



225 Woodcrest Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 738-2233
www.WoodcrestRetreat.org
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Experience
the Wonder
of God
Psalm 77:14

Please Pray

- Pray for God to bring us the quality staff needed to run summer camp
- Pray for the year-round staff as they serve in a variety of tasks to keep the ministry moving forward
- Pray for the Board of Directors as they navigate the ministry through this next phase of growth

Current Needs

- Used Pickup Truck to use on camp
- Two Flat Screen TVs (43" - 63")
- 12 passenger van to use for our expanding Outbound program and weekend excursions
- Summer Weekend Hosts to serve during the summer (call the camp if interested)

An Amazing Journey

What an incredible season it was for the 11th annual Journey to Bethlehem. Even though the first Saturday night was cancelled because of rain, we were able to lead nearly 2,400 guests through the Journey. Feedback from those who attended the Journey was encouraging. We are thankful to SonRise Coffee Company who joined us for two nights. To the 75 volunteers needed each night, we truly give thanks to God for their willingness to serve. Countless hours go into setting up, running and then tearing down the Journey, but it is a great ministry event and helps us reach out into our community and proclaim the message of hope that is central to the birth of Christ.

God's Provision

God provides beyond what we can ever imagine. Woodcrest was the recipient of a record response to our year-end letter. Because of that generous support, we are able to move forward with all of our projects and prepare for where God is leading us next. Thank you to the 500+ supporters who donated in 2021 to the honor of God.

Cooking for Christ

Woodcrest is looking for two key positions for summer. We need a part time **Food Service Manager** to plan menus and order food for the summer. We also need a fulltime **Summer Cook** who would manage our summer kitchen staff by preparing delicious meals for the campers. If interested or have questions, please call the camp office and ask for Bill.



Winter 2022

Following His Course

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

I have always been a person who likes a good theme. As a former program director at a camp, I used themes for almost every retreat or camp I ran. A good theme helps to direct all the activities you do. It provides vision and inspiration. That is why, even as an executive director, I still use themes.

The 2022 theme for Woodcrest is "Following His Course." In Psalm 32:8 God reminds His people, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." As we think through future plans for Woodcrest, we don't want them to be our plans. We want to discern, know and follow God's plan. As Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, "Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." We want to see Woodcrest prevail.

The staff and Board of Directors spend a lot of time together in prayer seeking our Lord's direction. There have been lots of good conversations with a diversity of people as we look at what is next for Woodcrest to help fulfill our mission to introduce people to Jesus Christ and encourage Christian growth.

Our annual banquet in April will allow us the opportunity to share what this theme means and where we believe the Lord is leading. We anticipate that over the next year that God's pathway for Woodcrest will become clearer and more defined.

The wonderful support that we have received from those who champion the ministry of Woodcrest, including camper parents, churches, businesses, and individuals, has positioned us to boldly follow wherever God may lead.

This year's banquet will be held at Woodcrest's Indian Rock Center on April 7th. Seating is limited for this catered event. During the evening, there will be inspiring stories of what God *is* doing and an announcement about a big project coming soon. You may register for the banquet by visiting our website or calling the camp office. Keep watch on our social media pages for more information. We invite you to come and follow us on this amazing journey.

Glory to God!





What's Ahead at

Summer Camp Reaches Many with Gospel

By Adam Fox, Program Director

A time-tested adage at Woodcrest goes like this: "Quality time comes in the midst of quantity time." An Overnight Camp counselor eats, sleeps, laughs, and talks with their campers for 105 hours in a week. Day camp counselors spend up to 320 hours with summer-long campers. That's more time than most youth pastors are able to spend with their group all year! It is during that quantity time that relationships are formed through the ordinary and mundane. Walking down the hill to lunch; swinging on the playground; learning how to shoot a bow—it is in these everyday moments that trust is formed.



I can remember as a counselor when we would be walking back to our cabin, and suddenly we are talking about real, deep topics. A camper shares about a home life struggle, a grandparent that has passed or a dad that's absent. A comment about God's word leads to a stream of faith questions. Sometimes it is as simple as sitting in the grass and letting a child share about their pet or Minecraft or their favorite food. A listening ear goes a long way. That's the power of camp! With trust built, its only a matter of time until quantity time turns into quality time.

Quality over Quantity is how we strive to build every part of camp. Registrations last summer went through the roof, and are filling up for this summer at a record-breaking pace! We are excited to see this and we thank God for it. However, numbers never defined the success of Woodcrest and it never will. The Good Shepherd leaves the 99 for the one lost sheep. We want to run a summer program that communicates the message of Jesus faithfully and well—not just far and wide. We want every child who comes on this mountain to hear the Gospel and leave knowing they are loved and valued by God.

Please pray for our summer staff, that we remain faithful to God's Word. Pray for our campers, that God will prepare their hearts to hear His Word. Finally, pray that in the quantity time God would bring the quality time we desire.

Sharing Creation

Woodcrest's School of Wonder continues to grow as more families learn about the unique programs that we offer. Our spring schedule is already published and classes are starting to fill up. In addition to the classes we schedule, we have been encouraged by the number of fieldtrips we have scheduled. School groups and homeschool co-ops appreciate the quality of our staff and schedule single day or even multiple day trips.

We are thankful for a grant that we received from the Anne Brossman Sweigart Charitable Foundation in Ephrata. That grant is funding the purchase of several new animals to be housed in our Nature Shack as well as the creation of a new, interactive Nature Walk. Learn more about our educational programs by visiting our website at www.woodcrestretreat.org/education.



For online registration, financial assistance, additional information visit www.WoodcrestRetreat.org



Woodcrest in 2022



Get Connected

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and to learn more about what Woodcrest is doing and how we are serving you and our communities with transformative programs that exalt Jesus Christ.

In 2021 Woodcrest logged over 2,255 hours of summer camp volunteers (that includes volunteer staff, Bible teachers, and other helpers). We had 180 hours from volunteer cooks who helped in the kitchen. Faithful friends donated more than 120 hours of office help. In total there were well over 350 volunteers that served in some capacity during the year.

We cannot accomplish the God-size mission that we have been given without you. Please consider how you can get connected and journey with us as we follow God. Whether you serve in the kitchen, label newsletters, or help on the grounds in some capacity, you are helping to share the love of Christ with our campers and guests. It is our desire that all who step on this mountain experience the peace and presence of God and that doesn't happen without the support of many people like yourself. Thank you for all that you do, whether praying, giving, or serving. You *are* making a difference.

Best Job Ever

As Woodcrest continues to provide a quality summer program, we find ourselves needing more quality summer staff. In the 1990's

Woodcrest hired around 10 staff. In 2021, there were 70 staff members that came on board to minister God's grace in various ways. If you know of a young adult who is looking for a rewarding job that provides a great experience and looks impressive on a resume, while also impacting lives for Jesus, then direct them to Woodcrest. Interested people can learn about the many positions available (including volunteer positions) with job descriptions and an easy access application process. Serving at Woodcrest really is the best job ever.

Upcoming Events

We have a variety of ways for you to financially support the ministry of Woodcrest in 2022.

Annual Golf Tournament — This year's event is May 26th. Look for exciting new details coming out this spring.

3D Archery Shoot — A great way to prepare for the upcoming archery season. The shoot is August 27th.

Fall Family Fun Fest — There is something for everyone at this event being held on September 17th. There are games, auction, food, and so much more.

Registrations and sponsorship information can be found online.

