

September 16, 2020

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES

CAMP COMBACK CHALLENGE!

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Early in the Spring when COVID-19 was affecting the camping programs of the Susquehanna Conference, I sent out a challenge to our pastors and churches in the State College District to raise \$5,000 for our camps. We are at a little over \$3500.00!! Just \$1500.00 to go!

I know we can make the goal and beyond! Please consider making a contribution to the wonderful Camping Ministry of our Conference. Below is some information worth sharing!

Brenda Leigey
State College District Superintendent

The Blessing

Camp & Retreat Ministry holds a very special place as sacred common ground for us all. Thousands from our congregations and wider community grow closer to God at our centers. We find inspiration to actively live the love of Christ wherever we go. Children, youth, and adults thrive in an atmosphere of deep valuing. They become more intentional in their faith journey, try new things, meet new people, and become more resilient in life. Many clergy and laity identify camp and retreat experiences as profoundly important in helping them hear and renew their calls to leadership. They return home inspiring others to deeper meaning, relationships of love, and action for good in the world. A wide spectrum of religiously affiliated and non-profit groups pilgrimage to our centers, too. These community partners clarify their vision and make plans that serve a multitude of people with a great diversity of needs, so they may have "life more abundantly". ***God has gifted us with Camp Penn, Greene Hills, Mount Asbury, Sky Lake and Wesley Forest.***

The Challenge

The COVID-19 virus spread across the globe requiring nations and local communities to take action to mitigate the harm and to protect others from contracting the disease. For our Susquehanna Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries along with vast majority of UM Camp and Retreat Centers in the U.S., this means the suspension of retreats this Spring along with all Summer Camps. We, also, face reduced guest group reservations for the Fall. The revenue from retreats and camps is a large, essential part of the ministry budget. **Even with good stewardship and extreme cost cutting measures, the year-end deficits for our local camp**

retreat ministry is projected to be \$300,000 and could reach \$350,000. Fortunately, your Camp Retreat Ministry Board, the staff, and dedicated volunteers have taken steps to keep the ministry healthy and financially sound prior to this crisis. **By fully utilizing savings and dipping deep into operational reserves, the amount remaining to be covered is approximately \$100,000. This must be raised with your help as generous congregations and donors who care about these special places, their ministry, and their impact.**

Here's how you can help.

- Give generously as you are able. (*We know some may be struggling now, also. Though you may want to give, you cannot right now. We give thanks for the many other ways you give support.*)
- As a congregation, prayerfully consider donating your normally budgeted camp scholarship funds that were unused since summer camp was suspended. Several churches have done this, and it makes a big difference.
- Share the need with your circle of friends, family, and community. If people know how much it matters to you, they often will be generous in their support. We can help you with sample letters, social media appeals, etc. Contact Kevin Witt, kwitt@susumc.org
- Regularly check this page or the Quiklink to follow what giving opportunities are currently underway and our progress together in reaching the goal.
- Connect us with people who would find it meaningful to support Camp & Retreat Ministry.
- Share stories and quotes with us about why camp and retreat ministry is important to you and others. This helps a lot and is very meaningful for donors.

Meaningful Worship for Christmas during COVID 19

Advent and Christmas are approaching. How will we provide stirring worship under COVID-related safety restrictions? Susquehanna Conference is offering all our clergy and lay access to Marcia McFee's "Reboot Your Worship" training, starting on Sept. 20. You will get 6 weeks of downloadable resources (articles and videos) and 6 live webinars (also recorded for your archives) with Dr. McFee, a renowned worship consultant (www.marciamcfee.com). You will learn 5 ways to improve your church's worship immediately, no matter the size or style of worship and without a big budget or drastic change. This course explores the basics of sensory-rich worship design while emphasizing safety protocols and creativity for online worship--without causing clergy burnout. Clergy can invite unlimited members of their worship teams to participate. Register here now: <https://ny163.infusionsoft.com/app/form/susquehanna-ac-umc-reboot-2020>

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equip

Spiritual Transformational Leaders are always paying attention to the generations coming up! Right now the Children and Youth Forum that was presented on August 26 is now available as a recording on our Young People's Ministry page: <http://igniteyoungpeople.org> As you visit and experience this Forum, please scroll down the page to notice that **Youth Service Fund grants are available! Please download the application form and submit before October 31, 2020! Our young people are worthy of our attention!**

grow

ANTI-RACISM 101 TRAINING COURSE

GCORR is offering a new online training course, Anti-Racism 101: Required Skills for White People Who Want to be Allies. Students will learn to identify racism and then interrupt it with the help of real-world skills, strengthened resolve and foundational knowledge.

[Enroll Now](#)

#ColortheConversation Campaign Makes Space for Dialogue

On August 20, 2020, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) began #ColortheConversation as a new discussion and listening campaign to address racism in higher education and ministry. The campaign will elevate and center the voices and experiences of people of color in our agency and affiliated institutions.

[Learn More](#)

Connect, even with limited broadband

7 Way to Connect with Your Community with Low – or No – Broadband Access

Have you found yourself facing the challenge of connecting with some in your congregation who cannot connect online for various reasons? Are you finding it a challenge to connect with your congregations or parts of it? Many local churches and leaders are experiencing similar challenges. This may be due to late adapters or non-adapters to technology, or it might be due to the geographical challenge of access to internet and cellular technology, or some other reason. There are those within the church who desire a worship experience, who seek connection through Bible studies or prayer groups, and who long to feel connected but lack the access to the tools of technology that are needed to maintain community during a time of physical distancing.

[Read More](#)

connect

September 2020 Susquehanna LINK Now Available

The September issue of the Susquehanna LINK is now available for download by clicking on the button below.

[View the September LINK](#)

CHECK OUT THE "WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCHES" ISSUE

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