



# 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](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

## From the PNMC Office

Welcome back! Pastor Jeryl Hollinger, of Mountain View Mennonite Church in Kalispell, MT, returned from sabbatical on May 1. *He reflected:*

At the beginning of my sabbatical I began weekly violin lessons. Several years ago I bought a violin and a book on how to play. I put it aside when I realized there is much more to it than simply sliding a bow and knowing where to hold the strings down. It intimidated me. When I started lessons earlier this year I had to learn all the parts of the instrument and how to care for the violin. Much time is given to learning how to hold the bow - and doing exercises with the bow to learn bow control is central. While trying to remember how to do everything correctly you're not supposed to forget to breathe. Nothing goes right if you're tense. Learning to relax in stance and breathing is basic to everything else. When I'm trying to do everything right I still catch myself holding my breath. My older muscles must learn how to function in new ways.

Sometimes I am tempted to think I'm too old to learn the violin. Yet, I enjoy it. My teacher is encouraging and says I can do it and even rejoices in my efforts. Three months into it I'm playing some notes, learning scales and eagerly attempting my first short song. This is a long term project, but I'm much farther down the road than I was three months ago. They say it's healthy for older brains to learn new things, so perhaps there is more value to it than just learning to play.

My teacher has three bows. One is for practicing. Another is a better one for performances. And the third is for her new learning experience. She showed me how the bow is different and made specifically for playing baroque violin, something she is experimenting with and learning and recently gave a performance. I had never heard of baroque violin. I went home and found some online examples like [this](#). *Amazing!*

Because my teacher is also learning something new she can easily identify with my tension and nervousness when trying to learn. She knows the territory. She knows it is part of the journey. She says, "Yes, I know how it is. I have the same thing to deal with when I'm playing baroque." **Being a student makes her more understanding of her students who are also trying to grow and learn.** This is probably true in many areas of life. Even in spiritual matters. The best teachers are good students. *Lord, help me to always be a student.*

## Pray for one another...

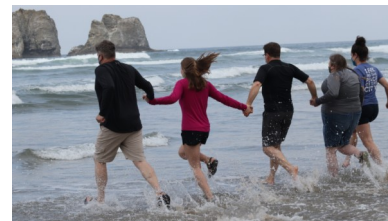
Like most congregations, Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship is finding new and creative ways in which to gather. Over the past year, Zoom services have allowed connections with people outside the geographic area, which has been a blessing. Normally, CMF gathers for "Menno Nights" on summer Sunday evenings. However, for July and August of 2021, the group will continue to meet on Sunday mornings, but **in person, outside**, at the lovely Passmore home (1040 SW 35th St.). From 10:30 to 10:55 a.m., those present will sing together. Attendees will then divide into small groups. From 11:00 to 11:30, the small groups, based on who is attending, will have a discussion and sharing time, reflecting on an article or podcast provided in advance. At 11:30, the small groups will end. Anyone who wishes to stay and socialize may do so. Guests are welcome to bring their own food for a picnic. Parking is available at the OSU Western Building (former OSU Foundation). Those who cannot or prefer not to attend in person are welcome to use the CMF Zoom link for a remote small group. If you are planning to be in the Corvallis area and would like to join, please contact [Dave Hockman-Wert](#) for more information.

## CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

### Portland Mennonite Church

On Mother's Day, PMC held a one-day church retreat at Twin Rocks friend's camp. The highlight of the outdoor service was the baptisms of Elyse Burton and Karen Stephenson.



### [Paradise, CA 2018 Camp Fire](#)

June 20-26; up to 7 people  
June 27-July 3; up to 15 people  
July 4-10; up to 15 people  
July 25-31; up to 15 people

*For more information:*

Contact Josh Carson at  
800-241-8111 or [jcarson@mds.org](mailto:jcarson@mds.org)  
Click [here](#) for additional opportunities.

### Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

Oregon Health Authority has developed a simple sign-up site where individuals can seek out volunteer opportunities. Please share this with your organization's members and even friends and family. Most clinics have lifted the requirement for background checks for the non-clinical roles and are in desperate need of volunteers. The non-clinical roles are typically way finders, traffic flow, greeters, etc. Opportunities are available to assist at the Clackamas Town Center, **May 23-24**. As new clinics are established, requests for volunteers will be listed at [this link](#).

