

## Boehm's Chapel and Congregation to Celebrate 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Historic Boehm's Chapel hosts its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration the weekend of June 24-26 on the campus of Boehm's Church in Willow Street. The weekend of events mark 225 years of continuous ministry since Boehm's Chapel was built in 1791. Events are open to the community, including: A kickoff bonfire, 7 meals, an historic photo and genealogy session, presentation from the *Spiritual Fruit Farm*, the first Kids Ice Cream Blitz, three worship services, a time capsule opening, and a community hymn sing.

"We've been anticipating this since the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1991, when the renovations to Boehm's Chapel were unveiled," says Dolores Myers, executive director of Boehm's Chapel Society. "We're inviting the whole community to celebrate 225 years of ongoing impact the people of this Chapel have had through families, ministries, and presence."

Friday and Saturday meals are \$5 each and may be reserved in advance or paid at the door. Sunday meals are by free will offering. Parking and admission are free for all events. Full information about events and meals is posted at [www.boehmsumc.org/225](http://www.boehmsumc.org/225) and at Facebook.com/BoehmsChurch. Historical background on the Chapel, Rev. Martin Boehm, and Rev. Henry Boehm is found on the Boehm's Chapel Society's at [www.boehmschapel.org](http://www.boehmschapel.org).

The celebration begins with a meal at 5 p.m. Friday evening, June 24, followed by a 7 p.m. bonfire celebration outside of Boehm's Chapel. Attendees should bring a lawn chair.

Saturday morning, June 25, will include time for Boehm/Beam descendants to interact, meet and greet new cousins, compare family research and possibly visit the nearby, gravesite of immigrant Jacob Boehm. Descendants are encouraged to bring family photos and ephemera for scanning from 9 – 11 am at the *Digital History* event. Several scanning stations will be set up in the church. Additionally, members of the community, current and former members Boehm's UMC are invited to bring old photos and documents relating to Boehm's Church, Boehm's Chapel, or Rawlinsville Camp Meeting (co-founded by Boehm's Church in 1885) to be scanned for posterity. Meanwhile, at 10:00 a.m., Greg McDonough from *Spiritual Fruit Farm* will host a program of spiritual growth for children and adults that includes horses and storytelling.

A free bus tour is available Saturday afternoon departing at 12 p.m. and returning at 2 pm. The tour will visit a select handful of local historic sites related to Rev. Martin Boehm, Rev. Henry Boehm, and Boehm's Chapel. 19 seats are available first come, first served.

The *Kid's Ice Cream Blitz* will kick off at 2 p. m. on Saturday. It begins with the dedication of a new church playground, which was the Eagle Scout project completed by Ryan Good of Conestoga. Water games and an inflatable water slide mean kids should come prepared to get wet. The event includes a performance by the *This Way Up Band*. Members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment Colonial Militia will camp, offer demonstrations, and lead children in mock rifle drills. There will be a play area for toddlers and an area for Colonial-era games. A blacksmith will provide demonstrations and an illusionist will wander through the crowd. Ice cream is free to all.

The new *Chapel Fire* worship preview service kicks off at 7 p.m. with music lead by Kristen and Eric Funk, with teaching from Pastor Chris Eden. The service is specifically tailored for those who feel uncomfortable in a church, or for those who just want to know more about Christian faith. There will be an extended time afterward for those desiring prayer, as well as a campfire late into the night.

The Sunday celebration features several distinct segments. The morning Homecoming Worship service begins at 10:30 a. m., followed by a church potluck picnic. Time capsules from both the 19th and 20th centuries will be opened at approximately 1:30 p. m. The annual Chapel Society meeting follows at 3 p.m.

Bishop Peggy Johnson brings the message for the thirty-fifth annual Heritage Sunday worship service, at 4:00 p. m. Representatives of the Board of Bishops of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference, district pastors including Pastor Joe Garber of Byerland Mennonite Church and Bishop Steve Weaver, will present the recently-passed resolution regarding the remission of the censure of excommunication of Martin Boehm, which occurred in approximately 1775. Participants in period dress, a circuit rider on horseback and members of the Colonial Militia will be on hand to invoke a feeling of eighteenth-century lifestyle.

Sunday evening at 7 p.m. a special Community Hymn Sing in Boehm's Chapel closes out the weekend's celebrations. Music Director Scott Lingo will lead the gathering through favorites and special requests. Open to all, nursery is provided.

For additional information, please check [www.boehmsumc.org](http://www.boehmsumc.org), [www.boehmschapel.org](http://www.boehmschapel.org) or phone 717-872-4133.

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