



Fearless Faith

By Olivia Bartel

We talk a lot about Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit at Camp Mennoscah. Obviously, right? We're a Christian camp and we want to help people meet Jesus at Camp Mennoscah whether in nature, in others, or by finding a connection to God within themselves. So, each summer we have a theme that reflects this. We've talked about Powering Up with the Holy Spirit. We Got Real and found our true selves in Jesus. We've seen what God is doing with All Things New.

The themes tend to run together, as one summer staffer said. It's all Jesus, all the time. (Which is not a bad thing, but it is sometimes hard to remember which year is which.) This year we're stretching ourselves. We're looking at how we build Community through God. We're having Fearless Faith and learning about courage within our faith community. There's the courage to show up, to trust, to forgive, to stand together, to do justice, to change and the courage to connect, I think this theme is great. Faith is big and scary, and this theme of being courageous starts fitting all those overwhelming parts into a manageable shape. We can do this together. As the family of God, we can meet the challenges of being a community called to share and show God's love.

We're big on community at camp, so talking about all these courages will only reinforce what we are trying to do at Camp Mennoscah. Each little bit of faithful courage shown throughout the camp week will be one little bit closer to reaching that place of liminal space—that space where change happens. And that change into who we are as God's fearless people is why we do camp.



Bath House Update

By Jim Yoder

The bath house project is progressing. A big Thanks to the volunteers that have participated. The buildings are complete, the septic systems are in place and plumbing is in full swing with installation of new water lines and interior work.

Partitions are about 80% installed. Light fixtures still need to be installed. Our goal is to have the bathhouses operational by March 15 .



Thanks for your support!

Camp Mennoscah Welcomes Jerry Kroeker

By Valerie Klaassen

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Jerry Kroeker as the next executive director of Camp Mennoscah. He brings a passion for sharing the love of Jesus through the camping experience. His experience over the past 19 years at Swan Lake Christian Camp positions him well to guide Camp Mennoscah along the next steps to provide a place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God.



Jerry began in a part time capacity on February 1. He will continue to provide leadership at Swan Lake through the coming youth summer camping season after which he will devote the majority of his time to Camp Mennoscah. Jerry is grateful for this opportunity and looks forward to reconnecting with so many friends within the Western District Conference.

Jerry joins the current staff; Olivia, Gardell and Deborah. They will continue their responsibilities and will be integral to a successful transition process.

The board is grateful to John Stoesz for his leadership over the past year and a half and wish him well as he pursues Indigenous Justice work.



Valiant Volunteers: Kelly Stucky

By Patrick Loganbill

Kelly Stucky has been directing Senior High Youth Camp for the past 17 years. He is tasked with a difficult job that he does wonderfully. One thing that is always difficult is finding enough counselors. Due to the large number of campers each year at senior high more counselors are needed than at any other camp.

When Kelly first began directing, the numbers for Senior High camp were in the 40s. In the last five years that number has been over 100! That alone is a testament to how well this camp runs with Kelly at the helm.

Another difficult task is meeting each camper wherever they are on their faith walk. Even though there are

hundreds of campers, Kelly does his best to engage each one with faith questions and challenges. This is not easy task as many high schoolers come from different faith backgrounds and upbringings. Still Kelly works hard to provide insightful lessons to all who attend.



We are so thankful for Kelly and his willingness to guide youth on their own path to Jesus and the love he has for all of us.

Thank you, Kelly!

Power Line Going Up North of Camp

By John Stoesz and Olivia Bartel

Renewable energy is moving close to Camp Mennoscah this spring. NextEra Energy is constructing a transmission line 340 feet from Camp Mennoscah's north property line. The power line will carry energy from a wind farm in Pratt County to a relay station near Colwich.

The initial proposal called for the poles to be just 75 feet north of Camp. While not objecting to wind energy,

members of the Camp board and staff met with representatives of NextEra Energy several times to request that the transmission line be moved at least 500 feet north of the Camp property line. While the result is not what we requested, it is about two-thirds of our request (340 feet is 68 percent of 500 feet).

