

MENNONITE  
*Arts* WEEKEND  
2023

**BETWEEN:**  
*Embracing Vulnerability*



Cover Art: Dialogue (Quilt) by Rachel Derstine

Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church  
5950 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio

# 2023 Schedule of Events

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## Friday, February 3

6-9 pm	Registration open.....Main Lobby
	Art Gallery & Marketplace (on display through Sunday at 12:30 pm).....Main Lobby
7 pm	Introductions & Reflections on Theme <i>SaeJin Lee and Jerry Holsopple</i> .....Sanctuary

## Saturday, February 4

8:15 am	Registration open.....Main Lobby
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### MORNING SESSIONS

Room	9:00-9:45 am	10:00-10:45 am	11:00-11:45 am
Kemper Room	Daniel Shank Cruz	Dick Lehman,* Session 1 "Seven Questions Creative People Must Face"*	Dick Lehman,* Session 2 "An Artist's Career Trajectory, Transitions, And Planning Ahead for the Slowing-Down Years: Retirement, Meaning and Generativity"***
Sanctuary	Angela Sprunger		Joungmin Sur
Judd Hall Lower Level		Lynn Sommer <i>Workshop for pre-registered attendees</i>	Lynn Sommer <i>Workshop for pre-registered attendees</i>
Narthex		Roseann Penner Kaufman	
Library	Lynn Sommer		Rachel Derstine*
Room 103	Children/youth workshop (Talashia/Heidi)		Children's activity/jam session

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11:45am                      Lunch (catering by Funky's).....Judd Hall  
 1:00–1:45 pm              Hymn Sing with Hal Hess.....Sanctuary

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Room	2:00-2:45 pm	3:00-4:00 pm	4:15-5:15 pm
Kemper Room	Jerry Holsopple*	Viewing of "A Creative God: Video Project" (YouTube Video)	
Sanctuary	Talashia Keim Yoder		Girl Named Tom
Judd Hall Lower Level	Viki Graber, presentation/workshop <i>Presentation open to anyone. Workshop for pre-registered attendees</i>	Viki Graber, presentation/workshop <i>Presentation open to anyone. Workshop for pre-registered attendees</i>	
Narthex		Anne H. Berry	
Library		SaeJin Lee	

\*No recordings, please.

5:15 pm                      Dinner (catering by Funky's).....Judd Hall  
 7:00 pm                      Evening Performances  
*Featuring: Angela Sprunger,  
 Joungmin Sur, Daniel Shank Cruz,  
 Talashia Keim Yoder, Girl Named Tom.....Sanctuary*

## Sunday Morning, February 5

9:30 am                      Gallery Opens  
 10:15 am                      Worship Service  
*Roseann Penner Kaufman, Worship Leader.....Sanctuary*

# Our Presenters

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## **A CREATIVE GOD: THE VISUAL ARTS IN WORSHIP VIDEO PROJECT**

Visual art is one of the church's expressive gifts. Its presence in places of worship can evoke wonder, imagination, dreams, lament, hope, and a sense of beauty. *A Creative God: The Visual Arts in Worship* video (2022) explores how seven Anabaptist/Mennonite congregations with worshipers from varying cultural backgrounds use visual art and other visual elements in their worship and their congregational life. Rebecca Slough and Jerry Holsopple were the video project directors; students of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Eastern Mennonite University did the congregational interviews and created the video. The video, a discussion guide, and other resources appear on the Together in Worship website ([togetherinworship.net](http://togetherinworship.net)) along with many other resources for worship. The project was funded by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Markpeck Deans Fund.

## **GIRL NAMED TOM**

Girl Named Tom's sound is built on the beautiful harmonies of siblings, Bekah, Caleb and Joshua. Their homegrown style combines the classics (Joni Mitchell; Crosby, Stills & Nash) with pop artists of today (Taylor Swift, Harry Styles, Adriaenne Lenker). They are the winners of season 21 of the American talent competition *The Voice*, with the distinction of being the first trio on the American version of *The Voice* to win the competition.

## **TALASHIA KEIM YODER**

Talashia is a trained dancer in ballet, tap and Irish stepdancing. She has choreographed at least 40 musicals and frequently incorporates dance into directing and ministry. She is currently the Pastor for Family Ministry at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN, providing leadership to worship and faith formation. She is also the high school theater director at Bethany Christian Schools. She is the writer for [buildingfaithfamilies.com](http://buildingfaithfamilies.com) and [godsstorygodssong.com](http://godsstorygodssong.com), as well as the MCUSA writer for Lent and Advent at-home resources.

## **ANNE H. BERRY**

Anne H. Berry is a writer, designer, and Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the Department of Art + Design at Cleveland State University (CSU). Her research focuses on race and representation and ethnic and racial disparities within the field of graphic design.

