



# Ninnescah News

## *Far More Than All We Can Ask Or Imagine*

By Michael Unruh

In January 2018, we as camp staff imagined that Camp Mennoscah would have campers in the summer. We expected to renovate the main camp kitchen and build a new playground. We believed that people would support camp financially and by volunteering. But in 2018, God's plans for Camp Mennoscah were bigger than ours!

A summer of **609 youth campers** exceeded our expectations and was at least a 10-year high. A senior high camp of 167 campers required additional tents and a perfect dining hall table layout to fit everyone. Other camps were fuller than usual, too! Children and youth have many options for how to spend their summer. The fact that hundreds choose a week at Mennoscah points to the powerful way the Spirit moves among people and within creation at camp.

Through several challenges and some delays, the new Whale playground and renovations to the main camp kitchen were completed, with the help of contracted labor and **over 100 volunteers between the two projects!**

The generosity of Camp Mennoscah donors reached beyond our imagination in 2018. When the year ended,

camp had exceeded its general donations goal...**by more than \$33,000!** This huge blessing reminds us that so many people care about Camp Mennoscah's ministry and are committed to sustaining its future.



So, we thank you! We invite you to celebrate with us! We invite you to dream with us about the year to come! For all these blessings, we invite you to give thanks to God, "...who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" - Eph. 3:20.

*Upcoming Events at  
Camp Mennoscah*



*Men and Boys Retreat, April 5-7*

*Refresh and Renew at the Retirees Retreat, April 22-24*

*Work and Play Days, April 27 and May 25*

*Family Weekend, June 29-30*

Register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) or give us a call at 620-297-3290.

Questions about a retreat? Call 620-297-3014.



## Regular Giving to Camp Better Than Thursday Coffee

By Jill Litwiller

How many times do we drop \$5 on a coffee or \$10 for a movie without even thinking? And we have nothing left at the bottom of the cup or after the credits roll. What if, once a month, you turned that fun money into camp money?

Last year, I wanted to start supporting Camp Mennoscah on a regular basis. I wanted to start putting my money where my heart is. But other bills would come up and life would happen and I would forget. Enter camp's online giving page through Tithe.ly! Tithe.ly is a giving page on the Camp Mennoscah website (there's also a Tithe.ly app) that can take a preset amount (that you decide) and donate it to camp on a schedule you set. Many of my bills are already paid automatically online. But giving to camp feels much better than paying my electric bill. I decided to decrease my weekly budget by \$10 and set up a \$40/month gift that goes straight to camp. And voila... a \$500 per year camp donation that my budget doesn't miss.

So, even a gift of \$5 a month would buy gaga pit balls for camp. And giving \$5 a week (just giving up your regular Thursday coffee) could buy supplies for making lanyards or friendship bracelets. Please consider joining me in supporting camp all year long. I can't think of a better way to spend \$5.



### Want to set up your own recurring gift to Camp Mennoscah?

- ◆ Visit [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) and click the "Donate Here" (in yellow) at the top of the home page.
- ◆ Select either "Bank Account" or "Credit Card" at the bottom of the giving page.
- ◆ Fill in the amount and payment information.
- ◆ Click the slider next to "set up automated giving."
- ◆ Select "Monthly" (or more frequently) and choose your preferred date.
- ◆ Select "cover the fees" option if you'd like to help camp even more!
- ◆ Click "Give," and you're all set!

You can change the amount and frequency of your gift at any time.

### Dining Hall Update



The next time you're at camp, the dining hall and welcome area will look a little different! The wall between the dining hall and Buffalo Room has been removed to open up the space as well as create a storage area for tables and chairs and HVAC. The welcome area inside the covered entrance will be completed soon, too! Here are some pictures of the progress.



*Weekdays available too!*

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

**March 15-17** Bluestem  
**March 22-24** Retreat Center, Main Camp  
**March 28-31** Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp

**April 5-7** Bluestem, Retreat Center  
**April 12-14** Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp  
**April 19-21** Bluestem, Retreat Center, Main Camp  
**April 26-28** Retreat Center

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

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



## For Krehbiels, Men & Boys Retreat Is A Family Tradition

By Michael Unruh

Each April, you can count on seeing one family at Men and Boys Retreat: The Krehbiels. Travis, his sons Jasper and Griffin, brothers Lonnie and Seth Riedel, and friends set up their tents in the picnic area, no matter the weather, as close to the river as possible. Since moving to Kansas when Travis was 8, they have attended nearly every year.



