

The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 30, Issue 1: May 2022

Camp Friedenswald provides people of all ages the opportunity to grow in relationship with God, self, others and nature.

Letter from the chair of the Builders

By Heather B. Reichenbach

We are in a season of transitions. While transitions can sometimes be unsettling, I love all the new energy it brings! Here at home, our tulips are pushing up through the dirt. The days are growing longer. The school year is coming to an end. Health protocols and recommendations have adjusted to reflect current COVID-19 risks. Communities are learning how to be together again. The weather is progressively warmer, and even slipping back to cold signals transition.

The neat thing about transitions is that while they may mark *the end* of something (which could be unsettling), they also simultaneously happen at *the beginning* of something new (yay!). Transitions are the space in between what *was* and what *is to become*.

While much is shifting in the world around us, Camp Friedenswald also stands witness to exciting transitions:

- New Camps: Grand Camp, Just Camp, Restoration Retreat
- Controlled burning
- New signs
- Improved insulation
- Solar initiative
- Black locust tree playground
- Summer staff search

Some transitions can be easily measured, but some transitions (or pieces of the transition) can also be invisible to the naked eye. They can be invisible because the changes happen on a scale that makes them hard to notice, like Lake Shavehead slowly creeping into warmer temperatures. Or they can be invisible because the initial transition happens internally or behind the scenes without any outward sign, like the impact of a campfire story on an impressionable fourth grader during a week of summer camp. Transitions also provide space to re-imagine and grant permission to change what was. It seems safe to say that we are formed by and live within transitions. Transitions and periods of transitions surround us whether or not we are immediately aware of them.

And although it may appear that transitions just happen, they don't. It takes some form of a catalyst for a transition to begin, creating a shift or change. Catalysts are imperative for transitions to occur. For tulips to grow, the sun needs to warm the soil. For new Camp weeks to be offered, staff and constituent dreaming must emerge and conversations take shape. For the peaceful woods to produce renewed space for gathering and being together, it must actively engage in the changes of the season.

For every transition at Friedenswald, there are catalysts. In playground-building, in insulation installation, in summer staff on-boarding, in food preparation, in camp registration, in controlled burning, in visual and verbal storytelling, in both project and maintenance funding, in stewardship planning...all these transitions (and many, many more!) begin from one or more catalysts. Camp is fortunate; there are many catalysts at work here: staff, volunteers, churches, campers, Builders, board, the Divine.

Wild lupine in the peaceful woods

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When I reflect on all of you, and the energy you direct towards Camp as we transition into the next season and many seasons beyond, I am in awe. The peaceful woods exemplify life transitions and new beginnings – in nature, in new initiatives, in faith community, and within self. The peaceful woods exemplifies how energy is utilized and then matched into abundance. Transitions are shaped by many and shift to breathe new life season after season. The peaceful woods (and the community within) exemplifies the space in between what was and what is to become. We are in a season of transitions. I love it. Praise God!

Aerial view of the controlled burn in the restored oak savanna in March of 2022. Oak savannas are fire dependent ecosystems and need periodic burns in order to thrive.



Year-round staff

Vicki Archer, *Dishwasher*
Eric Emerson, *Food Service Director*
Nicky Foust, *Food Service Assistant*
Jonathan Fridley, *Facilities Director*
Andrea Golden, *Bookkeeper*
Abigail Brunk Greaser, *Program Assistant*
Emily Hilton-Nickel, *Sustainability Assistant*
Amy Huser, *Sustainability & OE Director*
Jenna Liechty Martin, *Executive Director*
Jane Litwiller, *Program Director*
Lora Nafziger, *Program Advisor*
Phil Nyce, *Facilities Assistant*
Anita & Paul Pawelski, *Guest Hosts*
Vicky Solano, *Housekeeper*
Jess Whicker, *Guest Services Director*

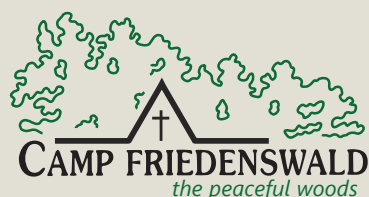
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Teresa Dutchersmith
Todd Kirkton
Evan Miller
Jerry Nussbaum
Deanna Risser, *Vice-Chair*
Pete Suter, *Chair*
Matt Troyer, *Secretary*
Alita Yoder
Kendra Yoder

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camp@friedenswald.org
www.friedenswald.org

Moving? Need to update your address? Please let us know!



