

Camp Alexander Mack

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MACKABILIA



UPCOMING EVENTS

September and Early October Events:

- **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 a 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.

Campships available based on need. You'll get an invoice through email or paper mail.

- **Times:** 6p Friday to 1p Monday



- **Teen Leadership Weekend September 30–October 1**

This event will train youth to be leaders through teambuilding, service, and leadership. Teens will lead through service at the Camp Mack Festival. Youth may go on to be CITs (Counselors In Training) or counselors.

- **Ages:** 14 to 17
- **Fee:** \$30

- **Camp Mack Festival October 1 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)**

Food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family. Enjoy a wide range of entertainment, demonstrations, crafts, food, and other activities. Check out the online auction for high quality unique items. Handicap parking and transportation are available for those with special needs. Free admission and parking. Festival proceeds support Camp Mack operations. This year's festival ends in an ice cream social at 2:00 p.m.! (page 5)



- **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:

September Get-A-Way Day:

- Cold Process Soap Making: **CANCELED**

October Get-A-Way Days:

- October 15: Scrapbooking
- October 15: Knitting and Crocheting
- October 16: Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk
- October 22: Prairie Restoration Work Day

Save the Dates:

- Father Son Retreat October 8–9
- Fall Quilt Retreat October 12–16: **FULL**
- Scrapbooking Retreat October 13–16
- Seasoned Citizens Retreat October 17–20
- Volunteer Work Days October 24–26
- Pastor's Sabbath November 1–2
- Annual Dinner November 12



Recent Peace Garden Planting



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

What's In a Name?

Over the summer, our campers explored the importance of names. Our identities are tied to them, and we even know what to expect by the way our names are used.

Change is coming—in name and style.

This is the last issue of *Mackabilia*. For many years, this newsletter has provided insight and information to our community and beyond. But, things change, and we have found that the monthly general newsletter isn't being read as much as it once was. We need to have a newsletter that is easy to access electronically by mobile or desktop. So, we have a new way of communicating that will start next month.



In October, you will receive a short newsletter called: *Camp Mack Impact*. The letter will focus on how the continued work at Camp Mack is impacting people's

lives. It will include the work we do to improve our facility and stories about how people have been changed. *Impact* will show the power of sanctuary.

In November, you will receive another short newsletter called: *Camp Mack Hand in Hand*. This will provide information about how you and your family can be involved in participating and volunteering in the Camp Mack community. Ideas for family activities, and outdoor adventures will also be included. *Hand in Hand* will celebrate the community.

In December, you will receive a new version of this general newsletter called: *Camp Mack Circle*. It will be shorter and provide important information and updates from a variety of camp staff. We will send an Upcoming Events email every month separately from the newsletter, so you can easily see the opportunities you have to join in the fun. *Circle* will continue connecting our readers with the wider picture of happenings at Camp Mack.

In January, we will start the cycle again. We hope you will enjoy our new focus and come to embrace the change by name!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Camp Mack Festival

**October 1st
10am to 2pm**

Activities
Wagon Ride
Wreck a Wreck
Kid's Carnival
Candle Dipping

**Online
Auction**

Food Booths
Walking Tacos
Coney Dogs
Indian Food
Pulled Pork
Cinnamon Toast
Meatball Subs
Curley Fries
Desserts
And more

Demonstrations
Wood Carving
Spinners
Weavers
Wood Turning
Rug Hookers

**Live
Music**

**New This Year: Ice Cream Social at 2pm
In John Kline Welcome Center**

Nature Nut News

A Place for First

Camp is a place for first. Not first in the competitive sense, but first in the sense of doing something for the first time.

I grew up attending Colony Camp with the extended Kreider family. One of our favorite things to do at camp was to go boating. I feel like my grandpa taught most of the family to sail, and I first went canoeing with my dad on Waubesa. As a young child, I was like many in that I was terrified that the boat might tip, and any little movement made me squeal. I am now a water rat who loves to swim, sail, kayak, snorkel, and really anything water related. And, I am also a waterfront lifeguard instructor. Those opportunities and first experiences at camp on the water were the foundation for the things I love today.

Sailing 101 was offered last weekend, and 20 participants and leaders gathered on the Becker Boating Beach for a day of teaching and experience. We sailed on the classic Sunfish sailboats, sped across the lake in the lighter Laser sailboats, and learned more of the mechanics of sailing aboard a San Juan 21. Every participant did a flip test on a Sunfish where they gracefully fell out of the boat, swam around the back, used the centerboard to right the boat, and then walrused into the boat (walrusing being the technical term for the sometimes awkward movements of crawling/flopping back into a sailboat from the water).

Camp is the perfect place to learn. It may be through the experiences you have with family, activities during summer camp, or through one of our focused Get-A-Way Days such as wood carving where I was guided step by step in how to carve this figure. Check out the year round offerings camp has to offer, and let us know what some of the things you learned to do at camp are. Camp is a place for first.

