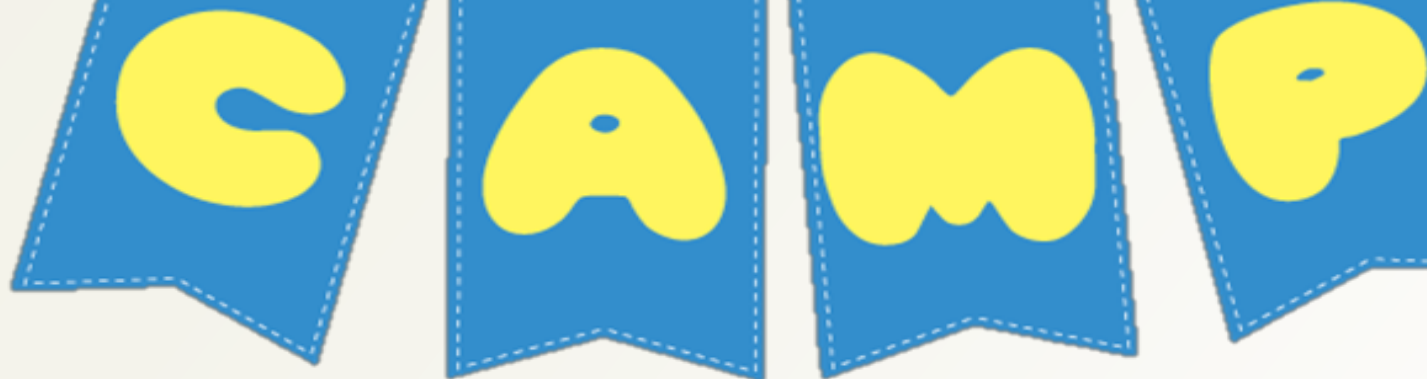


Experiencing **Christ, Creation, and Community** through Camp & Retreat Ministries



From the Director

May 2017

It's going to be an amazing fun/faith/friends filled summer at your United Methodist Camps in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota! No matter what your age or interest – we've got something for you at camp this summer! From mountain climbing to canoeing in the boundary waters, giant inflatable water toys to zip lines, or horseback riding to peaceful conversations in the hammocks – we've got you covered! Whatever it is you're looking for, you'll find it at your United Methodist Camps!

An experience at one of our six camps has been part of countless people's faith stories for generations. Dakotas and Minnesota camping events provide children, youth, families and adults with an opportunity to learn, play, experience God's love in the outdoors, and to grow in faith in a safe atmosphere. The activities and opportunities that campers experience at camp as they learn to accept, love, and serve others, articulate their faith, and to trust God, will stick with them for the rest of their lives! Camp provides an unforgettable summer experience, where campers experience Christ, Creation, and Community through discovery, exploration, and exciting activities in a carefully supervised Christian environment.

We can't wait to see you this summer at camp!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Shew".

Keith Shew

Dakotas-Minnesota Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries



What's Happening at Camp?

Lake Poinsett Camp

Location: Arlington, SD

What's New at Camp? New Bunkhouse

In the 1950's several cabins were brought to Lake Poinsett Camp as temporary housing for our campers. After almost 60 years of being temporary, the lakeside cabins are finally getting replaced. Construction is underway for our new bunkhouse, which is located where the old shower house was, between the Grinager and Hubbard cabins. The bunkhouse, which has yet to be named, will be two stories tall and will house up to 80 campers. The new cabin will be open by June 1st, in time for the start of the camping season. Come see us this summer to spend time apart with God, friends, and to check out our brand new bunkhouse!



Wesley Acres Camp

Location: Dazey, ND

What's New at Camp? Updated Chapel and New Labyrinth

On April 23rd, we had the honor of hosting Katie Clark's celebration for getting her Gold Award for Girl Scouts. Katie's final project, which she had to plan and carry out, was to update the Chapel and build a new prayer labyrinth at Wesley Acres. She chose to do prayer Chapel and labyrinth for her project because she wanted to see the old chapel in use again, and because she hopes to help more people connect with God and their faith. During the summer-long project, she stained and resealed the outside of the Chapel, stained and painted the inside, installed new flooring, reupholstered the kneeler, built and installed two outdoor benches, and



more. In addition to the newly updated Chapel, campers will also notice something new as they take a ride on the zipline. Katie also designed a prayer labyrinth as part of her project. With the help of family and friends, she hauled over 2 tons of rock to create the labyrinth, which is in the form of a cross. We hope that you stop by this camping season to see all of Katie's hard work in helping to make Wesley Acres a place apart!

