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www.campbrethrenheightsmi.org | **Spring 2017 Newsletter**

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

Thoughts from the Director...

*"The earth is the Lord's and **all that is in it**,
the world, and those who live in it;" - Psalm 24:1.*

Having grown up in the CoB, I've always made the connection about how our caring for creation has been tied to our faith, yet we've never crafted a real theology around that. Yet it reveals itself in other ways. If you look at the Church of the Brethren tagline, you can find some subtle hints about how this reveals itself in the life of the church.

By continuing the work of Jesus *peacefully*, it means that we seek ways to be in right relationship not only with humanity but also with creation. This means being mindful of ways in which we may inflict violence upon the earth; by the way we live and how we collaborate with creation to work towards a complete shalom with neighbor, nature and the Creator.

When we continue the work of Jesus *simply*, it means that we recognize that how we relate to the earth has a significant impact on how we live our life. At its root, simplicity embodies the need to belong and be more connected with God's creation. When we speak of our Anabaptists ancestors and other "simple" people, what image often comes to mind? An earth rooted people. All the ways that we choose to simplify our lives are often nothing more than the desire to strengthen our kinship with the earth and thus our connection to our Creator.

When we continue the work of Jesus *together*, it means that we recognize that our togetherness does not just apply to our Christian brothers and sisters, but it also includes the whole of creation. Brethren hold a biblical worldview of God's intention for humanity to be in a harmonious relationship.

At camp, we are practicing a holistic biblical approach towards our discipleship to Jesus. It incorporates how we care for and tend to God's creation. We'll be implementing the 7 Re's of tending and keeping the land in which we've been entrusted: *Renew, Rewild, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle*. The Christian faith has something to contribute to how we care for creation. I would add one more Re- to our list. We have this hope because we believe in the Resurrection, we are a resurrection people and it's time we start as the poet and prophet Wendell Berry says, "practice Resurrection."

Rabbis tell of an understanding of creation as God holding the created earth not in his hands rather his in his arms as a newborn child. It would behoove us to carry that image with us from now on when we speak of care for creation. After all, as the Psalmist reminds us, none of this is ours, it's God's.

Randall Westfall,
CBH Director of Outdoor Ministry

What's Inside

HIRING Camp Staff

Song & Story Fest

Spring Work & Play Day

New Equipment

Prayer Garden

Forest Preschool

Wishlist and more...

*"Christians throughout time
and space have leaned and
relied on the resurrection,
but now we must **practice**
it, by living 'as if' with
resurrection hope."*

-AJ Swaboda

Introducing Evangelical
Ecotheology

*"Since Anabaptist forebears
were so rural and closely
tied to the land that gave
them sustenance, some
'earthy' practices survived
in their lives and rituals."*

-David Kline,
Amish writer

Creation & the
Environment



2017 Spring Work & Play Day

CBH's Spring Work & Play Day will be on Saturday May 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A potluck Lunch will be served at Noon so please let us know what you're planning to bring so we know what we need. Bake Sale and Craft sale will go on all day.

This is an open-ended work and play day during our time together. This is a free camp weekend or work weekend if you want to come and help get camp ready for the 2017 summer season. You can also enjoy all your favorite camp activities like kayaking, hiking and just enjoying fellowship with other camp enthusiasts.

We'll also be celebrating Hewyt Westfall's 1st Birthday so come ready to enjoy some cake and Ice Cream. (no gifts are needed, but we'll always take gently used and repurposed items).

Now Hiring Summer Staff!

Zoe Willoughby will be our summer office intern and photographer, however we still need a Male and Female Counselor and a Lifeguard for the coming summer. If you know anyone who is 18 or older and would like to work at camp this summer please have them contact the camp ASAP!

Donations for Lodge Upgrades

We are invested in the next chapter of ministry God is calling us to and excited about what the future holds. Camp Brethren Heights stands poised to make the transitions to move us into the next stage of our ministry as we make improvements to the camp's infrastructure and create new programming.

The board has identified our top priority for the coming year: to replace the roof on the lodge with a metal/steel roof as well as installing new windows. We have received an estimate for the roof and it is \$16,770. A letter is being mailed to all the congregations, pastors, and camp families to begin donating to this important project.

We just completed our fundraising drive to pay for the camp tractor and would like to collaborate with congregations and individuals to help make improvements to the lodge.

If you would like to contribute a donation towards this project please contact the camp.

