



Sheena Johnson <sheena@mennohaven.com>

MH Musings: March Recap, Work Day & Women's Retreat

1 message

Sheena Johnson <sheena@mennohaven.com>
Reply-To: sheena@mennohaven.com
To: sheena@mennohaven.com

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March Moments



This spring the Menno Haven community joined forces to make it possible to welcome a new to us vehicle. **Thanks to the folks from Freeport Mennonite Church** who saw our vehicle need on our Wish List and made a generous donation towards this project. **Thanks to Geiser Classic Auto** for working with us to find a good deal and purchase a new to us GMC Acadia. And **thanks to John & Linda Hayward** for thinking outside of the typical donation box and donating their '57 Chevy two years ago. While it didn't quite fit our criteria of seating 7 passengers, the proceeds from the sale of this creative donation helped to finish off the purchase price of a vehicle that did. It is such a wonderful asset to now have a reliable, lower mileage, all wheel drive,



Speaking of donations - our kitchen was gifted an upgrade just in time for a new summer season! **Thank you to Roanoke Mennonite Church for donating this stove** from your old church kitchen so our kitchen staff is better equipped to prepare delicious food. For those familiar with our kitchen, the new stove and old stove look very similar because they are the same make and model....but their usage has been different. Our now-retired stove is believed to have been installed in the late 60s when the Lakeview Lodge was first built. After over 50 years of working hard to prepare hot meals for our guests and campers only 4 out of 10 burners stayed lit and the ovens only worked on low. Now that we have all burners burning and ovens

rust free, eight passenger vehicle. Many thanks to all who helped make that happen!



Our first summer camp early registration date came and went in March and **we have campers registered and looking forward to summer camp in 2 months!!** We are so excited!

Our next cost-saver date: register and pay in full by May 1st to get a free 2021 Menno Haven Summer Camp t-shirt.

Also a reminder that with all the uncertainty of this year **your deposit & registration fees are considered refundable until 2 weeks before the camp attending**, so register today with confidence!

We continue to talk with and receive guidance from the IL Department of Public Health and CDC in terms of best practice for summer camp guidelines regarding COVID. Firming up our guidelines is a bit like trying to hit a moving target as COVID recommendations keep changing. Our suggestion is to keep an eye out on mennohaven.com/summer-camps for updated information as well as to your email for those who have signed up for summer camp. We will be communicating with registered campers leading up to their week of camp with specific instructions. And as always if you have any questions, you can reach out to Ashley at program@mennohaven.com.

firing, we can't wait to prepare food for all who come this year.



Power Surge Update: After 5 months since the power surge incident, the mini-split units in the hotel and dorm rooms are repaired and functioning! Praise be to God! **While insurance is covering most of the repairs from the power surge** (over \$65,000 in damages!), **we still need to pay around \$10,000** with our deductible and the difference in cost between the repair and replacement of the aging geo thermal units in Lakeview Lodge. **If you would like to give towards this, you can donate here** and earmark the gift for "power surge".

Egg Watch - See photo in heading - We are on egg watch. Now is the time that the geese start laying eggs on the protected area of the Island. We're keeping our eye out for baby goslings.



You've been Spotted -These grandparents and grandchildren look like they are ready for **GrandCamp 2021**. We love it! Thanks for sharing your picture with

us showing your Menno Haven spirit.

April 24 is Spring Work Day

Will you join our staff and other Menno Haven friends for a full day of work projects to help prepare the Menno Haven grounds and facilities for summer? We have work tasks for different skill levels and abilities. Do you know how to do construction, use a chain saw, paint, rake, carry/stack wood, and/or sweep? If so, we could really use

your help Saturday, April 24th. Come by yourself, bring your family, your small group, or friends you want to introduce to Menno Haven.

Start the day here with continental breakfast at 8:00 am. Work projects will begin at 8:30 and continue with a lunch and snack breaks until 4:00. If you want to come and volunteer on Friday or you are coming from a distance, we can provide free overnight lodging, just let us know ahead of time.

Learn more about Spring Work Day here. Email sheena@mennohaven.com or **sign up to attend Spring Work Day here** to let us know you are coming so we can make sure we feed you well!



The poster for Menno Haven's Spring Work Day features a central yellow banner with the title "Menno Haven's Spring WORK DAY" and the date "Saturday, April 24". Below the title, it says "Join us in preparing our facilities and grounds for summer fun". A list of tasks is provided: "We need people who know how to do:" followed by "Construction - to do repair on the cabins", "Operate chainsaws - to do trail clearing and cutting wood", "Painting - to paint the pool", "Use a broom - to clean cabins, bathhouses, and the Craft Barn", "Carry things - to move and/or split wood", "Use a rake - to clean up lawns", and "Have fun while working together". At the bottom, it says "RSVP at mennohaven.com/work-day or e-mail sheena@mennohaven.com". The poster is surrounded by six small photos showing people engaged in various outdoor activities like cutting wood, painting, and working on trails. On the left side of the banner, there are three hand-drawn icons with text: "Bring your family!", "Meet friends here!", and "Have fun outside!".

