



Camp Sunday Suggestions

General Suggestions:

- Designate a Sunday in February, March, or April as Camp Sunday
- Celebrate Summer Camp, using Templed Hills year-round for church events, and the Hills are Alive Capital Campaign
- Have an 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.
- 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"

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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 Conference 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.

Suggestions for Sermon/Meditation

Camp is Contextual - Camp is a place of intensive immersion, experiences of community, lived out in the midst of God's good creation. It can focus the campers, the staff, and the parents upon the relational nature of life and faith. Camp is Faith Centered, Safe Space, Participatory, Unplugged from Home, and Relational. Please see next page for more information.

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.

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