



9478 Brethren Heights Rd. | Rodney, MI 49342

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www.campbrethrenheightsmi.org | **Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter**

Connect with Creation. Awaken your Soul. Ignite your Faith.

Thoughts from the Director...

I was 18 years old when I attended National Youth Conference in 1998. It was an incredibly memorable summer for several reasons. And it was there that during a message given by Paul Grout, I sensed a call to ministry. My home congregation had been calling me out for several years, but I was too distracted to hear the call. So, I've often claimed this story as part of a larger "call" story in my life.

And it wasn't until a few years ago, that I re-discovered that my call may have been sensed during Paul's message, but it was made clearer during the next morning's worship by an unlikely duo, Ted & Lee. It was through their comedic, yet earthly portrayals of Peter and Andrew that made being a disciple of Jesus all the more real and served as a template for my own ministry formation in the coming months and years.

I write this knowing that I will be returning to NYC this summer as an Advisor and Workshop Presenter. It's been 20 years now since that life-changing summer and I return to Colorado, not with mountain-top expectations, rather earthly ones, as I have the opportunity to give voice to youth about how God may be calling them into lives of following Jesus and serving his church. Now that you know a bit of my big story...

I'm excited to share a very special event that will be taking place during District Conference the evening of Saturday, August 18th. We will be hosting Ted Swartz (formerly half of the comedy duo Ted & Lee) as he shares with us "The Big Story", a comedic exegesis through the Bible. In it, Ted brings biblical characters to life in unexpected and entertaining ways.

I hope you'll join me and others (at CBH) in the Michigan District CoB as we celebrate an evening of scripture, story, and humor... together!

Keeping it wild,

Randall Westfall,
CBH Director of Outdoor Ministry



What's Inside

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Makarios Grove

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Wishlist and more...

"Nature is a doorway into the other-than-human world, a place inhabited by more than just plants and animals. The natural world reveals secrets about its Creator, and God speaks to us through the wild and untamed world. Nature is sacred space."

-Bruce Stanley
Forest Church

"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world."

-John Muir



2018 Summer Staff!

We are delighted to have Danielle Stutzman return to camp this summer as our Waterfront Director. She's previously been at the CBH Waterfront the summers of 2012, 2015 & 2017.



We are also delighted to have Steve Headings return primarily as our video and photo person (he'll be helping in other capacities as well.) This will be Steve's last hurrah for the time being as he plans to move to Richmond, IN this fall to complete his ministry education at Bethany Theological Seminary.



It takes many hands to make the ministry of Camp Brethren Heights possible. If you are a responsible adult age 18 and older, please consider volunteering for a week or more. We need volunteers each week in the following positions:

Nurses/Health Officers (w/ current license)

Cabin Counselors

Kitchen Assistants

Maintenance

Worship/Bible Study Leaders

Nature Leaders

Craft Leaders

If you are at least 15 years old, please consider **volunteering as a CIT** for Otter, Beaver or Archer Camp. If you have been to Survivor Camp and are at

least 16 years old and have practiced your skills, you can be an apprentice/CiT for Survivor Camp this summer.

Pack the Pantry

Help us pack our pantry for the summer. If you or your church can send us these items, it would help offset our grocery expenses. Listed below are 15 of the most common items that we have to restock weekly in our pantry: ***tea mix, lemonade mix, peanut butter, marshmallows, chocolate, graham crackers, salad dressings, rice krispies, cheerios, taco seasoning, soft taco shells, applesauce, bisquick, oatmeal, flour and sugar.*** Please send us these items by June 22 so we know whether we need to buy these when we are shopping for camp groceries.

Rec Room Undergoes Transformation



The rec room recently underwent a transformation this spring to accommodate the Fiddle and Dance Camp rental group. Old carpet was torn up and installed in the fireplace room, new plywood floors have been installed, new coat of paint and trim as well (***see pics on pgs. 5-6 for various pics***). The idea is to rename it Heritage Hall as we will begin putting up picture collages from each of CBH's nearly 7 decades of ministry. We'll also have area rugs and quilts (***see wishlist***) to give the room more of an inviting home-like aesthetic.

Earful of Fiddle & Dance Camp at CBH

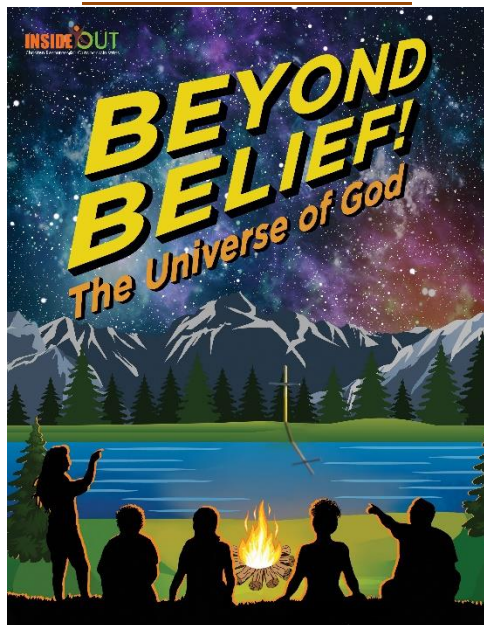


Earful of Fiddle Music & Dance Camp, established in 2009, offers aspiring musicians and percussive dancers the opportunity to learn from experienced musicians and dancers who are passionate about passing it on. It will be held on June 10-15 at Camp Brethren Heights.

You can register or find out more about this exciting camp by visiting:

<http://www.earfuloffiddle.com/index.htm>

2018 Summer Theme



Beyond Belief invites campers to ask the big questions about God and explore how God can be seen in the vastness of creation, the power of community and even in their own hearts.

Daily Themes

Day 1: What If We Belong to God? (Psalm 139)

Day 2: What If God Is Bigger? (Luke 1: 35–55)

Day 3: What If Hope Is Real? (Mark 2:1–5)

Day 4: What If There Is More than Enough? (John 6: 1–14)

Day 5: What If We Speak Up? (Mark 7:24–30)

Day 6: What If We Change the World? (Matthew 5: 13–16)

Day 7: What If We Go Beyond? (Luke 10: 1–9)

Changes to 2018 Camps

A reminder that all of our week-long camps (except Survivor & Dadirri) that used to end on Saturday will now be **ending Friday evenings** after supper, pick-up time will be from 6-8 p.m. Please make note of this change.

Central Fire Gathering Area

The “heart” of camp will be shifting this year as we move the chapel campfire area to the area just below Three Cross Hill. The aluminum fire ring will have benches that sit in semicircular fashion. It will be a central gathering area that will make use of two of the camp’s iconic views: Three Cross Hill and Jehnsen Lake.

CANS Offered Again this Fall

This fall, CBH will again be offering Cedar Ascent Nature School (CANS) for ages 3-6 and hopefully for an older age group. We’ll start by offering the preschool 1 day a week starting the week after Labor Day and running through Memorial Day of next year. We’re hoping to begin attracting more local children and families to our setting and believe God is calling us to extend our ministry to the local communities. Randall has plenty of training and background for this kind of ministry and is excited about growing this capacity of our ministry.

Makarios Grove being Built

Plans are in place to officially unveil “Makarios Grove” at District Conference. Makarios Grove is the name of our natural playscape area up the hill from the archery range. The name Makarios is from the biblical koine Greek word meaning “*blessing*”. It will be a central gathering area for the nature preschoolers this fall. Plans are to have a small pavilion with fire circle, sandbox, sound wall, mud kitchen, art studio, bug discovery station, balance scale, tunnel made of tires, water discovery station, nature architect station, bird observation station and balance/obstacle station. The

bonus is that nearly all these stations can be built with upcycled materials already at camp!

OMA to Offer Eco-Discipleship Retreat



At Brethren camps, we're no stranger to creation care practices. In fact, camp was one of the first places where we had the opportunity to explore the values of biblical earthkeeping. Whether it was activities like participating in worship outdoors, composting food scraps, or learning how to "leave no trace" while hiking in the woods; each experience left an indelible imprint on our faith formation.

