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Speakers, Seminars and Activities at the 2026 PNMC Annual Meeting

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

Registration is open for our [2026 PNMC Annual Meeting, June 25-28](#). Our gatherings will be held at **Albany Mennonite Church** and we are grateful to be hosted by the Albany Mennonite and Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship congregations. Our theme for this year is “Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity,” and Jesus’ most expansive sermon on discipleship, Luke 6:17-49, will serve as our grounding scripture passage.

Our planning team has put together an exciting and enriching array of speakers, seminars and activities for all who gather. Here are some highlights:

Worship Speakers – We will gather for worship on **Friday, Saturday** and **Sunday** mornings. Our preachers will include **Dwight Friesen**, Professor of Applied Theology at the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology; **Rachel Ringenberg-Miller**, MCUSA Denominational Minister for Ministerial Leadership; **Rachael Weasley**, Pastor of Community of Hope Church in Bellingham, WA.

Seminar Topics – Friday and Saturday afternoons will include two 75 minute seminar periods, with two seminar offerings during each period. Our seminar topics and presenters will be:

- **“Healthy Congregations and Healthy Leaders”** – **Rachel Ringenberg-Miller**, MCUSA Denominational Minister
- **“Mennonite Action and Faithful Resistance”** – **Julie Allyn**, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship
- **“Abuse Prevention & Accountability”** – **Duncan Smith**, PNMC Conference Safety Liaison
- **“Ministering with Gen Z”** – **Rob Kirby**, Oregon State University Campus Pastor and **Dwight Friesen**, Professor of Applied Theology at the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology
- **“What Every Church Needs: 5 Core Strategies for Developing a Strong Stewardship Ministry”** – **Steve Bustos**, Everence
- **“Worshiping With the Anabaptist Community Bible and Drawing Near Resources”** – **Cathleen Hockman-Wert** (CMF), **Jaqui Eicher** (Albany Mennonite Church), and **Tyler Merrill** (Seattle Mennonite Church)
- **“The Enneagram and Faith”** – **Marlene Kropf** (Albany Mennonite) and **Cynthia Hockman-Chupp** (Zion Mennonite)
- **“Exploring New Approaches to Baptism and Church Membership”** – **Peter Epp** and **Sara Rempel** (Albany Mennonite)

Evening Activities – On **Thursday, Friday** and **Saturday** evenings we will have opportunities for interactive singing, learning and creating together:

- **Thursday – Hymn Sing!** Once again, we will kick off our annual meeting by joining our voices in a joyful chorus!
- **Friday – “Writing Our Way Together: On Grief, Lament and (somehow) Hope”**— An interactive creative writing workshop for all, led by **Jaqui Eicher**, Chaplain of Mennonite Village.
- **Saturday – “A New World, A New Song,”** **Michael Collier** (Mountain View Mennonite Church) will share about his work establishing the Tacoma Refugee Choir and lead us in more singing together.

Service Opportunity – On **Friday** afternoon, **Jackson Street Youth Services**, serving unhoused youth in Linn and Benton counties (OR), will bring two different service projects to the Albany Mennonite Church for us to help with. This will be a great way to support the local community where we are gathered!

Plenary Sessions – On **Friday** and **Saturday** mornings we will gather as a whole community in 90 minute plenary sessions. Led by **Karla Morton**, PNMC Moderator, and members of the PNMC Board of Directors, we will receive reports from the PNMC board and staff, vote on the 2026 slate of volunteers for conference leadership positions, and join in communal dialog and discernment.

Pre-Conference Contemplative Retreat for Pastors, Chaplains and Other Ministry Leaders – “From Role to Soul: Reflecting on Our Deepest Vocation.” On **Thursday** afternoon (1-4pm), **Eric Massanari**, PNMC Executive Conference Minister, will lead our ministry leaders in a time of prayer and reflection on the call to ministry. This retreat, and the picnic dinner following, are open to PNMC pastors, chaplains, leaders of ministry programs, and appointed representatives from our congregation-led churches in PNMC. *(If this includes you, please indicate your plans to attend this retreat and appreciation dinner on the registration form.)*



Share a book! At our June gathering in Albany, everyone is invited to come prepared to visit our **"PNMC Little Library"** – where anyone may donate a book (or more!) and take a book home – free! Take this opportunity to do a little spring cleaning of your bookshelf and share an engaging story or helpful resource with fellow PNMCers. Any donated books that remain unclaimed at the end of the conference will be taken to the book booth at the **Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief**, benefiting Mennonite Central Committee.

