



Phone Free and Loving It?

By Jill Litwiller

For parents, screen time has become a hot topic. In the majority of families, kids spend more waking hours with a screen than doing any other activity. It's the primary way our kids communicate with us, with friends, and with the rest of the world. Since so much of today's communication is not face to face, camp experiences are even more important. When kids are at camp, it's all face to face. It's all interpersonal, all the time. They can't get an instant message or any "likes" without human interaction. They have to relearn the art of a screen-less life, if only for a week.

In a 2014 study done by Common Sense Media, preteens who spent just 5 days at a sleepaway camp in nature without access to screens greatly improved their understanding of real-world interpersonal communication cues. The campers improved in eye contact, reading facial expressions, and interpreting tone of voice and posture. Going device-free in a camp setting encourages campers to be present, learn new skills, and manage themselves better.

As a camper mom and a camp nurse, I've never seen a camper or counselor resist or regret giving up their phone to come to Camp Mennoscah. They gladly trade YouTube videos for crazy "scraper" skits and Instagram likes for favorite camp songs. And in our world of instant email and text, every kid at camp still values good old-fashioned letters and packages more than they would ever let on back home (even if they have to sing for them).

So when we help our kids pack for camp this summer, don't forget the sunscreen and river shoes, but leave the screens at home. I promise they won't miss it.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mennoscah



Men and Boys Retreat, April 3-5
Refresh and Renew at the Retirees Retreat, April 20-22
Work and Play Days, April 25 and May 3
NEW EVENT—MennoDash May 30

Register online at campmennoscah.org or call to register by mail 620-297-3290.

Dining Hall Continues Transformation!

Over the winter, the next step of the dining hall renovation has been taking place. This means doors for the new storage area, and new windows and doors for the whole dining hall. Enjoy these pictures of the progress!



New Dining Hall storage room doors.



New double-door entrance to Dining Hall from west porch.



New Dining Hall west windows.



We have facilities available for your next meeting, gathering or retreat.

Weekdays available too!

March 13-15 Bluestem, Retreat Center
March 20-22 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp
March 27-29 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp

April 3-5 Bluestem, Retreat Center
April 10-12 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp
April 17-19 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp
April 24-26 Bluestem, Retreat Center

Contact us at
office@campmennoscah.org
 or 620-297-3290
 and schedule your event!

May 1-3 Bluestem, Retreat Center
May 8-10 Bluestem, Retreat Center
May 15-17 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp
May 22-24 Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp
May 29-31 Bluestem, Retreat Center





Krehbiel's Love for Nature and Birds Shown in Memorial Gift to Camp

By Michael Unruh

Growing up with a mom experienced in trapping and fishing and a father who grew crops and livestock, Randy Krehbiel learned to love and respect nature at an early age. His particular interest in birds goes back to his first grade teacher, Roy Henry, who used to take all ten kids from his one-room schoolhouse out on birding field trips. Randy once won a bird book for being able to identify the most birds on one of the hikes!

He shared his deep love for nature and the outdoors with his wife Myrna, sons Aaron and Matthew, and granddaughters Ari, Mae, and Ruby. Randy, Myrna, Aaron, and Matthew attended Family Camp at Camp Mennoscah every year until about the time the sons were in high school. Later, Matthew would be baptized in the Ninnescah River at camp and spend several summers as a lifeguard and naturalist on Camp



Mennoscah Summer Staff. Aaron's daughters have come to Camp Mennoscah from Madison, Wisconsin, as campers as long as they have been old enough to attend.

As a fitting testament to his love for nature and birds, the afternoon before Randy died, several species of birds arrived at the bird feeder outside his window, and in a greater number than usual, including a cardinal. For Myrna, the presence of these birds on that day, especially the cardinal, have been a reminder of God's love and presence.

To remember Randy's affinity for nature, especially birds, memorial gifts are providing materials for constructing several different bird nesting boxes around Camp Mennoscah grounds.



New Camp Mennoscah Board Members:

Julia Miller and Bonnie Swenson

Julia Miller is Director of Choirs at Andover Central High School and a member of Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, of South Central Conference. She has been involved in summer youth camps as a camper, counselor, and summer staffer. In addition, Julia has been a consistent volunteer and donor over the last several years. Julia is especially interested in engaging young adults to continue their camp involvement beyond high school through volunteering and financial giving as they are able. By doing so, Julia hopes to help camp maintain these relationships and strengthen support for Camp



Mennoscah. Julia's energy and ability to connect with people of all ages will be an asset to the Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors. Welcome to the Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors, Julia!

