



# Camp Alexander Mack

## News from the Director

1 Corinthians 1:18 – *For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.*

In my previous life as an educator, April was always a big deal. It started the last grading period of the year; we started each day in sunlight again; the final push to statewide testing was in full force. Oh, and of course, spring break! In the thirty-one years I worked in the schools, I came to appreciate those who wisely made certain that April 1<sup>st</sup> ALWAYS fell during our spring vacation.

April Fool's Day is truly an inspiration to children everywhere. It is a day to make dumb jokes, play practical jokes, and generally goof off. I loved it as a kid. On the adult side – not so much!

Easter falls on April Fool's Day in 2018. This is certainly an ironic twist on the calendar, especially when we consider Paul's words to the Corinthians. The death and resurrection of Jesus are just plain foolishness to those who don't believe, and it is easy to feel as though we are seen as fools.

Part of our responsibility at Camp Mack is to give people the opportunity to live in resurrection, experiencing and exploring what a life of faith can be like. Once the power of God's love expressed in community has a chance to take hold, perspective changes. What was once foolish is now cherished and prized. The world would consider joining a camp staff foolish when one could make a lot more money somewhere else. The world would consider volunteering a few days or a week or more of vacation time as foolish when there is so much opportunity to pursue an individual's own interests. The world would consider sacrificial giving as foolish when spending on self means one doesn't have to sacrifice at all.

Paul says later in 1 Corinthians 1:25 – *For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.* You see, those of us who choose God's foolishness know that working on camp staff brings joy. We know that volunteering connects us with God in ways we never expected. We know that giving sacrificially is enriching our own lives by enriching the lives of others.

As you reflect on and celebrate the new life demonstrated in the resurrection, give a nod to April Fool's Day and consider what you can do to assist God's foolishness at Camp Mack.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



# Be Our Guest

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## Exciting Times!

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's already time for Easter. What a special time of year this is. It's amazing to think about the resurrection the same time we encounter the transition into springtime where we see new birth—Jesus gives us new life, but his value is so much more than that. The living example that Jesus has given us is priceless. We often think of January as a time to start fresh, to make resolutions and figure out what is next, but I feel like spring can be a great time to reevaluate and begin anew, as well (though anytime could be the time for a person to make a change). The weather is a little wacky for a while, allergies start to pick up, more animals are out and making sounds, and the days are getting longer again, so maybe we can recognize the changes in nature and apply some positive change to our own lives, listening to God for direction and following in Jesus's example.

The seasonal changes at camp are evident, but we also are seeing more folks around camp—it's exciting! We have more groups at camp throughout the week and have more on the schedule coming up. Early registrations came in last week, and we've been doing a lot of information entry into the database to get all of the campers squared away. We are amazed and grateful to have so many campers coming to camp this summer—feel free to keep sending them our way. There's a camp out there for any age, so be in touch if you'd like more information.

There are some registration pamphlets that have not been put up on our website, so you are not able to download and print the forms. You are able to register online for some of them (like Grand Camp, quilt retreats,...), but that doesn't always work smoothly either. I'm learning the ins and outs of the website, but I do have the registration forms, so contact me, and I will send them to you. If you have registered online for one of these but weren't able to give information about something specific, send me an email ([deanna@campmack.org](mailto:deanna@campmack.org)).

If you have further comments, questions, frustrations, joys, or any other thing to say about how your registration process went, please let me know. I'm trying to collect as much feedback as possible to get a better feel for how things are and how we can make them better! Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and communication. We want this process to be easier for you, so we're trying to figure out ways to make that happen. We so enjoy having you and your family and friends here as you bring even more life, love, and laughter to this sanctuary space. Blessings to you.

Deanna Beckner,  
Guest Services  
Director



## Volunteer Work Days

We had volunteer work days for three days the second week of March and we accomplished a lot. Eight to ten sets of hands came to help us. One person worked in the office. I had a couple more help get the garden way carts ready. We have twelve garden way carts and each spring we replace broken plywood, check the wheel bearings, replace leaky tire tubes, and repaint each one. I think we made it through eight of the carts. Another volunteer helped Travis install a garage door opener and an outside light on the pole building at the farm. Jessica sure appreciated being able to stay in her SUV and open the garage door! We had a bad shower valve at the North Residence so Travis and his volunteer replaced that valve and then started working on a new set of doors on the mechanical room in the garage of the north residence.

