

# The Herald

*Fall 2021*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
NOVEMBER 2021 – VOLUME 65 | ISSUE 3

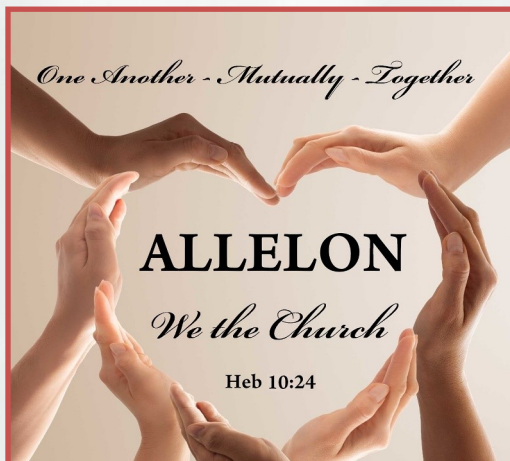
## District Conference 2022

August 12 & 13 hosted by Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren in Defiance, Ohio

*Article provided by Brian Layman (Moderator and Pastor of Ashland First Church of the Brethren)*

Hebrews 10:24 offers a challenge to the church: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." It's a challenge that *we the Church* are meant to meet *mutually - together*. The word **Allelon** (Al-lay-lone) is the Greek word that is translated as "one another". Literally, it is another plural word for "YOU", but adds direction and action to its meaning. It says "All of you are supposed to [this] mutually towards

each other". The New Testament is full of **Allelon** instructions. There are a hundred of them spread throughout the New Testament telling us what it takes to *be the Church to one another, mutual, together*. This upcoming conference will embrace these themes. We will look at times that we have successfully worked mutually and stirred up one another to love and good works and how we can rise up to that challenge in this time when not just our churches but the world has gone through a time of upheaval.



## In This Issue

District Conference 2022 .....	1
Center CoB .....	2
Dupont CoB .....	3
Painesville CoB .....	4
District Youth Coordinator .....	4
SISTERS Retreat .....	4
District Youth Events .....	5
Church Improvement Loans .....	6
Hottle Grants .....	6
Brethren Faith in Action Grants .....	6
Annual Conference 2022 .....	6
District Conference 2021 Wrap-Up .....	7
District Conference 2021 Pictures .....	8-9
Akron Springfield CoB .....	9
Pastoral Placement .....	10
Condolences .....	10
District Prayer Calendar .....	10
Mark Your Calendar .....	10
Welcome Newly Licensed and Ordained Ministers .....	11
Connections Commission .....	11
Afghanistan Evacuees and Refugees: How to Help .....	12
Brethren Press Advent Devotional .....	12
BVS Coffee Hour .....	12
Inspiration Hills, Winter Camp .....	12

# Center Church of the Brethren—Louisville, Ohio

Article provided by Charlene Oliver, Center CoB

It is with much thanks and appreciation for the gift of the Hottle Grant from the Northern Ohio District that enabled Center Church to replace the pavilion cement that was originally placed almost 40 years ago. The job was completed on September 19. Three members of the congregation's stewards commission were in attendance to watch the initial removal of old cement and Sandy Humphrey was able to observe the final process.

Since completion, a celebration picnic was held on September 18 and a 3-day revival on October 3, 4 and 5 in the pavilion. As fall approaches, outdoor events will be curtailed but spring and summer 2022, and thereafter, will provide many opportunities for more events to be a blessing to the church family and the neighborhood.

Thank you again from your friends at Center Church.



Pictured left and below: The Center Church pavilion cement foundation installed nearly 40 years ago. Pictured right: Pastor Mark Kell speaking on the new foundation in the pavilion.



Pictured below: The newly poured cement foundation in the pavilion at Center Church of the Brethren in Louisville, Ohio.



