



# 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.

## *simple truth*

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister



Photo by Yolanda Kauffman

*Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith...*  
HEBREWS 10:22

*We may be true or false, the choice is ours. We may wear now one mask and now another, and never, if we so desire, appear with our own true face. But we cannot make these choices with impunity. Causes have effects, and if we lie to ourselves and to others, then we cannot expect to find truth and reality whenever we happen to want them. If we have chosen the way of falsity we must not be surprised that truth eludes us when we finally come to need it!*

THOMAS MERTON, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, p. 34

Most of us are not methodical or malicious about our falsehoods, but we do have our reasons for not acknowledging the whole truth. The truth may indeed be simple, but often it is far from simple to tell and live the truth.

The truth can make us uncomfortable because it might mean owning up to our shortcomings or the ways we have wounded ourselves and others. The whole truth may be difficult because it means we must risk something to tell it. Perhaps it means we must stand alone, like that small child in the crowd in Hans Christian Anderson's famous tale who points out what everyone else is too scared or too duped to admit: "The emperor has no clothes!"

Or, perhaps we struggle with the whole truth because we know very well that in telling it, and living it, we will need to change.

So we massage the truth. We tell it in part, or we speak half-truths and partial fibs so as not to risk hurting others or making ourselves too uncomfortable. These falsehoods and omissions build walls and lead us away from authentic connection with one another and deeper life with God.

God is able to love only that which is true and real.

God can only find us and love us right where we are, not where we wish we could be or think we ought to be.

May the truth set us free in love, to love.

## **PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES**

### **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society**

#### **Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War (VOC) exhibit**

The VOC exhibit is now installed and available for self-guided viewing **through September 23rd** on the 2nd floor in the Watzek Library on the campus of Lewis & Clark College, 615 S Palatine Hill Road, Portland, OR. Please note these updated hours from previous communications. Hours during August are; Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Parking is free on weekdays through August. September hours are; Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. (Closed on Labor Day) Beginning in September, parking fees will be required on weekdays. Saturdays, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. (Best to avoid September 9 due to a home football game) Sundays, 9:00 am – 10:00 pm. Parking is free on Saturdays and Sundays in September. More information and a campus map with the location of the library and parking can be found at [pnmhs.org](http://pnmhs.org).

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Camp Camrec

Do you ever wish you could experience CAMREC as a camper just like the kids do during summer? Did your family miss summer camp this year? Don't miss this chance to come out with your family or friends to enjoy a multigenerational gathering over **Labor Day Weekend, September 1-4!** Activities will include outdoor games, campfire songs, nature hikes, star gazing, faith discussions and much more. Enjoy this 3-night event that includes food and lodging! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### Drift Creek Camp

The 2023 Fall Quilt Retreat is coming up **October 12-15**. Guests bring projects of their choosing while DCC provides the workspace, meals, coffee and cozy fire. Follow [this link](#) for a registration form. Questions? Contact the camp office at 971-600-1244 or [info@driftcreek.org](mailto:info@driftcreek.org).



### Mountain View Mennonite Church

After 10-years of dreams, visions, and prayer, the Peace Garden is taking shape! First the ground was leveled and prepped for a cement pad. Then, in mid-July, the congregation had a “raising of the gazebo” celebration! Bicyclists have already begun to stop and utilize the gazebo, expressing gratitude for water, a bench, shade and a restroom break. “We Were told about you,” the bicyclists said... *Isn't that the Gospel* - being known for hospitality, rest, welcome, and generosity? MVMC is deeply grateful to all the hands who came to build this tent, this tabernacle, this holy place of welcome and rest.

Additionally, click [here](#) to listen to an interview with Miriam Mauritzen at the Ministry Collaborative about the Glacier Immersion Experience.

### Other Local Opportunities

“[The breath of God: A mindfulness & meditation retreat](#)” will be held **November 10-12** at Twin Rocks Camp in Rockaway Beach, OR. The event will be led by spiritual director **Juel Russell** of Salem Mennonite Church. Online registration coming soon at this [link](#).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCH AGENCIES

### MennoMedia

The *Anabaptist Community Bible*, a project of MennoMedia, is being designed for a broad range of Anabaptist readers to draw readers deeper in faith and provide opportunities for reflection. This is the first Bible with commentary developed from an Anabaptist perspective. Bible scholars and pastors wrote study notes to accompany each book of the Bible, and historians added biblical reflections from early Anabaptists. The notes will appear in the margins. Recently, the advisory group gathered for three days to work through the collection of scholarly notes from the entire Bible. “It was a genuine review together, as we each brought our best wisdom to the text,” said John D. Roth, Anabaptism at 500 project director. “The theological breadth of the church comes through in these notes, as each group found different points of connection to highlight,” said Amy Gingerich, executive director and publisher at MennoMedia. “As Anabaptists, we believe that God shows up when we do Bible study together, and that comes through in the notes.” To find out more about the project, visit [AnabaptismAt500.com](http://AnabaptismAt500.com).



### Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read **Kevin Chupp's** reflection on what a Mennonite pastor looks like in the latest issue of PeaceMail. Prior to moving to Normal, IL, Kevin served at First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, ID.



**Iris de León-Hartshorn**, associate executive director of Operations for Mennonite Church USA, delivered a heartfelt message of hope and healing, sharing deeply from her own family's experiences with abuse, addiction and homelessness. She reflected, “Healing is a journey for all of us. There are no quick fixes. We make mistakes. We hurt other people with our choices. We break relationships. But, God is there. God is calling us toward restoration.” (Recorded July 4, 2023.) View it [here](#).

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Sept 4 (submissions due by 8/28)  
Sept 18 (submissions due by 9/11)  
Oct 2 (submissions due by 9/25)  
Oct 16 (submissions due by 10/9)

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>

### Upcoming Events:

#### [Camp for All Ages](#)

##### [Camp Camrec](#)

September 1-4, 2023

#### [Mennonite](#)

##### [Country Auction](#)

Ritzville, WA

October 7, 2023

#### [Fall Quilt Retreat](#)

##### [Drift Creek Camp](#)

October 12-15, 2023

#### [Oregon Mennonite](#)

##### [Relief Sale](#)

Albany, OR

October 21, 2023