



ZING!

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Save
the
Date

**MSMC
Annual
Assembly
July 21-23, 2023**



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MENNONITE CAMP**
AT 9620' ON PIKES PEAK MASSIF

Conference Minister's Corner

Blessed are the...submissive?

By Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman

The following is an excerpt from a sermon I recently preached on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12):

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

When I first looked up the definition of meek, it said: "quiet, gentle, easily imposed on; submissive."

Submissive? Hmm...I need to have some words with Submissive.

I've been working on a national study to hear the voices of Mennonite women in leadership and I'm hearing again and again how harmful it is when submission is imposed on them. One of the most common stories is women in ministry getting ignored or talked over. Female pastors have told me that sometimes they're literally silenced in church meetings: "Shhh. Stop talking. Shhh."

Meekness imposed on others is oppression. There's nothing blessed about that.

But what if there's a better way to understand meekness? I've found a second definition: "To be meek is to restrain one's own privilege for the sake of others." If that's what meekness means, then *you* can choose to be meek as an act of justice; not imposing it on anyone else, but giving up your privileges for the sake of the community. The next beatitude, of course, is blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, or justice. Maybe these two beatitudes are meant to go hand-in-hand.

And then this second part of the sentence: Blessed are the meek, *for they will inherit the earth*. I find it fascinating that the land itself is named here.

It's vital that we restrain ourselves for the sake of the earth, right? We could continue as a human species with unchecked growth, unchecked pollution, unchecked ways of living that destroy the environment.

Or we could collectively live in such a way that our children's children will *have* an earth to inherit.

Blessed are the meek, for they, and all who come after them, will be able to inherit the earth.

Watch the entire 15-minute sermon on YouTube [here](#).

(Facts to be aware of to understand the inside joke at the beginning of the sermon: Ryan Koch is the pastor of Glennon Heights, which is the church I'm guest preaching at. He is also our conference moderator, and on the CLC gifts discernment committee.

When questioned after the sermon, Ryan said [with a laugh] that he stands behind his determination that it is, in fact, painful to watch me play frisbee and that I should probably never do it in public again.)

[Click here](#) to read online.



Introducing New Leadership Board Members



Connie Rempel

Beloved Community Mennonite Church

Connie is a Kansas native, but has lived most of her life in Colorado (Joes, Walsenburg, and now Littleton for 24 years). Before that, she graduated from Hesston (KS) and Goshen (IN) colleges in Liberal Arts and German. She also spent a year in Switzerland and West Germany as a Mennonite Central Committee Trainee and another three months in East Germany on a Goshen College study service trimester. Connie was a volunteer for at the International Guest House in Washington, DC through Mennonite Board of Missions (MBM) for 15 months. It was in DC that she met her spouse, John

Beck, at a Mennonite Church-sponsored young adult square dance where they paired up for the Virginia Reel.

After several years of doing administrative assistant work at a nonprofit in DC (For Love of Children) and then at First Mennonite in Denver, she became a Zumba dance instructor and taught classes at the local rec center in Littleton until everything shut down for COVID. Connie enjoys traveling with John and being a cat mom to two kitties. John and Connie are both huge lovers of science fiction. She has also been using Duolingo to learn Spanish for over 5 years and loves to sing, enjoying almost any opportunity to do so.

There are many family gatherings with siblings, Vern (and Marilyn), and Carol; and many trips to Hesston, KS to see parents Ed and Kathrine in assisted living at Schowalter Villa. Our church, BCMC, is based in Littleton and is meeting in homes of participants. "I hope to be a helpful addition to the Leadership Board."

Lue Xiong

Rocky Mountain Hmong Mennonite Church (RMHMC)

Lue has lived in Colorado since 1996 and currently serves as an Elder at RMHMC. Lue is married with 4 children; 2 girls (14 and 7-yrs old) and 2 boys (3 yrs old and 8 months). His hobbies include kayak fishing, soccer, basketball and cornhole. Lue has a BS in Industrial Design from Metropolitan State University of Denver and is a co-owner of Kuluka Boba and Sweets, located in Westminster, CO.





Kim Kauffman

First Mennonite Church of Denver

Kim grew up and was baptized in FMC, Denver and has also raised her children there. She has been involved in many ways over the years at FMC including choir, teaching Sunday School / MYF, being an MYF sponsor and serving on the church board as youth advocate, as vice-chair and chair.