Reflections from Jane Litwiller, program director

There are many things I'm looking forward to about Summer 2022 at Camp Friedenswald. One goal that comes to mind includes developing and furthering relationships with all of you who have a special connection to Camp. Another opportunity I'm eager for is "simply" learning about all of the intricacies that go into conducting programming in this place. Another is digging more deeply into the larger body of work and research that studies the values, benefits, strategies, practices, pedagogy, etc., that undergird and help to inform the work of Camps in general and the work we do here at Camp Friedenswald in particular. And, of course, literally digging into this place and learning more about its ecosystems, soils, waters, plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates is also towards the top of my list. I have a long list of opportunities that I'm looking forward to...

In addition to all of this, another element I'm eager to explore this summer is the role that asking questions plays in our faith development and our personal understanding of who God is. I've been enjoying conversations with Summer Staff applicants about their faith and how they articulate their personal understanding in this world. I've truly cherished the conversations we've had together and it has felt like a small taste of what I imagine will also occur this summer at Camp with campers. A recurring theme when asked about personal faith development has been uncertainty about how to identify themselves and in some cases even some apprehension about expressing this. However, I think that Camp is uniquely situated to provide opportunities for questioning and thereby foster a deeper understanding of many topics, especially one's individual faith. The space created by these opportunities is sacred ground and providing it can be a key part of the mission of Camp that we can actively pursue.

As an environmental educator by training and parent of a 3 year old, I believe that all questions driven from an earnest attempt at understanding something are worthy of consideration. I also believe that asking questions is fundamental to developing relationships, promoting interest, and engaging the world. And, I believe that observing Creation is essential if we are to understand the Creator. What are some questions you want to explore this summer at Camp? What are some examples you notice of God at work? How do these questions foster your relationship with our Creator?

Whatever your questions may be this summer, I look forward to transformational time together in the presence of God. Camp is committed to being a safe and inclusive space for these explorations to occur no matter what identities our campers, guests, and staff bring with them. We look forward to the journey as we seek to understand more about who God is and cherish our time and space together at Camp as a critical refuge in an otherwise often turbulent and uncertain world. The peaceful woods is always ready to welcome you as you are with open arms and will offer up a rich lens for reflection. Here's to Summer 2022!

2021 by the numbers

By Amy Huser, sustainability & outdoor education director

In 2021, Camp demonstrated the ability to be flexible and creative in order to safely welcome more guests and campers back to the peaceful woods. While navigating COVID precautions and an ever-changing world, we continued to work on goals in our Resilience and Sustainability Plan. Here is a glimpse of some of what happened in 2021, by the numbers.

92,511

Kilowatt hours

92,511 kWh solar energy produced on-site and by Camp's community solar panels (39% of Camp's electric usage) reducing our CO₂ equivalent emissions by 65.6 metric tons*

*According to the EPA's GHG equivalencies calculator.

483

Hours

483 hours spent by staff and volunteers working on ecological restoration and invasive species removal (115 acres, or 36%, of Camp's natural areas stewarded)

14,217

Square feet

14,217 square feet of insulation added to 7 buildings



7

Commitments

7 commitments made to continue work with the Repair Network through the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition

75%

Less beef

75% less beef served per meal from 2017 to 2021 (2,037 pounds of beef served in 2017 and 324 pounds of beef served in 2021)

1,100

Volunteer hours

1,100 hours of volunteer time that kept Camp running

3,800

Pounds recycled

3,800 pounds of single stream recycling recycled, reducing CO₂ equivalent emissions by almost 5 and a half metric tons*

*According to EPA's WARM software

4 + 1

Upgraded

4 appliances and 1 leaf blower upgraded to electric (electricity is a cleaner energy source for Camp currently AND has the potential to be much cleaner in the future)

5,117

People served

5,117 guests and campers welcomed to the peaceful woods

1

Nature book

1 nature photography book, *An Alphabetical Hike through the Peaceful Woods*, published and for sale in Camp Store

19,113

Meals

19,113 meals served

CAMP FRIEDENSWALD BUILDERS

The persons, churches, and organizations listed contributed as Builders to Camp Friedenswald from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If you gave during this time and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify Jenna Liechty Martin. Thank you for your faithful support!