Storm Mountain Center

Location: Rapid City, SD

What's New at Camp? New Memory Pavilion

Alice and Bill Witmer, members of Sioux Falls Asbury UMC, were faithful camp friends. They created stained glass windows that you can see at all three Dakotas camps. Bill also served on the



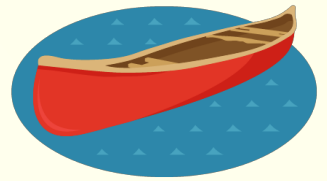
camp board in the late 1990's – early 2000's. To honor their service to the Dakotas camps, we dedicated the Alice and Bill Witmer Memory Pavilion on September 11, 2016. The Pavilion features four bench swings and is located as you first arrive in the Storm Mountain parking lot. Plaques honoring many different camp memories are displayed in the Pavilion. If you are interested in adding a plaque to the Pavilion, contact Storm Mountain. Make sure you stop by and enjoy the new Pavilion for a time of meditation, reflection, or great fellowship when you visit us this summer!



Northern Pines Camp

Location: Park Rapids, MN

What's New at Camp? Ukulele Pathway



We are excited to add a new pathway to our camp program this summer. Along with team sports, woodworking, archery, and painting, campers will have the option to learn how to play the ukulele. We chose to add ukulele playing as a pathway because we want campers to have a way to be a part of worship. The size, cost, and ease of learning for all ages were important factors in choosing the ukulele. During this pathway, kids will learn the basics of the instrument and learn to play a few songs. We recently tested out this new pathway at the Winter Clergy Retreat and the adults who learned this new skill thoroughly enjoyed it. Join us this summer and learn how to worship God in a new way!



Another exciting thing happening at Northern Pines is that we are moving and redesigning our archery area. The new location will be more permanent and safer for our campers.

Koronis Ministries

Location: Paynesville, MN

What's New at Camp? Rock-climbing Wall and Cottage 58

We have our new rock-climbing wall up and ready for campers to use this summer. Thanks to the generosity of the Red Rock Camp, we are able to offer this new opportunity at Koronis. The 16-foot wall is located on the end of the gym and was completed at the end of October. A group of college kids came down at the beginning of April to try it out and they loved it.



In addition to the rock-climbing wall, campers will see another new feature this camp season. The Nomads will be coming early summer to help us renovate a cottage we purchased last fall. Cottage 58 will be located by the marina and will hold up to 7 people. We are hoping to have all the renovations done and the cottage open to visitors by the end of June. There are some new and exciting things happening at Koronis, so we hope you visit us this camping season!

Kowakan Adventures

Location: Ely, MN

What's New at Camp? New Program Directors, Canoes, and Bunkbeds

You may see a couple new faces at Kowakan Adventures this summer. Levi and Lara Ziegler were recently hired as the new program directors. The Zieglers come with a wealth of camp and ministry experience, including: service in a wilderness camp setting, work with various children's ministries, and most recently, through their program and administrative leadership at Camp Koronis. Levi and Lara replace Josh Jirasek, who is now serving as the Koronis Ministries' Facilities Manager.



In addition to new program directors, campers will notice a few other new things around camp. We recently sold our old aluminum canoes and purchased new Kevlar canoes. These are a better quality canoe that we hope will enhance the camp experience. After you wear yourself out canoeing and having an awesome time at Kowakan, you can get a good night's sleep in the new bunkbeds we recently purchased. We want you to come help us welcome Levi and Lara, and try out our new canoes and beds this summer!

Registration Offices

The Dakotas and Minnesota conferences' camp and retreat ministries are continuing to find new ways to work together to maximize effectiveness, and the latest shift includes some staffing changes that will enhance services. At the beginning of March, two Minnesota staff members – longtime Camping Coordinator Mary Wright and Camping Assistant Stacey Edwards – transitioned to an area-wide function for both the Dakotas and Minnesota camps. The shift comes after the Dakotas camp coordinator made the decision to leave her position to pursue another opportunity. That imminent departure prompted the leadership of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area to rethink how to best staff both conferences' camp and retreat ministries.

