

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ Upcoming Events (p 2)
- ⇒ Get-A-Way Days and Save the Date (p 3)
- ⇒ "Camp Mack All Year" with Gene (p 4)
- ⇒ Virtual Campfire: August 7th at 7 p.m. (p 5)
- ⇒ "Seasons of the Prairie" with Jessie (p 6)
- ⇒ "Shultz Chapel" with Galen (p 7)
- ⇒ "Behind the Scenes" with Deanna (p 8)
- ⇒ 2022 Retreats & Events (p 9)
- ⇒ 2022 Wish List (p 10)
- ⇒ "According to the Constitution" with Todd (p 11)
- ⇒ "What's in a Name?" with Vanessa (p 12)
- ⇒ Summer Spiritual Retreat: *Verdant Faith* (p 13)
- ⇒ "Garden Club: More Than Just Growing Things" with Kristen (p 14–15)
- ⇒ Exciting Opportunity! (p 16)

MACKABILIA



Camp Alexander Mack
PO Box 158 | 1113 E Camp Mack Rd, Milford, IN 46542
574.658.4831 | info@campmack.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

August Family Camp and Retreat

- **Colony Camp August 19–21**

Fun and fellowship for the whole family! Colony Camp is a great opportunity to experience some summer fun with your family before everyone heads back to school. 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!

- **Ages:** Families of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Fee:** \$92 per family. Camp lodging is available.
No meals are provided by camp.
- **Times:** 6p Friday to 1p Sunday.

- **Summer Spiritual Retreat August 19–21**

The time together will provide a balance between head, heart, body, and soul. You are invited to unplug, reawaken, reignite, and rediscover the eco-blueprint our Creator gave us. Join us, as we work together to restore a *verdant faith*!

- **Fee:** \$160 per person for 2 nights and 5 meals.
- **Times:** 7:00p Friday to 1p Sunday.
- **Leaders:** Randall Westfall and Jonathan Stauffer.
- See page 13!



- **See page 9 for fall retreats and events dates. Register now to reserve your spot!**

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.

GET-A-WAY DAYS & MORE

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days:

Join us in August for Prairie Walk (8/7), Sailing 101 (8/20), and Canoe and Kayak Skills (8/27).

- **Prairie Flower Walk:** Explore our five acres of natural prairie area from blue stem grasses to compass plant. Free! 2 to 4 p.m. Meet outside Wampler.
- **Sailing 101:** Learn how to rig a Sunfish and basic sailing techniques. Review helpful knots and safety tips, and then head out on Waubee Lake for some practical experience. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Boating beach at Camp Mack. \$25 per person includes lunch. Leader: Norm Waggy.
- **Canoe/Kayak Skills:** Learn skills, safety tips, steering, carrying, and rescues. Then, head out on a guided paddling trip around Waubee Lake. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Boating Beach at Camp Mack. \$25 per person includes lunch. Leader: Jess Kreider. You will get wet. Water shoes recommended.



September Get-A-Way Day:

- **Cold Process Soap Making:** September 17, 9a–3p. You'll learn techniques and take home a booklet of recipes and notes. Soap will be ready in 6 weeks. Wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. Limit 10 participants. \$40 (lunch included). Ulrich Basement.

Save the Date:

• Labor Day Family Camp September 2–5

This camp offers something for people of all ages! Swimming, boating, crafts, and community worship are available, along with classes for age groups. There's lot of food, fun activities, and people to fellowship with. If you have questions, please contact leadership at cmfamilycamp@gmail.com. A weekend of community, relaxation, personal and spiritual enrichment in a beautiful setting.

- **Ages:** Families of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Fee:** \$100 after 7/14 with options for shortened stays. Lodging rates range from \$60-\$120 per family. Meal package is \$95 for adults; less for kids. Camperships available based on need. You'll get an invoice through email or paper mail.
- **Times:** 6p Friday to 1p Monday



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

Camp Mack All Year

The gathering room is quiet. The kitchen is closed. The sounds of children playing, songs around the campfire, and shrieks of delight from the lake are gone. It is hard to believe that another season of summer camp has ended. The quiet is deceiving. This time tomorrow, the excitement of camp will return, but in a different way.

