



# Menno Haven Musings

Read below to hear about all the memory making events and happenings that took place at Menno Haven the past couple months and for the fun events that will be taking place soon that you will want to get on your calendar!



**Christmas Getaway** was a rich combination of **family memory making time** - making gingerbread houses and nativities, playing board games, cozing up around a fire, and snuggling with a loved one on the couch, **friend time** - putting puzzle together, playing air hockey and crate stacking (one of our indoor high rope elements), and **a time to renew and nurture one's Christian walk** - with group devotional times, singing Christmas carols, and time and space for reflection throughout the weekend. As one parent said "It was great to get away, relax and enjoy the Christmas season as a family without the responsibilities and distractions at home." which is exactly what we were aiming for.

[Check out pictures of this holiday event here](#) and ***Save the Date for this December 13-15, 2024*** and join us!



**Winter Retreats** - This year we had a joined High School / Junior High Winter Retreat. It was great seeing everyone back here again! Many thanks to Ashley Litwiller, our Program Manager, for helping us look at how God calls us to live as a team and what does it mean to have a focus of "We not Me". Thanks also to the Menno Haven Band for leading worship. While a joined retreat was not the original intent, a snow storm on the Friday of High School Winter Retreat (in addition to the several days of snow before that) made it

necessary to postpone due to unsafe driving conditions. BUT the snow stuck around for the following weekend and so the high schoolers joined the junior highers and everyone was able to enjoy a great time of snow activities and ice skating on the lake. It was a weekend of joy and fun. **The kids can share with you about the weekend better than we can so here goes....** "As awesome as always." "I had lots of fun coming back to Menno Haven." "I wish it could last longer." "I did some things I would never get to do outside of retreat!" "Great time meeting new people." Some of **the highlights were:** tubing, worship, the night hike, the climbing wall, all the outdoor activities, ping pong, ice skating, the food, and the people. The youth leaders repeated many of the same highlights as well as saying "Menno Haven provided the space and meaningful activities so we could spend quality time with our youth." **We are so thankful we get to serve youth groups in this way and can't wait until next year!** [Check out photos from the weekend here.](#)

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I don't know if you have been to Menno Haven in the last 6 months or so, but if you haven't, you are in for a treat when you return. As you drive in the Menno Haven lane you will have to thank some generous donors who had the desire, vision, and resources to chip and tar the gravel driveway. This process started several years ago when thicker layers of gravel were put down to prepare a base layer on the driveway. Last summer repairs were done to help improve water flow and drainage along the lanes. Then this past September three layers of chip and tar were put down to create a solid and uniform surface on the driveways and parking lots at the Lakeview Lodge, the Eagle Wing Activity Center, the Pavilion and staff homes. This is a significant upgrade for all who visit Menno Haven. Thank you to the visionaries, workers, and donors who made this possible!



For the past year or two we have been working on some **needed internet infrastructure**



**upgrades** here at Menno Haven. Progress was slower than we would have liked but it was significantly limited by our lovely countryside setting that is 10+ miles from larger towns. **But God started moving in incredible ways.** This past summer fiber optic lines were being installed down 910 North Ave, the road that goes past Eagle Wing Activity Center (EWAC). Doc talked with the in-

stallers and they agreed to put a handhole by the lane to EWAC. They even drilled the line under the road so if and when we would be able to run fiber on camp, and gain service, we would be ready. What a gift! This started the ball rolling. We have some constituents who tirelessly looked for deals to purchase the fiber optic cable and the underground conduit to run the fiber in. During that process we were connected with a company who not only donated the conduit, they donated the labor to install the conduit and run the fiber throughout the Menno Haven campus as well. Wow! We were blessed with warm weather at the beginning of January to complete that task. Then mid-February some other friends came and spliced all the fiber together! **The end result is a reliable fast internet that we could barely dream of 2 years ago.** This is a significant impact as much of the our office work as well as our phone systems and food ordering rely on reliable good internet service. Reliable faster internet will also provide guest groups with the ability to connect with those who cannot physically be here. Thank you Lord for your provision!

