

CDC Annual Report 2024

Submitted by Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director



The following highlights provide a glimpse into the past year and illustrate the interactions between Camp Friedenswald, Central District Conference, and its congregations.

- **Winter youth camps** brought together over 200 youth and sponsors from across the conference. Congregations participating in these weekend retreats included: Assembly, Columbus, Eighth Street, Faith, FMC Bluffton, Keller Park, Maplewood, Milwaukee, Paoli, Silverwood, Southside Fellowship, and FMC Sugarcreek.
- Camp was the host site for the spring and fall **CDC board and leadership meetings**.
- Hospitality was extended to seven CDC congregations for a time of retreat, whether for a **Sunday morning baptismal service or a weekend retreat**. Churches served included: Mennonite Church of Normal, Assembly, Silverwood, Open Table, Grand Rapids, Hively Avenue, and Faith.
- We welcomed 699 campers (youth and family) in the summer of 2024. Roughly **50% of youth campers came from 22 different CDC congregations**.
- Of the 30-summer staff, 12 came from six different CDC churches including Assembly, Atlanta, Eighth Street, Faith, FMC Bluffton, and Maplewood. Camp Friedenswald continues to be a place that **cultivates leadership gifts within young adults across CDC**.
- The 2024 summer theme was "**Animal Kin-dom**" and explored human relationship with all God's creatures as well as themes of interconnection and relationship with all creation. Camp pastors related to CDC included: Kiva Nyce-Webb, Joel Miller, David Moser, Carrie Mast, and Matthew Prichard.
- The **Campaign to Sustain Friedenswald** was publicly launched in summer 2024, with goals of increasing and improving staff housing; renovating lodges to meet guest/camper needs and to improve energy efficiencies; growing endowment funds; and ultimately sustaining Camp's mission for the next 75 years! By year-end, over \$1.8 million had been pledged or given towards these efforts.
- In 2005, Camp Friedenswald barred Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests from hosting Queer Camp at Camp in response to increased backlash to queer visibility. In the fall of 2024, **Camp and BMC held a narrative ritual of repair**, marking a two-year process of truth-telling and repair. The ritual coincided with a CDC leadership council meeting, and several leaders from across the conference were invited to attend.
- Throughout the year \$47,600 in financial support was given through CDC or directly from congregations in support of Camp Friedenswald and nearly 1,000 days of total volunteer time.

Thank you for your support!