

# CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter



## News from the Director

### A Fruitful Summer

***God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning—Day Six. Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail.*** Genesis 1:31–2:1 (MSG)

In the Creation story, God labored for six days to turn nothingness into a world teeming with life and full of expectation. Upon reflection, God pronounced it very good and took time to rest. Here at Camp Mack, we don't create our summer camp experiences out of nothingness. To the contrary, we have years of tradition and experience on which to draw. Yet every summer is different, and each year, a great deal of labor is spent preparing for and providing our campers with their sanctuary moments. As we rest and reflect on the summer of 2023, we believe it has been very good!

We started with a committed and effective summer staff. Our program, housekeeping, and facility staff worked very hard to provide a safe, welcoming, supportive, and spiritual environment for our campers and volunteers. Volunteer counselors provided care and community as they explored *Fruitfull Faith* throughout the summer. Food service staff prepared meals that provided nutrition and enjoyment. Campers grew. The campfires were spectacular with high energy and truly reflective moments. That is an indication that the Holy Spirit is moving in many ways. Even with extreme heat and poor air quality days, campers and adults laughed and played with joy and love for one another.

Camp Mack continues to provide life-changing experiences where many people find a true connection with God for the first time. You probably have had that experience as well. The ministry is here, and the dedication of our staff and volunteers is unquestionable. What has been missing since 2020 are the campers. As we begin the preparation for 2024, please consider how you and your community can connect people with God through the sanctuary ministry of Camp Mack. We ask you to be at the center of the power of camp by sharing with, praying for, and sponsoring campers next year. This is your ministry. Experience the joy of joining the mission.

**Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director**

## THIS ISSUE

*A Fruitful Summer*

by Gene

PAGE 1

Check out the Camp  
Mack Festival!

PAGE 2

*Festival Food!*

by Vanessa

PAGE 3

*Summer of '23*

by Galen

PAGE 4

*Appreciating Help*

by Deanna

PAGE 5


Upcoming Events

PAGE 6–11

## Check out the Camp Mack Festival!

**OCT 7TH**  **10 AM - 2PM**

**CAMP MACK FESTIVAL** Wagon Rides  
Food  
Music  
Activities  
Online Auction 

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**   
2PM

**CAMP MACK FESTIVAL**



Food - Activities - Auction - and - More!

**7**  
October **Fellowship and Fun  
for the Whole Family**

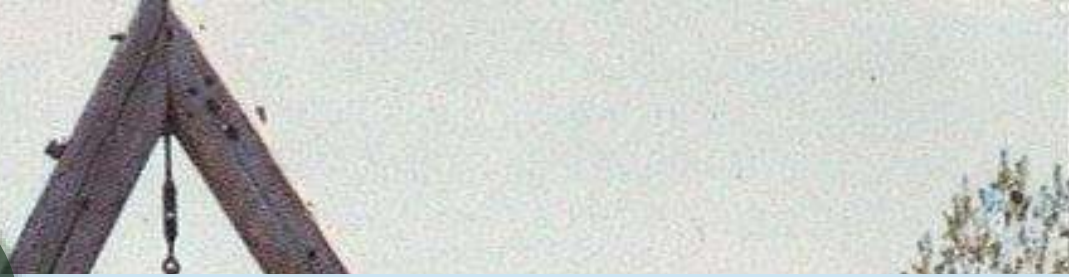
**CAMP MACK FESTIVAL**  
Delicious Eats and Sweet Treats!



**7**  
October **Fellowship and Fun  
for the Whole Family**

Visit Camp Mack on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for tasty food, activities, entertainment, fellowship, and more. Participate in the online silent auction (items can be viewed at the festival, too). Wrap up the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the ice cream social!

All are welcome!



## Kitchen News

### Festival Food!

“We hope to see you at the festival this year! It’s always a great family-friendly event and a great way to support camp.”

One of my favorite fall events is the Camp Mack Festival (CMF). I look forward to meeting up with old camp friends, walking by the lake in the crisp fall air, and eating all the delicious food from the different food booths. Two fun facts: One, the festival is always held on the first Saturday in October. And two, the first festival, called the Alexander Mack Festival, was held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the murals that hang in Quinter-Miller Auditorium, depicting the history of the Church of the Brethren, which is where most of the food booths are now located.

