



Dakotas-Minnesota Area
United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries

May 2021

Dear Camping Family and Friends,

Nearly twelve months ago, your camping leaders made the difficult yet necessary decision to suspend summer camp programming at each of your Dakotas and Minnesota campsites due to safety concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic. Each day since, we've been closely monitoring the COVID-19 conditions, learning and growing in our understanding of the pandemic as it relates to camp and retreat ministry, and preparing to offer summer camps once again.

"More than anything else in 2020, I missed going to camp. I missed the week to reconnect with God, to recharge in God's beautiful creation, to see old friends and to make new ones. But most of all, I missed the campers. I missed sowing seeds of faith and watching the campers bloom throughout the week. And while I know things will look a little different this year, I am so very excited to return to camp!"

– Kelsey Morgan, Co-Dean of Heritage Camp at Storm Mountain

We're thrilled to share that camp is back in 2021!

Camp changes lives, and our world needs camp today more than ever! In these times campers and families desperately crave what camp provides best – opportunities to experience Christ, Creation, and community. They yearn for time and space set apart to encounter Christ in new and meaningful ways, surrounded by the beauty of Creation, and in the heart-shaping community that only camp can offer. Perhaps your world was changed by a time at camp?

"This camp is very important to the campers. One of the campers on the last day of camp every year - she would cry because she didn't want to go home. It was because of the presence of God and the fellowship of friends that she found at camp."

-Peggy, Dean of Circle of Friends Camp at Storm Mountain

"They (campers) can grow as kids and teenager to experience Jesus and to learn more about the kind of people they want to be in this world."

-Pastor Nate, Dean of LYFE Camp at Northern Pines

We are excited to return to offering summer camp and we are confident that our campers will be safe. Yet there is still much unknown in 2021 and your help is needed. Please consider a financial gift to your Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries. A gift to your camping ministries helps to ensure our United Methodist Camps, places special to so many, will be available and remain a part of our world for years to come

Please prayerfully consider a gift today. Thank you for your support of your Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries. You are making a difference!

Blessings,

Keith Shew

Director of Dakotas and Minnesota Area Camp and Retreat Ministries



Donations can be made online at www.dakcamps.org or www.campminnesota.org. Or checks can be mailed to: Dakotas or Minnesota United Methodist Foundation at PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301.