

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ Camp Mack Giving Day details; join us in multiple ways on Saturday, August 7 (p 2 and 3)
- ⇒ “Celebrating Giving” with Gene: blessings from this past year and celebration through Giving Day (p 4)
- ⇒ Upcoming Events (p 5)
- ⇒ “Same Same, but Different...Camp in a Time of COVID” with Jessie: summer is going great (p 6)
- ⇒ “Summer’s End!” with Galen: power outage and internet solutions; trenching a conduit (p 7)
- ⇒ “Spot the Differences: A Year Later” with Deanna: new puzzle; CIT Camp; documentary (p 8 and 9)
- ⇒ Spot the Differences answers; connect online (p 10)
- ⇒ “A Sense of Scale” with Todd: How many people do you think know Camp Mack? (p 11)
- ⇒ “A ‘Creation’ Snack for ‘Creation Speaks’” with Vanessa: creating new summer experiences (p 12)
- ⇒ 2021 Wish List (p 13)
- ⇒ “Summer Staff Spotlight” with Kristen: get to know Cassidy who is on summer staff (p 14)



Celebrating Sanctuary

Camp Mack Giving Day August 7th, 2021

Celebrate swimming and boating on Lake Waubee.

Celebrate reaching new heights on the challenge course.

Celebrate the community around the campfire.



You can join this celebration with a donation of \$100 that honors the hundreds of memories at Camp Mack. All donations up to \$6,500 will be matched so your donation of \$100 will have an impact of \$200.

As another summer comes to a close, join all of the Camp Mack community in supporting the mission and ministry of this sanctuary on Lake Waubee.

Donate at Campmack.org/givingday

Reaching New Heights Documentary

10am



Celebrating Sanctuary Telethon

1pm to 5pm

Shari Hoopingarner
Long Time Volunteer

Frank Ramirez
Pastor of Union Center Church
of the Brethren

Phyllis Leininger
Retired Camp Mack Staff
Volunteer

Shawn Bianchini
Of the
Farmhouse Restaurant
Shawnanigans Catering

Brian Flory
Pastor of
Beacon Heights
Church of the Brethren

Miriam Hartman
Participant of
Scrapbooking Retreat
Christmas Cookie GAD

Ray and JJ
Members of
Narcotics Anonymous

Joyce Linder
Spiritual Retreat
Leader

Jim Bates
Board Member
Facility Volunteer

John Railton
Former Leader
Church of God Family Camp

Anna Ritchey Moore
Summer Staffer

Laura VanVoorhis
Camper Parent
Board Member

And More!

Hosted by: Dennis Beckner & Tamisyn Grantz

Community Campfire

7pm

**Musical Memories with
The Boomer Boys**

**Silly Songs with
Deanna Beckner**



**Vespers with
Cheryl Thomas**

**An offering will be taken
to support Camp Mack**

News from the Director

Celebrating Giving

We have a lot to celebrate! In March of 2020, there was some concern about what the future might be like at Camp Mack. The summer program was canceled, and it was very unclear as to when Camp might open again.

Sixteen months later, we have ended a very successful summer camping season, our finances are more stable, and our ministry continues. This has been because of the volunteers and donors who kept us strong in one of our most difficult challenges. Our donors continued to share, and many increased, their financial support of camp. A large number of families and churches donated fees that had already been paid to keep our cash flow solid. So many volunteers assisted with painting and flooring the Health Center, building the Peace Garden, working in the kitchen, helping to maintain the grounds, and providing support for summer camp programs. It is truly not possible to fully express our gratitude to the entire community for the last year and a half.

Many not-for-profit organizations (like Camp Mack) choose a day out of each year to celebrate the support of their communities. Our Giving Day is August 7th.

We will start with “Celebrating New Heights,” an original documentary created by Todd Eastis that gives everyone a view of the Challenge Course built in the summer of 2020. This video helps us to see just one of the exciting new ways we are reaching out in ministry (the most visual one!). That premiere will be at 10:00 AM.

From 1:00–5:00, we share “Celebrating Sanctuary,” as Dennis Beckner and Tamisyn Grantz lead us through an afternoon of stories and testimony demonstrating the life-changing impact Camp Mack has in the Church of the Brethren and beyond. Guests of Camp Mack give their experiences of sanctuary while the hosts share opportunities for folks to participate in our ministry of holy hospitality.

At 7:00 PM, you can join us at Camp Mack or online through Facebook in a “Celebration of Community,” as we share together in a campfire. If you can’t join us, pop your own popcorn and sing along in the joy of enthusiastic worship.