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Thank you thank you to all who gave towards the Year End Appeal in December. You are making it possible for the ministry and vision of Menno Haven to be carried out. Additionally, with your help we are closer to having the 2023 Summer Cabin Improvements and the Patio Renovation fully funded. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus, providing love, care, and hope to all who come to this place.



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## upcoming programs

[Spring Work Day](#) March 23

[Women's Retreat](#) April 26-28

[Family Camp](#) May 24-27

[Rally Day](#) May 27

[Association Annual Business Meeting](#) May 27



[Cottontail Camp](#) (grades 3-5) June 9-12

[Sports Camp](#) (grades 6-12) June 16-20

[Junior High Camp](#) (grades 6-8) June 23-28

[Blue Jay Camp](#) (grades 4-6) June 30-July 5

[High School Camp](#) (grades 9-12) July 7-12

[GrandCamp](#) August 4-8

[Dads & Lads](#) September 13-15

[Fall Work Days](#) October 1 & 2

[Ministry Leaders Retreat](#) November

[Christmas Family Getaway](#) December 15-17

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**Spring Work Day is a family friendly event** with a little something for everyone. While there are **many outside projects** to choose from, **indoor projects** are available as well. If you have **special skills**, let us know what you can do and might 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 March 23 to **pray for Menno Haven** and the ministry that happens here.

We will be **gathering at the Dining Hall in Lakeview Lodge at 8 am** for a continental breakfast, a devotional and blessing for the day. Lunch will take place at noon in the Dining Hall as well. Work Day will finish around 4 pm. **Come for all or part of the day.**

**Sign up to attend this event** by going to [mennohaven.com/work-day](https://mennohaven.com/work-day) and clicking on the sign up link. You can always email Sheena at [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto: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.



**MENNO HAVEN'S**  
*Spring Work Day*

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 23, 2024**

**Possible Projects**

- Preparing cabins, bathhouses, boats, pool & outside games for summer
- Trail & lawn cleanup
- Cleaning windows & light lenses
- Reconstructing hayrack trailer
- Firewood splitting
- And more - check out more details at [mennohaven.com/work-day](https://mennohaven.com/work-day)

**Schedule**

- 8:00 - Continental Breakfast & Devotions in Lakeview Lodge Dining Hall
- 8:30 - Begin Projects
- Noon - Lunch
- 12:45 - Resume Projects
- 4:00 - Cleanup

**RSVP**

[mennohaven.com/work-day](https://mennohaven.com/work-day)  
or email [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto:sheena@mennohaven.com)

815-255-4649

9301 1575 East Street Tiskilwa

The poster includes several photographs of people engaged in various work projects, such as cleaning windows, working on a trailer, and splitting firewood. A circular logo for Menno Haven is also present in the top right corner.

Get away from everyday life for an overnight retreat alongside other women who want to find connection with the Work and with other women. Registration is open. Bring a group of friends or come by yourself and make some new friends. Check out [www.mennohaven.com/womensretreat](http://www.mennohaven.com/womensretreat) for more details.



## Join us for our annual Women's Retreat

9301 1575 East St  
Tiskilwa, IL 61368

# Uncomplicated

Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life

April 26-28th, 2024

Speaker: Brenda L. Yoder  
Worship Leader: Ellen Rosenberger

More Information & Registration at [mennohaven.com/womensretreat](http://mennohaven.com/womensretreat)





**Hurray for Menno Haven Summer Staff.....they are super heros.....**to the campers and to Menno Haven's summer camp ministry. While we have some amazing applicants already, we are still looking for people to round out our Summer Team as **counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, and more**. We can't welcome campers without having the staff to serve them. If you're looking for a sign to apply, this is it.

**Do you know someone who would be a great fit for camp?** Perhaps you know a person who would excel at interacting with and leading a group of campers through their daily schedule of activities of cabin activities, archery, carpetball, cabin devotions, and campfires; or supervising campers at the pool or on the lake; or possibly fixing things and helping with grounds keeping is more their thing, or maybe cooking up delicious creations is where they shine. If so, let us know! And honestly, while most people think of youth aged 16-22 for summer staff, if you are older than this age, don't let age stop you. If you love Jesus, love kids, you have some available weeks this summer, and the above sounds exciting for you, we would still love to hear from you! Check out more information on our [summer staff webpage](#).





**Summer Camp Registration is open. Save some \$\$ for youth summer camps with these cost cutters below.**

\* **Register by March 8th** to receive a **\$20 discount** AND a **free 2024 summer camp t-shirt**.

\* **First Time Camper** - You can request a **\$50 discount** if this is the first time you are coming to a Menno Haven summer youth camp.

\* **Sibling Discount** - With one full price registration, you can request a **\$40 discount** for each additional sibling in your household.

\* **Recommend a new summer staff member** that we end up hiring this year and get a **\$150 grant** towards your child's 2024 youth summer camp registration fee. [Click here for more details](#).

\* **Volunteer as a Camp Medical Provider** for one week and your child can **come to camp for half price**. Volunteer for two weeks and your child can come for **FREE!**

Go to [www.mennohaven.com/summeryouthcamps](http://www.mennohaven.com/summeryouthcamps) to find out more information and to register.

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many thanks to our volunteers

This past fall and winter **many friends came and helped** at Menno Haven - winterizing villages and bathhouses, splitting wood, cleaning windows, grounds keeping, digging up and unplugging drain tile, guest hosting, helping with program events, preparing multiple mailings, and more. It's amazing how many hands help to share the load and make the work together more fun. We have also been **blessed by some super skilled people** who helped in areas we could not have easily done on our own - heating and cooling, electrical repairs and upgrades, directional drilling, vehicle maintenance, and various mechanical repairs. **You are all greatly appreciated.** [Check out some photos of what has been done](#).

**Many thanks to:** Dale & Dana Bastian, Paul Bopes, Cora Botts, Andrew Bowen, Grey Borys, Allyssa Burk, Augie Calsyn, David Colter, Josh Dixon, Eldon & Marilyn Eigsti, Bob Erck, Chris Ewert, Aaron Fleming, Asa Gartin, Beth Gerig, Donna Grove, Joe Grove, Lotus & Judy Hershberger, Ed Hill, Gabi & Ethan, Caleb Johnson, Ed & Esther Johnson, Lydia Johnson, Darin and Beth Jones, Phil Kaufmann, Scott & Julie Largent, Ryan & Anna Leander and kids, Dave Little, Jenifer Mendieta, Lucia Mendieta, Jim Parrot, Nathan Perrin, Evan & Mona Richards, Linea Richards, Davis Richards, Jerry Roeschley, Elias Rose, Deb Rowland, Rebekah Rowland, Jim & Linda Schrock, Lexi Simmering, Mike Smith, Keith & Kathy Springer, Linda Stalter, Stacy Taylor, Donnie Thompson, Shay Vannoy, Michael Weldon, Dana & Emily Wolf and kids, Ken & Rita Wolf, CJ Yoder, Spencer Yoder, Simon Zehr

# ways to be involved

- **Guest host** - help host weekend or weekday groups and learn more about our guest ministry
- Available dates are:
  - February 27-29 (Tuesday - Thursday)
  - April 19-21 (Friday - Sunday)
  - May 31 - June 2 (Friday - Sunday)
  - Most weekends June - August
  - Many weekdays June - August
- **Recommend a new summer staff member** that we end up hiring and get a \$150 grant towards your child's 2024 youth summer camp registration fee.
- **Talk with the high school and college aged youth** you know about being a summer staffer during 2024. Encourage them to check out our [Summer Staff Page](#) for what to look forward to during their summer at Menno Haven
- **Purchase an item** from our [Wish List](#) and bring it with you the next time you come to Menno Haven.
- **PRAY** - Keep praying for our Ministry Team as we prepare for summer months, are searching for and hiring summer staff, and work on enhancing these 231 acres for you and for God's glory.

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(815) 255-4649

