



Mennonite Heritage Center

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The children of Israel first crossed the river Jordan, having been brought out of Egypt to the promised land. A representative of each tribe gathered a rock from the river bed. After the Israelites finished the crossing, they placed stones in the river as a monument. Each stone was “to serve as a sign among you” so that “when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off” (Joshua 4:1-8). How do we remember? The Mennonite Heritage Center’s stones are stories, collected from communities between the Schuylkill and Delaware to help people ask, “What did these lives mean?”

The Mennonite Heritage Center is here to be a resource for congregations connected to Anabaptist communities in Eastern Pennsylvania. We are glad to serve membership classes, youth groups, and general interest tours from congregations we serve. The Heritage Center also provides sermons, Sunday School programs, and special presentations on request.

At the building along Rt. 113, the Mennonite Heritage Center hosted 29 educational programs on topics of Mennonite and local historical interest, including a series of conversations with the Delaware Tribe of Indians (Bartlesville, Oklahoma) and a series of four programs uncovering Mennonite history and culture. We hosted an additional seven workshops on traditional arts, such as sgraffito pottery and fraktur. For a full listing of upcoming events at the Mennonite Heritage Center, visit our website: mhhep.org.

Currently on display in the Mennonite Heritage Center are two major exhibits. “Mennonite Faith and Life” is an exploration of cultural and spiritual heritage from sixteenth-century European Anabaptism to the diversity of Anabaptist-descended traditions around the world today. “Peace and Plenty: Life in the Perkiomen Valley” is a local history exhibit that explores the broader context that shaped the communities that form what is now Mosaic Mennonite Conference.

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 archival collection contains 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 has been enhanced by several significant donations this year. These include a family scrapbook assembled by Nora L. Gross of Doylestown, Pa., and the 1832 dateboard from the George and Susanna (Godshall) Delp farmhouse which stands along Route 113. The archive also welcomed several important congregation gifts such as the trustees account book for the former upper Skippack Mennonite Church (now Wellspring Mennonite Church) which records audits and gifts between 1849 and 1986; 90 years of minutes from the Towamencin Mennonite Church Sewing Circle spanning 1937-2023; as well as records and memorabilia from Roaring Springs Mennonite Church which closed January 2023.

Only by your generous support is the Mennonite Heritage Center able to educate, inspire, and witness to the church and community by collecting, preserving, and sharing Anabaptist Mennonite stories.

Respectfully submitted,

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