

Camp & Retreat Ministry Emphasis Sunday 2015

Worship Service Ideas

The following elements of worship are provided as a template and a resource for your church to utilize as you plan and coordinate this Sunday's worship service with an emphasis on outdoor ministries. Please utilize as much or as little of this information as you would like and thank you for your support of these vital ministries!

Minute for Mission or Children's Moment

Invite a staff member from your Camp & Retreat Ministry to come and promote or speak on behalf of the camp. Or invite a youth to share an important experience they had at camp. Have them share, why they choose to go back to camp year after year. Have them encourage the younger generation to experience camp and why they should go to camp (have them share the fun things they do while at camp).

Call to Worship

Leader: In the midst of our busy lives

People: We know you're with us, O Lord

Leader: In the midst of laughter and fun, joys and celebrations

People: We know you're with us, O Lord

Leader: In the times of sadness and grief

People: We know you're with us, O Lord

Leader: When we are at home, at worship, at work, at school, at camp, among family and friends

People: We know you're with us, O Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Call to Confession

"Faith", the author of Hebrews tells us, "Is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). It is by faith that we are able to confess our sins before God and each other. It is *by faith* that we trust in God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Let us pray ...

Almighty God,

We are people who live by faith. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors. We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead we turn our backs on them and on you. Forgive us, O God, and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

What we have hoped for is true. What we cannot see has been made known. God's forgiveness is certain and sure. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer

We pray for the church and its mission. That as brothers and sisters in Christ, we may be joined together in proclaiming the love of God in everything we do.

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for the ministries of the Church, we pray for the camping ministry of the United Methodist Church that these offerings of grace may provide a safe environment for all that enter the camp sites.

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for all Camp staff and counselors who will serve this summer; that they may live out the love of Jesus Christ with energy and excitement as they mentor and serve the children, youth and adults gathered at all of our camp sites.

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for the mission of camp ministry in the church and all those who support it with their time and talents; that we may continue to find new ways to offer these gifts to all who gather to encounter your love through camping

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for this nation, and the world, that we may seek justice and equality for all people.

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for those who are suffering or in pain; may you send your healing Spirit to comfort and protect them. Help us to remember to you are our light in the midst of darkness.

God of Grace,

Lord, hear our prayers.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts be pleasing in your sight. Our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 1:35-42

Proclamation of the Word/ “Camp is a place to go and meet Jesus” (below is a general scope of where you may go with the proclamation of the Scripture passages for today. Again, utilize as much or as little as you wish)

The idea, and ultimately the importance, of Camp Ministry Emphasis Sunday is to celebrate, embrace, and promote one of the church’s indispensable ministries within its mission field. According to the August 2002 and May 2012 Presbyterian Panels, *more than 50 percent of pastors, Elders and Congregants who can remember a specific formative faith experience had that experience at a camp, retreat or conference Center.*

Camp and retreat centers are a gift from God. They allow us to come and meet Jesus to deepen our faith while making connections with others and also allow us to take another step in our personal faith journey.

In the scripture, the new disciples are invited to come and see. John invites them to come and see Jesus, and see who Jesus really is.

Camp allows us do just that “Come and see”. Whether it’s a child’s first time a camp or a child who just can’t get enough of camp they continue to deepen their relationship with Jesus. We can come and see and meet God in beauty and splendor of his creation.

Camp allows us to stop and disconnect. Camp allows us to experience Jesus on a level that cannot be seen or done in normal day to day life. At camp we have the opportunity to experience: community with your bunk

mates and fellow campers, acceptance, adventures (hikes, swimming, boating etc, or other special adventurous activities your Camp and Retreat Ministry offers), discipleship, bible study and worship. Camp and retreat centers invite us to come and see and meet Jesus, beneath the trees.

The curriculum theme for this summer at most of our camp events will be “finding our true selves in Jesus”. Campers will explore Jesus as teacher, healer, savior, and friend. We can truly be best selves when we allow Jesus’ ways to shape us, and at camp we get to practice living in Christian community. Come and see!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings (part of the offering might be designated to your local camp and conference center or as scholarships to help campers from your congregation attend camp)