



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

March 1, 2021

e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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.

Pray for one another....

At the 2021 CCC gathering in February, Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts, shared overall prayer concerns for our congregations. She acknowledged that pastors have worked hard at learning new skills in the past year and that many are tired. While the thought of looking ahead to life beyond Covid brings joy, she recognized that with it comes new work that will need to be done. We will need to be responsive and agile in creative ways yet again. Meanwhile, many congregations are concerned about the challenges now facing their families with children. We must continue to find creative ways to care for and support our children virtually until we can gather in person once again. In the midst of so many unknowns in the world, we covet prayers for our congregations in the midst of pastoral transitions. The process is different and can be difficult in these times. Our congregations undergoing transitions include Zion Mennonite in Hubbard, OR and Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID. Western, Vida Nueva, and Lebanon are in a time of interim discernment. Our prayers are also with the International Bethel City Church as the Muange's relocate to the Detroit area in Michigan and the congregation in Portland closes.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

As you may know, Oregon's Willamette Valley was hammered by snow and freezing rain in mid-February. The result was a widespread loss of electric power leaving thousands of people in the dark for over a week. After considerable discussion, the PNMHS board decided to postpone its annual meeting which was to have taken place on Saturday, February 20. Look for details about a rescheduled date here, on the [PNMHS website](#) and through email. The meeting's content will be the same: **"The Path to Acknowledgement: Mennonite Settlement in the Pacific Northwest"** presented by Sarah Augustine of Yakima, WA and Jonathan Neufeld, from Seattle Mennonite. *Who were the indigenous people here before settlers and Mennonites came to this land? What influenced our decisions in how and where we live?* ([Click here](#) for presenter bios.)

Seattle Mennonite Church



More than 14 years ago, Seattle Mennonite Church launched the **Lake City Task Force on Homelessness**, a monthly meeting to pull together agencies, faith communities, and neighbors (housed and unhoused) to plan for ways to partner and collaborate in the efforts to end homelessness in our neighborhood and city. From a humble gathering of 3-4 people, the Task Force has grown to regularly connect with hundreds of people through the monthly meetings and listserv. The volunteer base of nearly a 1000 people and more than 32 interfaith communities provides meals for winter shelter, advocates for systemic change, offers direct services and collaborated to form a 501(c)3 Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness. The non-profit has been able to secure city, county and state funding - to offer person-centered, low-barrier initiatives to interrupt the trauma of homelessness. In addition to long-standing hygiene-center and winter shelter programs - we are excited to launch a multi-year partnership with King County Housing Authority and City of Shoreline to offer 24/7 supported shelter to 60 adults, in a now renovated nursing home in Shoreline, WA. Steady organizing and coalition building done by Pastor Melanie Neufeld, who also serves as the non-profit Executive Director, has seen amazing doors and opportunities open to extend **healing and hope, compassion and warmth**. Amazing leaders, like Kevin Maguire, have pulled together amazing staff and modeled the ways of compassionate, restorative love. We anticipate opening the doors on March 1st, 2021 and look forward to bringing folks in out of the cold and wet - to a room of their own and the opportunity to heal. **God is Good!** *Learn more here:* www.lakecitypartners.org.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, cont.

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Drift Creek Camp

Storms have downed hundreds of trees on the camp road. While most of the rounds approved for on-site use by the Forest Service have been collected, the wood still needs to be split and stacked. If this sounds like a project for you, we invite small groups, individuals and families to assist with processing the piles. If painting or carpentry is more your speed, we also have several projects indoors that could use skilled helping hands. After more than a year of being closed, the lodge and cabins are in need of deep cleaning as well. Lincoln County's Covid risk status was recently lowered. DCC anticipates reopening on a modified basis in the near future. To lend a hand, contact info@driftcreek.org!



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Disaster Service

Teams from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) are heading to Texas to repair broken pipes and waterlines so residents hard-hit by the recent deadly ice storm can make their first step toward recovery. The storm sent some **29 million people into a state of crisis** and, though power is back on for many, burst pipes have flooded thousands of homes and water shortages are still dire. MDS is responding as part of a coordinated effort with its partners and local long-term recovery groups, as well as with local churches. "We are currently recruiting volunteers who are experienced in plumbing repairs," explained MDS director, Kevin King. "Our early response is finely focused because we have been able to **determine where the greatest needs are on the ground at this time.**" MDS is working to secure bulk plumbing supplies; volunteers are asked to bring their own tools and personal protective equipment so they are ready to work while observing MDS's COVID-19 safety protocols. "We will not be repairing drywall, flooring, walls, or other damages at this point," said King. "Our sole focus will be on restoring the integrity of the water supply lines in the homes." Once the emergency phase of this disaster has passed, work will transition into long-term recovery. For that, MDS will need volunteers and donations months down the road, King noted. "MDS is still responding to needs in Texas related to Hurricane Harvey, which struck in 2017," he said. "Please pray for those in dire circumstances from this winter storm, as well as those who are still facing pain and trauma left by other disasters." Interested volunteers from the U.S. should contact Deanna Frey at 1-800-241-8111 or by registering on the [MDS website](#).



Mennonite Men

Mennonite Men is responding to God's call to address the climate change crisis through a large-scale tree-planting campaign. [JoinTrees](#) is Mennonite Men's ambitious campaign to **plant one million trees by 2030**. The campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with the JoinTrees campaign, the goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) sustain biodiversity. With a vision for building a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation. Although the effort is being coordinated by Mennonite Men, all people of all ages are encouraged to participate. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite Mission Network

In the Christian vernacular, there are few words as charged as "mission." Join Travis Duerksen and Lynda Hollinger-Janzen on [MissionWary?](#), a new podcast from Mennonite Mission Network that discusses mission in the Mennonite context.

Find the podcast on [MennoniteMission.net](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

March 15 (submissions due by 3/8)

Apr 5 (submissions due by 3/29)

Apr 19 (submissions due by 4/12)

May 3 (submissions due by 4/26)

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>