



# NATURAL LINKS

## MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

### JOB OPENINGS

A Guest Services Director and a Maintenance Director are needed to serve with the ministry of Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, VA. For more information contact Bob Briscoe at 757-566-2256 or email [wrcr@wrcr.info](mailto:wrcr@wrcr.info). Job descriptions and application can be found at <http://wrcr.info/about/employment>.

### RESOURCES

Are you looking for resources or input for your summer staff? Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Director of Campus Ministries at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (an MCA institutional member) is available to lead Zoom (or possibly in-person) sessions on “Nature as Teacher in the Bible,” “Nine Spiritual Pathways,” “Resources for Camps from Voices Together Hymnal,” “Faith Foundations for Creation Care,” or “Responding to Camper Questions about Faith Even If You Have Questions Yourself.” Contact her at [jbjohnson@amb.edu](mailto:jbjohnson@amb.edu) if you’d like more information.

### CAMP UPDATES

#### Many hands make for successful Laurelville fire clean-up Laurelville Retreat Center, Mount Pleasant, PA, [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org)



On Monday, Feb. 21, nearly 70 people spent a sunny day helping Laurelville Retreat Center clean up the site where its maintenance building burned to the ground in the wee hours of the morning on Feb. 12. We are thankful to God that no one was hurt in the fire.

The loss was estimated to be over \$400,000 including the building, vehicles, tools, and supplies. The fire was determined to have started in the building’s furnace or air compressor. Laurelville has insurance. Insurance gaps on contents have already been met by donors! The support received to date has been completely overwhelming. Volunteers came from the local community, Pittsburgh and several states, plus churches and other Christian camps sent helpers (including MCA friends from Cove Valley Camp) - we met friends we didn’t know we had. We feel very loved, appreciated, and valued. People and businesses have been so generous. By day’s end, the site was nearly cleared of all debris and the former concrete floor was visible. We have already seen beauty emerging from the ashes.

The long list of items that still need to be replaced include side-by-side utility terrain vehicles, golf carts, high ropes course equipment, and a pick-up truck. A wish list is posted at [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org) for any camps who may have equipment to share. Laurelville plans to rebuild as soon as possible.

*By Jeanette Lahm, director. Photo credit: James Brooks/USAF Fire Photography*

#### Camp Deerpark, Westbrookville, NY, [www.campdeerpark.org](http://www.campdeerpark.org)

Camp Deerpark has just completed their second season of *Choppin it Up at Camp Deerpark with Kevin, Ken, and Ashley*. *Choppin it Up* is a 30 minute zoom conversation with members of the Camp Deerpark family. This year, nine episodes were posted. The average reach between Facebook, Youtube, and Spotify has been about 400 per episode. While the folks at *Dude Perfect* are not concerned about the competition, 400 is nearly twice the reach of our annual banquet. You can listen on Spotify by clicking on the link: <https://anchor.fm/camp-deerpark/episodes/February-1--2022-Bishop-Hyacinth-Stevens-e1dre2r>

*Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mennonite camping at the Bi-National Gathering*

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MCA BI-NATIONAL GATHERING :: SPRUCE LAKE 2022



Photos by Grace Nolt

MARCH 2022

[WWW.MENNONITECAMPING.ORG](http://WWW.MENNONITECAMPING.ORG)