“In order to care for registrations and customer service needs that are beginning to grow as we quickly approach the camping season and allow us time for discovering, hiring, and training the next person who will join the area camping team, Mary and Stacey will offer registration support and customer service for our six beautiful area camps” said Keith Shew, Dakotas-Minnesota Area Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries.

Camping staff across the area meet regularly and have developed a keen understanding of both the cultural differences and the shared values throughout the Dakotas and Minnesota conferences. People can still contact either the Dakotas or Minnesota Conference offices with registrations and questions about camping.



Accreditation

This summer, Lake Poinsett and Wesley Acres Camps will be seeking accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA), the national accrediting body for camping programs and a leader in childhood development, education, and welfare. In Minnesota, Koronis, Northern Pines, and Kowakan achieved full accreditation earlier and remain in good standing. Storm Mountain Center will be seeking accreditation in 2018. To earn accreditation, each Minnesota and Dakotas camp must comply with nearly 300 health, safety, and program quality standards. Across the country, only one in five camps seeks and earns this distinction. Accredited camps must regularly review every facet of their program and operations. More information about ACA Accreditation at www.ACAcamps.org.



New Area Camping Position

While the Dakotas-Minnesota area camp and retreat ministry is now centralized and sharing many services, your camping ministry is planning to fill a vacancy with the addition of a new area position. This new position will serve both the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences and will be located in the Dakotas office. While the final job description is still being developed, anticipated focus of this new position could include marketing, coordinating the camp ambassador outreach, staff and volunteer recruitment, program and curriculum development around outcomes and leadership development. Our goal is to have the new position begin in August of 2017.



Don't Forget to Register for Camp!

Are you still looking to fill your summer plans? Do you want to have lots of adventures, meet new friends, and grow in your faith this summer? Then join us for church camp! We want to help you find a place apart to experience Christ, creation, and community this summer. There is still plenty of time to sign up for camp!

Visit www.dakcamps.org to check out the summer 2017 events happening at Lake Poinsett, Storm Mountain, and Wesley Acres. With events for all ages, all interests, and throughout the whole summer...there's truly something for everyone!

Register online at www.dakcamps.org or send your registration form to the Dakotas UM Camping Office, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57042. Registrations may also be faxed to 605-996-1766. For questions, call 605-990-7780 or email info@dakcamps.org.

Interested in attending a Minnesota camp? Check out www.campminnesota.org to find information about events happening at Koronis, Northern Pines, and Kowakan this summer!

Register online at www.campminnesota.org or send your registration form to Camp Minnesota, 112 W Franklin Ave Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Registrations may also be faxed to 612-870-1260. For questions, call 855-622-1973 or email camps@campminnesota.org.



Bring-a-friend-discount

What makes your time at camp even better? Sharing it with a friend, of course!

- Dakotas — Campers receive \$10 in Canteen Cash for every new friend you bring with you! Find the form [here](#).
- Minnesota—Campers receive \$25 discount for every new friend you bring with you. Find out more [here](#).



Financial Assistance

Is the price of camp stretching your budget? Your Dakotas and Minnesota camping ministry is happy to share information about our campership programs which helps children, youth, and families to attend an event of their choice. Just let us know!

- [Dakotas Campership Information](#)
- [Minnesota Campership Information](#)

Job Opportunities

Looking for a summer opportunity? Why not work at one of your camps! Storm Mountain Center, Northern Pines, and Koronis are still looking for a few more summer staff. This is a great chance to meet new people, be outdoors, try new things, impact lives, and have lots of fun. Check out www.dakcamps.org or www.campminnesota.org to apply on-line.

Open House for Scott Jensen, SMC Site Director

Join us at Storm Mountain Center on Sunday, September 10th to celebrate Scott Jensen's retirement. The open house starts at 4:00 pm, with a program at 5:00 and supper to follow. We would love to have you stop in and say goodbye to Scott and thank him for his years of service. Scott is retiring after 17 years of serving as the Site Director at Storm Mountain Center. Scott and Dyla Jensen plan to live in Albert Lea, MN. If you cannot be there and would like to send well wishes for Scott's service, cards can be sent to Storm Mountain Center at 23740 Storm Mountain Road Rapid City SD 57702.





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“Camp gives Kids a World a of Good”