



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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"The Mothers" by Kathe Kollwitz

"You are not forgotten!"

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

The opposite of good is not evil; it is indifference.

RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. This is why we don't get discouraged . . .

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18-4:1a (CEB)

When the Apostle Paul wrote those words to the Christians in Corinth, he was not inviting them to look up at a blue sky with puffy clouds, and feel the sunny comfort of God's abiding presence. No, he writes these words in the context of asking his readers to look at one another, to look at the unlikely admixture of folks gathered there as the church, and to see how they are together being transformed into the image of the Christ of Love. Paul acknowledges the very real struggles faced by the Corinthian people—the struggle of living in community, the painful realities of living and suffering for the sake of the Gospel, the reality of death itself—and he reminds them, "We live by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

How easily I can get discouraged when I see what is happening in the world right now—discouraged, furious, bitter, despondent. Our species seems so foolishly and recklessly intent on repeating old patterns of ignorance, violence and negligence. In my sense of overwhelm, I can feel the temptation of *indifference*. Indifference literally means "ignoring the particularities." I am indifferent when I am unable—or, more accurately, unwilling—to see important particularities and distinctions in the world around me. Like: Why are some people suffering so disproportionately at this moment? Why am I, at this present moment, largely free of some of the suffering being meted out upon my neighbors?

Indifference is the state of the bystander who does not wish to give offense or ruffle feathers; so instead they attempt to remain out of the fray. Indifference is a privileged state afforded to those who are afraid but not directly threatened, concerned but free to maintain a safe distance, caring but without sufficient empathy to be truly convicted. I have felt the temptation of indifference in the tumult of these times.

Then I remember one of Jesus' most profound and unsettling statements: "The kingdom of God is already among you." To which I imagine Jesus immediately adding: "So snap out of it and look around! You need look no further than right where you are, messed up as the present circumstances may seem. Look especially at the people around you, because *here I am*."

I cannot be indifferent when I watch yet another wrenching news report of an unarmed immigrant neighbor being brutally pinned to the ground by a grotesquely armored federal agent, with ten more agents standing by watching, and remember that Christ asks me to look into such a monstrous moment and know that the God of love is there, too, seeking to transform such suffering—and calling on me to help.

Jesus calls us beyond indifference and asks us to see the particulars of this moment we are living in, and the people with whom we are sharing it. We are called to see in the particulars of our neighbors' lives—particularly those who are suffering most profoundly—Christ's own suffering. And because in Christ we are made one with one another, we are called to understand that this is our collective suffering.

Within PNMC, and within our local communities, there are those who are more vulnerable than others at this moment, and there are those who are more immediately facing persecution, threat and marginalization. Included in these communities are our immigrant neighbors who are facing the rising tide of ICE raids and illegal detentions here in the PNW region. Included are our LGBTQ+ neighbors and siblings in the church who are facing increased threats, not only to their legal rights but to their very lives. Included are those among us who are dependent on resources available through government programs like SNAP and Medicaid, and who are now finding themselves in dangerously vulnerable circumstances with little support on the horizon.

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In whatever ways we are able, we are called to wake up, to look, to reach out, to connect, and communicate to our neighbors, “You are not forgotten!”

This week, the following letter was sent to our three Hispanic congregations in PNMC—Ministerios Restauracion (Portland, OR), Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva (Salem, OR) and Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer (Keizer, OR). I thank PNMC District Pastor Sylvia Shirk for instigating and drafting this letter.

Greetings to our beloved Pastors and Congregations of CIHAN:

May the Peace of Christ be with you! In recent days, we have heard increasing news of immigrant neighbors detained and deported, and we are thinking of you.

You are not alone! We have not forgotten that in June, during the Annual Meeting, Pastor Misael asked for our prayers. We continue to pray. One of us will contact you to ask about any specific prayer requests you would like to share.

May God strengthen your faith, take care of your families, and provide for the needs of your communities.

-Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

-Karla Morton, PNMC Moderator

-Sylvia Shirk, PNMC District Pastor

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Portland Mennonite Church

Anabaptism @501: Practicing Faith - Weaving the Work of Justice; Nov. 7-9, Portland Mennonite Church

Please join consider this opportunity to join friends at PMC as they host special guests, **Nekeisha Alayna Alexis** and **Jamie Pitts** from AMBS (Elkhart, IN) for a Symposium. [Nekeisha Alayna Alexis](#) is the Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism Coordinator (ICUR Coordinator) and [Jamie Pitts](#) is Professor of Anabaptist History, Theology, and Ethics at AMBS. Jamie and Nekeisha will help us look critically at how the stories we tell ourselves impact the present and the ongoing life of Anabaptism, with an eye to how we remain open to those who are different from us and the work of the Holy Spirit. We intend to look critically at how the stories we tell ourselves impact the present and the ongoing life of Anabaptism, with an eye to how we remain open to those who are different from us and the work of the Holy Spirit. We'll explore these questions:

Anabaptism @ 501: As we celebrate and critique our 500 year history, what is central to our identity as Anabaptists? What would we like to hold onto or let go as we dream into the future?

