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From the PNMC Conference Moderator

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

It is my joy and privilege to welcome you to the **30th annual delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**. We are grateful this year for the hospitality provided by the **Bend Mennonite Church** as we gather to celebrate God's faithful love in this stunning corner of our region.

In response to feedback that we have received in recent years we are extending this year's gathering to include Sunday morning worship. We are excited about the extra space in the schedule and hope that it will encourage folks to connect deeply in programmed and unprogrammed ways. We are few in number and spread across a vast region, so these opportunities to grow our connections to each other are not only precious on a personal level; they are vitally important to the continued thriving of our conference.

As we gather in from all corners of the Pacific Northwest to enjoy a weekend of worshiping, wondering, singing, studying, eating, discerning and growing together may we also find time to simply enjoy the gift of being together in the middle of God's beautiful creation. And when our gathering draws to a close, as it must eventually do, may we find that our hearts are fuller and our spirits refreshed.

In the unstinting love of our creator,

Chris Nord
PNMC Moderator



PNMC Annual Meeting, June 21-23, 2024,
Bend, Oregon

Called in the One Body, and Thankful!
Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17

*Together in Christ, we discover a new life revealed--
a life nourished by a love that is eternal.
Clothed in this love, we walk the path of discipleship
with gratitude and generosity,
offering our lives in service to one another
and to the world.*

We hope that you can join in this **3-day gathering** of our conference for worship, fellowship, service and discernment together. We have reserved a block of rooms at the [Peppertree Hotel](#) in Bend, located just across the road from Seven Peaks School where we will hold our meetings. The per night reduced rate is \$175 + tax. To make a room reservation, please follow this [Booking Link](#).

Please make your hotel reservations before May 21, 2024 when the reduced rate will expire.

Look for online registration coming April 1.

Work has begun on the **2024 Delegate Handbook**. Reports are needed from conference leaders of Teams and Committees.

A Reflection for Holy Week

Listening for the Beating Heart of God

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister



The Last Supper, by Palma il Vecchio (1480-1528)

When John tells the story of Jesus's last night with his disciples, there is a small verse that follows the account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet:

*One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—
was reclining next to him . . .*

JOHN 13:23 (NRSV)

Although this “beloved disciple” is mentioned more than once in the fourth gospel, they are never identified by name. Tradition has held that it was John the Evangelist, the writer of this gospel. Others have suggested that the beloved one was Mary Magdalene; a possibility that has been strengthened by more recent and compelling scholarship around [Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John](#).

Whether it was John, Mary Magdalene, or one of the other disciples, I invite you to consider the intimate, corporeal reality of this moment; a reality that the King James Version makes even more explicit with the words: “Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.” There, tradition says, with an ear to Jesus' chest, the disciple heard the heartbeat of God.

In Holy Week we recall this and other moments of those final days Jesus shared with his friends. Our remembering might simply amount to a recounting, a detached recollection of what happened long ago, hoping to squeeze from it some nectar of inspiration to sustain our faith. It is also possible for it to be much, much more than this.

It is possible for Holy Week to bring a re-remembering, a rejoining of our whole lives—heart, mind, body and soul—with the self-emptying and ever-creating effulgence of God's love in Christ. It is possible to remember that the passion and resurrection of Jesus were not moments that happened at one time; they are unfolding, emergent realities in and through all time. We know and see around us the suffering and dying of Jesus in this tragically broken world. We also experience and know the rising and the rebirthing of Love in and through our bodies, in and through our common life, and shining through the whole of creation.

I invite you to consider praying with the image of you, yourself, being that beloved disciple. Imagine laying your weary head on the chest of Jesus and feeling there a great warmth in this cold world. Imagine feeling such welcome, mercy and acceptance in his tender embrace. Imagine sensing a slight rhythmic vibration against your face—as sensation, as sound—and realizing it is a beating heart. Know that this heart beats for you with a love that is fierce and has no end. Know that this heart beats within you, summoning you into a noisy world with a guiding cadence that can be trusted, whatever may come.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Portland Mennonite Church