Giving Day allows us the opportunity to emphasize the work God is doing in this place. Please take time to join us as much as you are able. We are celebrating you!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Giving Day**, August 7 (See pages 2 and 3 for details)
- **Colony Camp**, August 13–15: Fun and fellowship for the whole family! Colony Camp is a great opportunity to experience some summer fun with your family before school starts back up. Enjoy the planned group activities along with boating and swimming, or simply relax and spend quality time with family and friends. Bring your RV, tent, or use one of the cabins. Bring your own food and bedding, and enjoy a weekend at Camp Mack! Families of all ages are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$92 per family for the weekend. \$20 for the day. 6p Friday to 1p Sunday.
- **Sailing 101 Get-A-Way Day**, August 14: Learn basic sailing and rigging techniques on a Sunfish sailboat. Take out a Laser sailboat for a little more fun. 9a to 3p. \$25 (lunch included). Bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, and a towel. You will get wet. Water shoes are recommended.
- ~~Sailing 201 Get-A-Way Day, August 21 (no longer available)~~
- **Prairie Walk Get-A-Way Day**, August 22: Walk through the five acres of prairie at camp and discover the plants within.
- **Canoe and Kayak Get-A-Way Day**, August 28: Choose from a half day or full day program. Learn basic skills and paddle strokes. Then, take a full lakeshore tour of Lake Waubee.
- **Labor Day Family Camp**, September 3–6: This camp offers something for the entire family! Swimming, boating, crafts, and community worship are available, along with age-appropriate classes and discussion groups. Enjoy all of the fun and meaningful components of camp as a family unit. Invite grandparents and friends, too! Families of all ages are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. \$100 (after 7/14) with options for shortened stays. Additional fees for lodging and meals.



- **Soap Making Get-A-Way Day**, September 11: Learn the basics of cold process soap making! Gain hands-on experience and discuss the saponification process, using natural colorants, design techniques, and the curing process. Please wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. 9a to 3p. Cost: \$40 (lunch included). Limit: 10 participants.

- **Write Your Story Get-A-Way Day**, September 11: Your story matters, and it is just waiting to be written down. Learn to share your story and begin the writing process. 9a to 3p. \$25 (lunch included).

All events will adhere to state and local guidelines and are subject to change accordingly. Before participating, please be considerate of other people's health by assessing your own. Thank you.

Plan now for these upcoming events!

For more info, check out cammack.org or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click "Register Online" at the top of the page at cammack.org.

Nature Nut News

Same Same, but Different...Camp in a Time of COVID



Last month, I wrote about the intentionality of all we do at camp. This month, I want to write a little bit about how this summer is going. With all the updates about COVID pre-summer camp, some have a hard time seeing how camp may go and only see a list of restrictions. Honestly, summer camp is going great!

Camp is connection, and this summer is no exception. Here are some of the changes that were made this summer and how campers are finding connection. One decision was to do check-in differently. Parents no longer go in

the cabins and help their campers set up their spaces. They say goodbye as they find their cabin assignment, and then cabin counselors and other campers greet them and help them move in. Younger campers may find themselves each taking a corner of a fitted sheet to help a cabin mate make their bed. The group building as a cabin begins right away.

Lunches are also a bit different this summer. Every day we have had sack lunches. No, not the same cold meat everyday, but walking tacos, BLT wraps, roast beef sandwiches, and more. The groups come through a line outside, pack a lunch, and then go with their cabin to a special place in camp to eat as a group. A hike to the observation deck and eating on top of the ship in Arky Parky were a couple of favorites.

As much as schedules are important, just as important is observation of campers and knowing when to change the schedule. Early one night, a younger camper, after an evening cookout, asked if they could just keep playing together instead of doing the next activity right away. 100% of the campers were engaged in races, tag, and playing catch, so it was an easy yes. They then did water games later instead of a planned campfire. During craft times at camp this summer, we have also seen campers sitting down at picnic tables and chatting together, sometimes for an hour, before letting them know it is time to move on.

Connection with God, community, and nature are so important to the camp environment. Relationships matter. And this summer, we realize camp in a time of covid is same, same, but different, and we have an awesome opportunity in front of us to make a difference, to try something new, and to realize the power of connections in ways we may not have tried before.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Summer's End!

It's difficult to believe that it is August already. Two more weeks of summer camp and then we are into the fall retreat season.

