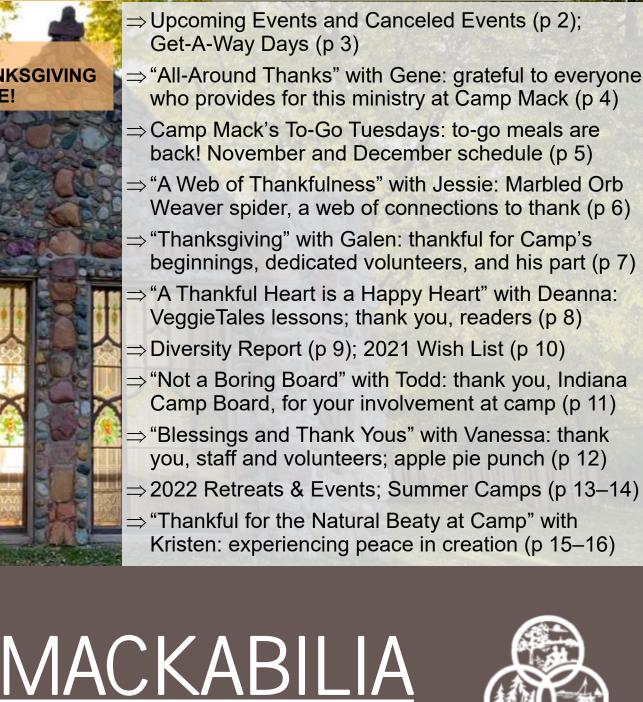
Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

THE THANKSGIVING ISSUE!

Volume 8 Issue 11 November 2021



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- <u>Children's Christmas Party</u> Saturday, December 11: Parents, drop off your kids at Camp Mack, and then head out for a day of shopping, dining, and relaxing while your children have the time of their lives. We provide them with two meals and a snack while playing games, singing Christmas carols, hearing the Christmas story, doing crafts, decorating cookies, and more. Saturday 11a–7p. Ages 5–12. Cost: \$25.
- <u>New Year's Eve Retreat, "What's in a Name?"</u> Friday, December 31, 2021–Saturday, January 1, 2022: Great fun for youth, and peace of mind for parents! Why bring in the new year sitting at home when you can have a great time reuniting with friends from summer or introducing someone new to Camp Mack? This is the place to be counting down minutes till the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. This overnight event is filled with awesome activities indoors and out, live DJs, dancing, Bible study, games, free time, and more. 2p Friday to 12:30p Saturday. Ages: All youth 6th through 10th grades and adult chaperones. Cost: \$75 per person early registration. After December 9th, \$85. A \$10 scholarship is available during early registration only.
- <u>Camp Rep Meeting</u> Saturday, January 15 at 9:30a. Camp Reps, join us to discover important updates, ask questions, and more.

SAVE THE DATES

- **Snow Camp Jr.**, January 22, 2022
- <u>Snow Camp</u>, January 29, 2022

CANCELED EVENTS:

• **<u>Pastor's Sabbath</u>**, November 2–3

Plan now for these upcoming events! For more info, check out campmack.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 campmack.org.



November Get-A-Way Days:

• Saturday, November 20—Sandhill Cranes Trip Travel with us to the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Observe upwards of 10,000 cranes in the field from the observation platform as they fly in and dance while traveling along their migration route. This event should be on every birder's life list. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then go offsite. Saturday 1p–10p (the start time shifted one hour earlier). Cost: \$30 (includes snacks and transportation). Bring binoculars and come dressed for the weather. Dinner at Christos on the way back (dinner is on your own).

December Get-A-Way Days:

- December 4—Wreaths and Swags Make a traditional Williamsburg Wreath, Christmas wreath, or swag using greens and fresh fruit to grace your door this Christmas season. Saturday 9a–12p. \$35 (lunch and all materials included). Ulrich House Basement. Leader: Karen Kauffman. Bring gloves.
- **December 4—Wooden Christmas Ornaments** Join experienced woodworkers around the lathe and let the wood chips fly as each turn brings new life to your ornaments. Saturday 9a–1p. Cost: \$30 (lunch and all materials included). Ulrich House Basement.
- December 4 and 5—Christmas Cookies Choose from one of three sessions to fill up your cookie jar! Camp provides the ingredients, measuring utensils, and mixing bowls. You bring the family or friends, mix the dough, and decorate cookies. Best of all, camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each makes about 3 dozen). Saturday 9a–1p/12p–4p. Sunday 12p–4p. John Kline Welcome Center. \$55 (lunch and all baking materials included). Leader: Jess Kreider. Bring an apron and containers to take home your cookies. Cookie options: chocolate chip, chocolate crinkle (new for 2021!), gingersnaps, sugar cookies, monster, oatmeal raisin, butter cookies (pre-baked and ready for you to decorate!), peanut butter, snickerdoodles, snowballs (a.k.a. Mexican wedding cookies). Additional batches: \$9/batch. Additional adult lunch (ages 9+): \$9. Additional child lunch (ages 3–8): \$4.50.









