



Throughout the past year 11,000 people experienced the hospitality, community, nature, and peace of Camp Friedenswald. These individuals included summer and winter campers, Outdoor Education campers, friends and families, and church retreaters, among many others. To do this we **relied on the connection and support of Central District Conference congregations**. The following highlights provide a glimpse into the year and illustrate the interactions between Camp Friedenswald, Central District Conference, and its congregations.

- **2018 Winter Retreats** brought together Junior and Senior High youth and sponsors for weekends of worship, play and fellowship. Pastor Mark Rupp, Columbus Mennonite Church, provided input during Jr High retreat. Over 200 people attended representing eight CDC congregations including Assembly, FMC Bluffton, Eighth Street, Hively, Silverwood, Milwaukee, Columbus, and Maplewood.
- **Summer 2018** brought 440 youth and family campers (150 who came from twenty CDC congregations) to explore the theme *Followers of the Way*. Nearly half of the twenty four summer staff represented CDC congregations including FMC Bluffton, Eighth Street, FMC Champaign/Urbana, Columbus, and Assembly.
- We drew upon the rich resources from within CDC, and its partners, for **summer camp pastors** including: David Moser, pastor, Southside Fellowship; Teri Steinmetz, lay leader, Grace Mennonite Church; Melissa Florer-Bixler, pastor, Raleigh Mennonite Church; Matthew Yoder, pastor, Grace Mennonite Church; Janeen Bertsche Johnson, campus pastor, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Walt Paquin, associate professor, Bluffton University.
- **Women's Retreat** brought eighty women together from across the conference. The weekend was based on the theme *Hearing your voice, finding ours*. Worship was led by Cyneatha Millsaps, director of Mennonite Women, and Theda Good, pastor at FMC Bluffton, spoke during one of the sessions.
- In September, Camp Friedenswald co-led a **climate change retreat** for pastors in conjunction with Doug Kaufman of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, which was attended by several pastors from across the conference.
- Hospitality was extended to seven CDC congregations for their **annual church retreat** including Assembly Mennonite Church, Faith Mennonite Church, Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, Mennonite Church of Normal, Southside Fellowship, and Silverwood Mennonite Church.
- CDC congregations help with tasks that are vital to the running of camp. The following congregations spent time **volunteering** at Friedenswald: Faith, Maplewood, FMC Bluffton and Grace.
- Camp Friedenswald hosted the **CDC Leadership Council** and committee meetings in the spring and fall as well as a Pastor Peer gathering.
- Nearly \$40,000 of **financial support** was given from congregations towards Camp's programs. Thank you for continuing to partner with Camp in our shared ministry and for giving generously!

If there is a **physical manifestation of the love of God**, people who our campers want to be like, friends in whom they see God's love echoing back, I suspect it is in [the camp counselors] who spend their summer caring for our children.

Reflection from Melissa Florer-Bixler, pastor of Raleigh Mennonite Church, after serving a week as camp pastor.