Jessie Kreider,
Program
Director



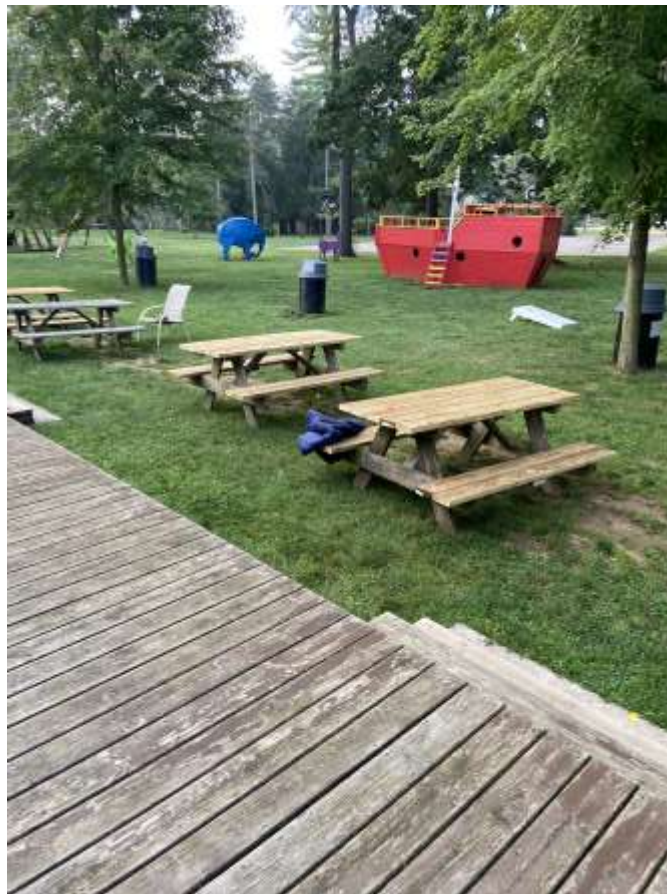
Sunny Camp Mack

Transitions

Summer camps ended after the first week of August, and we are well on our way into retreat season. It is a fair task to take a facility that has been used all summer as a camp and to change it into a retreat facility. For a lodge it may mean crawling under a bed and digging out the single sock that was left or the craft project stuck in the windowsill we had overlooked. We also need to debunk some beds which is a pretty good chore. On the outside it is usually just putting things back where they belong. Benches would be a good example. They get moved everywhere in the summer and need to be brought back to the campfire circles. Another example is picnic tables. They need to be rounded up and relocated, but they also need to be cleaned up and repaired. What may have worked well for a summer camper to do crafts on and to carve their name into doesn't fit too well with a wedding party wanting to eat a dinner on. This past week I had Derrick, volunteer and half owner of the "tiny house" in the softball field, replace some of the treated two by sixes on the tabletops. That really helps the appearance of the tables. Our laundry room is another place that needs some special care at the end of the summer. All lost and found that we recover when we clean cabins and buildings on each Saturday are bagged and labeled with the week and taken to the laundry room to be washed and stored. It is easy to get behind on that task during the summer and we often wind up with several bags of dirty clothes waiting to be dealt with. We had volunteers David and Joyce McCreary with us all summer working in the kitchen. With the end of summer, they had some time to work in the laundry and catch us up. That really helps.

We were blessed with a good staff and some excellent volunteers this summer to keep this "...sanctuary where people connect with God..." alive and well.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

Ulrich Begins a New Chapter!

Ulrich has been used in many ways over the decades. Summer staff housing has been located in this building at different times throughout its history, including recent years. Families lived in the apartment side of the building years ago. The health center used to be located through the right door but has since moved to the new Esther and John Hamer Health Center near the John Kline Welcome Center. Ulrich has been a longtime housing and/or meeting location for scrapbookers, Youth Camp, and several other events we run, as well as guest groups. It's appeal comes in the numerous rooms, ability to separate sleeping spaces, multiple bathrooms on each floor including private bathrooms, windows throughout the meeting space, its proximity to Mission Village, carpetball in the basement, and much more. But, it could use some improvements to better serve its guests.

Over the last handful of years, the exterior of Ulrich House has received a facelift. With new insulation, new siding, new windows, new doors, and a new ramp, the building looks a lot different. It looks refreshed and clean but with the history and classic rustic feel still evident in the fieldstone chimney and welcoming lights.

We are upon a time of indoor renovation! Thanks to your gifts to the capital campaign, the building will soon transform into a comfortable retreat space year round with new heating, air conditioning, furnishings, flooring, and much more. It will have an elevator! Wow what a difference that will make for those unable to go up and down the stairs easily.

