



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From Our Executive Conference Minister, **Katherine Jameson Pitts**

By the time you are reading this, election day in the USA may have already come and gone. You may be feeling delighted or sad, angry or hopeful. Certainly, there are people in your community with all these feelings and more. And so I invite you this week to remember that God's people have often lived in places where the government was not on their side. Our hope does not lie in princes or presidents, **but in the one whose steadfast love endures forever.** From Psalm 146, the Grail translation:

My soul give praise to the Lord!
Put no trust in the powerful,
mere mortals in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.
They are happy who are helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.
It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is God who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age.



Photo by Ken Pitts, taken at Potter Marsh, near Anchorage, AK

May we live as God's people following in the footsteps of the One God sent to bring good news to the poor, release the captive, give sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free. Our hope is in the Lord our God!

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Drift Creek Camp

Contact info@driftcreek.org for the Zoom link to participate in **DCC's Annual Meeting, Saturday, November 7, 10:00am.**

Additionally, DCC is eager to optimize this time of having an empty lodge to work on facility projects. If you'd be willing to help, your hands would be greatly appreciated! Jobs vary from cleaning, painting, splitting wood, overhauling bathrooms, replacing window screens, shampooing carpets, cleaning light fixtures, replacing siding damaged by woodpeckers, replacing doors in the lodge and posts on the bridge, and more! If you're willing, we'd love to have help from small groups that we can safely accommodate. *Thank you!*

Mennonite Disaster Service

Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) are in the early stages of forming in counties impacted by the September Wildfires. MDS Oregon Unit Chair, John Colvin and his wife, Wendy Colvin, have been actively involved with the Clackamas County LTRG, as well as the Blue Mountain LTRG. Click on the link for recovery details from FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4562#>.



West Coast MCC

It is a time of transition at West Coast MCC. We welcome and congratulate Marlene Bogard as she transitions into a new position within West Coast MCC's Pacific Northwest region. Marlene will now serve as the Pacific Northwest Networking Consultant and focus on church relations and young adult recruitment. We encourage churches to contact her with any questions or words of welcome at marlenebogard@mcc.org. Additionally, we honor and thank Bob Buxman for his 28 years of commitment and service to MCC. Bob will now be the primary contact for Material Resources and can be contacted at buxmans3@gmail.com.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, *continued*

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief, *From Board Chair, Gene Stutzman*

"Out of adversity comes opportunity. Like our many peers around the country, the pandemic forced us to reinvent our Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief this year. We were so blessed with new talent, new vision and vigor, and so many dedicated and nearly tireless volunteers. The online auction and logistics of delivering pre-ordered food and auction items in three different sites was nearly seamless. *(Pick-up sites included the Albany, Zion and Portland Mennonite Church locations.)*

Because most food items were pre-ordered, just the right amount was purchased and donated and there was very little waste. The Festival Board set a challenging goal of \$100,000 in cash donations and sales. In the end, **the big red thermometer on the website went over \$124,000.**

The results of this year's sale were both encouraging and exciting: I would like to thank the entire board, especially the new members who joined us in this mission during a most challenging year. I can't imagine a more dedicated, or talented group of people to work with. Also, we are deeply indebted to the many volunteers, donors and everyone who took part in the online event this year."

Shout out: Customers wished to extend gratitude for the hard work of the volunteers that made the 2020 event possible. Thanks to Hilary Shirk and Annie Stutzman for their great work organizing the food sales and publicity. Thanks to Kathy Howell, Gail Manickam and Stan Oyer for making the online auction possible. Thanks to the board for their dedicated participation with extra meetings to plan for new Covid safety precautions. *Thank you to all the volunteers who made the event happen!*

Don Bacher's fabulous photos from the Albany pick-up site are available [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Church USA

Peacemakers are most needed during times of uncertainty, fear and polarization. The US has been dealing with all three in 2020, exacerbated by a pandemic and the urgency surrounding the presidential election. No one knows what will happen on or after Election Day. The heightened emotions and mistrust across the political spectrum make widespread violence seem more possible than in years past. As followers of Jesus, what do we do in a time such as this? Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9) Our nation, states, cities and churches need peacemakers more than ever in the weeks and months ahead. Peacemakers do not hide safely behind the status quo, ignoring the rise of violence, while thanking God for personal safety. **Peacemakers show up boldly with love** and deepen relationships with those who are most vulnerable to bodily and systemic violence. **Peacemakers consider the complexity of violence** — that structural systems of oppression are already operating in violent ways. **Peacemakers look at the roots of violence** and join the work to seek transformative justice for all.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Peacemaking is what Jesus demonstrated through his life, death and resurrection. It is what Mennonites have claimed for centuries and often struggled to embody. Now is a time to be bold in our peacemaking. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7) We have a community of believers around us and the steadfast teachings of Jesus to guide us through these times. During this time of uncertainty:

- We call on government and public safety officials to fulfill their obligation to offer equal protection and access to the voting process for all registered voters.
- We pray that all candidates and citizens honor the outcome of the election(s) and reject any violent reactions that bring harm to others if there are disputed results.
- We pray for a Spirit of Peace to hover over our nation, bringing a sense of deep spiritual strength and groundedness during this fragile moment.
- We pray that our churches act as agents of healing through nonviolent witness and tangible acts of love and service — even to our enemies — living into our call as people of God's peace.

OMFWR by the Numbers:

228 BBQ chicken meals
85 sausage meals
2400 vareniki
99 pies
564 cookies
30 lbs of peppernuts
177 cinnamon rolls
56 apple dumplings
63 loaves of bread
72 lbs of bologna
37 wheels of cheese
215 gallons of apple cider
71 lbs of coffee



50 bakers
15 meal food prep
44 on-site (a mix of in the kitchen, loading cars, and other logistics)

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 16 (submissions due by 11/9)
Dec 7 (submissions due by 11/30)
Dec 21 (submissions due by 12/14)
Jan 4 (submissions due by 12/28)

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>