



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. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

From the PNMC Office



With the news of Michael J. (MJ) Sharp's kidnapping, we urge you to pray for peace in the Congo. Michael Sharp, a United Nations peace worker, was among a group of six people kidnapped by unknown assailants in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Sunday, March 12, according to [Al Jazeera](#). Sharp is a 2001 graduate of Bethany Christian School in Goshen, IN, and a 2005 graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA. He has been serving as a UN expert on the DNC since April 2015. In a [2015 story for NPR](#), Sharp discussed his work alongside the Congolese Protestant Council of Churches trying to persuade rebel fighters to lay down arms. At that time, Sharp said the program had convinced some 1,600 fighters to give up arms. Prior to that, Sharp worked with Mennonite Central Committee as the Eastern Congo Coordinator. ([Follow this link for article about his work with MCC.](#)) He is the son of John and Michele Sharp of Hesston, KS. John teaches in the History and Bible departments at Hesston College. *"The Hesston College community is heavy-hearted at the news of the kidnapping of Michael J. (MJ) Sharp and five others while on a peacekeeping mission with the U.N. in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ... Our prayers are with John, Michele and their family as they await more news in this uncertain time, and especially with MJ, his colleagues and those seeking their safe return."*

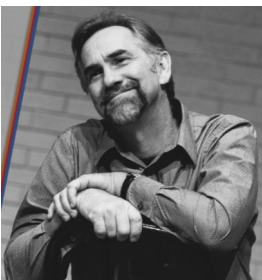
PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization



Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival

Plans are underway for the 11th annual [Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival](#) coming up **April 21 & 22** at the College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, ID. Last year the sale raised \$60,000 to be donated to [MCC](#) and planners hope to exceed that amount this year! The Friday night speakers will be Ben & Beth Weisbrod, who have been serving in West Africa with MCC. They will share updates on MCC work in West Africa and in Rwanda. "My Coins Count" and a special auction item will be designated for the Rwanda Savings Circle to help others in Africa sustain a basic economic lifestyle. More stories from MCC are available [here](#).



Portland Mennonite Church

Ted Swartz of TED & Co is bringing **Laughter is Sacred Space** to the west coast and will be performing the show at Portland Mennonite Church on **Saturday, April 29 at 7:00PM**. In this gritty and dramatic show, Ted Swartz walks you through his relationship with friend and business partner, Lee Eshleman, who took his own life in 2007. The production is honest, funny and vulnerable, and reveals the unique journey of working as a comedic actor under the shadow of a mental illness. It offers hope and humor in a way that only Ted could deliver. A discussion about mental illness will follow the show. The performance is free but PMC will "pass the hat" to help cover the costs of hosting the show and to further Ted's work. More details can be found at portlandmennonite.org.

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

Our brothers and sisters in Anchorage, AK are pleased to welcome **Paul Versluis** as interim pastor from **March 15 until August 8**. Paul is familiar with our region and formerly served at the Prince of Peace congregation in Adair Village near Corvallis, OR from 1995 until 2001. *Welcome back to the great Northwest, Paul!*

Western Mennonite School

Considering WMS for yourself, your child or a grandchild? Take advantage of this opportunity to visit campus and attend classes on **Visitor's Day** on **Wednesday, March 22** (8am—3pm). An alternate **Open House** for families who are unable to visit during the school day is planned from 5-7pm with teachers and staff available to answer questions and provide tours. More information [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Witness

We live in a world where walls divide, children are shot, houses are bulldozed, and sacred land is destroyed. Daily we are reminded of the suffering around us: in our homes, at our doorsteps, and around the world. Through May 1, *Anabaptist Witness* welcomes contributions to this October's issue: *Suffering and Mission*. Proposals are welcome through **April 15**. More information [here](#).

Bethel College

Bethel College seeks candidates for President. Nominations and/or letters of application with resume may be submitted to Bethel College Presidential Search Committee, pressearch@bethelks.edu, or mail to Bethel College Presidential Search Committee, 300 E. 27th St., North Newton, Kansas 67117. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Bethel College is an equal opportunity affirmative action educator/employer. More information [here](#).

Mennonite Central Committee

Click [here](#) to come along on a **virtual tour** of what's happening along the border between the United States and México and get a glimpse of the work of **Jack and Linda Knox**, formerly of Salem, OR, in Douglas, AZ.

Mennonite Church USA

The March edition of the *Equipping* newsletter is available [here](#).

Mennonite Women



Mennonite Women USA is celebrating its centennial year in 2017! Your help is needed to create sharing resources. Executive Director Marlene Bogard is asking readers to send prayers, readings, monologues, skits/dramas, videos, poems and songs, all which connect to the way that Mennonite Women truly are **Fruit from the Vine**. Below are video prompts. (*Videos must be 90 seconds or less.*)

- Do you have a story about how a group of Mennonite women listened and cared for you?
- Can you recall attending a gathering of women with your mother or grandmother?
- Are you a Mennonite Women USA donor? What about our organization keeps you connected?
- Have you used one of our excellent Bible study guides? How has it impacted your faith journey?
- What does your Mennonite Women group do really well? How do you shine?
- Can you write about a favorite memory of a woman leader? How has being part of a women's group encouraged you to be a leader? What prophetic voice can you share with others? *What sparks your ideas?*

Our mission at Mennonite Women USA is to empower women and women's groups as we nurture our life in Christ through studying the Bible, using our gifts, hearing each other and engaging in mission & service.

John 15:5 – I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Send ideas to [Marlene Bogard](mailto:Marlene.Bogard@pnmc.org) by **April 1**.

If accepted, items will be placed on the [Mennonite Women USA](http://pnmc.org) website.

PNMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22, *Visitor's Day*, Western Mennonite School, Salem, OR

April 7-8, *Fresno's 50th Anniversary MCC Relief Sale*, Fresno, CA

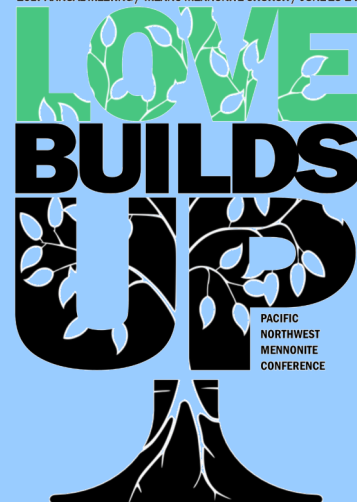
April 21-22, *Idaho Relief Sale*, College Church of the Nazarene, Nampa, ID

April 21-23, *OR Mennonite Women's Retreat*, Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR

April 29, *Ted & Co*, Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR

May 6, *Western Mennonite School Benefit Auction*, Salem, OR

2017 ANNUAL MEETING / MENNO MENNONITE CHURCH / JUNE 23-24



June 23-24, *PNMC Annual Meeting*, Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 20 (submissions due by 3/13)

Apr 3 (submissions due by 3/27)

Apr 17 (submissions due by 4/10)

May 1 (submissions due by 4/24)

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>