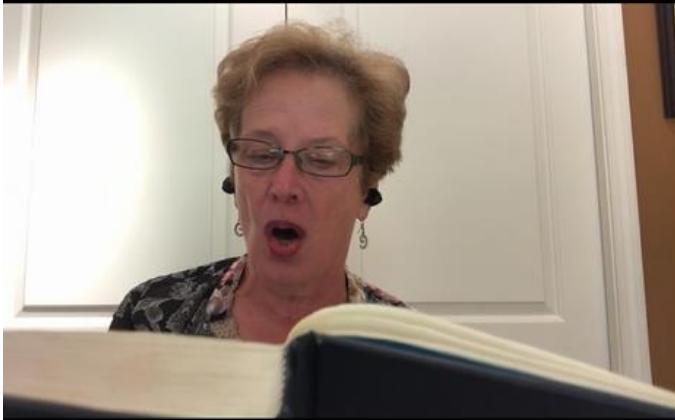


WELCOME TO PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH

At Portland Mennonite Church we are striving to take seriously the challenge of the prophet Jeremiah to “seek the peace of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7)



PASTORS & STAFF

Rod Stafford

Lead Pastor

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Curt Weaver

Pastor of Children and Youth

curt@portlandmennonite.org

Britt Carlson

Pastor of Community Life

britt@portlandmennonite.org

Rachel Joy

Administrator

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WELCOME!

I am glad you could join us for our on-line worship service. I wish I could greet all of you in-person. I wish we could sing our gratitude and thanksgiving together. I wish I could hear the energy of kids as they race down front to Children's Time. But even in these disrupted and socially-distanced times, we trust that the love of God continues to bind us together, that the way of Jesus continues to guide our way, and that the Spirit will continue to grant us the hope and strength we need. Peace to you,

Rod Stafford

*On Sunday at 10:45 am please join us in **Zoom** or on **Facebook Live** www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite/ and follow along with scriptures and songs in the following pages. The Zoom link is in the weekly update email.*

THE LORD'S DAY

FACILITATORS

Prelude:

Sarah Coffman

Worship Leader:

Gloria Nussbaum

Song Leader:

Gerry Leatherman

Children's Time:

Rod Stafford

Sermon:

Britt Carlson

Prayers:

Rod Stafford

Technical Support:

Rod Stafford

Rachel Joy

Prelude

Greeting

2 Corinthians 11:5-9, 16-21

♪ ‘I owe my Lord a morning song’ — *Sing the Journey*, 112

Children's Time

Offering

Genesis 15:1-6

♪ ‘Great is thy faithfulness’ — *Hymnal, A Worship Book*, 327

Sermon: “Promise: Hope for What’s Ahead”

Prayers

Commissioning Stephen Leaders—Joleen Classen, Tim Klassen

Sending Words

♪ ‘Go, my friends’ — *Sing the Story*, 57

Benediction

Sharing Time

Today's Worship

Prelude

Greeting

2 Corinthians 11:5-9, 16-21

I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you. Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.

I repeat, let no one think that I am a fool; but if you do, then accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. What I am saying in regard to this boastful confidence, I am saying not with the Lord's authority, but as a fool; since many boast according to human standards, I will also boast. For you gladly put up with fools, being wise yourselves! For you put up with it when someone makes slaves of you, or preys upon you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or gives you a slap in the face. To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that.

♪ 'I owe my Lord a morning song' — *Sing the Journey*, 112

1. I owe my Lord a morning song
for God has meant this day.
Through fears of night and hidden light
God moves and wills my way.
2. I owe my Lord a morning song
for Jesus rose at dawn;
he made death die and would not lie
that others might live on.
3. I owe my Lord a morning song;
the Spirit gave me voice,
nor did she force my soul to praise
but honored me with choice.
4. I owe my Lord a morning song.
How can I help but sing
when God is all in all, and I
am one with ev'rything.

Children's Time

Offering

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

♪ ‘Great is thy faithfulness’ — *Hymnal, A Worship Book*, 327

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!

2. "Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, Music: William M. Runyan, *Songs of Salvation and Service*, 1923
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Sermon

"Promise: Hope for What's Ahead"

Prayer (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

Please Pray For...

