

#MENNO  
CON21

July 6-10, 2021  
Cincinnati, OH

MAY 2021

# Worshipping together at MennoCon21

By Sarah Chase and Scott Hartman,  
Convention planning team for Mennonite Church USA

MennoCon21 is less than 70 days away. Plans continue for a hybrid convention. Participants can join in person in Cincinnati, Ohio, or online in their homes. **Registration is open for both options.** After registering, those who are planning to attend in person can make hotel reservations through Passkey, our online registration system.

This newsletter will highlight the worship services and seminars. In-person and online participants will experience the same worship services, while seminars will feature distinct options for in-person and online participants.

## Morning worship

Morning worship will feature music, readings and other elements from *Voices Together*, along with a Bible study. Benjamin Bergey, Katie Graber, Marcos Acosta and Shannon Dycus will lead participants in the *Voices Together* portion of the service. With in-person *Voices Together* launch events having been cancelled, morning worship gives convention participants the chance to experience, firsthand, what *Voices Together* has to offer.





Morning worship will also include a Bible study, led by Safwat Marzouk, Ph.D., with the theme of “Shalom Justice Amidst Pandemic and Racism.” Individual services will focus on Pandemic, Lament and Repentance (Psalm 74); Justice and Reconciliation in the Joseph Story (Genesis 45:1-8); and Strategies to Resist Xenophobia (Exodus 1:8-2:10).

Marzouk is the associate professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He is an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church in Egypt and is a member of the Wabash Valley Presbytery. He has pastored in Alexandria, Egypt, as well as in Jersey City, New Jersey, while he was finishing his doctorate at Princeton (New Jersey) Theological Seminary. In addition to writing numerous articles and book chapters, he is the author of two books: *Egypt as a Monster in the Book of Ezekiel* and *Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration*. His scholarship, teaching and preaching center around how Christian Egyptians engage with the Old Testament, as they seek to live into God’s mission of peace and justice in their own context. He also works on how to read the Bible with and through the eyes of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to proclaim a vision of hospitality, justice and integration that moves beyond the politics of assimilation and segregation.

### Evening worship

The five evening worship services will feature Mennonite pastors, leaders and educators, sharing messages rooted in peace scriptures:

- **Tuesday, July 6**

Lesley Francisco McClendon and Caleb McClendon

“The Root of Peace,” based on various Scriptures in Genesis

- **Wednesday, July 7**

Dr. Meghan Larissa Good

“Jesus is the Peace,” based on Ephesians 2:14-16

- **Thursday, July 8**

Ana Alicia Hinojosa

“Feel the Peace,” based on Mark 5:21-43

- **Friday, July 9**

Jon Carlson

“Trust the Peace,” based on Matthew 27 and Psalm 22

- **Saturday, July 10**

Glen Guyton

“Bring the Peace,” based on John 15:12-17

## Worship Speakers



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday

### TUESDAY

**Lesley Francisco McClendon** is the senior pastor and **Caleb McClendon** is the assistant pastor of [C3 – Calvary Community Church](#), Hampton, Virginia. The duo teaches with vigor and passion and aims to deliver powerful, life-altering messages with their simple, easy-to-comprehend delivery. Lesley Francisco McClendon has a passion for bridging generational gaps and loves speaking to a broad range of audiences, although she often says that mid-20s to mid-life crisis is her sweet spot. Caleb McClendon's laid-back approach in ministry is more like motivational speaking, encouraging and probing the minds of people who simply want to live victoriously.

### WEDNESDAY

**Dr. Meghan Larissa Good** is the teaching pastor at [Trinity Mennonite Church in Glendale, Arizona](#), and author of *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*. She is a graduate of Portland Seminary, Duke Divinity School and Gordon College. Good frequently preaches and lectures at churches and universities across the country, speaking on subjects such as biblical hermeneutics, emerging Anabaptism and contemporary preaching. She lives in Phoenix with a prized dinosaur bone and a ridiculously large book collection.

### THURSDAY

**Ana Alicia Hinojosa** is from Brownsville, Texas, and works for [Mennonite Central Committee \(MCC\) Central States](#), as an immigration education coordinator. She is committed to the work of educating immigrants about their rights and bridging congregations to the work of MCC. She is a single, adoptive mother of three young adults, who have inspired her to pursue her doctoral degree in education.

### FRIDAY

**Jon Carlson** serves as the lead pastor of [Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pennsylvania](#). A reluctant millennial, Carlson is fascinated by the intersections of faith, culture, technology and tradition. Carlson and his wife are raising three young children in Lancaster County. When he's not chauffeuring kids around, Carlson enjoys a good cup of espresso, a dense book or a long-distance run.

