

March 14, 2025

Greetings PNMC friends,

Mountain View Mennonite looks forward to welcoming you all to the place we call home in beautiful northwest Montana for our annual PNMC Conference **June 19-22**.



MVMC is nestled at the western base of the Swan Mountains in the growing Flathead Valley. Started in 1913, we are a worshipping community made up of 50 adults and 6 kids with only 1/3 of our congregation having grown up Mennonite. We are energetic and active, valuing diversity with space for difference, having a heart for one another as together we are interested in following Jesus, serving neighbors, growing peace while compelled by the Anabaptist way.

As you plan your trip and time in Montana, we hope to be a gift of hospitality, address common questions, and suggest places of interest where you may wish to extend your stay and spend more time exploring. As you may have guessed, car rentals are a high commodity in the summer season and have been known to run out. If you are traveling by train or plane and would like to request an MVMC courtesy ride, please indicate so with your conference registration along with times/details so we may be in touch.

First, the Flathead Valley, Glacier National Park and FLBC all border two tribes who have long stewarded these lands and continue to be good neighbors with rich and vibrant communities: Salish/Kootenai Nation (south of the camp extending past the southern portion of Flathead Lake) and the Blackfeet Nation (over the continental divide bordering the eastern range of Glacier National Park). Commend a visit to the [Plains Indian Museum](#) (20min drive from East Glacier in Browning) with well-preserved artifacts, video, and a live artist collaborative to watch and engage along with a gift shop featuring authentic, locally made pieces. [Read](#) how the Blackfeet successfully reintroduced a herd of ancestral wild bison to their native range along Chief Mountain into Glacier. Across from the Salish/Kootenai College, you may wish to visit the [Three Chiefs Cultural Center](#). 30min south of the cultural center the Salish/Kootenai newly manage the [National Bison Range](#). Check websites for summer schedules and special events.

[Glacier National Park](#) is also known as the “Crown of the Continent” and has become an International Peace Park and Dark Skies Park. With West Glacier located 30 min from MVMC, consider a visit and plan ahead. Each morning at 8am Mountain Time, [recreation.gov](#) is the place to look for daily car passes along the famed “Going-to-the-Sun Road,” GTTS. These run out quickly. Alternatively, guests can access GTTS road before 7am and after 3pm without a timed reservation entry, or by driving over the Continental Divide to other entrances in Two Medicine drainage and the east-side’s St. Mary’s entrance. Shuttles are available at Apgar inside West Glacier entrance and at St. Mary Visitor Center. Some roads and trails may not yet be open. Check status [here](#). Two vendors run lodges: [Xantera & Pursuit](#). Book now for [boat tours](#), [horse rides](#), or [camping](#). Some campsites remain open to book in advance, others remain FF “First Come, First Serve.”

If extending your stay, a few favorite places to *camp outside Glacier*: Wayfarer’s State Park in Bigfork, also Yellow Bay State Park, Whitefish Lake State Park, West Shore/Flathead Lake State Park. Toward Seeley Lake: Big Larch Campground, Holland Lake Campground. [Montana State Park Camping & Maps](#)

Favorite *bikes outside Glacier*: [Mt. Aeneas](#) (Jewell Basin area close to MVMC), Lone Pine Skate Park trails, Link Lake, Holland Lake trails, Lion Mountain Trail in Whitefish, and the boundary trail along the middle fork in Glacier (no park pass needed). For bikes, look at some or all of the [Creston to Whitefish Loop](#) and the paved [Rails to Trails Parkline Path](#) through downtown Kalispell. Mountain bikers tend to enjoy free riding in Herron Park and lifts up Big Mountain in Whitefish. Lots of lakes and rivers for boating, fishing and paddleboarding.

For the close of conference, we hope you’ll remain Sunday morning and join us for worship at MVMC. Breakfast will be served Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship at 10:30. Following conference, we have space to offer tent camping and RVs without electricity/hookups. By our Peace Garden, enjoy breathtaking views, a simple gazebo, picnic table and shade trees. Others may have space to offer rooms in their home or a cottage for a few nights. If you would like to reserve space or explore options following conference, please reach out with your interest by email: pastor@mountainviewmennonite.org

We know this is a long way to come. Thank you for making the journey. Trust you have friends here to meet you this summer or whenever your travels take you out this way.

With Joy,

Miriam

Rev. Miriam Mauritzen

Transitional Pastor

[Mountain View Mennonite Church](#)