



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, Eric Massanari

Advent: Into the Wilderness



*See, I am sending my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying in the wilderness . . .*

MARK 1:2-3

Perhaps it was only in the wilderness of the Jordan River that John the Baptist's message could be heard and understood. People had to leave behind the comforts of home, the noise of daily living and their carefully ordered lives. They needed to venture out into a place that had a reputation for being dangerous and unnerving for its utter unfamiliarity and disquieting silences. They had to accept such vulnerable exposure before they could fully turn toward what was most true and real: **a life in God they had not yet known or ever expected.**

Perhaps it is only in the wilderness experiences of our lives that we hear and understand some new thing, a new birth that is waiting but cannot yet be perceived. The wilderness of not knowing, not seeing, not controlling is always present, sometimes at the very margins of our living. And sometimes—in unsettling, uncertain times such as these—the wilderness might feel like it is everywhere we look. Always it invites us to traverse its reaches and prepare to turn, and turn yet again, and **discover that Christ is already there, waiting to be born anew.**

Wherever you might be asked to enter the wilderness at this moment, may you know and trust that Christ is there, **a light in the darkness that shall not be overcome.**

From the PNMC Office

- **Evergreen Mennonite Church** is looking to hire a full-time pastor (70% pastoral duties and 30% administrative). *A full job description will soon be posted [here](#). For details, contact Eric Massanari.*
- **Lyn and Jeanie Hershey** will become Interim Pastors at **First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen**, Aberdeen, ID in December.
- **Mennonite Village** is looking to hire a part-time chaplain.
- **Zion Mennonite Church** is looking to hire a part-time Youth Leader.

Please mark your fresh new 2023 calendars:

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

Meet PNMC Board Member, Nelly Morán Ascencio



Nelly Ascencio (right) with Cyneatha Millsaps

Nelly is a member at **Ministerios Restauración**, where her father Samuel Morán is a pastor. She is an important key at her congregation; she gives unconditional support and is known as an active member.

Nelly has a long history of service. She worked for Mennonite Central Committee from September, 2001 until July, 2004. She was appointed by CIHAN's Council, to represent the Hispanic Mennonite Congregations to the PNMC Board in June 2014. She is the reciprocal voice between CIHAN and PNMC. Nelly served as the CIHAN moderator from September 2014 to February 11, 2021. Nelly became part of the leadership of Mennonite Women USA as Regional Representative for the Northwest in early 2021. She has taken a broader interest in church leadership and has been involved with *SisterCare*. In the fall, Nelly had an opportunity to lead *SisterCare* workshops. *Read the full article [here](#).*

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Plan now to attend the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Societies' annual meeting to be held on **Saturday, February 11, 2023**, at Zion Mennonite Church. Lunch will be served at noon with the program following at 1:30 pm.

Speakers will be Austin and Sherilyn Smucker from Madras, OR. They will share their experience of being held as hostages in Haiti from October 16 to December 15, 2021. They were two of the seventeen Christian missionaries who were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo Gang after visiting a local orphanage in Port-au-Prince on October 16. The group, comprised of Amish, Mennonite, and other conservative Anabaptist communities, included 16 US citizens and one Canadian. Five of those kidnapped were children. More information will be available in early January.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program: Now is the time to encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level AMBS program! Journey supports learners as they explore spiritual leadership in their local churches and communities and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with a dedicated mentor. The Spring 2023 cohort begins **February 22**. Act fast! Those who apply by **December 7** can save \$100! (ambs.edu/journey)

MennoMedia

Check off your Christmas list! Save 40% on select cookbooks and 30% on all our paperbacks! Herald Press offers a great variety of books for your thoughtful and creative Christmas giving! The sale lasts through **December 31**! Explore options [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA



Sarah Augustine, who is a Pueblo (Tewa) descendant, is a co-founder and executive director of the [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition](#). She is also the co-founder of [Suriname Indigenous Health Fund](#) (SIHF), where she has worked in relationship with vulnerable and Indigenous Peoples since 2005. She has represented the interests of Indigenous community partners to their own governments, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations, the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the World Health Organization and a host of other international actors, including corporate interests. In 2011, she co-wrote the World Council of Churches' "[Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery and its Enduring Impacts on Indigenous Peoples](#)," and shared in the creation of [the ecumenical Indigenous Peoples network](#). She is a columnist for Anabaptist World and co-hosts the [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery podcast](#) with Sheri Hostetler. She has written for Sojourners, The Mennonite, Anabaptist Witness, Response Magazine, and other publications, as well as a variety of academic journals. She has taught at Heritage University, Central Washington University and [Goshen College](#). In Washington State, where she lives, she serves in a leadership role on multiple boards and commissions to enable vulnerable peoples to speak for themselves in advocating for structural justice. She and her husband, Dan Peplow, and their son live in the Yakima Valley of Washington. She is author of the book "[The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery](#)".

Follow [this link](#) to read Sarah's thoughtful reflection on being both Indigenous and Anabaptist.

**The
Corinthian Plan**
Together, providing health care for pastors and church workers

Open enrollment continues through December 31, 2022.

All MC USA-affiliated congregations can enroll their eligible staff for health coverage, life and disability insurance, and/or optional dental and vision coverage. For more information, please visit The Corinthian Plan [website](#) or contact [Duncan Smith](#) (director) or [Denise Henke](#) (Everence, administrator) directly.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 19 (submissions due by 12/12)
Jan 2 (submissions due by 12/26)
Jan 16 (submissions due by 1/9)
Feb 6 (submissions due by 12/30)

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>