



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From the PNMC Office

It will be so lovely to gather together in Bend for our **2024 Annual Meeting** in just a few days! We look forward to connecting in person, joining together for worship, fellowship, conversations and catching up! Our time in community is one of the rich fruits of being church, together. We pray for safe travels for all who are attending and for those who support PNMC from a distance.



PRIDE Celebration at PMC

On **June 1-2, 2024**, Portland Mennonite Church gathered to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride month. This event marked our 3rd annual Pride Sunday Celebration. We hosted special guest **Annabeth Roeschley** (they/she), who is the Executive Director of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests (BMC). The weekend was a time of rich hospitality and connection.



The weekend opened Saturday evening with a Supportive Communities Network Dinner Gathering at the church. This was a time of social connection with Annabeth Roeschley, and a time for hearing what others are experiencing in their own congregations, what activities are the focus of their time and attention. The small but passionate group examined how a collaborative project could be a way to move forward with larger impact. The need to provide safe haven for trans people needing to leave their homes and lives in other parts of the country for a safer space was discussed as a possible option for joint action.

Churches represented in attendance included: Wildwood Gathering, Peace Church of the Brethren, Salem Mennonite, Albany Mennonite, Portland Mennonite Church. Also in attendance was PNMC Executive Conference Minister Eric Massanari.

On Sunday morning, with a full house, the church celebrated with a Pride Sunday Service, the key event. The Sunday service highlighted the many ways we can worship while purposefully including our LGBTQ+ worshipers. Participants were encouraged to include pronouns where possible. Ari Leatherman (he/him) chose worship songs that reflected the day. In the children's time, Caroline McCarty (she/her) shared a book, "Love Makes a Family." Annabeth brought a message "We Found Love in a Hopeless Place" reflecting on using God's love with our heart, our mind, and our strength toward our LGBTQ+ friends. Annabeth noted that to love is to allow compassion and lament to move us, asking "What will we, as Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church of the Brethren do to protect and care for queer and trans life?"

On Sunday afternoon, an LGBTQ+ Gathering was held at Peace Church of the Brethren.

-Submitted by Lois Gearhart (she/her)

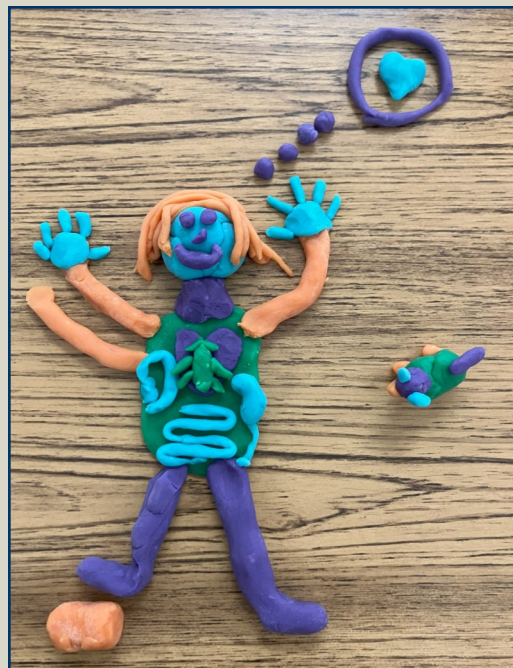


Ours is the Body of Christ

-Submitted by Pastor Amy Epp, Evergreen Mennonite Church

In a recent worship series on 1 Corinthians, Evergreen Mennonite Church members engaged in worship stations that explored what it means to be the body of Christ. One invited reflection on Teresa of Avila's ancient prayer, "Yours Is the Body of Christ," in which she says, "Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world."

Members of our body of Christ finished prompts about how else our bodies can be Christ's body in the world and for each other. Put together, they create a beautiful expansion of Teresa's original prayer poem:



Ours are the hands which reach out to the unknown.
 Ours are the eyes with which we see need.
 Ours is the heart open to those that are struggling.
 Ours are the hands with which compassion is manifested.
 Ours are the legs that run to new destiny.
 Ours are the shoulders that help to carry the load.
 Ours are the shoulders to hold the tears of others.
 Ours are the arms with which we embrace others.
 Ours are the knees that bend in prayer for the world.
 Ours is the back that carries the weight of injustice for the oppressed.
 Ours are the arms that direct mighty choirs.
 Ours are the arms with which we can hold the grieving.
 Ours are the hands with which we can make gifts of love, meals and quilts.
 Ours is the heart to empathize with others.
 Ours are the hands with which we embrace one another.
 Ours is the mouth with which we encourage and lift each other.
 Ours are the hands with which we build and repair what we need for shelter.
 Ours is the mouth with which we give love and assistance to all people, and body shapes, and body expressions.
 Ours is the mouth with which we sing and mourn.
 Indeed. Ours is the body of Christ.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership Steering Committee recently bid farewell to two of the founding members, **Linda Gehman Peachey** and **Erica Littlewolf**, after more than a decade of service. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Mennonite Church USA Church Vitality office encourages college students and churches to participate in the [Ministry Inquiry Program](#), which pairs students from Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Heston College with MC USA host congregations across the country for ministry internship. **Program**. The distance-friendly undergraduate-level program offers mentor-mentee partnerships and community support. The Fall 2024 cohort begins **Sept. 6**; apply by **July 11** to save \$100! More details [here](#).

Follow [this link](#) for the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.



Mennonite Education Agency

Sisters, **Mana and Ciela Acosta**, of Salem Mennonite Church, were recent recipients of MEA Scholarships for their studies at EMU. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage the next generation of church leaders", explained MEA Executive Director Michael Danner. "The schools that partner with MEA offer high-quality advanced education from an Anabaptist perspective. They are working to fulfill the educational mission of Mennonite Church USA, which is to create disciples of Jesus." *Read more* [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

July 15 (submissions due by 7/8)
 Aug 5 (submissions due by 7/29)
 Aug 19 (submissions due by 8/12)
 Sept 2 (submissions due by 8/26)

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!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>