This summer, our camps were held over a nine week period, but the program of Camp Mack happens all year. So, what do we do the rest of the year? A lot!

Outdoor education, community activities, family camps, leadership events, adult learning activities, spiritual life events, worship, Church of the Brethren events, rental groups, family events, weddings and banquets, conferences, fundraising, celebrations, service projects, and more.

Our outdoor education program includes homeschool, private school, and public school programs for a variety of ages and topics. Community activities occur when specific camp space and equipment is offered free for the community to experience. Colony camp, Labor Day Family Camp, and the Mother-Daughter and Father-Son weekends provide wonderful opportunities for extending family connections.

Leadership events are offered throughout the year for adults who seek to lead camp programs and youth interested in developing their skills. Adult learning activities are opportunities to learn a new skill through a Get-A-Way Day or a specific class like CPR and first aid.



Weekend spiritual retreats, monthly small groups, and a biannual pastor's sabbath are spiritual life events that extend camp ministry. Many congregations worship at camp during the year, and our staff spend a great deal of time visiting with congregations, often providing leadership when requested. Church of the Brethren events include District Conferences and various district and denominational meetings.

Camp facilities are often rented to college groups, other church groups, schools, special interest groups, and activity groups like quilting, woodcarving, and scrapbooking. Families can also rent camp facilities for get-aways large and small. Many families celebrate weddings, and community organizations hold special events and banquets. Organizations periodically work with our staff to provide meaningful professional conferences.

Central to the camp program are fundraising events like the Camp Mack Festival, Giving Day, and the Annual Dinner. Camp Mack staff annually recognize volunteers and celebrate various milestones throughout the year. Opportunities for service are always available.

It has already been quiet too long. How will you find sanctuary at Camp Mack over the next year?

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Upcoming Event

Virtual Campfire

August 7th at 7pm
Live on Facebook

Join us this Sunday!

Nature Nut News

Seasons of the Prairie

If you walk toward the center of the wilderness area from any direction you will find yourself at 5 points. From there, you will notice a 6th path coming out of the center that leads into the prairie. Walk there to discover an ecosystem and area that feels separate from the rest of the property.

The prairie is currently a rainbow of life and activity. The giant leaves of the prairie dock will soon have tall stalks of flowers blooming. The rattlesnake master has spiky green blooms and leaves that remind me somewhat of aloe or yucca, and the prairie blazing star feels like a firework. Around the edges of the prairie are dust bowls where the wild turkeys take dust baths, and flying around are indigo buntings, numerous colors of dragonflies, snowberry clearwing moths, monarch butterflies, and very vocal goldfinches.

The prairie is an area during the summer that is filled with so much life and vibrance when the rest of the grounds may be crunchy and brown during the dry heat. The late summer life will lie dormant over winter and spring back to life after the prescribed burn clears the area in the spring.

Join me in experiencing this area. I will be offering a FREE prairie walk, Sunday, August 7, from 2p-4p, and then Saturday, October 22, we will need your help for a prairie restoration day where we continue our work on invasive shrub removal, bringing the rest of the prairie back to life.

The prairie has something for all of us to enjoy in all seasons. As we transition from summer season to retreats, school groups, and more, we invite you to make camp a place for all seasons in your life.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Sunny Camp Mack

Shultz Chapel

Shultz Chapel sits quietly on the high bank of Waubee Lake nestled in between Sarah Major and Wampler with the large Quinter Miller Auditorium at its back. It is sometimes overlooked and underused, but at the same time, it plays a meaningful role in the lives of many folks. It has the seating capacity of about 75 people but is seldom full. I most often see it with individuals or small groups. It is a “sanctuary” space within a sanctuary. I have heard several stories of people connecting with God in that space and reorienting their lives to His call. We also have several small weddings each year in Shultz. Some are “second” weddings after a failed first one. This time around they want to include God in a closer way.