We had a group of thirteen senior highs that helped us paint some beds in the W cabins and get some driveway stone out of our grass. It seems the snowplow man had his plow set just a bit too low and plowed some driveway stone with the snow this winter. We also had another volunteer begin the work on the JKWC flower beds.

All in all it was a very successful set of work days. We have another set of days on April 2-4. If the weather cooperates we would like to get out and do some lawn work. The winter is always hard on our tree branches and we need to pick up a lot of sticks and some more driveway stones. We would like to clean up the flower beds at Wampler and probably open up some cabins and see what repairs we may need to do. These volunteer work days really help us to get the work done before camps begin. If you have some time we could really use some help.

Thanks!

Galen Jay, Facility Director





### Change a Life: Be a Counselor

What a joy it is to be at the end of March and have over 400 campers already signed up for summer camp. I have a countdown on my calendar, and as of today, March 27, there are 68 more days until the first campers arrive under the arches for their stay at camp. One of the most energizing sounds at camp is the sound of children’s laughter as they play and make new friends. I want to encourage you to be a volunteer counselor for a week this summer and make a difference in the life of a child. Love for children can be spelled as T-I-M-E. They are just looking for you to meet them where they are, to care for them, to wake them up in the mornings, to play on the beach together, and to keep them safe. We provide training May 11–12, a binder with all you need to know that includes the summer curriculum with Bible study ideas, Team Leaders to guide you, support from staff to make your week the best it can be. Where can I pencil you in? The campers are waiting for a person just like you to come into their lives for a week. Email me at [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org) -Jessie Kreider, Program Director

### 51 Volunteer Counselors Needed! Where can we sign you up?

Camp	Date	Male	Female
<b>WEEK 1: June 3-8</b>			
<b>Samplers</b>	<b>June 3-5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>June 3-8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Beginners</b>	<b>June 6-8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>WEEK 2: June 12-16</b>			
<b>Archery</b>	<b>June 12-16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEEK 3: June 17-23</b>			
<b>Survivor</b>	<b>June 17-23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEEK 3: June 24-29</b>			
<b>Eco Adventure</b>	<b>June 25- 30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>WEEK 4: July 1-7</b>			
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 1-6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WEEK 5: July 8-14</b>			
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Followers</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>	<b>3 (Age 21+)</b>
<b>Splash</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Creative Arts</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>Dadirri</b>	<b>July 9-14</b>	<b>1 (Age 25+)</b>	<b>1 (Age 25+)</b>
<b>WEEK 6: July 15-20</b>			
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Culinary</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

## Annual Dinner Desserts

A few weeks ago the kitchen crew served one of our favorite meals of the whole year, the camp annual dinner. We had a full kitchen of staff and volunteers who all worked very hard to present a wonderful meal. We had a delicious selection of appetizers, 3 main course entrees and a handful of HOMEMADE pies for dessert. Our lovely baking volunteers spent 2 days making pie crust and filling pies for our guests to enjoy. I cannot say enough about what an amazing job everyone did! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Every person who attended or helped out in some way is such a blessing to this ministry and we could not provide for our guests the way we do without you!

Please enjoy this amazing Chocolate Cream Pie recipe from our recent interim food service manager, Wanda Gall.

### Chocolate Cream Pie

- 6 cups milk
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 2 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 egg yolks
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 Tablespoons Butter
- 2 prepared pie crusts



Place 6 cups of milk in pan and heat to scalding.

In a separate bowl, mix cornstarch, sugar, salt, egg yolks, and 2 cups milk. Slowly add contents of bowl into hot milk, stirring constantly until thick.

Remove from heat and add in the chocolate chips, vanilla and butter, stirring until they are all melted. Cool.

