

## PLANTED

The Director's Message | Pastor Wellesley A. Broomfield

Trees have always fascinated me, from the giant sequoias of California to the sturdy pines and cedars of Lebanon. How magnificent is God's creation!

The *sequoias* have an extensive root system that plays a critical role in their stability and nutrient uptake. The roots typically extend six to twelve feet deep; the spread, however, is about one hundred feet in diameter. They often grow in a wide, shallow network, which helps support the massive weight of the tree.

In Scripture, God often compares us to trees. Why? Is it because some trees can stand strong through storms, attacks, fire, and challenges? Or is it because, like us, other kinds of trees sometimes can be tossed in all directions? Or is it because some types are rooted and secure in their footing?

Believers in Jesus Christ must be deeply rooted in the infallible Word of God—the unshakable, unfailing, nutrient-rich Word of God. When you delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night, you will experience the blessings of **Psalm 1:3**. “You will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaves do not wither. In everything you do, you will prosper.” Is it your daily practice to drink the Living Water which Christ offers us in His Word?

**Psalm 92:12** says, “The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree.” This imagery conveys the idea of spiritual vitality and resilience, as palm trees are known for their ability to thrive in harsh environments. The righteous, like the palm, are depicted as flourishing and enduring despite challenges. When Jesus entered Jerusalem that day long ago, people laid palm branches for Him, a visual symbol of triumph. Jesus made that a reality only days later when He arose from the grave, triumphing over sin and death.

**Psalm 92:12** continues, “He will grow like the cedar of Lebanon.” The cedar is a powerful symbol of strength, stability, and beauty. Do we see ourselves as God sees us: majestic, strong, stable, beautiful, fruitful, and resilient? Like these magnificent trees, which are planted in good soil, we too need to be rooted in good ground. There is no better ground into which we must sink our roots than in the Word of God, if we are going to flourish wherever our God places us to serve Him. Then, no matter how the challenges and winds of life may blow and threaten to knock us over, we remain anchored and forever secure. So, what is the secret to becoming a “tree” that is beautiful, resilient, and fruitful? I believe it is simply to remain planted on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ our Lord, with our roots going ever deeper into the soil of His unfailing love and limitless grace.

# Trusting God's Direction at Fellowship Conference & Retreat Center

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” – Proverbs 3:5-6***

This verse beautifully sums up the past year at Fellowship Conference and Retreat Center. We have sought to keep our eyes fixed on Him, trusting that His plan is greater than our own. And time and again, we've seen His hand at work.

By the end of 2025, we will have hosted an estimated **5,387 guest nights** and served about **16,160 meals** — the most in our recent history. Even months that are usually quiet were unexpectedly full, with our facilities running near capacity almost every weekend. It has been very busy in every aspect, and we are especially thankful for the hard work of our dining staff and housekeeping team, who helped us keep pace with the increase. Their dedication has made it possible for us to serve well, even in the busiest of seasons.

Our desire remains simple: to be a place where the presence of God is welcomed, where groups can gather to worship, and where individuals can experience a fresh encounter with Him. At the heart of what we do is a simple hope — that people will find the space they need to step away from life's busyness. Whether through a quiet prayer walk on our



beautiful property or a moment of stillness in a meeting room, guests repeatedly share how meaningful their time here has been. We don't take credit for those moments; we simply provide the space and trust God to do the rest.

Even in the day-to-day operations, God has been shaping us. One area has been in our call center. I often ask myself, *Would Jesus pick up the phone with an attitude or with gratitude?* It's easy to forget that we are Christians first, and businessmen second. By keeping Christ at the center of our service, we've seen a noticeable shift in the atmosphere of the Conference Center.

We've also been blessed to make improvements to our facilities this year. The Commons received a fresh coat of paint and new carpeting, giving the meeting space new life. Our basketball court was upgraded as well, now offering a place where groups can enjoy both pickleball and basketball. Looking ahead, we hope to continue upgrading our guest rooms to provide the highest level of comfort for everyone who stays with us.

As we reflect on this record-breaking year, our hearts are filled with gratitude. We remain committed to being a place where people encounter the presence of God, and we look forward to all He will do in the year ahead.





# A Summer Overflowing with God's Goodness



We welcomed **2,251 camper registrations** this summer — numbers we haven't reached in 10 years! That meant busier schedules, fuller cabins, and more energy needed than ever before. But with those numbers, God accomplished something even greater: He gave a bigger opportunity for lives to be spiritually impacted.

And what an impact it was! This summer, we celebrated **55 spiritual decisions** for Christ, alongside countless stories of how God moved in the hearts of campers and

staff alike. Lives were changed, friendships were formed, and the Gospel was made known.

Every summer Day Camp Sunshine is filled with joy, challenges, and life-changing moments — but this year was unlike any we've seen in a decade. From the very first day, it was clear that God was doing something big.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible team. We were blessed with **85 staff members representing 15 different countries**. Watching them pour themselves out for the sake of the Gospel was truly a testimony of God at work through the lives of our dedicated team members.

God's gracious provision was also evident through our Scholarship Fund. Because of the generosity of our donors, **91 weeks of camp were fully or partially sponsored, totaling \$32,014.50 in scholarship funds**. That support opened the door for many campers to attend who otherwise couldn't have — and for each one of them to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, the need was greater than what we were able to meet — a reminder of just how important the Scholarship Fund is as DCS continues to grow and impact young lives.





# JR. CAMP SUNSHINE!

Janet Petrie

As I take the time to reflect on our extremely busy and hot summer, I am reminded of how quickly 9 weeks of camp can fly by. We are grateful for the sunny pool days, where cannonballs and underwater handstands became an everyday thing. We used every sprinkler we could find to make fun water games to keep us cool. Afternoons found us in the shade playing friendly mini-golf games complete with wildly missed putts and lucky holes-in-one. We took advantage of our STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) Room to hold building challenges and our Art Room for making crafts. Our mornings started with a camp-wide sing-along, where everyone was singing their hearts out and dancing. The best part of camp is the friendships that are made. What a joy and blessing it is to watch children and adults make new friends.



## CAMP SUNSHINE BY THE NUMBERS -

**1** - Volunteer from Germany for 3 Weeks

**2** - Fun Camper Wet-Downs by the Liberty Corner Volunteer Fire Department

**5** - Pool Parties

**6** - Preschool-Age Camp Groups

**9** - Different Camp Themes

**60** - Different Crafts

**63** - Visits to the Sweet Shoppe

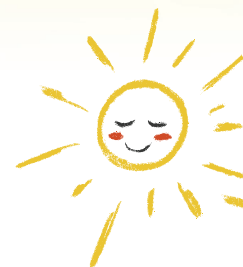
**68** - New Campers

**88** - Returning Campers

**156** - Total Campers

**1,070** - Camp Weeks

**31,457** - Camper Hours



**You who are young, be happy while you are young,  
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth.**

*Ecclesiastes 11:9a NIV*





# HEROES APPRECIATION

## *Breakfast*



SATURDAY

8 NOV 2025

9:00 AM

Fellowship Deaconry invites you to - **Heroes Appreciation Breakfast**



3575 Valley Road Liberty Corner NJ 07938



Breakfast 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

For more information, contact [info@deaconry.org](mailto:info@deaconry.org)

**FIRE, POLICE, EMT, VETERANS & FAMILY**





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