

WINGS Update

Finally, the rain stopped and WINGS could be outside! So, we had a water games night! We couldn't let a dry Tuesday happen! With water balloon launches at WINGS leaders and a water balloon toss, the kids and leaders had a great time getting wet. Kickball in between the water games helped us dry off a little and get warm and sweaty before cooling off with more water. One of the best parts of the night was just watching the kids faces as balloons popped in their hands!

WINGS also spent a weekend at Camp Luz for our annual retreat. WINGS kids in grade 3 and older enjoyed a time of getting to know each other better while learning about friendship, spending time outside, eating around a campfire, and playing games. Highlights included glow capture the flag (I'm pretty sure I won!), a scavenger hunt with tons of team building activities, Bible verses on friendship, and discussion questions about how we can be friends and what friendship looks like, swimming and boating, and our speaker's hands-on activities based on her lessons. Of course, the food was also a much loved part of the experience. Thank you Sherm and LaVonne Amstutz, Larry Fretwell, and Jane Steiner for providing meals and snacks for our hungry crew! I think a whole watermelon was eaten by one kid at dinner and I know there were many seconds (and thirds) at both meals! We also got to share really cool shirts with the kids that Christi Michaels made for us. Thank you, Christi! We love the shirts and they are a great reminder that "a friend loves at all times!" (Proverbs 17:17a our theme verse for the weekend). Thank you also to all of you at OMC for sharing worship with us and inviting us to join you for lunch. We appreciate your support and encouragement and for allowing us to be a ministry connected to you. We continue to see God's hand working. It is hard and tiring work sometimes, but it only takes one kid sharing in front of all of you, or seeing kids who normally don't get along playing together, or hearing a kid share who God is to them, or seeing kids begging to pray to remind us how privileged we are to be a part of God's work in the lives of these kids.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we continue to work on friendship, building God's Kingdom, and loving kids! Thank you also for supporting some of our kids to go to Camp Luz for a week of summer camp. If you could hear how excited they are when they hear they get to go, it would make you smile for a month! We know God will meet them at camp and we can't wait to hear the stories they bring back! Thank you!

~ Sara Anderson, WINGS Leader

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Mentorship Peace Camp—September 6-8, 2019

Calling all mentor/mentee pairs and others interested in building connections, learning about peacemaking in an immersive setting, and having lots of camp fun!

Join Mennonite Mission Network's Peace & Justice Support Network (PJSN) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for hands-on learning about communication skills, conflict resolution and biblical approach to peace and justice. We'll have fun camp activities, games and relationship-building exercises.

Jason Boone, PJSN Coordinating Minister, and Jes Stoltzfus Buller, Peace Education Coordinator for MCC U.S., will be our speakers for the weekend.

Cost is \$100. Join PJSN and MCC at Camp Friedenswald 15406 Watercress Way, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

General Announcements:

Mennonite Central Committee Central States is now collecting Immigration detainee care kits. When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they are taken to bus stations and airports to reconnect with their families in the U.S. Please visit mcc.org/immigrationkit for all the details of what goes into the kit and how the kits will be distributed. It is one small way we can share Christ's love with our neighbors. All kit supplies and financial donations should be sent directly to MCC Central States 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. To help MCC purchase immigration detainee care kit supplies and cover transportation costs for the kits, checks should be made out to MCC with "CS Kits" in the memo line. Questions? Please contact MCC Central States at 316.283.2720.

MCC Great Lakes is excited to offer a unique training opportunity for individuals to explore and engage with the legacy of colonialism and understand the intersecting history between Native people and European settlers. This training will use the framework of the Doctrine of Discovery to explore the taking of land from Indigenous people, which led to the justification of the global slave trade. Participants will be equipped with a number of educational tools which they can utilize to further educate others on the Doctrine of Discovery. Led by Michelle Armster, Erica Littlewolf, and Karin Kaufman Wall from MCC Central States, the training is open to all who are interested in the ongoing work of education and awareness-raising on these issues. It will be held August 25-27 with the Sunday evening public event, Loss of Turtle Island, at Waterford Mennonite and the following two days of training at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The registration fee is \$50. For more information and registration, visit mcc.org/gl-dod or contact Kelly Shenk Koontz at kellyshenkkooontz@mcc.org.

The East Central Ohio Sanctuary Network, with Immigrant Worker Project, presents *Invisible Hands of Migrant Labor*, an experiential learning retreat, September 20-22, 2019. Our group will visit various labor sites in NE Ohio that rely on migrant labor. Participants will meet with and learn from workers and advocates for labor rights and safety and immigration justice. This is a unique opportunity that allows us to learn in community, and process together what we hear and experience during the retreat. Lodging will take place at Camp Luz, in Kidron, OH, and there is a \$150 participant fee. Interested parties can apply at ecosn.net. Contact admin@ecosn.net with any questions.

Save the date: Make plans to join MCC for The Great Winter Warm-up! Mennonite Central Committee will kick off our centennial celebration year by hosting a comforter knotting event in Kidron, Ohio, on January 17-18, 2020. People of all ages are invited to Salem Mennonite Church (3363 Zuercher Road in Kidron) as we join people across the U.S., Canada and Europe who will be knotting comforters at events during The Great Winter Warm-up. We are also in need of comforter tops and backs (size 60"x80") for the event, so please consider making some and dropping them off at MCC Connections by December 4. For more information about the Kidron event visit mcc.org/gww-kidron. Can't make it to the Kidron event? Visit greatwinterwarmup.org for information about hosting your own event or knotting a comforter in your home. For more information contact Sarah Geiser at 330-201-4515 or SarahGeiser@mcc.org.