



Sheena Johnson <sheena@mennohaven.com>

MH Musings: Winter Recap, Summer Camp Update & Staffing Needs

1 message

Sheena Johnson <sheena@mennohaven.com>

Sat, Feb 19, 2022 at 11:58 AM

Reply-To: sheena@mennohaven.com

To: sheena@mennohaven.com



December & January In Review

Winter Retreats were a Highlight of January!

After waiting for 2 years, MH Winter Retreats returned! It may have been different, but we did it! **We were ecstatic to welcome 8 different youth groups and 8 young adults to camp again for our annual Winter Retreats.** To care for our people, we spaced out the usual 3 weekends to 4 for a full January. We didn't always have snow but the lake was always frozen for some fun sliding (and some falling) on the lake.



Cyneatha Millsap reminded us of what it truly means to be an instrument of peace through today's struggles. **Thavisith**

Mounsithiraj shared his refugee journey from Laos to America and how the "*Me we want to be*" can sometimes stray from the "*Me God wants us to be*". **Kim Litwiller** reminded us the impact that Jesus has on our lives, that our lives have on those around us and the impact those around us have in our lives.

Thanks to all who were able to join as well as those who wanted to come, but needed to sit this one out for a variety of reasons. We'll see ya next time!



[Click here to see more photos](#)





For many years, we had no reason to set up an evergreen in the lodge. We've got pine trees in our backyard and that is beautiful! This year, for our second annual **December Family Getaway**, we upgraded the lodge with a beautiful evergreen tree as we reflected on the never ending love that Jesus was born to prove it to us. We also enjoyed classic activities like cookie decorating, taffy pulling, igloo surprises, climbing wall, Christmas cards for the local nursing home members, and tying beloved MCC comforter knots. This is becoming a Christmas tradition for some of your families and we love that we can help provide some slow Christmas memories to your memory bank. **Check out pictures of this festive event. Save the date and come to next year's getaway: Dec 16-18, 2022.**



We love hosting and this past December was one of the busiest in our recent past. A men's church retreat came in early December and three different family groups took advantage of our beautiful winter location to celebrate Christmas together.



We were blessed by a couple volunteers who helped to do some upgrades around camp. **A small propane heater** was donated and installed in the maintenance shop. It working in tandem with the wood stove makes the shop a nice place to work in the winter.

This past spring and summer the **south silt pond overflowed** creating a large washout. One of our volunteers dreamt up a way to use hog slats to create a system to **prevent wash out** in the future (see pictures above). Another Menno Haven friend had old hog slats on his farm to get rid of. He donated them to us for this project and we were able to repurpose something. Win - Win!



You've been spotted. This couple rode in the new year on a midnight bike ride....and they did it in style sporting a lovely Menno Haven sweatshirt.

If you wish you could have a Menno Haven sweatshirt, we can help you out. We reordered our logo sweatshirt in new colors (*black and forest green*) as well as our zipline crewneck sweatshirt. We also have a new retro long sleeve tee and a ball cap.

Check out our new apparel [here](#).

Summer Camp 2022: Registration Update

Registration Update - We've heard that a more user-friendly registration process would be appreciated from years past and we're excited to upgrade that for you! It's just taking a bit longer than we planned. Isn't that life in a gist?! We are actively working with our database service on getting the online summer camp registration open and running. **We anticipate registration to be open by the end of February.** 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.



For participants already in our old system, we are uploading your account information into the new system now. You will be sent an *activation email* when our upload is complete so you can verify your information is correct before we open our summer camp registration in the coming days.

2022 Summer Staff

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 6 weeks during our summer camp program or up to 10-14 weeks in leadership, 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 interest form today.

~ Join the Menno Haven Ministry Team ~

Food Service Manager & Guest Ministry Manager Openings



If you have a passion for showing the love of Jesus through cooking or through using your organizational and people skills, you should think about joining the Menno Haven Ministry Team! For more information about these two positions, check out: mennohaven.com/employmentopenings.

Salary, housing, and benefits are provided with these positions.

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.

If you or someone you know is interested in a part-time or interim Guest Ministry Manager or Food Service Manager position until these full-time roles are filled, contact Doc. For more information, click on the link below.

[More Information on Employment Opportunities](#)

Upcoming Events

Spring Work Day - Saturday, April 23rd

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. RSVP at **our Work Day page** and 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

Volunteers have been an extra blessing as of lately with our incomplete full-time staff. Beautiful souls have helped us host groups and programs as wonderfully as always and we do not take their gifts for granted. Thank you to all who took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered in December and January.

- * **Mona Blosser** (Lombard Mennonite Church) - Guest hosting
- * **Bob Erck** - Guest hosting & Maintenance
- * **Beth Gerig** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Set up quilt for Christmas Family Getaway
- * **Elaine Good** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Set up quilt



Upcoming Programs

Spring Events

Spring Work Day - April 23
Women's Retreat - May 13-15

Summer Events

Family Camp - May 27-30
Rally Day - May 30
5k Run/2k Walk - May 30
Summer Staff Reunion - June 30 - July 3
GrandCamp - July 31 - Aug 4

Youth Summer Camps

Cottontail Camp - June 12-15
 Sports Camp - June 19-23
 Jr High Camp - June 26 - July 1
 (includes Trailblazer & Adventure Tracks)
 Blue Jay Camp - July 3-8
 High School Camp - July 10-15
 (includes Wilderness & Cardinal Tracks)



Ways You Can Be Involved

Recommend a new summer staff member that we end up hiring and get a **\$150 grant** towards your child's 2021 youth summer camp registration fee. **Click here for more details.**

SPREAD THE WORD about our open **Food Service Manager** and **Guest Ministry Manager** positions.

Talk with the high school and college aged youth you know about being a summer staffer during 2022. Encourage them to check out our **summer staff page** for what to look forward to during their summer at Menno Haven.

Come to the Spring Work Day & bring a friend!

for Christmas Family Getaway

* **Wesley Hershberger** (past summer staff) - Worship leader for Adult/HS I Winter Retreat

* **Caleb Johnson** (staff family) - Snow removal

* **Julie Kern** (past summer staff) - Program Assistant for Christmas Family Getaway & HS II Winter Retreat

* **Dan Litwiller** (Hopedale Mennonite Church) - silt pond overflow repair

* **Olivia Litwiller** (East Peoria Mennonite Church) - Program Assistant for HS Winter Retreat

* **Jenifer Mendieta** (Hopedale Mennonite Church) - Kitchen assistant

* **Lucia Mendieta** (Hopedale Mennonite Church) - Kitchen assistant

* **Kate Mounsithiraj** (Napanee Missionary Church) - Program Assistant for HS Winter Retreat

* **Evan Richards** (Lombard Mennonite Church) - Guest hosting

* **Reuben Roberts** (past summer staff) - Snow removal & Climbing wall

* **Jim Schrock** (Cazenovia Mennonite Church) - Heating/Cooling Work

* **Paul Yoder** (staff family) - Snow removal

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

Fall Events

Fall Work Day - October 1

Fall Family Getaway - Oct 7-9

Youth Leader Retreat - Nov 11-13

Christmas Family Getaway -

Dec 16-18

Downloadable
2022
Program Calendar

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.

Available dates are:

* March 18 - 19

* April 1 - 3

* May 13-15

* May 20 - 22

* May 27 - 30

* Most weekends in June - Aug

* Many week days in June - Aug

PRAYER - Keep praying for our ministry team as we are short 2 out of 5 full-time positions. Pray for us as we serve in new capacities AND pray for God to lead the right persons to us for these positions. Email sheena@mennohaven.com if you would like to be put on our prayer team.

* 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.

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

www.mennohaven.com

