

**FREE weekend at Bluestem House!**  
See page 2 for details!



# Ninnescan News

## *Simplicity and Relationships Lead To Transformation*

By Clayton Gladish

Three years ago I was asked to be the input speaker for the Junior High 1 Camp. As someone who had never been to a church camp growing up, let alone experienced the unique camping experience of Camp Mennoscah, I wasn't sure what to expect. Needless to say, the first year was like a crash-course...and I keep coming back for more!

One of the most profound things I experience each year is seeing the youth connect with God and each other. Walls come down as distractions are stripped away and opportunities for connection are created. They respond to each other with encouragement and compassion, they engage in worship and spiritual practices, and they ask amazing questions. God is surely moving among them.

The thing that always surprises me about the junior high age group is the creative energy they bring. I like to leverage this by getting the youth involved in the input time through activities, dramas, and even some spiritual practices. I know I'm supposed to be there to teach them, but in the years I've been doing this I have come away with new insights as we

experience the ancient Bible stories together through their youthful eyes. I love seeing and hearing them come up with creative ways to live out their faith!



I don't think I can say it's any one thing that does it but I know they are building up a faith in God of their own. If I had to narrow it down though, I would say that the greatness of the Mennoscah experience is in the simplicity. It's not about flashiness, it's about relationships, about learning from each other, and about providing a space to meet God anew. The genuine care and love of summer staff, cabin leaders, directors, and volunteers is what, I believe, makes transformation possible. And the down-to-earth experience of worship, play, and nature helps us truly tune in to what God is doing in and around us.

### *Camp Wish List*

The items on our wish list will keep you happily in your "camp zone" whether that's relaxing under the shelter or splashing through the river. We added most of the items to our Amazon wish list (search for office@campmennoscah.org) so you can see more details. We encourage you to shop local!

- ◆ [Performance Tool W85011 Pneumatic Swivel Bar Stool](#) for the kitchen (about \$45 each, 7 total)
- ◆ [Kitchen wall clock \(12"\)](#) for new kitchen (\$14 each, need 2)
- ◆ [1 lb. Rubber Mallet Fiberglass handle](#) \$6.99
- ◆ [PaperPro 1800 Nano Mini Stapler](#) (5 or 6)
- ◆ [1000Pcs Metal Black safety Pins/Gourd Pin/Bulb Pin For Clothing Crafting and DIY,Black](#)
- ◆ [Mr. Clean 442446 Counter Brush](#) (one for each of our 10 cabins and then some)
- ◆ [Rubbermaid Commercial Heavy-Duty Dustpan, 12-1/4" W, Polypropylene, Charcoal](#) (one for each of our 10 cabins and then some)

*Thank you for the many gifts we have already received!*

## Valiant Volunteer: K. John Klaassen

By Willmar T. Harder

K. John Klaassen, who farms near Whitewater, has a pretty high view of Camp Mennoscah. Sure, he believes in its mission, but he has also been on almost every roof at camp. While this might get a camper in trouble, in John's case we thank him greatly! John has applied his passion for volunteerism, which he learned from his parents, to numerous camp projects. He enjoys construction and Camp Mennoscah offers the opportunity to use his gifts to help many have good camp experiences. Roofing the Buffalo Room addition



in 1995 is his first memory of helping at camp. After a major hailstorm in 2010 damaged most of the Camp Mennoscah roofs, John helped re-roof many of them.

In 2017 he hatched the creative idea to construct "Sandbar" (the newest boys' cabin) in the fellowship hall of Grace Hill Mennonite Church, where he and his wife Valerie are members. Building at the church increased the involvement of people who had not or could not help on-site at camp. John first attended Camp Mennoscah in the 1960's with his father, and to this day he enjoys walking down to the river and observing its movement, both in the moment and from season-to-season. John and Valerie's children have attended and counseled at summer camps, and John hopes that Camp Mennoscah will continue to faithfully connect many kids, church groups, and others to God's goodness as experienced in camp's natural beauty. His next project? As soon the funds are raised for the Dining Hall renovation, he will be there lending his gifts.

A big "THANK YOU" to John for helping make the ministry of Camp Mennoscah a success!

## Recurring Online Donations Benefit Both You and Camp

The faith growth that takes place at Camp Mennoscah would not be possible without the financial support of those who believe in the importance of camp. With online Giving becoming increasingly common, we have added a new option for donors to easily set up recurring donations to Camp Mennoscah. Regular donations to camp have benefits for everyone involved! Here are several:



By creating a little room for a recurring donation to Camp Mennoscah, I assure you that the effects of your donation will last much longer than the caffeine burst from a cup of coffee! If this option would suit you, please consider giving in this way.

And, if you commit to an **online monthly gift of \$20 or more** before June 10, you will be entered into a drawing for a **FREE overnight in Bluestem House** for up to 20 guests! Here's how to enter:

1. Visit our **NEW website**, [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org), and click "Donate Here!" at the top.
2. Enter your donation amount (\$20 or more for the drawing), selecting either Bank Account or Credit/Debit at the bottom. (Bank Account has lower fees for us.)
3. Click the slider next to "Setup automated giving?" and choose your frequency.
4. Cover the fees if you would like, and click "Give!"

### Benefits to You

- Your recurring donation can plug into your monthly budget
- Donation is spread out over time, potentially increasing your impact
- It's automatic: you don't have to worry about forgetting to give!

### Benefits to Camp

- Your donation is a predictable source of Monthly income
- Giving online reduces camp's administrative costs
- You, as the donor, have the option to cover processing fees

You might be asking, "How can I fit this into my budget?" Something as simple as cutting back your coffee by only one or two drinks per month can work.



