

# Camp Alexander Mack

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# MACKABILIA



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## News from the Director

### Imagining God's Smile

**Genesis 50:19-20** *“Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.”* (NRSV)

In Joseph's speech to his brothers at the end of Genesis, he acknowledges that he suffered because of their actions. He could have made them feel guilty. He could have wallowed in his own pity. He could have cursed them for their cruelty toward him. But, he did not. Instead, he points out that, regardless of the circumstance, God created good out of the bad.

This has been a difficult summer for everyone. None of us has been spared the restrictions imposed because of the virus. Whether we have suffered the small inconveniences of carry-out, limited travel, masks, or missing out on usual activities—like a week at camp, or we have suffered great losses through sickness, employment, significant relationships, or death, we know that God is present and is always providing opportunities for blessing, even in the most difficult times.

Here are some of the blessings and opportunities we have found in the summer of 2020:

- The opportunity to focus on projects that will have a long-term impact on the future of Camp Mack
- The blessing of volunteers who have been faithful in their work on the Peace Garden, challenge course, cutting grass, maintenance, program, and leadership—some have volunteered daily for multiple weeks!
- Getting to know families even better as they have rented our cabins and spaces for a safe getaway
- Close examination of our mission and new ideas for expanding it
- Conviction that we have not stepped out of our comfort zone to reach people of color as guests and staff members
- Ideas to improve our communication, training, and organization
- New evidence and understanding that God is in control and that our ministry's greatest assets are prayer and you, our community

Most of us can recite Jeremiah 29:11-12. It is particularly appropriate for today:

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.”* (NRSV)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive  
Director

## Nature Nut News

### IO, Cecropia, and Polyphemus



Polyphemus, Cecropia, IO, Luna, Imperial, Tulip tree silkmoth, and Promethea. The moths from the family Saturniidae get all the glory when it comes to summer moths. These seven are the biggest moths you will see in Indiana.

I'm not sure when I really started to notice moths. Butterflies came earlier as they are more visible during the day and there is a lot of focus around Monarchs. Butterflies and moths are together in the order Lepidoptera. Breaking it down from the greek, "lepis" means scales and "ptero" means wings. So, Lepidoptera means scale wings. If you have ever looked closely at a butterfly or

moth wings, you see the soft feather-like scales that cover them that are as fine as dust. *Girl of the Limberlost* by Gene Stratton-Porter was my intro to moths and her other books only have grown my love and interest of nature.

Indiananature.net is a volunteer driven website and their #gainlp (lp for lepidoptera) project has gotten hundreds of people from Indiana to post their moth sightings on the IN Nature page on Facebook. My mind is exploding with the new found expanse of the number of species in Indiana. If you go to a page to ID butterflies and moths of Indiana, you will soon be greeted with over 50 species of butterflies and up to 400 species of moths—common species, that is. The real number of species is almost double that.

So, while the Giant Silkworm moths and the Royal moths steal the spotlight, don't be surprised to see me on the John Kline deck taking photos of micro moths that are hanging around. There is beauty to be found in all sizes of moths.

If you want to know more about butterflies and moths, one site to check out is [thebutterflysite.com](http://thebutterflysite.com), where you can see species of butterflies including their nectar source and host plant. Getting to know host plants has allowed me to target species I want to see. Nature connection continually enhances my life and learning. Let me know what species you have seen lately.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



# Sunny Camp Mack

## Summer 2020!

It's here but it is not here—the summer of 2020 camping season. Last Sunday I sat on my deck and there was no sound of a new camp coming in. Yesterday when someone was cleaning a cabin I heard a door slam shut, and it sounded really good! That was a sound we should be hearing all the time. Instead, I hear the sound of a driver putting in a screw, the sound of the tamper compacting gravel in the Peace Garden, and the sound of golf carts moving around. All good sounds, just not the ones we are used to hearing in the middle of summer at Camp.

We continue to work on the Peace Garden. Judy De Pue is leading this project and we have a lot of work to do. We have had several volunteers come and help us. At this point, the work consists of digging out some trenches, then compacting stone and building walls of landscape blocks into the hill for flower beds, or filling the area with stone and putting pavers in for benches to sit on. The garden is going to be beautiful with a view of the lake similar to Vesper Hill. If you get a chance, stop in and look at the site. Better yet, come up for a day and make history with us.

