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Entering a New Year with Faith, Hope and Love

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*
PSALM 27:1,12 NRSV

The beginning of a new year is a natural threshold in chronological time; it evokes the contemplation of endings and new beginnings. We might be considering resolutions or fresh starts as we begin this new year. If you are, may you know God’s Spirit as a source of inspiration and strength for your intentions and efforts.

At the same moment, the first day of a new year is a reminder of what is actually true each and every day in *Kairos* time: *this day is unlike any that has come before and unlike any that will follow; and each day, each moment, comes to us as gift*. These gifts are filled with possibility and fully imbued with the loving presence of God. In this we might find a deep, sustaining wellspring of hope as we face into the needs of our lives and a troubled world.

Whatever paths you are called to travel as the new year begins, may you receive the gift of each day with gratitude, and trust that you will “see the goodness of God in the land of the living.” May this year bring a planting and germinating of the seeds that make for a just peace, within us and among us.

That We May Be One: The Gift of Ecumenical Relationships

The PNMC Conference Communication Council gathering will be held on **Saturday, February 10, 8:30am—12:30pm** (Pacific) on Zoom. In addition to our PNMC Board, staff, district pastors, team chairpersons and representatives from PNMC related organizations, ***we ask for representation from each of our member congregations and church plants (at minimum: a pastor and an additional congregation member, or two congregation members if no pastor is available).*** Please note that any and all who wish to take part are welcome to attend! Registration information is available [here](#).

We will be focusing our time together on the theme of **ecumenism**, and the nurturing of relationships with Christians of other traditions and people of other faiths in our local communities and throughout the world.

The Christian community, particularly in North America, is undergoing a period of great change and reformation, not unlike the period five hundred years ago that we speak of as The Reformation. However, one key difference is that at this historic juncture, when the global human community is connected as never before and is facing numerous challenges including widespread warfare, climate change and environmental degradation, we have a **collective need to seek connection rather than separation, union rather than division**.

When we reach out and build connection with other Christians and with people of other faiths with curiosity and openness, we inevitably learn something new, we find ourselves challenged, and we deepen our own Anabaptist Christian faith. Ecumenism is not an effort towards religious syncretism or spiritual homogeneity, nor is it a loss of the distinct gifts that shine through our varied traditions. It is an exchange of wisdom and gifts that allows us to pool our efforts and work together toward a more just, peaceful and compassionate world.

In our CCC gathering we will be hearing stories from three of our PNMC congregations and one of our PNMC chaplains about how their lives have been enriched through ecumenical relationships. Our centering scripture for the gathering will be a portion of Jesus’ pastoral prayer in John 17:

2024 PNMC Conference Communication Council

8:30am	Welcome and Opening Worship
9:00am	Congregational Roll-Call and Sharing
9:50am	Break
10:00am	<i>That We May Be One: The Gift of Ecumenical Relationships</i> <i>Sharing from three PNMC congregations and one PNMC chaplain. Breakout room discussions.</i>
11:30am	Break (10 min)
11:40am	PNMC Updates and Reports
12:30pm	Closing Prayer and Adjourn



As you, Abba, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. JOHN 17:21-2

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Drift Creek Camp

Register this week! Ron and Jeanne Sears, will lead a spirituality retreat **Jan. 19-21, 2024**. The focus will be "[A Way of Life—Intentions for Going on the Road with Jesus—Come Away, Rest awhile, and You Will Recover Your Life](#)". We will look back on 2023, noticing what was life-giving and what was life-draining. Where are we weary? Where are we refreshed? What spiritual life rhythms might be a trellis to hold your values and intentions?

Camp CAMREC

Winter months can be long without much to look forward to after holiday celebrations. Here is an opportunity to connect intentionally with friends and enjoy an extended weekend together at a wilderness camp setting where you could work remotely if needed and/or hang out with peers. Drop in any time between **February 15-20**. Stay for as little or as long as it works for you! Suggested minimum donation of \$25 per day (\$20/lodging and \$5/food). Optional off-site activities such as equipment rental, park passes, and outings to local attractions will be paid separately. Scholarship funding is available if finances are a concern - for more information, look [here](#) or contact Brisa Peacock at program@camrec.org.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Tubing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing on site; Alpine skiing & snowboarding at [Steven's Pass](#) or at [Mission Ridge](#) Excursions into Leavenworth, a picturesque Bavarian style village; Immerse yourself in one of [Grunwald Guild's](#) art studios; guided yoga Work remotely using our fiber internet connection; Board games, card games, Ping-Pong; Collaborative cooking & baking; Contemplative Worship

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society invites you to our **2024 Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 17, 2024**, at Zion Mennonite Church, 6124 S. Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, OR. A luncheon will be served at Noon followed by the annual business meeting. The cost for the meal is \$15 per person. RSVP for lunch only to Jerry Barkman at jbarkman@canby.com or 503-871-6413 by February 9. A program featuring Dr. Abraham Friesen will follow at 1:30 pm. His presentation is titled "Russian Mennonites & the Recovery of an "Anabaptist Vision." Dr. Friesen is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Community of Hope Church

In a recent [PeaceMail](#) post, **Reverend Rachael Weasley** of the Community of Hope congregation in Bellingham, WA shares that despite living two millennia ago, Mary, the mother of Jesus, experienced many of the same political and social issues that we are experiencing today. Weasley reflects on how Mary, along with Elizabeth, bring forth new life amid suffering and injustice, but continue to sing out to God and against oppression. Read the full article [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA and OTHER MENNONITE ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Church USA

Read the full edition of *PeaceMail* [here](#).

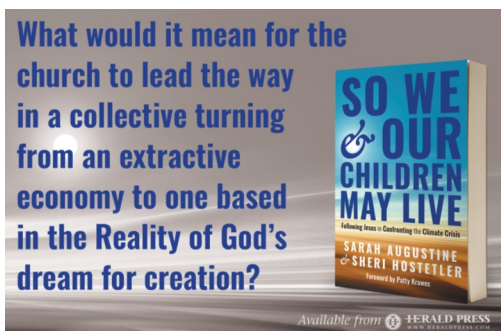
Mennonite Mission Network

Up for an adventure? A gap year with [Service Adventure](#) is a time to focus on faith, live in community, and engage in the work God is doing in cities across the country. **Apply by January 31** for the broadest selection of placements and unit houses. Ages 17-20.

Want to grow somewhere new? A year (or two!) with [MVS](#) is a chance to grow somewhere new serving with local nonprofits, joining in fellowship at a host church and exploring what God is doing in other communities. **Apply by January 31**. Ages 20+.

MMN is offering [Anti-Racism Grants](#) for groups led by diverse or marginalized communities engaged in peacebuilding, social justice and anti-racism efforts. Apply [here](#) by the **January 31, 2024** deadline.

Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery



Join fellow Coalition members for an online intensive study of *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*, co-authored by Coalition co-founders Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. The 4-part event will be hosted by Repair Network Organizer **Doe Hoyer**, each 1.5-hour bimonthly meeting will begin with a brief overview of the reading for that session. Participants will then break into small groups of 4-5 people (these groups will remain the same throughout the study) for personal reflection and discussion. We will conclude our time by coming back together as a large group for reflection and Q&A. This book study will reveal how climate activism is inseparable from Indigenous justice, and will deepen your commitment to solidarity with Indigenous peoples. For more information about the book and where to order, visit the publisher's site: [Herald Press](#).

Thursday event dates: January 25, February 8, February 22, March 7. [Register here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 22 (submissions due by 1/15)

Feb 5 (submissions due by 1/29)

Feb 19 (submissions due by 2/12)

Mar 4 (submissions due by 2/26)

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!*