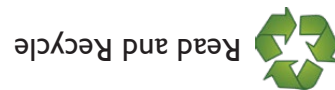




June 9-14	High School Camp	July 15-19	Family Camp II - Full
June 16-21	Junior High Camp	July 22-26	Family Camp III
June 23-26	Pre Junior Camp	Sept. 20-22	Women's Retreat (Cyneatha Millsaps, presenter)
June 30-July 5	Junior Camp	Nov. 1-3	Restoration Retreat (Sarah Augustine, presenter)
July 8-12	Family Camp I		
July 13-14	Builders Weekend		

For registration and scholarship info visit Friedenswald.org



Return Service Requested

15406 Watercress Way
Cassopolis, MI 49031



The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 32, Issue 1: Spring 2024

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

Summer theme 2024: Animal Kin-dom

By Jane Litwiller, program director

As we continue to immerse ourselves in learning more about God through understanding God's good creation this summer at Camp, we'll be exploring our theme, "Animal Kin-dom," and reflecting on our interconnectedness with the animals that live in this place. We'll be learning about interdependence within ecosystems and considering how God's vision of shalom is all-encompassing, calling us to be in right-relationship with all of creation. We'll be remembering that all creatures are made by God, in God's image, and called "good."

I confess, it's much easier for me to see the face of God in a furry little fox pup than it is in the face of a deer tick. Say whaaat?! Yes. How is God calling me to live in right-relationship with the deer ticks this year? How do I balance the idea of shalom and my own personal well being as an animal on this planet that also has specific needs (to maintain my health and my family's health by not getting tick-borne illnesses)?

Ticks aren't innately bad. Conversely, God created them good, pathogen-free at birth, and they do play a role in the ecosystems they inhabit. This can include being a part of the food web in that smaller birds, reptiles, mammals, and other animals may eat them. Additionally, as a disease vector, they can have a limiting impact on deer populations. They are living their lives doing what God created them to do and they are so successful at it!

So, how do I restore shalom with the ticks? As with most things in life, I don't claim to have solid answers but it drives me to ask more questions and learn much in the process. Generally what appears to be the problem on the surface can have more complex causes and solutions if one digs a little deeper. I've come to conclude that the abundance of ticks is a symptom of a system out of balance with many potential causes.

Climate change is a major underlying factor. Having warmer winters more frequently with higher overall humidity is causing their range and the populations of ticks to increase unchecked. Loss of biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, and plentiful acorn crops also compound the problem. Take away robust forest ecosystems that can support the predators to keep the white-footed mouse (this is where ticks contract the disease causing pathogens) population in check, combined with the abundant food supply in the acorns, and it's a recipe for success on the part of the ticks.

Going forward, maybe the ticks can be yet another wake up call to action and help me/us strengthen the resolve to commit to acting in more sustainable ways in our home places. This is but one example. I encourage you to consider an animal relevant to you in your place and to contemplate the invitation from this messenger as a being created in the image of God. I look forward to hearing about how your experience shifts your perspective!

For more information on the ecology of tick borne disease, visit our blog (www.friedenswald.org/blog) to read this reflection with additional links for exploring.

15406 Watercress Way Cassopolis, MI 49031 269.476.9744 www.friedenswald.org





Staff Transitions

We are grateful to Liam Elias (pictured left teaching a fishing class to campers) for his year of voluntary service at Camp Friedenswald. During his time he helped to steward the land, teach outdoor education classes, lifeguard at the waterfront, wash dishes, and share many of his gifts (like unicycling!). Perhaps his greatest contribution was bringing a whole new meaning to the polar bear plunge when he led campers into the lake during winter camps. We are going to miss his thoughtful, kind, and hopeful spirit at Friedenswald. Thank you, Liam!

At the end of 2023, we said farewell to Lora Nafziger after two years of serving as Program Advisor. Lora brought her love of faith formation and camp together and helped to shape our summer themes and root them in our Anabaptist faith tradition. At the start of the year Lora moved with her family to Nepal where they are serving with United Mission to Nepal. We wish them all the best in this new adventure!

