



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.

This is a good time for a potluck! (lots of them)

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me.

REVELATION 3:20

Potluck Sundays were my favorite Sundays growing up. At First Mennonite Church in Iowa City, Iowa we took our potlucks seriously, and they were always a time for good eating and some lingering fun with my church friends. Because our congregation included many people who had spent time abroad, recent immigrants and international students attending the University of Iowa, the table was usually loaded with a world of foods and flavors.

When I candidated for my first pastorate, I clearly remember the very first question I was asked as I nervously sat down at a meetup with congregation members: "So, Eric, what are you going to bring to your first potluck here at Shalom?" The nerves faded and I knew we were off to a very good start. (My answer, by the way, was the mushroom stroganoff recipe from Mollie Katzen's *Moosewood Cookbook*.)

Now, as I travel and visit congregations in my capacity as conference minister, I'm excited when I find out that my visit to a church coincides with a potluck! (How's that for a subtle hint?) I've found that you learn a lot about a congregation when you experience how they do a community meal.

This past week I attended a gathering of the Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County, one of our local associations of ministry leaders here in the Bellingham area. I heard a presentation given by Rev. Terry Kylo, an ELCA Lutheran minister, who is the director of [Paths to Understanding](#). Paths to Understanding is an organization that works to overcome prejudice and bias, and build unity through multi-faith peacemaking.

Their organization, together with [Seattle University's Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement](#), has started a creative effort called [The Potluck Project](#). This is an effort to bring people together with their neighbors and build community over a shared meal. The tagline for the project is: *No politics, no policy, no debates—just neighbors meeting neighbors*. The sole purpose is to nourish community in a time when we face great pressure to divide ourselves along lines of race, ethnicity, language, immigration status, class, sexual orientation, gender, political ideologies, and on and on.

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If you're thinking, "We already do great potlucks at our church," know that this is *not* your typical church potluck.

For this meal you throw the doors of your church and community *wide* open, and invite a much more diverse circle of folks to the table. If you go to [The Potluck Project](#) webpage, you will see that they provide an excellent free toolkit that will help guide you in organizing, hosting and facilitating your own community potluck. The toolkit includes a very clear and organized set of discussion questions for the facilitated table discussions that are an integral part of the Potluck Project.

I share this with all of you because I believe this represents a very doable and potentially transformational effort in community building in this time of loneliness and division. Most of our congregations in PNMC know how to pull off a tasty potluck. Most of us have buildings and spaces readily available where we could host an event like this. Most of us have connections with other faith communities nearby who might be interested in helping with hosting. This is doable, especially if you start small and then see where it leads you.

Why not give something like this a try and expand your table? If you do, *please* let me know so that we can share your story with the rest of the PNMC community (and so I can get in on my calendar and join in the delicious fun!).

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

MDS WA Annual Meeting

Camp CAMREC will host the MDS WA Annual Meeting on **Saturday, August 30** over Labor Day weekend. Register [here](#).

Mennonite Disaster Service

Region 4 Annual Meeting - September 26-27, Portland Mennonite Church, "Learning to Build on Shifting Sands"

Living in a time where it feels like so much is transitioning or changing all around us, how does MDS continue be the hands and feet of Jesus in responding to those affected by disasters? Join us in celebrating the work of Region 4. Additional information [here](#).

Mennonite Country Auction, October 4, Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA

The Auction Committee is seeking hand-crafted items, event tickets, vacation getaways and unique items for the auction. Contact Cleon Claassen at 509-760-3579 (cclaassen@smwireless.net). For quilt donations, contact Debbie Shank Miller (dsm56@comcast.net).

The Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale, October 11, Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR

Visit the OMRS website [here](#) to learn about ways to get involved, donate, and support the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

PNMHS is seeking a volunteer editor to write 400-500 word articles for its quarterly digital newsletter. If interested or desiring more information, please contact Linwood Rush, Board Chair, at 503-260-7480 or by email at rushlin2@gmail.com.

Drift Creek Camp

Register [at this link](#) for the **2025 Fall Quilt Retreat, October 16-19!**

Zion Mennonite Church

Read the news report [here](#) regarding the recent break-in at ZMC. "Some damage was done, but nothing that can't be repaired," said **Jana Gingerich**. "We welcome your prayers as the church facilities are restored, and for the troubled individual who took this action, that they too might be restored."

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Church USA

- Read reflections on the ethnically diverse attendance of Follow Jesus '25 [here](#).
- **Stanley W. Green, executive conference minister of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference**, in consultation with the PSMC, addresses the immigration raids and protests in Los Angeles and around the country. Read more [here](#).
- Youth and adults were invited to get creative at the Arms2Art seminar led by Lisa Longacher where participants transformed scraps from discarded gun cases into art. Read more [here](#).
- Read the latest issue of *PeaceMail* [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Sept 1 (*submissions due by 8/25*)
 Sept 15 (*submissions due by 9/8*)
 Oct 6 (*submissions by 9/29*)
 Oct 20 (*submissions due by 10/13*)

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>