We just finished getting Quinter Miller Auditorium ready for a wedding. It is amazing how much stuff we store in there over the winter; then when it warms up, we must find a place for everything to go so we can utilize the building. Once again, the amazing facility crew has this place shining like the jewel it is.

We are still working in Mission Village. We are doing some major repairs to the foundation of the walkway. We are also pressure washing the yurts and then staining them. This really refreshes the look of the yurts.

The sounds are different this summer, but I think we will be better for it when we get to the other side of the issues related to COVID-19. We continue to improve this "...sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director



# Be Our Guest

## Spot the Differences

Boy are there differences around camp. Instead of little campers running around with their counselors, there are families enjoying some relaxing camp time together. Instead of large rental camps meeting for worship in the auditorium, there was a wedding that gathered close family. Instead of family style meals in the dining room, we are serving people through the buffet line. Instead of a summer staff, we are making things work with the staff we have. Instead of income being generated from summer camps and some of our regular retreat groups, we are continually coming up with alternate ideas to provide people camp experiences and fund camp operations.

Soon, we will have new high ropes course elements, a completed peace garden, and a new health center! We have been given the opportunity to work on these projects that have already had money designated for them. These will all change the look of camp, but in good ways!

Despite the differences, we are plugging along. Camp may feel different this year without as many people around, with a closed swimming beach, and with all of the other changes, but we are still here, this beautiful sanctuary.

Spot the 5 differences between the two photos of the work at the Peace Garden below:



Answer key on page 12

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



# Another Way of Giving

## A Little Sabbath Goes a Long Way

I took a vacation. No, I didn't go anywhere; I'm not ready to travel much with COVID still a significant problem. I took off a whole week of work, and as I told my coworkers, it was a hard vacation: no answering work emails, or checking in. I read my emails just to stay up to date, but I made it intentionally difficult to check email and work messages. I still talked with work friends and got ice cream with some others, but avoided talking shop.

Mostly I unpacked the new apartment my wife and I just rented and relaxed. I played a fair amount of video games, watched movies, helped my mom repaint her patio doors, and started reading the biography of civil rights leader Andrew Young. Nothing terribly exciting, but it was the most relaxed I had felt in a very long time.

The last time I took this much work off was for our wedding back in 2014. Since graduating college, I have had jobs at 4 places: Target, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Great Wolf Lodge, and Camp Mack. The only places I earned paid time off (PTO) was here at Camp and Target. I would have earned some PTO at the other two, but I was a seasonal and part time employee, so I did not have the opportunity to.



Taking PTO is a privilege. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 76% of Americans receive paid time off. While I am blessed to now be part of that 76%, there have been many times where my wife and I were each or both part of the 24% of Americans who do not have this important benefit. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not say this, I would guess that the 24% are mostly low wage hourly workers. If you are living paycheck to paycheck, the only way you can afford to relax is to be working somewhere gracious enough to give you PTO. If you don't, then your life is likely nonstop stressful.

If you have vacation, use it. Even if it is just a time to relax and work around the house, we all need our Sabbath. Take Sabbath, not just for God to have time with you, but for you to have time with God. If you own a business, make sure your employees have the opportunity for Sabbath rest, and use that opportunity as well. A little Sabbath goes a long way.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

# Kitchen News

## Let's Shake Things Up

Everything is different this year. Nothing is the same. We are in the middle of some very interesting times in our history. There are new social rules to learn and follow and new ways of doing everyday things, like meetings and classes. There are new activities to finally try out, recipes to experiment with, and more time to be with our families.

After spending lots of time cooking my tried and true recipes for my family at home or our staff at camp, I often want to find ways to switch things up or try something new. For this article, I decided to do the same thing; instead of giving you a recipe, I'm going to give you some ideas of how to take a normal breakfast food and change it up a little bit.

A food that most people love to eat and one of the easiest things to make in the kitchen is scrambled eggs. You can scramble eggs in a skillet in the kitchen or over a campfire. You can even make them in the microwave! But, there are SO many things you can do to make your basic scrambled eggs into something new! Try adding ingredients you enjoy to them to add flavor, or just change up your seasonings a little bit. Wrap them up in a tortilla and make a burrito. You can use them in a casserole, put them on toast, or make a sandwich with an English muffin. If your little ones want to "help" make breakfast, put your eggs and extra add-ins into a Ziplock bag and let them mix it up. (You may want to double bag them in case your kids get a little too enthusiastic with the mixing.) I don't really like scrambled eggs, but put them into a breakfast casserole with sausage, gravy, peppers, onions, and potatoes and I will eat every last bite!