As the food booth coordinator for the CMF planning committee, I have had the privilege of working with all the booths and can’t wait until October 7th! The camp kitchen always provides cinnamon toast because if you’re at camp, then cinnamon toast is a must have. This year we will also be serving delicious chili. I will also share some food highlights that I am looking forward to this year!

We will have a whole booth dedicated to hot beverages like hot chocolate and apple cider. This is a wonderful option at the beginning of the day when it’s still chilly out. The festival starts at 10 a.m., so it’s often cooler in the mornings.

There will be taco soup this year—yum! (Taco soup is one of my favorite soups to make in the camp kitchen because I can further use a lot of our taco bar items!) This booth, provided by Nappanee Church of the Brethren, will also be providing cinnamon rolls again this year.

The Indian food booth will also be back again this year! They were a new addition last year, and it was a huge hit! I personally had never had Indian food before, and everything I tried there was delicious!!!

Another new thing for this year will be mac & cheese! The Blue River Covenant Brethren Church will be providing it with some yummy topping options! I know my kiddos, along with several of our full time staff, will be checking that booth out! We will also have a lot of booths that you may have seen before if you have attended the festival in previous years. Pulled pork, burgers, brats, walking tacos (one of my personal favorite fair foods), homemade curly fries (potato chips), popcorn, kettle corn, pies, monster cookies, and of course cinnamon toast.

We hope to see you at the festival this year! It’s always a great family-friendly event and a great way to support camp. If you come, make sure to stop by the camp kitchen booth for a piece (or two or three) of cinnamon toast.

**Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director**





## Sunny Camp Mack

### Summer of '23

Our beautiful summer is over, and we are moving right into fall. The facility crew had a very productive summer this year. Housekeeping was moved out of Facility and into Guest Services. This freed up the facility crew a bit this summer and let us focus on fixing broken things. I was also blessed with two great volunteers this summer. Ben and Val Brubaker joined us this summer to complete their Brethren Volunteer Service (B.V.S.) commitment. Ben has worked on the facility team, and Val has worked in



the kitchen. Our other facility volunteer was Andrew Kauffman. Andrew has a long history with Camp Mack and has volunteered his summer with us for a long time. So, with Cory, Brad, and I, that gave us a crew of five to solve problems. Ben is an excellent carpenter and spent a good part of the summer making repairs to our buildings. In the picture to the left, he is replacing the steps on the back side of Crumpacker (the meeting yurt in Mission Village). He worked on our cabins' siding and shutters, which needed care. Probably his crowning glory of the summer was building a sheep for Arky Parky in memory of Verne Leininger. The sheep has been added to the line of ark animals (pictured on the right).



Andrew was a camper, then a summer staffer, then a full-time staffer, and now volunteers his summer to help us. He has an excellent knowledge of what to do and how to do it here at camp. The picture below is of him helping me pour concrete for some weights for the new water slide. We purchased a new slide late last summer and put it out this summer. It takes six weights placed in the bottom of the lake to hold it in place. Each weight weighs about 650 lbs. Jessica, Camp Mack's program director, has to dive about 12–15 feet down to hook up the bungee cords that attach to the slide. We facility types don't do underwater stuff if we can avoid it!

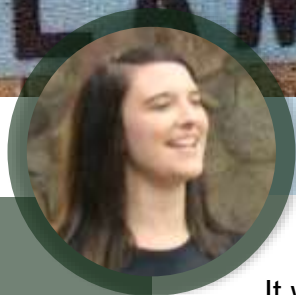


**“The facility crew had a very productive summer this year.”**

It was just an excellent summer this year as Camp Mack continues to “...provide a sanctuary where people connect with God.”

**Galen Jay, Facility Director**

# CAMP MACK



## Be Our Guest

### Appreciating Help

It was an evening of worship in the auditorium at Camp Mack. Conference folks gathered in the front then moved to the back.

After worship was a time of fellowship, peach cobbler, and ice cream. Getting this all arranged and together required a team.

The Program and Arrangements committee had it all planned. The Camp Mack kitchen put it all together and gave a hand.

Volunteer Val helped me roll out the goodies to set up for the line. We kept an eye on the food together and hoped all had a good time.

Conference attendees conversed while they ate the yummy treat. It's always nice ending the evening with something sweet to eat.

Eventually, they trickled out to head home, many returning the next day. The rented light in the field helped them to their cars and on their way.

