



August 31, 2020 — Volume 24, Issue 18D

This is the third of four digital-only issues of Canadian Mennonite in 2020. Click on each story to read it on the website. ***There is no pdf of this issue.*** We appreciate your interest in our digital content and welcome your comments.



Together, in song

The last time my church sang together was March 8, the second Sunday in Lent. Since then, my singing has consisted of one backyard, physically distant, “Happy Birthday” and my lone voice following the congregation’s pre-recorded music on the screen.

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Crisis in Lebanon

The Humanitarian Coalition salutes the commitment of the Canadian government to match the donations made to provide assistance to people in Lebanon after the disaster that devastated the city of Beirut, Lebanon.

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Low German community in southwestern Ontario experiences persecution

Members of Low German-speaking Mennonite communities in southwestern Ontario have experienced public discrimination recently because of a surge in COVID-19 cases in their population. Incidents include negative online comments, cancelled playdates with children in the Low German community, and aggressive verbal attacks at the grocery store.

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Practising prayer with the Psalms

My kids are old enough to start playing ball, and weekly practices and physically distanced games are a regular part of the Barkman routine. In high school, I was a catcher, and Christina played third base, so we want our kids to grow into confident athletes. That means they are learning to practice. Continuous repetitions teach my kids how it feels to throw and hit a ball. The unfamiliar is becoming familiar.

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Musings of a CM board member

Since I was a young boy, I've been fascinated by words, stories and ideas. So when I heard that I had an opportunity to be a regional representative for Alberta on the Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service (CMPS) board of directors, which acts in an advisory capacity for the direction of the Canadian Mennonite periodical, I took them up on it.

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Church podcast explores living lightly on the earth

Seeds Church in Altona, Man. has started a new podcast for hosts and guests to explore what it means to live lightly in relation to God's creation.

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Evangelical path to truth and reconciliation

I started out by digging into the commitments recently made by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) in relation to Indigenous peoples, commitments that include renouncing "white supremacy" and "unsettling" evangelical theology. I finished off by having candid conversations with three friends from three different First Nations about how churches can make things better.

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Resurrecting Emmanuel

It is not unusual to hear of a small rural church closing its doors. It is, however, a rare thing to hear about a rural church reopening after being closed for more than 40 years.

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'A different kind of ministry'

A longtime B.C. pastor and church leader is making a transition to a different kind of ministry.

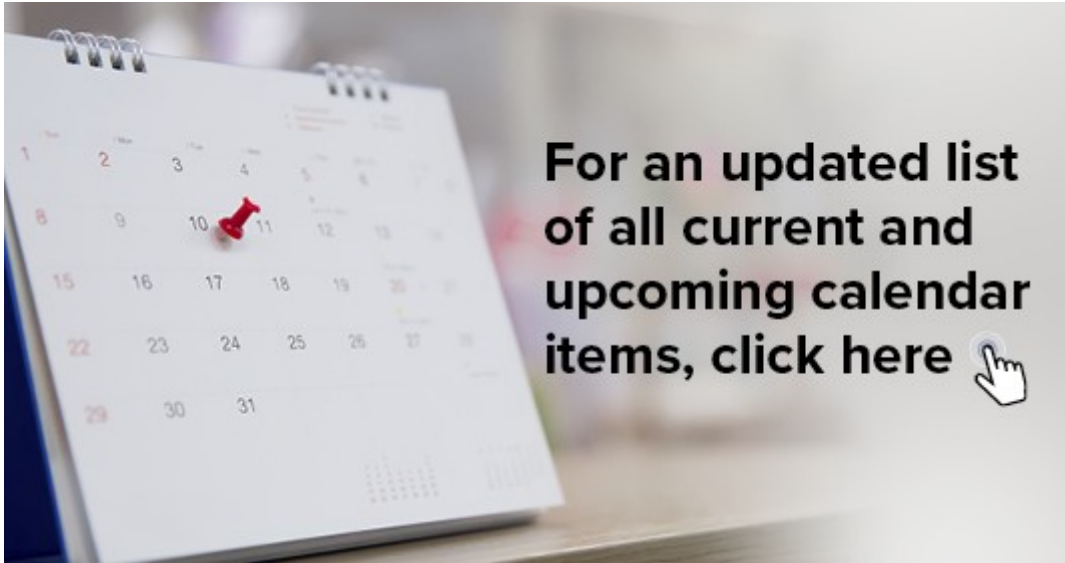
[read more](#)



Graduating in a nursing home

Graduation was disappointing, or non-existent, for many high-school students this year thanks to COVID-19. So Karen Chaskavich and the team at Mennonite Nursing Home (MNH) held a graduation celebration of their own.

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MWC signs statement against nuclear weapons

August 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Mennonite World Conference (MWC) has joined a wide coalition of faith-based communities from around the world that issued a call to governments to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

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CMU details plans for 2020-21 education and operations with framework manual

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) has released its framework for the upcoming academic year, entitled "Learning and living well in an era of pandemic."

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‘This isn’t the situation we hoped for...’

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) leaders have been discerning plans for the 2020–21 academic year during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic—with the goal of giving students and employees safe access to campus spaces while making it possible to study or work from home for those who need this option.

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‘Remember your baptism’

The final report on the Lutheran-Mennonite-Roman Catholic Trilateral Conversation on baptism has been published. The report summarizes five years of theological consultations between the three communions on the understanding and practice of baptism in light of contemporary pastoral and missional challenges facing all three Christian communities.

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***Voices Together* sneak peeks**

As MennoMedia prepares to release the full list of songs included in *Voices Together* before the end of August, it is releasing a sneak peek at titles contained within the collection. These nine songs will appear in the various hymnal editions shipping to congregations later this fall.

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Recent Issues

If you missed any past issues, here are direct links to complete copies of the last five issues before this one. You can download older back issues from the [Past Issues](#) section of our web site.

- August 17, 2020 ([Volume 24, No. 17](#)): Marking end-of-life rituals during the pandemic / *Voices Together* announces No. 1 hymn / Oven Omelette popular with B&B guests
- August 3, 2020 ([Volume 24, No. 16D](#)): Shattering spears and bows / ‘House church without a building’ / Worship is what I need
- July 20, 2020 ([Volume 24, No. 15](#)): In a perfect storm / God’s paintbrush of diversity / COVID-19 outbreak in Bolivian colonies

- July 6, 2020 ([Volume 24, No. 14D](#)): Masks express God's love / Embracing disequilibrium / 'He kept looking ahead'
- June 22, 2020 ([Volume 24, No. 13](#)): A Black/Menno inventory / The 'next-normal' church / There will be fruit

