

Natural Links

ZOOM CALL

CAMP UPDATES

On Wednesday, September 2nd at 2pm (CST) a meeting is being held for any MCA individual who is interested in having a conversation about how others are doing, how others are navigating changes, and what opportunities have been discovered. For login information, contact Olivia Bartel at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org

GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place is an interactive website for Anabaptist youth leaders to find connection, resourcing, networking, mentoring, and spiritual formation. Visit www.thegatheringplace.us for info on upcoming FREE webinars especially designed for faith formation leaders.

MENNOCON21

Convention planners are seeking proposals for equipping seminars at MennoCon21, the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) biennial convention slated to take place July 6-10 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The deadline for submissions is October 10.

Visit the convention website for a list of seminar criteria and to access the submission form: <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/the-experience/worship-equipping-seminars/>

Camp Friedenswald, Cassopolis, MI, www.friedenswald.org

by Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director

Amid the challenges of the summer, joy and blessing were never far off.

I watched my children grow and learn – to tolerate and then delight in lake water in their faces; to ride a bicycle; and to walk from the dining hall to our home, all alone. While I missed the luxury of good meals prepared by the camp kitchen staff three times a day, I found that a simple salad by water's edge, eaten beside (well, 6 ft apart) other staff and their families was a welcomed change. (And much quieter than the dining hall!) I walked the woods daily in spring, and watched the May apples emerge – something I managed to miss the six previous years. I slept through thunderstorms, and if I woke, burrowed under the sheets, without a worry of whether campers should be taken to shelters. I watched families who spent the previous four months sheltered in place at home, in the city, come to Camp Friedenswald to find respite and relief, and to breathe in the fresh air.

Amid the joy and blessings of summer, challenges were never far off.



ANABAPTIST HISTORY TODAY

Collaborative storytelling project launched to capture 2020 through an Anabaptist lens

The creators of Anabaptist History Today (AHT), a new collaborative storytelling project, are calling on Anabaptists across the United States and Canada to share their experiences during the remarkable historical, biological and social events of 2020.

The AHT website invites individuals, congregations, schools and organizations to tell their stories of living during these changing times. Contributors may share their experiences through a variety of media, including videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork, poetry and personal reflections. [An online form guides contributors through the process.](#)

“Anabaptist History Today is a 21st century way for history-related organizations to collaborate that amplifies our shared storytelling and conservation work and invites others in,” said Jean Kilheffer Hess, executive director of Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Historical Society. “I’m excited about the ways this web platform and invitation for uploads can help foreground Anabaptist community, build connections across distance, and conserve history for the future.”