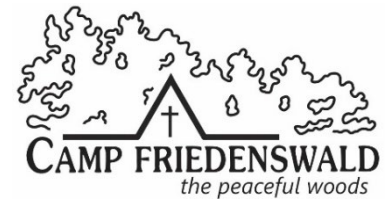


CDC Annual Report 2025

Submitted by Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director



The following highlights provide a glimpse into 2025 and illustrate the connections between Camp Friedenswald, Central District Conference, and its congregations.

- Throughout the year we honored and celebrated **Camp Friedenswald's 75th anniversary** through the collection of stories, a short film, and a weekend celebration at Builders Weekend. Camp was born out of a vision shared by leaders of the Middle District and Central Conference – the two conferences that merged to form Central District Conference.
- **Winter youth camps** brought together over 200 youth and sponsors from across the conference to explore "Sacred Connections." Congregations participating in these weekend retreats included: Assembly, Champaign-Urbana, Columbus, Eighth Street, Faith, FMC Bluffton, Keller Park, 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 11 CDC congregations for a time of retreat, worship, and/or baptism. Churches served included: Assembly, Eighth Street, Emmaus Road, Faith, Grace, Grand Rapids, Hively, Mennonite Church of Normal, Open Table, Silverwood, and Southside.
- We welcomed 729 campers (youth and family) in the summer of 2025, one of the highest numbers in recent history. **40% of youth campers came from 17 different CDC churches.**
- Of the 31-summer staff, 11 came from seven different CDC churches. Camp continues to be a place that **cultivates leadership gifts within young adults across CDC.**
- The 2025 summer theme was "**Wisdom of Trees: Instructions for Living.**" Camp pastors connected to CDC included: Moriah Hurst, Carrie Mast, Amiee & Jon Weishaupt, Janeen Bertsche Johnson, and Lisa Weaver.
- The **Campaign to Sustain Friedenswald** reached over \$2.7 million in gifts pledged or given, with the goals of increasing and improving staff housing; renovating lodges to meet guest/camper needs; improving energy efficiencies; growing endowment funds; and ultimately sustaining Camp's mission for the next 75 years!
- New signage was installed on Mail Trail, noting that the trail was once part of an extensive network of Indigenous trails in the region. Camp sits on **traditional land of the Potawatomi people.**
- Throughout the year, over \$36,000 in financial support was given by congregations in support of Camp Friedenswald. Additionally, over 800 days of volunteer time was given!

Thank you for being partners in ministry!



A new welcome sign names CDC's relationship with Camp.