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MH Musings: Spring & Summer 2022

1 message

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Spring & Summer 2022 In Review

So much happened since we last talked! Hopefully you were able to participate in one of our events: Spring Work Day, Women's Retreat, Rally Day, Family Camp, Youth Summer Camps, Summer Staff Reunion, or Grandcamp. Or maybe you came with your family to a family reunion or had a church retreat. If not, here is a short (-ish) recap.



Spring Work Day Volunteers - These amazing people cleaned the pool in preparation for painting it, did deep cleaning in the Dining Hall and Kitchen, split wood and moved it to the wood shed at Green Cathedral in preps for summer camp, made six new picnic tables, set up the nine square lawn game, cleaned flower beds, put down a new layer of mulch around the Ark Playground, made cookie dough balls to freeze for future groups, and made a yummy lunch



Women's Retreat - Women from different backgrounds and experiences gathered to glean wisdom from scripture in the way we view, create, and engage our communities. We sang, studied, strolled and savored the short time we spent together. Randi Krehbiel led 32 women through this study with songs led by Ellen Rosenberger and friends. This event keeps growing each year and it's amazing to see this ache for authentic community refreshed here. [Check out pictures of this event here.](#)

for all the workers. [Check out pictures of all they did here.](#)

Thanks to all who attended this event!! During a time when we were short staffed, these people were a significant blessing.



Family Camp, Rally Day, Youth Summer Camps & Grand Camp - We had so much fun with these events the past couple months. To hear the laughter and songs, see the smiles and hugs, smell the campfires and kettle corn, and to experience the thrill of sleeping outside, catching a frog, getting FILTHY in a mud hike (and it was ok to get that dirty!), the refreshment of the pool, the taste of a perfect....or maybe less than perfect s'more, the break from one's regular schedule to spend time in creation to hear God's voice...that's what makes summer at Menno Haven so addicting. [Click here to read a lot more about these events from Ashley.](#)



Summer Staff Reunion - Thanks to our past summer staff who reconvened on the Menno Haven grounds to enjoy a weekend of reminiscing, renewing friendships (or making new friendships), and reliving summer memories from years gone past. Highlights included story telling, learning new games, sharing after lunch songs with current staff, zip line, and a refreshingly cool swim in the pool. One fun treat was making Dough Boys over the campfire (pictured above) - whether experiencing them for the first time or for the first time in a long time.



Guest Ministry Ministry - A large part of the Menno Haven Ministry is also serving the many church groups, family reunions, parachurch organizations, school groups, and more. Starting May 27, we had guests or campers here on site every day through August 20! It was wonderful to partner with these friends as they ministered to their congregants, family members and participants.

If you are looking for a time to come to Menno Haven for your own programmed event, we have open spaces this coming spring. Contact Bekka at info@mennohaven.com to find out more.

Thank you to our Volunteers

This summer would not have been a success without the help of our amazing volunteers. Thank you to our friends who painted the pool, guest hosted, painted rooms in open staff homes, installed new kitchen cabinets in an open staff home, cleared honeysuckle and weeds from encroaching on the snow tubing hill, installed new drain tile creating an overflow for one of our silt ponds to help with drainage, graded the drives after strong rains, prepped food and washed dishes in the kitchen, cleared bush honeysuckle around the lake and along trails, straightened the Menno Haven sign, mulched the entire Low Ropes Course, mulched and set new logs to sit on at Green Cathedral, split & moved firewood, decorated the Dining Hall for our High School Camp banquet, led worship for summer camps & Grandcamp, and to all who were Camp Medical Providers, summer staff and on our Prayer Team! You are appreciated more than you know. [Check out pictures of our many volunteers and some of their projects here.](#)



Pictured above: Bethel Mennonite Church Youth Group - Sarasota, FL

Upcoming Events

Fall Work Day - This fun day is taking place on Saturday, October 1 and you are invited to participate!



Fall Work Day
Saturday October 1, 2022

Menno Haven
Worship, Learning & Retreat Center

Possible Projects:

- felling dead trees by the drive
- setting retaining wall by lake for new trail
- forest restoration
- prepping flower beds for winter
- repairing cabins
- splitting firewood
- deep cleaning chairs
- food prep & dish cleaning

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Menno Haven depends on, and greatly appreciates,
the hard work of volunteers like you
to keep our 231 acres of sanctuary looking great!

This is a **family friendly event** with a little something for everyone. **If you like to do projects outside**, you can spend the day setting a retaining wall by the lake, participating in forest restoration, felling trees along the drive (let's work to prevent trees from falling on our powerlines during icy & snowing conditions!), winterizing flower beds, repairing cabins, and/or splitting firewood. **If working inside is more your thing**, you can help in the kitchen to make lunch or clean dining hall chairs after a summer of daily usage. **If you have other special skills**, let us know what you can do and we probably have something on our To Do List to take advantage of your special skill. **If you are unable to help physically** but would like to participate in Work Day, we invite persons to take time on October 1st to pray for Menno Haven and the ministry that happens here.

