

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)

LENT 2021

*‘We are fearful, we are ailing, we are weak and selfish too.
Break upon your congregation, give us vigor, life anew.’*

PASTORS & STAFF

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WELCOME!



We are glad you have joined our online service this morning. Today is the First Sunday in Lent. Lent is a forty-day season for renewing our faith in the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus. At the start of our service, we will light a candle as a sign of our hope in the lovingkindness of God. At the end, you are welcome to join us as we share the Bread and Cup of the Lord's Table.

Peace to you, Rod Stafford

*On Sunday at 10:45 am please join us in **Zoom** or on [Facebook Live](#) and follow along with scriptures and songs in the following pages. The Zoom link is in the weekly update email.*

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FACILITATORS

Prelude:

Sarah Coffman

Worship Leader:

Kim Brandt

Lenten Reflection:

Christina Moss

Song Leader:

Crystal Miller

Children's Time:

Curt Weaver

Sermon:

Rod Stafford

Communion:

Britt Carlson

Technical Support:

Curt Weaver

Rachel Joy

Worship Setting:

Deb Coates

Prelude

Greeting

Lighting the Lenten Wreath

♪ 'Holy Spirit, come with power' — *Hymnal, a Worship Book*, 26

Psalm 15

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

A Lenten Reflection

Children's Time

Luke 10:25-37

♪ 'The Love of God' — *Sing the Journey*, 44 / (VT 162)

Sermon: 'Asking Right Questions'

Sharing Communion

♪ Taste and See — *Sing the Journey*, 86

Prayers

The Bread and Cup

Sending Words

Benediction

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Today's Worship

Prelude

Greeting

Lighting the Lenten Wreath

God of love,
light a flame of love in our hearts to you,
a flame of love to our families and friends,
a flame of love to our neighbors,
a flame of love to our enemies.
Light a flame of love in our hearts to all,
from the lowliest thing that lives,
to the Name that is highest of all. AMEN

(Sing the Journey, 121)

♪ — 'Holy Spirit, come with power' / WB 26

1. Holy Spirit, come with power, breathe into our aching night.
We expect you this glad hour, waiting for your strength and light.
We are fearful, we are ailing, we are weak and selfish too.
Break upon your congregation, give us vigor, life anew.
2. Holy Spirit, come with fire, burn us with your presence new.
Let us as one mighty choir sing our hymn of praise to you.
Burn away our wasted sadness and enflame us with your love.
Burst upon your congregation, give us gladness from above.
3. Holy Spirit, bring your message, burn and breath each word anew
deep into our tired living till we strive your work to do.
Teach us love and trusting kindness, lend our hands to those who hurt.
Breath upon your congregation and inspire us with your word.

Text: Anne Neufeld Rupp, 1970, alt. c 1970 Anne Neufeld Rupp.

Music: attributed to B.F White, 1844; harmonized by Joan A. Fyock c 1989 Joan A Fyock.

Psalm 15 (NRSV)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly,
and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

A Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Deep calls to deep.
We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,
avoiding you, avoiding our neighbors.
We confess when we have felt in over our heads,
needing you, needing our neighbors.

*In the silence now, let go of what keeps you from deep
relationships in your life. (pause)*

Deep calls to deep.
You call to us from the depth of your love.
You call us into deep relationships of love.
We come to you, God..

(Adapted from *Leader* resources for Lent)

A Lenten Reflection

Children's Time

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

♪ — ‘The Love of God’ / SJ 44 (Voices Together 162)

1. The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The wand’ring child is reconciled
by God’s beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints’ and angels’ song.

2. When ancient time shall pass away,
and human thrones and kingdoms fall,
when all on earth refuse to pray,
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God’s love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
redeeming grace to Adam’s race—
the saints’ and angels’ song.
3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev’ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev’ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.

Text: F.M. Lehman, c. 1917, alt.

Music: F.M. Lehman c. 1917; arranged by Claudia Lehman May.

Sermon

‘Asking Right Questions’

Sharing The Bread and Cup

♪ — 'Taste and See' / SJ 44

Refrain:

Taste, and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord
for God has been so good to me.
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free.
3. Worship the Lord, all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
In God we need put all our trust.

Prayers

Please Pray For...