# Dupont Church of the Brethren, Fresh Encounter Woods

Article provided by Casey Etter, Dupont CoB

Dupont Church of the Brethren's, Fresh Encounter Woods would like to thank the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren, and the Church of the Brethren denomination for the help to make the pond project at the camp possible through the Hottle Fund, and grants. Fresh Encounter Woods is a camp that sits on 26 acres. The camp is able to be rented out by area Churches, groups, and even families. On the 26 acres there is a 3 acre recreational field, a chapel, a large building with a large meeting room and a full kitchen. There are over 3 miles of trails located throughout the woods that the camp sits in. All of the trails are in the process of getting stoned. Located right in the center of the camp is the project that on behalf of Dupont Church of the Brethren, and Fresh Encounter Woods would like to thank you all for. The pond that can be seen from standing or sitting on the back deck of the chapel that overlooks the pond. It is very peaceful to sit and listen to the water cascade from the fountain and hit the water. The pond has a nice beach area for swimming. The pond was also stocked with fish to allow families to grow closer together by fishing and fellowship. But the most important part of the pond is it allows us to have baptisms at the camp. The goal of the camp is to bring

people to Christ and make His family bigger. This project was not easy though, we look back to what used to be wasteland where water would just back up and lay is now a beautiful pond. The pond makes us think of the verse Isaiah 43:19 that says "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." This verse is our statement verse at the camp. There were many long days of work that took place to make the pond project happen. There were well over 100 people that also made this project happen. From helping clean the trees out, to making the path to get to the pond, and much, much more. This project is surely a face lift for the camp and couldn't be done with all of the help and support we got from you! Thank you for giving us this opportunity to make something that will glorify God!

Fresh Encounter Woods board member,

Casey Etter



# Painesville Church of the Brethren, Coleridge Preschool

Article provided by Gaylee Hughes, Painesville CoB



Noah's Ark Display for VBS at Painesville CoB

Painesville Church of the Brethren, Coleridge Preschool celebrated VBS The Big Boat: The Story of Noah and God's Promises this summer. We enjoyed singing, puppets, Bible verses and Noah's story. There were fun crafts, yummy snacks and our offering collection went to Heifer Project, which totaled \$202.00 in change from the students! A donation of \$95.00 came in the following Sunday from the Painesville church family.

In the fall, the Painesville Church of the Brethren made the difficult decision to close the Coleridge Preschool after more than 40 years of serving the community. An article published in the News-Herald of Willoughby, Ohio stated: "Officials noted low enrollment as a primary cause, though other factors contributed to the recent action... Gaylee Hughes, who served as director for 21 years, also cited the community's overall familial cycle as a cause of the school's closing... 'At the end of seven years, everyone around here has had their 2.5 kids. In that time, I have watched the cycle bottom, with elderly neighbors passing and young families moving in. It takes about two years for the cycle to grow and we were bottoming (out) when COVID-19 hit. The school was started in 1979 by founding pastor Art Hess. Current pastor John Ballinger cited Ecclesiastes 3 in celebrating the ministry. 'To everything there is a season....there is a time for every purpose under heaven....' We're grateful we've had such an influence in the community and our gifts and legacy will live on."



Gaylee Hughes, Director along with children at the Coleridge Preschool

## Position Opening: District Youth Coordinator

We are interviewing for a District Youth Coordinator to facilitate ministries to the junior high, high school, and young adults in our district. This is a 20 hour/week position.

If you feel a calling to this ministry please send a resume to Kris Hawk at [krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org). Or if you know someone in your church that is gifted in this area, please encourage them to apply.

And please be in prayer as we seek someone to fill this vital ministry position in our district. A complete job description is located at [www.nohcob.org/opening](http://www.nohcob.org/opening). Thank you!

