

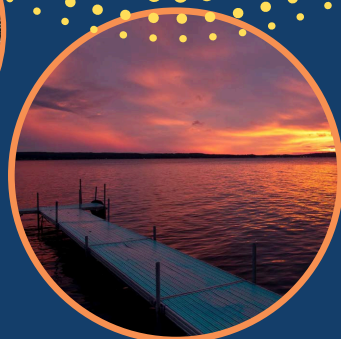


20 20

# SEEING CLEARLY

TO FOLLOW IN OUR MASTER'S FOOTSTEPS

GLC ANNUAL CELEBRATION



CAMPING REPORT

## CAMPS

Christian camping has always been important to Covenant people. An extensive network of regional Bible camps and conference centers supports the ministry of local churches.



**COVENANT MOUNTAIN MISSION**  
Jonesville, Virginia



There are three Covenant camps in the Great Lakes Conference all with the same goal—to reach out to people of all ages and from all walks of life and share with them the Good News—that is Jesus Christ! Each of our camps has its own creative and unique way of achieving this goal, catering to the community around them. We encourage you to look around, find the Covenant camp nearest you, and get involved!



**MISSION MEADOWS**  
Dewittville, New York



**PORTAGE LAKE**  
Onekama, Michigan





## OUR MISSION:

To worship God and to enjoy Christian fellowship and discipleship in the midst of His beautiful creation and to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to youth, adults, and families through the camp's outreach and community involvement.

### PICTURE THIS...

#### 70 Years of Bible Camp Ministry and Nearly 80 Years of Service in the Appalachian Mountains!

Although much has changed throughout the years of CMMBC's outreach, the ministry model has not changed significantly. We continue to rely upon mission teams to staff our Bible Camps and to maintain/make improvements in the camp's facilities. We thank God for the support that continues to provide for free and low-cost Bible camps, as well bring exciting updates to Camp! Here is a short summary of 2019:



- 50% of CMMBC's income for 2019 came from GLC churches and conference.
- 100% of heavy equipment used for installation of the splash pad to open in 2020 was donated by local construction companies.
- 70% increase in camper attendance over the last 10 years.
- Nearly \$46K was invested in facility improvement (remodeling to create a handicap bathroom in the dining hall and adding a splash pad).
- The CMMBC Board of Directors approved an updated ministry plan, which is available at <https://cmmbc.org/give>.

### PICTURE THIS...

#### Summer and Fall Fun!

The CMMBC camp theme for the summer of 2019 was "Picture This..." based on 2 Corinthians 4:18 'So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.' All too often, the urgent,



temporary things in life catch our eyes. Focusing on the eternal, offering hope through Jesus Christ, will make a difference in the lives of each of our 258 summer campers from 2019. We marvel at God's provision of the following churches that sent support to CMMBC to provide staff and/or funding for summer Bible Camps:



- Salem-Troy Baptist Association (Troy, AL)
- Christ Community Fellowship (Sarver, PA)
- First Covenant (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Winnetka Covenant Church (Wilmette, IL)
- Christian Life Fellowship (Jonesville, VA)
- West Bay Covenant Church (Traverse City, MI)

GLC Covenant Women Ministries partnered with CMMBC to offer the first GLC Women's Retreat South. It was great to join together in learning, prayer and fellowship. We are looking forward to the retreat in 2020.

### PICTURE THIS...

#### A Handicap Bathroom in the Dining Hall and a Splash Pad to Open in 2020!

Multiple teams worked together to remodel a hallway and bathroom in the dining hall to create an accessible bathroom, which is also working out great as a family bathroom during events. CMMBC has been blessed by thousands of dollars of donated service hours and heavy equipment use, as well as \$55,100 of gifts, toward the splash pad project ("Just Add Water at CMMBC"). The pump house, water reservoir, and drain lines are set, and we are on target for completion before camp starts in 2020. Other projects included terracing at the recreation hall; installing drain tiles; burying an electric line; camp clean up; and adding gutters to the craft pavilion.



