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What a Broken Heart Can See

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

Among the great stories of Advent and Christmastide, my favorite is the tale of a moment that might easily go unnoticed: Mary and Joseph bringing their firstborn to the Jerusalem Temple for the requisite blessing of their Jewish faith. There, amidst the crowd, they meet two elders—*seers* they might best be described—who have been prayerfully anticipating this encounter (Luke 2:22-38). Because of their wakeful waiting, Simeon and Anna are able to see this otherwise unremarkable Nazorean family for who they are; they are able to see this moment for what it is; they are able to see and welcome what others are not yet ready to perceive.

Simeon blesses the infant Jesus, proclaiming a prophetic word about the child's destiny and Mary's own wrenching journey: "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (vv.34-35)

Anna, we are told, is an octogenarian widow who has spent the latter decades of her life praying and meditating in the Temple. With Simeon she is able to clearly see something special about this poor family from Nazareth, and why this child is deserving of a song of joy. So, Anna becomes the first apostle, and sings her song of welcome and praise to any who will listen.

Why are Simeon and Anna able to see and bless, receive and proclaim what others cannot? How is it they are able to see the holy in the ordinary? I believe it is because they see with broken hearts—they see with the eyes of those who have been given a vision made possible by a heart broken open by an expansive, receptive, generous encounter with life in all its joyful and painful fullness.

What does it mean to see and to live with a broken heart? Among many things, it means:

- We turn boldly and courageously towards ourselves and the world with an openness to life as it is, not as we wish it would be. We begin right where we are.
- We remain open to what is most real and true, what gives us joy and also what causes discomfort, confusion and pain. We accept that pain is part of life, and that to deny or try to avoid it often creates greater suffering for ourselves and others.
- We see that at the very center of things, our life is fundamentally shared with all life. Your suffering is in some basic way my own suffering. Your joy is my joy.
- We grow humble—literally "earthy" and "grounded"—enough to accept that the brokenness we witness in the world, the sin we might be quick to judge in others, can be found within our own being. We, too, miss the mark of love and live in need of mercy.
- We grow more patient, and less tempted by our own sense of urgency. As we live more of life, we are invited to hold our lives in the greater, eternal story of God's life.
- We become discerning, able to see, hear and perceive in an ever-deepening way the divine Presence in the moments we are living.
- We increase our capacity to let Love flow through us—to share it generously and to receive it graciously. We can speak and enact the truth with great love.
- We grow to accept birth and death as natural parts of the great spiraling cycle of life. We come to understand the wisdom of letting go into life and death with love, just as Simeon did:

*And now, Divine Master, you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples . . .*



Arent de Gelder (1645-1727),
Simeon and Anna Praise the Infant Jesus

From the PNMC Office

2026 Conference Communication Council, Saturday, January 31

Register now for our annual winter gathering beginning at 8:30 that morning (PST) on Zoom.

Pastor Samuel Moran of Ministerios Restauración, Portland, OR, will be presenting with live interpretation.



We will keep you informed as details come together, but for now, here is an overview of the day's agenda:

8:30am Welcome, Eric Massanari, ECM

8:45 Opening prayer and Lectio meditation - Eric

9:00 Guest Speaker: **Samuel Moran**, Pastor of Ministerios Restauracion (Portland, OR)

10:00 Roll call and sharing from our PNMC

congregations - **Karla Morton**, Moderator

11:00 Board-led reporting and agenda -- Karla

Noon Closing prayer and adjourn

Don't delay! Online registration is available [HERE](#). (Deadline is January 23!)

More information will be coming soon. This is a great opportunity to connect. We hope to see pastors, lay leaders and congregational reps attend. All PNMC congregations are encouraged to participate.

Online Healthy Boundaries Training in Spanish | Saturday, January 17, 2026, 8am-noon (PST)

PNMC will offer a Healthy Boundaries Training in Spanish in conjunction with Iglesia Menonita Hispana (IMH), the Hispanic Mennonite Church of Mennonite Church USA. This training will be a blend of what was formerly known as Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201, and is available to all MC USA Spanish-speaking ministry leaders.

The training will be held on Zoom, Saturday, January 17, 2026, 8:00am--noon (Pacific Time), and it will be led by **Marco Guete**, Director of Hispanic Ministries. Cost: \$55

To register, please email Brenda Kauffman, PNMC Administrator, at office@pnmc.org. Please make checks payable to "Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference" and send to PNMC, 22455 Finn Rd., Sheridan, OR 97378.

Remembering Socorro Rendon, First Mennonite Church of McMinnville, OR

We pray for Pastor Simon Rendon and his family as they grieve the loss of Socorro.



Maria Socorro Rendon passed away November 28, 2025, surrounded by family, in her home in McMinnville, OR. She died of complications of liver cancer. She was 82. Socorro, as she preferred to be called, was born April 7, 1943, in Atemajac de Brizuela, Jalisco, Mexico, to parents Octaviano Castillo Rodriguez and Anotonia Ortega Solarzano.

Socorro moved to the U.S. when she was nine years old, settling in Dayton, OR at age 15. She was an exceptionally hard worker with an incredibly hard work ethic. She first worked with her family as a farm laborer. In 2008, Socorro retired from A-dec, where she worked for 21 years. She lived in Yamhill County the rest of her life.

In 1962, Socorro married the love of her life, Simon Rendon. The couple celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on November 27, 2025, the day before she died. Together they raised 5 children, Richard, Sylvia, Diana, Samuel, and Celia. She often said her children were her life's greatest accomplishment.

Socorro had many hobbies and interests. She enjoyed attending **First Mennonite Church of McMinnville (OR)** where her husband Simon was the pastor. She loved teaching Sunday school and developed life-long relationships with the children who attended her classes. She was a passionate fan of the Portland Trail Blazers. She knew all the players by name and details about their background. She hardly missed watching a game. It was fun to watch her throw her arms in the air if they scored. Likewise, her disappointment when they weren't playing well was clearly evident. Gardening was another passion. She spent countless hours in her garden, tending to her flowers and vegetables. Using a great artistic eye, she made gorgeous flower arrangements for friends and family using flowers from her garden. Her extensive cooking and baking skills will be greatly missed, as her delicious food brought many people together to share a meal that created comfort and joy for all.

Socorro was known for fiercely loving and caring for those around her. She was always concerned that everyone had what they needed ahead of herself, even until her final moments in life. Her empathy was universal, extended to all, including people she did not know. Her kindness and generosity were extraordinary. She is survived by her husband, Simon Rendon; her children, Richard Rendon, and daughter-in-law, Carolyn Rendon, Sylvia Rendon, Diana Holland and son-in-law, Robert Holland, Samuel Rendon, and Celia Rendon. She is also survived by four grandchildren. To leave condolences, visit www.macyandson.com.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Camp CAMREC

CAMREC, Leavenworth, WA, is looking for a self-starter with broad maintenance skills and a passion to further the camp's mission through facilities and grounds maintenance with a focus on safety and care for the natural environment. CAMREC is located on 240 acres in the east foothills of the Cascade Mountains where douglas and grand firs, ponderosa pines, vine maples, and wildflowers abound, providing a natural habitat for birds and animals. CAMREC provides year-round retreat from the daily noise of life to renew the gift of peace found in God's creation. Recreational opportunities nearby include downhill and cross country skiing, white water rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. The flexible, year-round, full-time position includes provided housing. Quality schools and nearby employment opportunities are available 12 miles away in the Bavarian-themed tourist town of Leavenworth or 4 miles away in Plain. For a full position description, including details on how to apply, please visit camrec.org.

Eugene Mennonite Church

Eugene Mennonite Church announces, with equal measures of excitement and trepidation, our decision to become a congregation-led church beginning in January 2026. In our 60-year history as a chartered congregation, we have called 5 pastors to lead us in our worship and service together. On **December 21st** we will celebrate the past 7 years with **Steve Kimes** and wish him well as he moves on to other endeavors.

Our recent decision to join the other congregation-led churches in PNMC was prompted in part by changes in the financial structure necessitated by a declining membership. But it also represents a strong wish to remain a vibrant active group of Anabaptists with an ongoing commitment to peace and justice in our community. Please celebrate with us as we move forward in this new chapter. We welcome your prayers for a smooth transition.

Mountain View Mennonite Church

We remember our brothers and sisters in Kalispell, MT as Transitional Pastor, **Miriam Mauritzen**, concludes her service with the congregation later this month. Miriam has served for three years and we invite prayers as she and the congregation look to new beginnings.

Zion Mennonite Church

Tom Gingerich directs the annual Sing Your Own Messiah at **Zion Mennonite Church**, [6124 S Whiskey Hill Rd](http://6124-S-Whiskey-Hill-Rd), Hubbard, OR at **4pm on Saturday, December 20**, accompanied by live piano and strings. Those who wish to participate in the choir should arrive at 3pm for a short rehearsal one hour before the event starts. Soprano/alto/tenor/bass are seated by section at the front of the sanctuary, with the audience seated behind. If you plan to sing in the choir, please practice the following choruses ahead of time: 4: And the Glory; 7: And He Shall Purify; 9b: O Thou That Tallest; 12: For Unto Us a Child is Born; 17: Glory to God; 22: Behold the Lamb of God; 24: Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs; 33: Lift Up Your Heads; 44: Hallelujah!; 46: Since by Man Came Death; 53: Worthy is the Lamb. There will be light refreshments following. No charge for this event but donations accepted for honorariums for the instrumentalists and soloists. **Listeners welcome!**

As you prepare for the year's end, please consider a financial gift to support the work of PNMC.

Anything you can give to support healthy congregations would be most welcome.

The conference is all of us.

Gifts can be sent by check to: PNMC, 22455 Finn Rd., Sheridan, OR 97378

Online donations can be made [at this link](#). *We are so grateful for your support!*



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist World

Click [here](#) for a year-end word from *Anabaptist World*.

Mennonite Church USA

Click [here](#) for the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 5 (submissions due by 12/29)

Jan 19 (submissions due by 1/12)

Feb 2 (submissions by 1/26)

Feb 16 (submissions due by 2/9)

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>