



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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Storied Land: Delegation to Palestine, October 13-27, 2027

By Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



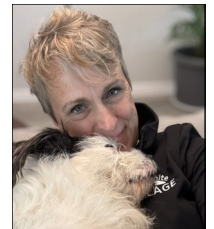
Our two-week sojourn in Palestine will bring us into multifold contact with this land. We will visit the locations **Amy Yoder McGloughlin** writes about in her forthcoming book, *Storied Land*, and pay attention to the connection between the biblical story and the stories of Palestinians today. Our itinerary will take us to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and the South Hebron Hills. We will meet with local religious leaders, farmers, activists and community leaders to learn more about the land and our faith, and discover how deeply they are connected. The forming itinerary can be found here: bit.ly/3SfE5IN.

This is a trip for anyone ages 18 and older that can manage the physical and emotional rigors of this trip. This includes stairs and steep hills, hearing traumatic stories and bearing witness to the occupation.

Delegation leaders are **Amy Yoder McGloughlin** and **Eric Massanari**. Amy is a Conference Minister with Allegheny Mennonite Conference and the Denominational Minister for Education with Mennonite Church USA. She travels to Palestine every year and has been a delegation leader to Palestine many times. Amy will provide logistics for the trip, using her deep relationships and knowledge of the area. Eric Massanari is a Conference Minister with Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and a Spiritual Director. Eric will be providing spiritual support and grounding for us on this delegation. If you have questions, contact Amy at amy.yoder.mcgoughlin@gmail.com.

Embracing Vulnerability Through Writing

On Friday evening of Annual Meeting, **Jaqui Eicher** led an elective writing workshop entitled *Lament, Moral Injury and (somehow) Hope*. Jaqui reflected on the workshop saying, “The group that gathered for the writing retreat may have been small, but some mighty content came out of our time together. We journeyed through some poetry, writing prompts, and communal writing time. It was powerful to hear individuals share their writing, fresh off the page. It will be worth your time to read what some of us shared during this time.” Follow [this link](#) to find the collected entries.



Kaytlen Keough has roots at Albany Mennonite but currently lives in Kansas and works at Hesston College. Kaytlen attended the PNMC gathering and shared, “One thing that struck me was everyone’s willingness to share their grief experiences. I think it’s easy to get in one’s head and start to believe that ‘nobody could understand my laments and sorrows’, but **grief is the one thing we all will experience**. Getting a space to write about my grief with Jaqui’s prompts helped me in writing my experiences. Also, to hear how other people interpreted the prompts reminded me just how our brains process hurt.” Kaytlen went on to share, “Since the writing group, I’ve thought often about an Advent book that Pastor Peter shared in December of 2024 called *Wounded in Spirit*. I immediately felt drawn by the stories from artists and their struggles with grief and how it affects their lives and art. The writing workshop reaffirmed to me that **grief is a part of the human experience**. I am so thankful that I had an opportunity to share that piece of myself with folks from AMC and the wider conference.”

Jaqui works as a chaplain at Mennonite Village and with the AMC youth. She is also a student at AMBS. Jaqui is a prolific and thoughtful artist and writer. Her home is intentionally adorned with thoughtful poetry and words to inspire, as well as beautiful original art on everything from a small shrine hanging in the hall to original human-sized florals painted on the walls and even the garage door. *No matter where you are in Jaqui’s home, inspiration abounds!*

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

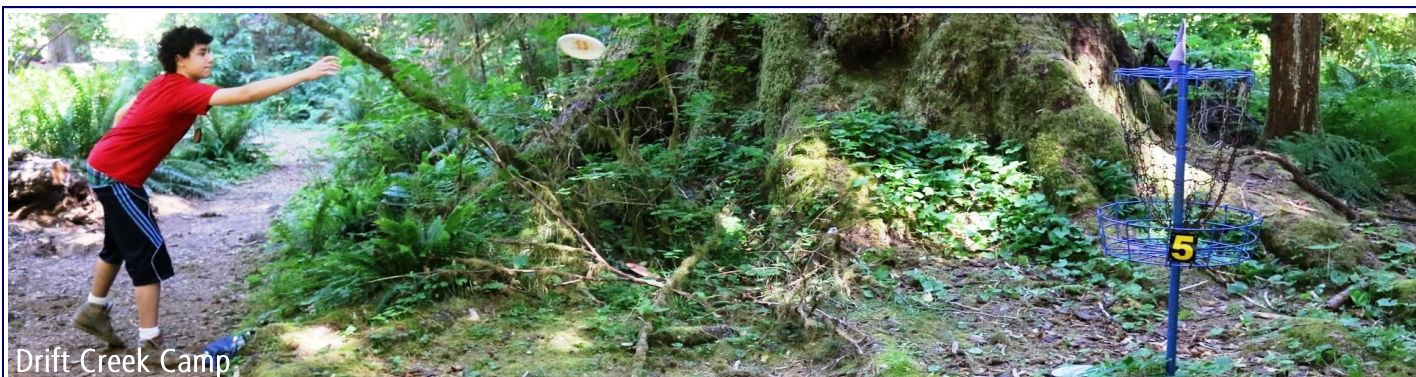
Bend Mennonite Church, Janette Wisseman reflects upon wildfire season

