

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

What a June we had here at Camp Mack!

Camp Mack served 800 Dunkard Brethren for their Annual Conference. We had several Church of the Brethren camps, including our first Grand Camp of the summer. And, we have just ended a whirlwind week of three large rental camps using all of our available spaces, and requiring even more!

We have just seen a picture of the future here at Camp Mack. It is full of life and ministry. This beautiful sanctuary is wonderful for those of us who work here, but if we are not serving people, we are not meeting our mission.

The outlook for the future is exciting—and it will require the staff, our volunteers, and every person throughout our churches to make it happen. By 2021, we want to have 1,000 campers enrolled in our Church of the Brethren camps and 60% usage of our available buildings from August through May.

Those are some pretty high goals, because they mean doubling camp registrations and building rentals in three years. But when we accomplish this, and we show our ability to continue to grow and adapt over the next several years, then we will have ensured that the ministry we offer here will be available for generations to come.

We will have to look at staffing, facilities, and new opportunities to reach more people. And we will need you. We will need more volunteers to counsel and provide programming to the children who come here. We will need financial support for the resources needed to minister to them. We will need you to recruit and support children from your communities to become Camp Mack campers. We will need your prayers.

We are moving toward a future that is focused on providing the sanctuary of Camp Mack to our great friends and generations of friends we have not yet met. This is the place where people, who desperately need it, will find connection with God. Our beautiful outdoor spaces can give healing experiences in creation. The relationships built here will be the foundation for healthy and loving Christian communities.

What will it look like next June? Whatever it is, God will be at work, and it will be awesome!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Life's A Circus

P.T. Barnum (yeah, that circus guy) once said, "The noblest art is that of making others happy." We happened to have three amazing rental camps at Camp Mack last week. (One of their themes was circus, and sometimes it may have felt like a circus with so many people around, but it was a fun time.) Each camp had some different ways of doing things, but the teamwork, cooperation, sharing, kindness, and fun that came out of last week allowed for three large camps to coexist at camp and still have a genuinely fun time. It has been such a joy to continue to get to know the folks involved with the camps. The camp leadership for each of the 3 camps all lead busy lives, but they put in so much effort every year to make camp a great experience for their campers.

The three camp themes were: Circus, Survivor, and Live Like Jesus. And well, life can be a circus sometimes, but we are survivors who try to live like Jesus. That was maybe a cheesy way to put it, but all three themes led to some fun activities and good discussions. There were some cool things to see at camp like a carnival, a speaker talking about faith, science, and the circus, an escape room, a Jesus mannequin with some cool hair, a baptism, a counselor talent show, and a ninja warrior, just to name some. There was a lot going on at camp last week, and there's a lot going on at camp all summer. If you haven't spent time at camp during the summer for a while, I implore you to think about coming to volunteer, bringing your church for worship, or sending someone you know to camp.

A fun thing to see at camp in the summer are all of the lightning bugs (fireflies). They twinkle every evening as campers are winding down and the stars are reappearing. One of my favorite camp memories is going on night hikes and eating frozen lightning bugs (Wintergreen Lifesavers). You stand across from a partner and crunch it in your mouth with your teeth showing so that you can see each other's sparks (it also works if you're in a dark room and you look in a mirror). Feel free to try it at home as long as it's really dark (or come try it at camp sometime).

The staff and leadership at camp have been working diligently, and their hard work helps to foster sparks of faith in the campers at Camp Mack. Those sparks spread, and together, we make a beautiful, holy, blazing campfire. At the end of 1 Peter 1:13-16 (MSG), we find an important call, **"...let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, 'I am holy; you be holy.'"**

May you find holiness in your lives, and may your sparks of faith spread, even when you may feel like you're in a circus.



Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Rest for our Souls

As you may have heard, this past week was pretty busy here at Camp Mack. Life is usually busy at Camp in the last week of June but this year due to a little mix up in dates we had an extra group. A week that should have had 250 campers had 450 campers!

It is no surprise that we were all a bit weary even before the week began with all of the extra prep it took to get ready. On Tuesday morning the *Upper Room* took me to Matthew 11: 28-30. The opening line starts *“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* You talk about a timely piece of Scripture! The Scripture goes on to speak of finding *“..rest for your souls.”* That Scripture played at the edges of my mind the rest of the day.

We have all experienced that rest for our souls, and it is the best of experiences. That evening I had just about fallen asleep in my favorite recliner when I received a text from Deanna that we had forgotten to replace some burned out light bulbs in the west pavilion. Instead of eight lights they only had four lights to play four square with. Our campers have great passion for four-square, and there is a real need to see the lines when playing.

I was a bit grumpy, but Carleta said she would go with me, and off we went in my trusty golf cart to replace the bulbs. It was Deaf Camp that was using the West pavilion and they were having a great time. I started to replace the bulbs, some of the counselors jumped in to help, and the kids stopped long enough for us to get the job done. When the bulbs were replaced, a cheer went up and play resumed. In the meantime a couple of kids had climbed up in the golf cart and were sharing their popcorn with Carleta while solving some of the world’s heavy problems.