Camp Staff

- Vicki Archer, Dishwasher
- Liam Elias, Program & Sustainability Assistant
- Eric Emerson, Food Service Director
- Heather Emerson, Housekeeper
- Jonathan Fridley, Facilities Director
- Andrea Golden, Bookkeeper
- Jeremy Hostetler, Facilities Assistant
- Janessa Hostetler, Kitchen Assistant
- Amy Huser, Sustainability & OE Director
- Jane Litwiller, Program Director
- Jenna Liechty Martin, Executive Director
- Anita & Paul Pawelski, Guest Hosts
- Kendra Sprunger, Administrative Assistant
- Jess Whicker, Guest Services Director

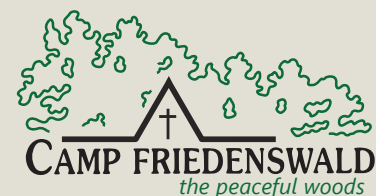
Board of Directors

- Steve Hartman-Keiser
- Todd Kirkton, Secretary
- Evan Miller, Vice-Chair
- Chris Moser
- Deanna Risser, Chair
- Mark Roeschley
- Sarah Werner
- Alita Yoder
- Kendra Yoder

Contact us:

15406 Watercress Way
 Cassopolis, MI 49031
 269-476-9744
 camp@friedenswald.org
 www.friedenswald.org

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



Letter from the Director

Breathing. It's the difference between life and death and yet we so often go about our days unaware of the inhales and exhales that sustain our lives. When I spend too much time in front of a screen, or scrolling through the day's headlines, I find that my breath grows shallow. In those moments, I feel a little less alive. When I pause to breathe, and to recognize the gift of breath, I can feel something shift deep within me. As you browse through this issue of *The Friedensword*, I invite you, the reader, to take several deep breaths with me.

A deep breath in ... honoring the interconnectedness of all creation, that includes ourselves and even ticks. And a deep exhale ... acknowledging the signs and symptoms that are present in a system and world out of balance.

A deep breath in ... full of gratitude for the Builders who have helped to sustain and support the mission of Camp throughout the past year. And a deep breath out ... releasing those whose lives on this earth have ended and who remembered Friedenswald in their giving at the end of their lives.

A deep breath in ... celebrating the steps we've taken in the past year towards becoming more rooted in place, growing in formation, committed to justice, and fostering resilience. And a deep breath out ... acknowledging there are many steps that remain to be taken.

A deep breath in ... anticipating the coming summer camping season and the arrival of the 2024 staff and then campers. And a deep breath out ... entrusting into God's care the experiences and life that will unfold around us and within us this coming season.

Our breaths themselves are prayers of gratitude and hope, of acceptance and release. I invite you to continue to breathe with me as we move into the summer season and beyond. Thank you for your support offered through your faithful prayers, financial gifts, and time!

Jenna Liechty Martin
 Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director

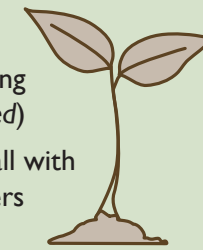


Strategic Plan - Progress report and steps taken in 2023

Alongside running programs and serving guests in 2023, we also took steps towards our strategic goals, trusting they will lead us more deeply into our mission. Steps we took are highlighted below. You can find the complete report online at <https://friedenswald.org/strategic-plan-2023-25/>.

PLACE

- Completed planting of 9,000 trees on north property
- 800+ hours committed to land stewardship
- Received Cass County Conservation District award for recycling, waste management, and sustainable purchasing (Amy Huser and Jonathan Fridley, pictured)
- 29,000+ meals served in the dining hall with some foods coming from local suppliers (like blueberries and squash!)



JUSTICE

- 500+ people participated in an indigenous history and story hike
- \$10,408 given in financial scholarships (the highest \$ in at least a decade)
- Joined Supportive Communities Network and adopted a welcome and inclusion statement (Karl Shelly and Jenna Liechty Martin pictured below)
- Began a journey of repair with Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, responding to past harms in a spirit of repentance and hope



FORMATION

- 607 campers attended a summer camp! We served more youth campers (334 people) than we had since 2014 and the most family campers (273 people) in over 20 years!
- Summer theme *Water Ways* highlighted connections between our Christian faith and the watersheds we inhabit
- 1800+ people served through our school-based outdoor education program



RESILIENCE

- 780 volunteer days given
 - Created a master plan for renovating and rebuilding facilities, including lodges and staff housing
 - Switched to low/non-toxic all-purpose cleaners
 - Received generous financial support from individuals and congregations, helping to exceed funding goal in 2023
- 2023 summer staff, pictured



CAMP FRIEDENSWALD BUILDERS

The people, congregations, and organizations listed contributed as Builders to Camp Friedenswald from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. 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!

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 www.friedenswald.org/get-involved/ for more!



