



822 Route 519
Johnsonburg, NJ 07825
www.johnsonburg.org
908-852-2349



65 SUMMERS OF CAMP JOHNSONBURG

Reunion + Celebration of Marked for
the Future Event
May 23-25, 2025

Scan the QR Code for
more info! All welcome
for free.



Our Mission

Where all may gather,
Where all are welcome,

And where all are
invited to share:

Gracious hospitality,

Joyful Christian
community,

And the wonder of
God’s creation.



Top : Flourish Nature School is in session!
Bottom : Alumnus and previous board member John Reisner with the fork that he built for camp many years ago.

A Letter from Elise :

Greetings! As the daffodils peek through the leaves for yet another new year of blooms, I am reminded of the newness each season brings at Johnsonburg. I am also reminded of the many volunteers, donors, and staff who make so much happen in this sacred place. From building the fork that greets every camper who arrives for a week of fun, faith development and friendly community... to helping complete the fundraising for the *Marked for the Future* capital campaign... to caring for campers and retreat guests with warm hospitality... the strength of Johnsonburg is in the PEOPLE.

I hope you are encouraged by the beautiful images of the campus and stories as you read this annual report. Thank you for sharing the goodness of Johnsonburg, where all are welcome to come and reflect on who God is and

consider the calling on their lives. Coming here is a life-transforming experience for thousands each year.

In closing, enjoy this excerpt from the poem “sometimes” by Mary Oliver:

*Instructions for Living a Life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.*

Thanks for going and telling!

In Christ,
Elise Bates Russell
Executive Director





We did it! We met the extended goal of \$2.5 million.

God has been faithful, through each of you. Individuals, churches, Presbyteries and foundations have shown that Johnsonburg is a place that marks important points in the lives of those who come to stay, play, recreate, refresh and renew.

Our beloved “Camp Jburg” is a shining example of a sacred place that feels like home no matter how long it has been since last visited. Johnsonburg is that open space for conversation, the growth and the development of leaders that this world so desperately needs.

What Has Been Completed?

- Dining Hall: new windows, tables, chairs, Allegretti Deck. DH Kitchen: new stoves, walk-in refrigerator upgrades.
- Recreation Center: polished floor, new carpet and new audiovisual system in the amphitheater; indoor classroom for Flourish Nature School.
- Cabin Renovations: Hickory and Fallen Rocks renovations; camper cabin roof replacements.
- Lodge Renovations: smaller bedrooms; air conditioning in all lodges.
- Highlands Pavilion: new space for programs, guest

- groups and Living Waters for the World training
- Flourish Nature School: staffing and facility improvements to support outdoor preschool for ages 2-5 years (this is Year 1!)
 - And various infrastructure improvements!

What’s Next?

We are excited to complete the following projects of the capital campaign:

- Dining Hall: ceiling and lighting upgrades; restroom renovations; new Camp Store space, new coffee bar.
- Recreation Center: HVAC and lighting upgrades; gym floor replacement.
- Kirkwood Hollows Bathhouse renovation

Thank You for Leaving Your Mark

Gifts \$75,000+

Charles and Mary Lou Colson
Ethelyn Fulton
First Presbyterian Church - Plainsboro
Jonathan and Shelley Gardner
Presbytery for Southern New Jersey
Presbytery of Philadelphia
Presbytery of the Coastlands
Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey
The Presbytery Of Northeast New Jersey
West Side Presbyterian Church

Gifts \$25,000 - \$74,999

Anne and Ken Gordon
C. Kenneth Weber
Deb Craft and Scott Bailey
First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown
First Presbyterian Church Of Metuchen
First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury
Kathryn Brady and family
Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church Collingswood
The Presbyterian Church Of Lawrenceville

Gifts \$10,000 - \$24,999

Aaron Wright
Arthur Winter
Bonnie Galloway and Robert Robinson
Christine Davies and Brandon Griggs
Don Keck
First Presbyterian Church Of Mendham
First Presbyterian Church Of Sparta
Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
Google, Inc
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Jean Badalamenti
Jean Woodman
John Pearson
Jonathan and Katrina Bingham
Kay and William Britton
Lisa and Joseph VanDeWeert
Long Valley Presbyterian Church
Matthew and Robyn Smith
Nassau Presbyterian Church
Prospect Presbyterian Church
Richard and Dawn van den Heuvel
Robert and Doris Bingham
Steve and Sally Chew
The Presbyterian Church In Leonia
The Presbyterian Church In Westfield
Timothy Brendler and Michael Groff
Wyoming Presbyterian Church

(Continued)

Dream of a campaign to repair and upgrade Johnsonburg’s facilities

Feb. 2020

Feasibility study conducted with fundraising firm

Board of Trustees approves the MFF Capital Campaign

Jul. 2020

May 2021

Fundraising begins with current and previous board members

Flourish Nature School pilot program begins with first students

Nov. 2023

May 2024

Dedication of the Highlands Pavilion

Dedication of the Jean Allegretti Deck

Jul. 2024

Jan 2025

We mark the end of the MFF capital campaign fundraising!

Thank You for Leaving Your Mark



Gifts \$5,000 - \$9,999

Allan and Gail Paradise
Allentown Presbyterian Church
Andrew and Hannah Harrison
Arlene McCann
Bank of America
Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church
Cassie Merkel and Allan Feid
Daniel and Kelly Kiessling
Dave Davis and Cathy Cook-Davis
First Presbyterian Church of Ewing
First Presbyterian Church Succasunna
John and Joslin Ruffle
Joseph and Rebecca Young
Karen Brostrom
Meghan Dowling and Brendan Gilsean
Presbyterian Church At Bound Brook
Richard Stenken
Scott and Courtney Scardena
Shawn and Brenda Cahill

Gifts \$1,000 - \$4,999

Alice Davenport
Alicia and Sam Morrison
Amelia and Ryan Irmer
Andrew Gilchrist
Anne Russ and Robert Lentz
Baird Foundation
Barry Gruver
Bethlehem Presbyterian - NJ
Brian Zack
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette
Charles and Sharyn Baier
Corinne Agins
Cynthia and Rob Korkuch
Cynthia and Robert Scheffler
David and Heather Gaitonde
David and Marilyn Kitchell
Doug and Lynn Walters
Elise Bates Russell
Emilio and Phyllis Prestamo
First Presbyterian Church of Blainstown

First Presbyterian Church Of Hightstown
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge
First Presbyterian Church Ramsey
Frances Katrishen and Nicos Scordis
Frank Speranza
Gary and Lisa Woodring
Glenn Beyerl
Heather Meyers
Howard Miller
Ian Schumacher
Jacquelynn C. Van Vliet
James Engel
James Lambert
Janet Farrand
Jean Wiarda
Jeanne and Ronald Souder
John Amato
Joseph and Suhee Chu
Joyce MacKichan-Walker
Ken Guest
Kent and Jennifer Smith
Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp
Linda and Herchel Craven
Linda Schober and Larry Best
Linda Woodman
Liz and Craig Pasko
Lorelei and Kurt Oelschlager
Mark Duncan
Marsha Terwilleger
Merideth Mueller-Bolton
Michael McCurry
Nancy Douglass
Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church
Old First Presbyterian Church - Newark
Patricia Bisogno
Penn and Maria Bowditch
Pennington Presbyterian Church
Peter and Carol Miller
Peter Surgenor
Pilgrim Presbyterian Phillipsburg
Presbyterian Church Of Chatham Twp
Presbyterian Women of FPC Metuchen
Rhonda and Henry Powell
Rob and Catherine Deane
Robert and Jeanne Radak
Robert Hendrickson
Ronald Thompson
Shari Guest Heibert
South Presbyterian Church
Steven and Berit Peri
Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

Sue Ross
Susan Smith
The First Presbyterian Church In Pitman
The Presbyterian Church Of Madison
Tom and Jayne Stoll
Townley Presbyterian Church
Tracy Mehr-Muska and Scott Muska
Tricia and John Hayes
Trinity Cherry Hill
Trinity Presbyterian Church
William and Amy Hoppock
William Anderson
William N. Creager
William Turner

Gifts \$251 - \$999

1st Trinity Presbyterian South Orange
Al and Amy Cousins
Allen and Angie Olsen
Brenda Sheeder
Casey Carbone
Cedar Risk Management and Insurance
Services, Inc.
Charles and Rhonda Pisano
Colleen Duerr
Colleen Earp
Cynthia Betz-Bogoly and Russell Bogoly
David and Teri Harvey
David Nast
First Presbyterian Church In Boonton
First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown
First Presbyterian Church of Iselin
Francis R Benson
Ginny Jewett
Harold E. Johnson
Helen Kohler
James and Suzanne Bates
Janet Winther
Jeanne Katen
Jeffrey and Lynne Tamburrino
Jennifer and Pete Plut
Jessica and James German
John Greco
Karen and Bruce Stroeever
Katherine Innis
Kathleen Baier
Kenneth Guest II
Larry and Christine Irmer



Larry and Maureen Schumacher
Leah Korbel
Linda Thorstenson
Lynne Seidel
Margaret E. Milesnick
Marie Bolmer
Mary Marcus
Michael Wick
Pamela Meilands
Peter and Joyce Rosswaag
Rebecca Moody
Richard M. Farrell
Robert A. Walters
Sarah Craven
Sarah Kapitko
Steven Ackerman
Tadd Maffucci
United Presbyterian Church Of Flanders
United Presbyterian Church Of Millstone
Valerie and Stu Alexander
William and Jean Marie O'Donnell
Yocasta Brens-Watson and Winston Watson

Gifts \$250 and under

Alan and Diane Fisher
Alan Schaefer
Anibal and Lesley Pella-Woo
Anna Russell
Annette Rosario
Arthur Hui and Sally Back
Beth A. Gensel
Brandon and Charlotte Baldassari
Brian Moore
Carl and Thelma Brown
Carly Bass
Carol Edelson
Carol Kientz
Caroline Austin
Carolyn Berry and Courtney Sappington
Charles and Stephanie Kurowsky
Cheryl Carson
Christina and Bill Dibartolo
Christine and Stephen Halldorson
Claire Hinman
Clarke Walker and Elizabeth Andres
Colin Crosby
Connie and Bill Bauder
Courtney Rzeplinski
Craig and Ryan Vandenberg

Dale and Joan Smith
Daniel and Dorothea Knauer
Daniel Kroon
Danielle and Ben Thoma
Danika Yacik
David and Marilyn Hindenlang
David Fenwick
David Lyttle
David Mulford
Debra Loupos
Delano Kimbrough
Diane C. Jones
Donna and Bill Burdick
Douglas Sargent
Eleanor J. Brown
Eli Wagner
Elizabeth and Steve Shorten
Elmi Mata
Emily and Marc Bollinger
Erich Peter
First Presbyterian Church Of Cranford
First Presbyterian Church Stanhope
Gary and Linda Rowe
Gay and Michael Orfe
Gordon Hunziker
Hannah Lambert
Helen Carrajat
Jack and Carol Fisher
James and Penny Muschett
James Stone
Jane Erickson
Janet Earnhart
Janice Vaszlavik
Jenna Shepcaro
Jennifer Garofolo
Joan Corwin
Joan McNinch
Jocelyn and Vincent Collier
Joe Lamberti
John and Allyson Doherty
Johnson and Johnson Foundation
Joyce Wyeth
Judith Logan
Julian M. Beasley
June Horsfield
Kara Richmond
Karen Hernandez-Granzen
Kathleen McCann
Kent and Phyllis Stevens
Kristen Roman
Larry and Margaret Hriczak

Laura and Tim Kirk
Lauren and Andy Corwin
LeRoy and Sherri Lambert
Lisa and John MacKinnon
Loanne and Robert Parr
Lorraine P. Sarhage
Margaret and Mark Williard
Mark and Carolyn Smith
Marsha Huber
Martha G. Symon
Mary Kay Danskin
Michael and Casey Roth
Michael and Darlene Wizorek
Mike and Kathy Socia
Mindy Campbell
Nanette and Raymond Winch
Pat Demers
Patrick O'Grady
Paul and Kirstie Venanzi
Penn Shelley
Rebecca and Bill Guardino
Rebecca and Dana Trytten
Rebecca C. Jordan
Rebecca Guardino
Richard and Elizabeth Wilson
Richard and Sara Strusz
Robert and Darlene Tomlinson
Roger Shelton
Roger Suttmeier and Kathy Easton
Ruth (Potes) Brinckerhoff
Sarah and George Brown
Sarah Vita
Shodie Alcorn
Sue Barbuto
Susan E. Lance
Susan Redcay
Suzanne Henshaw
Tanya Lee Behnke
Theresa Montalbano
Thomas and Carol Wood
Thomas and Janet Parziale
Thomas and Julie Paradise
Thomas and Linda Goeddel
Tracy Miller
Tracy Schweighardt
Victoria Bain
Zachary Daroff

PLEASE NOTE : If you don't see your name or it is incorrect please contact Linda at 908-852-2349 or linda@johnsonburg.org



So thrilled with the direction that J-Burg is taking - it is such a special place in our hearts and our lives!!!

-Amy and Al Cousins



A Camp Love Story

"There is no way it was coincidental," reflected Al Cousins when we discussed the summer he met Amy at Camp Johnsonburg. "I don't think it would have come together the same way at a secular camp," he added and Amy chimed in "there were so many rooting for us."

This is the story of two young adults who felt called to work at Johnsonburg in the summer of 1991. Al came to the United States as an international counselor, from England. Amy grew up in Hamilton Square, beginning at Jburg as a camper in high school. They met during Staff Training and continued to hang out throughout the summer. The love story continued when camp ended in August as they figured a way for Al to stay in the USA while Amy finished

her senior year of college. Over the next few years, they lived and worked in both of their home countries, growing their relationship connection and eventually getting married in the spring of 1994 at the First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square, NJ.

But the connection to camp doesn't stop there! All four of their children went to camp as campers, and this summer, two will serve on summer staff. Sam will be a Program Coordinator and Tommy will be a Counselor. Both are beloved staff members to many, many campers!

Amy says that working at Johnsonburg was the "best job ever. I still use everything I learned more than [what I learned in] school." As an educator and a parent, she noted that camp is such a good place for kids to be themselves or reinvent themselves. Camp is an

anchor for their sons and their deep faith.

Today, as Tommy teaches the family new camp games before he tries them with the campers, his mom says "it's contagious. It helps us remember all the silliness when we were there [at camp] together." Al also emphasized the importance of international counselors on the summer camp staff!

As recurring monthly givers, Amy and Al know the value of camp in their lives, the lives of their children, and all of the campers who come here. They want to ensure that the experiences which impacted their lives, careers and family continue to happen.

Joyful Christian Community : 2024 Programs

Summer camp. Youth retreats. Seasonal fun days. Leadership Training Program. Women's retreats. Confirmation events. Care for Creation Day. Flourish Nature School. Lumberjack Fall Cleanup. Mission experiences. Get Away to Play. Summer staff at Camp Lackawanna.

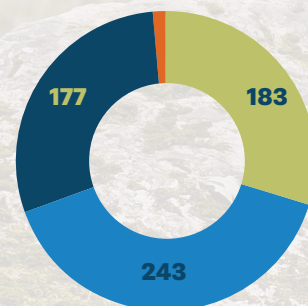


Flourish is our newest program. It is a nature pre-school for ages 2-5 years.

Each one of these programs provides an experience of an authentic Christian community in the meadows, on the water and through the woods at Johnsonburg. People make up this community

and we know the power of relationships. To that end, staff seek to form relationships with guests, participants and campers through meaningful conversation, engaging activities and warm hospitality. Johnsonburg has a long history of programs and opportunities for people to recreate and renew and to that end, the vision of the Board and the values of the organization continue to support these programs.

How Many Campers Did We Have In 2024?



- High School
- Middle School
- Elementary School
- Pre School

95+ Volunteers

359 Johnsonburg Retreat Participants

469 Day Event Guests

22 Flourish Nature School Students

3rd Year of Partnership with Camp Lackawanna

Community Builder

When Arlene McCann shares her story of camp, she emphasizes the importance of looking for the kid that is apart from the group. She felt like that kid in so many spaces, but points to the value of the structure of camp – a place where she could figure out herself within the bounds of that structure.

"I never felt like I was somewhere I couldn't be, because I learned to navigate the anxieties of self-identity alongside the safety net of camp." This has clearly been part of Arlene's success, pointing her to a corporate job building and supervising community at Comcast. As she has created value in her career, she notes the value of so many relationships that made a huge difference at Camp Johnsonburg.



Arlene McCann- former camper, seasonal staff and Board of Trustee member

“Our students and staff loved the beautiful pavilion, enjoyed the food and appreciated the helpfulness of the staff....it was a solid training session and we are grateful to have you all as partners”



-Kendall Cox
Director of Education
Living Waters for the World

Where All Are Welcome : 2024 Guests

Throughout the year, Johnsonburg had the privilege of hosting a diverse range of guest groups, each seeking a peaceful and inspiring environment for their events.

These groups have included schools, churches, scout groups, non profit groups and families, all of whom have utilized the facilities for retreats, team-building exercises, and special gatherings.

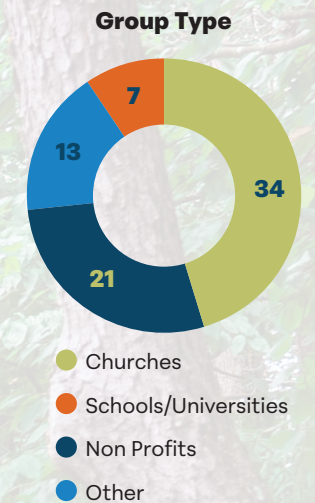
This setting is ideal for connection and personal growth. With spacious accommodations, beautiful outdoor spaces, and a wide variety of customizable activities, we've been able to create memorable and impactful experiences for each group. These events foster collaboration, reflection, and relaxation,

helping attendees develop stronger bonds and gain new perspectives.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve such a wide range of organizations and individuals, and we look forward to continuing to offer a welcoming space for future guest groups in the years to come!

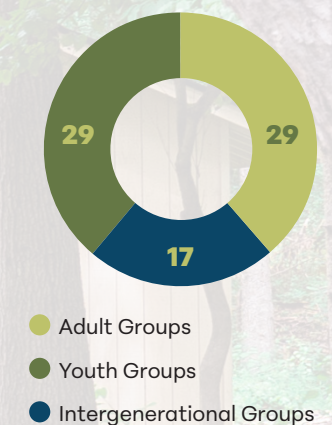
Why Are Guests Coming?

- Leadership training for church leaders
- Karate Camp
- Marching Band Camp
- Quilting Retreat
- Youth Retreat
- Milestone Celebrations : birthdays, weddings
- First-Year College Student Orientation
- Sustainable Water Training
- Healing Weekend for Families of Trauma
- Boy Scout/Cub Scout Merit Badge Work



19 Sabbath Stays in Meadowview

Who is Coming?



Resourcing the Experience : 2024 By the Numbers

When it comes to resourcing the ministry of Johnsonburg, we continue to be very thankful for all that God has entrusted to us. With a beautiful 300 acres in the highlands of New Jersey, a wide range of facilities for guests of all ages, and over 4600 guests who came in 2024, we have been given countless sacred opportunities for 65 years to be a place where God impacts lives through the community at Johnsonburg.

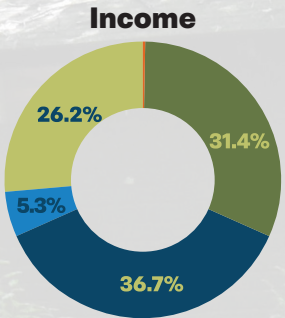
A vital part of this trust is the financial resources

that come through the fees and the donations received. We try to be wise with each dollar received so we can keep the rates at a level that makes it possible for as many people as possible to experience Johnsonburg and all it has to offer.

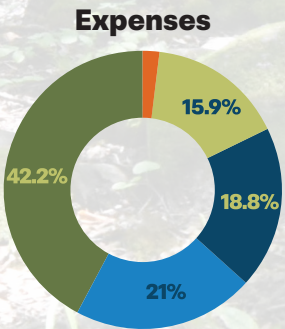
Thank you for making this possible!

Ways Which Johnsonburg Received Gifts

- Recurring Monthly Donations
- Estate Gift “The Cedars”
- Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Corporate Match
- One-Time Donation
- Grants



- Donations
- Summer Camp
- Guest Groups
- Camp Sponsored Programs
- Miscellaneous



- Program
- Management/Ops
- Facilities
- Guest Services
- Other