

Camping Sunday Worship Resources

Camp Sunday is a day to celebrate and lift up the values of Camp and Retreat Ministries in the United Methodist Church. It is an opportunity to help people “travel” to camp, to get a taste of the life-changing experiences that camp can offer people of all ages. As you are designing your camp Sunday worship, please make sure to encompass elements of hospitality, learning, and creativity. Most importantly, have fun! Experiment!

Scripture/Theme Ideas:

“A New Thing: God wants to do a new thing with me. How will I respond?”

Isaiah 43:19-21

“New Creation: Creation is past, present, and future-and we are part of it!”

Psalms 104: 24-33; Genesis 1-2:3

“New Shape: God is always working with me. I need to be open to God’s shaping of me like clay in the potter’s hand.”

Jeremiah 18:1-6; Isaiah 64:8; Genesis 2:4-7

“New Expressions: God gave me gifts to be creative. God gives me rest to be re-created.”

Exodus 31:1-13; Luke 10:38-42

“New Understanding: God calls me to know God more and more and take next steps of faith and discipleship. New understanding results in new behavior.”

Acts 17:19-34

“New Life: I’m going to live more fully for and with God. God will constantly be renewing me. I can always grow up more and more in Christ.”

Ephesians 4:1, 15-16, 22-32; Acts 11:26

“New Community: God isn’t finished with us! God is with us wherever we go.”

Philippians 1:3-6

Music Ideas:

United Methodist Hymnal

- “Here I Am, Lord” # 593
- “God of the Sparrow” # 122
- “All Things Bright And Beautiful” # 147
- “All Creatures of Our God and King” # 62
- “Pass It On” # 572
- “Seek Ye First” # 405

The Faith We Sing

- “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” # 2193
- “Sanctuary” # 2164
- “Cry of My Heart” # 2165
- “The Servant Song” # 2222
- “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” # 2223

Worship & Song

- “Step By Step” # 3004
- “For Everyone Born” # 3149
- “Shout to the North” # 3042
- “Draw The Circle Wide” # 3154

Creative Elements

- Build a “Campfire” near the altar area.
- Give people “wood cookie” name tags to make as they enter the sanctuary
- Add a “woody” feel to your Sanctuary by using dark brown and green fabrics and branches from outside.

Call To Worship:

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to learn and grow.

(a plant is brought up and placed at the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to try new things.

(a paddle or an oar is brought forward and placed at the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to connect with God.

(the candles are lit on the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to share our story.

(the Bible is brought up and placed at the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to feel the warmth of God.

(a campfire log is brought up and placed at the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to lean on one another.

(a walking stick is brought up and placed at the altar)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to be still and listen.

(play a CD with wordless nature sounds)

One: As we gather for worship we celebrate

All: A space to be welcome and worship.

Opening Prayer:

Awesome God, we come this morning to celebrate and to worship all that you have done in our lives. We come, remembering the experiences and memories we have had in our lives that help us to reconnect to you. We remember hearing birds chirping in the morning; that feeling that you are right there with us! May our worship renew us, inspire us, and draw us outside of ourselves to find a special place to connect to your holy presence. For this we pray, Amen.

Suggestions for Children’s Time

Read A Book:

- You Are Special*** by Max Lucado ISBN-13: 978-1581348941
- The Gold Coin*** by Alma Flor Ada ISBN-13: 978-0689717932
- Horton Hears a Who*** by Dr. Seuss ISBN-13: 978-0394800783

Build a Campfire

- Build a campfire and talk about camp. Pass out camp brochures, offer incentive programs (if kids received a Bible or were confirmed or graduated from Elementary or Middle School).

Take a Hike

- Set up 3 stations around the sanctuary representing each of the camp sites in our Annual Conference (Quinipet, Kingswood and Olmsted). Take the children for a “hike” to visit each station.

Litany for Camp

Leader: Creator God, we pray this morning for all of the camps and retreat centers in our Annual Conference.

People: Quinipet, Kingswood and Olmsted.

Leader: We pray for the directors, staff, and volunteers who work to be examples of your welcoming, gracious, unconditional love.

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: We pray for the participants who will come to see you at camp this year.

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: For the children who will experience your creation this summer, some for the very first time,

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: For the adventuresome and dramatic youth who will grow closer to you with their questions,

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: For the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened,

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: For all the friendships that will be made and strengthened

People: May they know your love and grace.

Leader: We give you thanks to you God,

People: May your blessing be on our camping program in this coming year and may you receive the glory.

Suggestions for Sermon Time

Camp is Contextual

- Camp is a place of intensive immersion experiences of community, lived out in the midst of God's good creation, which focuses the campers, the staff, and the parents upon the relational nature of life and faith.
- Have members of your congregation share their own camp experiences, either as a staff or as a camper.

Show a Video about Camp