



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. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

Dear PNMC Community,

I assume that you, like me, have been horrified by the heart-crushing stories emerging from Israel and the Gaza Strip in recent days. I find myself moved to a place of wordless shock as I try to take in and pray with the accounts of human violence and suffering. There are moments when I feel I can almost hear the cries from across the vast expanses of sea and land that separate our lives from the lives of those who are gripped by agony and fear today. Perhaps we can hear their cries, when we listen deeply enough, into that place within our being where God makes of our lives and their lives *one life joined in the great breath of God's Love*. Through Christ, we know this Love to be the one power that can overcome hatred, violence and death.

As a denomination, we mourn the loss of life and ongoing suffering and long for an end to violence and oppression. We continue to support the work of Palestinians and Israelis who work for peace and justice for all, especially during this complex time of conflict and war.



Mennonite Church USA

I urge you and your communities to be praying for the people of Israel and Palestine. I was also reminded in a very personal way today how important it is to our Jewish and Palestinian friends for us to reach out and let them know that their pain is witnessed and that we are here to give support in whatever ways are needed. Please consider reaching out and making a meaningful connection with your Jewish and Palestinian friends and neighbors. They are suffering terribly at this time.

Finally, I want to share with you a pastoral letter from Henk Stenvers, President of Mennonite World Conference. You can find that letter [here](#). May God's love silence and still the frenzied spirit of warring madness. May we be instruments of God's peace.

-Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

October is Clergy Appreciation Month—Share a Gift of Gratitude!

The month of October is celebrated worldwide in the church as **Clergy Appreciation Month**. It is observed as a time for expressing gratitude for the work of pastors, chaplains, spiritual caregivers and other credentialed ministry leaders who serve in a wide variety of capacities in our churches, denominations and communities.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to take the opportunity during the remainder of this month to offer words of appreciation to the pastors, chaplains, spiritual directors and ministry leaders in your life. PNMC is blessed with so many gifted clergy-folk, and they are worthy of your ongoing support and encouragement.

Very recently, as I prepared for the ordination service for **Christie Dahlin** (Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID), I spent time contemplating the meaning of *ordination*. The word itself comes from the same Latin root as the word *ordinary*: *ordinare*, "to put in order." I think of ordination as a commitment to the path of becoming our most "ordinary" selves possible; to accept the gift of being simple, free and "coming down where we ought to be," as the old Shaker song goes. It means **being our most true, real and soulful selves in God**. And, much more, it means accepting God's call to a path of seeing, naming and evoking that same holy ordinariness at the heart of each person we will encounter, and at the heart of each moment we live in the messy beauty and brokenness of life.

To be ordained in ministry is not to be or become an extraordinary sort of human. To be ordained is to be on a path of remembering within ourselves, and reminding others, that to be alive and to be human—a bearer of God's own breath and image—is something wholly extraordinary!

I continue to grow in my own vocation as an ordained pastor, and I know and trust that the growth will be lifelong. It is a privilege to be serving in PNMC and with so many gifted colleagues.

If you want to learn about more specific ways in which you can show your appreciation, particularly to the congregational pastors in your life, I encourage you to read these two blog postings from my conference ministry colleagues Amy Zimbelman (Mountain States Mennonite Conference) and Joanne Gallardo (Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference):

[A gift card and a ... support system? | Mennonite Church USA \(\[mennoniteusa.org\]\(http://mennoniteusa.org\)\)](#)

[Five things Friday roundup: How to appreciate your pastor | Anabaptist World](#)

-Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Evergreen Mennonite Church

Evergreen Mennonite Church in Kirkland, WA, welcomed and blessed a new pastor on September 24. **Amy Marie Epp** was installed in a worship service followed by a celebration meal. District Pastor **Sylvia Shirk** preached a sermon reflecting on the "wild hope" in new possibilities for their community after several years of uncertainty and transition. Pastor Amy was previously Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Seattle Mennonite Church. She will be full-time as the solo pastor at Evergreen.



Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale

Gather at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd. E, in Albany for the 2023 Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale, **Saturday, October 21**. In addition to the sale's collection of quilts, baked goods, books and antiques, as well as handcrafted items in the new **Menno Marketplace** or search for fabric and notions at the **Sew Much Shop**. Visit www.oregonmccsale.org to learn more.

Drift Creek Camp

Gather at DCC, **November 3-5**, for the 2023 Annual Meeting and Family Camp! Annual Meeting is a great time to invest time in DCC, connect with friends and family, and celebrate another year of camp's ministry. Come out to camp on Friday evening for homemade donuts, table games and fireside conversations. The business meeting will take place Saturday morning with the Benefit Auction in the afternoon. On Sunday morning, we'll gather in the chapel for worship with a hymn sing. To register online, visit www.driftcreek.org.

PNMC PASTORAL POSITIONS:

First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID, is seeking a full-time pastor. The congregation has been worshipping together since 1907. To read the full job description, click [here](#), and for congregation information, click [here](#).

Salem Mennonite Church, Keizer, OR, is seeking a full-time pastor. The congregation was established in 1961. To read the full job description, click [here](#).

Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR, is seeking a part-time Youth Ministry Director. Connect with middle and high school students; partner with volunteers to plan activities and events; and lead a Bible-based Sunday morning youth group.

To inquire about these opportunities, please contact PNMC Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari by email at eric@pnmc.org.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

CommonWord Bookstore & Resource Center

A new book by **Sarah Augustine** and **Sheri Hostetler** (pastor of First Mennonite Church in San Francisco, CA) asks the brutal question, "Will we choose life for our children and the future of our planet?" While you may not be able to travel to Winnipeg for the launch, you are invited to participate online! Join Sarah and Sheri as they offer hope for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and advocate for sustainable change that follows Jesus. Click [here](#) to join the livestream event and [here](#) to order a copy.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Equipping, MC USA's resource e-newsletter, is back by popular demand. After a 2-year hiatus, we surveyed advertisers and subscribers and discovered that there was still strong interest in a resource newsletter. Beginning in Fall 2023, we will reintroduce *Equipping* as a **quarterly email newsletter** that will feature resources submitted by MC USA's conferences, congregations, agencies, entities/ministry partners, constituency groups and affiliated schools and colleges. The first newsletter will be distributed on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MWC | Climate Pollinators webinar with Sibonokuhle Ncube, who will focus on Africa | **Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. EDT/11 a.m. PT.** | [Register here](#).

Corinthian Plan: **Save the date** for an informational Zoom meeting on The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers, hosted by Duncan Smith, director of The Corinthian Plan | **Fri., Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT.**

Gather in Dallas, Texas, February 9-11, 2024 for **Hope for the Future**, an annual gathering of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders from across the U.S. who are connected to Mennonite Church USA. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 6 (submissions due by 10/30)
Nov 20 (submissions due by 11/13)
Dec 4 (submissions due by 10/27)
Dec 18 (submissions due by 12/11)

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>