



Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ WINTER/SPRING 2017

2017 Spring Events

- Spring Work Day **April 8**
- Women's Retreat **May 5—7**
- Family Camp **May 26—29**
- Rally Day **May 29**
- 5k Run/2K walk **May 29**

2017 Summer Events

- Lifeguard Workshop **May 30—June 1**
- Facilitator Workshop **June 4—7**
- Summer Staff Orientation **June 11—17**
- Blue Jay Camp (Grade 4-6) **June 18—23**
- Junior High Camp (Grade 6-8) **June 25—30**
- Summer Staff Homecoming **June 30—July 2**
- Cottontail Camp (Grade 3-5) **July 2—5**
- Adventure Camp (Grade 7-9) **July 9—14**
- High School Camp (Grade 9-12) **July 16—21**

Warm Winter Retreats

This year Menno Haven had 3 Winter Retreats. The first weekend in January a small group of young adults gathered from Friday evening through Saturday evening for relaxation, fellowship, fun, and worship. "It was good just to get away and relax," said one participant. The Retreat was well received and will be back again next year.



The Junior High Winter Retreat featured Jon Birkey speaking on the topic of identity. Jon and his wife Lindsey, formerly youth pastors at First Mennonite Church of Morton, serve as missionaries with World Gospel Mission in Arizona ministering at a camp that empowers Native American youth from across the American South West. The first night the youth explored their current identities, then Saturday they looked at what a Christian identity looks like, and what the Bible has to say about our identity. Sunday concluded with a talk about the baggage we carry with us, and the freedom that we can have when we place our identity in Jesus. 81 youth and sponsors from across the region joined in. The junior high youth enjoyed the warmer weather and the opportunity to play outside, but missed the fun snow activities of tubing and ice skating.



Our High School Winter Retreat had Kristin Jackson from Living Water Community Church as speaker. Kristin explored the questions "Why are you a Christian?" Her first session highlighted the many questions that we (still) have, even though we are Christians. Saturday morning she explored how the resurrection is true from historical, and logical angles and why the Bible is a reliable source. In the evening she looked at how the people we surround ourselves with and the experiences we have can shape our beliefs. Sunday she wrapped it up by talking about the importance of following Jesus because he frees us from the monsters within us (our sinful nature), and the temptation to look at others as monsters (to see them as sinners and not as people who have sin). 97 youth and sponsors attended, as well as representatives from 4 Colleges/Universities and Mennonite Mission Network. Worship was led by the Bluffton University Worship Band which was a highlight for many youth. More snow would have been appreciated, but it was still an enjoyable weekend despite the warmer weather.



Fearless Faith 2017 Summer Theme



This summer we are going to be looking at the theme "Fearless Faith: Trust in God." There are many things in life that make us anxious or worried, and it can be hard to trust God sometimes. Things such as moving, making new friends, or thinking about the future are unknown and scary! This summer we will be looking at some stories from the Bible about people who trusted God and the good and loving character of God. Come and learn about what it means to trust God! See our website to register!



Women's Retreat 2017

Made in the Image of God: Embrace, Explore, Encourage

This retreat is a little different than



some. On Friday night through Saturday afternoon our speaker, Asia Frye will help us explore how we as women are made in God's own image and how we can model ourselves after Jesus. There will be worship/input sessions and free time to encourage rest, renewal, and relationship with each other. The weekend can end on Saturday afternoon if you'd like.

As an added bonus if you would like some additional time to retreat and recharge as an individual, group of friends or as a church group, you are invited to stay through Sunday morning. There will be optional organized events Saturday evening and an informal worship time on Sunday morning. This may be just the weekend your soul needs. Go to www.mennohaven.com to find out more!

Upcoming Programs

In the Spotlight

Rally Day May 29

Join us on **May 29** for our annual open house. Enjoy Memorial Day at Menno Haven and help us kick off the summer. There are a lot of activities being planned including getting to meet the 2017 summer staff, a potluck lunch, and a 5k/2k run/walk to raise money for camper scholarships.



Our annual 5k/2k run/walk is happening alongside rally

day again! The relaxing 2k walk follows a path around the lake, perfect for enjoying a late spring day. Our challenging 5k course takes runners all around camp through various trails and ecosystems. Male and Female winners will receive a wooden medallion and recognition during the Rally Day service. All money raised will go towards camper scholarships to attend camp. See the website or contact Jacob for registration details.



Lifeguard Workshop May 30-June 1

Are you a good swimmer? Do you like swimming? Are you at least 16? Menno Haven is hosting a Red Cross Lifeguard Training this spring and YOU are invited! Call the office for more information and to register!

Facilitator Workshop



Our Adventure Education Program continues to grow and we

need trained facilitators! If you are 16 or older and want to learn how to lead guests through cooperative activities, initiatives, the high ropes course, and up the climbing wall this



training is for you. Our workshop is scheduled for **June 4-7**. Call the office for more information and to register!