It is just a unique building on our campus. Over the years there have been various small improvements. In my tenure, we have worked on the window frames and the cement windowsills. Lynn led a crew in building a small roof on the open end when the big door rotted off. We had a stone mason a couple of years ago spend a month working on tuck-pointing the stones that make up most of the building’s walls. This past year we were able to put a new metal roof on it. That really made a difference. This brings me to the point of my story. This winter, Lynn and his crew of woodworkers built new benches for the chapel. Before we could put the new benches in, we needed to do a little work on the floor. We had the Episcopal Senior High Mission Week camp here last week. They took out the old benches and then cleaned out the bedding chips that had been put on the floor over the years. We then took out about two inches of gravel and dirt and replaced it with crushed limestone. We wet this down and ran a compactor over it, and then we put the new benches down. We now have a very clean, somewhat solid floor with some beautiful new custom-made benches. We owe a big thank you to our Episcopal friends for all their hard work in creating a new look for our “sanctuary” within a sanctuary.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Behind the Scenes

Working on staff truly takes you behind the scenes at camp. When you attend camp as a camper, you get to blissfully enjoy camp without knowing all that goes into your experience, as you should. When you attend a camp event, you mostly see the end product of the work: the food that's been cooked, the program that's been prepared and staffed, the facility equipment that's been set up, the phone calls and emails that were made, the money that was raised, the payroll that was paid, the mail that was picked up, etc.

Even within our staff structure, it's a good reminder to think about all of the behind the scenes work in each department. I'm not there prepping food or finding lifeguards, just as many others aren't connecting with leaders to figure out details of upcoming events, sitting at the front desk welcoming guests and answering the phone, and giving tours. Though, sometimes we fill in and help each other out when needed. We all play a role to make everything happen. We each have a limited perspective, not always seeing what is being done behind the scenes in other places, but as we communicate and work together, we better understand what each staff member needs to continue their work, knowing we all work hard and have busy times.

I drive about 8 hours every week just to work and back. Some come into work before the sun rises. Others of us tend to stay past sunset. We all direct, coordinate, facilitate, and execute in our own ways to operate the business and ministry that is Camp Mack.

In a simplified form, it's like putting on a play or musical. You put in the practice and preparation, you have crew that work backstage helping everything run smoothly, and you have the show running on stage with fun and excitement.

Volunteers frequently contribute to operations, as well. They are integral to the work of Camp Mack, and we are so thankful for all of the hours they give.

Donors provide funds to help camp keep running. Wow, we are blessed.

Sometimes those of us in the background are seen in the foreground, too. We lead activities, check in on what the group needs are, or serve in other capacities. It all comes together to create sanctuary experiences.

Sincere thanks to my coworkers, the counselors and team leaders who were here at camp this summer, the volunteers in the kitchen, on facility, and on program, the donors who have been contributing, and everyone else who prays for and is a part of this sanctuary.

How have you experienced others working behind the scenes in your life lately? How have you witnessed God working through you and others? Have you noticed down the line that God had been working through a stressor of yours all along, doing work behind the scenes?

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



2022 Retreats & Events

Colony Camp
Summer Spiritual Retreat
Labor Day Family Camp
Teen Leadership Wknd
Camp Mack Festival
Father Son Retreat
October Quilt Retreat
Scrapbook Retreat
Seasoned Citizens
Volunteer Work Days
Pastors Sabbath
Annual Dinner
Camp Rep Meeting

August 19–21
August 19–21
September 2–5
Sept. 30–Oct. 1
October 1
October 8–9
October 12–16
October 13–16
October 17–20
October 24–26
November 1–2
November 12
January 14, 2023





2022 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 2022. 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.

In Progress:

- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- 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:

- Wampler HVAC Replacement
- Sarah Major Carpet
- Archery Backstop
- Sarah Major Kitchen Renovations
- East Stone Restroom Electrical

Completed:

- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge

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

Another Way of Giving

“According to the Constitution”



This year, there are over 50 events on the Camp Mack calendar. Some are one day events, but our longest summer camp is 6 days. Even after working here a few years, I am amazed at the variety of events we offer both in the summer and year round. That doesn't even include all the rental groups we host. The majority of our programs are run through Jessie, since she is the program director, but there is another group of camps.

For example, Youth Camp is run by the Youth Camp Council, or YCC. While they are similar in many ways to Followers Camp in terms of activities, YCC coordinates their own activities and recruits their own counselors and leadership. Youth Camp is a *constitutional camp*, since they have a unique constitution that governs how they operate. Camp Mack has 3 other constitutional camps: Colony Camp, Seasoned Citizens, and Labor Day Family Camp.