Have a prayer request? Let us know: prayer@portlandmennonite.org

- The people who have been displaced by the wildfires and all those who have suffered loss;
- Pat Smith, who was hospitalized this week with respiratory issues;
- Marvin Friesen, who is grieving the death of a friend this week;
- Leaders in our community and our country as they make public health and social justice decisions amidst this pandemic.

Commissioning Stephen Leaders:

Joleen Classen, Tim Klassen

Sending Words

♪ ‘Go, my friends, in grace’ — *Sing the Story*, 57

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Go, my friends, in grace,
beneath the blessed sky.
Where you go, God is there,
beneath the blessed sky. | 3. Serve, my friends, in love,
your neighbors and your foes.
Where you serve, God is there,
In neighbors and in foes. |
| 2. Walk, my friends, in peace,
within this fallen world.
Where you walk, God is there,
within this fallen world. | 4. Come again, my friends,
to worship and to pray.
When we meet, God is here.
Benedictus Deus. <i>[Blessed be God]</i> |

Text: David Wright; Music: James E. Clemens. Text & Music © 2004 by David Wright and James E. Clemens respectively. Permission to stream this music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #M-734252. All rights reserved.

Benediction

Sharing Time (Not streamed to Facebook)

Announcements

Narrative Lectionary

Gathering around the Word is a central part of our worship services. Each week we listen to the scriptures. Each week the sermon draws from the texts to guide us in our lives of faith. This fall, the Bible passages from week-to-week will come from the Narrative Lectionary. From Sunday-to-Sunday the texts will follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. Beginning in September and running into Advent, the main readings will come from the Older Testament. In a time as unsettled as this, the story the Bible is telling grounds us in the love and hope and future of God. Next week (September 20), the main reading will be Genesis 15:1-6 (the story of God promising Abraham and Sarah descendants as numerous as the stars).

Current Small Groups—Fall is here! If you are in a small group and you haven't met for a while due to COVID...or protests...or forest fires...consider meeting again! Fall is a wonderful time to reconnect—even if it's just via Zoom. We need each other.

Want a Small Group?—Interested in joining a new small group? We have two new groups that are forming! One is a short-term group that will only meet during the pandemic via Zoom. Small groups are the best way to feel connected to the life of PMC. They're where we share life with one another and deepen our discipleship through personal relationships. Contact Britt britt@portlandmennonite.org if you're interested.

Children's Sunday School Begins Online Today, September 20

Sunday school is going to look very different this fall. The Children's Christian Education Committee realizes that one of the primary strengths of our Sunday School program at PMC is our TEACHERS. The interaction our kids have in the classroom with their teacher is almost impossible to replace during this time of separation. However, we also realize that some connection is better than no connection. We also realize that many of our children are already sitting in front of a screen too much, so Sunday School will be short and sweet this fall. From 10:00 AM until 10:30 we have invited storytellers from our congregation to read their favorite children's story or tell a story from their life. This 1/2 hour offers you and your child an opportunity to see the faces of other children and their parents, to hear a story, and participate in a short prayer.

Look for more information on the website [here](#). We hope you will join us!

JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH Online Sunday School begins SEPTEMBER 27

The MYF and the Jr high will meet for Sunday school and connection by zoom on Sunday evenings BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 27. Barry Frisby will meet with the Jr High group and Curt Weaver (and sponsors) will meet with the MYF. Both groups will meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM for about 45 minutes. ZOOM LINKS will be sent via TEAMSNAP. If your child is moving up into 6th grade OR 9th Grade, please look in your email for an invitation to join TEAMSNAP sometime early next week.

SMMS Update: Now Enrolling

After months of planning and assessment, Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School has started off this school year with a robust, age-appropriate Distance Learning program. It includes Zoom sessions, At-Home Activity Boxes, Outdoor Park Gatherings, and more. If you know families who are reluctant to send their preschool child to school in-person, but would like to support their child's learning and social connections, we have room for more children to join us! We are offering all of this at a discounted tuition rate to ensure that it is affordable for families. Please see smmspdx.com for more details.

SMMS Pie Sale Fundraiser! Sep 13-Oct 10

This fall, SMMS is selling pies! We are partnering with Willamette Valley Pies to sell a delicious range of fruit pies, cream pies, mini-pies, cobblers, and frozen fruit. Orders are due by Saturday, October 10, and will be delivered on Monday, October 26. Pies are delivered frozen, so plan to stock up your freezer in preparation for the holidays! For more details or to place an order, go to: www.smmspdx.com/fundraisers.html.

