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From the Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

Plans are coming together for the PNMC Annual Meeting in Lebanon in June! We are excited to welcome Mike and Marlene Bogard as this year's speakers. The theme for our gathering is "Opening the Scriptures" from Luke 24:32. The Bogards are looking forward to meeting new people and making connections on the west coast. The couple is planning a move to Oregon this spring. Mike will be a bible teacher at Western Mennonite School this fall and Marlene is the incoming executive director of Mennonite Women. Marlene was also a major force behind "The Year of the Bible" resources from Western District and serves on the board of directors for [Dove's Nest](#), a mission to empower and equip faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches and communities.

From the PNMC Office

Is your congregation interested in becoming a **community of generosity**? Everence will host a workshop in Oregon in May on just that topic. Participating congregations will be invited to send a team to learn more about generosity and stewardship. If your congregation is interested in learning more, please contact [Katherine Jameson Pitts](#).

If you are responsible for compiling a written report for the PNMC Delegate Handbook, please submit to [Barb Buxman](#) by April 1.

Nelly Moran Ascencio is planning to participate in the "Come and See Learning Tour" to Israel and Palestine **April 17-29**. The trip cost is \$3,100.00. Nelly has received a grant of \$1,000.00 from Mennonite Church USA. If you are interested in assisting with her remaining travel expenses, please send donations to the PNMC office.

Rose Marie Zook-Barber, pastor of Eugene Mennonite Church, is planning a **one-day silent lenten retreat on Saturday, March 28, 2015**. The retreat will take place at the [Shalom Prayer Center](#), located at 840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362. A gathering session will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m., followed by a day of silence until the dinner gathering where verbal communication will resume. The \$30 cost includes lunch, dinner, use of the space and facilitation. For questions, contact [Rose Marie](#) at 541-689-5027.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Anawim Christian Community

Anawim will be on a hiatus for a few months, beginning **March 1**. Services will be cancelled except for a work day/food distribution every Friday, beginning **March 13** at the 19626 NE Glisan location in Gresham. We will continue to host a mobile shower unit on Friday mornings and an open meal on Wednesdays from 3 to 4pm. The "break" is driven by a decrease in volunteers and finances, but an increase in those needing services. Volunteer recruiting/training needs to be done, as well as the time to apply for grants. The length of the cut-back depends on the number of volunteers who can be recruited. If you are local to Portland or Gresham and you would like to be a long term volunteer, please contact [Steve Kimes](#). Monetary and food donations are still needed as expenses will continue in spite of the break. *Clothing and food donations will be accepted on Fridays from 10am to 2pm during the hiatus.* Thank you all for your support during our time of reorganization so we can come back stronger and better than ever!

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The next public PNMHS meeting will be **April 19, 2015** at Lebanon Mennonite Church (2100 S. 2nd St.) at 2:30 pm. The gathering will celebrate thirty years of faithfulness in raising funds for Mennonite Central Committee through the Oregon Festival for World Relief. Long-time West Coast MCC board member, Bill Braun, will be the speaker. He was part of the original team that started the OR sale and he served with MCC in Kentucky. Visit www.pnmhs.org, or email pnwmennonite@canby.com for more information.

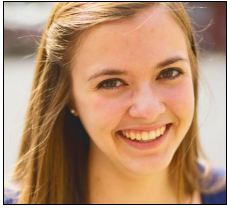
Western Mennonite School

Erica Garber, WMS art instructor, is seeking old/damaged books to use for art projects. These books will be completely repurposed, so please, nothing you weren't already planning on discarding or donating. *Hardcover books are best, but we will gladly take whatever you can give.*