Charles & Deborah Albrecht
John Alter & Sueann VonGuntent
Jan Althaus
Philip & Andrea Arner
Don Augspurger
J.O. & Elizabeth Augspurger
Rachel Augspurger
Walter & Lynette Bachman
Wendell Badertscher & Esther Nafziger
Jim & Lois Bare
Richard Baum*
Katherine Bauman
Leon Bauman & Char Yutzky
Howard & Phyllis* Baumgartner
Curt & Shari Bechler
Justin & Erin Beeker
Ted & Gretta Beitler
Ed & Beverly Benner
Terry Berg & Cathy Beery Berg
Dave Bertsche
Hilary Bertsche
Allan & Marie Blunt
Dick Boehr
Michael & Connie Brandt
Henry & Sara Braun
Tim Braun & Alysha Liljeqvist
Jeff & Patricia Buhr
Arlin & Maretta Buller
Sheryl Burkhalter
Rick & Cindy Burns
Ron Byler & Mim Shirk
Virgil & Louise Claassen
Stanley & Joenita Clemens
Roger & Linda Clemmons
Richard & Kathleen Collins
Mike & Stephanie Company
John Courtney
Brad & Ellie Covert
Jack & Katherine DeLee
Ryan & Alicia Demarco
Lu Derstine
Carole F Dobbie
Mary & Jeff Downing
Alex & Emma Dugger
Jim & Linda Eicher
Phil & Cindy Eicher
Kirk & Heather Eicher-Miller
Jacob & Lillian Elias
Mia Engle
David & Suzanne Estvanko
Ermaleen Etter
Donald and Valerie Fain
John Fox & Mary Habegger Fox
George & Barb Fridley
Ivan & Rachel Friesen

Joelle Friesen
Jon & Janelle Friesen
Billy Funk & Alita Yoder
Barbra Gant
Ned Geiser & Marie Harnish
John Gerber & Suella Lehman Gerber
Marlin Gerber
Rose Gerber Emery
Glenn & Mary Gilbert
Daniel & Jan Gingerich
Cal & Sharon Graber
Joel & Barbara Graber
Jonathan & Phoebe Graber
Julia Graber & Raphael LaFrance
Pamela Graber
Peter & Mary Graber
Erik Grayvold & Angela Moore
Alan Greaser & Jeannie Brunk
Caroline Greaser
Ben Gundy & Jennifer Ruth
Jeff & Marlyce Gundy
John & Jan Gundy
Nate Gundy & Jessica Witmer
Bob & Christine Guth
Arman & Sue Habegger
Gary & Carla Habegger
Marge Habegger
Mike & Gwen Habegger
Ronald & Ladonna Habegger
Steve & Lori Hartman Keiser
Greg & Laura Hartzler
Kelly Hartzler
Matt & Jen Hartzler
Tim & Marybeth Hartzler
Galen & Karen Hershberger
Stefan & Karen Hershberger
Hal Hess & Christine Schumacher
Rex & Angie Hochstedler
Ruby Hochstedler
Mary Hofstetter
Mark & Beth Hooley
Jim & Sandi Hostetler
Lowell & Martha Hostetler
Hans Houshower
Amy Huser
Steve & Mary Beth Huser
Kevin & Tonya Jaberg
Barry & Janeen Bertsche Johnson
Steve & Jan Johnson
Terry & Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger
Kevin & Alison King
Titus King & Joy Kauffman King

Vernon & Shirley King
Haley Kirkton
Jim & Vicky Kirkton
Todd & Alison Kirkton
Ted Koontz & Gayle Gerber Koontz
Mark & Trixy Larimer
Mary Grace Leatherman
George & Anita Lehman
Scott & Greta Lehman
Steve & Rhonda Lehman
Mary Lehman Yoder
Chris Liechty
John Liechty & Joy Lambright Liechty
Nancy Liechty Loewen
Douglas Caskey & Mary Liechty-Caskey
Todd & Lisa Liechty-Steele
Dorothy Loepp
Doug & Paula Luginbill
David Mark
Julie Mark
Wesley Mark & Mary Harder
Daryl & Karen Martin
Peter Martin & Jenna Liechty Martin
Peter Martin & Jessica Schirch
Gerald & Carrie Mast
John Mattson & Lucretia Wilson Mattson
Rodney Maust & Martha Yoder Maust
James McInerney
Ross & Jeanne Mielke
Pete & Cheryl Roscher Mikinka
Alena Miller
Brian Miller & Anna Groff
Darren Miller & Anna Ruth Hershberger
Evan Miller
Imogene Miller
Rae Ann Miller
Thomas & Sonya Miller
Phil & Karen Miller Rush
Mary Ann Moman
Chris Moser & Carmen Ordonez
Dave & Jenny Moser
Mary Anne Moser
Michelle Moyer-Litwiller
Luke Mullet & Sarah Roth Mullet
Lewis Naylor & Belle Duerksen
Ruth Naylor
Randall & Marcia Nelson
James & Barb Nelson Gingerich

