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Nourished by the Words

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



*Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name, O Lord.*
JEREMIAH 15:16

The Holy Scriptures I consider above every human treasure, but not so high as the Word of God which is living, powerful, and eternal, for it is God Himself, Spirit and no letter, written without pen or paper so that it can never be destroyed. -HANS DENCK, 16th century Anabaptist reformer

Notice Jeremiah's visceral language. The words of God are tasted, consumed and enfleshed, like a rich and hearty meal that delights the heart, mind, body and spirit. The prophet keeps it real, as any worthwhile prophet does, reminding us of the manifest presence of God; or, as a later prophet-poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, put it: "the world is charged with the grandeur of God."

This includes you, and me, and the next person you meet. *We* are charged with the grandeur of God. We are in and of this world and, as such, we are the words of God enfleshed, just as God's words are made manifest within all of creation. There is nowhere we can go where God's words are not already being uttered in some way that might nourish our joy. We carry God's word in the depths of our hearts.

Hans Denck, a 16th century reformer who had close ties with the Anabaptist founders of our Mennonite lineage of faith, spoke of this as "the Inward Word of God." He described it as the greatest treasure we carry as followers of Jesus. I believe that the hope of the church right now rests in our willingness to listen to and reclaim this prophetic, transforming wisdom of the Inward Word; the living, nourishing presence of God within us and among us—within and among *all*.

Our religious practices, theologies and doctrines in the church have too often made God's activity and presence seem like second hand news. People are longing for firsthand encounter and experience. We long for it because something in us—at the deepest, most fleshy and soulful level— knows it is our birthright. The longing and desire for living encounter with God *is* the Inward Word already resounding within us.

May we hear it in the depths of our listening hearts. May we hear it sounding forth in one another and celebrate its unique expression in our neighbors. May we hear it harmonizing in the ground, the flowing waters, the air we breathe, and all the life with which we share life. May we eat these living words, be nourished by them, and know that we are part of a great and transforming composition of Love!

From the PNMC Office

For those who operate on a school schedule, you might be thinking more about your calendar and events for the upcoming year. Remember that the upcoming Conference Communications Council gathering will occur on **Saturday, February 1, 2025** on Zoom from 8:30am - 12:30pm. *Look for content information coming soon!*

Our PNMC Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 19 – Sunday, June 22, 2025**. *Location details will be coming soon!*

We regret to inform you of the passing of former pastor, **Jerry Kaiser**. Jerry died at age 74 on August 18th in Eugene, OR, where he had been living near his son, Matt. Prior to having a stroke and relocating to Eugene, Jerry had served as pastor at First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, ID for six years from 2008 until 2014. Read his obituary [here](#).

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Zion Mennonite Church

Want to enrich music in your congregation or in your home? Zion Mennonite Church is eager to share one of its resources with a church, organization or individual. The organ, pictured, left, is available to be picked up at the church, located at 6124 S. Whiskey Hill Rd., Hubbard, OR 97032. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this instrument, please contact [Jana Gingerich](mailto:Jana.Gingerich@zionmennonitechurch.org) (503-577-9789.)

Mennonite Country Auction

[Mennonite Country Auction](#) in Ritzville, WA is **Saturday, October 5, 2024**. Quilts are already arriving and the [catalogue is posted here](#). Planners are seeking non-quilt goods to sell. Hand-crafted items, event tickets, and antiques are always popular. If you have items of interest to share, contact [Cleon Claasen](mailto:Cleon.Claasen@pnmc.org) at 509-760-3579.

[Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale](#) | **October 12, 2024**, Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR.

Join us for a live auction*, kids' activities, baked goods, breakfast, lunch, and all kinds of booths: handmade goods, fabric & craft supplies, used books, and fair trade items. Proceeds support world relief through the work of MCC. *Auction includes quilts, experiences, handcrafted items, tools, furniture, and more. An additional online auction will also be available October 5-9. More information [here](#).

8:00am Shops & Baked Goods Open (breakfast available from 8-10:00am)

10:00am Auction Begins (lunch available beginning at 10:30)

1:00pm Auction Ends (sale ends at 2:00pm)

Children's Activities:

9-11:00am Craft Activity and Children's Auction at 10:30am

Drift Creek Camp

Visit www.driftcreek.org to sign up for the 2024 Fall Quilt Retreat, **October 17-20!**

And mark your calendar for the DCC Annual Members' Meeting and Family Camp, **November 1-3!**

Camp CAMREC

Pitch in and enjoy fellowship at [Camp CAMREC's](#) Fall Gathering, **October 18-20, 2024**. A variety of projects will be available for all ages, abilities, and interests. There will be plenty of time to catch up with friends, connect with new folks, get in a few card games and go on a hike or two! Visit www.camrec.org for more details or to register.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist World

Don't miss this delightful reflection by Meridian Mennonite Church Co-Pastor, **Karla Morton**, on how The *More-With-Less* cookbook changed her life. Read the entire Anabaptist World article [here](#).



MennoMedia

[Anabaptism at 500](#) declares **September 29** as *Anabaptist Community Bible Day* to celebrate and reaffirm our shared values of community, discipleship, and peacemaking. This special day provides an opportunity for congregations to come together in unity, explore the rich history and teachings of Anabaptism, and engage with the unique insights offered by the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. This new study Bible, in presales now, has been created to help celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism coming on **January 21, 2025**.

The *Anabaptist Community Bible* is a historic celebration of Anabaptist faith and thought containing Biblical commentary from biblical scholars and 16th-century Anabaptists, marginal notes from nearly 600 Anabaptist study groups representing many different faith communities, full-color maps, and much more. *Anabaptist Community Bible* uses the Common English Bible (CEB) translation, making it especially accessible for younger readers and those who read English as a second or other language.

Anabaptism at 500 also offers a free Tool Kit to help churches, groups, and individuals plan their celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. The Tool Kit, which is available in both print and digital formats, includes ideas for commemorative events, worship service plans, historical documents about Anabaptist beginnings, artwork, and much more. The digital Tool Kit is available [here](#) for FREE thanks to a generous donation from Everence. "We will never see an event like the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in our lifetime," said John D. Roth, Project Director for Anabaptism at 500. "We want to give congregations every tool possible to mark the event in a meaningful way."

Mennonite Action - [Register Now!](#) - Sign up for some or all of the Mennonite Action Weekend on **Sept 20-22**. Activities include Friday night hymn sing, Saturday workshop and art build and Sunday morning join adult study and worship at **Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA**. Full schedule is included in the second page of the registration link.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Oct 7 (submissions due by 9/30)

Oct 21 (submissions due by 10/14)

Nov 4 (submissions due by 10/28)

Nov 18 (submissions due by 11/11)

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>