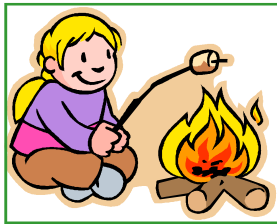


Talking Cents

Camping as a Ministry?

Have you ever considered camping as something more than a fun outdoor activity? Have you ever wondered why churches often choose to offer camping as a ministry to their congregations?



Camping with your church family provides a unique and fun way to learn more about your faith and to experience first-hand the wonder of God's creation. The mission of our United Methodist

Camping and Retreat Ministry is to create environments of Christian learning and hospitality in order to help people affirm and expand their faith, grow in wisdom and self-esteem, and establish a relationship of loving interdependence with one another and God's creation. Church camp is a place to build solid Christian relationships with others and an opportunity to challenge ourselves mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Camping as a ministry is more than just a week of outdoor fun and fellowship - it is also an avenue to grow in faithful relationship with God.

Harold Caudle, Director of Facilities at LAUMC and an avid church camper, says "Camping has a way of bringing us back to our roots, allowing us to strip away the cell phones and video games and forcing us to reconnect with God, each other, ourselves, brisk mornings, warm afternoons, the darkness of the night, the billions of stars, campfires, and the smells and sounds of the wilderness. When I'm camping, I tend to see myself as a very small part of a much larger wonderful creation that God has given me the privilege to be a steward of, and for me to experience and to praise God that I am a part of it."

Camping is such an important part of our faith that our California-Nevada Conference offers numerous Conference camping and retreat opportunities for youth, families and adults throughout the year. For more information, visit www.cnumc.org/camping.

Go "Green" with ACH Contributions (Direct Payments)

ACH (Automated Clearing House) direct payments are an easy way to give to the church monthly. Scheduled ACH transactions are automatically transferred from your bank account to the church's bank account. If you would like to set this up, contact the finance department to obtain a form (650) 948-1083 x126.

Our gifts go far beyond our financial contributions!

As United Methodists, we quite literally roll up our sleeves and "get to work" as we answer the call to serve.

Earlier this month, 76 church members including about 1/2 teens and about 2/3 first-timers traveled to Mexico to build 4 houses for working poor families. LAUMC started Mexico Mission trips in 1994 with a Starfire trip and has been doing Intergenerational Trips since 1997. LAUMC has built over 62 houses through this program and has provided an opportunity for hundreds of LAUMC members and friends to participate.

Also in February of this year, 44 people traveled to the Vancleave, Mississippi area to work on 12 different houses. Most of the affected homeowners had insurance that covered only wind damage and not flood damage, yet the flood damage was far more significant. Many families were still living in trailers 2 1/2 years after Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This was our fifth LAUMC trip to Mississippi.



With gratitude and wishes for a pleasant spring!
The LAUMC Finance Team:
Linda, Nicole and Pat