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## MH Musings: Summer Happenings

1 message

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## June & July brings JOYFUL campers



Campers are back!! Ah, that feels so healing to say. It has been absolutely beautiful to see campers using the grounds again. The place was filled with sounds of laughter and songs of praise and worship, the smells of campfires and kettlecorn, and the sights of campers swimming, making tie dye shirts, playing games, and just being kids. Some favorite camper activities this summer were the zipline, Home in the Woods (which is where the campers & counselors cook out and spend the evening as a cabin group by their campfire and if the weather is nice, sleep out under the stars), Ozzies, swimming, Captain on Deck, crate stacking, the canoe trip, and free time. The simple art of making friendship bracelets alongside friends brought huge smiles and

deep exhales. Despite the abnormal amount of rainy days, it was great hearing their comments "I had such a great time!" "My favorite week [of camp] I've ever had so far!" "I needed this. This is the best thing to ever happen to me!"

We chose the message "*Even If*" for our theme this year because one of the most important things youth (and all of us) need to experience is an anchor in the storms of life. At our chapels, campfires, and in our Bible studies, we looked at places in the Bible when people turned to Jesus instead of what the world had to offer when life got rough. We can do the same and turn to Jesus to anchor us to God's truth. No matter what life throws at them, we hope our campers can remember the lessons they learned here this summer:

*Even if I doubt, God is true. (Psalm 27) Even if I have nothing, God is true. (Isaiah 55) Even if I fear, God is true. (Matthew 26) Even if I'm tired, God is true. (Luke 17) Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. (Romans 3:4)*

When asked what they learned this week or what were some God moments, campers said "You can always trust in God", "God will always forgive", "when you're saying something like 'I can't do this' just say 'yet' because you can do anything with God's help, "sometimes you just gotta wait and God will show up", and "I learned no matter what we go through, God is true and will be with us." We think they got the message.

[Click here for more photos](#)



## More in June & July



**In June & July we were pleased to host numerous groups** - church retreats, personal retreat, youth retreats, pastoral retreat, retreats for various parachurch organizations, and family reunions. If you were one of those people who came, it was so good to have you here! It is always wonderful seeing God use this place for reconnection and refreshment.



The **new patio** by the Dining Hall that was built last year has been a fabulous blessing this summer for our camps and guest groups. As long as it wasn't raining, our campers **utilized this space for meal times**. Guests also often chose this place for meals as well. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen! *If you would like to help us finish funding the remaining \$30,000*, send a donation with "Patio Renovation" in the memo line.





We want to share with you a way **God is taking care of Menno Haven** right now. While we were increasing ventilation on the cabins in preparation for summer, it became obvious the roof on the Oak Cabin needed to be replaced. We ordered metal to repair the roof and when we went to pay for it, the metal company said "the bill is taken care of." They **donated the metal** for the cabin roof which totaled around \$1000!! Wow!!

What this company didn't know is that a week earlier a roofing contractor had assessed the Lakeview Lodge roof and found out the Lakeview Lodge roof needs to be replaced. When we talked with the metal company, they said "we can give you a deal on that too. Just let us know what you need." After we gave them the material estimate, they said they would give it to us **half off**....a savings of \$7000!! What a blessing!!

We had an **amazing set of volunteers** who helped tear off the Lodge roof in record time mid June and had great weather to do it in (see photo above). We had volunteers lined up to come put the metal on the following week but the metal didn't come in. So then we were in a waiting game for the metal. Thankfully a **weather proofing protective layer** was applied on the roof to protect from poor weather conditions until the metal could be put on.

**Just this week we heard that the metal arrived at the roofing company!!** Praise the Lord. We picked up some of the metal and started preparing the roof for the installation. Now we need to schedule the machine to bend the metal and our volunteers. **If you have experience with roofing or with construction in general and would like to help with this project, email [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto:sheena@mennohaven.com)** and Sheena will get you the details. We are hoping this can get finished up the beginning of August. Can you pray with us that this can happen?



Thanks to all who prayed and tapped shoulders for our summer staff and camp medical providers this year. While we had less summer staffers than we would have liked, the ones we had were THE BEST! And with some creativity, we had just enough to get us through the summer. Their grace, commitment, and flexibility was a great example to our campers to look for the fun in any situation whether rain or shine.

**Pictured above is our amazing core group of summer staffers.**

Back row: Malachi Cornelius, Reuben Roberts, Carlos Calderon, Micah Yoder, Hannah Baker-Christophel, Ashley Litwiller (their fearless leader and Program Manager).

