



# 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 the PNMC Office

**Pastor Jesús and Rosa María Fuentes** (Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer) recently learned of the death of their son, **José Obed Fuentes**. Together, we pray that the steadfast love of God will surround and guide their family through this time of great loss and grief. Because their son had been living in México, the family is incurring significant travel and funeral arrangement costs. Congregations and individuals are invited to please consider the possibility of making a donation to support the Fuentes family in these important and painful efforts. Donations can be sent by check to the PNMC Office. Funds will be gathered and shared with the family by Pastor Samuel Moran, our PNMC District Pastor for the Ebenezer congregation. Checks should be payable to: "Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference" with a note in the memo line indicating "Fuentes family support" and sent to: PNMC, c/o Barb Buxman, Administrator, PO Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294.



## PNMC Annual Meeting:

Plan now for the **2023 PNMC Annual Meeting, June 23-24**, in Portland, OR. The conference-wide gathering will be held at Portland Mennonite Church, 1312 SE 35th Ave. in Portland, OR. We look forward to welcoming **AMBS Professor, Malinda Berry**. She will be sharing with pastors, chaplains and ministry leaders (only) on the subject of non-violent communication on Friday, June 23. The annual **delegate sessions** will take place on **Saturday, June 24**, along with an opportunity for all in attendance to learn from Professor Berry. Our 2023 theme is: *Rooted and Grounded in Love from Ephesians 3:14-19*. (Please submit Delegate Handbook reports by 4/14/23.)

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



### Salem Mennonite Church, A Reflection by Jerrell Williams

Hello friends! Back in February, I had the opportunity to attend the **Hope for the Future Conference** hosted by MC USA in Atlanta, GA. Hope for the Future is a denominational gathering for Mennonites of color. Every year I mark this event on my calendar. It is a great opportunity to connect and find rest with folks who understand the struggles that BIPOC folks face in the Mennonite church.

This year our theme was "Such a Time as This" which was from the book of Esther. We worshiped together, ate together, and learned together. **Dr. Wilma Bailly** led us in Bible studies and we had dynamic speakers for our worship sessions. As mentioned, this always means a lot to me because it is when I feel the most connected to the Mennonite church. I'm in a unique position. Not only am I ordained in a predominately white denomination, but I am also the pastor of a predominately white congregation.

While I love my church and the support that they give, it is **refreshing to connect with other BIPOC Mennonites**. The first time I attended Hope for the Future, I was on the fence about joining the Mennonite church. I enjoyed the theology, but I didn't know if I actually fit in. I didn't have the right last name. I didn't grow up in the church. My introduction to Mennonites was at Bethel College and they were okay, but it did not seem like the tradition for me. This changed when I attended the Hope for the Future Conference in 2018. The love and support that I felt from those in attendance who had a similar experience and journey as my own led me to realize that the Mennonite church was where I wanted to be.

I had a similar experience this year. I again felt a connection as I saw some new faces and embraced old friends. This year, in particular, was unique because we took time to both honor our elders who have paved the way for us and we also welcomed the younger generation to their first conference. **Hope for the Future is a great time of love, connection, and support**. I am grateful for Salem Mennonite Church for providing financial support for me to attend. I am grateful for those within MC USA who opened the door for diversity within the denomination. I am grateful for my BIPOC siblings who walk alongside me in sharing the God's peace within our communities.

*Jerrell Williams is currently the pastor of [Salem \(OR\) Mennonite Church](#). He graduated from [Bethel College](#) in North Newton, Kansas, before attending and graduating from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity. Jerrell's interests include systematic theology and Christian ethics.*

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, cont.

### Emmaus Christian Fellowship

The Emmaus Christian Fellowship, in Meridian, ID, is in the process of changing its (DBA) name to **Meridian Mennonite**. The church's new website address is [www.meridianmenno.org](http://www.meridianmenno.org).

### First Mennonite Church

First Mennonite Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. The congregation was established in 1907 and is located in Aberdeen, ID. The congregation actively supports the operation of [Camp Palisades](#). To read more about this opportunity, follow [this link](#).

