



Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email brenda@pnmc.org. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

From Our Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts



In this Advent season, the season of waiting, we wait for so many things. Most of all, we wait to be reassured that **God is with us, now and always**. A seminary classmate of mine, Carolyn Gillette, writes new words to old hymn tunes. For this Advent she wrote:

Open wide your heavens! Let your name be known!

So the world will know, Lord, we are not alone.

You who once did awesome deeds — show your presence here!

Open wide your heavens! Let us know you're near.

Join me in singing these words to the tune of "In the Bleak Midwinter" as we make our way through the dark days of December and pandemic, to the place where we see the light of Christ anew.

A wreath from Mountain View Mennonite Church's socially-distanced November 22 Advent workshop.

From the PNMC Office

Conference Communications Council will be held **Feb. 6, 2021**, from 8:30 PST to 12:00 PST. Safwat Marzouk, Associate Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at AMBS, will be our guest presenter on the topic "The Joseph Story in an Age of Migration".

Dr. Marzouk's writings include the book, *Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration*. Additional CCC agenda items include a brief update on the state of the conference and time for sharing from congregations. Each congregation is asked to send a pastor and a lay leader. Others who are interested in attending are also welcome to attend. Registration will open Jan. 4, 2021.

All must register to receive the Zoom link so we can be sure to have room.

Annual Meeting date change: In order to increase the chances that we will be able to gather safely in person for our 2021 PNMC Annual Meeting, the Board has decided to change the date from the third weekend of June to the end of August. **Save August 20-21, 2021** for this gathering and join us in praying for widespread vaccinations so that we can see one another again.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Salem Mennonite Church

Joseph Penner, chair of SMC's social committee, decided to get creative and introduce a Covid-safe fellowship opportunity. On a late November Saturday, SMCers were invited to **The Great Menn-t-o(nite) Island Park Walkathon** for an in-person church gathering. Joseph worked to compile the details for each group and then assigned precise routes, complete with specific start time/locations in order for participants to hit certain check points along the way according to their estimated pace and desired distance. The goal being that while everyone would be out enjoying their stroll, paths would crisscross, creating opportunities to safely engage through smiles or even brief conversations along the way. It had been a long time since most in the congregation had seen each other in the flesh. Everyone was given a link to an online map showing their personalized routes and a start time. In general, people traveled in opposite directions on a particular loop at staggered times so that they would encounter each other on their walks. The plan worked really well. Their walks ended at a refreshment station with donuts, coffee, tea and hot chocolate where people lingered briefly.



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

MennoMedia

The *Voices Together* dedication launch will be **Sunday, December 13, 2-4pm (Pacific Time)**. 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!](#)

VOICES
Together

[MennoMedia](#) currently has discounts of up to 40% off several publications for Christmas gifts! Use code FREESHIP at checkout!

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. And, if you would like a paper catalog, send your request to [Marlene Bogard](#), Pacific Northwest MCC Network Consultant. She is happy to send you one pronto. Visit: <https://mcc.org/christmas#>



Mennonite Central Committee Service Opportunities:

Are you a young adult between 18 and 30? Does the idea of attending college feel strange or even unappealing in the midst of Covid restrictions and classes being conducted online? Are you graduating in the spring and thinking about a Gap year? Might you consider a year of service beginning in August? With the current pandemic, many are finding it difficult, uncertain and even confusing to make future plans. However, the MCC SALT program is still running in various locations around the world and even in some domestic locations! Now is the time to consider the possibility of serving with SALT. More can be learned about the wide selection of volunteer opportunities here: <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/salt/learn>.

If serving with MCC/SALT is something you are interested in, register for a **December 9** informational meeting. Join MCC for a **30-minute information session** including a short presentation and time for Q & A highlighting the MCC service opportunity of SALT, the 1-year international young adult program, including a panel discussion with recent participants. Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 4:00pm PST**. MCC is working to adapt programming as the situation Covid-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change. Register [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA

To read the latest edition of *PeaceMail*, follow this [link](#).



Mennonite Mission Network

Deb Byler is a worker for Mennonite Mission Network. She serves in Guatemala, focusing on spiritual growth and leadership development among the women leaders in the Kekchi Mennonite Church. Follow [this link](#) to read more about how Covid-19 and back-to-back hurricanes have impacted the local community.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 21 (submissions due by 12/14)
Jan 4 (submissions due by 12/28)
Jan 18 (submissions due by 1/11)
Feb 1 (submissions due by 1/25)

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>