For each of these groups, they work more with Deanna rather than with Jessie. They each are a little different but still fall under the Camp Mack umbrella. For each group, they don't just find community during their events. They also find community in deciding leadership and planning behind the scenes.

So if you're attending a constitutional camp, what does that mean? If you have questions about pricing or details, you will talk to Deanna instead of Jessie. Also, since the planners, coordinators, and leaders are volunteers, communication might take a little longer. Some have their own registration forms outside of our online portal.

Youth Camp, Colony Camp, Labor Day Family Camp, and Seasoned Citizens are all part of the Camp Mack family. They each have their own way of organizing their camp. Take an opportunity to join them sometime and be a part of these communities.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Kitchen News

What's in a Name?

Our theme this summer is all about names! Where does your name come from, and what does it mean? Why do we call things what we do? Talking about names is fun. I was having a conversation with a friend a few days ago about baby names. She doesn't have any children, but was telling me about the list of names she keeps for the future, and then we started talking about my kids' names and where they came from. It was ironic to me because just the day before, another friend had posted on Facebook looking for name suggestions for their upcoming arrival. I have quite a few friends who are expanding their families in the next few months, and I can't wait to see what names they choose for their little ones.

Sometimes what I call an item on our menu is not the same name that other staff have for that same thing. Baked chicken versus marinated chicken, pizza pasta versus pasta bake, turkey pesto sliders versus caprese sandwiches, or musk melon versus cantaloupe. But, after a quick description, we figure out what the item is, and we learn a little bit about each other in the process. It's always fun to hear the reasoning behind the name. "That's what my grandma always called it." "That's what we called it at school." "That's the name of the recipe that I found online." Names have stories, and it's always a blessing to share and receive those stories.

Here are the 'Caprese Sliders' that I made for our staff during training at the beginning of summer. It is a newer staff favorite, but not a recipe I have given to our campers yet. It may be something we serve during retreat season and then adapt into our summer menu next year. Time will tell, but for now I hope you enjoy this warm, cheesy slider recipe.

Ingredients

24 slider buns
1 cup pesto
2 vine ripened tomatoes sliced thin
3/4 pound sliced turkey
1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
8 oz butter, melted
1 tsp Italian seasoning

Instructions

Preheat conventional oven to 350 degrees. Cut your slider buns in half, but do not tear them apart. Place the bottom layer of buns in a greased 9X13 pan.

Spread the pesto over the bottom layer of buns. Add a layer of tomato slices, then a layer of turkey, and lastly a layer of cheese. Place the top layer of buns on top of the cheese.

Combine the melted butter and the Italian seasoning. Spread over the top of the sliders. (I use a pastry brush to brush the seasoned butter onto the buns.)

Bake covered with aluminum foil for 15 minutes, then uncovered for 5 minutes. Serve warm.



Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

Summer Spiritual Retreat – Verdant Faith

One of the earliest directions from God is to care for creation. In this camp experience for adults, you will learn about finding the balance we need to be wholly present in the world around us. Leaders Jonathan Stauffer and Randall Westfall will take you on a journey of discovery as you also have opportunities to play at camp. Between sessions, you can participate in the same activities our youth campers enjoy all summer.

In this weekend retreat, you will recognize that ***something isn't quite right***. There's an innate sense that something's been lost. The pace of modern life is sapping the life from us. We live in the illusion that we're more connected than ever. Sadly, we are more *detached* than ever; from one another, from our food, from creation, from our Creator. ***As a result, life has become fragmented.***

Jesus provides us with a way from fragmentation to abundant life. His teachings often made a point by drawing on the *natural world* around him. He knew God's wisdom came from these encounters and sought them out intentionally. He sought the solace of the wilderness, the sea, the mountain, and the garden to *regenerate* his ministry and mission. ***Jesus was drawing on a blueprint as old as creation itself.***

We are beginning to understand how living *attuned* with God's creation is now *essential to our discipleship* in Jesus. It encompasses everything from our worship to our work.

This is the essence of eco-discipleship.

