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Experience  
the Wonder  
of  
God  
Psalms 77:14



### Meet Kailey

This spring we brought on Kailey as our Hospitality Coordinator to help us serve our guests well. We are excited for this addition.

*Hi! My name is Kailey Hurst, and I am excited to be stepping into this new role. I have been working summers here at Woodcrest since the summer of 2020 as a camp counselor for both our day camp and trekkers programs. Previously I was employed by New Holland Coffee Company. Though I enjoyed my position there, after much prayer, it became clear God was steering me in a new but still familiar direction. I have always known children's ministry would be in my future, but I was thrilled to have it revealed that it would be involving the camp I have come to love and cherish so much. Please keep me in your prayers as the Woodcrest team shifts gears a bit, as well as I am transitioning and learning the logistic of the behind the scene side of camp.*

### Current Needs

- 12 passenger van to use for our expanding Outbound program and weekend excursions
- Kitchen Volunteers for summer camp
- Sponsors for the Fall Fest
- Donations for the silent auction at the Fall Fest
- Propane Gas Grill



### Meet Will

Woodcrest has had the privilege of starting an internship program for students interested in making camp a career. This spring, Will Hillard has been serving as camp intern. He has been a part of our summer staff for four years. This May, he graduated from Lancaster Bible College with a Bachelor's degree in youth and young adult ministry. As an intern, Will had the opportunity to grow and contribute to our program and maintenance teams. This fall, he will be taking on a new job as Program Director at Camp Eder near Gettysburg. We are excited for all that God will do through Will as he follows God's leading.



Mud Wars from last year's Trekkers' Day Camp. Talk about getting messy!

## Getting Ready for the Mess

Summer is a messy time at Woodcrest! We are expecting a record year with around 2,000 campers coming to experience the wonder of God through His creation and His glorious Gospel. At our Spring Celebration Banquet, our Executive Director, Bill Klees, shared about how camp ministry is also messy because camp is an intersecting point where the grace of God comes into contact with the messiness of sin. At Woodcrest we get the privilege and joy of introducing youth to the Savior who is able to clean up their mess and make them a new creation in Christ. Our prayer team and staff are praying for revival this summer as we share Christ's love through chapels, Bible studies, and daily conversations with campers. *(Continue reading about camp on page 2)*



### Cabin Update

Last fall we launched Phase 2 of our capital campaign—raising \$1.8 million to replace our existing summer bunkhouses with 10 year-round Lancaster Log Cabins. Read the update on how God is providing for this project. *Learn more on page 2.*



### Fall Family Fun Fest

We continue to grow our Fall Fest event providing lots of fun for the whole family. This year we are excited to host **The Skit Guys** to cap off a day of fun, food, and excitement. *Read more on page 3.*

God, Your way is holy. What god is great like You?

You are the God who works wonders; You revealed Your strength among the peoples.

With power You redeemed Your people... (Psalm 77:13-14)

*The Mess Continued:*

Christian youth camps remain a powerful tool that God uses to bring young people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that nearly 40% of our campers have little to no church background. For some of our campers, this is only gospel contact they have had. Some parents who send their child to camp may not consider sending a child to a church event.

Another reason why camp is so effective is simply the fact that the relationships formed over a week provide hours of positive interactions. We use the motto that "Quality time comes a midst Quantity time." That means that as campers are eating lunch, swimming, hiking, playing games, walking up and down the hill, or waiting at parent pickup with their trained staff person, those campers can ask questions and staff can laydown pathways of mercy where the Gospel is communicated in unique ways. We are all about getting campers out of the ordinary so that they can experience the extraordinary and *that* is powerful.

For summer 2024, we are thankful that God has provided the needed staff to run a full camp schedule. Thanks to the faithful support of our friends and former staff, finances are never a reason for a child to not get to camp. We will provide nearly \$20,000 in direct camper scholarships plus an additional \$70,000 in subsidies to families in need. All that is possible because of the generosity of the amazing Woodcrest community.

We invite you to experience summer through one of our scheduled camp tours. We have set aside times to let people see first hand what God is doing at Woodcrest. If you want to learn more, use the QR code to the right to sign up. We hope to see you this summer!



