



Ninnescah News



Giving to my Rock

By Julia Miller



When I confessed my struggle with tithing to a close friend, their response was, “Julia, never forget that all you have is from God. That’s why you tithe. You wouldn’t be where you are without God.” It was one of those bold, honest things I needed to hear when embarking on my first job, having just graduated from college.

I am where I am today because of my faith journey with Christ, and when I ask myself where God has been most visible and impactful for me, the answer is simple: Camp Mennoscah. I grew up going to camp as a camper and found that after taking a hiatus of around five years, camp seemed to “call me home.” By some miracle, I was placed on summer staff and camp came to fill a void I didn’t know I had. During my time on staff I discovered my gift of working with young people (something I had failed to acknowledge about myself) and that I have self-worth. I learned that I like working with my hands and that staring at the Ninnescah River or a campfire on a starry night

makes me feel closer to God and at peace more than anything else.

I tithe to camp because it is where I found my faith. Camp Mennoscah is my extended church community. It is a place I can visit time and again, knowing that I will be challenged to grow in my beliefs and find fellowship with fellow believers who are like family. Camp accepted me with all my flaws, and a place like that deserves longevity.



I give money to camp so that having a spiritual “home-base” is a luxury granted to other young people as well. I started out thinking I would send a one-time gift. (I’m frugal, what can I say?) However, as my job took me to different places, camp remained my constant in a sea of change. I couldn’t justify camp being my rock without giving back so it could remain solid.

Camp Mennoscah has dates available for your next meeting, gathering or spring escape. Check us out!

March 2-4

Bluestem

March 9-11

Retreat Center, Bluestem

March 16-18

Bluestem

March 23-25

Retreat Center, Bluestem

March 30-31

Retreat Center, Bluestem

April 6-8

Bluestem, Retreat Center

April 13-15

Bluestem, Retreat Center

April 20-22

Bluestem, Retreat Center

April 27-29

Bluestem, Retreat Center

May 4-6

Bluestem

May 11-13

Bluestem, Main Camp

May 18-20

Bluestem, Retreat Center

May 25-28

Bluestem, Main Camp, Retreat Center

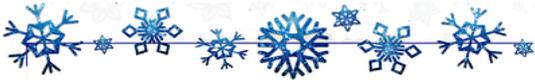


*Still looking for a place for your holiday gathering? Camp Mennoscah has dates available, weekdays too!
Contact us office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290 and schedule your event now!*

Giving continued

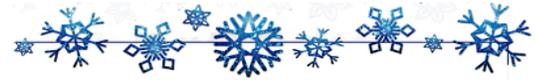
Yes, I am young, and I may not always have the most financially sound footing, but I wouldn't be where I am today--as a person, as a Christian, and as an educator--without camp. I already know I am a camp "lifer" and realize my financial giving is helping guarantee that Camp Mennoscah will stay a welcoming place for years to come. And who knows? If I have children one day, it can be their firm foundation as it was mine.

You don't have to give much. But at some point, we young people all have to realize that we have had a lot of fun playing in the sand, and now it's time for us to contribute to the sturdy rock camp is built upon, so it can remain a pillar for others.



Valiant Volunteer: Kevin Neufeld

By Michael Unruh



If you go out to Camp Mennoscah in the fall and spring to observe the removal and installation of the dam, you will see Kevin Neufeld, standing in the river, facilitating the work. Although Kevin volunteers at camp other times

quickly added one or two hand sprayers, and now we have water tanks for the camp tractor, Gators, and other ATVs."



during the year, supervising dam installation and removal are his favorites. "It's an exciting process, because you often see wildlife in the river like beavers, and less common fish and turtle species that you might otherwise overlook," Kevin said, when naming one reason he enjoys the work.

A new cross now stands down at the amphitheatre, which Kevin built with help from John Regier and Justin Beth. "Building the cross made me much more aware of Jesus having died for me," Kevin noted about the experience.

In addition to volunteering at camp bringing enjoyment, Kevin sees these projects as opportunities. "If Camp Mennoscah has a need, and I have the skills do something about it, then I am going to do it." Kevin is quick to name other volunteers who have helped him. In a recent effort to remove trees from CRP, Justin Beth, Garrett Smith, Elizabeth Waite, Jared Regehr, and Arie Zehner made multiple trips to camp with Kevin and battled hot temperatures, poison ivy, and getting into (and out of) a few "jams" along the way.

After working with the project for some time, Kevin knows the tools to use and how to direct the other volunteers.

Another regular task Kevin has supervised is the prescribed burning of camp's CRP and prairie areas. "We have progressed a lot since the first years, when we just had shovels to put out the flames!" Kevin said. "We

"It takes a lot of people to keep camp going. I encourage other camp supporters to find a project you're passionate about, ask how you can help, and get involved with it."



Camp Mennoscah's Impact Evident at Annual Meeting

By Michael Unruh



Camp Mennoscah's 6th annual meeting on Sunday, October 1 had the standard elements of most annual meetings: a hearty supper; staff and board member updates; four board members concluding terms and three new board members beginning; four delicious meals for 6-10 guests were auctioned off, with proceeds going toward the annual fund.

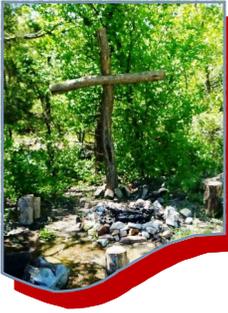
of hope, healing, love, and acceptance in their years attending camp.