Once filling is cooled it can be poured into 2 prepared pie crusts and then topped with whipped topping. Garnish with chocolate shavings.

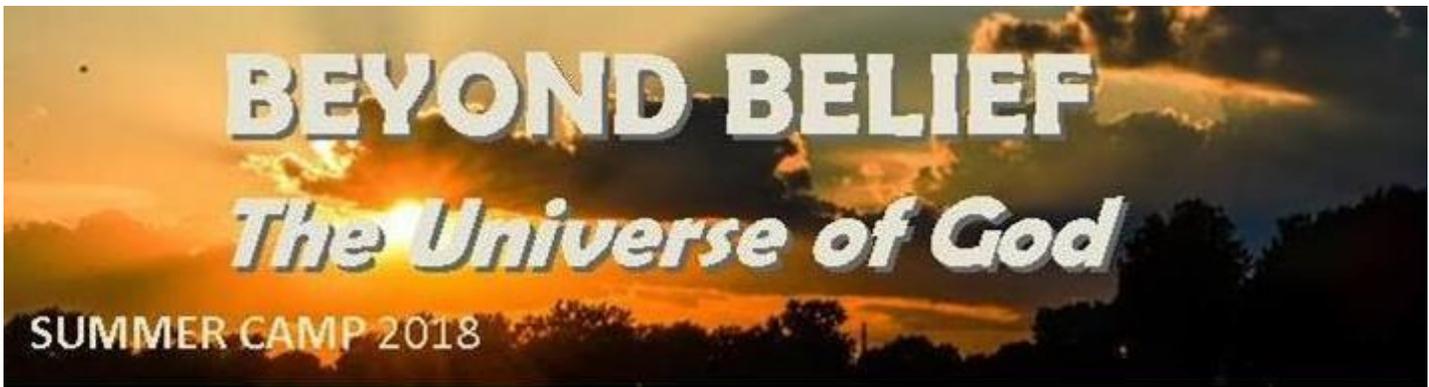
Recipe makes 2 pies.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



**A delicious Raspberry Cream Pie from the Annual Dinner**

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Samplers	June 3-5	Dadirri	July 8-14
Seekers	June 3-8	Seekers	July 8-13
Beginners	June 6-8	Creative Arts	July 8-13
<del>Archery</del>	<del>June 12-16</del>	<b>FULL</b>	Followers
Grand Camp	June 14-16	<del>Splash Camp</del>	<del>July 8-13</del>
Survivor	June 17-23	Seekers	July 15-20
Eco Adventure	June 24-29	<del>Culinary</del>	<del>July 15-20</del>
Finders	July 1-6	Finders	July 15-20
Youth	July 1-7	Grand Camp	July 29-31
Samplers	July 8-10		

Register online at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) or with the paper registration in the brochure. Registrations are being received now with late fees. Scholarship help is available. Please contact us with any questions about summer camp at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) or by calling 574-658-4831. We are looking forward to great campers and leaders alike. Who will you invite to camp this summer?



# Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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***\*Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance.***



## **April 28—Container Gardening**

Want the benefits of homegrown produce but are lacking the space? If you have an extra kiddie pool, 5 gallon bucket, 2 liter bottle, or even old gutters laying around, they you have the goods to make your own container garden. Come and learn which vegetables are best suited for your containers and walk away with the beginning of your first container garden. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (Lunch included)

## **April 28—Target Sports**

Improve your aim and accuracy with a day of target sports. Let it fly, whether it be with a bow an arrow, slingshot and paintballs, atlatis and darts, or throwing rocks at hanging pots and pans. No experience needed. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Lunch included)



## **April 29—Wildflower Walk**

Experience the changes in the wilderness area as spring puts on a beautiful show of wildflowers and blooming shrubs. Appreciate the Trillium, Blood Root, Spring Beauties, Hepatica, and others in bloom. Sunday 2p–4p. Cost: FREE (Bring a snack to share)