### SATURDAY

**Glen Guyton** currently serves as the executive director for [Mennonite Church USA](#). He has more than a quarter century of experience serving in the denomination at various levels. Guyton has a wonderful ability to share difficult and complex information with diverse groups. Organizations, professional associations and educators praise Guyton for his quick-witted humor and relatability. He has authored two books, *IDEAL ME: Discovering Your Call in a Cluttered World* and *Reawakened: How Your Congregation Can Spark Lasting Change*. Guyton holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from the United States Air Force Academy and a Master of Education from Regent University. He currently resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two adult children.

## Time of singing

Each worship service will also include a time of singing contemporary and traditional praise songs with the MennoCon21 worship band, led by Seth Thomas Crissman. He is an educator, musician and pastor in Mennonite Church USA, who has lived in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 16 years, though he still says, “Western Pennsylvania,” when people ask where he’s from. Crissman is a follower of Jesus, who has spent the past 10 years helping churches work together to better give and receive God’s love in their neighborhoods and local communities. He is also a songwriter and musician for the folk group, The Walking Roots Band. Crissman and his wife have four small children. Crissman has served at convention for many years and is excited to help again this year.

## Adult Seminars

A broad range of seminar topics will be offered online, as well as in person in Cincinnati. There are two seminar designations: “Adult Seminars” are open to all interested persons, and “Youth Seminars” are designed specifically for youth.

Online seminars will be available to watch on demand. Each seminar will have a scheduled time when the presenter will join the virtual platform to engage with participants via the chat feature.



### [Here is a list of titles and presenters for online seminars.](#)

In-person seminars are typically 60 minutes in length and cover a variety of categories, including church vitality, leadership development, peace and justice, health and well-being, stewardship, and youth ministry. They are scheduled each morning and afternoon, except for the afternoon of July 8.



### [Here is a list of titles and presenters for in-person seminars.](#)

## COVID-19 Protocols

Many people have asked what the expectations are around COVID-19 protocols for those gathering in Cincinnati for MennoCon21. The convention planning team has added a [“Protocols and Expectations”](#) page to the MennoCon21 website, which lists current protocols. Convention planning staff are following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local guidelines in setting these protocols. If anything changes, the webpage will be updated immediately. Anyone registered will also be notified, via email, if protocols change.

Per Ohio guidelines, meeting rooms will be set up according to physical distancing guidelines. Also, anyone performing or presenting on stage will not be required to wear a mask. Audience members will still be required to wear masks at all times. It is anticipated that any member of the band that is singing will be fully vaccinated before convention. Abiding by these protocols makes it possible for us to gather together in person in Cincinnati for this convention.

# MennoCon21 registration is open!

Here are some things to consider when registering:

## Hybrid options

You can register for the in-person or virtual convention on the same form. Whether joining in person or virtually, you will have meaningful material to enjoy. If you do choose to register for the in-person portion, you have the option to add access to view and explore the virtual platform for an additional \$10. This will give you access to the virtual worship services, seminars and more until the end of July!

## Lunches

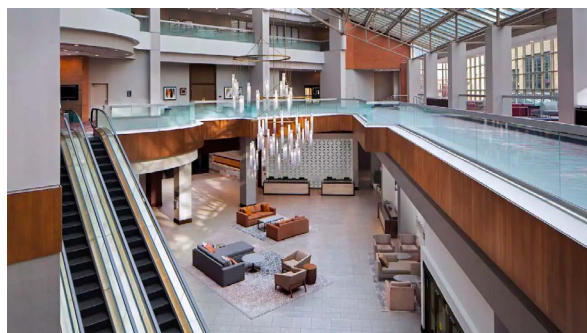
For those who choose the in-person option, lunches will be included with your registration.

## Servant projects

Servant Projects will have a creative revamp at MennoCon21 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Coordinated by [Mennonite Mission Network](#), these in-person community service activities will be replaced with Service in a Box. This resource will provide all registrants with materials designed to inspire them to engage in service in their local communities.

## Hotel information

We have contracted with two hotels—Hyatt Regency Cincinnati and Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. Information on reserving hotel rooms will be included in your convention registration confirmation email. For more information on the hotels, click [here](#).



If you have any additional questions or need any help, please feel free to contact Sarah Chase at [sarahc@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:sarahc@mennoniteusa.org).

A composite image. On the left, a yellow banner contains the text "MC USA Social Media" and icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In the center, a vertical list of "Churchwide Agencies and Ministries" includes: Food Bank, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Health Services, Mennonite Education Agency, Mennonite Central Committee, and Mennonite Community Services. On the right, a photograph shows a man in a grey shirt and a backpack taking a photo of two women in traditional Mennonite dress (white dresses and head coverings) standing outdoors.



MennoCon is Mennonite Church USA's biennial gathering for community, worship and faith formation.