



Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

Our second Grand Camp of the summer is here today. Arky Parky is filled with children climbing on the equipment, laughing in the gaga pit, and intensely focused on four-square. Grandparents are spread out everywhere. Some are trying to keep up with their grandchildren. Others are watching from benches in the park or chairs on the deck.

I had a chance to sit on the deck with a couple of grandparents, thinking about what it will be like in two years when my granddaughter is old enough to come.

The interplay between the generations is one of the blessings of our summer programs. In the summer camps, adults ranging in ages 18 to 80 serve as leaders, mentoring and teaching children about life, faith, and community. This is the way the church is supposed to be: leading by example and serving with love. Grand Camp is a lot the same, but there is more of the traditional family in the way it works. Grandparents have extended time to help their grandchildren understand the history, traditions, and values of their families.

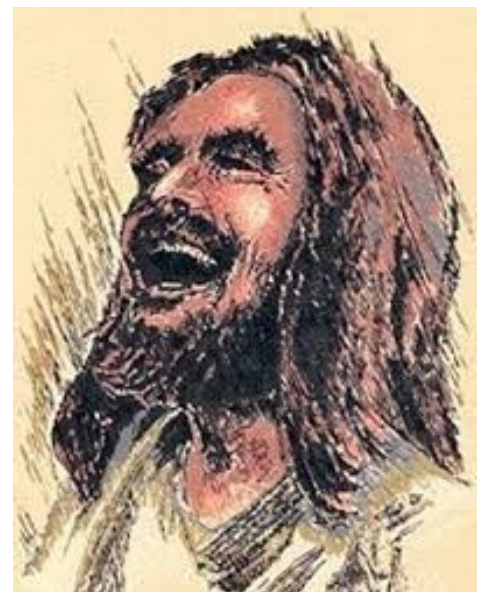
Camp Mack is a place where this kind of mentoring and growth thrives. We are dependent on faithful families who send their children to learn from faithful followers of Jesus. It is the discipleship model. Jesus gathered those who wanted to learn from him. They followed him. They talked with him. They learned from his example. When he was no longer able to be with them, they were commissioned to go out and do the same.

I wonder what Jesus and his disciples did for fun. At camp, we have recreation, crafts, games, swimming, boating, campfires. The list just goes on. There is no doubt in my mind that amidst the important ministry Jesus led, a time of renewal and refreshment had to be included. One of my favorite images is the *Laughing Jesus* that most have already seen. It depicts the joy found in following Jesus's example of living in God's will.

In this sanctuary, we strive to connect people with God, and, while we can be serious when we need to, the fact is that being connected is fun. As I watched grandparents and grandchildren interacting this morning, it was clear that joy is found when we give of ourselves to another. I can't wait until we are part of that process at Grand Camp.

Let us join with you as we experience the joy of faith together.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Celebrate Good Times

What milestones or transitions are you going through? What life events are happening that could use some celebration?

I'm reading a book right now that has me thinking about beginnings, endings, and transitions, and how you can create memorable moments, or peak experiences around those times. If you're intentional about it, those times can be the most memorable in life in a very good way. Are you starting a new job? Retiring soon? Have you or your child read 20 books this summer? Is there something you can do to kick the school year off in a positive way? Does your business have an employee that will be leaving for college?

What's going on in your life, and how can you reflect more purposeful intention to celebrate or recognize potentially meaningful events? There's not always a need for fanfare, but sometimes a special gesture can create a moment that will be remembered for years to come. It doesn't necessarily mean lots of money must be spent, either—often the best kinds of celebrations come from the heart and involve people you care about. Maybe you have a panoply of trophies or ribbons—is there another way to mark the occasion? I realize that I'm presenting several questions without many answers, but I don't want to delve too much into the book—I just want to get you thinking. It's nearing the end of summer camp season here, which marks yet another transition, but one that camp has done many times before.

Camp Mack has a staff party coming up to celebrate the hard work that has happened this summer and send off our summer staff. A small committee of summer staff was formed, and they decided to plan a Disney-themed event with several activities here at camp for all of staff to enjoy. It won't just be a fleeting event, but rather purposeful planned time spent in connection, reminiscence, enjoyment, congratulations, and thanksgiving. I hope that this will be a peak moment for staff, a moment to look back on with fond memories, a great experience for summer staff to remember and consider when coming back to camp. As we transition, we look at what has been, what will be, and what will return. Summer is ending for now, but it will be back again. We look forward to the many events that are quickly approaching, as well!

Some things are gone for now, but there are things to come...

Gone are campfires every Sunday
Gone are six camp weeks
Gone are campers running out to play
Gone are happy shrieks
To come are meaningful retreats
To come are wedding days
To come are great festival treats
To come are banquet seats
To always stay are memories of good times spent at camp
And friends that mean so much
And as people come and go from this place,
May they smile and keep in touch

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director





A Time of Change

It is hard to believe that summer camp season is over. From a facility perspective it was a whirlwind.