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.

News from the Director

All-Around Thanks

In at least fourteen different scriptures, Paul gives thanks for the people with whom he works. Sometimes he thanks individuals like Timothy, and at other times, he thanks churches and their leaders for the faith and witness in difficult times. Most often he thanks God for the opportunity to share the Gospel and build ministry.

I understand why Paul is so thankful. This ministry is completely dependent on so many people and upon the grace of God.

Our year-round staff work hard constantly in order to provide the sanctuary we promise in our mission. Galen, Cassidy, Vonna, and Brad do their best to provide clean, safe, and functional facilities for our guests to enjoy. Jess and Kristen lead people through activities that revive the body, mind, and spirit. Vanessa, Dave, and Miriam prepare food and treats to nourish and delight. Deanna shepherds our hospitality, making certain our guests feel cared for and loved. Todd, Brittany, and Ruth work behind the scenes to make sure we have the resources we need to provide for our guests.

Volunteers impact every aspect of our program and facility. We have individual volunteers and we have groups, often churches, who volunteer together. The work we do could not be accomplished without people and organizations who are willing to give "sweat equity" for the cause of our ministry.

We are also grateful for the many people who give their treasure to provide important opportunities for people who need it. No gift, given in love, is small. It is truly a blessing when we see so many who believe in this ministry enough to give sacrificially to it.

Paul is thankful because he sees the resurrection of Jesus and the grace of God as people work together to spread the gospel of love. Because you care about Camp Mack, it continues to thrive, sharing love and sanctuary to so many desperate for connection and peace.

Thank you!

How can we possibly thank God enough for all the happiness you have brought us? 1 Thessalonians 3:9 (CEV)



Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Camp Mack is offering To-Go Tuesdays again this fall!!!

These are individual, hot meals that will include the entree mentioned, a salad of some kind, two sides, and a dessert. Each individual meal will cost \$10 per meal.

A family meal option is available where you will get 6 servings of each item for \$50.

Pick up will be from 4:30p-6:30p every Tuesday at camp. Follow the signs, and camp staff will bring your meal to your car.

We will have baked goods available for the holidays as well, so stay tuned and follow our Facebook page (Camp Mack) for updates.

You can order each week, or you can order several weeks in advance! The Camp Mack Kitchen can't wait to serve you!!

Order here: campmack.org/to-go

Nature Nut News

Autumn is a time for the webs of the orb weaver spiders to take center stage. Foggy mornings give a glimpse of the masterpieces created overnight. Earlier this month I had the chance to sit and observe this Marbled Orb Weaver finish the center of the web it was constructing. I was fascinated by the precision and beauty of it.

Similar to the web of the orb weaver, camp is a beautiful collage of connections. Here are ways I am grateful and thankful for the connections in the web of camp life.

To the storytellers: Keep sharing your stories of camp, the impact it



had on your life, your experiences. Let me learn from you as you share different ways things have been done or how you handled a situation.

To the participants: Thank you for coming. The words "next time" or "next year" are music to my ears as you dream about what camp will be like the next time you come.

A Web of Thankfulness

To the volunteers: You are the lifeblood of camp. Every cabin counseled, band-aid applied, autumn olive bush removed, salad bar prepared, load of laundry cleaned, lawn mowed, or document reviewed involves so many hours and moments given to this ministry.

To the supporters: You give in so many ways. You give financially. You make sure a new camper has a sleeping bag and Bible to come to camp. You invite others to this place. You share our needs with others.

To our community: Camp Mack is for you. It's a summer camp, retreat center, outdoor education center, a place for birthdays and reunions, a place to gather with your church, a place for banquets, a place for scouts, a place for recovery groups, a place for training, and a place for volunteering. How can we serve you?

To the generations of campers: It is a pleasure to watch campers grow from campers to counselors in training to cabin counselors to summer staff. A few years ago, I started seeing my second generation of campers as the campers from my early years on staff got married and began to have children. We serve campers from the cradle to the grave. Come grow with us.