You talk about rest for your souls! Carleta and I had such a good time joining their little community for a bit. As we left, the Church of God’s praise band had cranked up. That community was beginning to sing for the evening service. We just pulled the golf cart up to the back door of Q.M. and sang along for a bit.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Camp Mack is a Sanctuary where people connect with God!

Galen Jay, Facility Director



45 Years of Indiana Deaf Camps

It has been a week of celebration as Indiana Deaf Camps are celebrating 45 years of camping this week. We are blessed by their coming to Camp Mack. It is a time for our staff to be immersed in Deaf culture, learn a little American Sign Language, and to enjoy time with our Deaf Camp family.

Deaf Camp is for campers ages 4-18 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or are related to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. ASL is the primary language used during this camp, though it is by no means quiet as our neighbors can probably sing along with Audio Adrenaline's song, "Big House," that is so popular with this camp.

Campers are involved in many activities including dutch oven cooking, flying squirrel, hungry hippos, slip n' slide, tie-dying/painting t shirts, talent shows, swimming, archery, slingshots, hike to the candy tree...

This year, campers were surprised by a visit from Kyle Schulze, the "Deaf Ninja" from American Ninja Warrior. We transformed our Low Ropes Course into a training center where campers worked on agility, balance, and pushing themselves to meet new challenges. Deaf camp leaders also all tried out the course.

We are blessed to be a part of 45 years of camping with the Indiana Deaf Camp. Thank you to all camps who make Camp Mack their home as you welcome us into your families and we get to grow with you.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

The Joy of Serving!

This last month has been a very busy one in the Camp Mack kitchen. Between our different groups during the first week of summer camp, we had around 280 campers at one time, and then we served the Dunkard Brethren Annual Conference.

The Dunkard Brethren conference started on a Friday and ended the following Wednesday. The kitchen served about 450-500 people meals for those days, except for Sunday when we served around 630 people for lunch and dinner. It was such an amazing experience to serve so many wonderful guests as they met and worshiped at camp.

The last few weeks have flown by, and we have been busy serving several different camps, some of them all at once! We have served Beginners, Samplers, Seekers, Archery, Survivor, and Grand Camps this month.

Many of our rental camps are family, as they have been using our facilities for many, many years. This month we hosted the 4-H camps, Episcopal youth camp, Church of God family camp, and Indiana Deaf Camp. On Friday, the Indiana Deaf Camp celebrated their 45th anniversary with a huge celebration in Quinter-Miller Auditorium.

The entire kitchen staff has been having a fantastic month and we have all enjoyed serving our guests and we look forward to all the campers we get to serve in July!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director





Looking for a Sign

My first job after college was at Target. Initially I worked in softlines where I folded and organized clothes. After about a year, I became my store's signing specialist, which meant I built everything from giant overhead signs, to boxes to hold school supplies, to display furniture. Possibly the peak was at Christmas time. I got paid to decorate Christmas trees. I had a good time, but it was still retail and had its problems. For major projects, I received a large packet with all the information on what I was to build. It usually had all the instructions, but once in a while I was missing pages. A week after the instructions, a giant pallet, 10 feet long and 7 feet high would arrive. That's a lot of cardboard! It can be overwhelming.

As much I enjoyed my job, it was frustrating, because with every major set, I knew that, in only a few months, I would be tearing my work down. And then, the next year, I would build almost the same thing again. Even though the displays were pretty and attracted people to the items we had to sell, they did not impact them in any meaningful way. It was during this time that I began working with *Ascend Performing Arts*, a Denver-based youth performing arts group. My initial work there was in promotions where I helped introduce youth to an organization that could influence them for life. I was doing more than just a temporary cardboard display, I was making a difference.

It was this work that helped me to see my calling in the nonprofit world. I began my Masters degree in Nonprofit Management, which I will complete next month. The more I reflect back, I see that all of my work at Target was a sign that God called me to do something more. I was excited to turn my spare time into a volunteer opportunity, into a master's degree, and now into a career with Camp Mack. Working at Camp has just the same thrill as seeing a giant pallet of supplies with the knowledge that God has given me the ability to make a lasting impact with my work.

So look for a sign, a guide post, a dream, or a call. The Holy Spirit guides us, we just have to follow. Sometimes, rather than looking for big elaborate signs, we just need to look at what's right in front of us!

Todd Eastis, Development and Communication Specialist



Medical Staff Needed!



Volunteer Medical Staff are needed July 8—13 to staff the health office at camp during the summer. They are responsible for passing meds, administering minor first aid, responding to emergencies, and communication with parents and staff. Medical staff must have current CPR and First Aid Training. Room and board are provided. Medical staff can be the following: MD, DO, PA, NP, or RN. Contact us about other levels of training.