Our time together will provide a balance between head, heart, body and soul. You are invited to unplug, reawaken, reignite, and rediscover the eco-blueprint our Creator gave us. ***Join us, as we work to restore a VERDANT faith!***

Jonathan Stauffer is a high school science instructor and freelance eco-theologian. He has served as camp counselor and nature program leader at various Brethren camps for over a decade. Jonathan obtained a bachelor's in physics from Manchester University (IN) and is a recent graduate of Bethany Seminary, earning an MA in Theological Studies. He also has hands-on experience with wind and solar energy systems. Jonathan resides in Polo, Illinois.



Randall Westfall is a nature-based spiritual director, outdoor educator and a licensed minister in the Church of the Brethren. He has been practicing deep nature connection skills for over a decade. He studied Religion at Manchester University (IN); attended Tom Brown Jr's Tracker School and is a graduate of Wilderness Awareness School (WA) for their 9-month intensive Anake Program. Randall is the Director at Camp Brethren Heights in west-central Michigan, where he lives with his wife and two children.

August 19-21. Register at <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/> today!

Education Station

Garden Club: More Than Just Growing Things

While we do grow a LOT of things at the Garden Club, we also do a variety of related activities because we want our KIDS to keep growing, too. For the past two years we've included beekeeping. Last year we did some bird watching and lessons on garden ecology. This year we've added in a couple of pretty cool things, as well!

Earlier this summer we had a Sunflower Program where the kids learned about the importance of sunflowers (did you know that sunflowers act as a natural soil cleaner because they can soak up radioactive waste and other toxic materials?) in both nature and for the economy of Ukraine. We took the opportunity to have some amazing folks from Creekside talk to the kids about the war in Ukraine and the children who have been displaced because of the war. We talked about the church's mission for peace and then planted some sunflowers in support of Ukraine. It was a great opportunity to connect what is going on in the world with the work of the church AND gardening! Look at how our sunflowers have grown!



We also had the joy of learning how to spin honey in our first-ever harvest from our beehives! What a great lesson! The kids had to turn a crank practically until their arms fell off so that centripetal forces could pull the honey off the combs. We harvested about a gallon and a half of honey!



Education Station, Continued

We also like to include some cooking and baking because it's important that the kids learn ways to enjoy the things they are growing. This past week we made zucchini cookies and zucchini pizza bites. One little boy told me that he was pretty sure he's had zucchini before and didn't like it, so no way was he going to eat anything made with zucchini. But then the cookies came out of the oven, smelling deliciously like cinnamon and clove. He took that first bite... and then ate 4 more cookies and asked me to send the recipe home with him! It's so awesome to see how kids can go from being convinced they don't like something to wanting to eat more of it!



During some of the hottest days this past month, we also took a break from the heat to have a water war! Every week the kids spend the first part of the day pulling weeds, so this was a fun reprieve after we were done weeding that day! Overall, we're definitely growing things but we're also having fun learning new skills and growing as a group of friends.



Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

Exciting Opportunity!

We are entering the last phase of our capital campaign, and that is the renewal of Ulrich House. Volunteers are needed to complete this project. Steve Keim, a site supervisor with several years of experience through Brethren Disaster Ministries, will organize and train weekly crews to bring the electrical up to code, install an HVAC system, develop family bathrooms, and refresh the rooms to make Ulrich House a comfortable adult retreat center.

Each week, from Labor Day until mid-December, we will need from three to ten crew members to complete the work. Workers arrive on Sunday evening and stay through Friday noon most weeks; the week of Labor Day begins Monday evening. Meals and lodging are provided. A few congregations have already begun recruiting crews to develop work retreats. Other individuals have expressed their interest in coming to meet others and contribute to the future of Camp.

If you and/or your church group is interested in working for one or more weeks, please call 574-658-4831, contact us at info@campmack.org, or register online at <https://www.campmack.org/renovation/>. If you need a specific week, please register early to save your spot.

Your week will be an opportunity to participate in mission and fellowship. And, consider what pride you will take when you bring your children and grandchildren to camp and tell them you helped to build the new Ulrich House.

Please contact gene@campmack.org if you have any additional questions.



Current Small Room



Partially Remodeled Small Room