We need your help!



Here's the thing....we're so excited to welcome campers back to camp this year...BUT we can only do that if we have the staff to lead them.

At the time of writing this email, we have some summer staff confirmed, but **these are the positions we are still accepting applications for:** 2 Male Head Cabin Counselors, 2 Female Head Cabin Counselors, 1 Program Assistant, 2 Lifeguards, 2 Kitchen Assistants, 3 Maintenance Assistants, 1 Hosting Assistant, 1 Office Assistant, and 1 Camp Medical Provider.

Please encourage the college age young people and high schoolers in your life to commit to working with us this summer (5 weeks or more) to give campers a much needed week in the outdoors! Have them contact Ashley for more information or apply at mennohaven.com/summer-staff.

[Click here to apply & for more info](#)

Get away from everyday life for an overnight retreat alongside other women who want to find connection with the Word and each other.

Plant, Bloom, Love is the theme for this retreat. Our speaker, **Gwendolyn Myers**, will lead us through **John 15:1-17** over three sessions. If you don't know Gwendolyn, she is a former staff member (Program Director) and was on the Menno Haven Board of Directors and currently serves ladies in her church and through her work with Mary and Martha.



The activities planned for this weekend will be laid back and allow plenty of space to breathe and renew souls in the fresh air. While there will be activities for your free time, we also are leaving space for the Spirit to lead you in retreat.

We know some prefer a quick getaway and others enjoy an extended weekend so we've built in options to fit multiple styles. **For the main Retreat**, you'll arrive Friday around 6pm and head home Saturday around 4:30pm. If you'd like to **Retreat + Come Early**, arrive Friday afternoon for some extra Pamper Yourself time and supper and then join the main Retreat. If you'd like to **Retreat + Stay Longer**, stay after the main retreat for some extra time of rejuvenation and head home after Sunday's brunch and morning Recap Chat. If you'd like all the above, choose the **Retreat + Come Early + Stay Longer** option to have a full uplifting weekend of rest and refreshment. The schedule for this weekend, guidelines, and more information on our speaker can be found here on the website. Whichever option you'd prefer, we're looking forward to serving you!

The deadline to register is April 30th.

[More Information & Register Here](#)

Thanks to all of you in our Menno Haven family continuing to show financial support during this time of few groups. We are so thankful and blessed.





Thank You

We have been blessed the past March by some faithful friends who gave of their time helping prepare the grounds for spring.

- * **Augie Calsyn** (Via de Cristo) - hauling mulch & tractor work
- * **Bob Erck aka "Tree Man"** - electrical & tree work
- * **Caleb Johnson** (staff family) - fruit tree trimming/pruning
- * **Ed Johnson** (Willow Springs MC) - fruit tree trimming/pruning
- * **Lydia Johnson** (staff family) - fruit tree trimming/pruning
- * **Evan Richards aka "Electric Man"** (Lombard MC) - electrical & tree work

We are so thankful and we would not be able to transition the grounds and facilities from winter to spring and summer without volunteers!



Upcoming Programs

Spring Events

Work Day - April 24

Women's Retreat - May 14-15

Summer Events

Rally Day - May 31

5k Run/2K Walk - May 31

Family Camp - May 28-31

Cottontail Camp - June 20-23

Sports Camp - June 23-25

Jr High Camp - June 27 - July 2

(includes Trailblazer & Adventure Tracks)

Blue Jay Camp - July 4-9

High School Camp - July 11-16

(includes Wilderness & Cardinal Tracks)

GrandCamp - August 1-5

Fall Events

Men's Retreat - Sept 10-11

Fall Work Day - October 2

Association Business Mtg - Nov 13

Downloadable
2021
Program Calendar

Click on the event name to find out more information



Ways You Can Be Involved

Save the Date - May 31 - & come to Rally Day. Stay tuned to mennohaven.com/rally-day for details.

Is the warmer weather getting you excited to break out your RV or tent? **Our campground** is open as of April 1st and ready to go. With your RV/tent site fee you also get access to 231 acres of outdoor space for hiking and boating as well as use of the activity center, game room and pool. Come camping with us!

Talk to parents of school aged children about Menno Haven's summer camp and your experiences here as a summer camper or as a parent of a summer camper and encourage them to come too. *You are our best advertisement!*

Give to the Camper Scholarship Fund. We have started to receive applications for our financial aid scholarships. We want families motivated to provide a Christian summer camping experience for their children to not be deterred by financial considerations. Every year we give partial camp scholarships based on need and availability of

funds. You can help provide a week of summer camp by **donating online here**, sending a check in the mail or **participating in our 5k Run/2k Walk**.

Donate

Serving as Backyard Missionaries (Summer Staff)

Wish Lists

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

9301 1575 East St Tiskilwa IL 61368
815-255-4649

info@mennohaven.com

www.mennohaven.com