Kim has been engaged in the larger church groups as well, in capacities such as delegate to MCUSA, MYF sponsor to many conventions and a camp counselor at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Kim and husband Tim have 2 children; daughter Courtney lives in Castle Rock with her husband, Matt and son Tyler lives in Westminster.

Kim is a teacher in Jeffco Public Schools — currently teaching 3rd grade. With family and friends, Kim enjoys traveling, skiing, finding great restaurants, scrapbooking, and attending CU football games. Kim looks forward to serving on the Mountain States Mennonite Conference Board and supporting our group of churches.

[Click here](#) to read online.

Introducing the Social Enterprise Task Force!

Meet the team that will be working to realize the dream of a social enterprise in Mountain States Mennonite Conference. We in Mountain States are hoping to start and sustain a business that does good in the world while helping pay the bills, something that many other MC USA conferences have established in recent years. A social enterprise will enable our conference to be sustainable for the long haul, even as churches (whose support we currently and will continue to depend upon--thank you!) face ups and downs. This dream was approved by delegates last summer 2022. Amy Zimbelman will be the staff person working on the project and Jonathan Moyer has agreed to be the chair.

More info to come, but for now, here's the dream team:



Jonathan Moyer lives in Denver with Gayle, Elias, Evelyn, and Friendship (the dog) and goes to First Mennonite Church. He enjoys gardening and canning, is passionate about peace, and works at the University of Denver doing research on international relations and development. He was raised in South East Pennsylvania and worked with MCC in Vietnam from 2002-5 before doing his graduate school work. He's very excited to be a part of this Task Force!

Ray Miller lives in Fort Collins and attends Sojourn Mennonite Church. He lives with wife Megan and two kids - Jack (7) and Josie (4) - along with dog Leo. He grew up in Ohio and currently works as an economist at Colorado State University. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, traveling, sports, and playing with his dog.



Rhoda M. Blough is a Stewardship Consultant for Everence Financial and her office is located in Denver, Colorado. She attends Glennon Heights Mennonite. She has two grown daughters, Bethany married to John; they have two sons and live in Denver and Brooke who lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Manny and their two small children. In her spare time, Rhoda enjoys spending time (in person and FaceTiming) with her four grandchildren: Ian, Shane, Jasmine, and almost 1-year old Crispin. Getting adjusted to her new poodle, Mona, is taking some of her time. She also enjoys reading, traveling, and conversation and coffee with family and friends. She is looking forward to being part of the Social Enterprise Task Force!

Jerry Martin lives in Colorado Springs and attends Beth-El Mennonite Church. He is married to Jeanette. They have two adult children, Chloe and Jacob, also in Colorado Springs. He is a slowly retiring Independent Manufacturer Sales Representative in the Mountain West for Wieland Healthcare and Sauder Worship. He enjoys blacksmithing for RAWTools.org, bicycling, astronomy, and astrophotography.





Herm Weaver lives outside Nederland, Colorado with Cindy, Ace and Rain (horses) and Mittens (the cat). Together they give themselves to love, spiritual journey, living in nature, and to their work. They have three children, Hope, Chloe, and Dillon. Herm is a part time Hospice Chaplain in Estes Park. His avocations include playing music, caring for their small ranch, accompanying spiritual journey clients, and managing the family mountain retreat house.

Amy Zimbelman thoroughly enjoys serving as Conference Minister, supporting churches and passion ministries in Colorado and New Mexico. She has served as a Mennonite pastor for 3 years, and has worked in refugee resettlement for about a decade. Amy holds a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School, and has also served in Zambia through Mennonite Central Committee and in South Dakota with Mennonite Voluntary Service. She and her husband Matt live in Colorado Springs and have two young sons. She loves spending time with her family and friends, cooking/eating food, hiking/walking outside, learning about other cultures, hashing things out in long conversations, and trying to follow Jesus.



[Click here](#) to read online.

MSMC Communication Updates

Zing! Is published for the congregations of Mountain States Mennonite Conference and can be viewed on the website, www.mountainstatesmc.org. Email contributions as Word files to administrator@mountainstatesmc.org. Articles should be 300 words or less in length.

2023 Estimated Schedule: Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug Assembly, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec.

Mar/Apr Submission Deadline: Mar 23; Publish date: Apr 1.

Bulletin Announcements – We email MSMC congregations with bulletin announcements. If you have something to share out to our community, please email MSMC Administrator.

Conference Calendar

July 21-23, 2023 Annual Assembly, RMMC

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Articles should be 300 words or less in length.

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