

**Subject:** Forward into Fall 🍁

**Date:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 2:02:00 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** UCCI – United Church Camps Inc.

**To:** Kate Hopta



**Moon Beach**

**Daycholah Center**

**Cedar Valley**

## **"Rainbows and Harps"**

Greetings Friends,

Last week was one of those weeks that seemed over the top from start to finish with meetings, commitments, and demands. As I approached facilitating our third-quarter board of directors meeting last Thursday, I was exhausted. But then, “Rainbows and Harps” happened.

Our board meeting was filled with standard reports, site leadership reports, financial reports, organizational updates, business development updates, and more. Our meeting also included an action item to review our new UCCI Open and Affirming Covenant Statement.

**Open and Affirming Declaration:**

*“At United Church Camps, Inc., we embrace and celebrate the diverse tapestry of God’s creation by committing to an open and affirming community where everyone is welcomed, valued, and respected. We strive to walk together in all God’s ways. We honor and support people of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, abilities, backgrounds, and our transgender brothers and sisters, believing that each individual brings unique gifts to our shared experience. Through our outdoor ministry, we strive to create an inclusive environment where love, justice, and acceptance flourish, fostering growth and connection for all who join us in our journey of faith and fellowship.”*

Although UCCI’s mission statement (and practice) has been to extend love, sanctuary, and hospitality to ALL, in the current social and political climate, we felt that it was more important than ever to approach formal recognition as an Open and Affirming facility of the United Church of Christ. Our board of directors unanimously approved this covenant statement, and UCCI will be applying to the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ for formal recognition.

This action, near the end of a two-hour board meeting, brought great joy to me and others. As our meeting was preparing to conclude, I was hearing sounds like a child plunking on piano keys coming from the Assembly Room at Cedar Valley, which is right outside my makeshift office. As I exited my office, I stepped into a room with a large circle of full-sized upright harps. Our weekend retreat group, Harps in the Glen, was setting up and tuning their harps. It was a beautiful sight and struck me how diverse and beautiful our ministries are. Cedar Valley was filled with the joyful sound of a harp choir over the past weekend.

The view of seeing our Assembly Room full of beautiful musical instruments and musicians sent my heart singing again. It is these moments, standing in solidarity with those who are under attack in today’s climate, and providing a safe transformational space for the beauty of harp music, that make the seemingly ever-expanding demands of part-time work important. As I left

Cedar Valley and headed home for a late dinner, my heart was full of joy overflowing from “Rainbows and Harps”.

With God's blessings,  
Jim

[executivedirector@ucci.org](mailto:executivedirector@ucci.org)



## Moon Beach



## Moon Beach Fall Extreme Makeover

**October 6 - 10, 2025**

*Skilled laborers of all kinds are  
invited to join us for an intense*

***week of improvements around camp!*** Anyone with the skills and love for construction, painting, sewing, landscaping, etc. is welcome to participate in a week of rejuvenation for our beloved site! Ages 18+

*There is no cost for volunteers lodging, meals, and amenities. You will have an option to cover some or all of the hospitality costs as a donation during registration.*



## **Moon Beach Fall Work Weekend**

**October 10 - 12, 2025**

***Moon Beach relies on volunteers throughout the year to keep our sanctuary functional and beautiful!*** If you love this place, enjoy creating community around shared goals, and have wanted to see what happens “behind the scenes” at Moon Beach, this event is for you!

*There is no cost for volunteers lodging, meals, and amenities. You will have an option to cover some or all of the hospitality costs as a donation during registration.*

**Volunteer Today!**

## **Makers' Retreat**

**October 15 - 19, 2025**

***CALLING ALL MAKERS! Makers are those who quilt, carve, scrapbook, knit, crochet, weave, those who enjoy cross stitch, embroidery, and rug hooking, and those who are 'Cricut'ters or enjoy another creative endeavor altogether.*** No matter the hobby, you are invited to join fellow Makers for a time of fun, fellowship, friendship, relaxation, and exercising your creative spirit in the beauty of God's



creation. Take a pause from everyday life and indulge in time spent on whatever stimulates you artistically: make gifts for family and friends, make items to sell, or spend time making something simply for your own enjoyment! Makers will return home feeling refreshed and accomplished from time spent in an artistic and creative community.

**Option to arrive on Wednesday, October 15 (\$490)  
or Friday, October 17 (\$330)**

**Register today!**



## **Cedar Valley**



## **Join us for an art workshop at Cedar Valley!**

Cedar Valley's art workshops are for everyone! Class size is kept small to offer personal instructions. No previous experience is needed. Our expert instructors will guide you through creating your project. The cost includes supplies unless otherwise noted. Full-day and weekend classes include lunch. Weekend classes offer commuter and overnight options. Come join us and let your creative spirit soar!

### **Art Workshop Calendar**



## **Painting Without a Brush with Beki Borman**

**October 4 - 5, 2025  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

*Develop your style of acrylic painting in a whole new way! This class is a*

***great opportunity for discovering the different uses of acrylic paint.***

Experienced painters will have a chance to develop new techniques and beginners will have a chance to get their feet wet and develop their creativity. In this class students will learn several brushless techniques of painting to achieve unique effects. Traditional and non-traditional tools will be demonstrated. Students are invited to work from photographs they bring to class and in any subject, they choose to create expressive paintings in this two-day workshop.