## SISTERS Fall Retreat at Inspiration Hills Camp



The SISTERS Women's Fellowship met for a one day retreat at Inspiration Hills Camp on October 23rd for some "singing and laughing with God" (Genesis 21:6) along with guest speaker and storyteller, Debbie Eisenbise. There was great fellowship and sharing both indoors and outdoors. Some of the ladies ventured out for a hike around the camp and lake, participating in a spontaneous game of human foosball, a camp scavenger hunt with prizes, crafts, singing and a photobooth with props for some funny pics! Of course, there was a delicious lunch served by the camp and we were blessed and encouraged by Debbie's inspiring Storytimes.

Thank you to all the ladies who attended, you made the day!



# Powerhouse Youth Conference—November 13-14, 2021



The Powerhouse regional youth conference will take place at Camp Alexander Mack this year. This year's theme is: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, Psalm 139. We will enjoy a weekend of worship, games, music, recreation, and more for senior high youth in the Midwest and their advisors. We hope you can join us November 13-14 for these events!

We want every youth to have the opportunity to attend, so if you need help with fundraising, chaperones, or a group to travel with, please let us know! Contact Jenny Imhoff at 330.234.8991

More information is available at:

<https://www.manchester.edu/student-life/religious-life/powerhouse-youth-conference>

# National Youth Conference—July 23-28, 2022



Every four years, youth from across the Church of the Brethren gather at Colorado State University for a weeklong unforgettable conference! National Youth Conference (NYC) 2022 will focus on Colossians 2:5-7 and the theme "Foundational." The event will be held July 23-28, 2022. The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors will gather together. Online registration will open in early 2022. Keep your youth up to date at <https://www.brethren.org/yva/nyc/>

We want every youth to have the opportunity to attend, so if you need help with fundraising, chaperones, or a group to travel with, please let us know! Contact Jenny Imhoff at 330.234.8991

Follow along on social media!

Instagram: [@cobnyc2022](https://www.instagram.com/cobnyc2022)

Facebook: [fb.com/churchofthebrethrennyc](https://www.facebook.com/churchofthebrethrennyc)

## Junior High Events:

First Sunday of November - National Junior High Sunday : November 7, 2021

Every other Summer - National Junior High Conference : on hiatus in 2021, will return in 2023

## Senior High Events:

April - Christian Citizenship Seminar

First Sunday of May - National Youth Sunday : May 1, 2022

Every 4th Summer - National Youth Conference @ Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO : July 2022

Fall - Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference @ Camp Mack, Milford, IN : November 2021

## Summer Camp at Inspiration Hills:

Jr High and Sr High each have their own week of camp in June and July! Specialty camps are also offered that focus on different topics. Interested in working at camp? Sr High youth can serve as Counselors-in-Training, kitchen staff, or lifeguards.

Visit [inspirationhillscamp.org](https://www.inspirationhillscamp.org) to learn more!

## Multi-Age Events:

Summer - FaithX workcamps

Summer - Northern Ohio District Conference : August 12-13, 2022, at Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren

## Church Improvement Loans Available

Church Improvement Loans are available at 0% interest to any congregation of the Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District for building improvements and repairs to the main ministry property. Examples of projects would include building additions, structural repairs, adding handicap accessibility, parking lot improvements, new restroom facilities, replacing an old furnace, adding air conditioning, new lighting, roof replacement, window replacement, painting, signage, etc. Loans can be for up to \$20,000 or more on a case by case basis. Visit [www.nohcob.org/loan](http://www.nohcob.org/loan) or contact the District Office for more information.

## Hottle Grants Available

Hottle Grants up to \$5000 are available to congregations for 1. Projects within the church to expand the ministry of the church; 2. Outreach Ministry that impacts not only the church but the community at large and 3. Program Development within the church to stimulate growth or spiritual health. Visit [www.nohcob.org/grant](http://www.nohcob.org/grant) or contact the District Office for information.

## BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION (BFIA) GRANTS AVAILABLE

This denominational financial resource can aid congregations as they plan outreach ministries, either to expand current ministries or create new opportunities. A church can request grant funds of up \$5,000 per 12-month period and up to \$15,000 over several years. Congregations have received money for projects such as food and clothing pantries, walk-in freezers, immigrant resettlement, evangelism outreach, radio station programming, school backpacks, weekend food kits for students, racism training, and audio/visual equipment for churches to stream worship.

