

By Michael Unruh

If you've read our newsletters or heard updates elsewhere, you know that camp has constructed several new buildings in recent years. Part of this process has included tearing down the old, worn out structures so that the new ones could go up. A passage in Isaiah resonates with me as we've taken on these projects. In 43:18-19, the LORD says, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" The LORD's "new thing" is a promise to lead Israel out of exile from Babylon back to Jerusalem. For many, returning to Jerusalem meant "tearing down" an established life in Babylon and trusting idols or other nations for provision.

As the Christmas season gets underway, I am also reminded of the "new thing" God was doing by sending Jesus, the Word become flesh, into the world. The birth of Jesus brought joy to many people, yet others like King Herod were afraid. The arrival of Jesus threatened to "tear down" the established power structure. Jesus' followers

Coming Soon!

The 2019 Catalog will be sent out in February but you can soon see the 2019 Camp Mennoscah event calendar!

Go online at campmennoscah.org or contact us at 620-297-3014 or office@campmennoscah.org to request a copy! also had to "tear down" their notions that Jesus was sent to conquer and rule an earthly kingdom and recognize that God's "new thing" was a kingdom from above.

I perceive that God is doing "a new thing" in the lives of people who come to camp. To do so, God must also "tear down" old and worn out parts. Here are just a few: 1) How the world tells us to act toward those different from us-with fear, hate, or exclusion. 2) Putting our faith in material things, political leaders, or affirmation through social media. 3) That the world says "you aren't enough the way you are."

God's "new thing" responds: 1) All people are deserving of love and inclusion. 2) God is everlasting; temporary things are not 3) You are enough exactly the way you are. This "new thing" at camp leads to growth in faith, genuine Christian relationships, and sometimes baptism. Though of course God is working all around, it is humbling to join in God's work of "tearing down" and doing "a new thing" at camp.

Volunteer Christmas Gathering!

All Camp Mennoscah volunteers from any year are invited to gather celebrate another amazing year of sharing God's love with others through conversation, games, and breaking "bread" with each other. We will meet in the Dining Hall on December 15 at 2:30pm-ish.

Camp Mennoscah will provide cookies and drinks. You provide the conversation and happy memories of your time at camp. There will be an optional white elephant gift exchange. Families are welcome!



New Camp Fees Structure

You get the BEST price! Our Summer Youth Camps are moving to 3-level pricing based on when you register for camp. If you register *and* pay in full by March 1, you get the best price we can offer. If you register *and* pay in full by April 1, you get a much better price. And the rest of you? You get a good price for a great week at Camp Mennoscah. The pre-registration fee for all youth camps has been increased to \$50 per camper. We've got one stunning summer coming up!



😻 🌤 🖈 🛠 🗚 Camp Mennoscah Wish Lists 😻 🏞 🖈 🌾 🖈

Want to get out of the house for a day for a change of scenery? Camp Mennoscah would not be a success without our volunteers. Ours is a year-round ministry. We are always looking for volunteers with cheerful hearts and helpful hands! Our busiest time is in the summer but we have things to do when we are not so busy.

Contact us at 620-297-3290 to grab the best jobs before someone else does.

- --"Woodcutters" to help remove dead trees and shrubs around camp grounds
- --Experienced painters for painting the main floor of the Retreat Center
- --Custodial assistance from weekly cleaning after groups to detailed, deep cleaning and laundering bedding
- --Volunteers to create/make Camp Mennoscah tee shirt quilt (We'll provide the tee shirts!)
- --Many more we have temporarily forgotten

A big thank you for helping with our Wish List! We appreciate everything you have given us this year. In Here are items we need to make next year easier. See additional items, information and links for these items on our website at <u>campmennoscah.org/wish-list/</u>

- -- Perplexus game \$16.98
- -- Wall Mounted File Holder Organizer \$19.79
- -- HDMI to VGA Adapter Converter \$7.59
- -- Dakota Alert Hand Held Walkie-talkie \$84.99
- -- KitchenAid stand mixer \$219.00
- -- Rainbow Color Friendship Bracelets Floss \$12.77
- -- <u>3/4-Inch by 25-Yard Hook Tape, Black</u> \$38.76
- -- Copy paper 8.5 x 11 1 5000 Sheets \$35.73
- -- 16 oz Rubber Mallet w/Fiberglass Handle \$12.49
- -- First-class postage stamps
- -- Twin sheet sets, white
- -- Queen sheet set (1-2), white
- -- Standard pillow cases, white



Space available for your next meeting, gathering or spring escape. Check us out!

December 7-9 December 14-16 December 21-23	Bluestem, Retreat Center, Mai Bluestem, Retreat Center Bluestem, Retreat Center, Mai	akdavs	available too!	* ****
December 28-30	Bluestem, Main Camp			
**	January 4-6	Bluestem, Retreat Center, M	ain Camp	
January 11		Bluestem, Retreat Center, M	ain Camp	
*	January 18-20	Bluestem, Main Camp	-	it's
January 25-27		Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp		· }
Summer dates fil	ling fast.	February 1-3 February 8-10	Main Camp Bluestem Ma	ain Camp

Summer dates filling fast. Contact us office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290 and schedule your event now!