Summer of 2021 was my 19th summer on staff. My time here is a web of connections, experiences, and memories that continues to grow. Thank you to everyone who helped build that web.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Thanksgiving

As I reflect on thanksgiving, I want to share what I am thankful for here at Camp Mack.

The first thing I am thankful for is that 96 years ago, a group of people were wise enough and faithful enough to establish this special place called Camp Mack. Over the years, our mission statement developed: "Camp Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community." I have seen this play out time and time again. Folks come in the drive, smell the pines, and hear the crunch of the gravel, and they know they have come home to a sanctuary place where they can connect with God. The world so



needs a place where people can leave the cares of the world at the gate and experience God's loving touch. To all of those who have served this place, I am very thankful.

The second thing I am very thankful for is all the volunteers who have come to Camp to help create and maintain this sanctuary. Gene asked me last week to list all the volunteers who have helped the facility crew this past year. My crew and I, along with Deanna, worked a couple of mornings on this list. Was it ever a long list! You probably have no idea how good it feels to be able to work alongside you to create this sanctuary, knowing we all have had life-changing experiences here and want others to experience them as well. Blessings on you who volunteer, and for that I am very thankful.



The third thing that I am thankful for is that I get to be a part of this. It was some 25 years ago that Becky asked us to come be a part of the team here at Camp. I was a bit reluctant to come, but within three days of working here, I knew I was home. It feels so good to be a part of a team that God has called to maintain and create this sanctuary where people connect with God. For this, I am very thankful.

Galen Jay, Facility Director

Be Our Guest

A Thankful Heart is a Happy Heart

"I thank God for this day, For the sun in the sky, For my mom and my dad, For my piece of apple pie! For our home on the ground, For His love that's all around, That's why I say thanks every day! Because a thankful heart is a happy heart! I'm glad for what I have, That's an easy way to start! For the love that He shares, 'Cause He listens to my prayers, That's why I say thanks every day! " -Phil Vischer, VeggieTales



Me at my first Manchester University Camp Mack Day. I'm thankful for my parents who introduced me to camp.

This simple yet meaningful song from a VeggieTales episode has stuck with me over the years. In the episode, Madame Blueberry learns to be grateful for what she has as she sees Junior and a young girl each expressing their thanks for what they have, even though it didn't at first seem like much. In the end, she realizes that she doesn't need lots of stuff to make her happy—she had a lot to be thankful for already.

Sometimes we go through life thinking we are thankful but maybe not expressing it frequently, caught up in new things or other distractions. Over the years, I have found that camp is a great place to sit and reflect, to live simply, and to remember all that there is to be thankful for.

I am thankful for God's presence here at Camp Mack, for the sanctuary that God has a hand in constantly. May people continue to come to camp and grow in faith, knowing their God more and more each time.

I am thankful for YOU—all of you readers. You receive this newsletter because at some point in your life, you had some connection with Camp Mack, and for that I am thankful. Maybe you had a wedding here, attended a retreat here, brought a group here, sent your child to camp, spent time volunteering, donated, came to the Camp Mack Festival, or rode by us on a boat on Lake Waubee. Whatever the connection. Thank you! You and others you know have played a role in Camp Mack's history, and I hope you also play a role in its future. You are welcome here.

I am thankful to my parents for introducing me to Camp Mack as a little kid and continuing to support my need for renewal and fun at camp. Year after year as I grew up, they gifted my sister and me with a week of summer camp at Camp Mack, sending encouraging cards and notes throughout the week. Some important parts of my faith journey happened here at Camp Mack, including my baptism in the lake.

Even in some of the toughest situations, I've found that if you look closely, there are several things to be thankful for. Through the highs and lows, Camp Mack has been a place for me and for others to find perspective, and in that perspective grows a grateful heart. "Because a thankful heart is a happy heart. I'm glad for what I have; that's an easy way to start."

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Diversity Report

Shortly before we locked down for the pandemic a year and a half ago, we came across some old films of Camp Mack in the late 1930's and early 1940's. These films are fun to watch, and it always leaves many unanswered questions. What were the people like? What did they find special about Camp Mack? Who were some of the leaders who were shown in the movies?

There are scenes of camp life including devotional time at Vesper Hill, a flag-raising ceremony, campers coming and going, church and district picnics, family events, the building of Quinter-Miller Auditorium, and many other interesting scenes. If you're interested in seeing the films, use this link: https://youtu.be/q2CZx1V3iKA.

