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MH Musings: Feb/March- New Faces, Upcoming Programs, & Summer Staff Needs

1 message

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Sun, Apr 10, 2022 at 6:51 AM

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February & March In Review



We had fun hosting a school group, a men's retreat, a church retreat and a pastor's retreat the past couple months. Above is a picture of a local school group taking advantage of a good winter day on the lake - skating, ice fishing, and warming up around the fire.



Thanks to volunteers who helped to get summer brochures to your mailbox. We received the brochures from the printers and less than 48 hours later they were at the post office. We have some amazing mailing volunteers!!



You've been spotted! It is fun to see this past summer staffer zipping around the ski hills in her warm Menno Haven zipline shirt.

Check out our **online Trading Post** for new sweatshirts, beanies, and travel mugs that arrived this past month!



The past two months have seen additional staffing transitions. At the end of February we said **goodbye to Christopher Burk** as our Facilities & Adventure Education Manager as he took a ministry position at a local church. We are sad to have Christopher and his family move away from Menno Haven but are excited to see how God will use him in this new position. Keep your eyes open because there will be continued Christopher sightings here at Menno Haven as he helps part-time with the Adventure Education Program. :)

We are excited to announce that **the Food Service Manager and Guest Ministry Manager positions have been filled!!** Thank you for all your prayers the last 6-9 months!! Jeff Simmering will be joining us as Food Service Manager and Bekka Simmering will be joining us as Guest Ministry Manager starting at the beginning of June!

Jeff has been in food service his entire adult life and is excited to bring his experience to the Menno Haven kitchen. Bekka is no stranger to Menno Haven. She spent summers here at Menno Haven as a camper in the 1990s and then as a Head Cabin Counselor in 2000. Come to Menno Haven for Rally Day and meet this husband and wife team, along with their two daughters.



A familiar face is returning to Menno Haven...**Curt Rowland** has served in various part time roles and was a Custodian in 2019 and 2020. **Curt is returning as our new Facilities Manager** beginning in April. He is excited to join the Menno Haven team and keep things running smoothly around here. Meet Curt and his family at Work Day and Rally Day.

Summer Staff (aka Mentor, Storyteller, Hero, Trail Blazer, Fun-Facilitator)

Have you applied for summer staff 2022 yet? We are **still looking** for people to join our Summer Missions Team as cabin counselors, lifeguard, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, and more. We are praying for God to move the hearts of those He has called here this summer. So we encourage you to apply and to tell others to apply for a summer of 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 application today.

[More Information](#)

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 to find 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](#)



Join us for Women's Retreat May 13-14!



Are you *struggling to find* deep biblical community right where you are in a divisive world? Never in the history of civilization have we been more connected and felt more alone.

This is an event for the women in your church to come by herself, bring a friend or a whole group of friends and get away from everyday life for an overnight retreat alongside other women who want to find connection with the Word and with other women.

We will **learn practical solutions** for building deep, connected relationships. You were created to play, engage, adventure, and explore **with others**. Because while the ache of loneliness is real, it doesn't have to be your reality.

If your ladies would like a special treat, **come early on Friday for an afternoon of pampering** (sign up early to get a massage from a local massage therapist!) and extra time to just be.

[More Information & To Register](#)

Everyone is invited - Rally Day - May 30, 2022

May 30th come join us for a day of fun, food and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of a new summer camping season, dedicate the summer 2022 program and staff, and raise money for summer camp scholarships!! Experience what Menno Haven has to offer - hiking, fishing, boating, lawn games, open gym - and check out what has happened since you've been here last.

Start the morning off on the right foot (or left - your choice) by participating in our **10th annual 5k Trail Run/2k Walk**. "Run (or walk) So They Can Have Fun" as the monies raised by this event will go towards our camper scholarship fund to provide need based scholarships for campers. **Make sure to register by May 10th to reserve your free t-shirt**. All participants will get a racing bib and a finisher's medal.



Participate in our Summer Program Dedication at 11 am as we meet and pray for the persons who will be leading the campers through a summer focusing on how the Israelites and Jesus both found joy in the wilderness and how we can too. After this service join us for a meal at Lakeview Lodge.

Stick around after lunch for our special show with Luke Winger at 1pm! Luke's high energy, juggling and speaking presentations will keep all engaged while diving into faith and joy, which ties nicely with our summer camp theme of "Joy in the Wilderness". You can learn more about Luke on our **Family Camp page**

as he will be the Family Camp speaker this whole weekend.

In the afternoon you can also enjoy the swimming pool, a jam session (bring an instrument to play along), and a hayrack ride.

[Click Here for Rally Day Info](#)

[Click here for 5k/2k Info](#)

Summer Camp 2022 Cost Savers



Receive a free t-shirt if registered and paid in full by May 4, 2022!

If you have never attended a Menno Haven Youth Summer Camp, request a \$50 **First Time Camper discount** when you register.

Sibling Discount: With one full price registration, you can request a \$40 Sibling Discount for each additional sibling when you register.

Recommend a new summer staff member to Menno Haven and if that staff is hired, your family will **receive a \$150 grant** towards your child's 2022 MH Youth Summer Camp registration fee. Applicants need to indicate on their application that your family referred them to work at Menno Haven.

Summer Staff Reunion ~ JUNE 30 - JULY 3!

Calling all former Summer Staff! Menno Haven Summer Staff Reunion 2022 is here.

When was the last time you visited Menno Haven? Has it been awhile? Have you seen the new patio in front of the Dining Hall, the renovated dorms, the ropes course, or the Eagle Wing Activity Center? Whether you have been here recently or it has been awhile, the Summer Staff Reunion is the perfect time to come visit the place where you created amazing summer memories! Some things may have changed and many favorite destinations still remain but what makes Menno Haven special is you!

Come join us and revisit the smells, the sights, the memories, and all that Menno Haven has to offer. Registration will open soon so Save the Date and start preparing your travel plans!



[Find out more here](#)



Thank You
Volunteers



Upcoming
Programs



Ways You Can Be
Involved

Volunteers have been an extra blessing as of late with our incomplete full-time staff. Thank you to all who took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered in February and March.

- * **Ellen Davis Zehr** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Eldon Eigsti** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Marilyn Eigsti** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Bob Erck** - Maintenance
- * **Boo Graham** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Painting kitchen shelving & cupboards (see picture above)
- * **Esther Johnson** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Pam Kaufmann** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Caleb Johnson** (staff family) - Snow removal
- * **Lydia Johnson** (staff family) - Snow removal

- * **Evan Richards** (Lombard Mennonite Church) - Maintenance
- * **Anna Zehr** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Simon Zehr** (Willow Springs Mennonite Church) - Summer Brochure Mailing
- * **Paul Yoder** (staff family) - Snow removal

Thank you, thank you for all your help the past months. We could

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)

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

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!

Create your own work day:

- * Help our groundskeeper clear the lawn/pick up sticks so the lawns are ready to mow.
- * Like to walk trails? Come walk with a rake and clear sticks off the trails after a winter of little usage.
- * Like to work in flower beds? Come un-winter our flower beds and prepare them for spring and summer blooms.

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:

- * May 27 - 30
- * Most weekends in June - Aug
- * Many week days in June - Aug

Save the Date - May 30 - & come to Rally Day.

Let's Rally in Prayer for Menno Haven! Join a group of people who commit to praying for Menno Haven and get regular updates for prayer requests - 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

not do what we do without faithful
help from our volunteers.

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

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