We will be gathering at Lakeview Lodge for breakfast at 8:00 am. Lunch will take place at noon in the Dining Hall as well. Work Day will finish around 4:00 pm. Feel free to come for all or part of the day.

Sign up to attend this event by going to mennohaven.com/work-day and clicking on the sign up link. You can always email Sheena at sheena@mennohaven.com or call the office at 815-255-4649 as well. Having persons sign up ahead of time helps us to plan tasks and lunch needs.

More Information & RSVP

Have you heard about Fall Family Getaway?

It's coming up October 7-9, 2022. Register at mennohaven.com/familygetaways to reserve your space today!



[More Information & To Register](#)



Thank You Volunteers

*Brooklyn Aberle *Natalie Aberle
*Buzz Bender *Elias Bohnert
*Augie Calsyn *Susan Cater
*Christopher Colby *Dave Colter
*Krista Dutt *Eldon Eigsti
*Marilyn Eigsti *Pam Eiten *Bob
Erck *Chris Ewert *Steve Forret
*Kelly Foster *Marietta Fowler



Upcoming Programs

2022 Events
Fall Work Day - October 1
Fall Family Getaway - Oct 7-9
Youth Leader Retreat - Nov 11-13
**Christmas Family Getaway -
Dec 16-18**



Ways You Can Be Involved

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Encourage your pastor to take advantage of Menno Haven's offer for free lodging and day use for a pastoral personal retreat. Pastors can come alone or bring their spouse or family as well. October is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of this!

*Melanie Freisinger *Beth Gerig
 *Boo Graham *Hal Gustafson
 *Wesley Hershberger *Caleb Johnson
 *Esther Johnson *Lydia Johnson
 *Pam Kaufmann *Phil Kaufmann
 *Julie Kern *Jim Klingbiel
 *Kate Kortemeier *Scott Largent
 *Anna Leander *Eli Leander
 *Milo Leander *Ryan Leander
 *Dan Litwiller *Danielle Litwiller
 *Lisa Litwiller *Susette Litwiller
 *Theo Lundin *Andy Marner
 *Denton Marner *Jillian Marner
 *Lynn Marner *Makai Marner
 *Kim McGlaughlin *Mack McGlaughlin
 *Kaleb Mounsathaj *Rebecca Moyer
 *Innocent Mungura *Ali Ngabo
 *Jim Parrot *Savahna Pearsol
 *Nathan Perrin *Davis Richards
 *Evan Richards *Linea Richards
 *Mona Richards *Reuben Roberts
 *Emily Ropp *Joyce Ropp
 *Ken Ropp *Donna Roth
 *Doug Roth *Deb Rowland
 *Marie Rowland *Rebekah Rowland
 *Jim Schrock *Linda Schrock
 *Kathy Springer *Cameron Steelberg
 *Graham Steelberg *Dana Wolf
 *Ken Wolf *Rita Wolf
 *Aaron Yoder *Abram Yoder
 *CJ Yoder *Cliff Yoder *Janice Yoder
 *Kathy Yoder *Luke Yoder
 *MJ Yoder *Paul Yoder
 *Spencer Yoder *Titus Yoder
 *Anna Zehr *Simon Zehr
 *Bethel Youth Group - Sarasota, FL
 *Eagle Scout Troup 17
 *Fairview Youth Group - Kalona, IA

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

2023 Events

High School Winter Retreat

- Jan 13-15

Junior High Winter Retreat -

Jan 20-22

MH Association Business

Meeting - Jan 28



Downloadable 2022 Program Calendar

Lodging is based upon availability.

Contact Bekka at

info@mennohaven.com for more information

Can't come on October 1 for our Fall Work Day? No problem. Pick a day that works for you and us, bring your family / your youth group / your Sunday School group / come on your own, and have fun. Contact Sheena at sheena@mennohaven.com for more information.

Guest Host - help host weekend or weekday groups and learn more about our retreat ministry. Contact Sheena at sheena@mennohaven.com for more information.

Available dates are:

- * September 30 - October 2
- * October 27 - 29
- * November 4 - 6
- * November 11 - 13
- * December 27 - 29
- * January 2 - 6

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 and serve our guests.

Check out our online Trading Post.

We have **new mugs**, new **leather patch beanies** (see above picture), and new **travel mugs** in stock and a reorder of our **logo sweatshirts** in new colors (navy, graphite, garnet, antique sapphire, & azalea) arriving in a week or two. These items are perfect for when you

want to cozy up outside with a warm mug of cider or pumpkin spice latte.

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.

Join a group of people who commit to praying for Menno Haven and get regular updates for prayer requests. Contact Sheena at sheena@mennohaven.com if you would like to be put on our prayer team. Prayer makes things happen. Many thanks for those who are part of this team and who pray for the Menno Haven ministry and the staff.

[Donate](#)

[Serving as Summer Staff](#)

[Wish List](#)

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

9301 1575 East St Tiskilwa IL 61368

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www.mennohaven.com

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