Historically, Brethren have been cued into the eco-blueprint of faith but haven't realized its full potential. In recent years, we are rediscovering just how *attuned to creation* Jesus was. His teachings often made a point by drawing on the natural world around him. He knew God's wisdom came from these encounters and sought them out intentionally. He sought the solace of the wilderness, the sea, the mountain, and the garden to *regenerate his ministry and mission*. Jesus was drawing on a blueprint as old as creation itself.

OMA Board members Jonathan Stauffer and Randall Westfall have come to believe that *living attuned* with God's creation is now *essential to our discipleship* in Jesus. They have crafted an innovative weekend retreat entitled "*Cultivating a Verdant Faith*." Sessions will work at weaving eco-practices into the fabric of one's discipleship and spiritual formation. By exploring the four directions of eco-discipleship, along with bible study, worship, and group discussions; participants will unearth their relationship with creation in new and profound ways. You are invited to unplug and rediscover the eco-blueprint of faith that our Creator gave us.

Jonathan and Randall are extending the invitation to any CoB camp, outdoor ministry center, or congregation that could host, in hopes of bringing the eco-discipleship message to a broader audience in the CoB — and beyond. If your venue would like to host this unique spiritual formation experience, please contact them for a brochure or more information. They hope to see some of you out there this Fall!

Contact info:

Jonathan Stauffer

staufferjp@gmail.com (815) 973-0247

Randall Westfall

ancientpaths.os@gmail.com (231) 867-3618



Area rugs for Heritage Hall (formerly the Rec Room)

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

6 or 8 ft. **White folding tables**

5x8 **Storage Sheds** for storage at various sites

Trailer for transporting tractor/golf cart

Bibles (preferably NIV)

Treated lumber for new stage

Fold up **Ping Pong Table**

Dining Room chairs

Hammocks

Musical instruments: (djembe drums, guitars etc.)

Let Camp Host your next Event

Need a space for your upcoming event or retreat?

Check out what CBH has to offer for:

Church Retreats

Youth Gatherings

Spiritual Direction Retreats

Outdoor Education Classes

Community Events

Business Meetings

Conferences

Educational Classes/Events

Banquets

Weddings

Family Reunions

Picnics

Plus many more possibilities!

Call for availability! (231) 867-3618

How Might you Give in 2018?

All we want at camp is to continue the ministry of connecting people of all ages to God's creation and a deeper relationship with Jesus. We can't do that without the financial support of our District, congregations and individuals who are passionate about the objectives of outdoor ministry.

We give thanks daily for your support. If you are a regular giver to camp and haven't made your donation this year there is still plenty of time to do so. As the camp transitions into its own nonprofit entity it becomes even more important that we seek to find ways to help grow the camp not only spiritually but financially as well. Please send your donation to the camp today.

Stay Informed

Please add campbrethrenheightsmi.org to your browser favorites and feel free to use it as often as needed. It's also imperative that you "Like" our camp page on Facebook as well. We'll always do our best to get emails out to you. If you want to be added to our mailing list for updates, newsletters etc.. please email the camp with your current and correct email address.

2018 Summer Camp Calendar

May 25-28	Family Survival Weekend (NEW!)
June 8-10	Family Fishing Weekend (NEW!)
June 17-22	Survivor Camp (Age 12-14)
June 24-29	Bobcat Camp (Gr. 7-9)
July 1-4	Braveheart Camp (Age 9-11) (NEW!)
July 6-8	Family Archery Weekend (NEW!)
July 8-13	Dadirri Camp (Age 15-18)
July 15-20	Beaver Camp (Gr. 4-6)
July 29-31	Otter Camp (Gr. 1-3)
July 29-Aug 1	Archer Camp (Age 10-13)
Aug. 1-3	Red Tail Hawk Camp (Gr. 10-12)
Aug. 5-7	Owl Camp (Intergen.)



"Scrappers" take over the Dining hall for their Semi-Annual Scrapbooking Retreat



Tearing up the carpet in the rec room



Finished sanding and ready for varnish



Giving the walls a new look, malted that is...



Painting Boy's Cabin 1 interior Sky blue



New(er) carpet, furniture and look for fireplace room!



New cedar posts behind the bell