Douglas Nester
Kevin & Kendra Nickel
Lydia Nolt
Jerry & Virginia Nussbaum
Jonathan & Becky Nussbaum
Phil & Maribeth Nyce
Luke Penner & Rachel Yoder Penner
John & Jo Ann Preheim
Peter & Jodi Quint
Larry & Louise Reeser
Brian & Heather Bachman Reichenbach
Douglas & Paulette Reichenbach
Eric & Jennifer Reichenbach
Lamar Reichert
John & Kay Reimer
Jill and Steven Reyes-Steinmetz
Alice Risser
Deanna Risser
Mark & Jane Roeschley
Marjorie Ropp
Lisa Schirch & William Goldberg
Carol & Verne Schirch
Kyle Schmidt
Myron & Rickey Schrag
Joe & Mary Schrock
Roger & Nathalie Schrock
Tim & JP Schumacher
Jane Sears
Amy & Jeff Shadbolt
Alma Shelly
Elisabeth Shelly
Karl & Michelle Shelly
Anne & Philip Shenk
Emily and Bryce Skeeters
Ted & Teresa Smucker
Jim & Kay Sommer
Keith & Shirley Sommer
Charlotte Sprunger
Jedd & Nanette Sprunger
Norman Sprunger
Amy Stauffer McNutt
Brent and Megan Stauffer Miller
Bruce & Suzanne Stauffer
Jane Steinmetz
Joel & Teri Steinmetz
James Stevenson
Peter Streid
Kent & Linda Stucky
Bonita Suter
Dave & Marlene Suter
Fred & Marlene Suter
Tim & Margaret Thut
Francisco Sesmas & Maria Torres
Donald & Beth Troyer
Josh & Paige Troyer
Doug & Jolene VonGuntent
Byron & Connie Warkentin
Gertrude Warkentin
Jim & Jane Weaver
Joshua Weaver & Julia Gingrich
Justin & Lyz Weaver

Curtis & Shelly Weaverdyck
Sarah Werner
Brian & Brenda Wiebe
Dan & Kathleen Wilson
Diane Wiman
Penny Yarman
Jim & Sandra Yoder
Kent & Gaye Yoder
Racheal Yoder and Rem Yoder
Virgil & Amy Yoder
Kendra Yoder & David Lind
Lucille Zimmerman

ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist Disabilities Network
Bontrager Family Foundation
Moser Motor Sales
Maurice Stahly Family Endowment Fund
Shavehead Lake Association

CHURCHES

Assembly Mennonite Church
Belmont Mennonite Church
Berkey Ave Mennonite Church
Central District Conference
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 (Berne, IN)
Madison Mennonite Church
Maplewood Mennonite Church
Mennonite Church of Normal
North Danvers Mennonite Church
Oak Grove Mennonite Church
Paoli Mennonite Fellowship
Prairieview Mennonite Church
Salem Mennonite Church
Silverwood Mennonite Church

*deceased

Pictured left (top to bottom): Winter camp volunteers in 2023; Jim Eicher, Joel Schmidt and Justin Weaver; Mary Hofstetter.

Pictured above (top to bottom): Faith Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN) volunteers; Marie Blunt (right) with Manuhka Miller; Bethany Christian School student.



ESTATE GIFTS

In 2023 Camp Friedenswald was the recipient of several generous estate gifts. We remember the lives of these individuals and are grateful for their foresight and generous spirits that are reflected in their final gifts to Camp Friedenswald. These gifts will support upcoming capital needs that will help sustain Camp's mission into the future.

Tom & Jeannette Bechtel (Goshen, Indiana) credited Camp Friedenswald for bringing them together in the summer of 1959 when they both served on summer staff. They were lifelong supporters of Camp. Tom helped construct the original chapel building and Jeannette served on the board in the late 1980s.

Robert "Bob" & Miriam Liechty (Berne, Indiana) were active Builders and volunteers throughout their lives, with Bob sharing his skills in plumbing and heating in many projects. Together they fostered a love of Friedenswald in many of their children and then grandchildren.

Theodore "Ted" & Josephine "Jo" Sommer (Pekin, Illinois) were faithful Builders throughout their lives. Ted's father, O.J. Sommer, was among the group of people who were involved in the selection and purchase of the original 40-acres that was Camp Friedenswald. They shared a deep commitment and care for Camp that was reflected through their family's involvement over the years and in the generous support they provided throughout their lives.