A couple of weeks ago, we had a power outage here at Camp. We seldom lose power here, and when we do, it most often is of short duration. NIPSCO does a good job of keeping us going. But having said all of that, it is still sort of scary when you lose power. If you have a couple hundred kids at camp and no electricity, it can be a problem. The first issue is light in windowless places like the kitchen, and the second problem is loss of water. We have somewhere between 90 and 100 johns on camp, and they need water to function. We have a plan where we fill buckets at the flowing well, haul them up to the restrooms, and fill the tanks on the johns. We usually try to get some help from campers to do this. This last time we had just started hauling water when the power came back on. That was a joyous moment! We probably need to investigate the possibility of hooking up one of our portable generators to a well pump.

Another issue we are facing is loss of internet signal from the John Kline Welcome Center (JKWC) to Quinter Miller Auditorium (QMA). That signal is currently wireless from JKWC to QMA and then is wireless to each building from QMA. Todd, with some assistance from our Church of God rental camp connections, has been doing some research on the best way to upgrade our internet service without cleaning out our checking account. One part of that solution is to hard wire JKWC to QMA. Last week, the facility crew trenched a conduit from JKWC to QMA. We had to cross over three water lines, a 200-amp service line, a sewer line, and a gas line. I missed all of these except for one water line to QMA, which was very shallow and just barely tapped the sewer line. Not bad for an inexperienced trencher crew!

I want to say again how much I appreciate all the volunteers who have stepped up to help us this summer. It takes all of us working together to keep this a "...sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Spot the Differences: A Year Later

About a year ago, I gave you a Spot the Differences puzzle to solve—it was a picture of some shovels at the Peace Garden. The Peace Garden has changed much since then and so has camp. With the help of many, we've accomplished several new projects in the last year (solar panels, roofing, digital display in the gathering area, the Esther and John Hamer Health Center, and many more), and we have been immensely happy to have campers back at camp enjoying this sanctuary! What a blessing it has been to participate in campfires, singing songs we know by heart and eating freshly popped popcorn from the kettle. The older campers have gotten a chance to experience the middle deck of the new high ropes course with numerous moments of triumphant accomplishment and fun.

This year, there was a new camp—CIT Camp (Counselor In Training Camp). Laura Brubaker and Lucas Kauffman (along with Jessie Kreider, program director) spent the week teaching and having a good time with these teenagers. This week has helped prepare these campers to be even better leaders, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and learn.

Co-team leader/counselor Laura, at the end of the week, mentioned, "It was great. It was awesome to see the kids collaborating and trying new things like leading Bible study, morning watch, and other activities. They all got along well. When leading a Bible study, I explained my process beforehand so they knew what they were doing when they led theirs. I think they'll all make great CITs and counselors if they choose to go down that route." These campers are transitioning into camp leadership roles, and we are proud of them and the work they have done. Keep an eye out for future training opportunities.

When you visit camp next, maybe for the Celebrating Community Campfire on August 7th or for another event, see if you can spot the differences around camp. In the meantime, check out the two near identical photos on the next page and see if you can spot the changes between the original photo on top and the altered photo on the bottom. There are eight small differences to detect. Look closely and see what you can find! (See page 9 for the puzzle and page 10 for the answers.)

Check out the Celebrating New Heights Documentary at 10 a.m. on August 7th for an exploratory experience and encouraging stories. Follow along for an adventure. In the puzzle, CIT Camp is pictured on the first element of the high ropes middle deck.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director





ANSWERS TO SPOT THE DIFFERENCES (from page 9)

1. The rock on the climbing tower near the bottom middle of the photo changed from yellow to red.
 2. Sebastian (person 3rd from the left) gained an extra lanyard.
 3. A star appeared on Evva's helmet.
 4. Andrew's (person farthest left) right shoe's (left shoe when facing him) stripes jumped over to Jaida's (person farthest right) shoe.
 5. Miriam (person 3rd from the right) gained some extra bracelets and waterfront wristbands.
 6. Isaac's (person 4th from the right) waterfront wristbands disappeared.
 7. Lilly's (2nd person from the left) hair grew.
 8. Charlie's (2nd person from the right) shirt's flowers turned orange.
- Those were pretty difficult! Nice work if you found them.



**Spot us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CampMack>
and online at <https://www.campmack.org/>**

Celebrate Sanctuary with us on August 7th during Giving Day. See you there!

Another Way of Giving

A Sense of Scale

How many people do you think know Camp Mack? This question first came to mind at an event hosted by the Kosciusko County Community Foundation a few years ago. My Camp Mack shirt was a conversation starter since many people had their own memories and experiences of Camp Mack.