Practicing Faith: What does it mean to follow Jesus today? How do we balance practices of thinking (theological study), being (being in relationship to God, listening to the Holy Spirit), and doing (action for peace & justice) in our faith?

Weaving the Work of Justice: How do we engage those who are different from us, perhaps those with different cultural backgrounds or different experiences of inequality? How can we listen to the Holy Spirit and build up our institutions to do the long-term work of seeking peace & justice?

Questions? Contact Pastor Kristen (kristen@portlandmennonite.org) | Register at: <https://www.portlandmennonite.org/anabaptism501.html>

Thanks to a HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS GRANT from PNMC, English/Spanish interpretation will be available for the event!

Healthy Boundaries Training

Saturday, November 15, 2025 on Zoom, 8:00am—2:00pm, PST

Fundaments of Healthy Boundaries; Self-Care; Safe Church Policies and Boundaries; Trauma and Boundaries.

Facilitated by Michael Danner and Nancy Kauffmann.

The cost is \$55 for PNMC members; otherwise \$65/person.

Please pay by check. Send payments to: PNMC Office, 22455 Finn Road, Sheridan, OR 97378.

If you wish to participate, please register TODAY. Contact Eric Massanari at eric@pnmc.org.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2026 CCC will be on Zoom, January 31 beginning at 8:30am.

Menno Mennonite Church

You are invited to celebrate with Menno Mennonite Church on **Sunday, November 16**. The church is celebrating **Menno's 125th Anniversary** as well as Anabaptism 500 with a special Harvest Fest worship service followed by a catered meal. A special guest will be **John D. Roth**, known for most recently being the director of the Anabaptist Community Bible project. Please RSVP to Menno by **November 12** | Menno Mennonite Church | 509-659-0926 | pastor@mennomennonite.org.

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

HPMF recently co-hosted its 4th MCC Comforter Bash for! The productive gathering welcomed participants from HPMF, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints, and folks from several denominations. The “village” of Mennonites from around the country made it possible. Tops were collected from Kansas, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Indiana. The gathering resulted in the completion of 35 completed comforters with an additional 16 sent home for binding or knotting by families and friends! A highlight was the presence of Dina Gonzalez-Pina, Executive Director of West Coast MCC. She shared the story of women in Columbia creating a quilt, using the process to work at trauma healing. By the day’s end, comforters were on display around the room!



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

After a 10-year hiatus, the PNMHS has reintroduced its semi-annual newsletter. The publication includes stories informed by the holdings in its archives, as well as current events and meeting summaries. Of particular interest in this issue is the article on page 3 about the effort of the Pacific Coast Mission Board to obtain the first leader of the Portland Mission, (*later Portland Mennonite Church*), Alan Good. The newsletter also includes a membership form. Click here to read this edition: [PNMHS-Newsletter.pdf](#)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Church USA

In a recent editorial, Executive Director **Glen Guyton** urges members of MC USA to engage in the hard work of planning for the future. He writes, “When I look across our denomination, I see both the beauty and the strain. Mennonite Church USA is a body shaped by deep faith, diverse cultures and a longing for God’s peace. Not unlike many other denominations across the United States, we also face declining membership, financial stress and questions about our structure and identity. While these challenges don’t define us, they remind us that planning for the future cannot wait.”

In his article, Guyton bravely encourages members to name challenges, reimagine structures, consider futures, and identify core values to protect. Planning for the future is both hard work and an act of faith. Guyton encourages, “*We believe God is already at work redeeming and restoring all things. Our task is not to control the future but to walk faithfully into it. As we imagine scenarios, restructure our systems, and wrestle with finances, we do so with confidence that God is not finished with MC USA. The Spirit still calls us to be a community of grace, joy, and peace. So let us plan boldly, act faithfully and trust deeply. The future is uncertain, but the God who leads us is not.*” Read the full article [here](#).



Mennonite Women USA

Many thanks to **Carolyn Holderread Heggen**, psychotherapist specializing in trauma healing, for all that she did to develop and teach the Sister Care seminar over the past 15 years. She and Rhoda Keener, MW USA Sister Care director, taught their final seminars together in Cairo in September, 2025. Carolyn is the primary author of the Sister Care International manual which has been translated into 22 languages. She co-taught the seminar over 80 times throughout the United States and in 22 additional countries on 5 continents.

Carolyn also authored *Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches* which has also been translated into Indonesian and Spanish. She has offered workshops on sexual violence and healing throughout Canada, the U.S., Latin America, and other countries. While serving with MCC, she was head of pastoral care and counseling for the ecumenical United Mission to Nepal. For several years she was on the teaching staff of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding in Harrisonburg, VA. Prior to her work with Sister Care, Carolyn served on the Mennonite Women USA board of directors. To read more: [Sowers of Sister Care](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 17 (submissions due by 11/10)
Dec 1 (submissions by 11/24)
Dec 15 (submissions due by 12/8)
Jan 5 (submissions due by 12/29)

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>