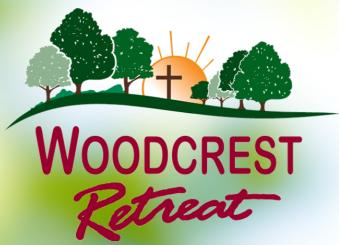


# WOODCREST

## Whisperings



Winter 2021

## 2021 Spring Celebration Banquet

We have much to be thankful for as we look back over the past year. Since you helped make it all possible through your support and participation, we want you to join us.

This year's Celebration Banquet will look a bit different. Because of guidelines, we have moved the banquet to Woodcrest Retreat. We are also offering two nights and a virtual option as well. You can still expect a great meal, inspiring stories of God's redemptive work, and a vision of what God is doing next. There will be special music and an opportunity to support the ministry through your gifts and prayers.

Our theme is simple: Extraordinary God! We serve a God that displays His power and grace daily. At Woodcrest we have witnessed that our God still works wonders (Psalm 77:14). We want to offer praise to Him who alone is worthy and we invite you to join us in worshipping our extraordinary God.

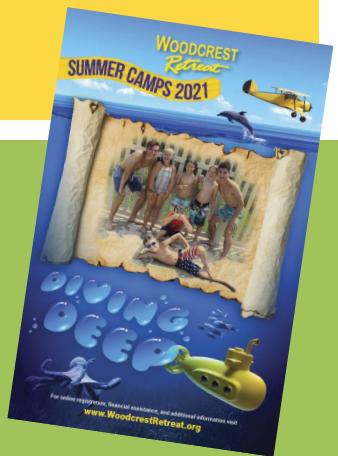
Meals are complimentary, but reservations are required. Seating is limited for each night, so be sure to get your reservations in soon.

Ordinary people  
SERVING an Extraordinary  
**GOD!**

### Three Options

- Thursday, April 8th @ 6:15
- Friday, April 9th @ 6:15
- Virtually, April 9th @ 7:00

Please call the camp office or reserve online at [www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/banquet](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/events/banquet)



## 2021 Summer Camp Registrations Now OPEN!

We have exciting things planned for this summer at Woodcrest.

Join us in praying for God to work wonders in the lives of campers and guests as we serve faithfully, minister boldly, and love fully.



## Summer 2021: A Break from Burdens

Written by: Adam Fox

In our lifetime, camp has never been as important as it is right now. Kids have been disproportionately burdened in a year of instability, anxiety and loss. Camp is a perfect antidote! It is a place where kids can be kids — splashing in the pool, searching for frogs in the pond, running through the ballfield, and making new friends. There is a freeing power in play and exploration. But the truest freedom comes from knowing God as heavenly Father. Our goal is that

every child who comes on this mountain will hear the saving power of Jesus, and leave knowing they are loved and valued by God.

At overnight camp, we are taking the burdens kids are carrying head on! This summer's theme is DIVING DEEP. We will be memorizing

Psalms 23 by learning a verse or two each day and diving into the big burdens that campers have. What if I struggle with anxiety and depression? What if I've failed too far for God to love me? What if I have

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."**

~Matthew 11:28

doubts about God? What if I feel worthless? Using Psalms 23 as our guide, campers and staff will wrestle with these questions head on and find God and His Word as their source of peace and hope.

Pray for our staff as we prepare for camp. We expect God to do great things as we invite the campers to come and lay down their burdens and rest in Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30).



## Journey to Bethlehem – A 2020 Blessing

Woodcrest's Journey to Bethlehem always receives great reviews for our depiction of the biblical account of Christ's birth. But with people weary of the pandemic and desiring something to do, this year's Journey was a true blessing.



2020 marked our 10th anniversary and it contained several new elements. The biggest was the addition of online registration that kept the wait time for most people to less than 15 minutes. Another big change was the last scene. It saw a total makeover as we caught a glimpse of the Magi as they contemplated the risks of taking the journey to see the new born King.



The Journey is an amazing production that features over 70 actors, live animals, and lots of energy. Special thanks to all those volunteers who set up, participated

in, and helped clean up this year. Your service made an impact and people were blessed.

We had snow on the ground for the second weekend, but even with colder temperatures, nearly 2600 guests came and experienced the power of the Christmas message and the hope that the Gospel gives for those who follow Jesus.

A special thank you to Carol Martin who helped shape the Journey to be what it is today. Carol put countless hours and devotion into developing this program that is still making a difference after 10 years. She steps down after serving at Woodcrest for 27 years. Thank you Carol!



