



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.

Preaching through the 2025 Resolution on Christian Discipleship Amidst a Culture of [White] Christian Nationalism

Karla Morton, PNMC Moderator

Not only am I the PNMC moderator, I am also the pastor at Salem Mennonite Church (OR). We decided to use the six weeks between the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season and the start of Lent to focus on the resolution passed by delegates during our meetings in Kalispell last summer. Little did I know what we would face in just the first three weeks of the series due to the increasing violence by ICE in Minneapolis and the resistance the people of Minneapolis would show.

I was, and am, grateful for the pastoral team of **Peter Epp** (Albany), **Curt Weaver** (Portland), **Emily Toews** (Menno), **Bryce Miller** (Menno), and **Eric Massanari** (ECM) who came together to divide portions of the resolution into six parts with worship themes, scripture, children's time ideas, worship space ideas, and hymns that could be used. The work that they did helped me, our worship leaders, and song leaders create worship times that were meaningful and Spirit led.

Our first Sunday using the worship materials was the second Sunday of January, the 11th, just days after **Renee Nicole Good** violently lost her life by ICE in Minneapolis and just a day after the US military invaded Venezuela taking their president and his wife and bringing them here to the US to face charges. As a congregation we were all feeling a deep well of sadness, frustration and anger. I had written my message before the invasion, but after Goode's untimely, unjust death. My preaching was rather emotional, as was the sense of the congregation throughout our worship time. I was grateful that I had the tools from the worship materials to help guide our time that first Sunday.

Each Sunday thereafter I was keenly attuned to the Spirit's movement as well as to the actions of our governing authorities, especially in Minneapolis where the main force of their activity was directed. While we also know that ICE is still active in Chicago, Los Angeles, and other cities around the country, the news, daily and weekly, informed my preaching. The scriptures that were provided were sometimes rounded out by others that I added to my messages.

I also found that I was reading more books about White Christian Nationalism (WCN), listening to podcasts, and paying greater attention to what was happening in our own community. We know that Portland has been, and will continue to be, a target of ICE here in the PNW, and at our CCC, **Pastor Samuel Moran**, updated us on two of his congregation's members who had been swiftly detained and deported within 10 days having never had contact with an attorney. Our congregation was aware of their detention and deportation and kept them in prayer that Sunday. Another Sunday, A member of our congregation, whose home state is Minnesota, shared with us information that she was receiving from friends and family there. Minnesotans are in a very intense struggle to help keep their neighbors safe.

As we came to our final Sunday, we had planned to have a joint service with our sister Spanish speaking congregation, Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva on February 15. Both **Pastor Misael Araujo** and I spoke while our congregations sang and prayed together. I focused on the passage in our worship materials, Matthew 13:31-33 and talked about the "kingdom of God is like a mustard seed...", while Pastor Misael spoke on the Good Samaritan. We had our messages translated and our service was a blessing to me. I enjoyed worshipping with our brothers and sisters from Vida Nueva and then breaking bread together afterward. Even though my Spanish isn't very good, I had a lovely time with a family from Vida Nueva over our meal.

At Salem we will work to bring the reign and realm of God with us wherever we go. We will also seek to love God fully and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are not finished with the journey of being disciples in this age of White Christian Nationalism, and as long as God calls us to live justly, we will continue to share the love of God with all we meet. As I finished my last message I ended with this encouragement, and I share it with all of you as well: **We follow a risen Lord and Savior! Be of good courage! Be not afraid!**

For further reading and/or study:

PODCAST SERIES: The Dangers of Christian Nationalism; 10 episode primer by the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty: bjconline.org

BOOKS (in no particular order):

Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism and What Comes Next by Bradley Onishi

The Religion of Whiteness: How Racism Distorts Christian Faith by Michael O. Emerson and Glenn E. Bracey II

Taking American Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States by Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry



PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Albany Mennonite Church

At Albany Mennonite Church, a number of folks from the church have been working with local teachers to increase safety for Latine families as they come to and from school. If you'd like more information—including a detailed plan that could be adapted for schools in your own community—feel free to let Pastor Peter Epp know: pastor.peter@albanymennonite.org.

Drift Creek Camp

A spring [Work Weekend](#) is planned for **April 10-12, 2026**. Winter storms brought down many trees both inside the loop and on the road. The team of on-site staff has worked diligently to clean the parking areas, the road and trails, but there is still a lot of work to do! Projects will include traditional spring cleaning in the lodge, repairing building damage and continued processing of firewood.



Mountain View Mennonite Church

That's right! Mark your calendar!

In less than six months MVMC will be waving and welcoming bikers from all over the country. They will ride, eat, sleep and socialize with the church as a hub. It will take many hands to make light work. To volunteer, get in touch with [Rich](#) or [Libbie](#). Otherwise, look for more details coming soon!

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the OR Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service is scheduled for **April 25, 2026**, at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church, 2201 SW Vermont St., Portland, OR. To register, please contact Clyde Hockman, by email at agent1943@canby.com or by phone at 503-592-4490 before the **April 18, 2026 deadline**. Please include your name, email address and telephone number. The free event will begin at 9:00AM and a complimentary lunch will be provided. Speaker **Ralph Bloeman** will address fire mitigation in our communities and **Quinn Butler** will present on flood and earthquake preparation.

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

Starting with the COVID pandemic, Prince of Peace Mennonite Church (POPMC) in AK, began holding virtual services which attracted local members and others who had moved away from Anchorage and were scattered across the country. Over time, POPMC returned to in-person worship (in private homes) with a Zoom link for folks who could not attend in person. These hybrid services worked well, allowing POPMC to maintain contact with far-flung members as well as offer the option for participation from home for local members who could not attend on a given Sunday due to illness or other reasons. However, we had persistent technology issues with different personal laptops, microphones, and cameras, which detracted from our worship and fellowship. Thanks to PNMC District Minister Gary Jewell and the Shalom Church in Spokane, we learned about the Meeting Owl, a rotating camera and microphone that facilitates virtual conversations and interactions within groups. Thanks to a PNMC **Healthy Congregations Grant**, POPMC purchased a laptop computer and a Meeting Owl. We are very pleased with the results: Now we can sing without muting ourselves and see and hear whoever is speaking! Our improved technology enhances our joy and satisfaction in worshipping together and provides a means to extend POPMC's reach and better support our members, whether local in Anchorage or distant. Thanks to PNMC for the support!

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



Mennonite Church USA

On Feb. 5, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard [oral arguments](#) in the appeal for injunctive relief in [Mennonite Church USA v. Department of Homeland Security](#). MC USA, alongside more than 20 other Christian and Jewish groups, is seeking to reestablish long-standing protections that prevent immigration enforcement actions at or near houses of worship. This appellate court hearing follows a denial of our request for preliminary injunction by the district court. Members of MC USA attended the hearing alongside representatives from the Church of the Brethren, the Religious Society of Friends, and the United Methodist Church.

We invite your prayers for the judges' ruling, which is expected within the next few months. Following this ruling, the case will return to the district court or be appealed further. Follow [this link](#) to read more.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 16 (submissions due by 3/9)

Apr 6 (submissions by 3/30)

Apr 20 (submissions due by 4/13)

May 4 (submissions due by 4/20)

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>