



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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For Holy Week: How far will love go?

Written by Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

How far will love go?

Not love as warm sentimentality, or the intermittent sparks of romance, or even the more enduring flames shared by family members and friends, but the Love that calls our name at birth, the Love that will one day guide us across the threshold of death, and the Love that calls to us now in this moment. **The Love that is of God. The Love that is God.**

How far will Love go?

Will love be present when times are painful and confusing, and there is little to confirm that our efforts will be successful or effective? In Christ, God proclaims, "Yes." Love will not disappear in the struggle, not even in our deepest wounding or greatest loss. **Love guides a way through.**

Will Love remain even when people are indifferent to it, and even when we deny its power? In Christ, God proclaims, "Yes." Love will not falter when we ignore it or seek other solutions that fall short in the end. It will keep inviting and working with constancy and mercy.

Will Love endure even when the powers of hatred and violence are gathered against it, and even when it must face the worst abuses, the most bitter betrayals and the deepest loneliness? In Christ, God proclaims, "Yes." Love will endure in and through all of this.

And it will dispel shadows of fear, blame and shame with a light of grace and truth. The cross is a disrupting, heart-opening disclosure of just how far Love will go. The empty tomb is a wondrous, joyful proclamation that it goes further still.

In this Holy Week, wherever you find yourself, may you know that you are met here by the **One who sees you fully, knows you deeply, and sings an unbounded "Yes!"** And may we find ways to respond with our own uniquely marvelous "Yes!" to Love.

Love is labor that returns us to wonder—
it is seeing another person's humanity,
even if they deny their own.
We just have to choose to wonder about them.

—
Valarie Kaur

An update from Eric Massanari on his recent fall: I am so grateful for the prayers of many. Recovery is going well so far. I will be meeting with a specialist at Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle this Friday (4/7) to determine whether the facial fractures require surgery. I am hoping to avoid that option! I will be easing back into work this week starting Monday, limiting my time on screen, checking and responding to emails for limited periods each day, and available for phone conversations throughout the week.

Thank you all for your open hearted and prayerful support of our household.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



2023 IMWRF - LIVE AUCTION IS BACK SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023

WE'RE BACK LIVE!! The Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival is back, in person - live and celebrating the return of fellowship, fun and lots of auction items to enjoy. Our event starts on April 15, 2023 with a Country Breakfast at 7:30 AM, Booths and Silent Auction open and Live Auction preview start at 8:00, MCC speaker at 9:30 and Live Auction starting at 11:00. Lunch service also begins at 11:00.



See you April 15th!

We know that we've all missed getting together these last three years. We want to thank you for your continued support of the Festival and MCC during the pandemic. We are so excited to be planning for our live return. This year our MCC project will be the Global Hunger Crisis (food insecurity worldwide) and our My Coins Count donations will be designated for the current Crisis in Ukraine. We're looking forward to seeing you there at College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, ID. Please visit our website: Idahomrs.org for a map to the venue and to see many of the Live and Silent Auction Items that will be available. Keep watching as new and interesting things are posted frequently.

Camp Camrec, Camp Palisades, and Drift Creek Camp

Register now for summer camp! Please share this opportunity for kids to build community in a faith-based setting at PNMC's regional camps, each in its own uniquely beautiful setting! A week at camp provides space to unplug, be submerged in nature, and cultivate wonder in God's creation. Camp is a place where youth can learn about themselves and discover new skills. It is the perfect place to experience growth on the journey towards faith, surrounded by nurturing adults. Is there a child or teen in your life who could benefit from the camp experience? Consider sharing these opportunities!

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Mennonite Church USA

Recently, the MC USA Executive Board and MC USA's Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference signed an amicus brief in support of Apache Stronghold and the protection of Oak Flat, a sacred site of Native American religious exercise in Arizona's Tonto National Forest. The amicus brief, known as a friend of the court brief, allows MC USA Executive Board and PSMC to advocate for Apache Stronghold in the Apache Stronghold v. United States court case, which was heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena, CA, on March 21, 2023. Apache Stronghold, San Carlos, Arizona, is a nonprofit Apache-led organization that battles colonization and defends holy sites and freedom of religion. Oak Flat, known to Apaches as Chi'chil Bildagoteel or "Emery Oak Extends on a Level," has been at the heart of a 20-year struggle by Apache and other Southwestern Indigenous peoples to prevent the site from being given to a foreign mining company for a new copper mine.

Sarah Augustine, co-founder and executive director of The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, a ministry partner of MC USA and PSMC, said, "Oak Flat is the unceded traditional homeland and territory of the Apache people. It is a sacred site to Indigenous Peoples, including the Yavapai, O'odham, and my relatives, the Hopi and Zuni. It is a sacred place of worship. While the Apache were removed to a reservation along with hundreds of other Native American tribes, they have continued to care for it and worship there." Oak Flat is the site of many important Indigenous religious practices, such as the coming-of-age Sunrise Ceremony for Apache women and sweat lodge ceremonies. It also is a place of rich resources, such as sacred medicine plants, animals, minerals and waters. It is considered the direct corridor to Apache religion and recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

To read more on this important story, follow [this link](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 17 (submissions due by 4/10)

May 1 (submissions due by 4/24)

May 15 (submissions due by 5/8)

June 5 (submissions due by 5/29)

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>