It started with 4-H camps and quickly went to 700 Dunkard Brethren. And from there we went to a week of three rental camps at 450. Our sleeping capacity is about 400 so that was quite a challenge. It took the efforts of all of us to pull that off well. We had many well-attended Church of the Brethren camps and some smaller rental camps in the middle of all that. And now that part of our year is over.

This week Carleta and I spent three days at Grand Camp with our grandson. That is an excellent transition to our fall season. It felt good to be involved in a camp and to see again the purpose of what we do here. This place is a true sanctuary where people connect with God.

We face several projects this fall. We need to replace the lower Sarah Major roof. I think the Dekalb soccer team will help us with that. We need to finish the siding on Ulrich and to complete an archery project in the wilderness area. We also need to replace some shutters on Quinter Miller. So if you have some extra time on your hands, come help this place continue to be a sanctuary where people connect with God.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Cooper's Hawks Soar at Camp

Walking up the front drive of camp, a sound is heard from up in the trees, similar to a squeak toy with a hole in it. Look up and you may be surprised to see one of our five juvenile Cooper's hawks. They are a crow-sized hawk with yellow eyes (red as an adult), a heavily streaked chest, and long banded tail.

When you see them hunting near the sycamore and red pine trees you will notice a flap, flap, glide to their flying pattern before they dive into the trees to capture their next meal. Birds are on the menu most days, but small mammals are also dined upon.

Take some time to just observe these beautiful creatures and you will learn so much about their communication with each other, flight patterns, hunting styles, and hawk behaviors.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Beating the Heat

When it's hot out, and you hate even the thought of turning on the oven, but you really want to make cookies with your kids or grandkids, what can you do? My mom would always make no-bake cookies with my sister and me. They are fun, easy, delicious, and you don't need to heat up the whole kitchen by turning on the oven.

This is the recipe we've been using at camp this summer. It makes about 100 servings, but can easily be converted down to make less. In the camp kitchen, we have been using the microwave to heat up our ingredients and it has worked well. Enjoy!

No Bake Cookies

2 Cups Butter
8 Cups White Sugar
2 Cups Cocoa Powder
2 Cups Milk
½ Teaspoon Salt

Put ingredients in a pan or microwave container and cook only until butter melts. Immediately remove from heat and add:

2 Tablespoons Vanilla
12 Cups Quick Oats
2 Cups Soynut Butter

Mix thoroughly, spoon out on wax paper and let cool.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



Making Connections

Among this year's summer staff, two of them I have counseled, one's mother was a roommate of my mother, I went to college with siblings of another staff, and many of them are Manchester University students, my alma mater. We often call this playing the name game. It's fun to see and make connections because so many of us went to camp together, went to church events together, went to college together, or even all three!



This is the fun part of my job, getting to know people. We all have connections to each other even when we think that we have nothing in common. You have stories that I want to hear. Sometimes they are stories of loss, sometimes they are of a time when God called you to something new, and sometimes they are just funny stories. Even if we seem to have no connections at first glance, when we share our stories and experiences we see new connections we never knew before.

You will start to see and hear from me more and more as the fall comes around the corner. If your congregation is worshipping here at Camp, I hope to join you. When there are not groups here at Camp, it is my goal to visit churches that I have not been to before. I want to know you, to connect with you, to meet you.

As the Camp Mack song goes "*M.A.C.K. Mack is our camp,*" and that is not just true of campers . It is true for all of us. Camp Mack belongs to all of us, and I am here to help you connect with everything going on. If you want to find a time to catch up with what camp is doing, just give a call.

Let's make connections!

Todd Eastis, Development and Communication Specialist



Summer Staff 2018

We had a great summer in 2018. Thanks to the many campers, guests, and volunteers who made every day a special event. There are too many memories to recall them all, but each of us has a story to tell. If you see one of these wonderful people, ask them to tell you the one memory that will stick with them forever.

Maybe it's time you thought about joining the Camp Mack Summer Staff. Applications are being accepted right now! We are looking for energetic, faithful people who want to share their love of God with others, living in a supportive community. If you know someone who has graduated from high school and fits the profile, encourage them to contact us.

The experience of summer staff defies description and will last a lifetime.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

August 17—19

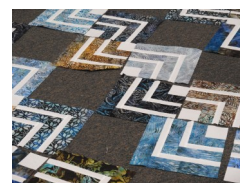
Colony Family Camp

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?

Our regular summer camp is over, but there are still many ways you can be involved in the ministry of Camp Mack!

- ◆ Volunteer in our office
- ◆ Talk to your friends about Camp Mack and tell them about the many things they can do here
- ◆ Pray for us and our guests
- ◆ Suggest to your church leadership that you have a retreat
- ◆ Schedule a family reunion
- ◆ Make a financial gift
- ◆ Remember us when your office is planning an event
- ◆ Spoon cookies for future baking
- ◆ Cut grass on our deluxe ZTR
- ◆ Help with facility repair and maintenance
- ◆ Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and share our posts with your friends
- ◆ Share with your district leadership that you would like to serve on the Indiana Camp Board
- ◆ Walk the camp from time to time to remind yourself why you love this place.

Call us with your own ideas! 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.

