



Happiest of Happy Plans for 2021 By Olivia Bartel



I'm weary of talking about COVID-19. I'm tired of being flexible and dealing with uncertainty. But I am thrilled and overjoyed to tell you Camp Mennoscah is planning on summer youth camps and retreats in 2021!

Camps and retreats may look somewhat different and everyone will have to continue to be flexible, blast it all, but something camp-like is going to happen. (See footnote.*) There will be some typical camp activities, some adjusted events, and some parts of camp that are quite different than usual. There will probably be a lot of mask wearing. Whatever camp looks like, Camp Mennoscah will hold tight to our mission to live as God's people of healing and hope while we love, build relationships and follow Jesus Christ.

We don't know everything yet. Plans are being made based on what is known now. We will keep you updated as additional information becomes available. In the coming months, there will be more discussions with the local health department, lots of listening to what other camps are doing to keep everyone safe, and figuring out the best balance of fun and safety.

You may have questions. That's great! We do, too. Ask and we'll answer. The answer may be "we don't know" or "we think..." or "whoa, we didn't consider that." All the questions will help Camp Mennoscah create the best COVID-19 impacted year of camp possible.

Everything is running a bit behind and registration will not be up until January or February of 2021. The happiest thing is we're planning to see you back at Camp Mennoscah soon. It's a happy day!



*Camp Mennoscah follows guidelines from government agencies. If government agencies do not allow summer youth camps/retreats or a situation arises that is deemed unsafe, Camp Mennoscah will revisit the decision to have summer youth camps and retreats.







Not even a pandemic could stop our dedicated scrapbookers and crafters from gathering at camp. The last camp crop

in March happened about a week before everything started shutting down. So much had changed in the world. But our faithful leader, Renetta Gooden, along with Olivia and Gardell, created a safe space to get away and create.

Numbers of participants were reduced to allow for each one to have their own room and bathroom in the retreat center. Work spaces were spread apart at least 6 feet in the dining hall, still close enough to share and laugh together through our masks. And as always, Sharon and Eileen fed us well morning to night.

Beautiful fall colors, crisp fall air, sounds of the river, and God's creation wrapped around those of us who were lucky enough to be back at camp for a few short days. Spring camp crops are on the calendar and would be a great way to escape to camp after a long winter of

hibernation and social distancing. Join us for a safe and fun experience!





Michelle Shima

(Southern Hills Mennonite) I fondly remember attending Camp Mennoscah as a youth. The friendships and connections I made, all while deepening my faith, were amazing. The same experience occurred decades later when my children attended. So when I was asked to serve on the board, I knew it was something that

I wanted to devote time and energy to. I want to make it possible for youth to continue to experience what I and so many others have



experienced; the power of God through nature and friendships.



Meet Our New Board Members!

Scott Litwiller

(Lorraine Avenue Mennonite) I am currently one of the pastors at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, KS. I spent some time overseas in Colombia with Mennonite Mission Network

and was the Program Director at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, IL for two years. I did not grow up attending



camp, but quickly fell in love with the camp experience and pace of life. I especially loved seeing folks come out to the camp and breathe a deep sigh of relief to be in one of their favorite spaces where they felt God's presence in profound ways. I'm grateful to be able to give back to the camping community by serving on Mennoscah's board.

Eric Schrag

(Alexanderwohl Mennonite) I am pleased to begin service on the Camp Mennoscah board of directors. Camp Mennoscah has been an extremely influential part of my life; not just in the ways that it provided me with tremendous faith formation, connections to the land, and life long friends but it taught me the value of authenticity.

Why Camp Mennoscah? Camp gave me courage. It gave me strength. It gave me support. It gave me life long friendships. I am honored to be

a part of this legacy and give back in some small way as a member of the board others have experienced; the power of God through nature and friendships.





www.campmennoscah.org

Camp Mennoscah

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Rejoice With Baptism at Camp Mennoscah!

At Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church we celebrate baptisms with faith testimonials that are shared with the deacons and the larger congregation. There are few things that are referenced more as life changing and faith transforming experiences than Camp Mennoscah.

The last weekend in September Alexanderwohl took our COVID precautions



to camp to hold our bi-annual retreat. This year's retreat was different, yet just as powerful and life giving as prior years. We could not cook in the dining hall. We could not stay in the cabins or the retreat

center, but we could join together in socially distanced worship on this holy ground.

Lizzie Schmucker, a high school member of our congregation had completed faith formation earlier in the year and wished to be baptized in the Ninnescah River at Camp Mennoscah.





Camp has been a very important part of Lizzie's life, and faith journey. "Camp Mennoscah has always been a meaningful place for me. It was extra special to be baptized at Camp and share this special place and special time with my church family." We were afraid with the COVID pandemic that this baptism might not be

a reality, but with

support from camp we made it work. On a cool, overcast, drizzly Sunday morning Lizzie was baptized in the Ninnescah River at our Church retreat by Pastor Caleb Yoder and Associate Pastor Lois Harder.



For those who have not had church retreats at camp it is an experience that Alexanderwohl would highly recommend. There is something about being away from

our everyday areas and being together. There is something about being near nature and away from noise that helps one commune with the spirit in ways that we otherwise cannot.



Thank you for the many ways that you support camp and help to make experiences like this a reality for everyone.



Apply for Summer Staff 2021

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What rejoicing and what a year! Camp Mennoscah is now looking for Summer Staff 2021! Though there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of a pandemic-impacted summer, the summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and media/ all-round. Applicants should be 18 years old and older. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support position. Go to <u>campmennoscah.org</u> for more information and to apply!

*The 2021 summer camp season may vary from the current plan due to safety considerations surrounding the pandemic.









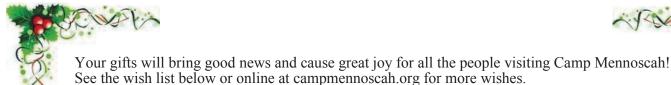
Camp Mennoscah

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But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:10, New International Version



ennoscah!

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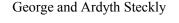
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By Renetta Gooden, President, Board of Directors

Tis the season of anticipation and preparation! It's December, so you may think I'm talking about the Christmas season. Advent is about looking forward to something greater to come. At Camp Mennoscah, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we too are looking forward.

First, we are actively preparing for the 2021 Camping season. Instead of sugarplums dancing, we're envisioning campers singing. Reopening, as you can imagine, requires extra safety precautions and measures as outlined by the various agencies.

The pandemic may change *how* we do camp, but it does not change why we do camp!

Second, we are preparing to fill two vacant staff positions; Facilities Director and Development Director. The upcoming camping season will require a full staff to ensure we have the time and financial resources to provide a meaningful camper experience amidst new protocols.

We look forward to the new ideas and energy these individuals will bring to our current team of dedicated staff.

Third, we look forward to continuing our facilities improvement projects. We appreciate our dedicated volunteers who come to work, safely distanced, on various projects like the dining hall entrance, trail bridge and amphitheater.

Many hands make the load light. We look forward to having you back on campgrounds soon.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them", Matthew 18:20 NIV.

Advent, Camp Mennoscah style, is knowing Christ is with us whether we are 2, 20 or 120! We will follow where God leads and look forward to the day with great anticipation, when you are led back down the red dirt road where we will welcome you with open arms (socially distanced style), and in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for