The video clearly shows a time period that was not a good time for Black people in this part of the country. While Northern Indiana was not as dangerous or discriminatory as some areas in the southern part of the country, there were still many ways that Black people were kept away from whites. Many towns and cities in the State if Indiana had sundown laws that would not allow a Black person to remain in city limits after sundown. Many of the public restrooms were segregated. Some restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations would refuse service to any person of color. Very active KKK cells were as close as Huntington, St. Joseph, and Whitley Counties. Almost all cities redlined neighborhoods where Black people could not live. Schools were segregated nearly everywhere.



Rosa Page Welch, 1939

Yet, in the midst of that environment, the films show that people of color were welcome at Camp Mack. Early in the video, and also at later points, we can see Black families and individuals enjoying and building the camp. This is quite extraordinary for the time, but there still are too few people of color represented, and there were many places in the Church of the Brethren, then and now, when it was obvious that non-whites were not welcome.

We share this as a reminder that our value of inclusivity is deep, but it has never been, nor is it now, wide. Our task is two-fold. First, we must address the physical, social, and spiritual barriers that prevent us from being a truly welcoming place. Secondly, we must reach out to those who have not yet found the joy reflected in the faces we see in the visual recordings of yesterday and today. We are a ministry, and that calls us to reach out, sharing the gospel of love to all.



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.

Completed:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room

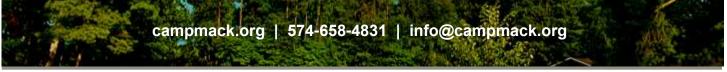
In Progress:

- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk

Needing Funds:

- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom

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.



Another Way of Giving

Not a Boring Board

We have so many volunteers that help make the sanctuary of Camp Mack possible. Some you see often, like counselors and other program volunteers. Others are more behind the scenes, like Lynn Kreider's crew or our kitchen volunteers. There is one group of behind-the-scenes volunteers that have a very special role: The Indiana Camp Board, who are Camp Mack's board of directors.

Part of the reason the Camp Board is behind the scenes is their structure. The board follows a governance model, which means they are not involved in the day to day operation of camp. Rather, they focus on the overall mission of camp, tackling issues of policy, budget, and strategic planning. The board delegates the day to day operations to Gene to oversee and the rest of the staff to implement.. We are blessed to have a board that understands the balance of governance and operations while allowing their passion for Camp Mack to shine. Here are some of the ways that our board members go above and beyond in supporting the mission and ministry of Camp Mack.

- Don Anderson -- Don started as a member of the Planting the Future Capital Campaign committee at Camp before he joined the Camp Board
- DeEtta Balser -- as treasurer of the board, DeEtta puts in many additional hours filing required government reports and consulting with camp staff about financial procedures
- Jim Bates -- Jim volunteers with our facility crew impacting many projects around Camp
- Phil Barkey -- even though his time on the board is ending, Phil has volunteered to come back and help staff Camp Mack booths at events
- Steve Egolf -- Steve and his wife have served as Directors of Labor Day Family Camp.
- Torin Eikler -- Torin brings his family to participate in camp events and informs the staff when opportunities through the denomination and community are available
- Allan Kauffman -- With significant community connections, Allan links the camp with many grant and organizational opportunities
- Ed Pippenger -- Ed loves volunteering on the high ropes and has supported the growth of many outdoor education volunteers and staff
- Cindy Ritter -- Cindy and her daughter Alyssa have been Team Leaders for one of the Finders camps the past few years
- Jim Shively -- always available to pitch in, no matter what the event, Jim spends a great deal of time at Camp Mack supporting staff and volunteers
- Beth Sollenberger -- Beth not only volunteers in the kitchen frequently, but she and her family invite the Camp Staff to their home for a dinner to begin staff training each year
- Laura VanVoorhis -- a longtime counselor and team leader volunteer, Laura continues to provide support through her presence with the Youth Camp Council
- Norm Waggy -- Norm loves to help groups like Splash Camp and Sailing Get-A-Way Days

It is a blessing that our board not only governs, but is a board that is excited about the future of Camp Mack.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Pictured left to right: Kim Gray, Laura VanVoorhis, Jim Bates, Norm Waggy, Jim Shively

Kitchen News

Blessings and Thank Yous

It's November again (HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?!?), which means, as usual, I am going to write a slightly sappy article expressing my thankfulness. This year has been a rollercoaster year for sure, and I am beyond thankful for all the blessings the camp kitchen has received. We served camps safely this summer, which is a blessing both for our ministry overall and for the camp financially.