Here is the link for more information and application: <https://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>  
Contact Stan Dueck of Discipleship Ministries at [sdueck@brethren.org](mailto:sdueck@brethren.org) for more information. He is available to make a brief presentation to congregations or church leadership about BFIA.

## 2022 Annual Conference Early Information

CHI Convention Center—Omaha, Nebraska  
Sunday, July 10 through Thursday, July 14

The Annual Conference Office has shared that the cost of delegate registration for 2022 in Omaha, NE, will be \$310, and for non-delegates registration will be \$130. Conference will meet at the CHI Convention Center in Omaha, Nebraska. There are two hotels in our Conference Block: the Hilton Omaha and DoubleTree. Our Annual Conference Room Rate will be \$106 plus tax (18.16%) for a total of \$125.25 per night. Parking fees at the Hilton Omaha are: Self-parking: complimentary. At the DoubleTree they are: complimentary parking in the Central City Garage (adjacent) and \$10 daily in the First National Bank garage (attached). Basic wireless internet is complimentary for all registered Hilton Honors members (free registration to become a member). Annual Conference registration and housing reservations will open on Tuesday, March 1st. For more information visit: [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac)



# District Conference 2021

## 2021-2022 District Board (\*Elected in 2021)

Chair – Patrick Bailey, North Bend

Vice Chair – Steve Simmons\*, Bethel

Secretary – Deb Beer, County Line

## Congregational Commission

Chair – Mark Pollock\*, Brook Park

Vice Chair – Beverly Wengerd, Paradise

Secretary – Agnes Hayhurst, Reading

Member – Mike Huffaker\*, Sugar Creek West

## Connections Commission

Chair – Billi Janet Burkey, Center

Vice Chair – Dean Foster\*, Black River

Secretary – Ellen Speicher, Woodworth

Member – Bruce Morckel\*, Akron Springfield

## Ministerial Commission

Chair – Steve Simmons\*, Bethel

Vice Chair – Terry Baldwin, Silver Creek

Secretary – Bill Holsopple\*, Lick Creek

Member – Paul Bartholomew, Mohican

## Stewardship and Finance Commission

Chair – David Bassett, Pleasant View

Vice Chair – Bruce Jacobsen, Mt. Pleasant

Secretary – Charlene Kuhn, Richland

Member – Edward Chase, Poplar Ridge

## Additional Election Results:

Moderator Elect

James Washington, Elm Street & Pleasant View

Conference Clerk

Ashley Harris, Freeburg

District Conference Central Committee

Jane Matz, Ashland Dickey

Nominating Committee

Sandy Humphrey, Center

Dan Kettering, Maple Grove

Camp Administration Committee

Erich Bassett, Pleasant View

Denise Layman, Ashland First

Allen Luginbill, Dupont

# District Conference Approves Reduction in Hottle Draw

The District Conference delegates approved the following recommendations regarding the annual draw from the Hottle Memorial Fund.

1. The District Board recommends that beginning in 2022, the yearly draw from the Hottle Memorial Fund be decreased from 12% to 9% (taken in quarterly installments), distributed as follows: 3% District Operating Expenses, 3% Inspiration Hills Operating Expenses, 3% Church/Fellowship Grants.

2. The District Board recommends to the District Conference that the unused funds from the church/fellowship portion of the Hottle Grant distribution remain in the Hottle Memorial Fund at the end of each year.

In his written report, Dave Bassett, Chair of the Stewardship and Finance Commission explains, “We have been given a great gift in the Hottle Fund. While it would be easy to continue to “spend down” the fund, the mood of the current District Board is to adopt a more conservative approach that extends the life of the fund so that it not only provides income for our current needs, but also provides a resource for the benefit of our children and future generations as well.”