The vulnerability showed by each camper revealed their real life struggles and how God has worked through other campers,

counselors, and staff to walk with them in their difficulties. Those in attendance were left with a genuine look at how their support for Camp Mennoscah is impacting the lives of the children and youth who spend a week of their summer at camp.



Stories of God at camp...



He was the kid whose name came up in staff meetings. Not in the manner of funny accolades or praise but rather from concerns and frustrations. I asked him what his favorite part about camp was and he replied “campfire.” That response caught me off guard until he responded with his least favorite part:

the end. I’m not sure what troubles he carries with him but rarely have I seen as much joy in a person’s face than when he linked arms with two other boys and spun, dancing in the evening sun, voice raised in worship.

—Lizzie Schrag, naturalist

While we were doing the challenge course, the group was struggling a little with a balancing challenge. After they’d been trying for a bit, one girl called out, “I’m having a hard time here, I need someone to hug!” The comment both made us laugh and led to some good teamwork and team bonding, resulting in a group hug and, eventually, success with the balancing (life lessons at the challenge course).

—Roxy Gehring, music leader



Volunteer Christmas Gathering! All Camp Mennoscah volunteers from any year are invited to gather at the Retreat Center on December 16 at 2:30pm-ish. We’ll celebrate another amazing year of sharing God’s love with others through conversation, games, and breaking “bread” with each other. Camp Mennoscah will provide cookies and drinks. You provide the conversation and happy memories of your time at camp. There will be an optional white elephant gift exchange. Families are welcome!

IT’s CONFIRMED!

The 2018 Catalog will be sent out in February but you can soon see the 2018 Camp Mennoscah event calendar! Go online at campmennoscah.org or contact us at 620-297-3014 or office@campmennoscah.org to request a copy!



What!?! This is exciting!

The medical form for returning campers and staff will now be pre-filled. You will have to review and update information and there may be some parts that you have to complete, but overall—wow! You’ll also see some changes in online registration that will make the site easier to navigate. *Hooray for improvements to the registration process!*



Summer Staff Openings

Looking for fun and caring staffers filled with God’s love for others! Online applications for summer staff positions will be accepted beginning December 1. The positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. These positions receive a stipend, as well as meals and lodging. We also are looking for someone to catalogue the species of snakes at Camp Mennoscah. This summer-long position receives meals and lodging and requires the same paperwork and background check as all camp staff. Apply online at campmennoscah.org/application!





Camp Mennoscah

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Jesus fill your
heart this
Christmas season
and in the
year to come!*



*Camp Mennoscah
Board of Directors
and Staff*

Camp Mennoscah Wish Lists

Ours is a year-round ministry. We are always looking for volunteers with cheerful hearts and helpful hands! Camp Mennoscah would not be a success without our volunteers.

Many of our volunteers come during the summer, but we have tasks throughout the year. See the opportunities below! Contact us at 620-297-3290 to grab the best jobs before someone else does.

- “Woodcutters” to help remove dead trees around camp grounds
- Experienced painters for painting the main floor of the Retreat Center
- Custodial assistance from weekly cleaning after groups to detailed, deep cleaning and laundering bedding
- Kitchen renovation volunteers for a variety of jobs (December 2017– March 2018)
- Volunteers to create/make Camp Mennoscah tee shirt quilt (We’ll provide the tee shirts!)
- All those tasks we haven’t listed here

Double and triple up on your giving by purchasing through AmazonSmile and using your MyNeighbor credit card! See additional information and links for these items on our website at campmennoscah.org/wish-list/

- [KitchenAid Professional 6000 HD KSM6573COB Stand Mixer, 6 Quart.](#)
- [West Bend 82505 Stir Crazy Popcorn Popper, 6-Quart](#) (used when the weather prevents kettle popcorn)
- [Hammermill Paper, Copy Paper Poly Wrap, 20lb, 8.5 x 11, Letter, 92 Bright, 5000 Sheets / 10 Ream Case \(150010C\)](#)
- [Plixio Deluxe Cooling Shredded Memory Foam Pillow with Bamboo Hypoallergenic Cover- 2 Pack Queen](#)
- [Rubbermaid Ice Guard Pitcher, 2.25 Qt / 2.1 L \(Pack of 2\)](#) (Have you seen the ones we have? They need replacing!)
- CCLI song license, \$200
- First-class postage stamps



Mennonite
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www.campmennoscah.org



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Camp Mennoscah 2017 Year in Review

by Michael Unruh

As we approach the conclusion of 2017 and look toward an exciting new year in 2018, we have taken some time to reflect on all that has been accomplished this year at Camp Mennoscah. Certainly **finishing the exterior of the new kitchen addition and building a new cabin, "Sandbar,"** were big (and very noticeable) highlights to the year, as was **having 548 youth attend our summer camps.** Although this list is by no means complete, here are a few more projects that may have flown under the radar:

- ***Improved drainage around Cottonwood bunkhouse and dining hall**
- ***Removed the old boys' bathhouse.** (Both new bathhouses are serving us very well!)
- ***Built canoe storage racks.**
- ***Repainted the pool.**
- ***Repainted the downstairs of the Retreat Center.**
- ***Installed lighting in the Retreat Center pavilion.**
- ***Created a new trail: "Cottonwood Falls" on east 80 acres.**
- ***Repared the camp driveway.**
- ***Planted new trees at boy's bathhouse.**

These and countless others not listed, with the exception of the camp driveway, were completed (entirely or in part) with volunteer help. Camp Mennoscah would not be the place it is today without the valuable contributions of time by volunteers.

Maybe you can come out and be a part of our accomplishments in 2018!



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