



May 19, 2020

***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.***

- Isaiah 43:19

Recently, we shared this verse as a source of inspiration and faith in God's presence, always with us, creatively bringing new possibilities in the midst of change and hardship. We had hoped and expected that our *new thing* was a delayed start date for the summer camping season. The past few days brought additional information from Camp & Retreat Ministry associations, health experts, and state authorities that outline significant complexities and limitations involved in holding camps and retreats this summer.

**With this new information, and the obvious health and safety concerns, the Susquehanna Conference's Camp & Retreat Ministry Board has made the heartbreaking decision to suspend all summer camp and retreat programming through September 1, 2020.** The highly interactive nature of Camp & Retreat Ministry is what makes it so powerful, and that would be greatly diminished, in addition to making it even harder to maintain extensive health and safety protocols.

We are grieving, and at the same time, we trust deeply in the growth and possibilities that have and will emerge as we move forward. Our center staff, along with our supportive board, will continue to stay connected with our campers and families in the coming months. So, while we acknowledge our shared disappointment at not being together this summer, we walk with God who makes a way forward through this time.

We are resilient but we are going to need your support this year more than ever. To be direct, we depend heavily on the income of our summer camping season to sustain leadership, facilities, and programs critical to fulfilling our mission and ministry. The inability to host our summer campers and retreat guests weighs heavily on our hearts, as well as on our finances. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities for generosity in financial giving. Your generosity is part of the way God provides "streams in the wilderness" right now.

To give today, visit our [new online giving page](#).

We look forward to welcoming you back to the sacred common ground of our camp and retreat centers that are so important to each of us. We are also excited for the **comeback** of Camp & Retreat Ministry after this difficult time.

***We love you. We miss you. We look forward to seeing you.***

With Deep Appreciation,

**Kevin Witt**  
Director, Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders  
& Camp/Retreat Ministries

**Jason Schwartzman**  
Camp & Retreat Ministry Board Chair

**and Your Camp & Retreat Ministry Team**

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***Cultivating authentic connections in Christ, community, and creation.***