

---

## Menno Haven Musings: looking back & looking forward

1 message

---

May 7, 2020, 7:54 PM



---

### February, March & April In Review



February sped right along like normal: recovering from the busyness of Winter Retreats, planning for summer camp, and recruiting people for the Summer Ministry Team. **We also hosted and participated in the Illinois Sectional of the Christian Camp & Conference Association (CCCA).** This is an awesome group we are a part of with other Christian Camps from around the country and world. We didn't realize that CCCA would play a more significant role in our lives come March - May. CCCA has been a significant blessing the past couple months advocating on behalf of all Christian Camps, providing a wealth of resources and and being a liason between camps and the CDC!



March started off great with us hosting two Way of Christ weekends. **Then the week of March 8th hit.** Do you remember how people were teasing that the week was going to be awful due to daylight savings time on Sunday morning, a full moon Sunday night, and ending with Friday the 13th? Unfortunately it was the concern about COVID-19 that made headlines that week. We didn't realize that our guest group that left on March 8th would be our last guest group for over 3 months. **We miss having guest groups here!** (For example, the photo above is from a group of guys we were planning to host in April.) We miss being able to serve meals, facilitate for you on the climbing wall, making sure the sound system is set up for your worship sessions, or making you a campfire. **We can't wait until you can return!**



In late March/early April **we decided to spin not being able to have groups due to COVID-19 to the positive** and ask "are there any projects on our To Do List that are hard to do when guest groups are here?" Dealing with **the cement patio** in front of the Dining Hall **jumped to the top of the list**. To read more about the "Why and How" of the project as well as see pictures of where we started and where we are now, go to [mennohaven.com/dining-hall-patio-renovation](http://mennohaven.com/dining-hall-patio-renovation). It's pretty amazing to see the difference.



**Happy Solar Anniversary to us.** On April 18, 2019 we installed solar panels on the roof of Deer Run. The solar panels have generated 16.88 MWh in the past year!! Several wonderful things have happened to provide even more financial savings for us. We merged the individual meters on the Deer Run Staff home into one allowing the power generated by the panels to cover the power usage of the entire building. Our power company changed it's "banking power" policy so that instead of banking quarterly it now banks yearly. The means that if the solar panels generate more power than we use, we are given a credit that doesn't expire until the end of the calendar year (not at the end of the quarter). We also received a grant which covered the cost of the solar panels as well as most of the cost of the new metal roof!! Praise the Lord for the timing of this improvement!

## Summer Camp 2020 Update:

It is with great sadness that we will not be running our scheduled 2020 Menno Haven programmed summer camps this year. Hopefully you have already heard about this in a previous letter or on our social media. If you have not and you want more information surrounding that decision, [you can read about it here](#) or [see a video with Doc and Ashley here](#). To say that we are sad is an understatement. We grieve for our campers, summer staffers, and parents. This is not easy for any of us. We want to find a way that we can help. If you would like to give any input on how Menno Haven can serve you this summer, [fill out this survey](#).

We have many ideas in the works right now but they are not completely fleshed out yet so we can't say anything....yet. But soon. Be watching in your inbox, on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. There are some awesome things coming your way.



While you wait, if you're running out of ideas or looking for some fun things to do in your downtime, **here is a May calendar full of activities to do.** It can help us feel a little more together when we know we are doing things "with" other people. Like when you go outside and look at the stars on May 8th, you know that other friends are looking at the same stars under the same sky with you . You can even post pictures of yourself and see pictures of other friends doing the same activities. How cool is that? You can also join us for some virtual activities - *campfires, hikes (should we introduce Ashley to her first Menno Haven mud hike??) and worship sessions* - and experience a little bit of Menno Haven from wherever you are. We would love it if you'd join us!

And like we said above.....keep your eyes watching for more news....



## Thank You

We have been blessed by some wonderful friends who took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered in February, March and April.

- \* **Allyssa Burk** (The People's Church) - Grounds & Maintenance
- \* **Doug Campbell** (Aledo Baptist Church) - Grounds
- \* **Steve Capes** (Walnut Community Bible Church) - Plumbing
- \* **Dave Colter** (Hopedale Mennonite Church) - Painting the stairwell in Lakeview Lodge
- \* **Augie Calsyn** (Via de Cristo) - Kitchen & Maintenance
- \* **Marilyn Eigsti** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Housekeeping
- \* **Ed Johnson** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - plumbing
- \* **Caleb Johnson** (Staff Child) - Maintenance
- \* **Lydia Johnson** (Staff Child) - Patio renovation prep
- \* **Dan Litwiller** (Hopedale Mennonite Church) - Painting the stairwell in Lakeview Lodge
- \* **Russ Miller** (Ebenezer Church of God) - Electrical
- \* **Davis Richards** (Lombard



## Upcoming Programs

**GrandCamp** - August 2-6

### Fall Events

**Fall Work Day** - October 3  
**Annual Association Meeting** - Nov 14

### Cancelled Events due to COVID-19

**Spring Work Day** - May 9  
**Rally Day** - May 25  
**5k Run/2k Walk** - May 25  
**Cottontail Camp** - June 21 - 24  
**Jr High Camp** - June 28 - July 3  
(includes Trailblazer & Adventure Tracks)  
**Summer Staff Homecoming** - July 2-5  
**Blue Jay Camp** - July 5 - 10  
**High School Camp** - July 12 - 17  
(includes Wilderness & Cardinal Tracks)

Downloadable  
2020  
Program Calendar



## Ways You Can Be Involved

**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!**

**Purchase Menno Haven swag from the Camp Trading Post.** You could even be one of the first to wear our new Menno Haven sweatshirts (see photo above)! **Check out our Trading Post inventory here.**

**Purchase an item from our Wish List** and have it sent to Menno Haven.

### **Help with Maintenance Projects**

As of right now we are able to have people volunteer as individuals or as very small groups. If you have an interest in construction, electrical, plumbing, vehicle, and grounds related activities, we can find a job for you. Call for details.

**Give a financial gift.** As of right now we have had no guest groups, no source of income besides donations since March 8th. Additionally, we have no scheduled groups until mid-June. While God has been providing for our immediate cash flow needs, this loss is not something to take lightly. Your financial gift today will

Mennonite Church) -

Maintenance

\* **Evan Richards** (Lombard

Mennonite Church) - Guest

Hosting & Maintenance

\* **CJ Yoder** (Lombard Mennonite

Church) - Computer Tasks

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

make a big difference in the ministry of Menno Haven. You can **donate here** or mail a gift to 9301 1575 East St, Tiskilwa, IL 61368.

---

\* If you would like to participate in any of the above activities or have any questions about them, contact Sheena at 815.255.4649 or [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto:sheena@mennohaven.com).

Donate

Serving as Backyard Missionaries (Summer Staff)

Wish List

### Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

9301 1575 East St Tiskilwa IL 61368

815.255.4649

[info@mennohaven.com](mailto:info@mennohaven.com)

[www.mennohaven.com](http://www.mennohaven.com)

