



**Brethren
Woods**

Shenandoah District
Conference Report
November 2022



A COMMUNITY IN CREATION

The Shenandoah District of the Church of the Brethren has developed Brethren Woods to provide Christian educational activities, facilities, and programs for all ages in an inviting woodland setting; encouraging the formation of Christ-centered living, leadership, and stewardship of creation, leading toward wholeness in the Kingdom of God.

CHRIST-CENTERED LIVING

44 Winter Campers, 30 Women's Retreat Participants, and 322 Summer Campers – alongside paid and volunteer staff – experienced God and grew in their Christian walks as part of our Christian community during a camp program.



LEADERSHIP

18 Paid Summer Staff, 16+ Volunteers, and 5 Junior Staff shared camp's mission and goals, developed lifelong skills, grew as leaders, and made a difference caring for and inspiring a new generation of leaders during our 8-week Summer Camp program.

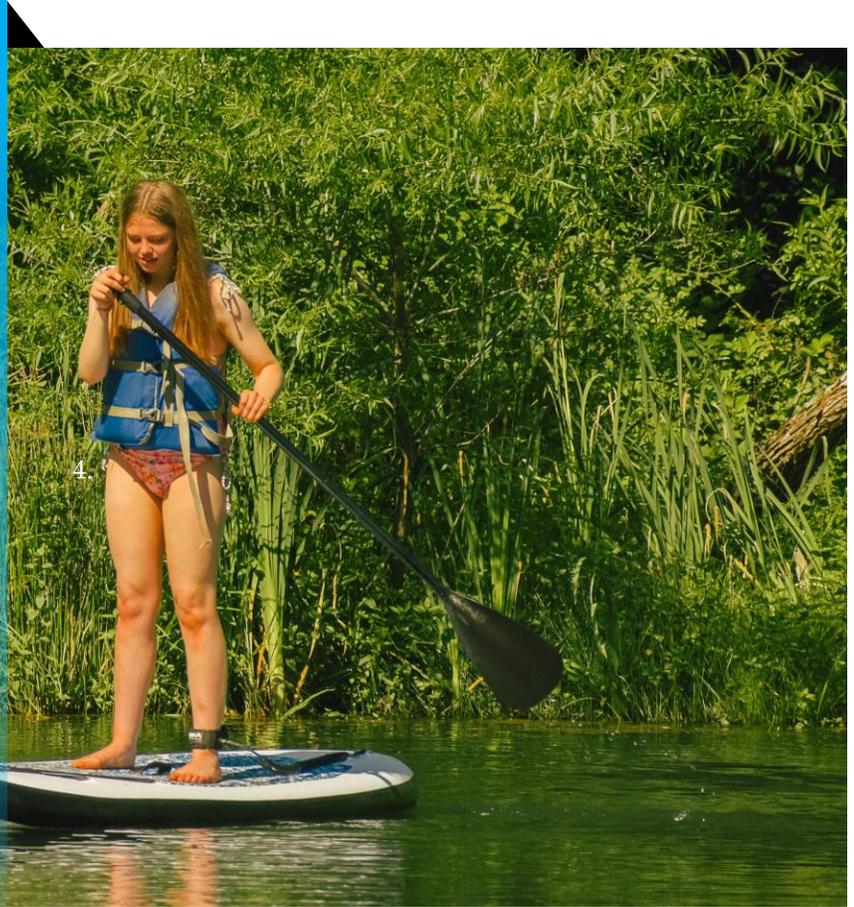
STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Outdoor School field trip groups returned to camp for day-long spring and fall outdoor education experiences. Camp staff and volunteers continue to manage and maintain camp's grounds and facilities in welcoming and sustainable ways.



“Coming to camp after two years of not being able to has been calming. This camp is my home and I wouldn’t change a thing. There are people here who have changed my outlook on life. Brethren Woods helps me navigate through the hard moments in life.”

- Senior High Camper



A Year of Transition and Growth

Linetta Ballew, Executive Director

2022 has been a year of transition and growth for the ministry at Brethren Woods Camp & Retreat Center.

Following Doug Phillips’ retirement at the end of 2021, Linetta Ballew and Pieter Tramper were named Acting Director and Acting Program Director through the end of August while a search process could be conducted by the Shenandoah District. In the spring, Linetta was called as camp’s new Executive Director, starting September 1st, and Pieter accepted the Program Director role. Jen Huffman joined the staff team this fall as the new Food Service Director.

After two years (2020-2021) of reduced and modified programming, we were able to resume our Winter Camp for 3rd-8th graders in February and the Women’s Retreat in March. The Summer Camp program for children and youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade showed an 11% increase in campers over 2021. Outdoor School field trips, rental group hosting, and adventure education opportunities are also

making progress toward returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Financial support for camp continues to be strong as we seek to build on camp’s solid foundation and move into the future. The \$8000 goal for the online Great Community Give in April was met by lunchtime! Camp friends exceeded all expectations by helping us raise over \$20,000 by the end of the day! These funds will replace, upgrade, and expand camp program supplies, as well as kitchen and cookout equipment.

We have resumed in-person fundraising events like the Spring Festival – both an open house fun day and a camp fundraiser on the last Saturday of April. That day we also celebrated Doug’s retirement after 39 years of service. We had a successful Golf Blast on a beautiful September day and tickets are available for the Renewing Our Faith...Outdoors Dinner coming up on November 20th in the Pine Grove facility at camp.

Camp’s ministry is a blessing to thousands every year and camp is blessed by the ongoing commitment of so many!

