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CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

**Mackabilia**

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# Camp Alexander Mack

## News from the Director



### CAMP STARTS SUNDAY!!!

Isn't that incredible? In just a couple of days, campers will enter through the arch and kick off another summer season of fun, laughter, and connection with God.

I just left another very long management team meeting where we have been working to coordinate the program, food service, and facility needs for each of the guests who will join us this summer. And, part of the reason the meeting was long is that we are looking toward a really busy season. Here are a few highlights:

- ◇ We are on track to have the highest number of campers in our Church of the Brethren camps in nine years!
- ◇ We will be serving up to 800 guests at the Dunkard Brethren Annual Conference in June.
- ◇ The camps that rent our spaces are increasing their enrollments this year, leaving us very little space to spare.
- ◇ We have had to turn away weddings, family reunions, and retreats this summer because our buildings are already being used.
- ◇ Two new rental camps are joining us this summer.

Planning for so many people is a challenge, but we are so excited that we have this chance. Each one who comes to this sanctuary place is an opportunity for ministry. It is how we connect people with God. Our hope and our prayer is that we can work together to take our ministry as far as God leads us.

For now, it looks like God is leading us toward real growth and a future of expanding ministry. Thank you for the ways you support our sanctuary.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

## Group Hugs

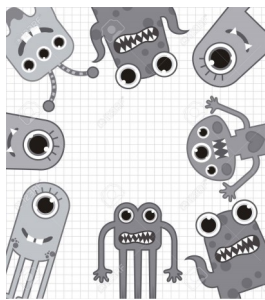
In hopes of being enveloped by some of the outside warmth and enjoying the nature noises, I stepped out onto the back deck. While hearing some kids running toward the Arky Parky, I also heard a whisper of music. Following the pretty tune, I pick out the words to “Lean on Me” coming from Quinter Miller Auditorium. Deciding that it would be okay if I take just a minute to meander and seek out the singers, I made my way to the building. As the song ended, I reached the back door. There stood several people from our weekend group standing in a circle, singing along with the lead, basking in each other’s company. At the end of the song, they began wrapping their arms around each other, smiling with old and new friends, and it brought to mind several good memories of my own.

A couple of days later at the end of their visit, a man from the committee shared with me that Camp Mack is where he first felt the presence of God, among friends in a safe space. He’s been coming back ever since. I know I’ve said it before, but I’m blessed to be in a place that brings people together. Countless times, folks from the group mentioned how thankful they were for all we do for them and that they’re able to be at Camp Mack, and every time I responded with how thankful we were to have them here. We minister and attend to those who visit, but they bring us so much in return, as well. It’s not always good, but then we have those moments that hit straight through to our hearts.

A heart-hitting moment happened when I was on a trip to San Antonio with my family. Growing up, my sister and I always wanted a little brother, but time and time again my mom wouldn’t give into that idea (maybe it was because she grew up with a little brother who pulled Barbie doll heads off (he’s pretty awesome now, though). Well, one evening while gliding along the lazy river, we were granted our wish for about an hour. A little boy, who was maybe about the age of 3, asked his parents if he could go along the lazy river over to the hot tub. They were loosely watching him and his siblings, and sent him along with us since we happened to be floating by at that moment. We were a little shocked at their trust, but we gladly took the cute little guy along with us. He had his own inner tube and would sometimes kick furiously and other times would get worn out and just let us pull him along. As we let the river carry us along, we grabbed onto each other’s tubes. He smiled, looked around at us, and nonchalantly blurted, “It’s like a group hug!” This sent smiles to our faces and all around agreement of the togetherness as we chuckled. Though we only spent a bit of time with him in the hot tub hearing about gray space monsters before his parents had to coax him away to dinner (he seemed to be a little fish who didn’t want to leave the water), he was a wonderful little brother. If we had a lazy river at camp (that’s likely not happening any time soon), I would imagine something like that happening. I’d imagine that old and new friends would be gathered, and they’d be holding onto each other for a “group hug.”

Blessings and group hugs to you,

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director





# Sunny Camp Mack

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## The “Eagles” have arrived!

This winter, Camp was approached by three Boy Scouts that wanted to work at becoming Eagle Scouts. Part of that process is doing a service project for their community. All three boys chose Camp as the place they wanted to do their projects.

The first project was led by Riley Frey. Riley is a freshman at Goshen High School and has been a scout for five years. His leader is Mike Clemons, whose son Preston has come to camp for several years. Riley’s project was adding three sections to our nature boardwalk in the south wetlands. I suspect it has been ten years or so since we built the nature walk. Jess takes our summer camp kids out on it and they lie down and discover the little eco-systems at work out there. It’s a great place to see God’s handiwork in our corner of his universe.