Thursday, June 25:

1-4pm Ministry leaders retreat
4:30-7 Ministry leaders picnic
6:30 Registration opens at Albany Mennonite Church
7:30 Opening gathering & Hymn Sing

Friday, June 26:

8:30-10am Morning Worship
10:30—Noon Plenary Session
1:30 Seminar/Activity Period 1
3:15 Seminar/Activity Period 2
Dinner on your own
7-8:30pm Evening Activity

Saturday, June 27:

8:30-10am Morning Worship
10:30—Noon Plenary Session
1:30 Seminar/Activity Period 1
3:15 Seminar/Activity Period 2
Dinner on your own
7-8:30pm Evening Activity

Sunday, June 28:

Morning brunch and concluding worship together at Albany Mennonite Church

[REGISTER HERE](#)

(BY JUNE 1st!)

[Hotel info here!](#)

FROM THE PNMC OFFICE

Our hearts are with the family of retired pastor, [Lyn Hershey](#). He passed away on April 24, surrounded by his family, at home in Filer, ID. A Memorial Service will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026**, at 11:00 am (MST) at In His Name Christian Fellowship, 405 US-30, Filer, ID. *The service will also be available via livestream [here](#) on the day of the service.*

Born in 1933, Lyn was a lifelong Christian and lived a life of ministry. He was a pastor, a mentor, camp director, a faithful church member, and a 'spiritual entrepreneur'. He was also a loving son, brother, uncle, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. **Over the course of his life he was passionately dedicated to the cause of human rights and service to others.** Not a flashy speaker or dynamic leader, Lyn instead impacted people with his ability to be present. Because of that presence, he went on to leave an indelible mark on the lives of others in so many ways, establishing multiple ministries that still continue today.

Lyn was born at home in Paradise, PA, to Mark E. and Anna (Hershey) Hershey, the 4th of eight children, and raised on the family dairy farm. He grew up at Kinzer Mennonite Church in Lancaster County, PA. In his youth, he was known for his athleticism, artistic ability, sense of humor, and bright, blue eyes. As a young teen, he began to paint and create his own artwork – a hobby that would continue throughout his lifetime. He was still painting landscapes, gifting artwork to friends and family, and donating his paintings to charitable causes in his 90's.

Because he was needed to help on the farm, Lyn stopped attending school after 9th grade. In response to the military draft, he volunteered to serve so that his other brothers could stay and run the farm. True to his Anabaptist heritage, he registered as a conscientious objector and participated in alternative service in various Mennonite voluntary scenarios, including working in a psychiatric hospital in Reedley, CA, and as an orderly at Denver General Hospital. He and Norma Jean "Jeanie" Kauffman met at the hospital in Denver and married on April Fool's Day, 1958, just one day after her graduation from nursing school. They celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in 2026.

Shortly after they married, the couple served at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Youth Camp. They then accepted the role as co-directors of a Mennonite Voluntary Service unit in Portland, OR. During their three years there, they lived with groups of young adults in a large house, coordinating community outreach in interracial neighborhoods, teaching life skills, and building community goodwill. Their first three sons, Mark, Daniel, and Terry, were born during their years heading up the Portland VS unit.

Because of their experience working in interracial communities, Lyn was asked to pastor a church in a predominantly African American community in Wichita, KS where they spent the next three years pasturing. Their fourth son, Ron, was born while ministering in Kansas. During that time, Lyn joined other Mennonite pastors in participating in a civil rights march in Mississippi. As their Wichita assignment was coming to a close, they were invited to become co-directors of a newly established Mennonite youth camp on the Oregon coast. In 1966, they moved their family of six back to Oregon, and becoming the directors of Drift Creek Camp. Their fifth child, daughter Lynette, was born soon after. Through their three years as camp directors, Lyn and Jeanie were an integral part of setting camp policy, coordinating the building of facilities, promoting the value of camping in church communities, and directing staff for many youth and family camps.

In 1969, Lyn was offered a position by the Mennonite Board of Missions in Elkhart, IN, as director of Minority Ministries. The Hershey family spent the next several years in Elkhart, while Lyn developed the national minority ministries program. When funding for the program ended, Lyn and Jeanie once again moved their family west, purchasing the lease to a campground in Central Oregon. The entire family took part in running Haystack Reservoir campground, managing the boat house rentals, cooking in the cafe, caring for horses, etc. On Sundays, the cafe was closed and they began holding informal church services. With the sponsorship of the Pacific Coast Conference mission board, these gatherings came to be known as the Central Oregon Mennonite Fellowship. The fellowship began meeting in the clubhouse at Crooked River Ranch, and eventually land was donated for a new church building. In 1975, the interdenominational church, Crooked River Ranch Chapel, was built, with Lyn Hershey as pastor. In their last year at Ranch Chapel, Lyn and Jeanie co-pastored the church. Ranch Chapel is still an active community church, and just celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding last year. *Click [here](#) to read the entire obituary.*

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to [Drift Creek Camp](#) in Lynford's memory. Donations can be sent to: Drift Creek Camp, P. O. Box 1110, Lincoln City, OR, 97367.



PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Salem Mennonite Church

[Conscientious Objector Workshop, Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at SMC](#) (1045 Candlewood Dr. N, Salem)

With recent conflicts around the world, many young people are exploring their convictions about participation in war. This workshop will guide participants through the process and help them prepare the necessary documentation. **Who should attend:** High school and college students, recent graduates, parents, grandparents, pastors, youth pastors, and interested adults.

Join us with **Nathan Toews**, Peace Education Coordinator with Mennonite Central Committee, to learn how to apply for conscientious objector status. For more information, contact **Pastor Karla**, pastor@salem-mennonitechurch.org.

Click [here](#) for the zoom link if attending from a distance.

Please note: The Selective Service will begin to automatically register young men between the ages of 18-25 in December as part of the [2026 National Defense Authorization Act](#) and the Army has raised its "maximum recruitment age" to 42 years, which causes concern over a possible military draft. Men, in particular, are in this pool and it's important that if you are a CO, that you begin the process of making it known as soon as possible. With the automation of Selective Service Registration, you will no longer be able to write on a card that you are a Conscientious Objector, so it's imperative to begin that process soon. **Please share this information with those who you believe would be in this age range of 18-42 years of age.** We don't know what this current administration will do, but since they wish to change the "Department of Defense" to the "Department of War", it would appear to many that starting wars and/or engaging in war is a priority. We can see that with the incursion into Venezuela and the current war with Iran.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Click [here](#) to read the [PNMHS Spring Newsletter!](#) The 2026 Spring edition of the "Our Heritage" newsletter draws on historical material found in our archival holdings. *If you would rather receive future issues by mail, let us know at pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com.*

1. A summary of our February 21 annual meeting featuring a history of the Mountain View Mennonite Church in Creston, MT.
2. Communications between the PCC Mission Board and **Allan Good** (Pastor of Portland Mennonite Gospel Mission) from 1922 to 1932.
3. A story from a 1994 edition of the Societies newsletter about Zion Mennonite burial practices in 1911.
4. A collection of letters to the Words of Cheer publication from Oregon writers seeking pen pals.
5. A letter to the Weekly Budget in 1895 by an Oregon writer who shared about her three-day trip to get to the Oregon coast.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Central Committee

Support MCC at the [Southern California Festival & Sale, Saturday, May 30, 2026, 7:00am until 3:00pm](#) at the Pacific Community Center, 814 Alpine St., Upland, CA. The event will be a one-day sale packed with auctions, food, friends and fun!

Mennonite Insurance Services

Mennonite Insurance Services has expanded their scholarship program. Ten \$1,000 are available for graduating high school seniors, college and seminary students. Students are invited to apply at [this link](#) before **July 1**.

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.

Reimagining Mennonite Church USA

MC USA is on a journey to face challenges with faith, reimagine its structure, and engage congregations in shaping a hopeful, Christ-centered future together. This process is not just about organizational change—it's about renewing our shared calling as followers of Jesus. Your participation will help shape the future of Mennonite Church USA, grounded in faith, community, and hope. To learn more, follow these links:

- Project Charter: MC USA Structure Review Committee [\[English\]](#) | [\[Español\]](#)
- [Small Group Discussion Resources](#) | [Project Timeline](#) | [Team](#) | [Book List](#) | [News](#)

The advertisement for the Mennonite Aid Plan scholarship program features a header with the logo and text: "Mennonite Aid Plan Mennonite Insurance Services YOUR CALLING. Faith-driven support for what's ahead. Our Support. YOUR FUTURE." Below this, there are four main sections: 1. "10 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED" with a graduation cap icon. 2. "\$1,000 EACH" with a dollar sign icon, stating "to help with tuition, books and other educational expenses." 3. "NOW OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!" with a graduation cap icon, stating "Attending a West Coast college or university." 4. "MORE ELIGIBLE THAN EVER!" with a person icon, stating "We've expanded eligibility to support more students in our faith community." To the right is a "SCAN TO APPLY" QR code with the text "Apply Today!". At the bottom, it lists "APPLICATION DEADLINE July 1, 2026" and "SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED August 1, 2026". A small note says "Applicants will be notified by email." The footer includes the website "mennoniteinsurance.com/scholarships/", a phone number "559-438-2327", and the location "Reedley, CA".

Upcoming e-Bulletins

May 18 (submissions by 5/11)
June 1 (submissions by 5/25)
June 15 (submissions by 6/8)
July 20 (submissions by 7/13)

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>