

Menno Haven Musings: Summer Camp Update, New Staff & Winter Retreat Happenings

1 message

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December & January In Review

Winter Retreats were a Highlight of January!

The first three weekends in January were filled with the sounds of laughter and good conversations, the smells of good food and fires in the fireplace, and the sights of young adults, youth and their sponsors having a blast playing together, worshipping together and spending time connecting with each other during Menno Haven's Winter Retreats (WR). We loved having you here!



Many thanks to our speakers, [Ashley Litwiller](#) for the Young Adult WR, [Jessica Litwiller](#) for the HS WR, and [Kim Litwiller](#) for the JH WR, for sharing God's word and speaking into the lives of our youth about living with "No Doubt", living "FEAR|LESS" and learning to "Love in 3D"! (Fun fact: did you notice they are all Litwiller ladies?) **Thanks also to We the Least**, a local band out of Mendota, for leading worship for both HS and JH. You were loved!



[Click here to see more photos](#)





Events don't happen without someone planning and running them. **Many thanks to Abbie Kaser and Anna Zehr**, past summer staffers and winter retreat participants, as well as **Sheena Johnson**, MH Volunteer Coordinator, for helping to plan and run the Winter Retreats in the absence of a year-round Program Manager. You're the best!



We love our guest groups. It is always wonderful to see God at work in the many guest groups that pass through our doors - and this December and January was no exception. Individual churches hosted their own church retreat, a men's retreat, and a youth retreat as well as a college hosting a retreat for student's and a family hosted a Christmas gathering. We loved serving you.



We have been blessed by many friends who gave generously for the December Year End Appeal! Together you raised 34% of the budgeted donation needs for our current fiscal year, or around \$31,000. Additional donors gave \$13,000 towards special projects and improvements. Thank you, thank you to all who gave! Thank you for finding value in the Menno Haven Ministry. We are so grateful.



A donation made three years ago is finally complete! Three years ago someone donated property with a building (the old KFC) in Princeton, IL. Perhaps you remember a year ago we let you know that papers were signed for someone to lease the property with the sale to be finalized at the end of 2019. In the summer of 2019 a Jimmy John's was opened on the property. The sale was finally closed this past December!! Praise the Lord. Thanks to this donor for thinking outside the typical donation box three years ago!

Summer Camp 2020: Registration Update & Summer Staff

Registration Update - We are actively working with our database service on getting the **online summer camp registration open and running**. We anticipate registration to be open in early March. We will send out an email and post on **Facebook** when we have a more specific date and then again when registration is officially open. Thank you for your patience.



Have you ever left Menno Haven and thought, "I just want to stay!" We have the solution for you!! We are looking for Jesus loving, youth loving, fun loving, and service loving people to join our Summer Missions Team as **cabin counselors, lifeguard, maintenance, kitchen staff** and more. Spend 5 weeks during our summer camp program or up to 10-14 weeks in kitchen and maintenance positions. We are praying for these people already - are you one of them? We encourage you to apply and to tell others to apply for a summer of Menno Haven Camp Ministry before it's too late!

If you are interested but have questions, email Ashley at program@mennohaven.com or call 815.255.4649. If you know you are ready to apply, click the link below and fill out an application today.

[More Information](#)

Welcome to Christopher Burk!



Christopher Burk joined the Menno Haven Team on January 17 as the Facilities & Adventure Education Manager.

It's a great story about how Christopher and his wife, Allyssa, have been looking and preparing to serve at a camp but have been waiting for God to show them what camp to go to. Allyssa had come to Menno Haven numerous times with one of our guest groups, Royal Family Kids Camp and when they heard about the job opening here, they thought this would be a great fit for their family. They had already arranged their life in such a way to make starting in camp ministry an easy and fast transition and we are so thankful for that! What a gift to

have Christopher, Allyssa and their sons Jeremiah, Austin and Caleb here!

Welcome to Ashley Litwiller!

We are also excited to announce Ashley Litwiller as our new Program Manager. Ashley's transition to Menno Haven will be a little slower. Ashley is currently serving as the Minister of Worship and Youth at Arthur Mennonite Church in Arthur, IL. Her current role is part-time so when Ashley is not working at Arthur MC, she is able to work on Menno Haven projects from afar. Oh the convenience of the internet! Ashley will start full time at Menno Haven the beginning of April.



