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PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

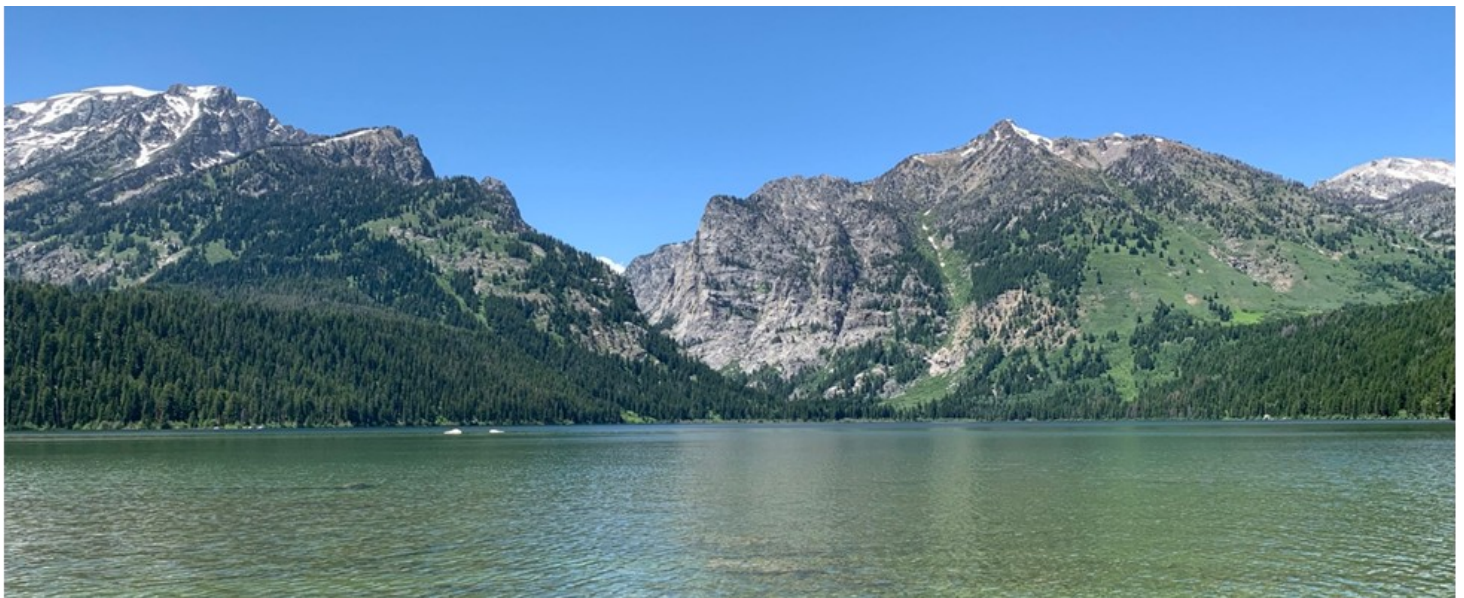
Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Camp Palisades ~ The Gift of Foiled Plans ~ *By Kevin Chupp*

In the middle of the night, while campers were supposed to be sleeping (but probably weren't), I found myself frantically scanning through lists and pictures from local trails on the small screen of my phone. Free entrance to a national park is too good of an opportunity to pass up. However, due to traffic and construction, our previous group had spent far too much time on the bus on the way to our planned hike. So, here I was, in our dark cabin, straining the limits of cellular technology in order to choose our backup plan.

At Camp Palisades, we have learned to regard the schedule as a suggestion—giving deference and reverence to whatever situation we encounter. That often means allowing extra time for all of our campers to absorb just enough of the stark and wild beauty that some of them are encountering for the first time. Occasionally, it means practicing patience—because sometimes lightning strikes a massive coniferous tree, that tree catches fire, and that burning tree falls down rocky slopes with such precision as to block the only road to our destination, inspiring awe and fear with its fire and road hazard greatness (yes, that happened this year). Rarely, but often enough, we are given opportunity to witness nature flaunting her power, reminding us of the futility of our plans and schedules.

