



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

As the conflict in Ukraine grows more deadly every day, it is with heavy hearts, that we join Mennonite World Conference in offering this prayer of hope and healing for all Ukrainians, including our Mennonite siblings in Ukraine:

We remember you and pray for the peace of your nation...

We cry out to God for peacemakers and for wise leadership in Ukraine, Russia, the United States, and Europe.

May God strengthen you in body and spirit, providing for every physical and spiritual need at a difficult time.

With the Apostle Peter we say, 'After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To God be the power forever and ever.' (1 Peter 5:10, 11)

...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As you may know, Mennonite Central Committee has worked in Ukraine since its beginning in 1920, opening soup kitchens to provide relief to thousands of starving families. MCC's current projects include **relief, peace, health and education**. Since the conflict emerged in Ukraine, MCC has worked with partners to assist internally displaced people (IDPs) and to build peace. The UNHCR reports there are some 1.8 million IDPs and conflict-affected people in Ukraine. Visit MCC.org to see how you can help!

For additional information on Mennonite Church USA's faith values of peace, justice and nonresistance:

[Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, Article 22. Peace, Justice and Nonresistance](#)

[Cost of War, a Learn, Pray, Join initiative; Mennonite Church USA promotes Church Peace Tax Fund](#)

[Stir Up Peace – How nonviolent direct action creates change](#) (from Mennonite Mission Network, an agency of MC USA)



From the PNMC Office

Amidst the strife and horror in the world, we must also hold space for **persistent hope, determined love and pervasive joy!** And so we celebrate with glad hearts along with Jerrell and Sierra Williams as they welcome the arrival of their daughter, Orly Sandra Williams, born **Monday, February 28**. Sierra explained, Orly, a Hebrew name meaning "You are my Light" because we need some extra Light in our world today, and Sandra, so she can still know her grandma Sandra (Williams) Givens. Little Orly is doing well and her parents are smitten! *Jerrell is Pastor at Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR.*

The PNMC Board would like every congregation to **send at least one delegate** to the MC USA Special Delegate Session in Kansas City, **May 27-30**. PNMC is offering any congregation that needs financial assistance \$400 toward your delegate's cost. Delegates can then complete the application form ([here](#)) requesting aid from Mennonite Church USA. To request initial PNMC funding, contact [Katherine Jameson Pitts](#). Additional meeting information is available [here](#). *Scroll down on FAQ page to find the Spanish materials.*

Pray For One Another

Albany Mennonite Church: Shortly before Christmas, our song leader invited the kids up front to help lead a round of "If You're Happy and You Know It." A small group showed up. Then some more. And just when we thought that was it, even more little faces popped up. Before we knew it, many of us in the pews were craning our necks, trying to figure out how many kids were even up there! We were literally counting our blessings.

But that moment captured something much bigger than a number. It captured the nearly **limitless joy we felt about simply being back together**—of being able, in person, to see the youngest members of our church family, all together.

Yet, unbeknownst to us, the Omicron variant was about to send us back to online-only worship. This could've just been discouraging—a deflating follow-up to all that in-person joy. And in some ways, it was. But there was also this: After we had returned to in-person worship, one of us had astutely observed that we were all taking more joy in our kids because we'd gotten to know them so well on Zoom—which, believe it or not, was true.

During Zoom church, our kids became a more active part of our services, and predictably, they stole the show. As a result, adults who may not have known our kids very well now know them. They delight in them, even. On that day the kids all gathered at the front, the joy that filled the sanctuary had been made possible, in large part, by the fact that the Spirit had knit us together—across the generations—on Zoom.

And so, here we are, restarting in-person church *again*. The Omicron variant is in the rearview mirror, but we've learned better than to predict that the roads ahead will be clear. And yet, we drive on, knowing that if God could use Zoom church to knit us together across the generations, even our pit stops can contain unexpected blessings.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Zion Mennonite Church

ZMC will be hosting the Oregon MCC Winter Warm Up, **Monday, March 21 from 9 AM - 2 PM**. Participants will be knotting comforters to send to MCC to be used for refugees around the world. All are welcome! You just need know how (or we can teach you how) to tie a square knot! Come for any or all of the day. For questions, contact [Gail Manickam](#).

Drift Creek Camp

Women of all ages are invited to the **2022 Mennonite Women's Retreat, April 8-10**, at Drift Creek Camp. Participants will explore the renewing aspects of creating and observing Sabbath moments in the chaos of busy lives. We will gather for prayer & reflection in group sessions led by **Reverend Roberta Jantzi Egli**, Executive Director of [Messy Church USA](#). Participants are invited to enjoy forest walks in solitude or with friends; practice yoga, get crafty; read or knit by the fire. Cultivate community with old friends & new while enjoying delicious meals and a bit of pampering at Drift Creek. The book discussion will be *Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest* by Lynne M. Baab. For details, visit www.driftcreek.org.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

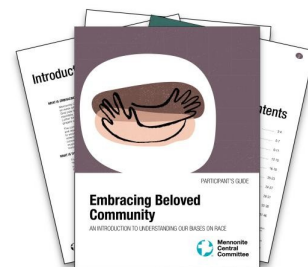
Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication | April 20-May 31 | Online | Six weeks

Join **Betty Pries**, PhD, CMed, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging in differences within congregational life. Drawing from biblical, theological, practical and spiritual sources, this course will focus on building congregational cultures that nurture the tender balance between honesty and kindness and that generate faithfulness and joy. CEUs available. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite Central Committee

[Embracing Beloved Community](#) is a seven-week biblical study for Sunday School classes or other groups to dive into the ways God calls the church to embrace diversity. The curriculum is designed for congregations new to this topic to journey together in an exploration of the sin of racism and Christ's vision for the Kingdom of God on Earth. Resources include group prayers, scripture, biblical reflection, journal prompts and homework videos as well as a facilitator's guide with notes for leading each session, including worship music suggestions for use during moments of reflection.

Watch for more details coming soon: West Coast MCC is sponsoring a Virtual Borderlands Tour through its Tucson, AZ team. Watch for more information as plans come together.



Mennonite Church USA

Learn about the Accessibility Resolution that will be voted on at Mennonite Church USA's Special Session of the Delegate Assembly, **May 27-30**. Clare Krabill, COO of Mennonite Health Services, and Jeanne Davies, executive director of Anabaptist Disabilities Network, will discuss this resolution and their vision for it in MC USA. This learning opportunity takes place TODAY, March 7 at 4pm PST. Follow [this link](#) to register.

Mennonite Men, a constituency group of MC USA, invites all men to join them for a week-long Oregon Eco-excursion, **June 11-19**.

Explore wild spaces, learn about God's creation and help with newly planted trees along the Zena Forest.

For more information and to register (by April 11), visit: <https://oregon-eco-excursion.mailchimpsites.com/>

Menno Snapshot: For Eric Massanari, chaplain and spiritual director, writing poetry is more than a spiritual practice – it's a leap of faith! His blog, "Raids on the inarticulate: writing poetry as an act of faith," is available [here](#).

Eric Massanari is a chaplain at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton, Kansas and a trained spiritual director. He is a member of the Mennonite Spiritual Directors Network steering committee and also serves on the Coordinating Council of Spiritual Directors International. Formerly, he was pastor of [Shalom Mennonite Church](#) in Newton, KS.



Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 21 (submissions due by 3/14)

Apr 4 (submissions due by 3/28)

Apr 18 (submissions due by 4/11)

May 2 (submissions due by 4/25)

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>