

what's next for the
Marked For the Future Projects?



Deck and Yurt
Join us to raise a yurt in Spring 2026. (Originally scheduled for Fall 2025, this has been postponed due to permitting.)

Kirkwood Hollows Bathhouse
Completed by 10/1—renovated to have 4 private stalls. Handicap accessible and family friendly.

Dining Hall Renovation
New beverage bar completed on 9/1—enjoy a hot beverage at any time! Renovations to the dining hall ceiling and restrooms to begin mid-November.

Recreation Center
Renovations to the gymnasium floor, HVAC systems and more to begin winter 2026.



From the Executive Director's Notes



I stood in Highpoint 1
And wondered
How many sat around the campfire
How many slept on the tent platforms
How many have hidden behind the rocks
How many have sneaked out of the tent
How many have burned food over the fire
How many have shared their dreams, their hurts, their laughter

How many have listened to the birds that I hear in the trees
And as I wonder I also know.
I know the number does not matter
I know the names do matter.
You matter.
Because God loves you
No matter what.
And that I never wonder.
- Elise Bates Russell



Johnsonburg
Camp & Retreat Center
www.johnsonburg.org

Presbyterian Camps & Conferences
822 Route 519
Johnsonburg, NJ 07825

908-852-2349



Follow us :  



day of dedication
Update

You did it! **You supported 114 campers** this summer with partial and full camperships totalling \$71,500. Thank you, thank you Johnsonburg community for making a difference!

You also adopted **38 staff** with your gifts and they received counselor and support backpacks full of personal and camp supplies to help them do their jobs a little bit better. Way to go!



Looking Ahead 2025-26

High School Retreat	Nov 21 - 23	Grades 9-12
Middle School Retreat	Dec 5 - 7	Grades 6-8
Winter Fun Day	Feb 1	All Ages
Men's Retreat (NEW!)	Feb 28 - Mar 1	Adult
Confirmation Retreat	Feb 20 - 22	Youth
Youth Retreat	Mar 13 - 15	Grades 6-12
Spring Spruce Up Day	Apr 18	All Ages
Spring Fun Day	May 3	All Ages



Our Mission : Where all may gather, where all are welcome, where all are invited to share : gracious hospitality, joyful Christian community and the wonder of God's creation.

Snapshots of Summer —
2025 : Lasting Impact



Whimsical Wednesdays thanks to the Leadership Training Program Group 1 this summer! Campers wore mismatched outfits and the LTs wore costumes. Levi shared, "LTP taught us we CAN be silly and goofy!"



"I'm 10 years old. My favorite thing to do at camp is swimming. This week we got in the lake and the pool, had a British counselor, and had a sleepover!"



"We have been doing so much important [staff] training since I arrived at camp, and I feel like my time going to church has prepared me very well for what I'm going to experience this summer. My favorite part so far was going canoeing on the Delaware River. We saw so many cool plants and animals, including a baby raccoon. I look forward to helping campers explore and deepen their faith."
- CJ, Counselor



Take a look at more snapshots! >>>



"I love coming to Johnsonburg because everyone is welcoming. At my school people don't always understand the things I like or the things I do and camp does understand me. I like making friendship bracelets, playing cards and being chaotic with new/old friends. I also love worship time. The songs are so much fun and the counselors always make everything fun." - Norah, Camper



"This is my first summer at Johnsonburg. After graduating from Boston University with a degree in educational design and Hospitality Administration, I felt called to spend my summer here, hoping for growth and grounding as I push myself out of my comfort zone. The transformative power of this place is where counselors and campers alike come face to face with God's creation and grace, building their faith and independence in community." - Scarlett, Program Coordinator



"This is my 4th summer at this summer camp. I love coming to camp every single year. People at school are rude and hurtful so camp is a safe place to express myself." - Charlie, Camper



Summer Stats

42% 1st Time Campers
58% Returning Campers

Where did campers come from?



78% New Jersey
14% Pennsylvania
8% Other

71% Agreed "I grew in my faith"

90% of campers said they didn't mind being away from their phones

Where did summer staff come from?