Follow [this link](#) to read the digital version of *Behind the Hammer*, a quarterly MDS publication.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

### Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

At the [AMBS commencement service](#), Cyneatha Millsaps, M.Div., told the 21 candidates for graduation “not to take anything for granted in this challenging world — to assume nothing.” She drew upon the story of Peter (*a disciple of Jesus and a Jew*) and Cornelius (*a Gentile*) in Acts 10. She noted that while the passage is often titled “The conversion of Cornelius,” “it is much more a conversion of Peter — that is, in his attitude and his opinion towards the Gentiles.” She encouraged graduates to not get stuck deciding who is clean and unclean; to not let systems, traditions and people cause them to miss the **people of God**. Millsaps explained that Peter was so fixated on what he *thought* he knew that he could no longer see what was possible, adding, “Four-part harmony is great, but you may be called to gospel rap.” ([Full article here.](#))



### Eastern Mennonite University

Five students from EMU were chosen to attend the [2021 Teachers of Promise Institute](#) in March. The event provides professional development, mentor discussions, and networking opportunities for 100 of the best and brightest pre-service teachers in Virginia. The honorees “exemplify strong potential for impacting students in the classroom, high academic standing, commitment to the teaching profession, and embody EMU’s teacher education mission to **teach boldly in a changing world through an ethic of care and critical reflection**.” Included was Reimer-Berg, member of Salem Mennonite Church. She is a senior majoring in liberal arts and elementary education. She looks forward to a rewarding career working with elementary-aged students. Learn more [here](#).

2021 PNMC EMU graduates: Jared Oyer (Zion), Ruth Reimer-Berg (Salem), Kayley Scottlind (Western).

### Mennonite Church USA

Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA, is working with [Dove’s Nest](#) to help churches keep children safe, particularly vulnerable boys. As part of the Dove’s Nest speakers’ bureau, Guyton recently gave a presentation, entitled “Man Talk: Safeguarding Our Boys in Faith Communities,” at a virtual event for the [Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse](#). As a father of an adult daughter and son, Guyton said he feels strongly about sharing this message. “Faith communities are at risk,” he said. “Sexual abuse is the most common form of abuse in church settings. No faith community or church is immune from abuse.” He further explained that some of the church’s biggest strengths — *its high trust environment and desire for forgiveness* — can sometimes be its biggest weaknesses, putting children at risk. Guyton offered several ways that churches can help keep children safe, including: Establishing prevention policies; learning about abuse, such as grooming behavior and peer abuse; talking about child protection in formal and informal ways as a congregation; and providing opportunities for dialogue and listening to those hurt by abuse. “We know that in every one of our congregations, there are victims and survivors, both men and women,” said Anna Groff, executive director of Dove’s Nest. “There is a need for prevention education and best practices.” She emphasized the important role of men in this work. “Abuse prevention is often seen as a woman’s job,” said Groff. “Men have a responsibility to be a part of this conversation. Prevention programs are most effective when men and women collaborate to keep all children and youth safe.” [Read the full article here.](#)

### Upcoming opportunities: MC USA and ReconciliAsian | May 28, 6:30 p.m. CDT

Join Rev. Dr. B. Yuki Schwartz of Claremont School of Theology at Willamette University for an online workshop that examines the role that theological and spiritual beliefs play in shaping or supporting anti-Asian violence, as well as how it has empowered intersectional movements for justice that fight anti-Asian violence. [Register here.](#)

### "The Land is Not Empty" webinar | June 3, 6 p.m. CDT

Join author Sarah Augustine as she shares about her new book, “*The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*.” A question-and-answer time will follow. Spanish interpretation provided. [Register here.](#)

### Mennonite Creation Care Network

Is your church considering solar panels or an electric car-charging station? [MCCN's Net Zero Energy Grant](#) typically provides \$5000 each to two congregations per year. Up to \$1800 toward car-charging stations is also an option. The 2021 deadline is **June 30**. Email [mccn@goshen.edu](mailto:mccn@goshen.edu) for the forms. Mennonite churches and Anabaptist-related non-profits can also apply for up to \$1000 toward a creation care project. Priority is given to those in economically disadvantaged areas that may be bearing the brunt of environmental hazards. [Apply by September 1.](#)

### Mennonite Mission Network

If you were unable to participate in MMN’s SENT Conference in late April, a recording is available [here](#).

### Mennonite World Conference

Follow [this link](#) for the latest issue of *Courier*, an MWC newsletter.

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 7 (submissions due by 5/26)  
June 21 (submissions due by 6/14)  
July 5 (submissions due by 6/28)  
Aug 2 (submissions due by 7/26)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto: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>