Renovations will be going on while Camp is hosting guests. Of course overnight times and personal space will be respected. There may be a bit of extra noise at times with the sounds of progress permeating the building. The next several months will be a time of transition, so please bear with us. We look forward to the work that will be done by Steve Keim and the volunteers he will lead. If you want to be a part of this historic renovation, please contact Camp at info@campmack.org or by calling 574-658-4831. You may also register online at <https://www.campmack.org/renovation/>. Further information is located on page 14 of this newsletter. Lodging and meals are provided.

YOU have this opportunity to make a mark on Camp Mack. Join us this fall. We will see you here, ready to continue the work of Jesus in this beautiful sanctuary.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



2022 Retreats & Events

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

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

How do you measure a year?

The Tony Award Winning Musical *Rent* opens with the iconic song “Seasons of Love” that asks the question “How do you measure, measure a year?” The song then goes on to list ways you could measure a year: daylights, sunsets, midnights, cups of coffee, and so on. So how do we measure a summer of Camp?

At the 30,000 ft. level we can look at how many camper days we had. We had 4,296.25 this summer, but it's hard to know what that actually means. Do we measure it by summer campers? That would be 301, but if we count Grand Camp that's another 139 campers. We had 17 groups rent Camp Mack this summer. Some were just for a day of worship or activity, but 12 of them were full week camps. Those rental camps brought in nearly 1,000 campers and leaders. Don't forget about our 16 staff that served through the summer, over 90 volunteer counselors and team leaders, and many other facility and kitchen volunteers. All those numbers are great, but what do they actually tell us about this past summer?

There's an old saying that “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and I would say a picture shows the impact of Camp Mack so much better than a bunch of numbers. Here are some of my favorites that don't just show campers, but show the impact and experience that people had at Camp Mack.

As Gene shared, the newsletter is splitting into 3 separate newsletters. One of them will be called *Camp Mack Impact* and will focus on sharing the difference that Camp Mack is making in people's lives. It will give you a spotlight into the work going on behind the scenes and how that work gives others the opportunity to enjoy a sanctuary at Camp Mack.

How do you measure a year at Camp Mack? Through the people impacted by this special place.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Kitchen News

Quick, Easy, Nutritious, Delicious

This summer has flown by! We had an amazing group of summer staff and volunteers in the kitchen this year who worked really hard and did a great job providing hospitality to our campers and guests. But, this summer had its struggles. We had several cases of Covid-19 in our staff and volunteers (which meant some times of quarantine), and we weren't able to hire as many staff as we had hoped to have. While those things made for a rough summer at times, the kitchen crew did an amazing job. They showed up with good attitudes and great work ethics. They got the job done, and I like to think they had fun while doing it.

Knowing that we had fewer staff than in previous years, I tried to be very intentional with the summer menu. I tried not to serve foods that took a lot of time-consuming preparation. Quick, easy, nutritious, and delicious. Those were my goals for the food we served this summer. And, I really hope I hit the mark with the campers.

In the process of searching for easier options, especially for dessert, I found a make-ahead recipe that I had heard of before but had never made: Éclair Cake. This is a super easy recipe that our staff and campers really seem to enjoy. And, it only calls for 5 ingredients: vanilla pudding, whipped topping, graham crackers, chocolate chips, and milk—all ingredients I always have on hand. Easy and delicious. The original recipe calls for instant pudding mix, but after some trial and error, the canned pudding I always have in stock works just as well.

Speaking of trial and error, in the process of making this recipe I realized that it had been a long time since I made a ganache topping for a cake, and the first two times I made this dessert, the topping didn't set up. Not wanting to waste a slightly soupy but otherwise delicious dessert, my staff had two brilliant solutions. The first time, we just served the dessert in our family style bowls as a pudding parfait. The second time, we froze it and served it in slices like an icebox cake. Both options worked really well, and the third time's the charm. The last few times I've made the cake, it's turned out perfectly.



Kitchen News, Continued

Éclair Cake Recipe

Ingredients:

1 box graham crackers, cinnamon
2 3.4 oz. boxes Vanilla Instant Pudding
12 oz. cool whip, defrosted
3 ½ cups milk
1 tub dark chocolate frosting

Instructions:

Grease a 9x11 pan with non-stick cooking spray
Mix pudding and milk with a mixer
Fold cool whip into pudding
Place a single layer of graham crackers along the bottom of the pan, covering the entire bottom
Spread half of the pudding mixture on top of the graham cracker layer
Place a second layer of graham crackers on top of the pudding
Spread the rest of the pudding on top of the second graham cracker layer
Lay a final layer of graham crackers
Microwave the frosting for 20-30 seconds to make it easy to spread
Evenly spread warm frosting over the top layer of graham crackers
Refrigerate for 12-24 hours

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



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. Many individuals have expressed their interest in coming to meet others and contribute to the future of Camp.



While it is a lot more fun to work together for a week, if you are only able to give one or two days, that's just fine. And if you're like me, and have no skills, it doesn't matter. There are lots of ways to help.

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