## Conference Statistics

### Attendance:

Registration—116

Saturday am Worship—103

Saturday pm Worship—108

Business session—93

### Offerings:

Brethren Disaster Ministries—\$496

Kids Closet—\$471

Conference expenses—\$283

Total: \$1,250

**Virtual Peace Auction—\$1,028**

# District Conference Approves 2022 Budget

The District Conference delegates approved the 2022 budget as recommended by the District Board. The total budget amount for 2022 is \$200,412.39. This increase of \$2,722 over the 2021 budget is due primarily to increased audit costs.

Dave Bassett from the Stewardship and Finance Commission expressed appreciation for the sustained giving by the churches with special thanks to those that have responded to the call to increase their self-allocations by 3%. The delegates were asked to encourage conversation within each of their churches about contributions (self-allocations) to District Ministries as they prepare their own 2022 budgets.







Hello from Akron Springfield COB,

We want to sent out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated items to our Kids' Closet during District Conference in August. We are overwhelmed with gratefulness over everyone's generosity. As we were unpacking the boxes and bags, we could not believe the giving from you all. God is truly good all the time. Would you please share our thankful, grateful hearts with your congregations?

Thank you all so much!!

Walk in the light of the Lord,  
Akron Springfield COB



# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Bristolville (full-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **Bill Aikens** serving as interim.

**Painesville (part-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

## Congregations that have not yet begun the Search Process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

**Akron Eastwood** – **Cindy Peel** serving as interim.

**Brook Park** – leadership arranging pulpit supply.

**Dupont** – leadership arranging pulpit supply.

**Mansfield First** – **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

**Silver Creek** – **Ric Beals** serving as interim.

**Sugarcreek East** – leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Updated 10-27-2021

# Condolences

Dick A. Marshall, 78, of Sugarcreek, passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at the Truman Community Hospice House in New Philadelphia following a brief illness. Dick served as pastor of the Sugarcreek East Church of the Brethren for over 40 years. Dick and his wife, Mary, were married for 56 years. Dick and Mary have one daughter, Susan "Susie" (Marlin) Schlabach of Sugarcreek; a very special granddaughter, Morgan, who was the light of his life; and a foster daughter, Ruthie Marshall of East Sparta. Full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.smithfuneralhomesugarcreek.com/obituaries/Dick-Marshall?obId=22582308>

Our deepest sympathy to Mary, Susie, and the Sugarcreek East congregation.

# Holiday Office Hours

Please note that the District Office will be closed during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays beginning November 24-26 and December 24-31. We pray you have a safe and blessed time with your friends and family.

# District Prayer Calendar

## November

### Churches/Pastors

Pleasant View, James Washington

Poplar Ridge, Ben Polzin

Reading, Paul Bozman

Richland, Jim Frado

### District Leadership

District Office Staff

### Other Districts

Middle PA, Southern PA

### National Leadership

Stan Dueck/Josh Brockway, Discipleship Ministries

Church of the Brethren in Congo

## December

### Churches/Pastors

Ross, Keith Stoller

Silver Creek, Ric Beals

Sugar Creek West, Mike Huffaker

Sugarcreek East, Pulpit Supply

### District Leadership

Camp Inspiration Hills Staff

### Other Districts

Puerto Rico, Atlantic Southeast

### National Leadership

Nancy Heishman, Director Office of Ministry

Visit [www.nohcob.org/prayer](http://www.nohcob.org/prayer) for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