In these untamed areas of this part of the country backup plans are sometimes frightening but they are often rewarding. This summer, at least, most of them were rewarding. After my night of smartphone-guided discernment, our avoidance of construction and tourists led us to a lesser-frequented area at the Southern tip of Grand Teton National Park. In the end, our hike at Phelps Lake was one of the highlights of the camp. After a mile or two, we arrived at the water with the backdrop of peaks still peppered by snow. Some continued on the trail that goes around the lake, and a couple of us decided to continue on by “hiking” through the ice-cold, crystal-clear water along the edge. Some of the campers tested their courage at the jumping rock, most enjoyed the refreshing water their hike had earned them, and all of us were blessed by the beauty this place had to offer us.



Each summer, I am reminded of the challenge and cost of my conviction that camp should be about experiencing new things and new places and thinking new thoughts. It's impossible to make a perfect plan for things that you've never done. And yet, each summer I'm grateful for the surprising gift of foiled plans.

Mennonite Country Auction

The 42nd Annual Mennonite Country Auction in support of MCC will take place on **Saturday, October 5** at Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA. This year's entertainment will be provided by the [Liberty Quartet](#) from Boise, ID. They will perform Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m., then again on Sunday morning as part of the worship service. For more details about the sale, follow [this link](#).

Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief

The [MCC Fall Festival](#) is **Saturday, October 12**. Donations of new or very good quality used items are needed for the Country Store. Cashiers are needed for 2-hour shifts on the day of the sale. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Donna Brubaker](#) or [Florence Gingrich](#).

Drift Creek Camp

DCC is offering [TRAIL run/walk](#) to help raise funds for this summer's closure due to the culvert replacement at North Creek. [The Slug Run](#) will be held at 10:00 a.m. on **September 28** at Cedar Vale Events, 6486 S. Sconce Rd. in Hubbard, OR. Register at [www.driftcreek.org](#) by **September 15th**.

Sign up now for the [2019 Fall Quilt Retreat](#) at DCC, **October 17-20**. Carve out a weekend to be pampered while you work on projects of your choosing among God's beautiful creation at Drift Creek Camp. Register [here](#). *Additionally, there will be a dedication service for the newly replaced North Creek Culvert on **Saturday, October 19**. Guests are invited to come for the afternoon to learn more about the project.*

Lebanon Mennonite Church

A Pacific Northwest Mennonite Quartet & Men's Chorus Festival will be hosted by Lebanon Mennonite Church, **Saturday, October 19** from 7-8:30pm, and **Sunday, October 20** from 3-4:30pm. Participants will be from across the Willamette Valley and be directed by Louis Lehman with Arnold Knox as accompanist. The evening will present **songs of faith and inspiration**. An offering will be collected and proceeds will be directed to MDS and Love, Inc.

Camp Camrec

Register now for the [Fall Work Weekend](#) at Camp Camrec! This is a great time to pitch in, enjoy camp and fellowship together! Mark your calendar for the **October 25-27** weekend. The Washington Mennonite Fellowship is also planning for a [Men's Retreat at Camp Camrec](#), **December 6-8, 2019**.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization



Mennonite Mission Network

Want a flexible service team? Then check out [SOOP](#). Find a placement and term length that works, no matter what your age. SOOP is perfect whether it's just you or your whole family! There are placements that meet your interests and skill set.

The Cobb family, (*left*) from Archbold, OH, has served five summers at Drift Creek Camp.

Meanwhile, in the last few days of August, [Service Adventure](#) units once again welcomed young adults into communities across the United States. Unit houses rang with the bustle and nervous excitement of young adults unpacking bags and suitcases. Unit leaders introduced the shared responsibilities, cooking duties, and living spaces in an overwhelming haze of "firsts:" *First visit to the host church. First grocery trip. First day at service placements.* In 10 months, the suitcases and bags will reappear at the unit houses, but the nervousness and unfamiliarity will be absent, replaced by gentle camaraderie and hard goodbyes.

For 30 years, Service Adventure has given young adults the opportunity to live in community with peers, serve with local nonprofits, and form close connections with host churches and unit leaders. Since its formation in 1989, the program has welcomed nearly 800 participants—and more than 300 unit leaders—into 16 locations across North America. Current unit locations include Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anchorage, Alaska; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Jackson, Mississippi; and Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Read more [here](#).

Read how former participants have come "[full circle](#)" and are now serving as leaders in the Pennsylvania Unit.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

October 7 (*submissions due by 10/30*)
October 21 (*submissions due by 10/14*)
November 4 (*submissions due by 10/28*)
November 18 (*submissions due by 11/11*)

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>
