

Welcome & Announcements

Introduction of Guest Joe Richards, Pearce Williams Christian Camp

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candle

-by Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, BC

Around campfires, we might sing that “it only takes a spark to get a fire going.” Well, my friends, it only takes a divine spark to reveal the glory of God as lived out in Jesus Christ. We light our candle to remind us of the presence of Christ in our time of worship.

Gathering Camp Song In Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy
presence oh Lord

And take not thy Holy Spirit from
me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy
salvation
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Creation Connection -from Celebrate God's Presence, pg. 527

O God, Creator of shining lakes and sand dunes, we worship you with gladness. You call us into community at camp; we gather around the fire singing. Help us to be calm, so that we might hear your voice on the breeze and recognize your presence within and around us. We are part of your wonderful creation. We enter the woods with thanksgiving and go into the mountains with praise. We celebrate your love which lasts forever. Amen.

Gathering Prayer -from Marilyn Mitchell, Celebrate God's Presence, pg. 526, adapted

Gracious God, you are so good to us. Thank you for camping for our children and families. For the gifts of your good creation, which we encounter when we are camping, for forests and fields, beaches, streams, and lakes, for sunrises and sunsets, wind and rain. For the dedication of countless people who have supported this ministry through offerings of time and talent, for the gifts of all who create and maintain an environment of faithfulness and healing through their example at camp. Help us to ensure the joy of attending camps for those who participate at camp. For the questions and discoveries, for the friendships, and most of all the fun, music, and stories. Children's memories bring them back each year to our camps! Amen.

Camp Song You Are Kindness. You Are Love, (2024)

You are a dreamer,
you are a light,

You are a truth, you
are life.

You are everything,
and all the above,

You are kindness,
you are love.

You are kindness,
you are love.

You are beautiful,
you are strong

You are chosen,
you're never alone

You are everything,
and all the above,

You are kindness,
you are love.

You are kindness,
you are love.

When you are young,
you hear these

words
As you grow older, it

sounds absurd.
I don't always believe

what people say
But I know that I can

start believing today.

I am a dreamer, I am
a light,

I am a truth; I am the
life.

I am everything, and
all the above,

I am kindness, I am
loved.

I am kindness, I am
loved.

I am beautiful, I am
strong

I am chosen, I'm
never alone

I am everything, and
all the above,

I am kindness, I am
love.

I am kindness, I am
loved.

Prayer of Confession -by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine PC, Kincardine, ON

Let us, individually and collectively, enter into our sacred relationship with God, that we may commune, that we may confess, that we may heal, that we may grow. We now will enter a time of silent prayer.

Words of Assurance -by Cindy Randall, Humber Vale UC, Etobicoke, ON

L: God is like a parent who says, “I don't like what you did, but I still love you.” And then God gives us an opportunity to change.

P: Thank you, God! Thank you for a fresh start!

Minute for Mission <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5i5-GPjGk0>

Offertory Prayer -by Sheryl Spencer, Mount Forest PC, Mount Forest, ON

Jesus gave all he had, and he continued to give even beyond the grave. He just couldn't help it. Bless these gifts with that extraordinary love. Amen.

Camp Song Trading My Sorrow

I'm trading my sorrow
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying it down for the joy of the
Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying it down for the joy of the
Lord

Chorus:
And we say yes Lord, yes Lord, yes,
yes Lord
Yes, Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes, Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord,
Amen

I'm pressed but not crushed
persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I'm blessed beyond the curse
for his promise will endure
And his joy's gonna be my strength.
Chorus

Children's Ministry & Prayer "Find Your People" -Joe brought a bag of items and invited children and adults to each take one but not look at it nor show it to anyone. By just using fingers and hands, we were to try to determine what the item is and find someone who had a similar item. We ended up in three groups (moustache, bat, and tree). By finding someone with a similar item, we could "find our people". This year's camp theme at Pearce Williams is "Find Your People", an opportunity to meet new friends who may be your people.