Bonnie Swenson is a Certified Insurance Service Agent at ProValue Insurance Agency in Hutchinson and a member of First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson, of Western District Conference. Bonnie enjoys working with youth and young adults, having served on the



support committee of the Hutchinson Mennonite Voluntary Service unit and at Camp Mennoscah. She has been a summer youth camp volunteer, cooking in the kitchen for several summers, and more recently caring for her twin grandchildren so that her daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Adam Robb, can continue co-leading a week of summer youth camp along with Kevin Neufeld. Bonnie brings her experiences in insurance and of serving on other nonprofit boards and committees over the years. Welcome to the Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors, Bonnie!

Other Board Members:

Renetta Gooden, Pres. - Hope Mennonite
Kenzie Intemann, Vice Pres. -
Pleasant Valley Mennonite
Jill Litwiller, Sec. - Tabor Mennonite
Joan Entz, Treas. - First Mennonite, Newton



Mike Doerksen - Faith Mennonite
Isaac Entz - First Mennonite, Newton
Jon Miller - Journey Mennonite, South Hutchinson
Kevin Wilder - Whitestone Mennonite
Jim Yoder - Faith Mennonite



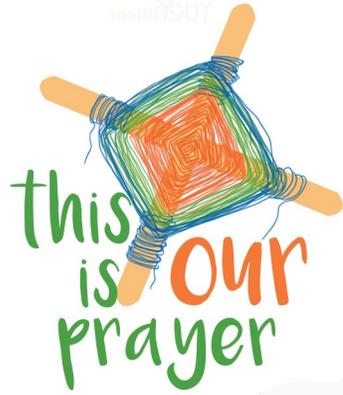
Camp Mennoscah

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9458 SE 40th St.
Murdock, KS 67111

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2020 SUMMER CAMP THEME

Campers will explore the shared longings of the human heart and all the different ways Christians have prayed throughout history. Through Bible stories and spiritual practices, they will discover a deeper connection with God and each other and grow into the beloved community of God, where everyone is invited, loved, and celebrated for who they are. This is our prayer!



Stories grow at camp! Be part of the story with a gift of one of the items below.

Bell--Our retreat attendees are busily making friends and building community--so much so they often need a gentle reminder to come to a meal or hear announcements. The bell would be used primarily in the Retreat Center. \$9.88

Spikeball Set--Highly popular with our campers, but we don't own any! Share a fun, healthy activity with campers and staff! \$59.99

Spikeball Set #2--Did you think we only needed one? No! We need several to meet the demand. This is a great game! \$59.99

Giant 4-in-a-Row--Maybe you want a quieter game than Spikeball. This oversized Connect Four-type game increases the fun by simply being larger than life. \$59.99-\$179.99

Orange cones for games and safety. 4 of the 12", 4 of the 18", and 6 (1 set) of the 28".

Sponsor a Fruit! We're looking for people to sponsor the purchase of fresh fruit for each of our eight weeks of camp for healthy campers. Using 2019 prices, one 40lb box of bananas costs \$30.35; 88 apples are \$35.46; 1 lug (box) of grapes is \$32.77; 88 oranges are 34.41.

Copier paper, white letter size (any brand)

Adjustable wire shelving for storage \$99.99

Movers dollies (two 18" x 30" dollies) Easier to move heavy things and easier on the staff.

Garden loppers (6 pairs) For trimming trees and bushes along the trails.

Hatchet (2) Another useful tool for maintaining trails, building campfires and fire for popcorn.

Check our wish list at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for other items!



Mennonite
Camping

Volunteers to help plant the prairie landscaping around the kitchen and new entry in the spring. Designed by Katie Schmidt from Dyck Arboretum!



1948 - 2018



www.campmennoscah.org



Thank You To Our 2019 Volunteers!