Here at camp we always lightly salt and pepper the scrambled eggs, but sometimes when I want them to look extra fancy I will also sprinkle them with smoked paprika and parsley flakes. They look so nice with a little pop of color.

Here are a few ideas of things to add into your scrambled eggs if you are looking to change your mornings up a little bit. Enjoy!

- Sautéed Onions
- Grilled Peppers (From sweet bell peppers to spicy jalapenos, you can choose your preferred level of heat.)
- Tomatoes
- Bacon Bits
- Ham Chunks
- Hash Browns
- Sausage
- Sausage Gravy
- Spinach
- Cheese (Shredded, sliced, spicy, there are so many options)
- Salsa
- Avocado slices



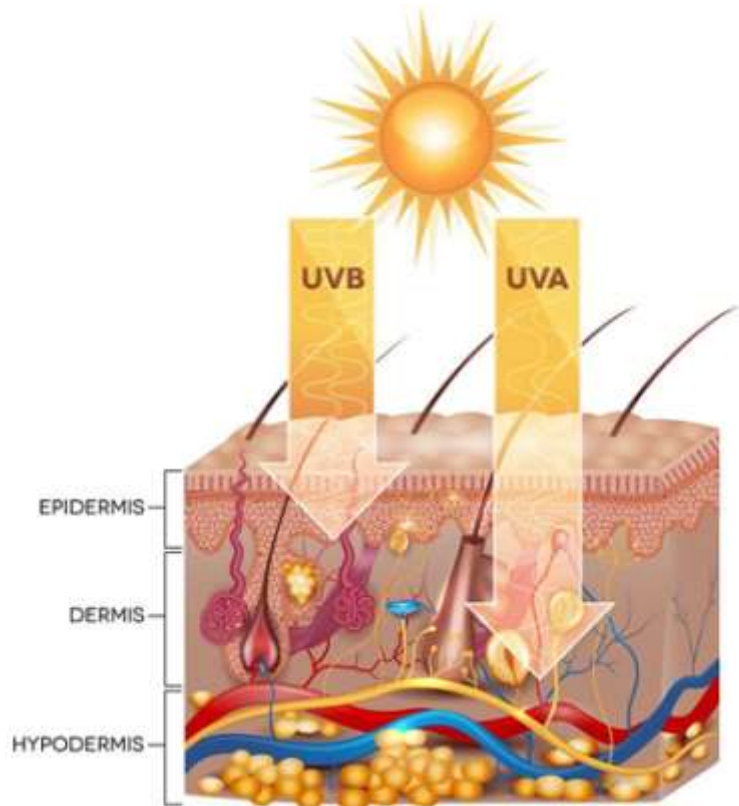
Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

# Education Station Part I

## The Science of Sunburns and DIY Aloe Vera Gel

Everyone knows that sunburns are caused by exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) light and that they can be prevented by sunscreen. You might not know that sunburns and tans are actually your skin's defensive response to damage from this UV light. Neither tans nor sunburns are inherently harmful, but they're both signs that your DNA has already been damaged. How does this work?

The sun emits UV-A, UV-B, and UV-C radiation. UV-C radiation is absorbed by the ozone layer, but the other two reach us. Excessive UV-B/UV-A exposure can cause the molecules in your cells' DNA to enter an excited state, leading to mutations and genetic breakages and (after time) skin cancer. To combat this, our skin has a defense: a group of dark pigments called melanin, which block radiation and minimize the damage to your DNA. Some people naturally have higher melanin levels than others, making their skin darker to begin with and less vulnerable to UV-B. Others can build up melanin over time in response to small doses of UV radiation, which forms a tan. But in extreme conditions, DNA damage from UV-B exposure can happen in 10-15 minutes. While UV-B radiation can cause sunburns and signs of aging, UV-A radiation is the one that penetrates deep into the skin and causes skin cancer. Thankfully, sunscreen helps block both types of radiation.



Why do sunburns peel and hurt? It can take 1-3 days for melanin to start entering skin cells and build up a tan. The body's short-term response to DNA damage from sunburns is to kill off the skin cells that have been damaged. This process is called apoptosis, and it reduces the chance that mutated cells will begin to reproduce and form a tumor (aka skin cancer). Dead cells on the outermost layers of your skin can simply flake off, resulting in that peeling you see days after a sunburn. But in deeper skin layers, your body will have an inflammatory response to damaged cells, which is the same response your body has to an infection. Your blood vessels dilate to allow for increased blood flow (causing your skin to feel hot) and overproduction of proteins leads to pain and itchiness. When high numbers of cells are killed, blisters can form in order for blood plasma to pool next to the damaged tissue and aid in healing.

What should you do if you've been burned? Take a cool shower, take a pain reliever, and drink lots of water. Many people also apply aloe vera gel, as it has a cooling feel. Want to make your own after-sun aloe vera gel? Try this simple recipe:



## Education Station Part II & New Adventures Begin

### Ingredients:

- Fresh aloe vera leaves (5 leaves, each 4-6 inches long will make about ¼ cup of gel)
- 2 Tablespoons coconut oil
- Essential oil of your choice (optional; I like citrus smells to mask the aloe smell)

### Instructions:

1. Clean your aloe and peel the skin off one side of each leaf. Use a spoon to scoop/scrape the gel from the leaves into a container.
2. Add your coconut oil and a few drops of essential oil. Blend the ingredients in a food processor or beat with a fork.
3. Store the gel in a container in the refrigerator. Coconut oil hardens when refrigerated, so you may need to mix the gel a bit before applying. A batch will keep for about a month in the refrigerator.

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator



## NEW ADVENTURES CONTINUE!

New adventures continue... Summer Camp 2020.

Camp has begun a new summer camp experience for the summer of 2020. The command to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances is experienced through the *This is Our Prayer* summer camp theme.

**In session—June 28–July 3: Age 5 through completed Grade 3**

**July 5–10: Completed Grades 3–6**

**July 12–17: Completed Grades 6–10**

**Register here: [campmack.org/questforcamp](http://campmack.org/questforcamp)**

This new camp allows for individual exploration and time together as a community. Mornings start at the base camp where the daily prayer practice will be announced. Join us at the creation station for crafts or go off the beaten path for nature time. We also have video demonstrations, camp puzzles, and other activities for you to choose your own adventure. There is an online area where you can post your expedition files (Waubee Wave submissions) and share what you have made. Each night will end at owl light where you can join in vespers and a story.

So, get ready for a new adventure. We look forward to connecting with you this summer!

## Upcoming Events

### 95th Anniversary Virtual Celebration and Remembrance

Join us **July 9th at 7 p.m. on Facebook** to celebrate 95 years of Camp Mack. We will reflect on the history of Camp Mack, remember the loss of Becker Lodge 10 years ago, and look forward to the future of Camp Mack. We hope you can celebrate with us from wherever you are.

### Chicken and Rib Barbecue

The COVID-19 virus forced us to postpone our Annual Dinner. In its place we will have a chicken and rib barbecue followed by a campfire on **August 14**. Everyone who purchased a ticket or table for the annual dinner is already reserved for a place at this very special event.

Final details will be shared at a later date, but we'll follow the same schedule. An informal time for connecting with one another over appetizers will begin at 6:15. The meal will start at 7:00. The campfire will be traditional with some sharing from camp staff and others.

As an added bonus: if you were unable to participate in the Annual Dinner, you now have a chance to join in this event. Contact [todd@campmack.org](mailto:todd@campmack.org) if you are interested in being added to the guest list or you wish to purchase a table for you and additional guests.



## We Need YOU!

As we have shared in this newsletter, there are lots of things happening at Camp Mack this summer. The Camp Board and the staff will make certain this time is used to improve our programs, facilities, and outreach, so the mission of Camp can be spread further in our communities. The struggle, however, is that we have limited staff and even more limited funds.

Our facility work requires additional help throughout the summer. We need landscapers, outdoor cleanup, painters, carpenters, housekeeping, and general labor. Several new programs are being considered for the future, and we need help in planning. We will need office help periodically. Please watch your email and Facebook for opportunities to help. We would love to have you join us.