The Lord's Prayer

Children leave for Sunday School

Prayer of Illumination -by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport PC, Hantsport, NS

God of the ages: As we open the scriptures this day may we see a reflection of ourselves. As we read these stories today, may we hear your word to us. As we encounter Christ may we know your love for us all. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42-47 The Fellowship of the Believers (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Camp Song Little by Little

Little by little, everyday	Since I made a turn-about-	He's changing me	Sometimes it's slow going
Little by little, in every way	face	My precious Jesus	But there's a knowing
My Jesus is changing me	I've been growing in His	I'm not the same	That someday perfect I will
(He's changing me, ba da	grace	BORING	be.
bum bum)	My Jesus is changing me	Person that I used to be.	

Reflection "Finding Your People"

Joe Richards was surprised about the scripture that was chosen because he also chose the same passage and read it from his First Nations bible, then likened the people in the passage to those who go to summer camp: fellowship, breaking bread (eating meals) and prayer. Joe shared memories of growing up with his father who was a lay preacher; he watched him practice in a mirror what he would preach, Joe not so much. He likes to speak off the cuff.

Joe shared this year's camp theme is "Find Your People". As a younger person, he attended Kenisserie Camp (Kent County's UCC Camp), then became staff and that is where he "found his people". Your people could be different people for different occasions, not the same for everything: home, work, even church, a third space. Joe led Easter Seals camp in 1992 and found they were not his people. Kenisserie campers and staff had the same purpose and belief -your people might not just be your family -like support groups as you go through challenges in life, God helps you find your people.

Jesus called 12 disciples but also called the larger community -you find this in the letters of Peter and Paul - the formed and grew communities of faith. Joe encouraged us to start somewhere to find your people, and grow.

Updates for PWCC this year: They had a great season last year, hoping to build on that momentum. -did undertake some emergency fundraising to fix the tractor path and install a hot water heater -reclaimed a meadow that was farmed, have established some wetlands, and a pollinator garden area -has held future planning workshops, and attended similar internationally through Outdoor Ministry Connections

As director of PWCC, Joe is excited for the summer -numbers are still down from pre-covid, common across all camps -invites anyone to come walk through the grounds

- piano in the woods -one was delivered many years ago, left in the woods as a special spot, a second piano has been added -willing to take another if donated

-craft supplies always needed as well as bug spray, sunscreen, bandaids

-Golden Getaway Camp for those 55+ just after Thanksgiving -well attended, registration is now open for 2026 -if live locally, can just attend as day camp

-Golden Connections is a Thursday morning event for those 55+ -regular attendance is 5-15 people -staff really likes working with older people too

-donations welcome, volunteers welcome -even if just come and sit on the porch for an hour or two -could be "camp grandmother" -if a child is struggling, can help with calming

Joe shared that camp has "made me who I am and hopes that God helps you find your people."

Prayers of and for the People -from *Celebrate God's Presence*, pg. 59, adapted

O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. On this camp day, we come before you as your children, Children of all ages. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

May our hands respect the things you have made. May our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength, not to be superior to our brothers and sisters, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, so, when life fades as a fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

Closing Camp Song *Give It Away*

A rich man came to Jesus, Asking what to do to live He said, "Keep God's law but most of all, Take all you have and give."	Chorus If you've got love - give it away If you've got hope - give it away If you've got faith - give it away Give it away - give it away	To some it may sound backwards, But this paradox is true: Lose your life you'll find it, God's peace will come to you. Chorus	I want to be like Jesus, So, when I kneel to pray I ask my eyes be opened, To what to give away. Chorus
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Commissioning -by *Elaine Bidgood Sveet, First Presbyterian Church, Moorhead, MN*

You are a precious creation of our God. Be sent forth now to cherish this earth and one another. The peace of Christ be with you and extended through you to all the earth. Amen.

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle