



**HEARTLAND  
CONFERENCE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
N. KY • OH • WV



“Camp for my sisters and me is the best week out of every year. Camp has played a huge part in my life in more ways than one. I started in 2007, going to Grandparent’s Camp with my grandma and sister Hannah. Little did I know that going to camp that first year would change my life down the road. Every year after that I continued to go to Grandparent’s camp, I was just not ready to go to camp on my own. That was until I was simply too old for Grandparent’s Camp. That was the year I transitioned to Choir Camp. It was scary, but instantly I knew that I was home. For 6 summers I went to Pilgrim Hills for Choir camp and built a family and home. After graduating from choir camp, I have since returned every year to counsel and be a part of the choir camp staff. Being both a camper and then a counselor, for not only choir camp but also a general camp called Explorers Camp, has given me many joys and experiences.

Looking back and reflecting on all of those years I can 100% say that camp has had an impact on my life. When looking at my faith, camp only made it stronger. Especially during my time at choir camp. We had God Talk or Curriculum time every day. It was so nice and important to me that our messages were at a level that kids and teens could understand, and we could connect and discuss with others our age. Those times became a favorite for many campers that I know.

The main thing though, that each of us girls have experienced during our years at camp, was the friendships we made. Personally, I have friends that I know will be in my life for the rest of my life. My closest and best friend that I have ever had was one that I met in my second year of choir camp. Janelle and I have been friends for going on 10 years now and in those 10 years we have seen each other around 11 weeks combined out of all those years. We have only had chances to see each other at camp but that doesn’t stop us from keeping in contact and picking up right where we left off when we do get back to camp.

This past summer when I was counseling choir camp, one night at vespers I said that I was thankful to have a second home, knowing that home wasn’t always a specific place but the family that I have created. Camp is so important, and I know I am forever thankful for the friendships that I have made and how it has impacted my life.”

**Church camp at Templed Hills - change the world one camper at a time!**