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## RACHEL DERSTINE

Rachel Derstine is an award winning fiber artist living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her works are featured in invitational and juried gallery shows and fine art/craft shows throughout the country. Having grown up in Japan, this influence is evident in her style and use of kimonos, silks, ikats, hand dyed and batik fabrics. She includes traditional techniques of quilting as well as her own contemporary methods. She does all her piecing, applique and couching on a domestic sewing machine and her quilting on a long arm quilting machine. She does not use any computer driven machines but prefers to craft hand guided designs.

## DICK LEHMAN

Dick is a ceramics artist based in Indiana. He is a gifted and facile writer, sharing the details of his experimental success and failures and philosophy with readers of *Ceramics Monthly*, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, *Pottery Making Illustrated*, and many other clay journals. His work is in important collections all over the United States and Japan.

Dick will present two sessions:

**Session 1: “Seven Questions Creative People Must Face**, may, in a very general way, be most useful for artists in their formative/mid-career stages. We’ll look at the definitions of “creativity” that we carry, and focus on the ongoing questions that we address as creative people throughout our entire careers. It will be an attempt to step back a half-step and consider how our understanding of the creative process affects our work, and our perceptions of what’s possible, what’s personal, and what’s true.”

**Session 2: “An Artist’s Career Trajectory, Transitions, And Planning Ahead for the Slowing-Down Years: Retirement, Meaning, and Generativity.** In a general sense, this subject may be most useful for artists who have fewer creative days in front of them than behind them. We’ll be examining subjects that I wish I’d paid more attention to when I was a much younger artist, but should be useful and productive for anyone.”

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## DANIEL SHANK CRUZ

Daniel Shank Cruz (he/they) is a queer disabled boricua who grew up in New York City and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He received his BA from Goshen College and his MA and PhD from Northern Illinois University. He is currently studying Creative Nonfiction in Hunter College's MFA program. Cruz is the author of *Queering Mennonite Literature: Archives, Activism, and the Search for Community* (Penn State University Press, 2019). His writing has also appeared in venues such as *Crítica Hispánica*, *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, *Modern Haiku*, the *New York Times*, and *Your Impossible Voice*. He also maintains the three Mennonite/s Writing Bibliographies at <https://mennonitebibs.wordpress.com/>.

## VIKI GRABER

Viki's main medium is willow basketry, which is classified as folk art. It can be traced back to her great-grandfather who came to the Dakota territories in 1874. In the prairie, willow was pretty much the only wood source there was for a while until people started planting trees. Viki learned the tradition from her father, making utilitarian baskets like egg baskets or laundry baskets - something that is definitely useful. In recent years, she expanded into different styles and baskets that might be more pretty than useful.

## JOUNGMIN SUR

Joungmin Sur has been recognized for her work as composer and collaborative pianist in both Korea and the United States. Her choral work was first recorded and published by the acclaimed Incheon City Chorale (Chorus Center) in 1999, Seoul, Korea. Since then, her work has regularly appeared in their annual publication *Jesus Is My Joy*.

She has served as staff pianist at California State University, Fresno, and Willow Mennonite Church, Clovis. Currently, she serves as a pianist and director of Music Academy at Korean Presbyterian Church of Fresno. Her latest choral work *A Hundred Years of a Thousand Tries*, poem by Gladys Ruiz, was commissioned to honor the 100th anniversary of the women's suffrage movement in the US and was premiered by the Fresno Community Chorus, directed by Dr. Anna Hamre in 2021. Joungmin holds both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree in composition from Dankook University in Seoul, Korea, and a Master of Art degree in piano performance from California State University, Fresno, USA.

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## **JERRY HOLSOPPOLE**

Jerry Holsopple holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the European Graduate School, Media and Communication Studies Program, (dissertation, *Toward a Poetic of Visual Music*). He is professor of visual and communication arts at Eastern Mennonite University. He teaches primarily visual storytelling, and the requisite video and photography skills involved. Jerry is the recipient of more than a dozen awards in recognition of his video and digital design. *Journey Toward Forgiveness*, a documentary he produced, originally aired on ABC (2001) and again on the Hallmark Channel.

Current projects: collaborating with a colleague on a cinematic/theatrical exploration of the journey of Dietrich Bonhoeffer; exploring DNA, roots and trauma in an installation of steel and glass sculpture.

## **LYNN SOMMER**

Lynn lives in Lancaster County, PA, after growing up in a small Swiss Mennonite community in Ohio. In her formative years, her parents filled their home with wonderful music, including traditional hymns and traditional folk art motifs. These motifs were found in their quilts, stenciled walls, painted furniture and *fraktur*. Her mother was a fiber artist in her own right, a pianist, and an organist. Her father is a classically trained choral musician. Consequently, she found herself drawn to the traditional arts and music of her heritage.

