225 Woodcrest Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 738-2233
www.WoodcrestRetreat.org
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Ephrata, PA 17522
Permit No. 75

Experience the Wonder of God
Psalm 77:14

Checkout Upcoming Events @ Woodcrest

- Woodcrest Community Pool Nights — July 2; August 4 (6:45-8:30)
- Quinquennial Alumni Event — August 29th
- Fall Family Fun Fest — October 3rd
- Journey to Bethlehem — December 11-12; and 18-19
- Winter Camp — December 29 & 30

Learn more at
www.woodcrestretreat.org/events

Your Next Getaway Doesn't Need to be Far Away

Consider Woodcrest a nearby escape from the ordinary. Way to benefit from Woodcrest this summer

- RV/Camper Campground
- Cabin rentals
- Season Pool Passes
- Pavilion Rentals
- Private Pool Parties and Waterslide Events

Ten percent of every rental goes toward supporting summer youth camp so your next getaway is making a difference in the lives of today's youth.

Prayers and Praises

- Praise God for the amazing response to this year's summer camps. Pray that God will prepare their hearts for the Gospel and we will see many lives changed.
- Praise God for the staff that we have coming this summer. Pray for their spiritual and physical protection.
- Pray that God would watch over Woodcrest during the upcoming season when we literally have thousands of people on site each week in the campground and pavilion rentals.
- Pray for revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for all our guests who step on the mountain this summer.

Woodcrest Whisperings

Spring/Summer 2026

Another Awakening

By Bill Klees, Executive Director

Sight and Sound released its second movie this spring, *A Great Awakening*. As a history fan, it was great seeing two epic historical figures come to life. But more significantly, it reminds us of the historical reality of what we call the First Great Awakening and how our culture is in need of another awakening. The first awakening (1730s and 1740s) was a transformative event in American history that saw changes not only in the lives of people, but in the very fabric of society. It is our desire at Woodcrest that God would bring another awakening and we pray that He would start it at Woodcrest.

All that we do at Woodcrest is for the purpose of God revealing His peace and presence to those who step on the property. A simple definition of a spiritual awakening is a large scale awareness of God's presence and a biblical response to that presence. Whether it is guest groups using pavilions, the campground, or a meeting space we seek to create space for people to encounter God through creation and community. Through our programs we intentionally weave biblical truths of the Gospel into all aspects, most significantly through interactions with our campers. We want to help those who come to Woodcrest restore Christ to the center of life.

As we prepare for another summer season, we ask you to join us in praying for campers and guests to experience the wonder of God. Pray with us that those who do not know Jesus would come to understand the Gospel and receive His grace. Woodcrest doesn't want to be just a fun place. We want to be a fun place that is saturated with God's love. God continues to give us opportunities. This summer is looking to be another nearly full camp with busy weekends where thousands of guests escape the ordinary to come and enjoy the extraordinary. We look forward to sharing stories of those who experience a great awakening this summer so that we too keep Christ at the center of our ministry life.

Fall Family Fun Fest

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Fest. This year's date is Saturday, October 3rd. There is a whole day of family fun scheduled. We are bringing back the yard sale and craft fair. Help support Woodcrest by reserving a table to sell your yard sale items or let our community see your creativity.

As always, there will be festive games and activities for all ages. There will be food and snacks available for purchase with proceeds benefiting Woodcrest and other local ministries.

We also have some great, local entertainment throughout the afternoon including the worship band, "The Elect", Jesse Rothacker's "Forgotten Friends," and singer, Conrad Fisher. Check out all the details and reserve a table on our website.

Not Just A Summer Job

This will be Braden's 10th summer serving in some capacity at Woodcrest.

Woodcrest Retreat is known for our award winning Day Camps, but we also create a winning culture for our summer staff that keeps them coming back year after year. Serving on staff at Woodcrest is not just a summer job, it is a mission. Like missionaries, our staff sacrifice to serve. They can certainly make more money with a regular summer job. They sacrifice their time as they spend the entire summer at camp. However, we believe that there are great benefits that come with being on summer staff. Woodcrest takes seriously our task of discipleship. We are intentional about ensuring that staff are spiritually trained, nurtured, and equipped. They serve alongside likeminded peers who are passionate about Jesus and sharing the Gospel. The spiritual growth that staff experience is unique. For ten weeks they are in community where devotions, prayer, and encouragement are the norm.

Additionally, the experiences gained from a summer at camp are transferrable to many careers. In fact, the American Camp Association reports that employers value camp staff experience because it builds critical, hands-on leadership skills. A summer at Woodcrest helps our young people develop teamwork, communication, management, and conflict resolution skills. Employers also understand that summer staff are developing real-time decision making experience not found in other jobs. Counselors are trained to manage crises, think quickly, solve problems, and make quick judgment calls, all highly sought-after in the workforce.

Woodcrest is blessed to have a high return rate for our summer staff. This allows us to keep building into their lives while also allowing us to have a higher quality of staff that are then building into the lives of the newer staff. Even after summer, our year-round team is intentional about investing in summer staff. We offer small group Bible studies, monthly fellowship times, and volunteer opportunities. The friendships that are made are camp last long past the summer providing connections that continue to bear fruit in the lives of summer camp staff for years.

Making Ministry Happen

Woodcrest is thankful to the many local businesses and ministries that support Woodcrest through financial partnerships. Because of their gifts, we are able to cover the expenses of our community events so that donations received at those events go directly toward supporting the camp ministry.

Garman BUILDERS

Lehman Insurance

Our 2026 Equipping Partners are **Lehman Insurance** and **Garman Builders.** You can see all of our partners on our website. Please let them know that you appreciate their support of Woodcrest. If you own or have connections to a business or ministry that would like to be a Gospel Partner, scan the QR code to learn more about the various levels and benefits of supporting what God is doing here at Woodcrest.

SCAN HERE

Business Partners let us budget for events and steward our resources. To show our appreciation to our partners, they receive recognition at our events, they are highlighted on website and on posters throughout camp property, as well as receiving invitations to all our events.

Quinquennial Alumni Event

If you are a former or current staff member (summer or year-round), board member, supporter, or volunteer then we want you and your family to join us for the **Quinquennial Alumni Event**. We gather together every five years to rekindle friendships, to hear about the new things at Woodcrest, and to celebrate the God who makes it all happen. **This time the event falls on Saturday, August 29th.**

We have Peter's BBQ providing their delicious chicken. You are encouraged to bring a side dish or desert to round out the picnic. Festivities start at Poplar View Pavilion at 4:30 with dinner at 5:00. There will be games, swimming, the waterslide, and sand volleyball.

Registration is online (or by phone) to help us order the chicken and plan the games. Spread the word to your Woodcrest friends so that we can pack out the pavilion. Scan this code to go directly to our event page for more details and to register.

This photo from last summer features staff who represent multi-generational families of staff.

Staff Update

Last fall Will Hilliard and Kailey Hurst were married here at Woodcrest. Will serves as our Director of Partnerships and Kailey was our former Hospitality Coordinator. Both also served on summer staff for several years.

Cabins Are Ready for Use

Jason has been busy working and overseeing volunteers and contractors to get the new cabins ready for summer camp use. It is amazing how natural they look—like they have been there for years. This phase is completely funded thanks to over 500 unique donors, churches, and businesses. At their May meeting, Woodcrest's Board of Directors unanimously voted to immediately proceed to the second phase of the cabin project. This phase includes five more Lancaster Log Cabins plus an additional shower house. This will update our Poplar View area for summer camp and retreat use. We will need to raise about $500,000 to fully pay for the cabins when they arrive in February 2027. To support this project you can give online. Look for more details to support the project this fall.