

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.

From Our Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

Recently, the Constituency Leader's Council of MC USA met. This group is made up of conference ministers and moderators, agency CEOs, MC USA executive staff, and additional leaders from racial/ethnic constituency groups, Mennonite Men and Mennonite Women, and other leaders from conferences. Our time was spent talking about the special delegate session that will happen in May. A number of resolutions will be presented to delegates at that time. Some may be easy to pass. Some will not. There's a good chance that no matter what happens there will be delegates who leave that meeting deeply hurt and shaken. It will be hard and require our best discernment and openness to the Spirit. You can find the resolutions [here](#).

It is important that our congregations be present at this special meeting through delegates. It is important that we begin to discern now, to sit with the questions and seismic shifts before us, and be prepared to fully participate. The PNMC Board will be looking at ways we can help all our congregations be represented at this delegate meeting. If you name delegates, together we can find ways to get them to Kansas City.

Pray For One Another...*First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, ID*

Now that life-interrupting societal challenges have become commonplace, our Wednesday evening Bible Study group has found it helpful to regularly turn to the topic self-care. Earlier in the year, we read *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer, and now we are in the midst of April Yamasaki's *Four Gifts: Seeking Self-Care for Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength* (Herald Press). Curiously, in both studies, our common struggles with hurry and boundaries have seemed to span age, vocation, gender, etc. Retired people and career-focused young adults alike tend to hurry, take on too much, and struggle to set aside time to focus on personal health and wholeness. Maybe you too will breathe a sigh of relief when you read these words from April Yamasaki as she revisits the time she realized her own need for self-care:

"My life had become too busy and overcrowded, with so many things competing for attention that I couldn't do justice to any of them. My life was out of control. I needed to start saying no. I needed boundaries. I needed self-care—not by adding something new to my life, but by learning how to stop." (Yamasaki, *Four Gifts*, p. 39)

If you want (or *need*) to share in April's thoughtful reflections, you can find a copy of her book through MennoMedia [here](#).

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization



Eugene Mennonite Church

Diane & Steve Kimes were named the recipients of the **Regional Journey Award** from the Everence office in Denver, Colorado. The award was presented to the Kimes on **October 3, 2021** at Eugene Mennonite. Created in 2001, the Journey Award highlights what people of faith are doing as stewards of their God-given gifts. Christian stewardship grows out of a relationship with God and recognizes we are all caretakers, not owners, of our gifts. The Kimes made the decision to make their resources available to others. According to Steve, "A goodly portion of our life together is simple redistribution. We take the resources we have or can access and try to make them available to the poor and outcast who do not have the resources." Diane and Steve have faithfully lived a life of generosity and have exemplified what it means to be a good steward. The couple has made an impact in their community and in their church. *Congratulations!*

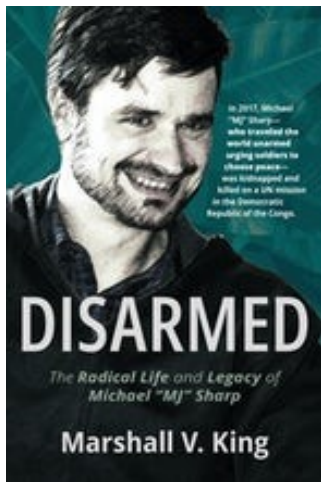
Mountain View Mennonite Church, *A reflection on light by Pastor Jeryl Hollinger*

I am told a pessimist only sees darkness in the tunnel. On the other hand, an optimist sees a light at the end of the tunnel. A realist sees that the light at the end of the tunnel is in fact a train. And the train conductor sees 3 fools standing on the railroad track... This is the time of the year I think of as peering forward into the darkness. Two months from now the darkness will have almost shut out the sunlight. Four months from now we will begin awakening to spring, the starting of seeds and cleaning of the yard. We look forward into the approaching darkness. We know it is only for a season. There are parts of it we love and parts of it we dislike. **But we keep our heads up and look for the light.**

I have learned not to focus on the light at the end of the darkness, but rather to enjoy the lights that shine *in* the darkness. This season begins with costumes of merrymaking, flickering pumpkins on the porch, a celebration of harvest, and tables of good food. There are family get-togethers and strings of lights in the night. The Advent candles. The star in the sky. **The Light of the world among us.** In the darkness the light is more brilliant. Fireworks in the night sky. Four months to take delight in the light that shines in the darkness. I will be stringing an extension cord to my woodpile and mounting a spotlight so I can make use of the morning or evening to chop wood. Chopping in the quiet darkness of those hours rests my soul and reminds me that life goes on, finding a way to adapt and make a fire that warms and enlightens where necessary. This is our way - a way of worship. To know that there is a way to live in the night - a way to gather our little lights - to ignite the nurturing of hope and flame the faith - to quiet our souls knowing that light makes all the difference in the darkness. **Welcome to the season of bright lights in the night. May we each be one.**

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization



MennoMedia

Herald Press has just released *Disarmed, The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp*, by Marshall King. The book is a **powerful story of one man's radical commitment to peacemaking**. Michael "MJ" Sharp was a modern Mennonite armed with wit and intellect, but not a gun. The son of a Mennonite pastor, he demonstrated a gift for listening and persuading early in life. His efforts to approach others with acknowledgement rather than judgment gave him the ability to connect on a level very few managed. He also honed a deep commitment to peace, and after college he joined the Mennonite Mission Network and moved to Germany, where he persuaded soldiers to choose peace and free them of their violent systems.

At 34 years old, MJ was working for the United Nations Group of Experts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—urging rebels to lay down their weapons—when he was murdered, likely assassinated alongside his colleague Zaida Catalán by those with government ties. This compelling account of MJ's life, death, and legacy from longtime journalist Marshall V. King explores what compelled Sharp to travel the world working for peace and the ongoing impact of his life and death in the ongoing story of Christian peacemaking in a war-torn world. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite Central Committee

Are you a recent high school grad? In January, MCC will be offering a **six-month discipleship program for 18-20 year olds**. Based in Bethlehem, the [Seek](#) program will help you discover the beauty and brokenness of the world, while living in community and ministering to others. This newly created intentional discipleship program encourages young adults to learn more deeply what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus. The program will include multiple discipleship and service opportunities with MCC partners in Palestine and Israel and Jordan. Find out more and apply by **October 31** at mcc.org/seek.



Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA's annual [Advent at Home](#) worship guide is available to help individuals and households of all ages prepare for the Advent season. The 2021 guide, *"Dare to Imagine!"* can be downloaded [here](#). This resource offers Scriptures, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information. "Celebrating holidays at home is a natural and fun way to talk about faith," said Shana Peachey Boshart, denominational minister for Faith Formation. The guide can be used at any age or stage of life to deepen the experience of the Christmas season. It uses the traditional Advent themes of **hope, peace, joy and love**. This year's guide includes specially created Nativity scene coloring pages, which can be used to illustrate and enact the "Imagine the journey" visual storytelling component. The resource offers seven weeks of devotional materials, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, **Nov. 28**, and ending on Epiphany, **Jan 6, 2022**. "Dare to imagine!" walks participants through the biblical account of Jesus' birth, beginning with the prophecy of the Messiah's arrival in Jeremiah and ending with the Magi visiting Jesus. Take advantage of this resource to enrich the connection between church and home!

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 15 (submissions due by 11/8)
Dec 6 (submissions due by 11/29)
Dec 20 (submissions due by 12/9)
Jan 3 (submissions due by 12/27)

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>
