



# 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 Our Executive Conference Minister, **Eric Massanari** *Deo Gratias*, Thanks be to God

The 13<sup>th</sup> century German theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart, once remarked, “If the only prayer one ever offered was ‘thank you,’ it would be enough.” I’m certain that Eckhart himself offered many other sorts of prayers in his life, as do we, but I find a wise reminder here that gratefulness lies at the heart of our response to God for the unfathomable gifts of life and love that we are given.

The deepest form of gratitude is not dependent on circumstances unfolding according to our own preferences. A prayer of thanksgiving is not just for the times when we get what we want and people fulfill our expectations and desires. Much like the psalmist who often includes a prayer of thanksgiving even in the mist of indignation or lament, we can know a deep current of gratitude that emerges from the simple awareness that in this moment we live and breathe, in this moment we are a part of the great whole of life that is emerging in God, and that in Christ we encounter a love that “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” A love that never ends.

I want to share with all of you this litany of thanksgiving that I wrote a few years ago as the Thanksgiving holiday approached, and I found myself feeling rather ungrateful in the midst of a period of uncertainty and disorientation. Somehow gratitude emerged, and with it this prayer (*right*). In gratitude, *Eric*

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Portland Mennonite Church: November 12 –13, PMC celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first service held at the Portland Mennonite Mission located on NW Savier St. It was a time of rich and meaningful services and activities. There were times for fellowship and reconnecting with former pastors and attendees. Saturday morning service projects sought to clean-up and beautify the city. There was a quilt display and a stained glass presentation by David Schlicker. An afternoon reception with Patty Friesen and numerous youth from the time she was at PMC, brought back many good memories. The Saturday evening celebration meal was provided by the church with menu items purchased from three local minority-owned restaurants. Participants were encouraged to make donations to the reparation efforts of the congregation. As a result, almost \$4,500 will be donated to Native American Youth Assoc. and Self Enhancement Inc. Saturday festivities included a historic slide show and concluded with a hymn sing with songs drawn from each of the four Mennonite hymnals published since 1927.



Former pastors Dave Stutzman and Patty Friesen, along with current pastor Rod Stafford shared memories and joys of their PMC ministries. Former pastors who could not attend, shared via video. Rod Stafford used the text from Genesis 28:16: “Surely God is in this place” in the Sunday morning sermon. This text was used at the first meeting of the mission on November 12, 2022.

We give God praise that we can say that God has been and is today, still in this place. Recordings of the services are available at [Portland Mennonite - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). An extensive timeline as well as links to other historical documents can be found at [OUR STORY - PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH](https://www.pnmc.org/our-story).

### *Deo gratias, thanks be to God*

By Eric Massanari

For early morning when darkness  
is slow to leave, and a candle flame  
reveals the persistence of light,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For the maple tree’s feisty root  
pushing up through my sidewalk,  
and all the messy forcefulness of life,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For the losses we must bear  
and the friends who will not let us  
carry the burden of grief alone,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For the ones I want to name “my enemy”  
and the mirror they may be to my own  
unholy words, my own shameful actions,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For the injury, the illness, the wound,  
and what these might teach us about  
receiving a neighbor’s love,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For disappointed hopes and unfulfilled  
dreams, and the doorways they  
become to new possibilities,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For the eventide of this day and of this life,  
when the Mystery of all mysteries  
grows near and life glows most  
precious and full,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

For this moment—  
for this uncommon moment—  
and for our common life,  
*Deo gratias*, thanks be to God.

Amen

## Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society wishes to announce an upcoming event. Kauffman Museum of North Newton, KS will be bringing their award winning Display entitled “Voice of Conscience.” This display is centered on the lives and experiences of Conscience Objectors during World War I. The display will be open to the public at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR. The exhibit will be on display from **July 28, 2023** to **September 24, 2023** at the Watzek Library. More details will soon be available at our website, [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

*listed alphabetically by organization*

### Mennonite Arts Weekend

“Between: Embracing Vulnerability” is the theme for the sixteenth Mennonite Arts Weekend, **February 3-5, 2023** in Cincinnati, OH. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations and workshops by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend. A nursery will be available as well.

Now is the time to take advantage of the early-bird registration offer and sign-up for the limited spaces in workshops. Find the complete list of presenters, registration details, location and lodging information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw/>. Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and enjoy hearing Girl Named Tom! The exciting biennial gathering brings together artists from across the United States and Canada to provide exposure for artists working in different facets of the arts and to provide a setting for interaction and the exchange of ideas.



Here is just a glimpse at some of the presenting artists. L-R: Dick Lehman (ceramics artist), Rachel Derstine (quilt designer), Girl Named Tom (musicians), Anne Berry (calligrapher and graphic designer), and Daniel Shank Cruz (writer).

### Mennonite Church USA

MC USA Executive Board has posted the new “[Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA](#)”. The guidelines are effective immediately and apply to proposed organizational resolutions or church statements submitted for consideration by the 2023 Delegate Assembly (Kansas City, Missouri, July 7-8, 2023).

Any MC USA conference, congregation or constituency group may submit a resolution. The deadline for submitting resolutions for the 2023 Delegate Assembly is **Jan. 9, 2023**. Resolutions should be sent to the Resolutions Committee via the Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA using [resolutions@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:resolutions@mennoniteusa.org).

Moderator-Elect Jon Carlson, chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the guidelines at the Constituency Leaders Council meeting on October 21-22, 2022. He said that the updated guidelines clarify the distinction between organizational resolutions and churchwide statements. “Part of the goal of this is to drive more honest conversations about how power works and where power resides within our structure,” said Carlson, “so that we can be clear what authority delegates actually have and how can they best exercise the authority that they’ve been given.” Carlson also said that the new guidelines use more creative and nuanced processes for churchwide statements, such as gradients of agreement. “I would hope that this kind of framework helps us to internalize ... a bit more,” Carlson said to the CLC. “The act of writing down words and voting on them is not actually how God’s Kingdom breaks into this world. It is through **how we engage with our neighbors and with one another**. The hope is that [this new process] puts less emphasis on the outcome of a specific resolution – the wording of the parliamentary procedure – and puts much more emphasis on the outcome of how we are living out our values together as Mennonite Church USA.”

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 5 (submissions due by 11/28)  
Dec 19 (submissions due by 12/12)  
Jan 2 (submissions due by 12/26)  
Jan 16 (submissions due by 1/9)

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>