Wildfire season is here. It feels like the fires have come earlier and have impacted so many communities. Living in Central Oregon for the last 29 years, this is an expected summer occurrence when dry lightning storms hit drought-stricken land. Yet, even if the fires are not that close to us or the people we know, it adds an unsettled feeling to each day. Starting and ending the day means checking watchduty.org to see if my neighborhood is under an evacuation level. Did I miss an alert? Is my son's house safe still? What about the air quality? Is it safe to exercise outside, or do I remain inside again? We check in on neighbors, check on each other's homes. We write thank you cards to be placed in the lunches of firefighters. We make a mental (and/or physical) plan of what's important to take should we get evacuated.

Ranchers are opening gates to let livestock out so they will hopefully find a safe spot in the face of the fires. Folks who've been through this many times before, stay and fight the fires along side the working crews. Firefighters have come from all over the country (and the world) to help, and we are so grateful they are here.

Humans, animals and plants have died. Homes have been lost. Livelihoods extinguished. How many years will it be before we see the land return to what it was; how long will we grieve for these terrible losses? We know that fire can purify the land, but as our world is seeing so much change in our climate and with more frequent and destructive fires, I am tempted to ask how much fire, O God?

Portland Mennonite Church



Drift Creek Camp

With help from **Jory Umble** of Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, the [DCC Disc Golf Tournament](#) is being revived! Join us on **August 22** or come early on Friday night, **August 21** for additional activities. More details and online registration can be found [HERE](#).

Please keep the Obold family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of church member, **Fred Obold**. Fred and his wife Ruth moved to Portland following his retirement from years of ministry in Kansas. His career included congregational pastoral leadership (including *Hesston College Mennonite Church* and *Hoffnungsaun Mennonite in Inman, KS*), and nearly two decades of chaplaincy with Hospice of Reno County (KS). Fred peacefully completed his earthly journey the morning of July 28, after a lengthy hospitalization. The family cherishes your support and prayers, knowing they are not meant to negotiate these tenuous, tender moments alone.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Interested in the relationship between faith and the natural environment? AMBS has developed three new Ecotheology Studies programs for people who want to grow in practicing ecological justice. These offerings grow out of the seminary's commitments to peace, justice, environmental sustainability and creation care. The programs are designed for study on campus or from a distance. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA | Read the entire edition of *PeaceMail* [here](#).

"Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit," November 6-7, is in Leola, PA. Rooted in Anabaptist faith values, the two-day gathering brings Christians together to explore faithful responses to war, political polarization, nationalism and violence. **Shane Claiborne** will speak. High school youth attend free with a sponsor/pastor. *Young adults may consider this opportunity to help declare Conscientious Objector status before automatic registration begins.* Learn more [here](#). "This summit is an invitation to renew our call to the way of peace as we listen, learn and discern with one another," said **Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz**, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace & Justice.

Mennonite Mission Network

Registration for 2027- 28 [Service Adventure & Mennonite Voluntary Service](#) begins in **October!** Youth and young adults with transitions on the horizon can find their place in one of these two programs. Meanwhile, adults may consider [Service Opportunities with Our Partners \(SOOP\)](#) for flexible service terms at 60 locations for individuals ages 25+ and families of all ages.

Mennonite World Conference

Peace Sunday is **September 20, 2026**. MWC offers a variety of resources for your congregation at this [link](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins

Aug 17 (submissions by 8/10)

Sept 7 (submissions by 8/31)

Sept 21 (submissions by 9/14)

Oct 5 (submissions by 9/28)

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>