Ashley is no stranger to Menno Haven. She has come many times as a Winter Retreat youth sponsor as well as on church retreat. She has also been a recent speaker for JH and Young Adult Winter Retreats and has been a facilitator on our Adventure Education Course. Ashley says, "For years I've retreated to Menno Haven as a guest. The nature has brought calm, peace and restoration in my life countless times and the ministry from the staff has been so encouraging and supportive through those processes. I'm very much looking forward to joining the team and helping continue that tradition and investing in the future of Menno Haven." It is wonderful to have Ashley join the year-round Menno Haven team!

Upcoming Events

Spring Work Day - Saturday, April 18th

You are invited to join us for a day of working together & meeting others who love Menno Haven. Maybe you'll learn a new skill or teach a new skill. Whatever happens, it should be a fun time. Work Day starts with breakfast at 8:00am and finishes around 4:00pm. Feel free to come for all or part of the day. Check out **our Work Day page** for the most up-to-date information on planned tasks and what to bring list. Contact Sheena at sheena@mennohaven.com or 815.255.4649 if you plan to come or if you have any questions.

More Information





Thank You

We have been blessed by some wonderful friends who took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered in December and January.

- * **Dale Bastian** - (Freeport Mennonite Church) - Mailing
- * **Kora Behrends** (past summer staff) - Program
- * **Augie Calsyn** (Via de Cristo) - Kitchen
- * **Marilyn Eigsti** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Mailing & Housekeeping
- * **Beth Gerig** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Mailing & Housekeeping
- * **Ed Johnson** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Maintenance
- * **Esther Johnson** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Mailing
- * **Jim Klingbiel** (Great Oaks Camp) - Climbing Wall
- * **Connie Krabill** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Mailing
- * **Ashley Litwiller** (Arthur Mennonite Church) - Climbing Wall
- * **Lynn Marner** (Arthur Mennonite Church) - Kitchen
- * **Jim Schrock** (Cazenovia Mennonite Church) - Repaired EWAC boiler
- * **Simon Zehr** (Willow Springs



Upcoming Programs

Spring Events

Spring Work Day - April 18

Summer Events

Rally Day - May 25

5k Run/2k Walk - May 25

Summer Staff Homecoming -
July 2-5

GrandCamp - August 2-6

Youth Summer Camps

Cottontail Camp - June 21 - 24

Jr High Camp - June 28 - July 3

(includes Trailblazer & Adventure Tracks)

Blue Jay Camp - July 5 - 10

High School Camp - July 12 - 17

(includes Wilderness & Cardinal Tracks)

Fall Events

Fall Work Day - October 3

IMCA Annual Business Meeting -

Nov 14

Downloadable
2020
Program Calendar



Ways You Can Be Involved

Come visit the Menno Haven

booth at the MCC Relief Sale in
Bloomington, IL on March 20 - 21.

Help with Maintenance Projects

There are construction, electrical, plumbing, vehicle, and grounds related activities. Call for details.

Come to the Spring Work Day &
bring a friend!

Purchase an item from our Wish List and bring it with you the next time you come to Menno Haven.

Guest Host - help host weekend or weekday groups and learn more about our retreat ministry. Thanks to those who have signed up to host this fall.

Available dates are:

- * March 13-15
- * May 1-3
- * May 22-25
- * May 29-31
- * Most weekends in June - Aug
- * Many week days in June - Aug

Pray - [click here](#) to join a group of people who commit to praying for Menno Haven and get regular updates for prayer requests - **Let's Rally in Prayer for Menno Haven!**

* If you would like to participate in any of the above activities or have any questions about them, contact

Mennonite Church) - Program
& Housekeeping

Sheena at 815.255.4649 or
sheena@mennohaven.com.

Thank you, thank you for all your
help the past months. We could
not do what we do without faithful
help from our volunteers.

[Donate](#)

[Serving as Backyard Missionaries \(Summer Staff\)](#)

[Wish List](#)

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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