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A Lenten Reflection: When Even the Shadows Can Heal

Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of people, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by.

ACTS 5:14-15

This passage evokes images of people so desperate for healing that they take to the streets, gathered there by a common hope for restoration and wholeness. These are people whose endurance of suffering has moved them beyond fear and shame, to boldly emerge into the public square and cry out. Then there's the image of Peter's shadow passing over the scene, and into our imaginations. How can a shadow bring healing and restoration?

My shadow is that thing my body casts across the ground when I stand in the light. "Shadow" is also the term used by 20th century Swiss psychologist Carl Jung to describe that portion of our being we cannot fully see with conscious awareness. My shadow is the hidden aspect of my personality that might include difficult things I've chosen to avoid, traumas I've suffered and found too painful to examine, wounds I've inflicted on myself and others and then covered up with shame, my fears, my prejudices, my privileges, and much more. Jung's work suggested, too, that such shadows are not only individual but they can be collective. A community, like a congregation or a conference of congregations, can have its own shadow.

The turbulence and tumult of these times we live in have a way of shaking our shadows into awareness, if we are willing to pay attention. The unrest, oppression, violence and suffering we witness and experience on scales both intimate and global, are not just "out there" in the world, they are also within us, and within our churches and ministries. We have an opportunity right now as the Body of Christ in the world to acknowledge parts of our own shadow, and the ways we have been complicit in the continued suffering of Christ in the world.

It will take courage, humility, faith, hope and a full measure of love for us to lay down our impulses toward blame, shame and fear, and instead acknowledge our needs for continued repentance and ongoing transformation. In whatever ways are possible, may God help us grow in awareness of our own shadows, so that we might be healed and made whole.

-Written by Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Mennonite Village

Diane Hood has been selected to serve as the next Executive Director at Mennonite Village. Diane was chosen from a selection of candidates by the Mennonite Services Northwest and Mennonite Village Board of Directors. Diane had served as the interim executive director for nearly a year. "We were impressed with her broad experience, depth of understanding of the needs of Mennonite Village and vision for the campus," said Will Barnhart, chair of the Mennonite Services Northwest Board. "She has a high degree of enthusiasm for the future of MV and brings a desire to carry on the legacy and values upheld by the organization.

Diane has a Bachelor of Arts degree in management from University of Oregon and a post-baccalaureate certificate in accounting from Portland State University. She is also a licensed CPA. She has over 35 years' experience in management, finance, and accounting, including the last 30 years in senior living management and consulting.

"When I took the interim job, I had not planned to become a candidate for the full-time position," Diane shared. "But after being here about eleven months, I have come to love this place, the people that live and work here, and the entire wonderful organization of Mennonite Village."

"For the Board Chairs, the Board members, and the search committee, seeing her perform in the interim role made it an easy decision to select her for the position over other candidates," said **Brett Tieszen**, chair of the Mennonite Village Board. "We are grateful for the insightful, compassionate, and excellent leadership Diane provided over the past eleven months."

Mennonite Village is one of Oregon's largest continuing care retirement communities offering independent, assisted, skilled nursing and rehabilitation, and memory care living options. Established in 1947, Mennonite Village employs more than 300 staff and is home for 500 residents.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Drift Creek Camp

A small group of volunteers headed to DCC on February 22 in order for several middle school students to complete 8 hours of service work for a school project. As the group arrived, snow began to fall, and fall, and fall... It is not infrequent for spring snow to fall at DCC, but typically it melts within a few hours as mild coastal temperatures maintain a temperate climate. However, this was a different kind of storm. The snow was wet and heavy. So in addition to the highly unusual foot of snow that fell on that first day, countless trees came down like pick-up-sticks across the road. For nearly three days, the five men who were trapped at camp cut through countless trees from morning until dark. Together, they were able to clear about three miles. Feeling weary, the camp staff put out a call on Facebook to seek assistance with clearing the road. A group of local folks as well as a few long-time camp supporters answered the call and began clearing the road from the top down. A narrow path was cleared through the tree debris from the top of the hill down to camp. However, the snow accumulation still prevented camp vehicles from getting out. *(Those who had driven up from town had better equipped all-wheel vehicles with higher clearance than the vehicles at camp.)*

One of the Lincoln City neighbors delivered chains for the cars at camp. With the assistance of traction devices, an attempt was made to depart. Unfortunately, the snow was still too deep and the effort was futile. By Sunday night the camp staff was feeling discouraged, trapped and exhausted. **Dennis Kauffman** (right) had mentioned bringing up his tractor so the call was made to see if he'd be willing. Dennis generously loaded his tractor and drove to Lincoln City. He parked his truck and trailer at the bottom of the camp road and started plowing his way in. He plowed all day on Monday and came within about a mile from the top of the hill. Dennis then drove to the lodge, spent the night at camp began plowing again on Tuesday, starting from the camp side. Dennis was only available for one more day. So early Wednesday he was back on the road plowing. He worked non-stop until midnight! With food supplies starting to run thin, the camp staff was eager to head out and followed Dennis for five hours shining headlights on the snow while he plowed. Finally, in the wee hours of the 9th day, March 2, Dennis reached his starting point and the road was clear enough to get out. During that stretch, three rental groups who were to be at camp had canceled. The road to camp is still difficult to pass. More clearing needs to be done in order for important propane and diesel deliveries.



Salem Mennonite Church

On Sunday, February 12, with the Super Bowl in the background, folks from Salem Mennonite gathered in the church's fellowship hall for the congregation's first participation in MCC's Great Winter Warm-up. The gathering was a great success with several comforters being knotted. Read more about MCC's efforts [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Mennonite Church USA

- MC USA is hosting a collaborative [Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit, July 7, 2023](#), at the Kansas City (MO) Convention Center. The event will bring together experts in climate change, spiritual activism and social justice to explore the ways that young people ages 14 to 25 can put their faith to work to address the spiritual and human crisis caused by climate change. Registration is now open at [this link](#). The cost is \$49 per person and includes lunch.
- MC USA's 10th [Hope for the Future](#) conference was held Feb. 3-5 in Atlanta, Georgia. More than 70 Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) gathered for "Such a Time as This," which was the weekend's theme. Drawn from the biblical story of Esther, the theme also offered space for attendees to acknowledge "collective trauma and hope" during a time of worship, connection and renewal. To read more, click [here](#). To read more about the HFF honorees, including **Iris de León-Hartshorn**, click [here](#).
- Is life feeling too harried? Are you craving rest? [Follow this link](#) for Spiritual Director, **Marlene Kropf's** thoughts on the value of setting aside time and ask yourself, "Is it time for a retreat?"

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 20 (submissions due by 3/13)

Apr 3 (submissions due by 3/24)

Apr 17 (submissions due by 4/10)

May 1 (submissions due by 4/24)

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!

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