*Our amazing shepherds are ready for anything they might encounter.*

## School of Wonder

Look for a new spring schedule full of exciting educational and experiential programs designed for homeschool families and school groups. Classes are set to begin in the middle of March and include a pottery class, orienteering, wilderness survival, ecology, and animal tracking. The schedule will be posted on Facebook and on our website.

## NEW for Summer 2021

- More room in our Trekkers Day Camp program for young teens.
- Two sessions of our popular RISE staff training camp
- Wilderness Day Camp is back with all new survival training skills
- New Outbound Camp for teens

## Upcoming Events

Get more details on all these events online at [www.Woodcrestretreat.org/events](http://www.Woodcrestretreat.org/events)

### Spring Banquet

**Thursday, April 8, 2021 @ 6:15 p.m.**

**Friday, April 9, 2021 @ 6:15**

*See front page*

### Ladies Night Out

**Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 6:00**

**COST: \$18**

**SPEAKER: Carol Cool**



### Open House

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**Drop in between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Learn more about summer camp, our retreat facilities, and other programs. This is a great way to introduce a friend to Woodcrest's summer camps.

### Benefit Golf Tournament

**Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ Foxchase Golf Club**

11:00 Driving range opens

Noon Lunch served

1:00 Shotgun start

4:30 Dinner



### Alumni Reunion

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**

All summer staff alumni young and old are invited to this special event. Come enjoy food, friends, and memories. Watch for more details.

### Father/Daughter Canoe Trip

**Saturday, May 22, 2021**

This trip sells out every year. It is a great way to spend time together while canoeing down the river and enjoying great food and creating memories.

### Father/Son Campout

**Friday & Saturday, June 4-5, 2021**

Bring your tent, RV or use one of our bunkhouses. Enjoy relevant Bible teaching while experiencing the great outdoors and delicious outdoor cooking.

## Winter Fun @ Woodcrest

In response to the growth of our winter camp, we added a new one this year. Blast Camp (held on December 30th) had 45 campers ages 6-9 meet for outdoor activities at our Poplar View Pavilion. Then, on January 18th we held our first ever Frost Camp for ages 9-12.

Both camps featured engaging Bible teaching, cookouts, plenty of games, and safe interaction among peers. Plus it is always a great way to reconnect with favorite summer staff. Look for other exciting opportunities for our campers.



## Thank You

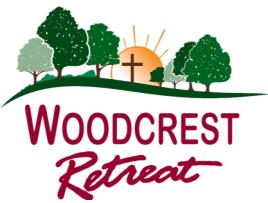
Woodcrest is giving thanks to God for the generosity of our friends and for surpassing our expectations.

First, the Extra Give is a fundraising event held in Lancaster County every November. We set a \$30,000 goal to cover the shortfall from running camp during the pandemic. We received over \$35,000 in a 24-hour period!

Next, in our year-end letter, we were seeking \$30,000 to expand our upper playground and \$20,000 to help purchase a camp van. We were blown away by being blessed with over \$70,000. We will keep you updated as we prayerfully move forward with these exciting plans.



*This sketch of the Raven's Roost by our summer craft instructor Natalie, gives an idea of the expansion we are planning.*



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**Mailing List Update:** If you wish to have your name removed from this mailing list, please email [info@Woodcrestretreat.org](mailto:info@Woodcrestretreat.org) or give us a call.

## 2021 Employment Opportunities



### Summer Camp Staff — Ages 16 +

There are still a few positions open to join the summer ministry team. Key needs yet are for two male day camp counselors, worship leader, snack bar manager, and lifeguards. For details and application, visit

[www.woodcrestretreat.org/about-us/employment](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/about-us/employment).

### Summer Weekend Hosts

This is a volunteer or paid position for individuals or couples. Hosts manage weekend guests which includes a variety of responsibilities including running the waterslide, cleaning restrooms and pavilions, and staffing the office/store. Learn more by calling Jason or emailing him at [Jason@woodcrestretreat.org](mailto:Jason@woodcrestretreat.org).

## Praises

- For the privilege of sharing Christ's love with 2,600 guests through the Journey to Bethlehem
- For all the volunteers who made The Journey possible
- For the generous support we received toward the ministry
- For the number of summer staff already confirmed
- For God's daily provisions that remind that He is an extraordinary God



## Prayers

- For God to provide the remaining summer staff
- For God's favor as we proceed with the playground expansion project
- For the Board as they meet in February to plan the next big project for the camp
- For the Spring Celebration Banquet and our desire to worship together