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**Camp Sunday**

**General Suggestions:**

* Designate a Sunday as Camp Sunday
* Celebrate Summer Camp, using Templed Hills year-round for church events, and the Hills are Alive Capital Campaign
* Have at informational booth in your fellowship hall, during coffee hour. Ask previous campers and parents to share photos and help cover the booth to talk to new families. Let families know if you have a church scholarship fund to help pay camp fees and how they access it.
* Post camp poster and leave it up.
* Celebrate during worship by using the provided bulletin insert and the suggestions below.
* Invite Jill Frey, Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries to worship or other event to present and answer questions.
* Go to www.heartlanducc.org for more resources.

**Worship Suggestions:**

**Call to Worship Suggestions:**

Leader: God has set up camp in our hearts.

**All: In God’s love, we find community.**

Leader: God has made community part of our nature.

**All: In God’s love, we find peace.**

Leader: God gives us peace and a calling.

**All: In God’s love, we find purpose.**

Leader: We are here because God’s Spirit calls us to worship

**All: We are here to offer praise for God’s presence in our lives.**

Leader: Camp is one of the special places God speaks to us.

**All: Away from distractions and surrounded by community it is ideal.**

Leader: Life changing experiences help us understand the power of God’s love.

**All: We are here to claim God’s love is all around us.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**Or:**

Leader: In the midst of our lives

**People: We know You are with us O, God.**

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

**People: We know You are with us O, God.**

Leader: In the times of sadness and tears, grief and struggle

**People: We know You are with us O, God.**

Leader: At home, at worship, at camp, at work, among family and friends

**People: We know You are with us, O God.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Opening Prayer**

Welcoming God, we praise You for all You are, all You have made, and all You give to us. We welcome You into this place, into our hearts, and into this worship. Teach us to welcome one another, under God's roof. Amen.

**Prayer Suggestions**

We come together in these holy moments, O God, as Your people. Thank You for our church family and for the love and acceptance we find here. As we worship today, we celebrate You in our work, study, play, and camp. Keep us close to You and to one another. We come to see all that You have to offer us and commit to telling others of Your wonderful gifts. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Loving God, You know how much camp and retreats have nurtured our lives. Many have felt Your touch and presence while at camp or on retreat. May this possibility of growing in love with You continue. Use us to support all who yearn for this experience of renewal and blessing. Through camp, form a new path of discovery so that Your love and joy, made known in Jesus Christ may become more real. Amen.

**Children’s Time Suggestions**

1. Take a Hike: Set up 3 stations around the sanctuary representing each type of the camp sessions (General, Family, Specialty). Take the children for a “hike” to visit each “camp session” and share information about each.

2. Show the kids a bag of marshmallows. Ask if any of them like to toast marshmallows. When they say “yes”, invite the group to join you in roasting them, and hand one to each kid. Pretend to be confused; you can’t find a campfire! Marshmallows are good by themselves, but they’re better toasted and even better in s’mores. Sunday school & worship is good, but it’s better at camp and even better if you bring friends with you!

3. Gather one ball and have a glow stick for each child. Say, “One of the most important things that I learned while at church camp was a song called "Pass It On" What do you think that means?” Here pull out the ball and pass it around. Now make sure everyone gets to pass it. Say, “Wasn't that great? We passed the ball along. Is that what it's all about? UMMM no, that isn't what this song is about. Let me share the words...”

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going. And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you want to sing, it's fresh like spring you want to pass it on.*

“So, you see once you experienced God’s love, you want to share it with EVERYONE! You have a light that you want to share with everyone. So, on this Camp Sunday I want to give each of you a glow stick to remind you that you need to share the light that is inside of you that is the love of Jesus. And that you should ‘Pass It on.’ “

**Song Suggestions**

From *The New Century Hymnal*

* 3 Many and Great
* 30 Colorful Creator
* 31 All things Bright and Beautiful
* 282 Every Time I feel the Spirit
* 433 In the Bulb there is a flower
* 557 Pray for the Wilderness
* 559 Thank you, God

From *The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ (1974)*

* D6 All beautiful the march of days
* D7 All creatures of our God and King
* D69 For the beauty of the earth

From *Worship & Rejoice*

* 25 Let all Creation Bless the Lord
* 118 Lord of the Dance
* 495 Stand by Me
* 557 Pass it On

**Litany**

Leader: Creator God, we pray this morning for Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries,

**People: We pray for Templed Hills Camp and Retreat Center**

Leader: We pray for all the directors, staff, and volunteers who work to make Your love evident in our outdoor ministries.