We thank God for the following groups who financially supported work projects and /or sent workers:

- Advance Community Christian Church (Advance, IN)
- Boring Construction (Abingdon, VA)
- Christian Life Fellowship (Jonesville, VA)
- Campus Ministry of Grand Valley State (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Evangelical Covenant Church (Lafayette, IN)
- Faith Covenant Church (St. Petersburg, FL)
- First Baptist Church (Jonesville, VA)
- GLASS Machinery (Jonesville, VA)
- Lincoln Memorial University Team (Harrogate, TN)
- Redeemer Covenant Church (Hamilton, OH)

As the financial report shows, the ministry at CMMBC has been blessed. We are grateful for churches that have stepped up to provide for our needs. These churches financially supported the ministry of CMMBC in 2019:

- Advance Community Christian Church (Advance, IN)
- Campus Ministry of GVSU (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Christian Life Fellowship (Jonesville, VA)
- Christian Student Foundation (Muncie, IN)
- Covenant Community Church (Fairfield, OH)
- Evangelical Covenant Church (Lafayette, IN)
- Faith Covenant Church (St. Petersburg, FL)
- First Christian Church (Pennington Gap, VA)
- First Covenant Church (Grand Rapids, MI)
- First Methodist Church (Jonesville, VA)
- Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Woodway, VA)
- Northport Covenant Church (Northport, MI)
- Ravenswood Covenant Church (Chicago, IL)
- Redeemer Covenant Church (Hamilton, OH)
- Salem-Troy Baptist Association (Troy, AL)
- Wallens Creek Covenant Church (Duffield, VA)
- West Bay Covenant Church (Traverse City, MI)
- Westhigh Evangelical Covenant Church (Cary, NC)
- Winnetka Covenant Church (Wilmette, IL)

### PICTURE THIS...

#### Needs for CMMBC!

Thank you and thank God that the ministry at CMMBC continues to be affirmed through His provision! We have some pressing needs that we wish to share:

- **Individuals and/or churches to staff Trailblazers Camp.** We need workers to staff camp for grades 4-6 (July 6-9, 2020). Please contact us if you are interested.
- **Applicants for paid summer staff (at least 1 year beyond high school graduation).** CMMBC needs laborers for grounds keeping, kitchen help and summer staff, as well as the funding to pay them.
- **Pray for Joe and Tammy Faulkinbury.** We need discernment for managing the workload as we explore separating the roles and responsibilities of property manager and executive director.
- **Pray for additional supporting churches and individuals.** The Lord has faithfully provided for the ministry, and we look forward to seeing Him answer this prayer, as well. We need \$1,500 per month to hire additional staff and move Joe's annual salary up to \$20,000.
- **Pray for the CMMBC Board of Directors.** This small group of people take their leadership and decision-making seriously.

#### Come to the Fountain!

Our 2020 camp theme is "Come to the Fountain!" echoing the celebration for the opening of the splash pad, as we "Just Add Water at CMMBC." You are invited to join us for our open house on May 30-31, 2020.



#### Tammy and Joe Faulkinbury

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**OUR VISION:**

A relational approach to a Christ-centered experience.

**OUR MISSION:**

To RAISE up the next generation of Jesus followers through Relational-Accepting-Intentional-Safe and Encouraging summer camps, weekend retreats and community programming.

**FULFILLING OUR MISSION:**

On behalf of the Staff and Board at Mission Meadows, we hope and pray that you are well. These are exciting times at Mission Meadows as we continue to see growth and sustainability in our camp and retreat ministry.

Since the summer of 1948, Mission Meadows has served churches from all over the region, spanning an area from Syracuse, NY to Louisville, KY. In the early days it was a summer only program and people slept and ate in Navy surplus tents. Today, nearly 75 years later, Mission Meadows is a year round camp and retreat center serving more than 3,000 people annually and continues to grow in an era that is seeing many church camps closing their doors. In the past three years, three WNY Christian camps have closed, and a fourth has announced that 2020 will be its final season. God continues to bless Mission Meadows with faithful donors and a growing constituency of partner ministries and guest groups.

**PROGRAM MINISTRY:**

This summer our theme is entitled “Masterpiece.” We are going to look at the way in which God views us, his children. At the end of each day in the creation story, God steps back, observes his work and says, “It is good,” and on the sixth day he steps back and says, “It is very good.” When you look in the mirror, or when you hear that inner voice, can you hear God saying, “You are good... You are very good, and I’ve created you to do good things”? Our hope is that every camper hears God’s voice calling to them in this way.

Over the past decade, we have seen a great indoor migration of our children and youth as addiction to screen time has become the norm. Screen time is replacing time spent face to face with friends and family. Screen time, and the resulting indoor isolation that many children and teens are finding themselves in, is leading to an increase in anxiety and depression and other mental health issues.



Camp offers an alternative, even if just for a week in the summer. Camp is a great place for your child to reset their way of moving through the world. Mission Meadows is a safe space, where young and old alike, can enter and discover a new way of living. It provides an opportunity for kids, and adults, to retreat and disconnect, so that we may truly and deeply re-connect with those around us... and truly encounter Jesus in a beautiful, relational setting.

**FINANCIAL PICTURE:**

In order to continue providing this safe space where significant change and connections can happen, we work hard to make sure the finances are available to support the day to day operation. We have been moving forward with new facilities to attract a broader range of people.



Since the addition of the indoor pool in September of 2016, we have seen a 50% increase in guest group usage and a steady increase in summer camper numbers. Income from fees is very important to the sustainability to our ministry. To put it simply, the more campers and guests we host, the more likely we are to break even. So, one way you can partner with us at Mission Meadows is to invite someone to attend a summer camp or weekend retreat. It will make a huge impact on their life and it will help Mission Meadows stay strong and healthy into the future.

Our board and staff are committed to making sure that everyone has an opportunity to attend camp regardless of their financial situation. Our scholarship fund is very important in this effort.

We partner with both the family and the local church in asking the family to cover one-third of the fee, the local church to cover one-third of the fee and then Mission Meadows will cover one-third of the fee from the scholarship fund. We have found this to be an effective partnership as we attempt to assist as many individuals and families as possible. That being said, we will never turn a camper away. If there is someone who really wants or needs time at camp, we will figure it out and make it happen, no matter their financial situation.

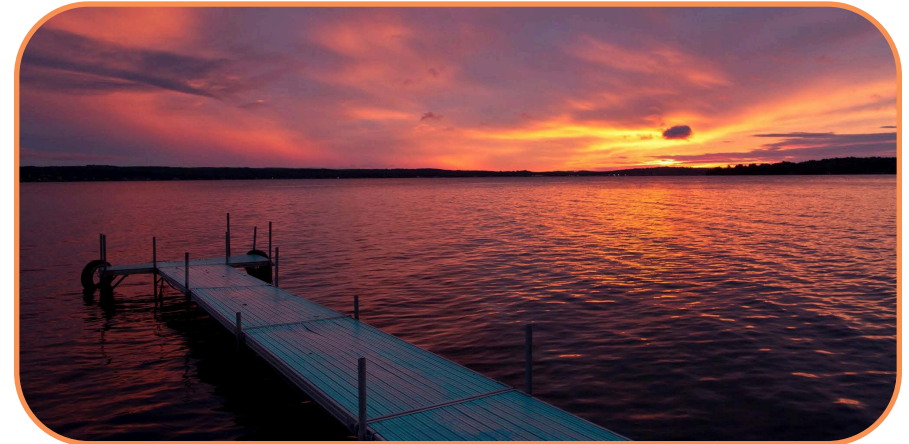
### THE BIG PICTURE:

These are challenging times to be a kid, to be a parent, and to be a ministry which serves them both. As I mentioned earlier, camps are closing and it's a challenge for non-profit organizations in general. With the change in the IRS standard deduction, the tax incentives are not there for many people to give and many non-profits, including ministries, are closing. By the grace of God, in these challenging times, Mission Meadows continues to grow. This year, I would like to invite you to be a part of the growth happening at Mission Meadows.

- First, I would like to invite you to consider how you could give and support the ministry at Mission Meadows. You may give in one of three ways: With a check mailed to camp; online at [missionmeadows.org](http://missionmeadows.org); or by texting the word "Give" to 716-321-2342. We ask that you choose either the General Fund to help with day to day operations, the Scholarship Fund to help families afford camp or the Pool Fund which is to pay down the principle on the construction loan used to complete the pool project. Even though the tax incentive may not be there for you personally, will you take a moment to consider the lasting impact camp ministry continues to have on people, and give anyway?
- Second, and most important, we would love to see you at camp!
  - Saturday, May 9th we have a Spring Clean Up day to help with yard work, touch up painting and other light jobs that could use many hands!
  - May 22-25 is our Memorial Day All Ages Family Camp. This is a great way for you to kick off the summer season whether you are single, a family or a retiree!
  - July 4-5 is our first annual All Camp Reunion. We will have guests from all over the country who have been involved with Mission Meadows over the years along with our current staff. Announcements on our speaker and special musical guests will be coming soon. It will be a great time for you to reconnect with camp friends, take a trip down memory lane, and enjoy Independence Day celebrations at Mission Meadows.
  - You can also invite a friend to join you for an event at camp or help a neighborhood kid get signed up for camp.