The poles will be 80-100 feet tall and will be visible from camp grounds. However, moving the poles farther north will reduce their visibility and any possible humming noise that might be heard from Camp. Construction is expected to be completed by June.



*2016 Retirees Relaxation Retreat
Mennonites in Early Kansas
April 25-27, 2016*



Register online at campmennoscah.org, with the registration form in 2016 Summer Catalog, or the form available at your church. Questions about the Retreat? Call 620-297-3014.

Working Together – Partnership with Everence offers Planned Giving Options

By John Stoesz

We are pleased to announce that Camp Mennoscah has a partnership with Everence Charitable Services. Through this partnership, your generosity can help Camp Mennoscah through the powerful tools of planned giving. Among the benefits, gift plans offer a way to increase your impact, carry out your charitable wishes, and receive possible tax advantages.

Cash is a common gift, but you can also donate many other assets, sometimes with significant tax advantages.

These include real estate, farm commodities, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, IRAs and other retirement accounts.

Please contact Mitch Stutzman (Charitable Services Representative) at Everence at 877-467-7294 (toll free) or mitch.stutzman@everence.com to discuss the options and perhaps set up an appointment.

Thank you for your interest.



Klaassen Estate benefits Kitchen Renovations

By John Stoesz

In January Camp Mennoscah was thrilled to receive a wonderful gift of more than \$34,000 from the estate of Melvin and Donna Klaassen. The contribution was designated for kitchen renovations and honored the love that the Klaassens had for Camp.

Melvin and Donna were Work and Play camp and Retirees Retreat attendees for many years and enjoyed the wonderful friendships they had with people they met at Camp. They teamed up with others to work on the Retreat Center, driving frequently from Whitewater to Camp to stain baseboard, paint walls, and do whatever was needed to help with this important addition to the camp in the 1990s. Melvin continued to enjoy assisting



with projects at camp until his final trip for Work and Play camp in the fall of 2014.

A big thank you to Melvin and Donna!

You are missed – but your legacy lives on.

Wish List!



Camp Mennoscah has an ongoing wish list of things that we think would make camp more fun and better. We can't think of a situation where we would turn down toilet paper, paper towels or advanced strength duct tape, but if you totally swamp us with your generosity, we'll let you know. Shop local if you can or sign up for AmazonSmile.com

to give back to Camp Mennoscah with any purchases you make through AmazonSmile.com. Find Camp Mennoscah Wish List (office@campmennoscah.org) in the Lists menu at AmazonSmile.com.

10 mil plastic sheeting for slip-n-slide--\$139.10 for 100'

Fischer-Price booster seats (2)--\$26.06 each

Sturdy camera tripod--\$52.96

10 Rubbermaid containers with lids (~20-25 gallons or 20"x30")~\$10 each

Breakaway lanyards--\$30 for 100 or single lanyard ~\$1

Laminating pouches (8 1/2 x 11)--\$21.99 for 200 pouches (special price)

Power drill batteries 19.2 volt Diehard Lithium-ion #130211022--\$79.99/pk of 2

Volley Ball Net 32' X 3'--\$20-25

Volley Balls (3)--12.99 each

**Thank you for
your support!**





Camp Mennoscah

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CHRIST IS RISEN



He has risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Kitchen/Dining Hall Renovation



2015

Fund-Raising Meal

Saturday, April 23 at 5:30 PM
Camp Mennoscah Dining Hall



1961

We'll enjoy musical entertainment and a meal served by the Board of Directors of favorite camp foods (Salisbury steak, creamed potatoes, lettuce salad, raspberry salad, green beans and cream puffs). Preview the renovation plans and meet our new Executive Director, Jerry Kroeker!

Suggested minimum donation
\$25 for adults and \$10 for children
PLEASE RSVP to office@campmennoscah.org
or Deborah at (620) 297-3014 by April 15!



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Mennonite
Camping
Association



www.campmennoscah.org

