



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

## From the PNMC Office

This week we pray for two small congregations in Eastern Washington, [Shalom Church](#) in Spokane, and [Spring Valley Mennonite Church](#) in Newport. Strong community is central to both congregations as they welcome and care for individuals that are drawn into their fellowship. Shalom is a joint congregation with the United Church of Christ, while Spring Valley celebrated their 90th anniversary as a Mennonite congregation last summer.



It is time to register for the 2016 PNMC Annual Meeting at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR, **June 23-25**. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with people from across our conference. This time together provides a chance to hear what God is doing among our churches here in the Pacific Northwest. As the conference quickly approaches, please keep the PNMC Gifts Discernment team in prayer as they do the important work of filling the ballot.

Attendees are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the [Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society's](#) beautiful Heritage Center. In addition to opportunities for guided tours of the Heritage Center and the nearby MCC Barn, the Heritage Center will be open **Friday - Saturday, June 24-25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** If you plan to visit and have a special request, volunteers can be

available for assistance. For specific searches, it is helpful to connect ahead of time to ensure proper assistance: [pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com).

*Danny Arguello provides PNMC with translating services. He and his wife, Vivi, would appreciate your prayers as they search for a home in the Portland area.*

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

### MCC Et Etcetera Shop

Volunteers are needed to support the **Et Cetera Shop** (*MCC Thrift & Fair Trade store*) in Lebanon, OR. Cashiers and floor assistants to provide customer service and be a kind, caring presence in the community. Volunteers to sort donations, keep the backroom organized, and spot vintage and quality gems! People to do online pricing research for determining the values of quality donated items is also needed. Volunteers choose their day/s and time commitment. Volunteering builds resumes, gives to the community, and supports the work of Mennonite Central Committee. To join a group of fun, dedicated staff and volunteers call [541-258-5614](tel:541-258-5614) or visit the shop at 836 S. Main St. in Lebanon.



### Western Mennonite School

The WMS Board is pleased to welcome Kimberly Moore as new Executive Director. Kimberly and her family are from San Diego, CA. She has an educational background and experience with non-profit organizations. Please continue to pray for the Lord's direction for the school and especially for wisdom, courage, strength, and love for Kimberly and her family. She begins her new role **July 1**.

*WMS is grateful for the generosity of all who participated in the Benefit Auction on May 6. Over \$140,000 was raised!*

### Upcoming Events:

**May 17** | Middle School Spring Concert | 7:00 p.m.

**May 19** | High School Spring Concert/Awards | 7:00 p.m.

**June 4** | Commencement | 12:30 p.m.

### Salem Mennonite Church

**Save the date!** All are invited to a multi-church hymn sing hosted by Salem Mennonite on **Sunday, May 22 at 6pm**.

### Menno Mennonite Church

Menno Mennonite Church, located at 1378 N. Damon Rd., Ritzville, WA, is dedicating their **new Fellowship Wing** on **Sunday, June 5!** A special service of dedication will be held at 10 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Worship will be followed by a pre-harvest meal.

# MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

## Mennonite Central Committee



Even short-term projects can offer tools that help uprooted families reshape their futures. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, a three-month sewing project supported by MCC gave Syrian refugees an intensive introduction to sewing Kurdish styles of traditional clothing, as well as children's clothes and pajamas. At the end of the training, each of the 20 participants received a sewing machine, fabric, needles, scissors and other items they can use to sew for themselves or to make items to sell. Iman, who fled from Syria with her husband and six children, ages 5 to 24, was accustomed to sewing for herself and her children in Syria and is looking forward to beginning to sew for neighbors and relatives. "I can say now that I have good skills," Iman noted. "Some say we are too old for this training, but no, I am always ready for new skills, new training."

## Mennonite Church USA

The 2017 convention planning staff is working to plan for next year's gathering in Orlando and the team is excited to see how God works through the "Love is a Verb" theme! To help get people excited for convention planners are looking for volunteers to be part of a social media ambassador group. They are looking for youth and young adults who have great energy and a strong social media presence. Participants in the **Social Media Ambassadors** will help generate positive energy about Mennonite Church USA's convention in Orlando taking place **July 4-8, 2017**. Ambassadors should have a passion and excitement for convention. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Sarah Chase at the Office of Convention Planning at [614-370-1120](tel:614-370-1120) or by email at [sarahc@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:sarahc@mennoniteusa.org).

**Mark your calendar!** Another Women Doing Theology conference, hosted by MC USA's [Women in Leadership Project](#), is scheduled **November 4-6, 2016** in Leesburg, Virginia. Visit the [website](#) for details. *The call for papers/workshops closes June 10.*

## Mennonite Disaster Service

The fire raging through Alberta, Canada is a familiar story for those whose lives have changed due to **wildfires that raged the landscape of eastern Washington** the last two summers. Today's fires come with a panicky modern spin: *Fires are burning bigger, hotter, longer*. Climate scientists say they could foreshadow worse nightmares to come. The 2014 Carlton Complex Fire, was the most terrible in living memory. It scorched some 256,108 acres and destroyed hundreds of homes in central Washington. Then in 2015, the Okanogan Complex disaster torched more than a half-million acres, demolishing the 2014 record.

As Mennonite Disaster Service and other response groups continue to help the region recover, charred tree trunks spike the hills. Fire has erased the familiar gray-green sage. A century of fire suppression has stoked the mountains with tinder. Drought has dug in, drastically shrinking snowpacks and stream flows and desiccating soils. Insect pests have flourished. Countless swaths of dead, gray trees now stain Western forest vistas. Atmospheric warming is supercharging such trends, according to studies by NASA and Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Climate researchers at these and other institutions warn that unchecked human carbon emissions dramatically increase the chances of a decades-long Western "megadrought," unseen for 1,000 years. Even in the short term, predicts Drew Peterson, a U.S. Forest Service wilderness ranger based in Bend, OR, wildfires will worsen. The Lancaster, PA, native has for the past eight years grubbed out fire containment lines with a Pulaski axe, coordinated fire crews and radioed in smoke jumpers



throughout the West. "It's an all hands on deck deal," he says of the smoky, dirty, rewarding work. Still, "We can't always fight. We aren't big enough to control some of these incidents in the manner we used to." That's global warming in your face, Peterson adds. "You can see it, smell it. *Your favorite places can be changed in an instant.*" The situation dictates a "new norm" for fire-fighters, he adds. "We cannot expect anything, and we can't rely on some of our statistical data and forecasting as we have in the past... fires are burning hotter, larger, and fire season has increased by a month on each end." Peterson says aggressive, speedy fire fronts can throw embers a mile in advance. Many towns sit a spark away from disaster. But there's at least some good news. Says Peterson: "I think we are getting smarter and realizing that excluding fire from our forests for the last 100 years has played a major role in the intensity of the fires we see today."

In Washington, Mennonite Disaster Service workers from Oregon, Washington and Canada are building a new house for Michelle Carfagno who lost her home in the 2014 fire. Volunteers, including Jerry Friesen from Albany, OR, will cap her new home with a fire-resistant metal roof and wall it with HardiePlank fiber cement siding instead of wood.

## Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 6 (submissions due by 5/30)  
June 20 (submissions due by 6/13)  
July 4 (submissions due by 6/27)  
Aug 1 (submissions due by 7/25)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto: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>