Announcements, continued

"PMC Kids' Craft Exchange Sign Up Today (by Sep 20)

Let's Trade Crafts! Will you join Aurora in signing up to trade a craft with another child from PMC? All you have to do is sign up below by *end of the day on September 20th*. Then you will get an email telling you who you are trading with. You will have about two weeks to make your craft and arrange with your partner for how you will make the exchange. It will be fun. We hope you will join the Craft Exchange!! To sign up: www.portlandmennonite.org/kids-crafts

'Racial Justice from the US to Palestine' Webinar

Monday, Sep 21, 5:00 to 6:00 pm pacific time

On the International Day of Peace, the Western District Conference of MC USA and the Mennonite Palestine-Israel Network are sponsoring an hour-long virtual conversation on racial justice. Palestinians Alex Awad and Jonathan Kuttar join US citizen Sarah Nahar sharing their own experiences of injustice and hope, and will discuss the similarities between the two. Join the free live event on Western District Conference's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Western-District-Conference-Mennonite-Church-USA-149156621792464>

MCC at 100

Next Sunday (September 27) we will give thanks for Mennonite Central Committee's 100 years of relief, development, and peace-making work around the world. It is a story of faithfulness that continues to challenge us to be merciful and just 'in the name of Christ.' We are delighted that Ann Graber Hershberger, the new Executive Director of MCC US, will be our guest preacher. Please plan to join us.

New Address for Dale Stitt

Dale has moved to Kansas for health reasons. He is living with his daughter, Betty. His new address is: 3357 N Porter, Wichita, KS 67204. He has a birthday coming up on October 14 and would be glad to hear from his friends at PMC.

My Coins Count COVID-style

Families of 2nd graders and younger, expect a package! Usually during September we would be hearing the sounds of dimes and quarters plinking in metal cups as the kids collect coins for Mennonite Central Committee. We want to continue to support MCC's work of relief, development and peace around the world, so this year we are sending out packets for kids to collect coins at home. If you are not a 2nd grader or younger but are young at heart and would like to collect coins along with the kids, email Britt and she will send you a packet as well.

MCC School Kits

Tis the season! It's time for school kits! Even though we're in the middle of a pandemic, we're still going to gather school supplies for Mennonite Central Committee to send around the world to families facing disaster or crisis. We will gather the supplies at our meetinghouse through mid-September, so after you purchase them either arrange a time with Britt to drop them off or if you order them online have them sent directly to the church building (1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland OR 97214). You may also make a donation for school kits to PMC or directly to MCC if you prefer to send money. More information about MCC's school kits can be found online at: mcc.org/get-involved/kits/school. Thanks and happy shopping!

MDS Weekly Volunteer

Mennonite Disaster Service has put into place new guidelines for projects operating under the current pandemic conditions, and currently have projects in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alaska, West Virginia and Puerto Rico (more information at: mds.mennonite.net/current-projects/). If you would like to volunteer a week or two or three on one of these projects, look for the information and calendar online at <https://mds.volunteermatrix.com/> and sign up! If you want to talk with someone at PMC about MDS, contact Maurice Imhoff. Sign up to receive MDS news at: <https://mds.mennonite.net/stay-connected/>

Adult Ed

Widerstand Congregational Anti-Racism Training Sep 20-Oct 25

At PMC we are committed to the work of racial justice. Our commitment is ongoing, multifaceted and ever-growing. The events of this past summer have been a clarion call for us. We know that Black lives matter to God, and it's been amazing to watch how the Holy Spirit has compelled us, our children and our church to learn, speak, act, work and hope for racial justice. As we continue to get ourselves involved, we are going to begin our fall with learning. Tobin Miller Schearer, cofounder of the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Training, has just put out an online training for congregations through Widerstand Consulting. With informative videos and reflective questions all via an online tutorial, this training will allow us as a congregation to grow together in "the same mind" and have "the same love." Even if you have been a part of other anti-racism classes or trainings, we encourage you to join us as we journey as a whole congregation through this six-week training. We are on a journey. These steps seem small, but we trust that God uses the foolish things of this world, the small things of this world, and turns them into trees where birds can come and find rest. Join us as we move towards the kingdom of God and justice for black and indigenous people of color. To allow as many people as possible to do this training, there are TWO different ways you can participate:

Adult Education Class on Sunday Morning: Gather online on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom. This class will go through the online tutorial TOGETHER with large group discussions.