Charles & Deborah Albrecht
John Alter & Sueann VonGunten
Jan Althaus
Don Augspurger
Rachel Augspurger
J.O. & Elizabeth Augspurger
Walter & Lynette Bachman
Wendell Badertscher & Esther Nafziger
Jim & Lois Bare
Richard Baum
Jim & Naomi Baumgartner
Howard & Phyllis Baumgartner
David & Tanya Baumgartner
Stefan Baumgartner
Curt & Shari Bechler
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Kirk & Heather Eicher-Miller
Mia Engle
Roger Flueckiger
John Fox & Mary Habegger Fox
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Christine Guth
Ronald & Ladonna Habegger
Marge Habegger
Gary & Carla Habegger
Mike & Gwen Habegger
Arman & Sue Habegger
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Scott & Greta Lehman
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Robert Liechty
John Liechty & Joy Lambright Liechty
Floyd & Renee Liechty
Nancy Liechty Loewen
Douglas & Mary Liechty-Caskey
Dorothy Loepp
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Lois Miller
Dr. Gene & JoAnn Miller
Phil & Karen Miller Rush
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Barry & Denise Moore
David Moser & Ingrid Friesen Moser
Mary Anne Moser
Luke Mullet & Sarah Roth Mullet
Lewis Naylor & Belle Duerksen
Ruth Naylor
Ongeziwe Ncube
Randall & Marcia Nelson
Kevin & Kendra Nickel
Jerry & Virginia Nussbaum
Phil & Maribeth Nyce
Donald & Romaine Pannabecker
Luke Penner & Rachel Yoder Penner



CAMP FRIEDENSWALD BUILDERS

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John & Jo Ann Preheim
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Douglas & Paulette Reichenbach
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Dale Way & Chris Gerig Way
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Joshua Weaver & Julia Gingrich
Martha West
Brian & Brenda Wiebe
Dan & Kathleen Wilson
Diane Wiman
Penny Yarman
Kent & Gaye Yoder
Kendra Yoder & David Lind
Anna & Brian Yoder Schlabach
Lucille Zimmerman

CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS

Eighth Street Mennonite Church
Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship
First Mennonite Church of Bluffton
First Mennonite Church of Sugarcreek
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign
Grace Mennonite Church
Hively Avenue Mennonite Church
Koinonia Class, First Mennonite Church
Maplewood Mennonite Church
Maurice Stahly Family Endowment Fund
Mennonite Church of Normal
Mennonite Mutual
North Danvers Mennonite Church
Oak Grove Mennonite Church
Prairieview Mennonite Church
Salem Mennonite Church
Shavehead Lake Association
Silverwood Mennonite Church
Southside Fellowship
Southwestern Michigan College

ESTATE GIFTS

In 2021 Camp Friedenswald was the recipient of a generous estate gift from the late **Marion E. Ruth**. We honor her life and are grateful for her foresight and generous spirit that is reflected in her final gifts to Camp Friedenswald. Marion's gift will support the Camp Friedenswald Endowment – a growing source of annual funding for furthering and deepening Camp's mission.



Who is a Builder?

A Builder is someone who believes in the work of Camp Friedenswald and is committed to supporting its mission by providing essential financial support (\$500 or more annually) and/ or volunteering five or more days each year. See Friedenswald.org/get-involved/ to find out more!



Pictured left to right: 8th Street Mennonite Church volunteers serving up pizza; Joel Schmidt (Berne, IN) helps with facilities tasks; intergenerational family dish crew (Lynn and Linda Miller with grandson Douglas Nester); Winter Camp volunteers kept the fires burning; and 8th Street youth group assist with laying mulch for the new swing set.

Camp Friedenswald

SUMMER 2022

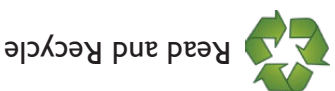


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