## New Camp Kitchen Dedicated and Open for Use

By Michael Unruh

After several years of anticipation, nearly two years of construction, and hundreds of hours of labor and volunteering, the renovated Camp Menno'scah kitchen was dedicated on Sunday, April 22! About sixty people



gathered in the dining hall that afternoon to celebrate this milestone with camp staff and the board of directors, and over the weekend, the new kitchen space was used for the very first time during Men and

Boys Retreat. The equipment is new, the configuration is new, and we have been learning so much about how the new kitchen will function well to serve our cooks, campers, and guest groups!

Arriving at this point could not have been possible without the physical gifts of our volunteers, the financial gifts of our donors, or the prayers of our supporting congregations, families, and individuals. Here are some quick numbers to put into perspective the scope of this work:

- Thousands of prayers!
- 64 volunteers, 745 volunteer hours!
- 160 donors, 230 single donations, from \$1.50 to over \$50,000!

While we have come this far, we're also not finished yet! We are still in need of approximately \$215,000 to take on the completion of the welcome center and dining hall phase of the project. Please consider making a donation to renew these spaces of gathering and fellowship!



## 2018 Summer Staff likes...

"...dancing because it is my favorite way to express myself and is a super fun way to stay active ..."

-Hannah Unruh, Lifeguard/Media



"...peanut butter because it is a versatile and delicious food item."

-Roxy Gehring, Music



"...being a barista because I enjoy making coffee and having connections with customers."

-Addie Regier Music/Office



"...Star Wars because Sci-fi fantasy adventure are amazing and John Williams (writer of the sound track) knows how to make a beat!"

-Jeff Kaufman, Grounds/Maintenance

"...sweating because it is better than being cold."

-Lizzie Schrag, Naturalist



"...sunflowers because they remind me of home and always lean towards the sun. Plus yellow is one of my favorite colors."

-Carley Sullivan, Crafts



"...pudgy cats because they're soft, and you can roll them on the ground or in a blanket and make a purrito."

Sarah Booth, Office Assistant



"...hats because it either, hides my hair because it is a complete and disgraceful mess or hats can be good conversation starters."

-Justin Schroeder, Lifeguard/Maintenance



"...thrift shopping because it is a good way to save money, find unique pieces, and support a good cause."

-Anna Lubbers, Lifeguard



Anniversary T-Shirt design



## Camp Mennoscah

PO Box 65  
9458 SE 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Murdock, KS 67111

**Go Green!**  
Contact us at  
[office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org)  
to receive the newsletter  
by email!

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 867  
Newton, KS

*Camp Mennoscah has **dates available** for your next meeting, retreat or gathering!*

**June 8-10** Retreat Center  
**June 15-17** Bluestem

**July 6-8** Main Camp  
**July 13-14** Bluestem

**July 20-22** Main Camp, Retreat Center, Bluestem  
**July 27-29** Main Camp, Retreat Center, Bluestem

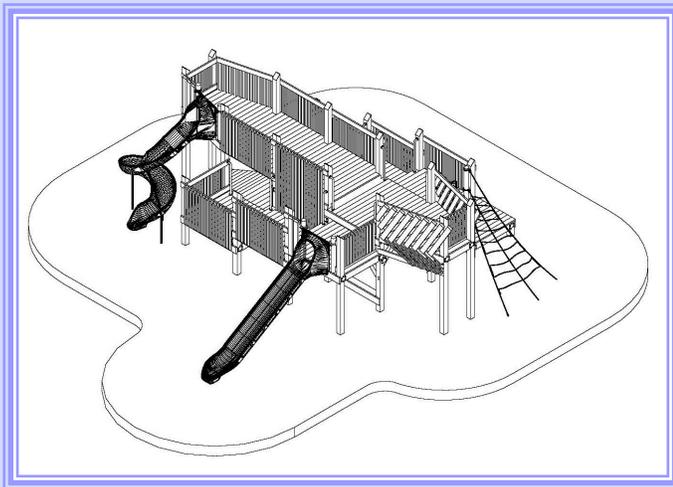
**August 3-5** Retreat Center  
**August 10-12** Retreat Center  
**August 17-19** Bluestem

**August 24-26** Main Camp, Retreat Center  
**August 31-September 2** Main Camp, Bluestem

**September 7-9** Bluestem  
**September 14-16** Main Camp, Bluestem

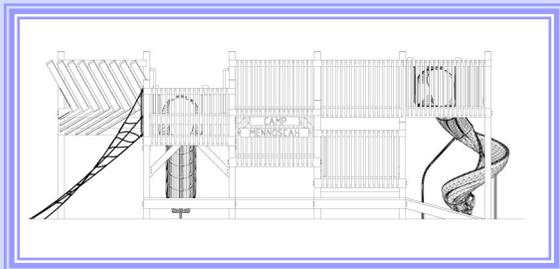
Contact us and schedule your event now!  
[office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) or 620-297-3290

## Whale Construction Underway



Yes, it's happening! By the time you read this article, we expect that most of the work on the new Whale playground will be complete!

Pictured here are final drawings of the new design, which were a collaboration between architect Aaron Dyck (a former summer staffer) of Manhattan and structural engineer Brandon Fuqua of Hutchinson. We're thankful for all the time they put into the design.



We also thank Jordan Miller of First Mennonite, Newton, for agreeing to lead the construction, as well as the many volunteers who have worked and will work on the project until it's complete. We can't wait to use it once it's finished, and we know that the many children and youth coming to camp this summer will be excited, too!



[www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org)

