



MENUCHA CONFERENCE CENTER
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Menucha is a sacred sanctuary held in stewardship as an ecumenical, community-based mission of First Presbyterian Church – Portland. Our mission is to enrich lives through hospitality, learning, reflection and renewal.

CONTACT INFORMATION



You may join our mailing list or update the information we have for you by returning this form to us, or by contacting us:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email address _____
I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
 Email Regular mail

PHONE 503-695-2243
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EMAIL office@menucha.org
MAIL PO Box 8
Corbett, OR 97019

PLANNED GIVING: SECURING MENUCHA'S FUTURE

Remembering Menucha in your estate planning can have positive consequences for both Menucha and you. By setting up a Charitable Trust, you provide Menucha with a source of income in the future while guaranteeing yourself and/or your loved ones a steady income stream now. You may even avoid costly capital gain taxes. It's a wonderful way to support the mission of Menucha for years to come. We have excellent representatives who can speak with you and your financial planner to answer any questions you might have about planned giving or estate planning. Please call our office at 503-695-2243 for more details.

DONATE ONLINE

Now, it's easier than ever to support Menucha. You can donate using your credit card with our secure on-line form. Simply go to www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org and click on the "Donate Today" link. You may also print out a Donor Form and mail it to Menucha.

We are grateful for all gifts, large or small. Your gifts help us expand our programs, improve our facility and reach out to groups and individuals from around the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Please contact our office if you would like to remember someone special with your gift. Thank for your continued support.

MENUCHA ESCAPES PHYSICAL DAMAGE BUT SUFFERS FINANCIAL DAMAGE FROM EAGLE CREEK WILDFIRE

"You never know how much you love something until you're about to lose it." This has been a September like never before at Menucha. We'll start with the good news: Menucha's staff and our one-of-a-kind, historic, beloved estate escaped the Eagle Creek wildfire. Thanks be to God!

A bit of bad news: The fire forced us to cancel 20 groups, resulting in the loss of just over \$50,000 of revenue. It also forced us to cancel our annual fundraising dinner. (More on that in the article on page 3 by Friends of Menucha Foundation Board President Chris Rasmussen.)

More good news: As news of the gorge fire got out, emails, texts, Facebook posts, and calls of support started pouring in. Praying people prayed. Our spirits were lifted every day by the evidence that so many people care deeply about this special place.



What happened: Shortly after 1:00 am on September 5, all staff members who live on our property plus one guest were told to evacuate. The Eagle Creek Fire which started more than 20 miles to the east of us was threatening Corbett. The fire ultimately moved 13 miles westward in under 24 hours. Winds blew embers as far as Crown Point, just two miles east of Menucha, and started a spot fire there. Fortunately, fire crews extinguished it quickly. Each day Tim Kurkinen led Menucha's facilities staff in working on the grounds, strengthening our fire breaks on the east side of the property (thanks to Ernie and Lynn who created them years ago), clearing shrubs back from our buildings, bringing our server and other essential paperwork out to safety, and more.

Once the fire turned back eastward, but before the evacuation order was lifted, they took the opportunity to do some maintenance work that can't be done when guests are here like polishing the floor of Wright Hall and cleaning several carpets. Along with our next door neighbors, Tim also fended off over 100 cars of people who "just wanted to get a look at the fire" (or who might have wanted to use the chaos to their advantage to steal things or who might have been foolish enough to hike toward the fire and end up needing rescue).

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IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY Spencer Parks, Executive Director

Being a native of the Southeast, I've lived through my fair share of hurricanes, tornados and thunderstorms. My heart goes out to all those back east that have experienced these in their recent past. I am well aware of what it takes to clean up and work toward normal in those kinds of situations. It will take months, and in some cases years, to recover. I will continue to hold those people in my prayers and hope you will as well.



The Eagle Creek Fire was something altogether outside my experience. It descended upon us with an alarming quickness, and was unpredictable in its movements. One minute we here at Menucha were offering help to the evacuees in Cascade Locks and just a few hours later we were being evacuated ourselves. Simply put, it was a terrifying event. But amid all the smoke and ash, amid all the confusion and uncertainty, I witnessed some of the most incredible acts of compassion, kindness, and mutual support that I've ever seen. Our Corbett community, and indeed the communities surrounding us, came together in ways that were both unexpected and profound. There was a steady stream of horse and livestock trailers heading up Larch Mountain Road in efforts to evacuate livestock and small farms (this was happening even as Larch Mountain was in flames). Neighbors reached out to neighbors with offers of living accommodations, meals, places for evacuated pets and other animals. Help abounded. You didn't have to ask for help, it was offered even before you knew you might need it. We were all in this together. It was plain that we were all going to make it through.....no matter what.