Riley organized, funded, and led this project with a little coaching from me. He solicited individuals and business for support and was successful in raising the funds. We then met on a rain threatening Saturday morning and started the project. He had eight to ten other scouts and leaders to help him. He organized his help into two groups. One group stayed on dry ground and brought components to the second group that was in the wetlands. At this time of the year the wetlands have six to eight inches of water flowing through them and the vegetation is six to eight feet high. This group in the water needed to wear waders to keep warm and dry. The process included putting down some stone to form a base and then putting some solid cement blocks with an 8” x 8” x 4’ piece of cement for a header for the deck frame to sit on.

We had a fine day, and by five o’clock we were done. Under Riley’s excellent leadership we now have a longer wilderness boardwalk that will serve us for years to come. It was a pleasure to work with this young man and we look forward to working with the other scouts in the near future.

Galen Jay, Facility Director





### Never Stop Learning

Learning is a lifelong process. This week, I have been co-teaching a Waterfront Lifeguard class for Camp Mack and Quaker Haven Camp at the Wawasee Pool and in the lake here at Camp Mack. Lifeguard training is only the beginning. Lifeguards will have a card that documents when they took the class, but now is when the learning really begins. There are many details that go into waterfront lifeguarding here that include Rescue Boat training, Small Craft Training, instruction on how to teach small craft and snorkeling classes, camp specific rules, and weekly emergency action plan drills.

Teaching CPR classes and Lifeguard training is a great reminder for me that we are always learning and many times the training we take is just the beginning to something bigger. This year it was a joy to watch a lifeguard I trained last year take a job at a pool this last fall and winter and then come back to Camp Mack this year as our Waterfront Director.

If you see something that peaks your interest, take a class, learn something new, and step outside of your comfort zone. You never know where it will take you. Never stop learning.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

## Spread the Love

My assistant Anna found this new recipe on Pinterest a few months ago, and it is becoming a new staff favorite. I often eat much more of it than I should, and the rest of the camp staff feel the same way. You just can't help but eat another bite or two or three. I love how warm and sweet and gooey it is fresh out of the oven. Take it to a carry-in for dessert, or fix it for breakfast and enjoy it with a warm cup of coffee, but this is definitely a breakfast dessert to share.

### Cinnamon Roll Coffee Cake

#### Ingredients

##### Cake:

½ cup butter, melted  
2 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
3 cups flour  
2 tsp vanilla  
4 tsp baking powder  
¼ tsp salt  
1½ cups milk

##### Topping:

1 cup butter, melted  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 Tbsp flour  
1 Tbsp cinnamon

##### Glaze:

2 cups powdered sugar, sifted  
5 Tbsp milk  
1 tsp vanilla

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a large bowl, mix all the cake ingredients together until well combined.

Pour into a greased 9x13 pan.

For the topping, mix all the ingredients together in a small bowl until well combined.

Spread evenly on the batter and swirl with a knife. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes.

For the glaze, mix all the ingredients together in a small bowl until it is a consistency like pancake syrup.

While warm, drizzle the glaze over the cake and it will set into a harder glaze.

Serve warm or at room temperature.



## 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.

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!

### 30 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>2</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>June 3-8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>Beginners</b>	<b>June 6-8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEEK 2: June 12-16</b>			
<b>Archery</b>	<b>June 12-16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</b>
<b>WEEK 3: June 17-23</b>			
<b>Survivor</b>	<b>June 17-23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEEK 4: July 1-7</b>			
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 1-6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEEK 5: July 8-14</b>			
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 8-13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>THANK YOU!</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>1</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>1</b>
<b>Culinary</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 15-20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



## Medical Staff Needed!



**Volunteer Medical Staff are needed 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. Med 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. **Dates needed are June 6-8, July 1-7, and July 8-10.**

**Check in medical staff are needed on June 3, July 1, July 8, and July 15.** Please contact Jessie Kreider at [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org) for more information.

## REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

<b>BEYOND BELIEF</b> <i>The Universe of God</i> 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
<del>Archery</del>	<del>June 12-16</del>	Followers	July 8-13
Grand Camp	June 14-16	<del>Splash Camp</del>	<del>July 8-13</del>
Survivor	June 17-23	Seekers	July 15-20
<del>Eco Adventure</del>	<del>June 24-29</del>	<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
<del>Samplers</del>	<del>July 8-10</del>		

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 Events at Camp Mack:***

## **Camp Mack Calendar**

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August 17—19

Colony Family Camp

August 31—September 3

Labor Day Family Camp

## **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. 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**

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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

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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.***

## **June 2— Campfire Jam**

Come on over to camp for the first campfire of the summer season. Bring your guitar, rhythm or other instruments, and your voices. Sing old favorite campfire songs and learn a few new ones. Saturday, 7p—9p. Cost: FREE. Popcorn in the kettle included.



## **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](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).

## ***Camp Mack Mission, Vision, and Values– Updates April 2018***

### **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.