**People: May You give them guidance, insight and wisdom as they plan for camp this year.**

Leader: We pray for all those who will come and meet You through camp.

**People: May they know your love and grace for each of them.**

One: God, we know that we have too often isolated ourselves from the very things that bring us a connection to You. We pray for the wisdom to seek out places as Jesus did: the mountain, the plain, the lake shore, the wilderness.

**Many: We pray that we might remember that Christ is present in ourselves and in others.**

Leader: For the children, youth, and adults who will experience Your creation this summer,

**People: For the campers who will experience love, acceptance, and know You more deeply,**

Leader: We give You thanks, O God.

**People: May Your blessing be on our outdoor ministries this season with grace, abundance, safety, connection, and love**.

**Benediction**

May God set up camp in your heart. May the fire of Christ burn brightly. And may the Holy Spirit light your way. Amen

**Suggestions for Sermon/Meditation**

Did you know those who attend camp as youth are significantly more likely to continue participating in community religious practices as young adults, including church attendance, than those who did not attend camp?

Have members of your congregation share their own camp experiences, either as a staff or as a camper.

Use suggested Bible Verse and outcomes on next page as a focus. See more including quotes from campers on the bulletin insert.

Click [here](http://heartlanducc.doubleknot.com/openrosters/ViewDocLibrary.asp?FolderKey=5908&OrgKey=4480) for a video.

**What is CAMP? Fun, Faith, Community!**

Camp is a special experience where we gather and learn how to live in community, growing as faithful disciples and responsible stewards, following Jesus’ call to extravagantly love all God’s children and creation.

**CAMP = Fun Faith Community**

**Community (teamwork, cooperation)**

**1 Corinthians 12:14-20** *The body of Christ. Vs. 14 For the body is not made up of only one part, but of many parts...19 There would not be a body if it were all only one part! 20 As it is, there are many parts but one body.*

* + - **Cooperation** - Camper’s ability to establish new relationships, maintain positive relationships and friendships, avoid social isolation, resolve conflicts, accept differences, be a contributing member of the group and camp as a whole, and work productively and collaboratively with others.

**Acceptance (love, empathy, inclusive, kindness, caring)**

**Ephesians 4:2** *Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.*

* + - **Love** – Campers’ ability to see the need of others and respond to it, following Jesus’ call to extravagantly love all God’s children.
    - **Empathy**- Camper’s ability to “see into” (recognize, understand) another state of mind and emotions and be receptive to new ideas and perspectives; to appreciate and value differences and diversity in others.

**Mindfulness (kindness, caring, responsibility, stewardship, self-control)**

**Galatians 5:22-23** *the fruit of the Sprit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

* + - **Responsibility/stewardship**- Camper’s ability to motivate themselves to take action and follow through on expectations; to define a problem, consider the consequences, and choose a positive solution for all involved; to stand up for their ideas without hurting or negating others; to become responsible stewards of creation.
    - **Self-Control**- Campers’ ability to pause and feel the energy of God; a deeper quiet to rest and listen; use what they hear to recognize and attend their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors in order to be lovingly faithful to the will and way of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer (spirituality, faith formation, worship)**

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Description automatically generated**Philippians 4:6** *Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need. Thank him for all he has done.*

* + - **Learn it –** Campers learn more of the sacred story/texts.
    - **Live it -** Campers model their behaviors after the positive examples of the message in the sacred texts.
    - **Share it –** Campers reflect on what they learn, live and notice, sharing their reflection and discovery with others.
    - **Loved by God** – Campers experience the energy of being close to God and grow in the depth of their understanding that they are loved unconditionally by God. That understanding is branded in them strong enough that it will not fade. A strong memory remains that no matter what, they know they are loved by God.