So, how many people have ever been to Camp Mack? Internally, we track how many people come to specific events, but that doesn't count the wide variety of programs we have. We use people days, which counts meals, overnight stays, and sometimes day usage. In 2019, we had nearly 8,000 people days.

That's like filling Quinter Miller Auditorium to the max with no social distancing 10 times. Camp Mack has about 400 beds, so 8,000 people days means 20 days straight with every bed filled.

2019 was a pretty average year for Camp Mack in terms of number of groups. Being a Camp Mack history nerd, I am confident in saying that 8,000 people days a year for all of Camp's history is low. A low estimate of people days from 1925 to 2019 puts Camp Mack at 752,000 people days since 1925.

I admit, we will never know the size of the Camp Mack community. Hopefully these numbers help to show how big this place's impact has been. Whether you came here for 95 years, or 95 minutes it's great to have you as part of the Camp Mack community.



Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Kitchen News

A “Creation” Snack for “Creation Speaks”



We made the decision before summer started to serve sack lunches to our campers this summer for every midday meal. It's been very different, but we have really enjoyed the outcome. It's such a blessing watching the campers go out around camp sharing a meal together outside every day. We have given them some fun options and tried some new things.

Our kitchen crew has had to adapt to the new way of doing things, and we couldn't have done it without a great group of volunteers who have helped us pretty consistently this summer. I am so proud of the work we have accomplished. From new ways of serving, to special diets, to learning to prepare ahead as much as possible, to figuring out how to serve all our guests with limited staff, we have learned a lot.

We have even been able to do some fun special requests from our Team Leaders. A returning volunteer, Shirley Braner, who has been helping in the kitchen since before I started in 2017, had a great time helping our Beginners/Samplers leaders with a special “Creation” snack. Some days it's the little extra things like that, or moving around table assignments, or making sure we have gluten-free cookies at registration that are the kitchen crew's way of helping our campers have a positive experience.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our guests in person this summer. They are a blessing to us. Here is Shirley's dirt pudding creation! Chocolate pudding, crumbled Oreos, and gummy worms. Simple and yummy!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





2021 Wish List

It is exciting to see the many improvements we have made through the last year. We hope you can stop by to see them soon. Better yet, look for a program that fits your interests and join us!

Each year, we put together a list of facility repairs and maintenance we have prioritized. Ideally, we hope to accomplish all of them; however, without help from others, we don't have the resources to get them all done.

This is the list of projects we have prioritized for 2021. If you see a project that interests you, please contact Galen (galen@campmack.org) and Todd (todd@campmack.org) to see how you can become involved. These are all projects that an individual, church, or community or partner group could assist with financial support and/or volunteer labor. There is a lot here, but with faith, together we can accomplish great things.

Here is the 2021 updated list:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge—completed
- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel—completed
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence—completed
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center—in progress
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands—fully funded
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room—completed
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk—fully funded

Follow along at campmack.org for monthly updates.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, your hours of service, and your presence here in this sanctuary place.



campmack.org | 574-658-4831 | info@campmack.org

Education Station

Summer Staff Spotlight

Cassidy: Jack of all trades and fearless summer staffer



Cassidy has been a part of Camp Mack since she was in first grade and has been on summer staff for 4 years. She has also been helping with our outdoor education program this past year and has really enjoyed learning about invertebrates and helping teach topics like that to Kindergarteners! It's really easy to get her excited about an activity because Cassidy loves trying new things at camp and has been a lifeguard, loves leading high ropes and climbing tower, works on facilities, teaches outdoor education, and can generally help with any aspect of camp. Her favorite things to lead are anything that involves the climbing tower and the new high ropes course. She wanted to work at camp after having an amazing final summer as a camper and making lasting friendships. She hopes to help every camper she encounters have those same friendships with each other! When she needs a moment of peace and reflection, she can often be found on the new swings at the Peace Garden because she enjoys watching the sunset over the lake.

Favorite Camp Song: *Boom Chicka Boom*

Favorite Camp Food: Bosco sticks (cheese-filled breadsticks)

Best Camp Memory: Every moment at the climbing tower and all the ensuing shenaniganry

Weird Skill: She is really good at making elephant and bat noises!

Fun Fact: Cassidy was a clown for 6 years and went by the name Ducky with her puppet friends Cheese and Crackers. She loves rolling down hills and loves to race people! (Anyone want to challenge her?)

On Her Time Off: She loves hanging out with her family and pets, going on adventures with her fellow staff members, decorating her room at camp in shark paraphernalia, volunteering at the Elkhart County Fair, helping rehabilitate wild animals, and taking long naps to recuperate from working hard at camp!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator