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Menno Haven Musings: Summer Reflections and What's New

1 message

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June & July In Review



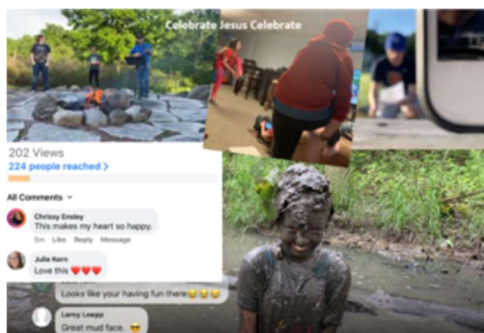
Family Camps & Haven At Home Boxes 2020

Back in February when we chose **the theme "Build This House" for this summer**, we had no idea the curveball God would be sending us. Our theme verse was from **Ephesians 2:22**, *"And because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit."* We also planned to spend each day marinating in a different chapter of Daniel as **we looked at what is needed to build and develop our earthly houses and our spiritual houses** - our Foundation: Jesus (Daniel 1), Walls: Bible Study (Daniel 9), Roof: Prayer (Daniel 6), Furnishings: Friendships (Daniel 2), and Upkeep: Godly Living (Daniel 3). We planned for a normal summer, and then everything changed. We kept this study structure for the videos in the Haven at Home Boxes and for our worship and campfire sessions during Family Camps. Being quarantined in our homes brought this theme into an entirely new light. It reminded us how important our houses actually are and how much we rely on them.

In June the Haven at Home Boxes were delivered to the campers. **We have loved every story and testimony that you sent us connected with these boxes** and are glad we were able to serve you in this way while we couldn't gather together. Here is what a couple friends had to say about it. "This is the first year in several [my son] hasn't gone to camp and [my youngest son] was really looking forward to attending camp this year. This is the next best thing. [My youngest] bugged me about it all day." "Thank you Menno Haven. This Haven at Home week has been so much fun!" [Click here to see pictures of these Haven at Home experiences.](#)

After we heard that we could start hosting family units again, **we jumped on revamping our Family Camp** to meet CDC and IDPH guidelines to safely invite families here to camp. **We had 11 families participate** throughout July. Social distancing at camp is easier to do in the great wide open and we loved hearing the feedback from parents and kids. The laughs and the adventures shared helped us know we were helping serve a purpose during these hazy crazy days of summer. Some comments from the Family Camp: "This brought back so many memories from growing up here. I am so happy I got to share this with my family now. We had a blast! [My daughter] can't wait to go to summer camp there!" "GREAT opportunity to get out of 4+ months of being at home all day every day in near quarantine." **To see some highlights of our Family Camps, click here.**

While the summer did not go as initially planned, **Menno Haven's vision and purpose was still fulfilled** - campers on and off site were invited to experience God's World and Christ's Kingdom through opportunities for worship, fellowship, recreation, growth, and renewal. Praise be to God!



You might have also caught some of our **programming on Facebook or Instagram** through one of our Virtual Hikes around Menno Haven, a Virtual Worship on a Sunday night or a Virtual Campfire in June. **It was fun to experience life with you in real time** through our Facebook chats during these events even though we could not be together in person.

If you participated in one of these virtual events, which type was your favorite?



June and July have proved to be very different months than we envisioned at the beginning of the year. As Illinois entered into Phase 3 of re-opening the state and then into Phase 4 in July, **it has been wonderful to open our lodging facilities to families and see them spend time together over the course of their stay**, taking advantage of the lake, the trails, the Activity Center, and especially the pool! We truly are a place that is set aside. More than one family has said so many campgrounds are crowded right now but **coming here it felt like they had Menno Haven almost to themselves.**

The campground and our lodging facilities are open for an "end of the summer" or "celebrate the fall" hurrah! Call the office to make a reservation.



Flat Doc completed 385 km during our Virtual 5K. He ran (or walked) all over Illinois as well as in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Arizona, California. Flat Doc participated with family groups, friend groups, and alone; with new runners and experienced runners. He even ran on the Menno Haven property with two different groups.



This summer we also had 3 small groups come this summer to volunteer. **A group of youth from Rock Island** spent a day cleaning up trails. **A youth group from the Carlock and Danvers area** came for a couple days clearing a new portion of trail and putting mulch down on paths. They truly fulfilled their name "Angels Without Wings" (see photo above). **Youth from Arthur Mennonite Church (AMC)** came and spent a day spreading mulch at the High Ropes

Thanks to all who participated in this event! You warmed our hearts with your stories and **you helped raise \$1955 towards the Haven at Home boxes.**

Thanks so much to Everence for sponsoring this event. The grant we received covered the 5K expenses in full!

Course. (see photo below) We loved having all of you here!! Thanks so much for all your help!

Summer Staff 2020



We are so thankful for the three summer staffers who served 1-2 months this summer. Their flexibility, hard work and fun loving spirit were a great asset to the Menno Haven Team. While all three helped wherever was needed, **Tanner Liestman of Fisher, IL** worked primarily with guest services; **Shelby Frederick of Arthur, IL** worked primarily with program; and **Tyler Campbell, of Aledo, IL** worked primarily with maintenance.

Kendall Burdick of Arthur, IL; Meredith Schrock of Arthur, IL, and Julie Kern of Tiskilwa, IL also volunteered for a week or more throughout June and July with various programming components. [Click here to see #TakeawayTuesdaysWithTanner](#), a fun "news" video, the summer staff put together. Stay tuned on social media for more episodes.

Reflections from Shelby

Working at Menno Haven as part of the 2020 Summer staff has been a great and challenging experience. Compared to past summers, being a part of the summer staff has been very different. I have been able to see the ins and outs of camp and what it looks like when no campers are here. From helping create the Haven At Home boxes to developing a family camp plan that fits CDC restrictions, it has been an experience that I will never forget. I have been able to observe how this camp handles hardships and the teamwork that goes on behind the scenes.

After this summer comes to an end, I will be able to take away valuable lessons that will help me down the road. Having to step up and do work outside of my job's description has taught me a lot about different types of work that will benefit me in the future. Getting to work with families who want a taste of camp during the stressfulness of quarantine has also been an amazing experience. I love being able to bring a smile to a kid's face even behind a mask! Being a part of the 2020 Menno Haven Summer staff has taught me a lot and I am grateful to have been a part of this experience.

Reflections from Tanner

My time here at Menno Haven this summer has been one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. Prior to the summer I made two goals for myself, to strengthen my relationship with God and get a good job experience that would help my career. I accomplished both goals this summer. What really stuck out to me was the Christian atmosphere. Ever since setting foot here I have been treated like I was part of the Menno Haven family. The people here are so great and I am so thankful that I got paired with amazing co-workers. I loved how the staff had morning devotions, the messages made me think about many aspects of life that I never really dove into. Working with Ashley and Jon were very memorable, I learned a lot about the operations of an office and aspects of life that have helped me grow as an adult and a Christian. My time here will forever be cherished and I hope to see everyone again in the near future.

Good-bye to Curt Rowland!

You might not know Curt (pictured with his daughter, Rebekah, and his wife, Debbie), but if you have been at Menno Haven sometime in the last year, you have likely benefitted from Curt's servant heart. As Custodian, Curt has helped housekeeping keep the facilities clean and maintenance keep the systems running smoothly.

Curt, we will miss your servant heart and love for youth and ministry! Blessings to you in future endeavors.



The Pool is Open for Reservations!

If you are looking for a place to swim this summer, look no farther than the [Menno Haven pool](#).

We can accommodate multiple families or small groups up to 50 people.

Reserve a 2 hour session for your family/group by calling the Menno Haven office at 815-255-4649.

The cost is \$15 for a family of 5 with \$3/person thereafter per session.



Check out the New Online Trading Post

Go to mennohaven.com/trading-post to check out all the items we have to offer!