Changes to 2017 Camps

The CBH Inc. Board approved to experiment with a few week-long camps that would normally end Saturday morning at 11 am will now end Friday evening at 6:30 pm. This will only affect Bobcat and Beaver Camps this coming summer but if it seems to be liked by staff, parents, and campers it will affect all others in 2018. Please make note of this change.

Song & Story Fest Returns to CBH

The Church of the Brethren's annual Song & Story Fest will be back at CBH this summer. We're expecting 150-175 people for this event and will need some help with volunteers etc... For more info check out <http://onearthpeace.org/song-story-fest-2017>

New Waterfront Equipment



Aqua Splashmat



4 Corcls (circular Kayaks)

Upgraded Areas

Our campfire areas and Maqom Malak are also getting upgrades this Spring. For the campfire areas, we've added aluminum fire rings and benches. At Maqom Malak, we're installing lattice sides and opening up the opposite side to create two entrances.

Prayer Garden to be Added at Camp

The family of Linda Joseph will be creating a Peace Prayer Garden here at CBH in memory of her life and support of camp. At the moment, we are planning for what will be included in the memorial. Check back soon for more details.

New Camp Logo Design Underway

We have begun working on a new CBH logo that will be put on all of our signs and letterheads. A few options have been presented thus far and we're looking to see some more ideas. We'll be crowdsourcing this with folks in the coming months.

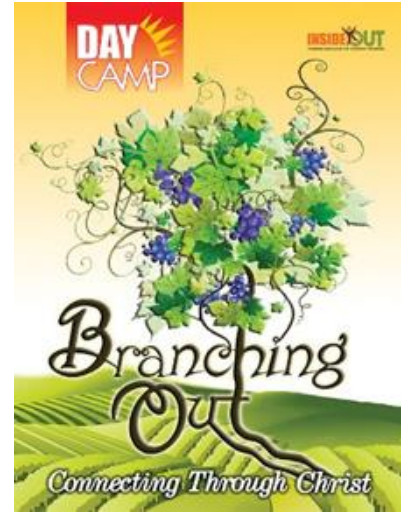
CBH to Offer Forest Preschool Fall 2017

This fall, CBH will begin offering a nature preschool for ages 3-6. 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 begin this ministry option this fall. Randall has plenty of training and background for this kind of ministry and will be taking a nature-based education seminar this June to help get the program up and running. More details on this unique ministry outreach opportunity will be coming soon!

OMA Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to Brenda King and Becky Phillips who were awarded the Outdoor Ministries Association's Volunteer of the Year Award! They will be receiving their award Friday June 30 at the OMA Luncheon during Annual Conference in Grand Rapids. If you're at Conference, and wish to attend the awards recognition, please be sure to purchase tickets for the OMA Luncheon at registration.

2017 Summer Theme



Camp lasts only one week—but what campers take home can last a lifetime. This summer, remind your campers that they can take that camp-feeling with them everywhere they go because they are connected to one another and to God by Christ. The Bible stories in *Branching Out* encourage campers to use prayer, relationships, family, and more to stay connected throughout their lives.

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 2017?

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.

Prayer Partner: Anyone can support the camp through prayer, but this group of persons is committed to praying for camp needs on a daily basis. Prayer partners receive a quarterly update of what is happening at camp and how their prayers can best be directed.

Labor of Love: To donate your time for maintenance, programs, business support, or your special talent. Contact the Camp Director or Facilities Manager to find out how you can help.

If you would like to give towards a specific camp need, listed below are a few of the items:



AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
6 or 8 ft. White folding tables
Culverts
Gravel
Trailer for transporting tractor/golf cart
Bibles (preferably NIV)
Treated lumber for new stage
Poly Pong Table
Binoculars
Set of private eye loupes
Dining Room chairs
Hammocks
Couches
Animal puppets
Field guides, Christian books
Musical instruments: (djembe drums, guitars etc.)

Want to Serve at Camp?

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

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.

2017 Summer Camp Calendar

May 27-29	Wolf Camp (Family)
June 11-13	Owl Camp (Grdpts/Grdchild)
June 14-17	Red Tail Hawk Camp (Gr. 10-12)
June 18-24	Survivor Camp (Ages 12-14)
June 25-27	Otter Camp (Gr. 1-3)
June 25-28	Archer Camp (Ages 10-14)
June 28-July 2	Annual Conference (Grand Rapids)
July 2-8	Song & Story Fest @ CBH
July 9-14	Bobcat Camp (Gr. 7-9)
July 16-21	Beaver Camp (Gr. 4-6)
July 23-29	Dadirri Camp (Ages 15-18)