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PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Albany Mennonite Church, *from Pastor Peter Epp*

I just read a comment that expressed fear for those of us who continue to have virtual worship services. "I fear you will be changed forever," the commenter wrote. I can sincerely appreciate the comment. When we switched to Zoom services, I had the same fear. But reading the comment also reminded me that those of us continuing to face that fear--continuing to stay virtual until everyone can come together safely--may have failed to heed the Gospel's call to share our testimonies.

To that end, here's my testimony, shared with joy and only to encourage those sincerely wrestling with the legitimate fear of being changed forever: Switching to Zoom services has been changing our church. Our sharing time has become more intimate, our love for each other has felt more tangible, and our awareness that the Spirit can work miracles in unexpected ways has grown profoundly. Somewhere in all the changes, God has shown us new things about ourselves. Things we weren't noticing before. Things that I can see becoming the foundation for our renewal. We recognize that our Zoom services don't work as well for some in church family as they do for others, and we long so, so much for the day when we can all safely return to worshipping together in person. In the meantime, though, we pray that when we do, we'll confirm that we have, indeed, been changed forever.

AMC Covid Creativity: On **October 25th**, Albany Mennonite Church will be forgoing a service of their own and, instead, encouraging one another to visit other virtual services across PNMC. Pastor Peter reflected, "Though we continue to struggle with the disruptions of COVID-19, we also recognize that the move to virtual services has opened up an opportunity for us to visit sister congregations without travelling! We suspect that doing so will further connect us with others in the conference, allow us to see how you are meeting the challenges of this time in your place, and help us to remember that **we are part of a bigger picture with you.**"

Drift Creek Camp

Contact info@driftcreek.org for the Zoom link to participate in DCC's Annual Meeting, **Saturday, November 7, 10:00am.**

Additionally, DCC is eager to optimize this time of having an empty lodge to work on facility projects. If you'd be willing to help, your hands would be greatly appreciated! Jobs vary from cleaning, painting, splitting wood, overhauling bathrooms, replacing window screens, shampooing carpets, cleaning light fixtures, replacing siding damaged by woodpeckers, replacing doors in the lodge and posts on the bridge, and more! If you're willing, we'd love to have help from small groups that we can safely accommodate. *Thank you!*

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

When the West Coast MCC bike ride in Oregon was cancelled, many bike riders at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID were disappointed. Instead, the riders created a family friendly virtual bike ride with no minimum miles and a little competition. After three weeks, riders registered to win various prizes, such as oldest bike, most unusual item seen along the side of the road, and most miles on odometer. Members donated prizes of chocolate zucchini cake, homemade mustard, and movie tickets. Collectively **the group rode over 3000 miles and raised approximately \$2500 for the Beirut Explosion Response MCC fund.** A video captures some of the fun [here](#).

Mountain View Mennonite Church, *from Pastor Jeryl Hollinger*

The COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Flathead County. Our health services are being stretched to the max. This pandemic seems far from over. Each one of us has had to figure out how to cope and respond to the threat that is around us and is so invisible. It is tiring to think about, yet it is a reality that can't be avoided. As a leader in the church, an organization that is quite social in its mission, this continuous situation challenges our sense of self and purpose. At Mountain View I have felt blessed to have a congregation that is committed to our togetherness in this challenging time. It has caused all of us to adjust our lives and expectations of worship and church. We've been forced to **be more intentional about things that we once took for granted.** This is the troubled world we live in. There is fear. It doesn't seem to be diminishing anytime soon. Stories and statistics remind me that we need to be here for each other. We will keep in touch, share our journeys, and care for one another. It may take a bit more energy than usual, but **we each find our own healing and strength for the journey as we give our attention to others.** Fear and anxiety should not lead us; **love and concern is a better way.**

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Everence

Take advantage of the following educational webinars from Everence:

[How, what and when: Social Security and retirement income](#) *Retirement income planning*

Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST Learn more about transitioning to retirement, taking income from your retirement assets, and the strategies around claiming social security.

[Strategic generosity at year-end: Nine ideas to increase your charitable giving in 2020](#) *Charitable giving*

Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST Join this webinar to explore generosity as a spiritual practice and expression of your faith, ways generosity can extend the mission of your church and charities, and ideas to maximize your generosity.

[Business transitions: How do I get out of this?](#) *Business planning*

Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST You've put a lot of your heart and soul into growing this business and now need some help figuring out how to transition out of it. This seminar gives some suggestions for getting on to the next chapter!

[Mutual aid in the 21st century](#) *Faith and finances*

Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST Learn how the Anabaptist vision for mutual aid can be expressed in our present day.

[The transformational power of investing](#) *Socially responsible investing*

Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST Discover the stories of the ways lives and our world can be changed by how we invest and save. Simple, thoughtful choices in our financial lives can make a big difference to those on the margins and the planet itself.

Menno Media

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Celebrate with discounts on several Herald Press titles and the E3 Book Club. **Save 50%** on *Speak Your Peace*, *Collateral Damage*, *This Is God's Table*, *Might From the Margins*, *Speaking of God*, and *By the Way* and \$50 on the E3 Book Club. (Offer expires 10/31/2020)

Mennonite Central Committee

The Mennonite Country Auction (Ritzville, WA) met their goal of reaching over \$40,000 with on-line sales! The Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief (Albany, OR) surpassed their goal and had earnings of \$120,000. The OMFWR board responded, "We are in awe of the generosity displayed by this community. When the OMFWR board members agreed on a fundraising goal on par with last year, we weren't sure what to expect. But we now know that even in a global pandemic, our collective commitment to the acts of service and healing does not waiver. Today, we celebrate the abundance of gifts that pour from our community (here and [across the nation](#)) into the lives of others. Thank you and God bless you."



Mennonite Church USA

#MennoCon21 In his blog, "Sharing our stories at Mennonite conventions," Curt Weaver, pastor of children and youth at Portland Mennonite Church, compares the Mennonite convention to a family reunion, where deeper, intergenerational and faith formative conversations happen. Curt reflects, "I have been going to Mennonite youth conventions for a long time, first as part of planning teams and in later years as a youth pastor. It is these later years that have perhaps been the most rewarding. Seeing the convention experience through the eyes of the youth from our church brings home what a unique experience these conventions really are. I have often heard our conventions referred to as family reunions. I think that is a helpful description, since they create space for us to gather as a broader church family. But beyond the joys of seeing old friends and making new connections, there is a deeper element that also fits this description." Read more [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 2 (submissions due by 10/26)

Nov 16 (submissions due by 11/9)

Dec 7 (submissions due by 11/30)

Dec 21 (submissions due by 12/14)

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!