Front row: Wesley Hershberger, Lucy Unzicker, Bryn Baker-Christophel, Hannah Blackwood, and Maya Cambron.

**Un-pictured are:**

- Cottontail Camp - Noah DeLong, Meredith Schrock
- Junior High Camp - Kaylea Schmidgall
- Blue Jay Camp - Cameron Steelberg, Graham Steelberg, Jaron Zehr
- High School Camp - Cayla Colby
- Medical Providers: Sue Cater, Tom Sutter, Lisa Litwiller
- Speakers: Aaron Fleming, Sports Camp; Luke Rosenberger, Junior High Camp; Julia Thomas, High School Camp
- Photographer: Kelsey Kae Photography came every Wednesday to capture precious camp moments as well as Rally Day.

Thanks to all of you amazingly wonderful individuals who led the campers with excitement and enthusiasm. If you know any of these people, give them a huge pat on the back!



Our goal for the summer was to run as many camp program events outside, which means **we were in deep need of more covered spaces around camp**. One way we accomplished this was deciding to improve one thing we have. **Our campground pavilion got a small addition** to provide a rain-free space to store our Chapel equipment for the summer. Our summer camps **held morning chapel here** every morning which was a beautiful way to stay outdoors, be in the shade, and still provide a space for the small bit of technology we use during camp. **HUGE thank you to volunteers** to brought this project together so quickly and worked around the first week of camp's schedule to finish it.



As we balance new things and old things, our staff has been **refreshed being outdoors and experiencing the way nature adapts** to the return of our guests. This summer, we saw the wild turkeys and deer be surprised by humans enjoying the space again and yet there was still plenty of space for them to grow their families and enjoy the summer alongside us. There is **encouragement here for all of us**: as we return to activities, let us remember **God cares for all of His creation in new ways and old ways**. Let's take our direction from nature as it flourishes in the quiet and the hectic. God is good all the time!



At the end of July, **we said goodbye to Beverly Mercer**, our Food Service and Housekeeping Manager. (Pictured here with one of our volunteers) **We pray a blessing on Beverly's future endeavors and are so thankful for the ways she has blessed Menno Haven the past 7+ years with her gifts**. She leaves a big hole. Keep the remaining year-round staff in your prayers as they fill in while these positions are vacant.



**You've been spotted** - It has been fun to see how many places our Menno Haven gear has gone this summer. Here two of our Menno Haven t-shirts traveled to the Royal Gorge in Colorado. **We'd love it if you'd post pictures** to Menno Haven's Facebook page and/or tag us on Instagram and let's see how many places we can tally up!

# Job Openings: Food Service Manager & Housekeeping Manager

Menno Haven is currently seeking applicants to join the ministry team in the roles of Food Service Manager & Housekeeping Manager. Both positions are open effective immediately.

## Food Service Manager



This year-round full-time position oversees the operation of a full service kitchen including the hiring and supervision of cook's assistants, kitchen assistants and volunteers; menu creation; ordering; and dietary need accommodations. Interested candidates should have experience ordering, and preparing nutritious meals for groups (25-150 per seating). Prior experience with large quantity cooking is preferred and experience in a camp setting is helpful. The Food Service Manager helps exceed guest expectations of the overall camp experience by providing healthy, timely meals and a quality dining experience.

Salary, housing, and benefits are provided with this position.

## Housekeeping Manager



This position oversees the operation of the Housekeeping Department in accordance with current standards, performing general housekeeping duties, ordering of needed supplies and equipment, and supervising housekeeping assistants and volunteers.

This position is full-time May - September and part-time October-April. This position can be full-time year round if assisting in other areas of camp operations (i.e. kitchen, office, program, etc.)

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**Both candidates must have** a strong commitment to serve Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, a heart for service and a deep commitment to Menno Haven's mission; as well as have a willingness to lead and mentor teens and young adults; willingness to lead and work with volunteers; and possess strong organizational, planning, interpersonal, and leadership skills.

Submit letter of interest and resume to Doc Johnson at [execdir@mennohaven.com](mailto:execdir@mennohaven.com).

If you or someone you know is interested in a part-time or interim Food Service Manager or Housekeeping Manager position starting September 1 until these full-time roles are filled, contact Doc. For more information, see [www.mennohaven.com/employmentopenings](http://www.mennohaven.com/employmentopenings).