In closing, I want you to leave you with this... Camp is still important... maybe now more than ever... in the life of our kids, to the health of our families and to the vitality of our churches. Time away helps you to reset and refocus. Disconnect in order to Reconnect to what's most important.

Thank you for partnering in ministry and mission with us at Mission Meadows.



**Bryan Muecke**

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**OUR VISION:**

To impact every life for Jesus Christ through our service, witness and programs.

**OUR MISSION:**

Portage Lake invites campers to step out of their daily routines and into a Christ-like community centered around REAL fun and REAL faith in an unforgettable setting.

**FULFILLING OUR MISSION:**

During 2019, we had the following:

- 880 Summer Kids Campers
- 496 Family Campers
- 79 kids dedicated their lives to Christ for the very first time!
- 80 kids recommitted their lives to Christ
- 47 retreat season groups totaling almost 3,000 additional people
- Testimonials:

*“You get so much closer to God here than anywhere else... That’s one of the best parts of this camp.”*

*“The accommodations and the staff are excellent and so is the location, but what keeps drawing me there is the opportunity to have fellowship with Jesus in that wonderful setting and the heart to heart fellowship.”*



**EXTERNAL OUTREACH and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

- We are able to serve several local Onekama, Manistee, and Ludington school groups with our Adventure Learning program, senior lock-ins, and field trips of special needs classrooms. These programs continue to be an incredible outreach and blessing to each of the students and teachers that go through the school year, and we see these kids during the summer which adds to the importance of these opportunities.
- We were again involved with the Manistee Chamber of Commerce and local school district administrators who returned for yearly trainings and conferences.

- This year will be the third year of serving an international ministry based in Southfield, Michigan. This diverse ministry group has brought upwards of 200 men the last two years, and they are actually kicking off our summer this year. This relationship, along with a few others, will hopefully lead to more open doors into churches in the metro Detroit area, so that we may remove any barriers that hinder a shared camp and retreat experience.



**SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE CHURCHES:**

- 59 Summer Kid Campers from Great Lakes Conference Churches
- 44 Churches Represented
- We continue to enjoy attending youth pastor meetings every month to stay in touch with how we can best serve those who serve in our churches. We also enjoy plugging in to as many churches as we can. We look forward to this summer.
- Our Manistee Covenant Church is currently undergoing a full pastoral staff transition. During this time, Portage Lake staff has taken on additional roles with leading youth groups at the church.
- We’ve spruced up the Speaker’s Cabin to make it more comfortable for pastors and youth leaders for study, sabbath, or times to just get away. Offering the Speaker’s Cabin allows us to connect with those in ministry on a deeper level, and shows them how we can serve their churches, too. Ten families took advantage of this in 2019. We hope to continue to make the cabin available as much as possible in the future!



**STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES:**

- Dining Hall Capital Campaign: After the first year of our Feeding 5,000 Capital Campaign, we are at about \$2.4 million pledged of the approximately \$3.4 million required for this much-needed project
- 56 full scholarships were given out so that everyone can come to camp
- We are taking huge strides in our overall business practices as we focus on supporting our mission and ministry in the most effective way possible

**FACILITIES:**

**Highlights of 2019**

- New main entry signs and signage on all buildings throughout camp
- Second generator added onsite so that we can continue to function regardless of weather or local power outages
- Through a partnership with Consumers Energy, we received FREE upgrades in lighting and WiFi thermostats
- The acquisition and complete remodeling of a new Executive Director’s house adjacent to camp property

**Some Possible Projects on the Horizon**

- NEW Dining Hall/ Temporary Kitchen (Capital Campaign in progress)
- Chapel expansion (possible designated memorial fund project)

**FULL-TIME STAFF UPDATE:**

In the past two years, we have seen a complete turnover in full-time staff. As we continue to transition, we look forward being fully staffed in the near future.

