



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.

## All that we might see in the Light of Christ



Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* John 1:3b-5

I am very much aware these days that I've moved to more northern latitudes. The light tells me this. Winter days are shorter here than on the Kansas prairies, as the sun takes a lower path across the sky. I am attuning my eyes to the play of light through cedar, spruce and fir, rather than on the open expanses of tall grass and winter wheat.

**I'm seeing differently because the light is different here.**

When I listen to the gospel stories of Advent and Christmas, I notice that so many of the characters are invited to see differently: Magi follow a strange star to an unlikely destination, Mary wonders at a bright and bewildering angelic pronouncement, and an incredulous Zechariah is asked to be silent for a time and

take a lingering, loving look at all that is unfolding. From the very beginning, the Good News is about seeing differently, more expansively, in the light of wondrous love.

When our presumptions tempt us to look away too quickly, the light of Christ invites us to stay curious. When our impatience causes us to take only passing glances, the light of Christ invites us to look deeper. When our fear places blinders over our gaze, the light of Christ surprises and reveals all of the places where God is present and pleased to dwell. When we're unable to recognize our immeasurable worth, and the unsurpassable value of each person we meet, the light of Christ allows us to look again with the compassionate gaze of God.

The light is different when we live in Christ. In Christ, our sight is changed. What is the light of Christ revealing to you? What is it revealing to your congregation? Where are you invited to look with love?

### A Prayer:

O Lord,  
*in daylight or in shadow,  
in clarity or in confusion,  
in comfort or in distress,  
in peace or in conflict,  
and in all the spaces between,  
may my gaze remain clear  
and my presence remain full  
in the light of Christ's love.*  
Amen

### From the PNMC Office

- The Conference Communications Council, **Saturday, February 4**, on Zoom.
- The PNMHS Annual Meeting, **Saturday, February 11**, at Zion Mennonite Church.
- The Drift Creek Quilters' Retreat, **March 9-12**, at Drift Creek Camp.
- The Idaho Relief Sale, **Saturday, April 15**, in Nampa, ID.
- The PNMC Annual Meeting, **June 23-24**, in Portland, Oregon.
- The Mennonite Church USA Convention, **July 3-8**, in Kansas City, MO.
- The Mennonite Country Auction, **Saturday, October 7**, in Ritzville, WA.
- The Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale, **Saturday, October 21**, in Albany, OR.

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Drift Creek Camp

DCC is seeking to build a team of passionate young adults to create meaningful experiences for campers! Serving on summer staff provides an opportunity to unplug from technology, explore nature, reflect, build relationships, hone leadership skills, laugh until it hurts, and be part of a nurturing faith community. At camp, staff members will likely eat too many carbs, but will also fall asleep each night feeling both exhausted and satisfied. [Apply here!](#)

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

*listed alphabetically by organization*

### Mennonite Church USA

*The following news release was provided by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA. The portions in italics were added by Mennonite Church USA staff.*

#### 1000 faith leaders call for a Christmas truce in Ukraine



A diverse and quickly growing coalition of nearly 1000 faith leaders in the United States – representing a massive number of believers from every major tradition, *including Mennonite Church USA* – have signed onto a **Christmas Truce** statement demanding a temporary cease-fire in the War in Ukraine. *Click [here](#) to see the list of signers.*

Spiritual leaders from across the spectrum of faith communities and a diversity of ideological perspectives have become signatories in recognition of the fact that the way out of the war in Ukraine will not be a military solution. They have signed on with the belief that a temporary ceasefire offers an opportunity for moral clarity that could be the first step toward a negotiated peace. Signers include Bishop William J. Barber II, president of

Repairers of the Breach; Dr. Cornel West, Union Theological Seminary; Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rainbow Push Coalition; Rev. Liz Theoharis, Director of the Kairos Center for Religion; Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Jewish Renewal movement; Mary Novak, Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Thay Phap An, the Plum Village Buddhist community; Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus, Reformed Church in America; Rev. Jim Wallace, Georgetown Center on Faith and Justice; (full list available [here](#)). Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister of peace and justice, signed the Christmas truce statement, on behalf of the denomination. "A Christmas truce statement calling for a ceasefire is one step the faith community can take in the hope that this time can bring clarity for a negotiated peace rather than war," said Stutzman Amstutz.

"As the war in Ukraine drags into to its 10th month, the only certainty is that the estimated hundreds of thousands killed and wounded will continue to grow, as will the 14 million war refugees not to mention the humanitarian impacts felt across Europe and the globe" said Ariel Gold, executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA, the oldest interfaith peace organization in the United States. "Negotiation is not a euphemism for capitulation, nor is it a rationalization of Putin's aggression," said Medea Benjamin, cofounder of the peace group CODEPINK. "It is simply a recognition that the end of this war cannot be achieved by more war. Any prospect for a pause in hostilities should be acted on."

Initiated by the [Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA](#), the [National Council of Elders](#), [CODEPINK](#) and the [Peace in Ukraine Coalition](#), the Christmas truce for Ukraine, is inspired by the miraculous Christmas truce of 1914, in which 100,000 German and British soldiers ceased fire and participated in a brief and spontaneous peace along the Western Front. Emerging from their trenches, soldiers ventured into the "no man's land" where they shared food and drink; they sang Christmas carols and even played soccer together. It was a potent example of how the human spirit can be a powerful force that transcends hate and division in the promotion of peace.

The signers of the statement hope to meet with and petition the Biden administration to ask them to take a leadership role in pushing for a negotiated settlement that brings the war to an end, greatly lessening the danger of nuclear war and mass, if not total, annihilation. "As people of faith and conscience, believing in the sanctity of all life on this planet, we call for a Christmas Truce in Ukraine. In the spirit of the truce that occurred in 1914 during the First World War, we urge our government to take a leadership role in bringing the war in Ukraine to an end through supporting calls for a ceasefire and negotiated settlement, before the conflict results in a nuclear war that could devastate the world's ecosystems and annihilate all of God's creation."

Campaign organizers will also be rolling out online resources ([forusa.org/ukrainemedia](http://forusa.org/ukrainemedia)) that houses of worship and community groups nationwide can access to promote this prayer for peace and encourage grassroots promotion of the need to cease the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement. "Whether it's Christians around the world preparing for Christmas or Jews getting ready to celebrate the commemoration of the miracle of Hanukkah, all of the Abrahamic faiths embrace the prophetic voice of Isaiah who exhorted us to transform swords into plowshares," said Zoharah Simmons from the National Council of Elders. "As we enter this winter holiday filled with prayers for peace and liberation, we are praying and acting for the same kind of miracle that over a century ago compelled the soldiers of WWI to put down their weapons and celebrate peace."

FOR-USA Contacts: Ariel Gold | [ariel@forusa.org](mailto:ariel@forusa.org) | 510 599 5330 and Bill McGarvey | [bill@mcg-media.com](mailto:bill@mcg-media.com) | 201-725-4202123

---

#### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 9 (submissions due by 1/2)

Jan 23 (submissions due by 1/9)

Feb 6 (submissions due by 12/30)

Feb 20 (submissions due by 2/13)

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>