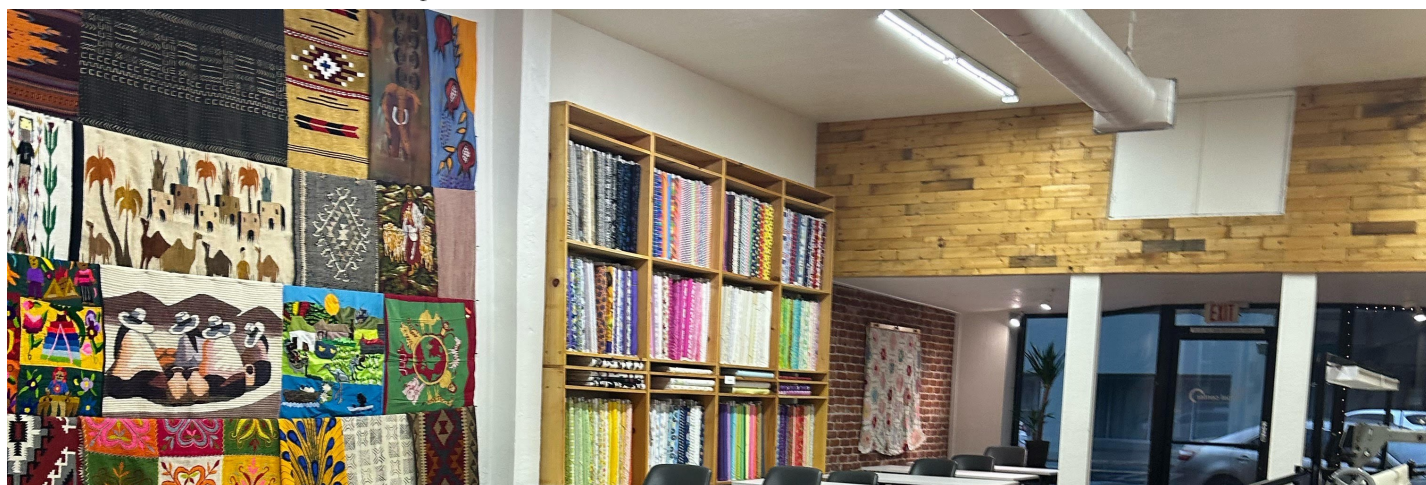
### Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival

Idaho's annual [MCC Relief Sale](#) is coming up on **Saturday, April 15** at the College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, ID. Planners are looking forward to being together, in person, to share in [supporting the work of MCC](#) through a live auction, silent auction, country store, food venues, displays and more. To learn more, click [here](#).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

### West Coast Mennonite Central Committee

West Coast MCC remodeled their 100-year old building in Reedley, CA to create the [MCC Global Center](#), with a grand opening on February 24, 2023. The "new" community center has an immigration office; will host school children learning about the world and making kits; comforter and quilt days with local residents; volunteer options; and community events. The space is striking with murals and bright colors and paintings and fabric from around the world, representing MCC partners and history. A coffee bar in the corner offers fair-trade coffee from an MCC partner in México.



The WCMCC board recently met and reviewed programs and opportunities. The Restorative Justice program in Phoenix, AZ is thriving with requests for education in multiple organizations and school systems. The recently hired trauma chaplain has walked with families in the immigration process. MCC staff, from other parts of the US, will be participating in a Borderlands Tour near Tucson, AZ to learn how to expand education across the country. The staff members working on immigration services, stay nimble responding to national regulatory changes.

Our new PNMC Representatives are **Twila Lehman** (Albany) and **Nelly Ascencio** (Ministerios Restauración). They both bring a strong background of familiarity with MCC, PNMC, and board experience. Other board members from the PNMC conference are board appointees **Kiara Yoder** (Zion) and **Nancy Chupp** (Seattle). I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve on the West Coast MCC board on behalf of the PNMC for the past eight years. -Beth Landis (Hyde Park)

### Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read the latest edition of PeaceMail. This edition includes a reflection by Native-Oregonian, **Shirley Yoder Brubaker**, [here](#).

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### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 3 (submissions due by 3/24)  
Apr 17 (submissions due by 4/10)  
May 1 (submissions due by 4/24)  
May 15 (submissions due by 5/8)

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>