February 8-10BluestenFebruary 15-17BluestenFebruary 22-24Retreat (

Main Camp Bluestem, Main Camp Bluestem, Main Camp Retreat Center, Main Camp

www.campmennoscah.org

Camp Mennoscah

🔧 🐅 Dedicated Camp Family: Kauffmans 👾 🦄 🗛 🖓 By Olivia Bartel

"Everybody needs Jesus and friends." --Shellev Kauffman

The Kauffman family has long been coming to Camp Mennoscah. Dan and Shelley, as well as their adult children Kayla, Keri, and Jeff, have spent many years attending church retreats, coming to summer youth camps, and volunteering. Dan first remembers coming

to camp in 1977 for a family reunion. Shelley remembers her first visit being a church retreat in the early 1990s, and the three kids started attending

summer youth camps as they became old enough. Kayla has been a counselor, and both Keri and Jeff have been counselors and on summer staff for multiple years. Dan and Shellev are dedicated

church retreat attendees, as well as coming to Women & Girls and Men & Boys Retreats.

The family continues to come to Camp Mennoscah, as Keri puts it, because of "love, relationships, faith, trust, acceptance, [and] hope." The rest of the family may phrase it differently, but their answers all circle back to

these themes. They talk about camp being a safe and welcoming place to love people who are both like us and not like us, and a place where you don't have to pretend to be someone else in order to be liked. It's a place where relationships with God Our Creator and with each other can be strengthened.

Camp Mennoscah is also a very special place to the Kauffmans because Kayla, Keri, and Jeff were all baptized in the Ninnescah River.

> Their hopes for the future of Camp Mennoscah are that it continues to be a place where kids can get away from regular routines (and their cell phones!), a place where brokenness is accepted,

and where Christ can be encountered in a very real way. Evening worship music and singing have been a sacred times for Kayla, Keri, and Jeff with other highlights including meal time goofiness and the food.

Spikeball, Jeff says, there is also Spikeball at Camp Mennoscah.

Summer Staff Openings - APPLY NOW!

For all you spiffy folks interested in being a full-summer staffer at Camp Mennoscah, the time to apply is NOW! Grab your quick-typing fingers and fill out an application at campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps. This application is for the positions of music, nature, office, crafts, lifeguard, and grounds. (Counselors and cooks, we'll be in touch later.) We are looking for fun and caring staffers filled with God's love for others! These positions receive a stipend, as well as meals and lodging.

Camp Mennoscah has the best staff! By Michael Unruh, Executive Director

Seventy years of camping ministry would not be possible without the good work and dedicated people who offer their gifts to serve as year-long staff. I've had the privilege to join these wonderful people for the last 2 years!

Olivia Bartel, Camp Director - In 2018, we're celebrating Olivia's 10 years of service to Camp Mennoscah! If you have been even the slightest bit involved with camp over the last decade, then you know about Olivia's passion for camping ministry, selflessness in her work, capacity for building strong relationships, and dedication to serve camp and all who spend time here.

Gardell Stucky, Facilities Director - Gardell has been serving as facilities director at Camp Mennoscah for 5 years! Gardell has brought the positivity, flexibility, and humor needed for a camp facilities director, and his heart for people has created and maintained strong relationships with volunteers and other friends of Camp Mennoscah.

Deborah Dimmick, Office Assistant - Deborah has been sharing her skills in the office at Camp Mennoscah for 3 years. Deborah designs many of camp's publications, manages rental group reservations, summer camp registrations and provides other needed administrative support. Her friendly personality and thoughtfulness shine through in her work.

Amy Wedel, Regular Volunteer - After serving as a long-term volunteer in 2016 -17, Amy continues maintain Camp Mennoscah's online presence through social media and the camp website, which she helped redesign. We've been blessed by Amy's passion for Camp Mennoscah and ability to connect with a wide variety of people.











Camp Mennoscah

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Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts this holiday season.





Support Camp through rewards programs!

As a friend of Camp Mennoscah, you can support the mission of camp by continuing activities that you are already doing! All it takes is some brief setup and a your purchases through Dillon's, Amazon, Best Choice, and Everence MyNeighbor will translate into donations to Camp Mennoscah.

Do you buy groceries at Dillon's or another Kroger affiliate?

Register online for Community Rewards! Visit your affiliate website (in Kansas, go to

www.dillons.com/communityrewards), sign in or create an online account, go to the account summary page, click "Enroll" underneath Community Rewards, type VL183 into the search bar, select Camp Mennoscah, and click "Enroll." A percentage of the amount of your purchases will be sent to camp!



Do you buy Best Choice brand groceries? Cut out the UPC barcode from the packaging and send them to Camp Mennoscah; camp receives 3¢ for each label!

Mennonite Camping Association

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Do you shop online at Amazon?

Check out Amazon Smile!

Visit smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4858198 create or login to your Amazon account, and purchase your items. Every time you purchase something from Amazon make sure you're at smile.amazon.com, and Amazon donates .5% of the price of each purchase to camp!

Do you use a credit card for purchases?

Consider applying for the Everence MyNeighbor credit card by calling (800) 451-5719 or visiting everence.com/MyNeighbor. When you select Camp Mennoscah as the recipient, Everence donates 1.5% of each transaction amount to camp!



www.campmennoscah.org



Carol Eck

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November 1, 2017-October 31, 2018



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In Memory of Maddox Lee Crabtree Virgil and Vernell Kaufman Family Trust Vernell Kaufman Memorial

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Now that the new Whale playground and new main camp kitchen have been completed, dedicated, and are in full use, you may be wondering...what's camp going to work on next?

We still have a vision to renovate the dining hall facility, and here is a short description of what is planned:

- •Complete interior of dining hall welcome area
- •Incorporate breezeway space into dining hall
- •Install insulation, sound dampening material, additional lighting
- •Replace windows
- •Install HVAC ducts/equipment
- •Smooth/polish concrete floor
- •New tables & chairs

The scope and budget of this project have grown since kitchen renovations began, and we will share updates on the project's total cost as soon as they become available.

We look forward to working toward this vision!