



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the PNMC OFFICE

As the days get shorter and the nights grow deep, we await the coming of the Christ, whose presence changes the world with light and love. May we encounter anew the love of Christ touching our hearts and may that love overflow from us to the world. The congregations of PNMC bring light to their communities in so many ways especially at this time of year and so, with gratitude for your ministries, we wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas. *Katherine, Barb, and Brenda*

The 2020 Conference Communications Council, is **February 1, 9am**, at Portland Mennonite Church. Online registration is available: <https://pnmc.org/ccc-registration/>. Early registration is appreciated and helps immensely with planning, so please don't delay. Pastors and Delegates, please sign up at your earliest convenience so that we can better accommodate all who are interested in participating. Michelle Armster and Karin Kauffman Wall from MCC Central States, will be CCC guest speakers. The two will ask big questions regarding intercultural competency. *We want to be a diverse church, we want to build bridges across cultural divides in our communities, but where do we start? Once we've started, how do we go deeper?*

There will not be a video link to this year's gathering. We hope that all of our congregations can be represented, in person, as we talk about racism and intercultural diversity. Because it is important for everyone to have a seat at the table, financial assistance is available if travel expenses create a financial hardship. Please contact Barb Buxman at office@pnmc.org for more information.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Drift Creek Camp

All high school students are invited to the [2020 Youth Retreat](#) at DCC. Prepare for a weekend of fun, community, hope, discovery & strength. Through play and sharing, participants will delve into helpful ways of caring for mental health needs as an expression of caring for God's creation. Jill Swiers Baker, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Oregon Health Authority will facilitate group sessions. Jill has a wealth of experience working with youth. She and husband, Ben Baker, currently work with the youth at Albany Mennonite and are former Service Adventure leaders. She will guide discussions on how students can strive to discover sources of strength for themselves and also how to share that strength with others. Registration and details at www.driftcreek.org. The retreat will begin at noon on **Saturday, January 18 and conclude at noon on Monday, January 20, 2020.**

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The PNMHS Annual Meeting & Fundraiser is **Saturday, February 8, 2020**. The program, entitled "The Lady Is Our Shepherd", is the story of Mennonite women pastors in the Northwest. The program will be moderated by Marlene Kropf. More details are coming soon. Call 503-266-6447 for questions.

Zion Mennonite Church

The 2019 Sing Your Own Messiah will be **Saturday, December 21, 7pm**, at ZMC.

West Coast MCC

Registration is open for the [2020 MCC Centennial Bike Ride](#), **August 9 - 14, 2020**, based in Albany, OR (*a change from initial announcements*). There will be beautiful green spaces for gathering at Mennonite Village. Various route options. Lots of local areas to explore. Evening festivities. [Ride, dine, discover, celebrate!](#) *Who is invited?* Everybody! Families, Non-bike riders, former bike riders, wanna-be riders, spouses, grandparents, grandchildren, folks from the USA and Canada.



Jill and Ben Baker with their four children.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Central Committee

Christmas is just around the corner, and MCC's Christmas Giving opportunities provide meaningful and last-minute gift ideas that honor a loved one and help global neighbors in need. Gift options include school supplies, latrines, soccer for peace, baking classes and more. All the gifts will be used by MCC partners who are working directly with people in affected communities to create positive change. The online Christmas giving options at mcc.org/Christmas can be sorted by gift category and donation range, making it easy to find the right gift. Here are just a few of the available gift ideas:



Gifts of education

People shopping for the teachers in their lives might consider gifts of education in their honor. A bigger gift can provide a year of kindergarten for Syrian and Palestinian refugee children. A smaller but equally important gift opportunity helps keep girls in school. Many female students around the world miss days of school each month, or stop attending at all, due to a lack of feminine hygiene products. This gift provides students with soap and sanitary pads – a simple solution that helps create a brighter future for the next generation of girls.

Gifts of food and water security

To honor loved ones and friends who care deeply about communities with unequal access to food and water, MCC has multiple opportunities. It is possible to sponsor an entire well for an underserved community. This will improve health and hygiene, as well as reduce the burden on women and children who are often tasked with walking many miles to collect water from distant sources. For a small gift or stocking stuffer, givers can provide nourishing, beautifying and sustainable fruit trees. Guava, papaya, olive and other kinds of fruit trees will provide communities with vitamin-rich nutrition for years to come.

Gifts of peace and welcome

MCC offers several opportunities to give in honor of friends or family members who want to help refugees and displaced people. For people fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a gift of pigs helps them to earn an income as they rebuild their lives. For a smaller budget item, gifts of welcome to help asylum seekers and other immigrant families are available. These gifts will help people understand immigration processes and complete appropriate paperwork, as well as support legal training for professionals who work with immigrants. Asylum seekers who need temporary shelter, food and transportation after being discharged from immigrant holding centers also benefit from a gift of welcome.

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read the latest edition of *Equipping* and [here](#) for *PeaceMail*.

Mennonite Disaster Service

Join Mennonite Disaster Service in Goshen, IN on **February 7 & 8, 2020** to celebrate another year of serving together to respond to disasters. The [All Unit Meeting \(AUM\)](#) is a time for volunteers, leaders, donors, and staff to come together and share about the impact we've had on communities affected by disaster. Featured speaker, Brenda Phillips, from Indiana University, will discuss the question: What have MDSers packed in their suitcases when departing to serve over the last 60 plus years? What are you going to pack the next time you go to a project? Participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops on topics such as volunteer engagement, construction practices, case management, and communicating the MDS story. Sign up to join friends—old and new—for tours of the Goshen and South Bend area on Friday. Don't miss this opportunity to worship, learn, and share stories of hope! [Registration is open](#) and everyone is welcome to attend.

Mennonite Mission Network

Each year at this time, many high-school seniors are trying to figure out what they should do next. They may be intrigued by the idea of taking a gap year and serving others? Students are invited to **explore Service Adventure**. Beginning **Thursday, February 20-23, 2020**, participants will join SA houses for worship, serving in job assignments as well as engaging in a learning component with the unit. Visitors will be able to visit host congregations and get a taste for the program. For more details, contact [Susan Nisly](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

January 6 (submissions due by 12/30)
January 20 (submissions due by 1/13)
February 3 (submissions due by 1/27)
February 17 (submissions due by 2/10)

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>
