



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the PNMC Office

First, a word of gratitude for all who engaged participation in this year's CCC gathering. It was a wonderful opportunity to bear how God's Spirit is at work in the life of our congregations and local communities, and to be enriched by reflection and prayer together. I felt especially thankful for the practical learning that Malinda Berry offered us on Nonviolent Communication, and ways to build our empathic connections with ourselves and each other. I appreciated her encouragement to see this work as "our goal and our practice," and as a living expression of the love of Christ.

-Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

A Reflection on the Conference Communications Council by Christie Dahlin, Pastor of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

From our various places around the Pacific Northwest, we gathered via Zoom for the PNMC Conference Communications Council on February 4. During our four hours together I noticed moments of care, beauty, and welcoming Christ's presence among us. There was much care in the tech support and Danny's interpreting to make sure all of us could communicate with one another. We were able to welcome our new conference minister, Eric, and hear from him of his first months in our conference. In our opening time of prayer and reflection we pondered Luke 2:22-38, noticing the ways that Anna and Simeon paid attention, saw what others around them did not see, received Christ's presence and blessed and proclaimed that presence. In our "roll call" we heard from one another how our congregations are welcoming and blessing the presence of Christ in our midst. We shared ways in which we can hold one another in prayer. We are a diverse group of congregations as we seek to be present to Christ and those around us in our time and places.

It was a gift to begin to learn about Non-violent Communication (NVC) from Dr. Malinda Berry from AMBS. As a new pastor I am continually impressed with all the interpersonal layers involved in being church together and being a conference together and what a tool NVC can be. There is much that could be said of our learning time together and may this just be the beginning of my (our) learning about NVC. A few phrases that have lingered in me: *Everything we do is a strategy to meet a need. NVC is a worldview that values empathy, sharing, power with others, compassion, and connection. Jesus' saving work is part of us feeling our full range of emotions, as Jesus had a full range of emotions and needs. NVC is about making space for others while not closing down the conversation or expressing one's own needs.*

After updates from the PNMC board, we were sent with a closing prayer and on our way to continue noticing and welcoming Christ's presence among us until we meet again in Portland for our annual gathering in June. (Read the CCC Minutes and notes [here](#).)

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Drift Creek Camp

After much prayer and consideration, it has been decided that DCC will take a **brief sabbatical** and forego hosting a 2023 Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat. It has been painful to let go of this rich and rewarding event that has become an important part of camp's ministry, but we look forward to resuming plans for this gathering again in 2024! If you would like to be involved in planning, contact info@driftcreek.org. Meanwhile, we are also exploring structural changes for the camp staff as a whole in order to meet the increasing number of weekday outdoor education groups. While we are thrilled about the increased usage, the current pace is beyond what is sustainable for the small staff. If you are available to help with weekday food service or group transitions, please let us know!

Emmaus Christian Fellowship

Craig Morton, Co-Pastor at Emmaus Christian Fellowship, has started a podcast series on Christian nationalism. The hope is to roll out the series with approximately one per week. The first episode is available at iTunes [here](#). (It is available on most platforms. Just hit like and subscribe to hear them all). Craig plans to complete the episode with Pamela Cooper-White next week, followed by Drew Strait from AMBS, then Angela Denker. Look for future episodes based on stewardship and relational theology.

Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival

The Idaho Mennonite Churches are planning an in-person only festival on **Saturday, April 15, 2023**, from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm at the College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, ID. Proceeds will benefit MCC. Please visit www.idahomrs.org for the event schedule and ways to help prior to sale day. We are seeking donations of quilted items, antique furniture, wood items, crafts, gift certificates, and vacation get-a-ways. If you would like to help, please contact the festival chairperson at rickmarjb@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest and support!

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Mennonite Village

[Mennonite Village](#) is a not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community in Oregon's beautiful Mid-Willamette Valley, celebrating 75 years serving our Senior Community. We are currently seeking a part-time Chaplain to serve our community, ensuring that we provide holistic care, in cooperation with the interdisciplinary team. Chaplains will oversee and ensure the provision of Spiritual Care to residents, their family and loved ones, and staff members. These services shall embody grace, love, and hope to all. The role oversees and ensures provision of worship, ritual, education, and training as necessary. The Chaplains will communicate and serve as a liaison between Mennonite Village, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, and the local clergy. For more information on our history and mission and to apply, please visit our [website](#).



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The PNMHS Annual Meeting and program took place on February 11th. The gathering featured a presentation from Austin and Cherilyn Smucker who shared their experience of being held as hostages in Haiti for 62 days in late 2021. They were two of seventeen Christian missionaries who were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo Gang after visiting an orphanage in Port-au-Prince on October 16. The couple shared a powerful story of God's faithfulness through the many miracles that occurred during their captivity despite being held in spartan conditions. The groups' constant reliance on prayer, scripture, and song sustained them until they were delivered and reunited with their families. The presentation begins at the 13-minute mark of this recording: [PNMHS Annual Meeting 2023](#).

Seattle Mennonite Church

Our congregation has a tradition of escaping post-Christmas Seattle and retreating to [Camp CAMREC](#) for Snow Camp. It is our time to connect, get to know each other, rehash Rook rules, sing, establish supremacy in Dutch Blitz and Ping Pong, and play, play, play in the snow. COVID messed with our getaway for a couple of years, and it was somewhat scary to re-gather. Our church has an apocryphal tale of The Year Norovirus Came to Snow Camp that is so epic it seemed edgy and almost dangerous to unmask with a pandemic so near. But, we tested before we came and masked in the kitchen and no one came down with COVID. We sang a fireside Holden Evening Prayer Service together and created a huge human machine with our bodies during our Sunday morning service. It was good to be together in body and spirit and to feel the truth that **where two or more are gathered in Jesus' name, the God of Love is present.**



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC is working with partners in Syria to provide emergency assistance (food baskets, clothing, hygiene supplies, winterization supplies and water resources). MCC will also be providing partners with psychological and trauma training. [Donate here](#) and please keep the people of this devastated region in your prayers.

AFFILIATED CONGREGATIONS

Community of Hope

The folks at [Community of Hope](#) will be hosting a Zoom gathering on **Sunday, March 5, at 3:30pm** on Queer Biblical Hermeneutics. In this event, designed for queer folks and those who love them, we will look at scripture through the lens of queer theology, including Anabaptist interpretation and identifying queer figures within the Bible. Guest presenter will be Rev. Erica Lea-Simka. Participants will be invited to break into self-selected groups according to discussion questions. Register in advance by emailing [Pastor Rachael Weasley](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 6 (submissions due by 2/27)
Mar 20 (submissions due by 3/13)
Apr 3 (submissions due by 3/24)
Apr 17 (submissions due by 4/10)

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>
