

## **United Church Camps, Inc.: Message from Glenn Svetnicka**

Mother's Day came on the heels of Easter. That is no coincidence. By remembering all of the important women in our lives...the ones that birthed us, those who loved us unconditionally, who taught us right from wrong, who nursed our wounds, built us up, kept us humble, and always did what was right for us...we get a small glimpse into how much God loves us. Frankly, it's hard to accept and even harder to imagine that which God did for us.

There is MUCH in life that is hard to imagine and accept. Three months ago, who could have imagined so much uncertainty and change? It is in a love response to this uncertainty that UCCI is suspending programming at Pilgrim Center for Summer 2020.

Our decision comes with great angst and after much discernment. Discernment rooted in science, safety, and love. The UCCI Leadership Team, with the unanimous support of our Board, believes there are too many risks associated with hosting a traditional summer youth program. We will continue reevaluating the summer at Moon Beach and Cedar Valley and will make an official announcement after Memorial Day.

All is not lost, friends. UCCI received a Payroll Protection Plan Loan from the Small Business Association (SBA). With it, we have able to "unfurlough" our year-round staff and bring in limited seasonal staff at all three locations. They will paint, prune, and clean in a safe and socially distanced way. We have projects at all three sites focused on better serving our guests once it is safe to return. Rev. Nathan Athorp, Managing Director at Pilgrim Center said it well: "We believe that we have great potential to come out of the other end of this pandemic in a stronger and more invigorating form than we have ever imagined". UCCI has been around since 1902 and with hopeful vision, and loving support from folks who believe in the ministry that happens in nature's sanctuaries, will be here for generations to come!

We will continue to monitor Department of Health standards and guidelines for reopening. We will continue to root our decisions in science and facts. We will continue to live our Mission Statement to love ALL others...those that come to our Sites...and those that are potentially impacted by people that visit our Sites. Please keep current with us on [Facebook](#) and our website at [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org)

Love of this magnitude is sometimes hard to understand and accept. We are doing the best we can to love. And we love ALL of you!

Yours in Christ,  
Glenn

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