Accardi, Ashleigh
Anderson, Linda
Bachman, Ken
Bachman, Rachel
Baldwin, Callan
Baldwin, Jenna
Baldwin, Meagan
Banman, Darla
Banning, Mariah
Bartel, Harold
Bartel, Samuel
Bartell, Cindy
Becker, Caprice
Beth, Justin
Bitikofer, Kenan
Booth, Sarah
Bott, Natalie
Bradford, Isaac
Bradley, Ellie
Brandt, Emily
Brandt, Karina
Branstetter, Katie
Burch, Kevin
Campbell, Emma
Chamberlain, Jared
Claassen, Debbie
Claassen, Milt
Denno, Chloe
Dick, Kenzie
Doerksen, Emilie
Doerksen, Erin
Doerksen, Mike
Dudte, Sarah
Eash, William
Enns, Ashley
Enns, David
Ensz, Aaron
Ensz, Bradley
Entz, Amanda
Entz, Ethan
Entz, Isaac
Entz, Joan
Entz, Schyler
Ernt, Tatum
Ewy, Jacob
Fast, Elise
Fisher, Amie
Fisher, Lacy
Fisher, Sara
Flaming, Marilyn
Flickinger, Kyle
Ford, Kobe
Frazer, Colton
Frey, LaDeen
Friesen, Jerry
Fritzemeier, Cora
Froese, Beverly
Gaeddert, Crystal
Gaertner, Linda
Garber, Matthew
Garber, Nathan
Gehring, Roxy
Gehring, Stephanie

Gillmore, Katie
Gillmore, Marla
Gladish, Clayton
Gooden, Kendra
Gooden, Renetta
Graber, Elisabeth
Graber, Jeffrey
Griffin, Stacy
Groves, Lia
Hatch, Melodie
Hayes, Kathy
Heinrichs, Katrina
Henning, Natalie
Hesston College Soccer Team
Hiebert, Darrin
Hiebert, Karen
Horn, Jennifer
Horn, John
Horn, John David
Ingram, Emily
Jackson, Lauren
Janssen, Clairra
Jantz, Allen
Jantz, Dylan
Jantz, Joni
Jantz, Kyla
Jantz, Kylie
Jantz, Maria
Jantzen, Eric
Jantzen, Henry
Jantzen, John
Jantzen, Mark
Jolliff, Kate
Kauffman, Jeff
Kauffman, Keriann
Kaufman, Connie
Kaufman, Jacob
Kaufman, Jerod
Kaufman, Kristin
Kaufman, Laura
Kenagy, Anja
Kennell, Joshua
Klaassen, John
Klingenberg, Derek
Klingenberg, Kara
Knight, Emily
Koontz, Nathan
Krehbiel, Michelle
Kreider Eash, Esther
Kroeker, Adam
Ladwig, David
Lange, Bobby
Leary, George
Lehman, Sharon
Lofland, Brittany
Loganbill, Patrick
Losew, Jace
Lubbers, Anna
Lubbers, Janet
Lujano, Jr, Carlos
Lujano, Miguel
Martisko, Nicholas
McGillivray, Janet

Miller, Alexander
Miller, Edel
Miller, Elsa
Miller, Jacob
Miller, Jonathan
Miller, Jordan
Miller, Julia
Miller, Katrina
Miller, Martha
Miller, Noah
Miller, Noah
Miller, Rachel
Mueller, Chuck
Mueller, David
Mueller, Jesse
Mueller, Ruth
Murphy, Mitchell
Murphy, Morgan
Nepius, Jose
Neufeld, Kevin L
Norden, Katelyn
Otter, Gretchen
Otter, Lisa
Penner, Cindy
Perez, Kaleb
Powers, Adaylia
Ratzlaff, Carola
Regehr, Amanda
Regehr, Bethany
Regier, Addie
Regier, Amy
Regier, Anne C
Regier, Bryan
Regier, Eli
Regier, Jason
Regier, John A
Regier, Kenneth
Regier, Tia
Reimer, Renee
Riesen, Chris
Riesen, Kyle
Robb, Adam
Robb, Jill
Rodenberg, Ethan
Ross-Mason, Jillian
Rudeen, Seth
Rudy, Kayla
Ruggle, Valerie
Schlosser, Lynn
Schmidt, Archie
Schmidt, Joshua
Schmidt, Kaila
Schmidt, Kaitlin
Schmidt, Kristin
Schmidt, Mark
Schmidt, Mary
Schmucker, Jordan
Schmucker, Nathaniel
Schrag, Leslie
Schrag, Michelle
Schrag, Robin
Schrag, Tim L
Schrag, Wayne