Check in medical staff are needed on July 8, and July 15. Please contact Jessie Kreider at jessk@campmack.org for more information.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

BEYOND BELIEF

The Universe of God

SUMMER CAMP 2018

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
Archery	June 12-16	Followers	July 8-13
Grand Camp	June 14-16	Splash Camp	July 8-13
Survivor	June 17-23	Seekers	July 15-20
Eco Adventure	June 24-29	Culinary	July 15-20
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 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 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 Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

August 17—19

Colony Family Camp

August 31—September 3

Labor Day Family Camp

Quilt Retreat

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. All levels of quilters, from novice to expert, are invited! Due to facility limitations, space is limited to the first 36 fully paid quilters. **October 17—21**, 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$167 per quilter.



Scrapbooking Retreat

Crop 'til you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. Bring your extra scraps, paper, stickers, and more to trade and swap at the swap table. **October 18—21**, 6p Friday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$117



Seasoned Citizens Retreat

Join this group of life-experienced people who gather twice a year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special programs, crafts, vespers, and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, "joke time", indoor 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. **Oct 22—25**, 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.



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

August 18—Sailing 101

Learn how to rig a Sunfish and basic sailing techniques. Review helpful knots and safety tips. Then, head out on lake Waubee for some practical experience on our fleet of Sunfish. Experienced? Try out one of our Lasers or the Force 5. We will meet at the boating beach on Saturday 9a—4p. Cost: \$15 (Lunch included). Bring a swimsuit, sunscreen and a towel. You will get wet.



August 26—Prairie Walk

Explore our 5 acres of natural prairie area. See the prairie come alive with darting dragonflies and birds that swoop between the Blue Stem grasses, Compass Plant, Indigo, Rattlesnake Master, and other unique plants. Meet outside Wampler Lodge on Sunday 2p—4p. Cost: FREE (Bring a snack to share.) Come dressed for the weather.

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days or by emailing info@campmack.org.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Summer fun and connecting with God! That is what summer camp is about at Camp Mack. Seeing the faces of children actively playing and building community is incredible, but even more, watching children learn about God and developing faith, perhaps for the first time, is an experience you will want to make sure you have at least once.

Five counselors are still needed to finish our summer program!

Counseling is one way you can share in the joy of summer camp, and the chart below will show you where we need counselors. But ***counseling is not the only way to impact children at camp and to experience the life-changing work we do.***

We also need dedicated people who can volunteer to work in the kitchen, do regular facility work, or volunteer in the office. Each multi-day volunteer opens up opportunities for others to counsel. So, you not only benefit our campers, but you have the chance to experience camp as well.

Call us if you can help. It's a Win-Win!



Camp Mack Mission, Vision, and Values

MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a sanctuary where all who are served find a safe environment where they can learn of Christ, renew their spirit, and experience God.

OUR CORE VALUES

The following are the Core Values that undergird the mission and operation of Camp Alexander Mack in its ministries of hospitality and summer camping.

- **Spiritual Relationship**

We believe that connecting with God and faith development are fundamental to our mission and vision. We encourage growth in faith and practice in our internal community and in the communities we serve.

- Joshua 24:15
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Micah 6:8
- John 15:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

- **Caretakers of Creation**

As part of God's wonderful creation, we believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of God's gifts. Camp Mack uses sound operational practices to limit negative impact on the environment. We encourage our campers and guests to be proactive in protecting and enjoying God's gift to us through personal experiences and educational opportunities.

- Genesis 1:1-19
- Genesis 2:15
- John 3:16-17
- Romans 8:19-23

- **Faithful Community**

We believe that the community we create at Camp Mack is rooted in and shaped by relationship with the congregations of the Church of the Brethren. We embrace Christ-like values and ethics in our operations, hospitality, and programming.

- Matthew 5-7
- Romans 12:9-21
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Philippians 4:8-9
- Matthew 18

- **Holy Hospitality**

We believe hospitality is a way of living. Camp Mack serves our campers and guests by being the hands of Christ as they pursue the purposes for which they came.

- Genesis 18:1-8
- Matthew 14:15-21
- Luke 10:38-42
- John 13:3-17

In addition to these core values, Camp Mack searches for ways to help the individual grow in his/her spiritual journey through relationships that build, activities that are fun, and an environment that is safe and secure for the building of faith.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- BELIEVING that the quiet beauty of a natural setting creates a strong sense of the reality of God, we will develop this center in ways that will enhance its use as an environment in which persons are moved into a closer relationship with our God and all of creation.
- BELIEVING in our deep connections to all living things, we will share that belief so that through our programs, persons will be challenged to take added responsibility for the human and natural world in which God has placed them.
- BELIEVING that the closeness of shared life at this set-apart place can provide a model for what it means to be the body of Christ, we will seek to involve leaders, who themselves, earnestly seek to know and share God's love and are able to shape experiences in which that love can be reality for others.
- BELIEVING in the God-gifted value of each person, we will seek ways to help persons value themselves and to discover and develop their own skills. We will provide quality Christian education, including serious Bible study, encouraging them to hear the call to a deepened faith and discipleship to Jesus Christ.
- BELIEVING in the shared ministry of the church, we will nurture strong relationships with congregations, districts, the denomination, and ecumenical groups. We will also seek to help persons of all ages understand and internalize the values of the church, attempting to strengthen their ties to local churches and encouraging a greater sense of identity with the Church of the Brethren and believers everywhere.

