

Campfire Connection

November 2024 Edition



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OMA

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION

Advise, Connect, Advocate, Support



If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you,
it will be enough. -Meister Eckhart
Wishing all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving!

Monthly Zoom Call

OMA-UCC hosts a monthly zoom meeting for our association every 4th Thursday of the month at 1 PM EST.

Since our next scheduled call is Thanksgiving, we will be taking a break for the holidays and reconnect with everyone in January.

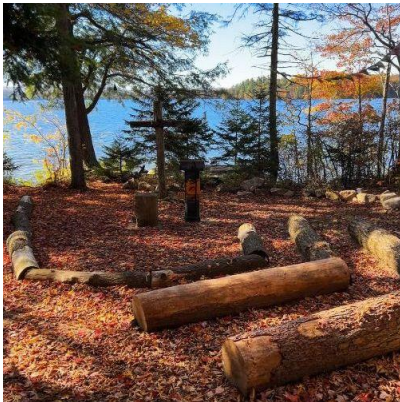
Join us when you can. Bring your joys and concerns with you.
We hope to see you **Thursday, January 23rd** for this time of sharing and supporting our colleagues in ministry.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85762102180?pwd=jZoel9Oiom2UohdmvSbnl830Bfi8vR.1>

Meeting ID: 857 6210 2180

Passcode: 1234

Camp Fowler Is First To Be Designated As UCC Creation Justice Camp



Bill Bourdon, Executive Director of OMA-UCC, said Camp Fowler is a great example of what a Creation Justice Camp should be.

“Through the wonderful leadership of Rev. Kent Busman, Camp Fowler has incorporated Creation Justice into everything they do and think about at camp. One of the stories I remember hearing about Camp Fowler is that there was a staff person who was focused on reducing her environmental footprint for the summer. So, she carried every bit of the garbage she created that summer in her backpack, thus quietly being a

witness to creation care. The stories can go on and on — their composting toilets, the songs that are sung, and the lives they have changed,” he said. “Clearly Camp Fowler is a role model for us all.” Find out more about Fowler and the tenants of their Creation Justice covenant [here](#).



The founders of **Outdoor Ministries Connection (OMC)** committed themselves to research as one of several ministry priorities. The first director survey was conducted in 2014 as part of a grant-funded research initiative called The Confirmation Project and included four OMC organizations. Hoping to establish a benchmark survey of mainline Christian camp and retreat ministries, OMC funded an expanded survey in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 including all of its member organizations.

The 6th bi-annual OMC Director Survey is open now! Your responses will be used to provide a snapshot of organizational structure, theological priorities, and ministry philosophy of Christian camping and retreat ministries across the denominations represented in Outdoor Ministries Connection. Yours is one of nearly 700 outdoor ministry centers being invited to participate because of its affiliation with one of the denominations listed in the survey. All participants will have access to the summary report and a data report specific to their association. The more ministries we hear from, the better the data set, so please take a few minutes and [Take the survey](#).

Our Deering Grants At Work



The Deering Grant at [MoVal](#) was used towards the purchase of an AED. Having another AED in Camp was essential for basic safety. It allows us to have one with the nursing station and one to travel from the pool, to our nature programs, to our ropes courses, and archery spaces with the campers. We hope never to use it ... but it sure is a comfort knowing it's there.

Applications for 2025 Deering Grants are due by December 31.

Find out more [here](#).



Program Connection - January 12-17, 2025

Program Connection is a meeting of faith-based programmatic minds; a space where those who love camp and conference programs can discuss theory and practice. It is based on the idea that we build each other up and improve our ministries through the sharing of ideas, insight, experience, and resources. Time is spent in discussions, workshops, and spiritual retreat so everyone can leave refreshed with lots of new ideas and resources. The event will be held at [Gilmont Camp and Conference Center](#) in Gilmer, Texas. You can learn more about this event (and register) by going to the [Program Connection website](#).

**Maintenance Connection - February 17-24, 2025**

Maintenance Connection is the annual gathering of Site Managers, Maintenance Staff, and Volunteer Craftsman involved in camp, retreat, and conference ministries across the United States and Canada. The event is a unique blend of fellowship, networking, continued education, hands-on learning, sabbath, and sharing of ideas. All are welcomed.

The event will be held at [Camp Bethel](#) in Fincastle, VA. Watch for more information on registering for this event.