We made some new friends, in new groups served, new participants to groups who have come for years, and new volunteers with whom we created a lovely kitchen community. We welcomed longtime volunteers who we had missed dearly, and saw guests after almost two years who had grown in many ways. Some of our campers were almost unrecognizable, in a good way, in how tall or mature they were. I spend every Sunday afternoon in the summer at registration and it was a blessing to watch our campers' excitement as they started their time at camp. I've said it before and will say it again and again.

We could not have had the successes we did in the kitchen this summer without all of our amazing volunteers. I have loved creating new relationships with some of the newer faces we have seen, and it's always a blessing when our longtime volunteers are in the kitchen providing support and encouragement.

I am also thankful for the amazing support system of my co-workers. As my oldest son started kindergarten in the fall, my team has been awesome in supporting me and stepping in when my schedule has had to change quickly (Those kindergarten germs are awful!). It's been such a blessing to have the full time kitchen staff positions filled by such amazing people.

I want to give you a quick punch recipe that I found after one of our volunteer banquets. It's a yummy fall drink that would be a huge hit at family gatherings! Enjoy!

<u>Apple Pie Punch</u> Ingredients: 1 Gallon Apple Cider 1 Quart White Grape Juice 12 Cups Ginger Ale 4 Apples, Sliced

Directions: Combine cider, juice, and ginger ale in a punch bowl. Garnish with cut apples. Serve.

Makes approx. 64 - 1/2 cup servings

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





Camp Rep Meeting Snow Camp Jr. **Snow Camp Winter Spiritual Retreat February Quilt Retreat Scrapbook Retreat** Volunteer Celebration **Volunteer Work Davs Mother Daughter Retreat Volunteer Work Days Giving Day April Quilt Retreat** 5K/Fun Run **Pastors Sabbath Birdwatching Retreat** Seasoned Citizens South Central Women **Colony Camp** Summer Spiritual Retreat Labor Day Family Camp **Teen Leadership Weekend September 30–October 1 Camp Mack Festival Father Son Retreat October Quilt Retreat Scrapbook Retreat Seasoned Citizens Volunteer Work Days Pastors Sabbath Annual Dinner New Year's Eve Retreat** Camp Rep Meeting

January 15 January 22 **January 29** February 11–13 February 17–20 February 24–27 March 5 March 7–9 March 12–13 April 4–6 **April 9 April 20–24** May 1 May 3-4 May 5–7 May 9-12 June 2–4 August 19–21 August 19–21 September 2–5 October 1 October 8–9 October 12–16 October 13–16 **October 17–20** October 24–26 November 1–2 November 12 **December 31–January 1** January 14, 2023





CAMP ALEXANDER MACK Summer Camp 2022

*Grades are grade completed at the time of camp

Samplers	June 5-7	Samplers	July 10-12
Grades 1—2		Grades 1—2	
New grad	le range	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Archery Camp	June 5—9	Grades 5-	8
Grades 6	9	Finders Camp	July 10-15
		Graded 5-	
Grades 1	-2	Creative Arts	July 10-15
ACCESS ACCESSES		Grades 6-	
Ages 5-10	0/Grandparents	Survivor Camp	July 10-16
CIT CAMP	June 19-24	Grades 6-	_9
Ages 14-17		Eco Adventure	July 17-22
Seekers	June 19-24	Grades 5-	-6
Grades 3	-4	Seekers Camp	July 17-22
Followers	June 26—July 1	Grades 3-	-4
Grades 7	_9	Culinary Camp	July 17-22
		Grades 6-	
Grades 9	-12	Finders Camp	July 24-29
Dadirri Camp	July 3—9	Grades 5-	-6
Grades 9	—12	Grand Camp J	uly 31—Aug 2
		Ages 5-10/Grandparents	

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Education Station

Thankful or the Natural Beauty at Camp

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, I often find myself reflecting on the natural beauty of camp and how easy it is to experience creation here. I love taking walks in the evening down to the lake, spending afternoons perusing the wilderness, and gazing at the stars at night. Camp brings a feeling of peace, one that really helps you reflect on life and the people in it.



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Education Station, Cont.

Our theme this summer was "Creation Speaks," and here at camp, it speaks volumes to the awesomeness of God's power. God's glory is displayed by the natural things around us, and you can't look around camp without feeling that glory. I am so thankful to live and work at such a magnificent place that is made extra special by all of you who volunteer here. Today, it is my prayer that we will take a moment to observe how unique and beautiful the fingerprint of God is in our lives and the world in which we live.



Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator