



Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center
Presbyterian Camps & Conference
822 Route 519
Johnsonburg, NJ 07825

908-852-2349

www.campjburg.org



Join us **Saturday,
July 8, 10am-4pm**
for **Friends Day!**
*Activities, picnic lunch
and worship for all!*

Looking Ahead

2017 Summer Camp Staff Commissioning (at Hamilton Square Presbyterian Church)	June 18, 2017
Summer Camp	June 25-August 12
Friends Day	July 8, 2017
Ultimate Youth Day	September 24, 2017
Fall Fun Day	October 8, 2017
Quilting Retreat	October 19-22, 2017
Confirmation Day Event	October 28, 2017
4th and 5th Grade Retreat	November 3-4, 2017
Ultimate Youth Night	November 12, 2017
Soul Shop Training (youth leaders)	November 15-16
High School Retreat	November 17-19, 2017
Middle School Retreat	December 1-3, 2017



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Paula Benson and Angie Rines facilitate worship at the Women's Retreat this spring.

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Johnsonburg journal

*Sacred place,
open space*

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center www.campjburg.com Spring 2017



Wintermission volunteers take a break on the porch of Fallen Rocks Cabin during a week of interior demolition and cleanup.

Our Mission: To provide a place apart where all people can experience God's love within a welcoming Christian community.

Meadowview Cabin

It all began with a conversation about mission opportunities in New Jersey, at a West Jersey Presbytery meeting. Typically, the mission committee sent a group out from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill...but that hadn't happened recently and one of the leaders, Stan Blair, felt it was time for something.

There are 26 cabins at Johnsonburg, built for the engineering students of Stevens Institute, decades ago. Some cabins have heat, water and fireplaces. All have electricity and all of the cabins need some TLC!

The Trinity crew tackled the job of removing years of dirt, many mouse nests, and the wall board in Meadowview, a 2 bedroom/1 bathroom cottage overlooking Lower Meadow. They discovered signatures from the 1940s on the walls and boards that looked like swiss cheese from carpenter ants.

Today, we present to you almost 3 years of patient work and tireless perseverance to offer a very comfortable but simple cabin for those serving in ministry, as well as retreat leaders, chaplains, individuals/couples/families seeking Sabbath. Praise be to God!



Meadowview Cabin is insulated and heated (with radiant floor heat in the bath-room). A comfortable seating/writing area with fireplace, two bedrooms and a spacious deck provide a cozy retreat in the woods for any season of the year!

Many, many thanks to the variety of volunteers who made this renovation possible including (but not limited to): Trinity Presbyterian Church Mission Crews; Ted Borer, Thomas and Noah Lehman-Borer; First Presbyterian Church of Sparta Mission Crews; Chris Scrivens; Chuck Stahl; Matt Paulik; Bill O'Donnell.

Meet Tom Paradise:

Program Director at Johnsonburg

Joining the full time staff two years ago this June, Tom makes the fun happen at Jburg! He oversees all of the growing youth retreats and events for grades 4-12 (soon to include a college-age retreat and Men’s Retreat); hires staff to provide the best summer camp around; sets up programming for guest day events and retreats, and markets all of this too!

Tom has practical experience from years at Johnsonburg and other camps, in addition to his degrees in Adventure Education and Youth Development & Camp Management from Green Mountain College in Vermont. Tom brings organizational skills, knowledge of building staff and participant teams, thoughtful leadership and compassion to the ministry of Johnsonburg. When he is not zipping around camp with his waterproof megaphone, leading the program, he is teaching someone how to play with a Kendama, working on his swing for the softball team or checking the latest Mets scores. He looks forward to getting married to a camp alum in Fall 2017.



Are you dining at Johnsonburg?

Here’s what to expect from our nut-free kitchen... made from scratch, filling main dishes such as slow roasted pork tenderloin or roast, tasty vegetable wraps, homemade hot soups, fresh-from-the-oven rolls, perfectly steamed fresh vegetables, gluten and/or dairy free options (by request), a salad bar with many options, oversized chocolate chip cookies, fresh washed fruit... your best experience is our goal!

Nature Corner

Recently some very special visitors were discovered at Johnsonburg participating in the springtime reawakening. Several Luna Moths (*Actias luna*) were drawn to the lights at Lakeside cabin in the middle of the night.

The Luna is a soft yet vibrant green, 3-4” across with transparent eyespots on each wing, and has long trailing tails on the hind wings. It is of a group of giant silkworm moths ranging throughout the hardwood forests of eastern North America.

Guess what we learned? Adult Lunas live for only a few weeks and do not eat. They draw from reserves stored as caterpillars from the previous year.

They are very strong fliers and seek mates in the predawn hours. Females lay one or two eggs at a time on the leaves of host trees which include birch, cherry, sweet gum, hickory, walnut, and others, but tend to have local favorites.

Unlike the Gypsy Moth and similar invasive species, the Luna has a balanced relationship within the forest community and is not destructive. Johnsonburg is the perfect place to encounter the Luna Moth and its silk moth ‘cousins’, the Polyphemus, Cecropia, and Tulip-Tree Moth. All are night fliers that will come to lights!



A Luna Moth rests on Rhonda’s (Business Manager) hand, near the lake.

The Value of Volunteers

In January 2016, the Johnsonburg Board adopted a Strategic Plan. The plan encompasses governance, personnel, program, property and operations- guiding the ministry to best practices which will yield healthy leadership, financial sustainability and program outcomes fulfilling the mission. The plan suggested increasing meaningful volunteer experiences, and here’s the latest!

Johnsonburg could not function without the energy, creativity and generosity of volunteers. Here is a sample of the many ways volunteers enriched the Johnsonburg experience this past year:

- Plant the vegetable garden; plant flowers at the cross and Office
- Serve as nurse or chaplain during a week of summer camp
- Design, implement and tend the Butterfly Garden
- Clean, organize and paint the Arts & Crafts Cabin
- Renovate Lower Village cabins: paint beds, remove chicken wire, build shelves, put up new walls, build decks, replace light fixtures
- Remove old fixtures and walls in Hemlock, Hilltop and Fallen Rocks in preparation for renovation
- Serve on the Board or on a committee
- Pull weeds, remove invasive plants, clip vines that are killing the trees
- Spread woodchips on trails and around teambuilding course elements
- Salvage wood siding from an old building
- Put up the tent cabins in the Highpoints
- Open up cabins for the season
- Take photos of nature and share them with camp



Cots for the cabins - before and after!



Volunteers of all ages made a big difference at the recent Spring Spruce-Up Day! Removing vines that were strangling trees, working together to set up log benches and dismantling a beaver hut were just a few of the many jobs accomplished!

Q & A with the Staff

(Typical questions we answer!)

Q: Can we have our family reunion or my mother’s 70th birthday party at camp?

A: Yes! It is the perfect place to host your next event... and we can do the cooking for you! Rent just the Dining Hall or add a lodge (or more) for your family and friends, and everyone can have space to visit, hike, play and enjoy each other’s company. Please call the office today to inquire about open dates!