Discussion Trios (Self Scheduling): As an alternative to our Adult Ed class, we are offering small groups of three for deeper conversation and flexibility in scheduling. If you choose this option, on Monday, September 21st you will receive the names of your two discussion partners. You will INDIVIDUALLY go through the online tutorial (i.e. watch the videos and answer Tobin's questions) and meet once a week for 40 min. with your trio to talk through what you've been learning, questions you have, and emotions that have arisen.

Nonviolent Communication Class Wednesdays @ 7 pm, beginning Sep 30

Join us as we work at putting our Anabaptist beliefs into the everyday use of building and maintaining relationships that embrace our differences as a source of health and joy. The intent of nonviolent communication--i.e. compassionate communication--is to retrain our brains such that we remove our assumptions and judgements as we listen to our inner voices and to others, we identify and feel our feelings with empathy so that we can have empathy for the other, we identify our needs that give rise to our feelings, and we learn to request authentic and concrete actions in order to enrich ours and others' lives. This is a sixteen-week class meeting over a period of 6 months. The sixteen weeks will be 25% teaching and 75% practice where we will be working with each other. We will be taking full advantage of having to be on Zoom with a unique class format:

- The class will meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm beginning September 30 for six weeks of directed online teaching by experienced NVC teachers based on Marshall Rosenberg's book "Nonviolent Communication."
- After this first six weeks, we will be meeting alternating weeks, same day and time, for practice & catchup sessions that will include small group breakout rooms.
- In the "off" weeks, we will have chosen or been assigned an NVC buddy who we will be required to check in with for at least one hour to share our frustrations, learnings and joy.
- The total number of weeks will be sixteen over the course of six months.

This is a unique opportunity, but hard work! Because we are bringing in experienced NVC teachers, the class will cost \$160 (\$10/session). Don't let the cost hold you back, however. There are scholarship if needed. Because we are bringing in experienced NVC teachers, the class will cost \$160 (\$10/session). Contact Chuck Fondse or Britt Carlson for more information. Signup via Chuck or Britt, or on the church website at www.portlandmennonite.org/nvc-class

Staying Connected This Week

Sunday Morning Widerstand Anti-Racism Training Sunday / 9:30 am

On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am starting September 20, we are offering a large group option to go through the Widerstand anti-racism training. This class will go through the online tutorial TOGETHER with large group discussions.

To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83769382188?pwd=dGdhaU5yaGNvU3VVZzlyakVpR2hsQT09>

Monday Morning Pastor “Coffee Time” Monday / 9:00 am

On Mondays, 9:00-9:30 am, Britt (occasionally Rod or Curt) hosts a “coffee time” via Zoom for anyone who would like to check in together as the week begins. Look for the link in the weekly update, and on our website. To join: zoom.us/j/368828512

Friday Morning Coffee Group Fridays / 10:00 am

A group of PMCers continues to meet, now via Zoom, every Friday morning for an informal social time. If you'd like to join, contact Linda Rush or the church office for more information.



COVID Chronicles Podcast

The PMC podcast COVID Chronicles is a good way to stay connected with your PMC friends. New episodes drop every few days. Find it on the PMC website by simply scrolling down the home page, or look for it on PodBean. When you'd like to get in on the fun, contact host Gloria Nussbaum, 503-645-0616, for more information, or to set up an interview session.

You can also find most of these links on our website at: www.portlandmennonite.org/online-church

Where do I send my offering?

Portland Mennonite Church

1312 SE 35th Ave
Portland OR 97214

Or use the online method: [CLICK HERE](#)

PMC and COVID-19

Join us on FB Live Sunday Morning at 10:45 am, or check our page for updates throughout the week www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite. To join our Zoom meeting for worship, sign up for our [weekly update](#).

Check out our website www.portlandmennonite.org for news, sermons, event information, and ways to stay connected with each other including sharing prayer requests and video greetings.

PMC Staff are minimizing time in the office. Please email us for fastest response. We also check voicemail remotely.

Electronic Giving

We have a variety of options for financial contributions, including by credit card, or direct debit from your bank account. Checks may be mailed to the church office at 1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland OR 97214. Rachel opens the mail once a week. For details and forms, go to www.portlandmennonite.org/give. You can also check with your bank about sending electronic payments. Contact Rachel Joy (office@portlandmennonite.org) if you have any questions.