A supply list will be provided. Lunch is provided. Commuter and overnight options are available.

**Cost \$160 commuter, \$310 overnight**

Register Today!



# Cedar Valley Airbnb Rentals



Hundred-Acre  
Haven

— THE APARTMENT —

At Cedar Valley Retreat Center

The Hundred-Acre Haven apartment at Cedar Valley is a private three-bedroom, two-full-bath living space on the lower level of the main lodge at Cedar Valley Retreat Center.

We would be delighted to welcome you.



[Click here to learn more about the apartment.](#)

[Book the Apartment on Airbnb](#)



The  
**Log House**  
— A HISTORIC HOME —  
At Cedar Valley Retreat Center

Welcome to The Log House, a charming piece of living history nestled in a serene setting with breathtaking views! This historic log house, estimated to have been built in 1873 according to township records, offers a unique blend of authenticity and modern comfort.

[Learn more >](#)



[Book the Log House on Airbnb](#)



**Daycholah Center**



## **Daycholah Center Fall Work Weekend**

**October 17 - 19, 2025**

Daycholah Center has always offered opportunities for our friends to help with the work of this sanctuary. We will be working outside on the lakefront, weeding, picking up leaves, cleaning up garden beds, painting, chipping logs and more. Join us for a transformed “work weekend” experience where we will work to achieve goals set at the beginning of our time together, giving participants a true sense of accomplishment. We will do all of this while enjoying wonderful food and having memorable fellowship. Adults and ages 12+ with an adult.

*Volunteer events have no fee to attend. You will have the option to donate to cover some or all of the hospitality costs during registration.*

**Volunteer Today!**



# Faith Formation Knock, Knock Winter Soulstice



## 2025/2026 Youth Retreats – Save the Date!

The Wisconsin Conference and United Church Camps Inc. will host five youth retreats at Daycholah Center in the coming program year. Registration will open soon!

**Nov. 7-9:** Youth Faith Formation Retreat I (grades 6-12)

**Nov 21-24** Knock Knock Retreat for middle schoolers (grades 6-8)

**Jan. 16-18:** Winter Soulstice Retreat for high schoolers (grades 9-12)

**Feb. 27- Mar 1:** Youth Faith Formation Retreat II (grades 6-12)

**Mar 6-8:** Youth Faith Formation Retreat III (grades 6-12)

**Chaperones/Group Leaders - bring one adult for every five kids**

**For pricing, registration, and questions about the program, contact Lisa Hart at [lhart@wcucc.org](mailto:lhart@wcucc.org)**

Register Here



## Daycholah Center Airbnb &

# Hipcamp Rentals



## Hillside Cottage

Welcome to Hillside Cottage, a charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath retreat on Green Lake accommodating up to 8 guests. Ideal for family and friends getaways, enjoy lake views with morning coffee, sunsets, and stargazing. The spacious gathering area offers ample seating, a dining table, and a full kitchen, all with a panoramic lake view. Situated at Daycholah Center camp and retreat center, stay and enjoy our 22-acre grounds and lakefront, or use this as your home base for local dining, arts, and outdoor activities.

**Special note if you are looking to book the peak summer season:** To ensure the safety of our independent youth campers, we kindly ask for your understanding that summer dates at Hillside Cottage will not be available for rentals during the weeks of summer camp. Thank you for prioritizing safety and



## Woods "Glamping" Cabins

Looking for a peaceful getaway on the shores of Green Lake? Our new glamping cabins at Daycholah Center are now available to book through Hipcamp! These cozy, 300-500-square-foot dry cabins sleep up to six guests and include comfy recliners, a mini fridge, microwave, and coffee maker, perfect for a relaxing retreat surrounded by nature.

Enjoy lake access, wooded trails, stunning sunsets, and a shared fire pit for evening s'mores. Cabins are available for late summer and fall getaways. Book your stay now and experience the beauty of Daycholah in a whole new way!

Whether you spent childhood summers here or you've always wanted to visit, now's the perfect time to relive the magic. Bring your family, gather your friends, and create new memories in a place where

understanding.

Hillside on Airbnb

time slows down and  
connection comes easy.

Cabins on Hipcamp

## Support Outdoor Ministry

Your gift helps Moon Beach, Daycholah, and Cedar Valley thrive. Funding scholarships, programs, and facility upgrades that keep these sacred spaces open for all. Together, we can ensure outdoor ministry inspires generations to come.

Donate Today



## Facebook Links



UCCI



Moon Beach



Daycholah  
Center



Cedar Valley



Camp  
AweSum



### UCCI Mission Statement

We will love God, All Others, and the Earth by providing sanctuary, practicing hospitality, and performing ministry.

### Land Acknowledgment

UCCI's campuses, Cedar Valley, Daycholah Center, and Moon Beach are located on the ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Ojibwa Nations. We acknowledge these First Nations communities who have stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.



**United Church Camps Inc. | 800-683-UCCI**

Daycholah Center: 920-745-4746 | W1010 Spring Grove Rd. Ripon, WI 54971

Moon Beach: 715-479-8255 | 1487 Moon Beach Rd. St. Germain, WI 54558

Cedar Valley: 262-629-9202 | 5349 County Road D West Bend, WI 53090

[UCCI.org](http://UCCI.org)

United Church Camps, Inc. | W1010 Spring Grove Rd. | Ripon, WI 54971 US

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