## School of Wonder Serves Local Students

Since being formed in the fall of 2020, the Woodcrest School of Wonder has enjoyed serving local homeschool families, Christian schools, and public schools. This spring 15 schools and co-ops participated in field trip programs. Classes included animal tracking, birdhouse building, ecology, leadership, pond studies, sense nature, and habitat hikes. The School of Wonder provides a great way for students to explore God's outdoor classroom.

Thanks to support from local businesses (Ephrata National Bank, Weaver's Market, and First Citizens Community Bank) we were able to make huge improvements to our Nature Center and classroom space. We are excited to welcome new animals to our barnyard area including two miniature horses. These are a great addition for our summer camp programs, as well as for families camping at Woodcrest on the weekends.

We are already scheduling field trips for the fall including overnight retreats with two local schools. Our full schedule of classes and events will be posted online by the end of July. Check them out at [www.woodcrestretreat.org/education!](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org/education!)

## Fall Fest Schedule September 14<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00-2:00 **Fall Fest Kickoff**  
Craft Vendors      Food Vendors  
Games & Activities  
Family Scavenger Hunt Challenge
- 11:00-1:00 **Family Silent Auction**
- 12:00-2:00 **Local Worship Bands**
- 1:30-3:30 **Waterslide Open**
- 2:00 **Gaga Tournament**
- 4:00-6:00 **Family Night**  
Dinner (tickets required)  
Silent Auction (bigger items)  
Live Music (begins at 5:00)
- 6:00-8:00 **Evening Festivities**  
Live Auction (specialty items)  
The Skit Guys      Lots of surprises!
- 8:00-9:00 **"S'moresgasbord" & Bonfire**

## ~ The Skit Guys @ Woodcrest ~

Our annual Fall Family Fun Fest is shaping up to be another great day. The purpose of Fall Fest is to create space for families to create lasting memories. We do that through a variety of activities for children of all ages while keeping it fun and entertaining for adults.

New to our 2024 schedule is a Family Scavenger Hunt Challenge. Families will be able to compete to accumulate the most points and win great prizes including Woodcrest merch. We are also seeking local church worship bands to come and play during the event, showcasing local talent and keeping the focus on Christ throughout the event.

Different silent auction times will feature different items that will be tailored to families and children with specialty items being auctioned off in the evening. These auction items and the offering taken in the evening, will all go toward the cabin project.

The highlight of the day will be our evening festivities which culminate with a performance by The Skit Guys. Learn more online about the whole event, reserve dinner tickets, reserve seating for the evening program, and watch videos featuring The Skit Guys.

## Cabin Project Update

Plans were submitted this spring to our township for approval. Please join us in praying that we find favor with the board and that they would see the value of this project, not only for Woodcrest, but the benefits that it offers to our community.

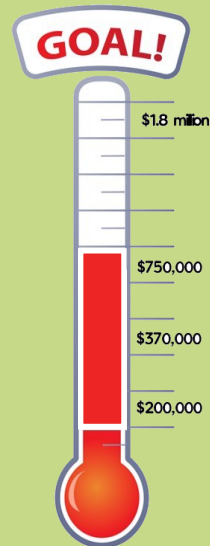
God has confirmed the need for this project. Over the past few months, we have received several phone calls from churches and youth organizations looking for a space to hold retreats that are too big for us now, but would be perfect when the cabins are installed.

Currently, we are at nearly 50% funded for this phase. When approved by the township, we will proceed to add the first five cabins with a possible completion date in time for summer camp 2025. We would continue to raise funds for the second set of cabins and the second shower house.

The cabin project is only Phase 2 of four phases with our capital initiative. The third phase will allow us to optimize the cabins by building a program center that would create space for groups to conveniently use in the winter including a gym, dining facility, chapel space, and small group gatherings. You can learn more about the whole project online. Use your smartphone camera. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification that shows on your screen. It should take you to our Mission 4:12 page.



Phase 2  
Currently @ 44%



Get full details and sponsorship information online  
[www.WoodcrestRetreat.org/events/fall-festival](http://www.WoodcrestRetreat.org/events/fall-festival)