- Debra Hubbard, who will have surgery on both eyes this Friday; She has care lined up for the days after the surgery. If you are available to be a backup person for Friday overnight (8 pm to 8 am) or Saturday overnight (8 pm to 8 am), contact Debra.
- Healthcare workers and support staff, as they tend to people stricken with COVID-19 and administer vaccines.

Sending Words

Offering

[GIVE ONLINE](#)

Benediction

Sharing Time

(Not streamed to Facebook)

Announcements

Sunday, February 21

Valentine Cookie Exchange — Today Feb 21 / 1-3pm

Due to snow last weekend, the Valentine Cookie Exchange was postponed for one week. We will celebrate Valentine's Day together on Sunday, February 21 from 1:00-3:00 pm. All the details remain the same. Bring a dozen nut-free cookies to share, divided in three bags, 4 cookies in each bag. Drive through the church parking lot. If you don't have a car, we would still love to have you come. Thank you for being flexible! Organizers: Claudia and Hannah Franzen, Becky and June Lanford, Jennifer and Anna Shuping, Jessie Hostetler

LENT 2021

At Portland Mennonite Church

The Lenten season begins on February 17. Join us for an online service that evening at 7:00 pm. On the Sunday mornings of Lent we will light candles in our homes during our worship services. On Sunday evenings we invite families especially to join us for a 15-minute gathering that will end with us blowing out the candles and saying Good Night. For more about our observance of these forty days that lead us to Holy Week, visit our [Lent 2021 web page](#).

Sunday Evening Prayers with our Children

Sunday Evenings, 7:00 PM

Each Sunday evening during Lent, we invite your family to join the rest of the congregation for 15 mins on Zoom at 7pm. We will again gather for a short bedtime ritual which has been created especially for the children in our congregation. Link in weekly update.

Holden Evening Prayer

Thursdays in Lent / 7:00 pm

On Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning on February 18, you are welcome to join us for 20-30-minute service of evening prayer. The liturgy, which is almost entirely sung, was written by Marty Haugen when he was in-residence at Holden Village (near Chelan, WA). It is a beautiful, engaging, and moving service. The version we will use was prepared by Saint John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento, CA, and is used with permission. You can preview the service here. Booklets with words and music are available. Contact Rod or Rachel in the PMC office and we will send you a copy. A pdf of the service can also be found on-line (search Holden Evening Prayer pdf).

Racial Healing: A Lenten Book Study

Sundays in March / 9:30 am

The Little Book of Racial Healing describes four pillars that can move us toward racial healing: Uncover History, Make Connections, Work Toward Healing, Take Action. On the Sunday mornings of March, 9:30 to 10:30 am, the PMC Racial Justice committee will lead an on-line book study. As we read through the book together, we will consider the possibility of starting a Portland chapter of Coming to the Table. At the end, the class will also be invited to discern possible recipients of the reparation funds in the 2021 PMC Budget. Copies of the book are available at PMC. Contact the church office to make arrangements to pick one up or to have one sent to you. Any questions, contact a member of the Racial Justice Committee. (Kris Voss Rothmeier, chair; Connie Brown, Sylvia Shirk, Rod Stafford, Sarah Holcomb, Karina Kreider)

This Week

Food Conversations: Inspiring dialogue about food and our shared food culture Tue, Feb 23 / 7:00pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81818959135>

Please join us for an evening chat hosted by Lois Gearhart and Heidi Noordijk about Favorite Recipes and Family Favorites. We will hear from several PMCer's about favorite recipes and family food traditions, then have the opportunity to share some of our own. Stories and recipes will be captured in a blog format we will continue to add to and share with our community. This event will be recorded.

General PMC Announcements

Host a Student from Gaza?:

Gaza is a little-known and often-forgotten strip of land on the Mediterranean Sea where life is very difficult and oppressive and also full of beauty and dreams. The PMC Gaza Twinning Committee is eager for our congregation to learn more about the people of Gaza and ways we can advocate for a more just future. One possibility is for a PMC family to host a high school student from Gaza through the [AFS-USA](#) student exchange program. Our Gaza committee would be happy to help facilitate and support a hosting family. Students will arrive in August for the 2021-22 school year. To learn more, the Gaza committee will host an information session soon. If you are interested, contact any committee member (Esther Nelson, Paul Reid, Sam Abrams, Linda Davies, Rod Stafford).