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## Men's Retreat: September 10-11, 2021

This spring the ladies enjoyed returning to our grounds; **gentleman, it's your turn!** Are you hungry for a getaway with great food and even better company? **Join us September 10-11** for a respite from daily life. Our speaker will guide us through scripture to help us realign our focus on God in our daily lives. Our theme is *Forge* feeding out of 2 Timothy 4:7-8. When we look at the whole narrative in the Bible, **God often forged His people through fiery trials for His glory**. Stay tuned for registration to open soon, but add this adventure to your calendars in the meantime!

[Click Here For More Information](#)



### Thank You

We have been blessed the past June and July by many faithful friends who gave of their time helping prepare the grounds and facilities for summer.

- \* **Don Augsperger** (Prairieview Mennonite) lodge reroof
- \* **Augie Calsyn** (Via de Cristo) mowing
- \* **Susan Cater** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) Camp Medical Provider
- \* **Mark Crandel** (First Mennonite Church of Morton) lodge reroof



### Upcoming Programs

#### Summer Events

**GrandCamp** - August 1-5

#### Fall Events

**Men's Retreat** - Sept 10-11

**Fall Work Day** - October 2

**Youth Leader Retreat** - Nov 5-7

**Association Business Mtg** - Nov 13



### Ways You Can Be Involved

**SPREAD THE WORD** about our open Food Service Manager position.

**Help in the kitchen as dishwashers or as cook's assistants.**

- \* August 8 - 11
- \* August 17 - 21
- \* September 1 - 5
- \* September 10 - 12
- \* September 17 - 19
- \* September 23 - 25
- \* September 30 - October 2

Downloadable  
2021  
Program Calendar

\* **Lotus & Judy Hershberger** (Mennonite Church of Normal) guest host & housekeeping

\* **Ed & Esther Johnson** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) housekeeping

\* **Abbie Kaser** (Lombard Mennonite Church) JH Program Assistant

\* **Andy Krabill** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) lodge reroof

\* **Lisa Litwiller** (Living Hope Community Church) Camp Medical Provider

\* **Eric Miller** (Mennonite Church of Normal) lodge reroof

\* **Ryan Miller** (Mennonite Church of Normal) lodge reroof

\* **Kelsey Schrag** (Staff Family) Summer Camp Photographer

\* **Meredith Schrock** (Arthur Mennonite Church) Cottontail Program Assistant

\* **Tim Sommer** (Prairieview Mennonite) lodge reroof

\* **Seaver Sommer** (Prairieview Mennonite) lodge reroof

\* **Paul Stalter** (Prairieview Mennonite) lodge reroof

\* **Cameron Steelberg** (Lombard Mennonite Church) Blue Jay Program Assistant

\* **Graham Steelberg** (Lombard Mennonite Church) Blue Jay Program Assistant

\* **Tom Sutter** (First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana) Camp Medical Provider

\* **Carroll Tumblin** (Staff Family) kitchen assistant

\* **Keith Unzicker** (Mennonite Church of Normal) lodge reroof

\* **Cliff Yoder** (Arthur Mennonite Church) grading drive, put together ball carts

\* **Ethan Yoder** (Arthur Mennonite Church) put together ball carts

\* **Kathy Yoder** (Arthur Mennonite Church) kitchen assistant

\* **Jaron Zehr** (Mennonite Church of Normal) summer staff maintenance

\*Click on the event name to find out more information\*

**We are in need of regular kitchen assistants.** If you know of local folks interested in a part-time, mostly weekend job during non-summer months, can you share this job possibility?

**Help us serve guest groups by helping with housekeeping / quick changeovers between groups.**

Dates needed:

\* September 3: 11 am - 6 pm

**Guest Host** Help host weekend or weekday groups and learn more about our retreat ministry. Thanks to those who have already signed up to help!

Available dates are:

\* August 8 - 11

\* September 1 - 3

\* September 3 - 5

\* September 30 - October 2

**Help install metal on Lodge Roof** (similar to what was installed on Deer Run Staff Home during Spring Work Day 2019).

**Amazon Wish List** - End-of-

Summer inventories let us know what our stash is missing or needs replacement. If you'd like a simple way to give to camp, we have items of all price ranges. Amazon can ship directly to us to replenish our inventory to share with guests!

**PRAYER** - Our team is working overtime until we get staff positions filled; pray for us as we serve in new rotations and capacities AND pray for God to lead the right persons to us for these positions.

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Email Sheena Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator, at [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto:sheena@mennohaven.com) or call the office at 815-255-4649 if you are interested in helping with any of these activities.

We are so thankful and we would not  
be able to minister to our guests  
without volunteers like you!

[Donate](#)

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

[Wish Lists](#)

## Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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