



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

Things have a way of piling up in our house. Boxes in the garage, quilts in the “not finished” pile, weeds in the backyard, items on my to-do list. Because of the pandemic, the things I had planned for my sabbatical were canceled and we spent the time at home. But also because of the pandemic, the garage now houses only things we want to keep, all those unfinished quilts are on their way to people who will use them, and our backyard has been transformed into a place where we enjoy sitting to watch the birds. I am so grateful for the time away from conference minister duties, and I come back with a new appreciation for sorting through things, being useful, and creating inviting spaces. Perhaps in that is a word for the church as well – **because of the pandemic everything has to be different**, but embracing what we treasure, finding ways to be of service, and creating an inviting place even online, remain our calling. Thank you so much for this gift of time and I rejoin you refreshed and eager to hear your stories of what God has been teaching you during this time.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Lebanon Mennonite Church

Gather outside at LMC on **Sunday, August 30th, 3pm**, to celebrate Brent Kauffman's 27 years of service to the church and community!

Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief

The annual in-person [OMFWR](#) sale, originally scheduled for **October 10**, will be replaced with an online format. The OMFWR board is looking at the change as an opportunity to find new and creative ways to support MCC. Individuals, small groups, and congregations are encouraged to come up with fresh and unique ideas. The Oregon sale typically brings in about \$100,000. Planners are hoping to meet or even exceed that goal with alternate fundraising ideas for 2020. Click [here](#) for more information.

Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival

Mark your calendar! The Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17, 2021**. A celebration of MCC's 100th Anniversary will be included in the 2021 Festival. Additional information on ways to support MCC can be found at idahomrs.org.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The historical society has partnered with MC USA archives and 14 other organizations on a project entitled “Anabaptist History Today.” The current focus is pandemic Covid19, gathering stories from Mennonites in the U.S. and Canada. Jean Killeffer Hess of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society initiated this effort along with Jason Kaufman. You will find coverage of this project in the broader Mennonite press.

Gloria Nussbaum from PNMHs is gathering stories from persons in the PNW. Sample questions might include:

- How is your congregation “doing church” these days? Worship services? Other activities?
- Where have you seen/sensed God in the midst of this pandemic?
- In what ways does being a Mennonite figure into how you are dealing with this pandemic?
- What have you discovered about yourself or society in general that will define/describe how you'll remember this time?

To learn more about this process of collecting stories, contact Gloria at real2reel@teleport.com or 503-645-0616.

Please also keep in mind that the [Kropf Heritage Center](#) is open from 9:00am to 3:00pm on Wednesdays. While masks and distancing are required, visitors are welcome to visit! The archives are full of interesting stuff about past Mennonite leaders, conference churches, family files, and more! The library has a lot of old and new periodicals as well as more than 3000 books which are by, about, and for Mennonites. There are personal stories, theological texts, genealogy resources, historical books as well as those that are currently relevant. You can review the Library Catalogue and Archives [here](#). The center is located next to Zion Mennonite Church at 6130 S. Whiskey Hill Rd., Hubbard, OR.

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

AMBS will offer more audit options via videoconference: Due to the pandemic, most of the campus courses will be meeting via videoconference during Semester One (Sept. 1 – Dec. 11). To receive more information about auditing a course, please send an inquiry to deansoffice@ambs.edu to verify that the course is available. The regular audit rate is \$146/credit hour. AMBS graduates can audit a course for only \$112/credit hour. (These rates include the student services fee, but please note that Asynchronous online courses will continue not to be available for auditing because the course structure is not conducive to casual participation.)

Online courses (Students complete weekly coursework at times that suit their individual schedule and needs.)

Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace & Revolution; Christian Theology 1; Introduction to Bible Study Tools; Spiritual Practices: Prayer & Scripture

Campus courses available via videoconference (Students available to participate during the weekly course time.)

Beginning Hebrew: Ruth; Christian Theology 1; Confronting Sexualized Violence in the Bible; God's Shalom and the Church's Witness; The Gospel of Mark; Human Development and Christian Formation; In the Beginning: The Book of Genesis; Introduction to Peace Studies and Nonviolence; Reading the Bible Amidst Pandemic: A Colloquium in Biblical Theology and Hermeneutics; Spiritual Practices: Somatic Spiritual Practices in the Time of COVID (Sept. 10 – Oct. 23); Strange New World of the Bible 1; Thinking Ethically; Witness Colloquium

More information is available [here](#). Note: Non-admitted students get 50% off their first course for credit!

Mennonite Church USA

The creators of Anabaptist History Today (AHT), a new collaborative storytelling project, are calling on Anabaptists across the United States and Canada to share their experiences during the remarkable historical, biological and social events of 2020. Led by co-creators Jason Kauffman, director of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Archives, and Jean Kilheffer Hess, executive director of Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Historical Society, AHT is a unique, large-scale, collaborative digital project designed to specifically engage and serve the Anabaptist community through storytelling. It is supported by a total of 16 Anabaptist archives and history organizations. "Organizations across the country have launched similar storytelling projects, but we wanted to do something that was specific to the Anabaptist community," said Kauffman, whose vision inspired the project. "We hope this collection will offer a unique perspective on the lives of ordinary people and how Anabaptist faith and identity has shaped responses to the momentous events of 2020." The AHT website invites individuals, congregations, schools and organizations to tell their stories of living during these changing times. Contributors may share their experiences through a variety of media, including videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork, poetry and personal reflections. An online form guides contributors through the process. (*This is the project with which PNMHS is collaborating.*)

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Sept 7 (submissions due by 8/31)

Sept 21 (submissions due by 9/14)

Oct 5 (submissions due by 9/28)

Oct 19 (submissions due by 10/12)

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!