NJ, OH, PA, NC, VA, NY,
New Zealand, Mexico,
Ireland, Wales, England,
Scotland, Northern Ireland
and Spain

73% of staff returned

Of our domestic summer staff -
only 2 did not attend Johnsonburg
as a camper



65 summers of camp Johnsonburg Recap

What an amazing weekend! Over 200 alumni and friends of camp gathered for all things camp... nature hikes with Kurt Oelschlager, Kurt Buhlmann and Drew Lovering; swimming, boating, ziplining, high ropes, crafts and games; bagpipe procession to celebrate the conclusion of the *Marked for the Future* capital campaign; a foil pack dinner in the Highlands Pavilion; Jburg trivia; campfire with songs led by Brian Frick; Brews at the 'Burg on the new Allegretti Deck; and worship in the Lakeside Chapel (message by Tim Brendler). Thanks to everyone who came and celebrated!

If you didn't get your special 65 Summers merchandise, you can order it after Oct. 25 and it will be shipped on Nov. 6. Watch your email for more details!



Joyce MacKichan Walker and Rebekah Walker enjoy Saturday dinner—make your own foil pack! (In the Highlands Pavilion!)



ABOVE - Staff Alumni: Back Row: Shawn Cahill, Brian Frick, Mark Duncan, Sue Ross, Jim Leedom, Harry Zweckbrunner, Randy Wojtech, Chip Colson, Kurt Buhlmann, Kara Buhlmann Barker, Bill Yaden, Kathy Leedom, Kurt Oelschlager. 2nd Row (standing): Gabi Savory Bailey, Ruth Vidal, Robin Garzoni, Diane Craven Lundy, Howard Miller, Lorelei Oelschlager, Leah Vidal, Michelle Dowd Torosian. Front Row (kneeling): Sarah Vidal, Tracey Swanson, Ben Thompson. LEFT MIDDLE - Chip Colson LEFT BOTTOM - Mike Keat and Brian Frick



WOW!

Thanks to the *Marked for the Future* capital campaign, we realized the dream of a nature school for 2-5 year olds. Year one started with 5 students; year two had 13 students and this year, #3, has 51 students! Praise God for vision, energy and determination. If you come to camp during the week, please drive slowly as you might encounter our youngest campers in their 300-acre outdoor classroom!

Visit www.flourishnatureschool.org for more information



Ruth Vidal and Kurt Buhlmann share a laugh during the Turtle Hike.

tag in to the donor buddy board : Johnsonburg's Monthly Giving Program

Because every camper should know they're seen, supported, and deeply loved — by us, and by God.

The Buddy Board :

At camp, every swimmer is paired with a buddy — someone to stay close, encourage them, and make sure they're never alone in the lake or pool. Each pair tags in with small round discs, marked with a number. The Buddy Board helps us keep track of every pair — it shows who's in the water, who they're with, and that someone is always looking out for them. This is a daily reminder that we're not meant to do life alone.



The Donor Buddy Board :

When you become a recurring donor, your name goes on our Donor Buddy Board — not just as a supporter, but as someone who is helping remind campers of a deeper truth: God's love is constant, present, and personal — and through you, campers can feel it.

Just as a swim buddy sticks close in the water, your monthly gift ensures campers feel the steady presence of God's love through: **safe, joy-filled experiences, caring counselors and mentors, worship, friends and prayer, and a place to belong and be known.**

Why It Matters :

Camp changes lives — but only if kids can get there and thrive once they do. Your recurring gift is more than financial support. It's a monthly message to a camper:

"You are not alone. God sees you, loves you, and so do we."

These are the last words campers hear each week before they leave camp. You're not just donating — you're tagging in to support campers as they grow in faith, love, and connection to the world, to each other, and to God.

Tag In Today :

We're building our Donor Buddy Board — and we want your name on it. Give today and you will receive an engraved tag with your name and the date you started your recurring gift to Johnsonburg. Tag in today, and be one of the generous hearts who reflect the faithful love of God, month after month!



Scan the QR code to tag in today!



Meet Harvie!



This summer we introduced Harvie to campers, staff and friends of Johnsonburg alike!

Harvie is our new mascot—she is a young, energetic Eastern Painted turtle ready to tackle all camp has to offer.

She can't wait to meet all of you. Come on down to camp and say hello!

