



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the PNMC Office

For those planning to attend the 2021 Conference Communications Council (via Zoom), please mark your calendars now. While content details are still in the works, please set aside **Saturday, February 6, 2021** from 9:00am until approximately noon.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Salem Mennonite Church

Homelessness is a growing challenge. Folks from Salem Mennonite are providing warm socks filled with personal care items and food for Salem's Union Gospel Mission. Personal items include things like a toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, feminine products, and shampoo. The food items include fig newtons, granola bars, jerky, and Ritz crackers with cheese or peanut butter. The congregation donated the supplies or cash to purchase them, then the socks were stuffed and tied together by donated baling twine by June Handrich, Maribeth Kennel and Florence Gingrich. The packages will then be distributed by UGM. The three stuffed the first set of 100 socks on November 4th. They plan to repeat the project again in December and January. Each pair of stuffed socks is estimated to cost \$10 with the envisioned total being \$3000. To help provide socks for those without homes, contact SMC [here](#).



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS Assistant Professor of Peace Studies and Christian Social Ethics, Janna L. Hunter-Bowman, is attempting to answer tough questions as she processes what a peace witness looks like in our country's current climate. She reflected, "The morning after I watched police officer **Derek Chauvin** dispassionately murder **George Floyd**, I felt at sea. In the silence and darkness, I asked, "What shall I do?" Then I received a new question, an answer to a prayer I didn't know I had formed: **"What shall we do?"** That is the question. I have felt called to help equip and embolden our "peace church" communities as anti-violence agents of change that participate in movements for justice and cultivate a more participatory democracy. In the dynamic and diverse Anabaptist tradition, the church is to be a refuge from the violence of the state. The church must also identify and reject subtler forms of violence suffered, within and outside of it, in order to participate more fully in God's work of justice and reconciliation. So being "good news" requires responding to concrete needs and concerns with discernment, training, cooperation, and civic engagement. It places Jesus-following Anabaptists alongside fellow travelers of different backgrounds in a risky struggle against violence and for liberation from unjust systems. Follow [this link](#) to read more about how Janna has been engaging with her congregation and fellow participants in her online *Witness Colloquium* course on **"Understanding and Engaging Movements for Justice in 2020."**

VOICES *Together*

MennoMedia

The *Voices Together* dedication launch will be **Sunday, December 13, from 5-7pm**. While this is not the celebration originally planned, it's exciting to celebrate virtually. The service will include songs, prayers, scripture, and of course, some virtual choirs. (*Nothing is more quintessential for 2020 than the virtual choir, right?*) The *Voices Together* committee—a team of dedicated volunteers who worked on this project since 2016—has planned this worship service as a way to introduce all of us to the content and hear from contributors. Everyone is welcome!

[Register today!](#)



Mennonite Central Committee

This Christmas, share gifts of comfort and joy! Have you considered giving the gift of solar lanterns, a chance to sew or a year of school? How about letting the children in your life choose to support these projects or having them select their own gift of chickens, fruit trees or more. Visit: <https://mcc.org/christmas#!> to find all these gifts - it is easy! And, if you would like a colorful paper catalog, send your request to Marlene Bogard, Pacific Northwest MCC Network Consultant, at marlenebogard@mcc.org. She is happy to send you one pronto.

There is always time to start a new Christmas tradition, which is exactly what Curt and Phyllis Dorsing did five years ago when they began sharing Mennonite Central Committee's Christmas giving booklet with their grandchildren. Each year, the Dorsing grandchildren choose a Christmas gift from the collection of colorful photos and simple descriptions in the booklet. The gift is not one that the children who live near Federal Way, Washington, will receive, but one that MCC will give to people in need around the world. MCC makes it easy for families like theirs to choose Christmas gifts full of purpose and practicality. From tangible gifts such as fruit trees, wells and goats to broader gifts of hope and welcome, each gift helps people to improve their life in some way.



The Dorsings, of Othello, WA, served two separate terms with MCC in Bolivia in the 1970s and 1980s. They were grateful that they didn't need to raise support to serve, so they have volunteered with Washington's Mennonite Country Auction for more than 30 years. Nearly 40 years after being in Bolivia, they continued supporting MCC by starting the Christmas giving tradition, one that now involves their entire family.

Through this tradition, the Dorsings said they have witnessed their grandchildren wondering why people live differently than they do and pondering what they can do to help them. "We see a bit of the light go on in our grandchildren's heads when they connect the dots about giving to others. It's more joy on my part to watch them and help them understand what the giving means," says Curt Dorsing.

Reflecting on their Christmas tradition, the Dorsings feel blessed and look forward to sitting down with their grandkids again this year. "It is a joyful experience for us. We hope that this tradition will be an encouragement for others to give. Giving to MCC is a whole family Christmas gift," says Phyllis Dorsing.

For more information about MCC's Christmas giving program, click [here](#) or request a printed booklet by contacting Marlene Bogard.

And check out this free resource for sharing with children about generosity: mcc.org/generosity.

Mennonite Church USA

Check out [this edition of PeaceMail](#) to read more about upcoming events such as the Women in Leadership (WiL) teleconference scheduled for **Saturday, November 21, at 7pm**. The gathering will provide a time of worship and encouragement. The worship service is the final event in the "What We Need is Here" webinar series. [Register here](#) by **Nov. 19**.

Additional online opportunities include:

"Adapting to the Pandemic and the Future" (Mennonite Mission Network) | Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020 at 4 p.m. PT

Hear how Mission Network is swiftly adapting to current circumstances and innovating to prepare for an unfolding future.

"Introducing Intersectionality – Addressing Systemic Oppression" (MHS) | Thursday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. PT

This session will work to increase understanding of what intersectionality is and why it matters for our undoing oppression efforts.

"Mennonite Relief Pioneers" | Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5 p.m. PT

Join Jason Kauffman, MC USA director of Archives and Records Management, for a webinar on Mennonite relief workers serving during World War I and the influenza pandemic.

Mennonite World Conference

Follow [this link](#) for the latest edition of *Courier*.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 7 (submissions due by 11/30)

Dec 21 (submissions due by 12/14)

Jan 4 (submissions due by 12/28)

Jan 18 (submissions due by 1/11)

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>