Spring Work Day



Saturday, April 8 is Spring Work Day. Come help us

prepare the camp for the summer season. Many hands make light work! To find out what projects are planned or to let us know you are coming contact the Menno Haven office.

Fall Fellowship Gathering September 12-14

Fall Fellowship Gathering is a reboot of our Fellowship 55 Retreat. Structured very similarly, Fall Fellowship Gathering is a midweek retreat from Tuesday-Thursday, September 12-14. Doane Brubaker, former Chaplain at Maple Lawn and current Pastor of Carlock Mennonite Church, will be our speaker. Fall Fellowship Gathering operates around 3 facets of Fellowship: Fellowship around the table (meals), Fellowship through service, and Fellowship through worship. The retreat will offer plenty of time for enjoying the grounds and connecting with friends, as well as more structured times of service, activities, and worship. Come away from the busyness of life to be refreshed in God's presence with one another!

IMCA Annual Business Meeting

was held on Saturday, November 19 in the Lost Meadow meeting room of Eagle Wing Activity Center. Illinois Mennonite Camp Association members were given the opportunity to see a different side of the camp that only a few regularly see during this meeting as the association met in the atypical location. Prior to the meeting members invested time at Menno Haven helping split wood and prepare a mailing. A tour of the current renovation progress also occurred prior to the official business of the association. We'd love to see you next fall at this gathering! If you have any interest in becoming an Association Member, let us know.

Interested in Helping?

Come volunteer anytime! Just give us a call at (815) 646-4344 or send an email to info@mennohaven.com.



You could:



Help host guests during a weekend • Remove Honeysuckle

Learn how to lead the adventure course • Cut & stack firewood

And much more!

Oak Lodge Renovation: The Story in Numbers

What a difference 85 days makes. With the help of 91 volunteers who worked a total of 246 days in addition to the contractor and the Menno Haven staff, the 2 bunk rooms were gutted and transformed into 4 new dorm rooms. The 8 hotel rooms also had electrical updates, drywall work, new paint, and new individually controlled heating/cooling units installed. Check out www.mennohaven.com to see more pictures.



The building expenses are being tallied and are coming in slightly under the projected project costs of \$190,000 which is great. The extra money raised can go towards funding the associated expenses (grading the surrounding ground, retaining walls, and sidewalks) of the renovation. As of the beginning of March we have raised 79% in gifts and pledges of the \$190,000 goal. We still need to raise \$40,272.16.



Interesting Volunteer Facts:

- 4 weeks—the amount of time 2 people volunteered
- 8—the number of work groups 1 person organized to volunteer for this project
- 29 people signed up to pray for the Oak Lodge Renovation
- 72 years difference between our youngest and oldest volunteers
- 91 different people volunteered
- 246 volunteer people days worked in 85 calendar days

Many Thanks to:

Our donors, volunteers and prayer team. We couldn't have done the Oak Lodge Renovation without you!

Save the date for a Thank you Dinner on Saturday evening, May 20.

Come tour the newly renovated facilities, have a delicious meal and even spend the night as a way of us saying thanks for all the ways you support Menno Haven. Be looking for an invitation in the mail.



Prayers & Praises

- We are thankful for our new staff and pray that they have a good transition to Menno Haven
- We are thankful for the 200+ youth and sponsors that came to the Winter Retreats
- Pray for the campers that will join us this summer; that they will experience God's world & Christ's kingdom
- We are very thankful for all of you who have supported Menno Haven with your gifts of volunteer time, resources & prayer; we couldn't be the ministry we are without you
- Pray for those considering being a part of this year's summer staff

Now Hiring!!

Menno Haven is looking for Christ centered young people who have a passion for kids, and a desire to grow and be challenged. We still have many positions open, ranging from Lifeguard, to counselor, to kitchen staff. Some positions are paid starting at age 16; for counselor positions we prefer a minimum of one year out of high school. Working on summer camp staff will help prepare you for the responsibilities of life, connect you with new friends, and help strengthen your leadership skills, all while having fun and spending time daily in worship and study! Contact Jacob for more information program@mennohaven.com or see our website for more details www.mennohaven.com



Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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Menno Haven Year Round Staff

Doc (David) Johnson
Executive Director

Jacob Landis
Program Director

Beverly Mercer
Housekeeper

Sheena Johnson
Volunteer Coordinator

Tim Gale
Facilities Director (On Medical Leave)

Kenny Lane
Guest Group Coordinator

Andy Lanier
Food Service Manager

Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper

Vic Archer
Interim Facilities Director

Wish List

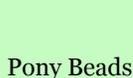
- Ventrac
- Large Correlle Serving Bowls
- Digital Cameras
- Queen Size Bed Skirts (Off white)
- Plain White T-Shirts



- Youth Size Life Jackets
- Copy Paper
- Air Compressor (40-60 Gallon)
- Hymnals
- Embroidery Floss



Thank you for these kinds gifts:



Forever Stamps



DeWalt 18V Battery

