

Mennonite Heritage Center

565 Yoder Rd. Harleysville PA 19438

Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM

The psalmist charges us to remember the past, what was said and done, and to share that memory so “that future generations might know” (Ps. 78:6). At the Mennonite Heritage Center, we gather and preserve our documents and artifacts about the past so that we can be enriched and share with our families, our churches, and our communities.

This March we unveiled a new exhibit, *Mennonite Faith and Life*, an exploration of cultural and spiritual heritage from sixteenth-century European Anabaptism to the diversity of Anabaptist-descended traditions around the world today. Coming soon this fall is a new local history exhibit on life in the Perkiomen Valley. This display will consider the life of the original inhabitants—the Lenape—as well as three centuries of life by European settlers.

The Mennonite Heritage Center continues to host numerous workshops, programs, and events for all in our community, despite complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit our website for a list of upcoming events.

The John L Ruth historical library located in the Mennonite Heritage center is an excellent resource for researchers and pastors, with a fine collection of Anabaptist materials. The archives contain over five-hundred linear feet of documents related to Mosaic, Franconia, and Eastern District Mennonite conferences and associated congregations in addition to digital records, personal papers, and rare books.

Our collection was enriched by several significant donations this year. One such artifact is a beautiful grain-painted blanket chest made in the early 1800s, originally made for the Bechtel family who were members of the Bally congregation. We also continue to increase the accessibility to our archival material through the creation of finding aids, revealing the contents of collections such as the Schwenk Family Papers and the Plumsteadville Dairyman’s Association.

2021 has seen transitions among key staff at the center. Sarah Heffner stepped down as interim executive director in March. Janelle Adams joined as director of programs, events, and volunteers. Joel Horst Nofziger recently began to serve as the new executive director. Forrest Moyer, long-term archivist, will be concluding his work in October.

The Mennonite Heritage Center is only able to educate, inspire, and witness to the church and community through your generous support.



Educating, inspiring, and witnessing to the church and community by collecting, preserving, and sharing the Anabaptist/Mennonite story



Staff

Janelle Adams
Joel Alderfer
Ivan Derstine
Forrest Moyer
Rose Moyer
Joel Horst Nofziger



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