Broader Church News and Events

POSTPONED: Mennonites and Indigenous Land:

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society Annual Meeting (New Date TBD)

Due to widespread loss of power in the Willamette Valley, the PNMHS board has decided to postpone the annual meeting that was scheduled for February 20. Look for an announcement when the new date is determined. "The Path to Acknowledgement: Mennonite Settlement in the Pacific Northwest" will be presented by Sarah Augustine of Yakima, WA and Jonathon Neufeld, from Seattle Mennonite Church. *Who were the indigenous people here before settlers and Mennonites came to this land? What influenced our decisions in how and where we live?* Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84858146570>

Mennonite Disaster Service News: *On The Level*

The February edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS welcomes a new regional leader; the Spirit of MDS Fund is offering another round of funding for congregations. Plus we're now offering Behind the Hammer, our quarterly publication showcasing our volunteers and their inspiring stories, in a digital version giving you access via your phone, tablet or desktop. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3bckDni>

Voices Together Hymnals

The new Mennonite hymnal, Voices Together, has arrived. Everyone who ordered a personal copy should have received it; if not, please let the PMC office know. It is a cruel irony that a new songbook has arrived at a time when we cannot sing together. But once we can worship in-person again, we will 'lift our glad voices'! Several launch events have been planned to help introduce this new Mennonite worship and song collection. You can view two past events and find information about two upcoming events (in March and May) [here](#).

General PMC Announcements

Stephen Ministry can help

In times of stress, conflict, pandemics, or forest fires you can find emotional support from PMC's Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is a way our congregation provides high-quality care and outreach to people who could use some support and encouragement in the congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one Christ-centered confidential care. Over the past four years, PMC has trained 28 members of the church to care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, family issues, and many other life difficulties. You do not need to face these problems alone, a Stephen Minister will walk beside you. To find out more about this ministry, contact: Pastor Britt Carlson, Stephen Leaders Connie Brown, Tim Klassen, Joleen Classen. Check out the web page: www.portlandmennonite.org/stephen-ministry

Bearing One Another's Burdens

In the midst of this unsettling time we are committed to [caring for each other](#) and to 'seeking the peace of the city' (Jeremiah 29:7). If you or someone you know at PMC is facing financial need, please let us know. We can offer help through our Care Fund and through the Sharing Fund of Everence. Our Care Fund currently has plenty of funds, thanks to the generous support of many in the congregation; if you have extra resources at this time, please consider contributing to our community partners, such as [Family Promise Metro East](#).

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.

Fair Trade Fruit and Coffee

Have you missed purchasing the fair trade fruit, coffee, and tea from Level Ground? Good news! It is once again available through PMC. [Simply click on the link](#) and fill out your request. Paula Brunk Kuhns will contact you to confirm the order, arrange for payment, and figure out delivery or pick up details. The link to order can also be found on the PMC website under "Online Church" and "Old Chapel Fruit and Coffee Sales".

Do you recycle your cans and bottles?

Will you support Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School with your recycling?

If you will save your cans and bottles in one of our SMMS pre-labeled bags and simply drop the bag off when full at any BottleDrop location in the metro area, the deposit money is credited to the school. Very easy and "no contact" required! FAQs about BottleDrop and list of their locations can be found [here](#). Ready to get started? We will deliver the bag to your home. Just e-mail Anne Stites (stitesanne@gmail.com) with your address for that bag delivery....thank you!!

Staying Connected

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. The link is on our website (staying connected page). Note: We will not meet February 15.

To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/368828512?pwd=bkNDb25xUVgrTG9kZG9vbGU1UnZnUT09>

Friday Morning Coffee Group

Fridays / 10:00 am

A group of PMCs 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.

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

Land Acknowledgement

As we learn about the Doctrine of Discovery, we recognize that the land on which our meetinghouse is located and the land on which many of us live was previously home to Native American peoples who were decimated and uprooted as this area was settled. The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla and many other tribes who lived and traveled along the Columbia River, creating communities and summer encampments to harvest and use the plentiful natural resources of the area.

PMC & 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.

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.