## **May 5— Canoe the St Joe River**

Canoe the St. Joe River from Mottville to Bristol on this relaxed, beginner level canoe trip. Watch as Blue Herons fly overhead, Smallmouth Bass swim below, and keeping with tradition, do a turtle count— some trips we have seen over 1000! We recommend brining an extra set of clothes, shoes that can get wet, and sunscreen. We will meet at camp in the John Kline Welcome Center before going offsite. Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$20 (Sack lunch included)



## **May 5— Dutch Oven Cooking**

From appetizers to desserts, you'd be amazed at what you can cook in a Dutch Oven. Food cooked over the coals always tastes better. Explore a variety of recipes and techniques for cooking in a Dutch Oven. We bet you won't leave her hungry. We will meet in the Northwest Shelter by Wampler Lodge at Camp Mack. Saturday 3p–7p. Cost: \$15 (Dinner included)

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).

# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

## Camp Mack Calendar

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April 2–4	Volunteer Work Days	May 6	5K Run/Walk
April 18–22	Quilt Retreat	May 7–10	Seasoned Citizens
April 24–25	Pastor's Sabbath	May 11–12	Counselor/CIT Training
May 3–5	Birdwatcher's Retreat	May 31–June 2	South Central Women's Camp



### Volunteer Work Days

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Volunteers will work with the Camp Mack staff as we make preparation for the summer camp season and work on other projects. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. March 12–14 and April 2–4. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available during this event. Please contact our office for reservations.

### Quilt Retreat

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This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. April 18–22, 6p Wednesday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$123 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, \$167 for Thursday evening early arrival, and \$191 for Wednesday evening arrival.



### Pastor's Sabbath

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The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. Plenty of free time for fellowship with a balance of structured and free time! Guest leadership for April is Dan McFadden. April 24–25. Cost: \$20 (Includes CEUs for the event, meals, and lodging). Please encourage your pastor(s) to attend.

### Birdwatcher's Retreat

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Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. New and experienced birdwatchers will experience the various habitats and birds at camp. We will also travel to other locations to see birds not usually found at camp. May 3–5, 6:30p Thursday to 2p Saturday. Cost: \$116 for 2 nights and 5 meals or \$73 for 1 night and 2 meals.



## 5K Run/ Walk and Kids' Fun Run

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Grab your friends, form a team, and participate in the 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk to raise money for camp improvements. The 5K course is mostly flat with a finish lap around the Camp Mack property. Kids' Fun Run will be on Camp Mack property. Prize categories for all ages. A traveling trophy goes to the church with the most registrations. Race t-shirts for early registrations only. Sunday, May 6, 2:30p Fun Run, 3p 5K. Cost: \$20 for 5K, \$10 for Kids' Fun Run, \$75 per family. Family fee only available during early registration period. Registrations received after April 17, add \$5 late fee.

## Seasoned Citizens Retreat

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Join this group of life-experience people who gather twice a year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special programs, crafts, ves-pers, and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, "joke time", indoors and outdoor games, hiking, puzzles, and naps too! Our facility offers handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as dining options for those on special diets. Bring your special talent, humor, Bible, bedding, and games... and be refreshed at Camp Mack. May 7-10, 3p Monday to 1p Thursday. Age: Older Adults. Cost: \$172 per person or \$116 if not staying overnight; please contact camp for shorter lengths of stay.



## Counselor/ CIT Training

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Leadership training is for all Team Leaders, Counselors, and Counselors in Training. It is a packed weekend that covers emergency procedures, schedules, Bible Study, age group dynamics, program ideas, and time to network with other leaders. Binders will be passed out at this time. Come and prepare yourself to make a difference in the life of a camper today. May 11-12, 7p Friday to 4p Saturday. Cost: FREE! Overnight lodging provided.

## South Central Indiana Women's Camp

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Gather with Church of the Brethren from South Central Indiana for a time of worship, reflection, and fellowship. Guest speakers, swimming and boating, campfires, night hikes, and time spent in fellowship are all part of this retreat. For registration information, contact the South/Central District office at 260-982-8805. May 31-June 2, 4p Thursday to 1:30p Saturday.

