

Mennonite Heritage Center

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The Mennonite Heritage Center serves as a resource for congregations connected to Anabaptist communities in Eastern Pennsylvania. We welcome visitors Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with special hours available by appointment. We are especially glad to receive are especially glad to receive church groups, youth groups, and membership/baptismal classes. Special hours are available by request. The Heritage Center can provide pulpit supply, Sunday School programs, and special presentations.

At the building along Rt. 113, the Mennonite Heritage Center hosted 21 educational programs and events on topics of Mennonite and local historical interest, including a series of programming celebrating 2025 as the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. We hosted additional workshops on traditional arts, such as quilting and fraktur. For a full listing of upcoming events at the Mennonite Heritage Center, visit our website: mhep.org.

Currently on display in the Mennonite Heritage Center are two major exhibits. "A Coat of Many Colors: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith and Practice" celebrates the essential convictions of the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition and the ways they have been lived out historically, locally, and globally. "Peace and Plenty: Life in the Perkiomen Valley" is a local history exhibit that explores the broader context shaping 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.

This summer we were privileged to have Caitlyn Weber join us as a Mosaic Ambassador. She ably dug through the archives to find obscure stories and developed ways to share them through social media. Follow the Mennonite Heritage Center on Facebook to discover the fruits of her labor.

Our collection has been enhanced by several significant acquisitions this year. These include a significant collection of local Mennonite fraktur assembled by Joel G. Clemmer, two original watercolor paintings of imagined scenes of early Lenape life by William Sauts Bock, and papers relating to the PAX service of Willard L. Rush. The archive also received several important congregational gifts, such as records from the Church of the Good Samaritans (Holland, Pa.) and an offering box from the 1848 Swamp Mennonite Meetinghouse.

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,

Joel Horst Nofziger Executive Director nofzigerj@mhep.org