



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the PNMC OFFICE

Pastors and lay leaders from across PNMC gathered for the 2020 Conference Communications Council on Saturday, February 1 in Portland Mennonite's newly renovated basement. PNMC Moderator Jeryl Hollinger reflected: *The gathering of about 50 conference representatives was a treat. I am thankful for this network of pastors and congregations that come together for support. I am thankful for our PNMC board and the gifted folks serving in this way. I am thankful for our conference staff who walk among the churches with a servant posture. I feel blessed to have these relationships and often wish more people from our congregations could participate. Katherine Pitts, our Executive Conference Minister was ill with the flu and unable to attend. We missed her presence.*

Two resource women from MCC Central States led our thinking and conducted activities around the theme of racism. In our conference, many of our churches consist of persons with white European background. But we also have Hispanic congregations and one African Congolese church. These groups were all represented. Discussion of racism includes the uncomfortable subject of power, white privilege, values and value formation. While we know racism is an issue and needs our attention and work, as a white person, it can be easy to ignore these hard issues and pretend that all is well. But it is important that we evaluate our own perspectives in order to achieve a deeper understanding of the experiences of our brothers and sisters. The afternoon concluded with prayer and worship graciously led Angel and Luz Campos.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Eugene Mennonite Church

All are welcome to attend an informational talk by **Weldon Nisly** from Seattle, WA, with Q and A following: "What is Happening with the Kurdish Peoples Now?" The event will take place **Saturday, February 22, 6 pm** at Eugene Mennonite Church, 3590 W 18th Ave, Eugene, OR. Weldon will speak about the Kurds, a people without a recognized nation, yet feeling the effects of wars all around them. Weldon has been a supporter of Christian Peacemaker Teams since the program began in 1986. He became a trained CPT reservist in 2016. CPT is a group that defends and advocates for oppressed people around the world. Weldon served on the CPT Iraqi Kurdistan and Palestine teams in 2017-2018. He is now a half-time team member on the CPT Iraqi Kurdistan team (2019-2021). If you have questions, please contact [Steve Kimes](#) at Eugene Mennonite Church.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The 2020 PNMHS Annual Meeting & Fundraiser has been described as a wonderful event. It was held at Zion Mennonite Church on **February 8**. The program, entitled "The Lady Is Our Shepherd", featured the story of Mennonite women pastors in the Northwest. The program featured **Marlene Kropf** who is now retired from MC USA where she served as Minister of Spirituality and Worship and also as a professor at AMBS. Marlene, an Oregon-native who grew up at Sheridan Mennonite Church, moderated the event's intergenerational guest panel which included three PNMC female pastors, representing the PNMC/PCC timeline since the ordination of the first female pastor in the conference. The panel included Jeanie Hershey, now retired from serving as an active pastor; Kathy Bilderback from Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church in Caldwell, ID; and Megan Ramer, lead pastor from Seattle Mennonite Church. Each speaker was invited to share her sense of calling, as well as the satisfactions and challenges of serving as a woman in pastoral leadership. Collectively, the pastors represented congregations which varied from rural to inner-city. Simply follow [this link](#) to enjoy the program generously shared by PNMHS. Prior to the program, approximately 50 guests, along with the PNMHS Board, enjoyed a delicious lunch served by ZMC.



Zion Mennonite Church

Don't miss Zion's [48th annual Quilting Workshop](#) this week! Join in the fun **February 20-22** from 10-3 each day. Church volunteers will serve soup (creamy tomato or vegetable beef) with bread each day from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (\$4.00 suggested donation). More details [here](#). Questions? Call (503) 651-2274.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, cont.

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Albany Mennonite Church

SAVE THE DATE! Boots, Buckets, and Barrows (BBB) is a Ted & Co. show that features (and fundraises for) Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)! The show, sponsored by the Albany, Lebanon, Corvallis and Eugene congregations, is coming to Albany Mennonite on **Saturday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.** (after the Oregon Unit meeting in Lebanon, where Kathy Howell from Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship will be speaking). The show will feature a live auction in the middle, where five-gallon "gift buckets" are filled with themed collections of items and auctioned off. All funds raised will benefit the work of MDS restoring homes and hope for those affected by natural disasters. The play/auction by Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught, will be full of humor, fun, connection and meaningful reflection. The production features the show, "The Jesus Stories: Faith, Forks and Fettucine" created and performed by Ted and Jeff, with original songs and music by Jeff. There are many Gospel stories of Jesus gathered around tables. There was food to eat and food for thought, exploring who was invited to those tables and who showed up. The miracles of Jesus were sometimes ordinary stories with extraordinary results. Consider this list of donation ideas to be auctioned, "a bucket list" of sorts!

- buckets of tools or cleaning supplies; buckets of locally grown foods (vegetables, syrup, honey); a basket of assorted teas & cups
- basket full of freshly roasted local coffee and homemade pastries or breakfast items or spices and seasonings
- gardening bucket with seeds, tools, starter plants or a bucket with items needed to BBQ

Drift Creek Camp

The 2020 Women's Retreat will take place **April 17-19**. Participants will explore the renewing aspects of creating and observing Sabbath moments in the rhythm of busy lives. We will gather for singing, prayer & reflection in group sessions led by Reverend Roberta Jantzi Egli, Executive Director of [Messy Church USA](#). Guests will plan their own time. Participants are invited to enjoy forest walks in solitude or with friends; practice yoga, get creative in the craft room; read or knit by the fire. Cultivate community with old friends & new while enjoying delicious meals and a bit of pampering at Drift Creek. The book discussion will be *Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest* by Lynne M. Baab. Register [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Central Committee

Mark your calendars for these opportunities to support MCC: April 17-18: [West Coast Celebration for World Relief](#), Fresno, CA, and April 18: [Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival](#), Nampa, ID.

The Great Winter Warm Up was a huge success! Folks from across the continent worked together to tie 9,500 comforters, 3000 more than the original goal!

Mennonite Women

Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener shared the Sister Care seminar January 20-22 near Chiang Mai for 55 enthusiastic Hmong women from Thailand and Laos. Memee Yang, (pictured center), Minneapolis, provided interpretation for the seminar. When asked about challenges or problems of Hmong women in their churches and communities, the responses of women leaders from 17 churches included, "Hmong women are very low in our culture and we have no voice." "Hmong women are not given permission to share problems with other women or teach." It was significant for the attendees that the seminar was for women only. One woman said, "I want you to know this is the first time for our Hmong women that we have had a teaching just for women." Another in her closing devotional said the experience had shown that "When women come together and talk to each other, it is like sweet candy in our mouths." Many dressed in traditional hand-embroidered clothing and shared these beautiful clothes with Carolyn, Memee, and Rhoda for a day. The seminar was funded by United Service Foundation, MCC, individuals, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, and Central Plains Mennonite Conference.



Upcoming e-Bulletins:

March 2 (submissions due by 2/24)
March 20 (submissions due by 3/13)
April 6 (submissions due by 3/30)
April 20 (submissions due by 4/13)

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>