What is critical for us is that we lost all our spring rental income, amounting to about \$250,000. We also will not be able to have our usual summer income. A new budget has been developed by the staff and reviewed by the Indiana Camp Board Finance Committee, and it helps make up the deficit, but it will still fall short. We have been blessed with one of the PPP loans to help us keep our staff through this critical initial period. We recently had the planned harvest of a timber stand, and the proceeds are also helping with lost income. Almost all our churches and many of our families donated part or all their summer camp fees easing our refund obligations. If our community (churches and individuals) continue to donate as usual, we will be able to make up a good portion of our lost income, but not all.

At this point, we believe we will have around \$86,000.00 to recover. There will be several opportunities this summer for all who are able to participate in giving events, beginning with our *Day of Giving* on June 7<sup>th</sup>. You can also use the services we will be offering, including cabin rentals, meals from the kitchen, and an online Gift Shoppe. You can register for our traditional fundraising events including the golf outing, 5K, and Camp Mack Festival. Even if we are not able to physically offer them, we will provide fun and engaging alternatives.

In the end, we count on you as we always have. We are doing everything possible to make sure we will emerge from this year ready and able to continue our ministry. But our success is dependent on you—because you are who we are.

## **Rentals Available!**



# **BRING YOUR FAMILY TO CAMP MACK THIS SUMMER**

Camp Mack has cabins to rent to families looking for a getaway to a safe and relaxing space. All four of our cabin areas are available through much of the summer at reasonable rates. Beginning July 11th, August 14th–16th and September 4th–7th (Labor Day Weekend) will be available for rental. Other dates are available now through Labor Day Weekend!

Each cabin/yurt rental includes:

- A fully prepared and disinfected cabin
- Bathhouse/restroom dedicated to your family
- Campfire circle with wood
- Use of all camp green spaces and trails
- The experience of connecting with God in this holy place

Families will be able to choose additional options to add to their stay:

- Meals may be available at regular rates with different options to choose from
- Kiosk rental with table service, Dutch ovens, and other campfire cookware for outdoor cooking
- Popcorn campfire (popped by the Camp Mack staff in a kettle)
- Boating for 1 hour on Lake Waubee

Call the Camp Mack office at 574-658-4831 or email a request to [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) to ask about availability and prices.

Get away to a safe and beautiful place to make new memories and connect with God!

## **Colony Camp and Labor Day Family Camp Updates!**

Both Colony Camp and Labor Day Family Camp have made the difficult decision to not hold traditional camp this year. Many discussions were had, and ultimately it was going to be difficult to hold programs and try to keep everyone safe. Some regular options, like swimming, were not going to be available.

However, Camp is extending the time period of family cabin and yurt rentals to allow for families to still come to Camp Mack as they feel comfortable, and the leadership from the family camps encourage you to rent a cabin as you are able the weekends that these events would have been. Camp Mack will hold cabin and yurt rental space exclusively for these camp families through July 10th, so inquire soon! You may still request a rental following this date, but cabins and yurts will be open for anyone to rent during those weekends beginning July 11th (so, there may be limited space available). We hope you will be able to come, even if it is on a different weekend than the camp you were going to attend. See above for some information, and contact camp for prices and to sign-up.

Each camp is very much looking forward to gathering together for fun and fellowship next year!



## Fundraiser Updates

Camp Mack  
Giving Day  
June 7



Thank you for your gifts of sharing, donating, and prayers for Camp Mack Giving Day. A special thanks to our two anonymous donors who each offered a \$5,000 matching gift. Your love for this place is overwhelming. Thank you!

**We raised \$29,000 from 157 donors**

Camp Mack Virtual 5K

July 1–31, 2020

Support Camp Mack with walking and running in your own neighborhood. All participants will receive a t-shirt, medal, and backpack.

\$20 per person

Register at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org) & click “Register Online”



Your Course, Your Camp: Camp Mack Golf Outing

August 1–31, 2020

Golf at your home course and benefit Camp Mack. Participants will receive a thank you package with golfing goodies.

\$50 per person

Registration coming soon



Puzzle Answer Key from Page 5

- 1: The shovel handle changed from red to yellow.
- 2: A tree trunk near the lake is missing.
- 3: A partial additional pier was added to the stack.
- 4: Two pretty tulips have popped up at the corner of the stone platform.
- 5: A brick is missing from the pallet.