A screenshot of the Menno Haven Trading Post website. The browser address bar shows "mennohaven.com/trading-post.html". The website has a navigation bar with links: "PLAN YOUR RETREAT", "PROGRAMS", "ADVENTURE EDUCATION", "FACILITIES", and "GET INVOLVED". The "GET INVOLVED" link is circled in red and labeled with a red "1". A dropdown menu is open under "GET INVOLVED", showing options: "VOLUNTEER", "OAK LODGE RENOVATION", "WORK DAY", "DONATE", "WISH LIST", "ASSOCIATION", "CAMP MEDICAL PROVIDER", "SUMMER STAFF", and "TRADING POST". The "TRADING POST" option is circled in red and labeled with a red "2". Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: "Apparel" and "Souvenirs". The "Apparel" section features a photo of two children wearing orange t-shirts with a "BUILD THIS HOUSE" logo. Below the photo is a "SHOP" button. The "Souvenirs" section features a photo of a green stuffed frog and a glass with the text "MENNO HAVEN 1958-58". Below the photo is a "SHOP" button.



Thank You

We have been blessed by some wonderful friends who took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered the past 2 months. You are amazing!

- * **Allyssa Burk** (Staff family) - Maintenance
- * **Jeremiah Burk** (Staff family) - Maintenance & Haven At Home Boxes
- * **Angels without Wings** (Carlock Mennonite Church, North Danvers Mennonite Church, & Danvers Zion Lutheran) - Maintenance
- * **Arthur Mennonite Church (AMC) Youth** - Maintenance
- * **Kendall Burdick** (Summer Staff Volunteer) - Haven at Home Boxes
- * **Augie Calsyn** (Via de Cristo) - Groundskeeping
- * **Tyler Campbell** (Summer Staff Volunteer) - Maintenance
- * **Triston Crews** – Groundskeeping
- * **Beth Gerig** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Housekeeping
- * **Lydia, & Caleb Johnson** (Staff family) - Program & Maintenance
- * **Abbie Kaser** (Kern Road Mennonite Church) - Spanish translation of activity calendars
- * **Julie Kern** (Summer Staff Volunteer) - Haven at Home Boxes and Family Camps
- * **Maribel Kern** (Summer Staff Family) - Spanish sign translation
- * **Rock Island Youth Group** - Maintenance
- * **Debbie Rowland** (Staff family) - Haven At Home Boxes
- * **Meredith Schrock** (Summer Staff Volunteer) - Program & Marketing
- * **Evie Yoder** (Staff family) - Haven at Home Boxes
- * **Paul Yoder** (Staff family) - Haven at Home Boxes

We could not do what we do without faithful help from our volunteers. **THANK YOU!!**



Upcoming Programs

We are working on some creative ways with the new guidelines for you to come and get involved in camp this fall. Stay tuned!

Fall Events

Fall Work Day - Oct 3

Youth Leader Retreat - Nov 13-15

IMCA Annual Business Meeting - Nov 14

Downloadable
2020
Program Calendar

SAVE THE DATE

2021 Winter Retreats

Young Adult WR - Jan 8-10

High School WR - Jan 15-17

JH High WR - Jan 22-24

2021 Summer Events

Rally Day - May 31

Family Camp - May 28-31

Cottontail Camp - June 20-23

JH Camp - June 27-July 2

Blue Jay Camp - July 4-9

HS Camp - July 11-16

GrandCamp - August 1-5



Ways You Can Be Involved

Participate on our Social Media. When you like, comment and share our posts, more people can hear about what's happening at Menno Haven. And we love hearing from you.

Wear Menno Haven apparel and show your love for Menno Haven in your community! If you are missing this key wardrobe necessity, check out the link to the **Trading Post**.

Check out our new Amazon Wish List. It's easy to look through, purchase and have items sent directly to Menno Haven. You can also check out our **downloadable Wish List**.

Help with Maintenance Projects: If you are looking for a place to give back and you have experience with electrical, plumbing, construction, vehicle maintenance, and/or ground work, we would love to connect with you. Email sheena@mennohaven.com.

Start spreading the word to young leaders you think would be a great fit for our Summer Staff in 2021! Have you heard about the **Summer Staff Recommendation Grant**? Find out more information [here](#).

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**.

Give a financial gift. Your financial gift today will 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.

Photo credit: Dave Horst photographed the Neowise Comet over Menno Haven Lake on July 22. Thanks for this great shot Dave!

[Donate](#)

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

[Wish List](#)

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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