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Eastern Mennonite College



Bethany Chupp, a junior art and psychology major and resident of Canby, OR, was among over 200 students from [Eastern Mennonite University](#) who made the fall semester Dean's List. Chupp is a member of Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR. She is the daughter of Kevin and Cynthia Hockman-Chupp. (To qualify, a student must achieve a semester GPA of at least 3.750 or above and complete at least 12 semester hours of credit.) *Eastern Mennonite University is a Christian liberal arts university of about 1,500 students, located in Virginia's scenic Shenandoah Valley. EMU is guided by the peace principles of Mennonite Church USA, educating students to serve and lead in a global context through cross-cultural study and an interdisciplinary curriculum. Established in 1917, the university offers over 40 undergraduate majors and six graduate programs offering nine master's degrees. Eastern Mennonite Seminary is part of the university, as is the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, which helped launch 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Leymah Gbowee.*

Mennonite Central Committee

As cold temperatures and snow add another layer of deprivation to Syrians and Iraqis who have fled their homes because of violence, **MCC is renewing its call for donations** to address their needs. Many Iraqis who fled the Islamic State group are staying in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, one of the coldest areas of Iraq in the mountains near Turkey. "Some people are living in unfinished shell buildings with no insulation and sometimes with open door and window spaces," said Kaitlin Heatwole, MCC's program coordinator in Iraq. "They use tarps, floor rugs and blankets for insulation. Kerosene heaters are the primary source of heat." These conditions are repeated with different details in many locations throughout the Middle East, especially in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. The cold adds insult to injury, as if being forced from their homes by violence, losing family and friends, spending down all of their savings, and living in tents or empty buildings without a job aren't enough for displaced Iraqis and Syrians. From blankets to food vouchers, from relief kits to educational support, MCC works through churches and other community organizations to address basic needs of the most vulnerable families. "Although the needs feel overwhelming most days," said Naomi Enns, "our partners tell us repeatedly that receiving the blanket, the relief kit, or vouchers to pay rent or buy fuel is as much a **message of hope** as it is helpful in practical ways." Financial donations to MCC's Syria and Iraq crisis response can be made online at mcc.org, by mail to P.O. Box 500, Akron, PA 17501, or by phone, 888-563-4676. MCC needs donations of blankets, [relief and hygiene kits](#) to replenish supplies.

Mennonite Church USA



[Luther Seminary](#) is pleased to announce that Rev. Iris de León-Hartshorn, director of transformative peacemaking for Mennonite Church USA, has been named the recipient of the seminary's "**Race, Church and Change Award**" for 2015. The award will be presented **April 8** during services in the Chapel of the Cross at the seminary in St. Paul, MN. The Race, Church and Change award recognizes individuals who have significantly impacted society through ministries of racial justice and reconciliation. Luther Seminary presents this award on a regular basis to individuals who have heroically served in their community. De León-Hartshorn has worked within the Mennonite Church in various roles since 1996, serving as a leader in racial and gender justice in the church. She is currently director of transformative peacemaking in Portland, OR, for Mennonite Church USA. In this role, she coordinates initiatives and programs related to the churchwide priority of "undoing racism and advancing intercultural transformation." De León-Hartshorn works within the denomination on core issues such as immigration, anti-racism efforts and intercultural competency to build bridges among cultures and move toward a transformed intercultural church. She is also involved in discussions the denomination is having on LGBT inclusion within the church. She is the co-author of *Set Free: A Journey Toward Solidarity Against Racism* (Herald Press, 2001). She is also a featured writer in the anthology *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry—Conversations on Creation, Land Justice and Life Together*, edited by Steve Heinrichs. She received her M.A. in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA, in 2005.

Mennonite Mission Network

Service doesn't have to wait! Encourage young people to join **Youth Venture** this summer to serve and learn with Mennonite youth from Japan, Lithuania, Ecuador, France and Philadelphia! Apply by **April 1** for international locations or by **June 1** for Philadelphia. Ages 14-22 can apply at MennoniteMission.net/Serve. (Must be at least 16 for international locations.)

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 16 (submissions due by 3/9)

Apr 6 (submissions due by 3/30)

Apr 20 (submissions due by 4/13)

May 4 (submissions due by 4/27)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>