Yet left in the auditorium sat the remains of the evening snack. I continued on with the work, wiping the tables and cart racks.

Back on the cart went the utensils, containers, and pans. Dumping the creamy water out busied my hands.

Gregg, a friend and worker in the kitchen, was the only one left. Though on a scooter, he assisted me to his best.

He helped me inside as I turned off the lights then followed me out. His scooter light brightened the bumpy path, bettering the route.

He kept an eye on the cart to make sure the items didn't fall off. The pans jostled and shifted after every hump and trough.

We made it up the ramp, through the door, to the kitchen inside, And we sprayed off containers and put away what was supplied.

I said, "Thanks so much. I really appreciate you being here."  
"Happy to help," he replied, waving as away he steered.

For one person, it would've been a lot at the end of a busy day. But with help, it's better—a lighter burden, you might say.

Thanks to all who step up and help. It can mean more than you know, For many hands make light work, and lending a hand can lighten the load.

For volunteer opportunities, contact camp. Thanks to all who serve!

**Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director**



**“Thanks to all who step up and help. It can mean more than you know.”**



This fit in well with the Northern IN District Conference theme of *God's light in me*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# *Experience Fall at Camp Mack*

### **Free Prairie Walk**

Walk through the five acres of prairie at camp and discover the plants within.

August 6, 2-4p. Meet in front of Wampler

### **Free Fall Nut & Tree ID Walk**

Explore and ID the trees in the Camp Mack Woods. October 22, 2-4p

Meet in front of Wampler



### **Prairie Restoration Day**

Cut autumn olive and other invasive brush in the prairie and help return it to a healthy prairie. Free Event.

October 28, 9-noon

Please RSVP- 574-658-4831 or  
[brittany@campmack.org](mailto:brittany@campmack.org)

Find out more at [campmack.org/retreats-and-events](http://campmack.org/retreats-and-events)

# *Seasoned Citizens*



Join this group of life-experienced people who gather each year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special programs, crafts, vespers, and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, "joke time," games, hiking, puzzles, and naps!

Date: October 9-12

Cost: \$188 per person, \$127 if not staying overnight

## *Father Son Retreat*

Find yourself Around the Fire for a weekend of cast iron cooking, whittling, and making tools.

Ages: Fathers, sons,  
brothers,  
grandpas,  
and men of  
all ages

October 14th-15th  
Cost: \$60 age 5-8 and  
\$105 age 9-adult  
register at  
[campmack.org](http://campmack.org)



**FULL**

## October Quilt Retreat

This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFOs (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. October 18-22, with options to arrive Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. More info at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org)



## Scrap & Craft Retreat



Crop and craft until you drop with a weekend of crafting therapy. Bring the scrapbook and crafting projects you need to finish or may have been waiting to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow crafters. October 19-22, with options to arrive Thursday, Friday morning, or Friday evening

## Hobby Get-A-Way Days

October 21st  
Knitting and Crocheting Get-A-Way Day  
Scrapbooking



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





**FALL PASTOR'S SABBATH**  
**OCTOBER 23-24, 2023**

*The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, and recreation. Join leader Ken Rieman and other Church of the Brethren pastors for a few hours or both days. October 23rd at 1p.m. – October 24th at 1p.m. Cost: \$25 (includes lodging, meals and CEUs)*

*Save the date: Spring Pastor's Sabbath*

*May 6–7, 2024*

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

# CAMP MACK ANNUAL DINNER

**Saturday,  
November 4th**

Spend an evening with friends new  
and old, enjoying the finest Camp  
Mack has to offer.

Limited space available.

\$50 per person  
\$375 for a table of 6  
\$500 for a table of 8

# Get-A-Way to Camp Mack

## Sandhill Cranes

Travel with us to Jasper-Pulaski FWA to see over 10,000 Sandhill cranes along their migration route.

November 18th

Cost: \$35 (lunch included)



## Wreaths & Swags

Use fresh greens, fruits, ribbon, and other unique items from nature to make a beautiful wreath or swag to hang on your door.

December 2nd

Cost: \$35 (lunch included)

## Christmas Cookies

Make four batches of cookies (around 12 dozen cookies). We prepare the ingredients; you mix up the dough, bake, and decorate.

Best of all, we clean up the mess. Three sessions available.

December 2nd or 3rd

Cost: \$55 (lunch included)



Find out more and register at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org)