## **ANGELA SPRUNGER**

Angela Sprunger's artwork centers on themes of care, institutions, and aging. Often using her body as the matrix, she produces work through an expanded printmaking practice of iteration, multiples, hand-made paper, objects, and performance.

Angela Sprunger is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the School of Art + Design at Ohio University and the Interim Director of the Ohio Valley Center for Collaborative Arts in the College of Fine Arts, Ohio University. She holds an MFA in Printmaking and a Graduate Certificate of Gerontology from Ohio University and a BA in Studio Art and English from Saint Olaf College.

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## **SAEJIN LEE**

SaeJin Lee is a Korean-American artist living in Chicago. Her work explores her experience as a bi-cultural immigrant living in the United States, the intersection between beauty and the sacred, and the mysteries of art that accompanies and enables healing.

SaeJin studied Art and Bible/Religion at Goshen College and theology at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She served as the worship artist for various Mennonite Church functions, including Pastors and Leaders Week at AMBS (2015), Service of Lament and Hope (2015) and Women Doing Theology Conference (2018) for MC USA. She also worked as a co-chair of the Visual Art Committee for Voices Together, the North American Mennonite Hymnal published in 2020, which, debuted works of visual art, including her own. She works as the Children's Advocate at a non-profit organization in Chicago, serving young survivors of sexual and domestic violence, and, exploring alongside them, the healing and resilient power of art within the context of trauma.

## **ROSEANN PENNER KAUFMAN**

Roseann Penner Kaufman has served as Music Director at Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, Kansas, for over 20 years. After recently completing a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Chicago Theological Seminary, she was ordained as Minister of Music and Worship in Mennonite Church USA. She holds degrees in Organ Performance from The University of Kansas (DMA), The University of Iowa (MA), and Bethel College. As an organist, Rosi has a particular interest in organ building, and has served as a consultant on several new and relocated organ projects. In 2009 her congregation dedicated the 1869 E and GG Hook organ relocated from Troy, New York. The presence of this historic pipe organ has had a significant impact on the life of the congregation and the musical community in Kansas City.



**Stop by the Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship to see the recently painted mural on an outside wall. This 26 X 28 foot mural was painted by Christian Dallas. The mural conveys CMF's commitment to community, peace and justice. CMF is located at 4229 Brownway Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45209**



# Mennonite Arts Weekend

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## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Molly Seeck, Chair, Benjamin Bergey, Bill Braun, Ron Headings, Clair Hochstetler, Kris Shenk, Heidi Simones, Rebecca Slough, Jaimi Widmer

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Our special thanks** to everyone who supports Mennonite Arts Weekend in many ways, including:

**Rev. Dr. K. Nicholas Yoda, Pastor**, and the entire congregation of Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church for the use of their facilities and for warmly welcoming us into their community.

**Pastor Brian Moll** and Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship for the variety of ways in which they volunteer their time and talents to support this event. Special thanks to Kevin Augsburg and Carol Krebiehl for preparing the Friday evening meal for presenters and volunteers, for managing the hospitality station and for cleaning up after the meals; and Terry Schey, Doug Borntrager and Keith Lehman for sound and technical support.

**Emily Luken** for creation/development of the program.

**The point people at numerous Mennonite churches** who helped spread the word about Mennonite Arts Weekend.



**Everence** for sponsoring  
Girl Named Tom.

# Our Contributors (as of January 25, 2023)

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Hal Hess and Christine Schumacher

Keith Lehman and Anne Hevener

Gary and Diane Mast

Bob and Mary Wells

Steve and Suzanne Marie Hitt

Will Brenneman and Judy

Vander Henst

Bruce and Suzanne Stauffer

Ron and Linda Headings

John and Carolyn Rich

Ruth Naylor

Mark and Kay Weidner

Tim and Greta Holt

Lisa Martin and Paul Mumaw

Mary Kahal

Gwen and Leslie Gustafson-Zook

Jim and Joy Miller

Joel Thierstein

Rebecca Slough and Joe Miller

Abner Hershberger

Charles and Jane Patty

Joe and Laurie Luken

Molly Seeck

Joyce Hostetler

Rosella Covington

(dedicated to Hal Hess and  
Christine Schumacher)

Pauline A. Nofziger

(dedicated to Hal Hess and  
Christine Schumacher)

Paul and Jane Quiring

(dedicated to Jounghmin Sur)

Ken Neufeld

(dedicated to Jounghmin Sur)

Jean Janzen

(dedicated to Jounghmin Sur)

Bill and Joyce Braun

(dedicated to Jounghmin Sur)

Fransen Family Foundation

Ed and Karen Diller



Please scan the QR code to complete the evaluation for Mennonite Arts Weekend. If you complete the evaluation by February 15, your name will be included in a drawing for one free registration to the 2025 Mennonite Arts Weekend.