We live in a contentious and fractious time. The state of politics and society in general seems to celebrate and highlight rude and self-centered behavior. The Eagle Creek Fire brought out all that is noble and good in people again. In some sense, it restored my belief that, despite our many differences, we're not descending into rot and ruin after all. The true tragedy is that it took such a catastrophic event to bring folks back together. If there is anything good that can come out of this event, I hope that it's the sense of community that we have rediscovered.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our staff. They worked hard here on the grounds to keep Menucha safe. Our office staff met in a local coffee shop so that we could continue to be in contact with our guests. Everyone pulled together. I am also proud of the Board that governs us. Many of our hourly employees count on their time in September as it's one of our busiest months. Despite a nearly \$50,000 loss in revenue due to the fire, our Board decided to pay our employees for the time they would have worked. I think that in itself speaks volumes as to why Menucha is different from other conference centers.

Finally, there are our neighbors, the ones whose property borders our own. They kept a close eye on us and even chased a few potential looters away. We received a lot of help from a lot of people and we are grateful.

As I write this, we are back up and running. Things are mostly normal again. We've got a bit of cleaning up to do, but Menucha is alive and well. We hope that we can build upon those good things we discovered in the fire. It has always been our goal to enhance the good and noble in people. We hope to see you soon.



EAGLE CREEK FIRE (Continued from page 1)

Executive Director Spencer Parks and his wife Sarah took the precaution of evacuating their farm animals to the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, where they stayed for two nights waiting to see which direction the fire would go. Office staff members worked remotely, often plugging in their computers together at the Stomping Grounds coffee shop in Fairview.

Twelve days later, thanks to the great work of over 900 firefighters from all over the nation, the west side of the fire came under enough control for authorities to lift all of the evacuation requirements for Multnomah County. This meant that we were free to welcome guests again. Menucha's kitchen staffers were delighted to return to work. There was spoiled food and a lot of ashes to clean up before they could cook for guests. We are happy to report that the first group back arrived on Monday, September 18!

OUR BECKY IS RETIRING

"I will be retiring in December. I have loved my job and have enjoyed working with my fine co-workers and our wonderful guests. Next year, I will be moving to Washington right next door to my six grandchildren!



I drove down Menucha's driveway in 1978 looking for a part time job. I never dreamed that I would still be driving down the same lovely driveway 40 years later, so content and so happy to be here. Menucha will always be my happy spot!"

Needless to say, we will miss Becky and her warm welcome to everyone who walks through the door. She is kind, thoughtful and considerate to everyone, and very good at her job. We wish her all the best in retirement!

TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT MENUCHA

Do you ever buy items online using Amazon? Did you know there's an easy way to shop and help Menucha at the same time? There's no cost to you. **Just go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Friends of Menucha Foundation as the charity you'd like to support.** When you shop, simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and every purchase you make gives .05% toward our work here. Thank you...every little bit helps!

In addition to Amazon Smile, supporters from the Portland metropolitan area can turn in bottles and cans at a convenient Oregon Bottle Drop location and ask them to give the refund to Friends of Menucha Foundation. Go to [bottledropcenters.com](https://www.bottledropcenters.com) for more information.



FACILITIES UPDATE—Tim Kurkinen, Facilities Manager

Home never felt so good. It certainly feels much warmer, and more welcoming once you've been away for a long time. Since we have returned to our homes in Corbett we've been slowly getting things back to normal.



There was much to clean, and many tasks to do that had been put on hold due to the immediate fire danger. We quickly got to work and had the buildings ready in a few days' time. We had just reopened Menucha when the rain came pouring down. It's a very welcome change of season, and we couldn't be more grateful!

The Greening project is nearing its end, at least for this chapter. It started with the insulation of Wright Hall, Ballard, Bowman, and Boyd last year. We swapped out old incandescent bulbs with new LED ones. We began the replacement of many of our outdoor road and pathway lighting with the help of the Energy Trust of Oregon (all of which is expected to be completed by Fall). Then there was Wright Hall's brand new windows, and then paint, which are nearly done.

Lastly, we are upgrading Wright Hall's furnace. The new system, designed and installed by Hunter-Davison Inc. of Portland, has added passive-cooling and smart controls which will provide a much more even heat and cooling throughout the year for Wright Hall. We can't wait for it to be finished!

Along with the new windows and paint job on Wright Hall, there is going to be a new front exterior door. The new door is being designed to match the original Meier door inside the breezeway, which will make for a handsome and historically aesthetic pair. This new exterior door will be installed soon before the weather turns too terrible.

We welcome Fall with open arms and rakes in hand! It's so good to be back home.



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Menucha.Retreat.Center



Follow us on Twitter

@MenuchaRetreat



THE COOKTOP—A favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

ORANGE SUGARED SCONES—makes 12

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour | ½ cup raisins |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 1 tablespoon grated orange zest |
| ½ teaspoon baking soda | 1 cup sour cream |
| ½ teaspoon salt | 1 egg, separated |
| ½ teaspoon cinnamon | 4 teaspoons lemon juice |
| ½ cup butter, chilled | 2 tablespoons sugar, reserved for tops |
| ½ cup sugar | |



In a large bowl combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly, pea sized pieces.

In a small bowl, combine an additional ½ cup sugar, raisins and orange zest. Toss together and stir into flour mixture.

In a bowl, whisk together sour cream, egg yolk and lemon juice until smooth.

Stir sour cream mixture into flour mixture; mixture will be dry. Knead 5-8 times to combine all ingredients. Divide dough in half. Pat each half into a 6-inch circle. Place both 6-inch circles on a greased cookie sheet. Cut each circle into 6 wedges.

In a small bowl, beat egg white with fork until frothy. Brush tops of scones with egg white and sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of sugar.

Bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

UPDATE FROM FRIENDS OF MENUCHA FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT CHRIS RASMUSSEN

Menucha's 15th annual fall fundraising dinner fell victim to the Eagle Creek Fire. The event, which is always held on the Sunday night after Labor Day, usually delights around 100 guests with live music, mingling, a multi-course meal and speakers describing meaningful moments at Menucha. This year's dinner theme was to be "The Road Home" and the funds raised were to go toward re-paving and restoring the entrance road, exit road, and areas in front of Wright Hall, Ballard and the office. We will not be rescheduling the dinner; however, the Friends of Menucha Foundation will be sending a letter to supporters, asking those who are able to please help us get through this fire-induced financial bump in the road.

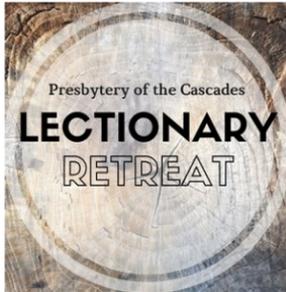


Also, we're thrilled that several of the musicians who teach at Menucha's Ukulele Band Camp have offered to hold a benefit concert for us. As of press time, we haven't scheduled it but please keep an eye out for a concert to be at First Presbyterian Church this fall. We'd love to have you join us and bring some friends.



CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING FALL PROGRAMS!

Art, Faith, Music. Menucha offers opportunities to explore all three by bringing inspiring and excellent leaders, instructors and teachers together with our program participants. Come find out what the Menucha program experience is all about, and bring a friend!



LECTIONARY RETREAT October 16-17, 2017

A one-night fall retreat for pastors and church leaders to focus on *A New Look at Ancient Israel* through lectures, conversation, and fellowship. We are pleased to have with us Yolanda Norton, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

FALL WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP: ABSTRACTING FROM NATURE with instructor Ruth Armitage October 23-26, 2017

Join Ruth Armitage for a workshop inspired by nature, but leaning toward the abstract using mixed water media. Ruth is an experienced and enthusiastic instructor as well as an award-winning artist.



MAKING BETTER DECISIONS TOGETHER with Rev. Ken Evers-Hood October 28, 2017

How many decisions do leaders make every day? Scholars tell us about 10,000. Have you taken a class in decision-making? During this Saturday seminar, come learn to distinguish between judging decisions by their outcome versus assessing them by their quality. This will help your church and you make better decisions.

SCRAP & SEW CRAFT RETREAT December 1-3, 2017

Join fellow scrapbookers, quilters, knitters and crocheters for a great weekend away to be together. You may opt to come for either one or two nights. Come relax and let Menucha's staff take care of the cooking and cleaning. Focus on doing something you love: sewing, creating albums, making cards or other crafts.



FIND ALL THE DETAILS at menucha.org/programs



NEW! BLUEGRASS IN THE GORGE April 22-25, 2018 With Laurie Lewis & Friends

Do you love the sounds of bluegrass music? Join Laurie Lewis and friends for three days of music-making. Grammy Award-winning musician Laurie Lewis is internationally renowned as a singer, songwriter, fiddler, bandleader, producer and educator.

She was a founding member of the Good Ol' Persons and the Grant Street String Band and has performed and recorded since 1986 with her musical partner, mandolinist Tom Rozum. Laurie has twice been voted "Female Vocalist of the Year" by the International Bluegrass Music Association and has won the respect and admiration of her peers.

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP March 5-8, 2018 with Rev. Scott Lumsden

Leading a congregation in adapting to new realities requires more than just the skills of a good pastor. It takes courage, faith, awareness, knowledge, and a good strategy to guide people through the rough waters of change. Through these workshops, you will gain the effective skills and practical wisdom to effectively lead a church to change, renew and grow.



MENUCHA FILM INSTITUTE July 1-6, 2018

Immerse yourself in film making. Work with a group of 7 other participants on a script from beginning-to-end production of a 4-6 minute film. You will get to learn with industry veteran Joe Coppoletta, and other film, writing, and acting professionals.

Come experience all aspects of production from choosing and refining a script, acting, location scouting and scheduling, and filming; to production scheduling, editing, all leading up to viewing the final film.