On February 25, Portland Mennonite Church was glad to welcome **Sarah Augustine**. Sarah's latest book, co-authored with Sheri Hostetler, is titled *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis* (Herald Press). Sarah preached in the morning worship service. Drawing on the lectionary texts for the Second Sunday in Lent, she spoke of the ways the biblical notion of 'covenant' (Genesis 17) has been transformed into a malevolent theology of conquest that legitimizes the Doctrine of Discovery. She also called us to the kind of radical discipleship (Mark 8) that resists the deathly ways of our extractive economic system. She ended with the challenge to 'choose life' (Deuteronomy 30). In a Forum that followed, the congregation had a chance to further explore Sarah's book. The authors clearly describe the devastating impacts of the extractive economy, particularly on indigenous communities. They make the case that solutions to climate change can't come through the same systems that created it. And they admonish us to look to indigenous communities for wisdom about alternative responses. In the Forum, Sarah made the case that it starts with a fundamental re-thinking of the core assumptions our system makes. Rather than prioritizing individuals and profit-making, we must prioritize communities and mutual well-being. Sarah speaks with a prophetic voice calling us back to the Reality that God intends for all creation.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

IDAHO MENNONITE WORLD RELIEF FESTIVAL – SAVE THE DATE!

The Mennonite congregations in Idaho are planning the [Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival](#) for **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, at the College Church of the Nazarene. *Activities will run from 9:00am to 3:00pm.* (There are schedule changes this year, so please visit www.idahomrs.org for more information.) Proceeds will benefit Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Keep saving coins for the [MyCoinsCount Campaign](#) which will be designated to help with water shortages around the world. *Also, your help is needed to provide donations of quilted items, antique furniture, wood items, crafts, gift certificates, vacation get-a-ways, and baked goods.* Volunteer help is needed on Apr. 19 and the day of the festival. Please contact your IMWRF church representative or rickmarjb@gmail.com if you would like to donate, volunteer, or have questions. *Thanks for your support of our eighteenth annual event!*

Community of Hope

Queer Theology Sunday School: "Love is a Light through a Dim Glass"

April 14th 3:30pm (PST)/6:30pm (EST) with Madison McClendon, MDiv [Zoom Registration link](#)

Struggling to remember what the letters in LGBTQ mean? Have some doubts about "gender ideology," but still want to love your neighbors? Sometimes even queer people and their allies struggle to make sense of a changing world, or the identities that aren't so new but are just new to us. This session focuses on love, not as a function of knowledge, but as a patient reality that enables the success of a beloved community that may not always see things clearly, but is committed to trying to see them together.

In this fourth of four events in our 2024 Queer Theology Sunday School series, we will begin as always with a feltboard presentation of the basics of queer theology before hearing from the guest teacher. After some Q&A, we will end with breakout rooms for discussion! One room is always queer-only. *Don't hesitate to contact pastor Rachael Weasley with any questions!*

Madison McClendon [she/her] is a graduate of Furman University and the University of Chicago Divinity School, where she received a Master of Divinity in 2012. She attends North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago, IL, where she currently serves as Moderator and has past roles chairing both the English worship ministry and a task force for renovating the sanctuary. She has served on the board of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. In her free time, she loves cooking, reading, and playing retro video games from the 1990s. She lives in Chicago.

Camp CAMREC

Interested in learning about prescribed fires and how to implement them as a form of creation care? CAMREC's first prescribed burn, weather permitting, will take place **April 6 –7, 2024**, as part of a FREE Learn and Burn workshop conducted by the Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association. The [CPBA](#) is a collective of residents, landowners, tribes, local organizations, and agencies dedicated to nurturing forest resilience, enhancing wildlife habitats, and safeguarding communities from catastrophic wildfires. If you would like to participate, please request more information from [Brisa Peacock](#). *No previous experience is necessary.*

Bring your family and friends to CAMREC **April 19-21, 2024** for a FREE opportunity to explore the marvels of spring time as guests gather to reflect on Earth Day. Participants will be able to connect with the Washington Mennonite Fellowship through the WMF Annual Meeting as well as take time to care for camp during the Spring Work Weekend during the same weekend.

Mark your calendars now for CAMREC's Summer Youth Camps:

July 3-9: Senior High Camp; July 12-14: Pre-Junior Camp; July 16-20: Junior Camp

Mennonite Church USA and Other Organizations

Mennonite Action

The next opportunity for mass, coordinated action is coming up **March 25-29** with the theme "[Send Aid, Not Bombs.](#)"

Mennonite Church USA

Follow this link to read the latest news from Mennonite Church USA in [PeaceMail](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 1 (submissions due by 2/25)

Apr 15 (submissions due by 4/8)

May 6 (submissions due by 4/29)

May 20 (submissions due by 5/13)

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>