questions about taking TRIM course for CEU's may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert. at [oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or (765) 983-1820.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES – BEGINNING OCTOBER 14, 2020**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering *Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, October 14 - December 8, 2020. Participants will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion. This course would be received by Christian Growth Institute as the equivalent of the Old Testament Survey course upon application to the Director of Ministry Formation. The instructor for this online course will be Matt Boersma.

In this course, we will work through the various books of the Hebrew Bible and look at their ancient context. We will attempt to better understand how these books interact and how they influence the New Testament texts. We will also look at a number of modern theories about these texts and how these theories influence how these books are read today. ....Matt Boersma

A brochure with more information is available by e-mailing us a <nuchurch@aol.com>. Please give consideration to participating in this class. **The deadline to register is September 9.**

Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors. These online classes "meet" for eight weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy provides each student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. They will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed.

New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for continuing education credit (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE) may enroll as a student and select their category (CEU or PE) upon registration.

### **Successful completion of the course requires**

Meeting the attendance requirement set by the instructor,  
Completion of the assigned reading,  
Engagement in the course through participation.

A CEU or PE student is not required to complete assigned papers or exams. However, any student who completes papers or exams can expect feedback from the instructor. CEUs are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course.

Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at [oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or (765) 983-1820. Please contact her if you have any questions.

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We're on the web  
[www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org)

*Continuing the work of Jesus.  
Peacefully.  
Simply.  
Together.*



### **PILGRIMAGE XXIV – OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held October 30 – November 1, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

For more information, please contact Karen Haynes by telephone at (336) 765-5263 or by electronic mail at [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com) or go to our website at [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com)

### **LEADERSHIP AND ANXIETY IN CHURCH: A FAMILY SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE**

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is presenting an online workshop entitled *Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective* on Wednesday, August 19, from 9:00 a.m. (CT) to 4:00 p.m. (CT). Appropriate for clergy and laypersons alike, this workshop is especially helpful for members of the same congregation who attend together. This webinar will be repeated on September 24 and December 3. For more information, please visit their website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>. To register, call (630) 627-0507 or go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852>.

*Leadership and Anxiety in the Church* looks at the challenge presented by the rising levels of anxiety being experienced in churches today, as well as the role that self-differentiated leadership can play in calming such anxiety. Organize a group today and save \$40-\$50 per person (for a group discount coupon click <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852>)! To learn more or to register, please go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4624342>

The mission statement of LMPC is "Seeking to proclaim Christ's good news—the gospel of peace and justice—and to be active in the sacred ministry of reconciliation wherever and whenever we can." LMPC provides many online workshops that are appropriate for those of an Anabaptist background and theology. Jay Wittmeyer, who formerly served for eleven years as the Executive Director of Global Mission and Service with the Church of the Brethren, is the Executive Director.

