



SHORElines

a quarterly newsletter of Grace Outside | Michigan Area United Methodist Camping
September 2024



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Wesley Woods Management Changes

With gratitude for her service, we said goodbye to Nicole Holton in August as she moved on to another job. Nicole brought a deep love of Wesley Woods when she started as camp director in February 2020, having been a youth camper there. Her leadership was vital during a very difficult time – COVID, renovations and rebuilding our retreat clientele. We thank her for her devotion and hard work. Marie Mohler and Vern Thomson now serve as co-managers at Wesley Woods focused on office and operations respectively. Contact them at Wesley Woods with questions or if you want to book your own event: info@wesleywoodsmi.org or 269-721-8291.



Elementary 1 Camp at Wesley Woods

Campers Learn How God's Love Links Us All

Close your eyes and imagine a place where laughter echoes through the woods, friendships blossom, and your relationship with God becomes real and personal. This summer Grace Outside programs at Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat, Lake Huron Retreat Center and Lake Michigan Family Campground again brought that vision to life. Campers and guests were immersed in a loving Christian community where they learned of God's immense love for them and how they could stretch and grow in confidence and joy.

Summer camp, with its theme "Linked by Love," offered a unique opportunity to explore nature, develop new skills, and make friends. Camp is a powerful time to break free from the pressures of everyday life and find a sense of belonging.

But for many families, the cost of summer camp can be a significant financial burden. With \$2,450 in camp scholarships awarded this year, we need to restock the Camp Affordability Fund. That's why we're reaching out to you today to ask for your support. Your donation will help bridge the gap between camp fees and what families can afford. A gift of \$100 would cover the cost of a day at camp for one camper.



SCAN TO GIVE ONLINE

Your Gifts Matched! Double Your Impact

With your help, every family will have the opportunity to experience the magic of summer camp. Your generosity will make a lasting difference in their lives. Gifts to the Camp Affordability Fund received this year will be matched by an anonymous donor! Your \$100 gift becomes \$200! We no longer receive "ministry shares" from the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church and the funds from the sale of former camps are dedicated to property improvements. Your donations are vital to the camping ministry! As a nonprofit organization, your gifts may be tax-deductible.

THANK YOU GIFT!



BONUS: Monthly Sustaining Members will receive a special thank-you gift!

LET'S GO! HERE'S MY GIFT TO HELP FAMILIES FIND GRACE OUTSIDE

☐ My check is enclosed. ☐ Please charge my credit card (below) ☐ Give online at GraceOutside.org/donate
Amount \$ _____ ☐ Make this a monthly donation ☐ Make my gift anonymous ☐ I decline my thank you gift
Designate: ☐ **Camp Affordability Fund** ☐ Use where needed most ☐ Wesley Woods ☐ Lake Huron ☐ Lake Michigan
YOUR GIFT DOUBLED!

Credit Card Donations only:

Acct. Number _____

Name on Card _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Yes, add me to your email newsletter list.

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.



Return this form with your gift to: Grace Outside/MAUMC, PO BOX 134, ST JOHNS, MI 48879 or charge by phone: 616-970-7838

Grace Outside
Michigan Area United Methodist Camping
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ST JOHNS MI 48879



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Your quarterly Grace Outside newsletter



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Middle School Sports Camp at Wesley Woods

My favorite was archery because I was nervous I would get hurt, but I faced my fears and got two bullseyes!" — Grand Camper



"My favorite part of camp was meeting new people because there's always room for new friends." —Middle School Sports Camper

Family Campground Grows Outreach

It's been a slow climb since opening Lake Michigan Family Campground to the public in addition to our United Methodist guest groups. In 2021 we welcomed just over 6,000 guests, and now in 2024 we will have over 12,000 guests! We served over 60 churches, Bible study and youth groups, plus individuals and families. Through Hope RV, we provided free stays for over 40 families with adopted or foster children.



God's Treasures Brings Joy, Growing Need for Volunteers

Lake Huron Retreat Center again ran two weeks of God's Treasure Camp — a great opportunity to serve adults who are differently-abled. Many have been coming for a long time and tell us it's their favorite week of the year. The Center also hosted a guest group's camp for younger adults who are differently-abled and a retreat group that brought young adults with developmental disabilities. Overall, we served almost 100 people from this special population. With your support, Lake Huron Retreat Center was able to be part of God's plan for showing God's great love. Director Karen Hand shared a growing need for medical providers and volunteer counselors during God's Treasures Camp. "The amount of medications, breathing treatments, injections and such that are required for these special



God's Treasures Camp at Lake Huron Retreat Center

campers make experienced medical caregivers a must," Karen said. "As well as, having fewer campers per each 'nurse' is necessary. Many of our counselors have been serving for many years and now are finding themselves physically unable to do camp. These care providers for our God's Treasures campers are essential and we must find more to continue this program." Contact Karen at info@lakehuronretreat.org or 810-327-6272.