



2020 will forever be a different year in Camp Friedenswald’s story, as it will be in each of our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic quickly brought to a halt the retreats and gatherings that have traditionally fulfilled our mission. After months of closure in the spring, we reopened and adapted our programming to focus on individual retreats and small family/friend groups. This “Getaway” program provided people of all ages from across the conference (over 880 people in total) to come to Camp for a weekend of retreat and renewal. As part of the Getaway experience, people were invited to rest, and be renewed through time spent outdoors and in nature. With the dining hall closed, participants enjoyed hospitality of home cooked meals delivered directly to the cabin door. It was a bright spot in a challenging year and provided retreat experiences that people craved.

In order to remain open and provide retreats, 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.

- Before COVID-19 brought retreats and gatherings to a halt, we hosted **2020 Winter Retreats** for CDC youth and sponsors. Participating congregations included Assembly Mennonite, Columbus Mennonite, Eighth Street Mennonite, First Mennonite Bluffton, Hively Avenue, Milwaukee Mennonite, and Silverwood Mennonite churches.
- **Hospitality was extended to CDC congregations** in various ways throughout the year. Several churches utilized the “Getaway” retreat as a time of connecting with others in their congregation – formally or informally. Other churches spent an afternoon or full day at Camp, enjoying outdoor activities and connecting with one another, while others held small lake-side baptismal services. Churches who, in some form or other, gathered at Camp in 2020 include: Assembly, Hively Avenue, Open Table, Mennonite Church of Normal, Silverwood, and Southside Fellowship.
- In January, Camp staff Amy Huser and Skye McKinnell spent a weekend with Columbus Mennonite Church as part of their Winter Seminar, leading discussion on the topics of creation care and sustainability.
- CDC congregations and their members helped with tasks that are **vital to the running of camp**. While limited groups participated in volunteer days, many individuals representing a variety of CDC churches were instrumental in keeping Camp running during the past year. Volunteers assisted with cooking and delivering meals, splitting firewood, organizing archives, removing invasive species, and other important work in the life of Camp.
- Over \$55,000 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!