- Program Director: We are currently searching for a point person for hiring summer staff, summer programming, and our Adventure Learning program amongst many other things
- Executive Director: Dave Nesburg, who has been at the helm for the last 24 years, gave notice of his departure about a year ago. In September, he left his role as Executive Director. We look forward to welcoming Marc Eix as our new Executive Director in late April. He is very familiar with Portage Lake and the area, and we are so excited for him to join us!



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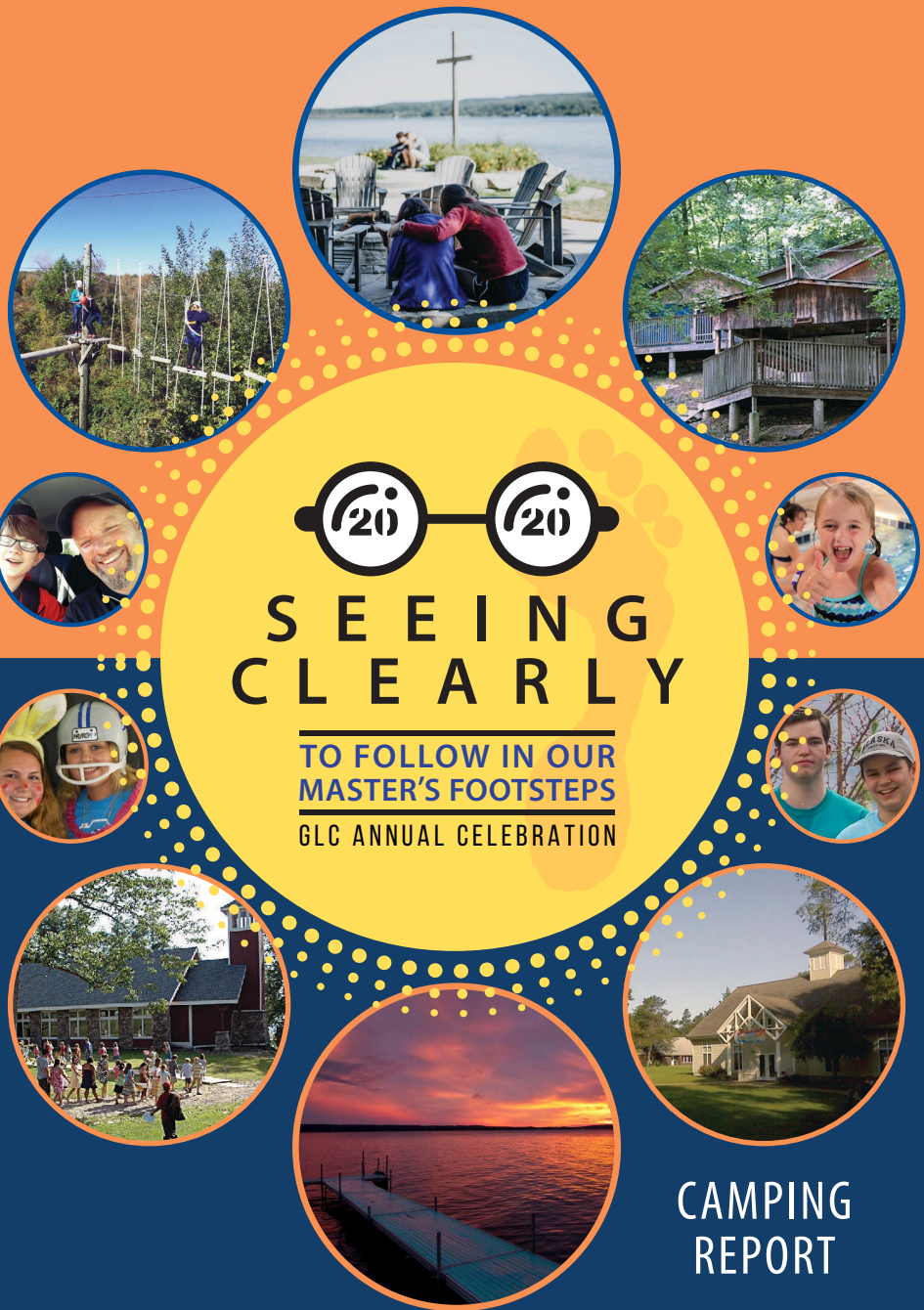
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The Evangelical Covenant Church



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