Schroeder, Bonita
Schunn, Kylee
Schwabauer, Arlys
Schwartz, Tara
Scott, Lara
Shelly, Greg
Smith, Garrett
Smith, Jena
Smith, Sarah
Stompoly, Dani
St. Paul's Lutheran School
Stucky, Bethany
Stucky, Eileen
Stucky, Katherine
Stucky, Lisa
Stucky, Nancy
Stucky, Sharon
Sullivan, Carley
Suter, Frances
Swenson, Bonnie
Tatro, Brenda
Teeter, Sarah
Thode, Cristina
Thompson, Stephanie
Tipton, Olivia
Tolle, Dana
Unruh, Clinton
Unruh, Hannah
Unruh, Henry
Voth Unruh, Adam
Voth, Anna
Voth, Mike
Waltner, Mason
Weaver, Kendrick
Weber, Jacob
Wedel, Amy
Wenger, Magdalena
Wenzel, Alison
Wetzel, Holly
Wiebe, Jonathan
Wilder, Kevin
Wintermote, Aaron
Women and Girl's Retreat
Woodward, Chloe Schrock
Woodward-Breckbill, Ben
Yoder, Jim
Young, Lindsey Miller
Zerger, Linn

**Thank you for
your support!**



Joyful Givers, Happy Hearts (continued from Winter 2019 newsletter)

By Olivia Bartel

We promised you another story of youth giving generously to Camp Mennoscah. The story of joyful givers continues with the children of Beatrice Mennonite and First Mennonite in Beatrice, NE.



Sharing stories of Camp Mennoscah with children who are not old enough to attend is a theme for many churches. There, too, are numerous young people at Beatrice Mennonite and First Mennonite in Beatrice, NE, who are not quite old enough to attend summer youth camps. The two churches join together for Vacation Bible School. Their VBS offering to Camp Mennoscah was a way to get the not-quite campers excited about attending camp and a way for previous campers to share their camp stories and memories.

As a fun method for collecting VBS offerings, a camping backpack acted as their offering bucket and camp hats were used to collect gifts in Sunday School classes.

Zella Penner, who has cooked at Camp Mennoscah in the past, shared her crafty skills to decorate a bulletin board to remind the congregation of the VBS project. She went even further and brought Camp Mennoscah tee shirts for volunteers to wear.

The churches alternate between giving to a local organization and the larger community with their VBS offering. With this year's offering going to Camp Mennoscah, they considered several projects. The pole light for the Gaga pit and Whale playground was chosen since their youth love playing Gaga ball at camp. The pole light will allow campers to play in these areas after evening snack during summer camps and create a safer environment for all.



We know children are generous, as are their parents and caregivers. It is encouraging to hear your stories of giving to Camp Mennoscah and to know you are part of our camping ministry. Thank you so much!



What Happens at Camp in the Winter?

By Michael Unruh

It's pretty easy to rattle off several activities that happen at Camp Mennoscah in the summer, but a question we're often asked is, "what happens at camp in the winter?" Here are a few little snapshots to satisfy your curiosity!

• **We host groups!** Churches, quilters, scrapbookers, and family gatherings all enjoy spending time at camp during the winter months.



• **The catalog.**



Deborah works hard to create the layout, arrange text & photos, and include all the information needed to learn about Camp Mennoscah's yearly camps and retreats. She and Olivia edit and revise until the final product is sent to the presses and then on to you!

• **Online registration.**

Rather than simply "turning on" or "turning off" online registration, it is evaluated, updated, and improved in an effort to make it easier to navigate and register.

• **Summer planning.** Winter months are spent preparing curriculum, interviewing potential staff, updating training information, communicating with program directors, and thinking about how to improve the summer camp experience.



• **Maintenance.**

Gardell spends summers keeping up with immediate needs, so in the winter he maintains and organizes equipment and tools and plans for spring and summer needs. Among other tasks, he winterizes (and then un-winterizes) the pool and bathhouses, which can be a lengthy process.



• **Nature!**

Though grasses fade in color and trees drop leaves, camp is far from a dead place in the winter. Deer can be easily seen running through the woods, and bald eagles are a common sight down by the river as they majestically fly overhead.



These show only part of the picture, but it's safe to stay that camp remains an active place the whole year 'round!