A tradition that began with Travis's father Steve, attending Men and Boys Retreat has been a time of spiritual connection through immersion in God's creation. At the age of two or three, Travis remembers seeing the Camp Mennoscah dam for the first time. "It seemed huge!" he recalled.

At one retreat, Travis and Lonnie were waiting for their dad to return from a river excursion. As dark was approaching, the temperature below 40 degrees, both boys in wet clothing, shivering and hungry, the two lit a fire that was just good enough to provide minimal

warmth and cook a fish. While it was a struggle, the brothers often reminisce about that memorable experience.

For Travis, the best part is the spiritual connection when enjoying God's majesty in nature. "Even when the fish aren't biting, you can see the beavers swim, the birds fly overhead, observe the lizards, mink, bobcats, and deer, and everything is as it is supposed to be." Being able to share this spiritual experience with family keeps the Krehbiel family coming back.



Come start or continue  
a family tradition of your own at  
Men and Boys Retreat, April 5-7!

## Dam Installation A Meaningful Ministry

By Derrick & Michelle Ramer

As the weather begins to warm and the grass and trees begin to find some green, our family looks forward to an annual event we have been a part of since moving to Newton, Kansas in 2016: putting the dam in the Ninnescah River at Camp Mennoscah. Each year we are there in the spring to put in the dam and the fall to take it out. It is a tangible way that we as a family have been able to serve Mennoscah and its ministry.



After the work is done each year, our boys have learned to look forward to the treat at the end. Olivia Bartel always has cookies to share with those who came. It is a sweet treat after there has been work and play; two things that go together quite well at Mennoscah. It is our prayer each year as

While Derrick works in the river, Michelle helps on the shore. Our boys, Dominic (age 10) and Zeke (age 8), are less focused on the work. They find themselves playing in the river, seemingly unfazed by the usually cold temperature of the water. They are especially excited when we put in the dam in the spring because they know their week at camp is soon approaching. Camp Mennoscah is one of their highlights each summer. We deeply value the role Mennoscah has in our boys' journeys with Jesus.



the dam goes in that all who will soon be coming to camp will experience the fullness of God's love; that they will know without a doubt that they are beloved children of God.

Thank you for  
your support!



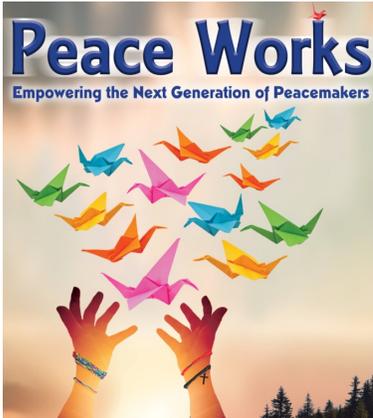


## Camp Mennoscah

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### 2019 SUMMER CAMP THEME



Peace is a blessing we share with others and a longing within each of our hearts. Scripture is filled with the stories of peace and justice and camp is the perfect place to share them. Peace isn't always easy, but it's always worth the effort, because we know that peace works!



Hooray for summer! We're looking at all the ways we can create AMAZING experiences for youth campers and all the awesome churches and family groups headed to Camp Mennoscah. Below is a "shopping cart" of goodies that we need for activities and office work. Volunteers are also needed!

Links offer options and show size/colors, etc. Items can be purchased wherever you choose. Buy items at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and set your charity of choice to Camp Mennoscah. We'll get an extra donation from Amazon! Or—hey—shop local and support your favorite store in town!

- \* Copier paper, white (any brand)
- \* [6-Grey tubs for freezer organization](#) 2/\$13.86
- \* [2-small dish drainer](#) (for plastic lid storage) \$9.82 each
- \* [Rocker blade pizza/kitchen knife](#) \$13.99 each
- \* [Cuisinart 12 pc. Kitchen knife set](#) Amazon Smile \$15.89
- \* [8 PCS Silicone Spatula/scrapers](#) 3 sets \$12.99 each
- \* [adjustable wire shelving for storage](#) \$94.89 each
- \* [Breakaway Lanyards \(Assorted Colors\)](#)

### Volunteer positions

Contact Camp Mennoscah to help!

- \* Kitchen staff and general volunteers for summer youth camps
- \* Volunteers for tree removal or grounds work
- \* Weekend hosting help—assist groups with dishes, making popcorn, campfires, etc.

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



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