# Mark Your Calendar

11.6 BBI Class - Old Testament Survey

11.8 Nominating Committee Meeting

11.9 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon

11.10 Central Area Pastors Breakfast

11.13 District Board Meeting

11.20 BBI Class - Old Testament Survey

11.24-26 District Office Closed for Thanksgiving

12.24-31 District Office Closed for Christmas & New Year's

# Welcome Newly Licensed and Ordained Ministers

## Moses Siakula Licensed at the Hartville Church of the Brethren

It was a joyful time as (Emmanuel) Moses Siakula was licensed to the ministry at the Hartville Church of the Brethren on June 27, 2021. Moses grew up in Zambia and has a rich story of God's leading him to faith. He served for 7 years as an Associate Pastor in Zambia and completed an undergraduate degree in Pastoral Ministries in 2013. Moses graduated with a Master of Arts from Shasta Bible College in 2020. He will be taking some classes through BBI to complete the CoB educational requirements. Moses married Jocelyn Snyder from the Hartville Church of the Brethren in 2018 and they returned to the Hartville area. The congregation recognized his gifts for ministry and affirmed him for licensing. Moses and Jocelyn have a one year old daughter, Apphia.



Licensed Minister, Moses Siakula, his wife, Jocelyn and their daughter, Apphia.

## Carol Kuryn Ordained at the East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren

There was great rejoicing at the East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren as Carol Kuryn was ordained on Sunday, June 6, 2021. Carol was first licensed to the ministry at East Nim in 2005. She has been serving as Pastor of Visitation there since, also serving as Interim Pastor in 2017/18. Carol has a Master's Degree in Counseling and Human Development from KSU/Walsh and worked as a Christian Counselor for a number of years before being called into pastoral ministry. Carol completed the BBI Ministerial training in Spring of 2020 – a member of our first graduating class. Carol and her husband, Brian, have one adult daughter.



Ordained Minister, Carol Kuryn and her husband, Brian.

## Connections Commission

Can you help us get to know you better. The Connections commission is gathering demographic data on who are district is made of. It will just take about 3 minutes to complete this survey. There is also a section to inform you of volunteer opportunities in the district. Your name is optional unless you would like us to contact you and/or would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/9ZyQQs5Ep3BH5pnM7>

# Afghanistan Evacuees and Refugees: How to Help

Called to care for the outsider, Brethren have long supported the refugees in our communities. With many thousands of Afghan evacuees arriving in the US, churches are challenged to welcome these strangers that flee persecution in their homeland.

*"The primary truth of faith as we consider... refugees today is that Christ has made another appearance among us, as Himself a... refugee in the person of political dissidents, the economically deprived, and foreigners on the run. We are to join them as pilgrims in search of that city yet to come, with foundations of love and justice whose architect and builder is God."*  
*Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statement, 1982*

Church of the Brethren response: Join the effort

**Give to the [Emergency Disaster Fund](#)** to support Afghan resettlement across the country. Grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund are supporting Church World Service in resettling Afghan evacuees and refugees. ([www.brethren.org/give-afghan-evacuees](http://www.brethren.org/give-afghan-evacuees))

**Sponsor an Afghan Family** and support their resettlement. Congregations or groups can work with Church World Service or other resettlement agencies to welcome Afghan people into their community.

**[Sponsorship through Church World Service](#)**—CWS, the historic and current refugee resettlement partner of the Church of the Brethren, has offices and affiliates in 17 states. Find a **CWS resettlement office** near you.

**Contact Brethren Disaster Ministries** for more information: [bdm@brethren.org](mailto:bdm@brethren.org) or 410-635-8731/800-451-4407, [https://www.brethren.org/bdm/afghanistan-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1nTlbfZuFcsUW-rd39qlgQ8JzT68flZT8npcNtGfMXyQm7XWsex\\_hSNBM](https://www.brethren.org/bdm/afghanistan-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1nTlbfZuFcsUW-rd39qlgQ8JzT68flZT8npcNtGfMXyQm7XWsex_hSNBM)

## Brethren Press 2021 Advent Devotional: Do Not Be Afraid

"In the Gospel of Luke, angels proclaimed, "Do not be afraid," to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. This Advent devotional by Angela Finet, pastor of Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, revisits the timeless texts and the words that envelop the holy story of Advent to reassure us in times of anxiety and darkness. Emmanuel, God with us."

To order, go to <https://www.brethrenpress.com/SearchResults.asp?Search=advent&Submit=GO>



**BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE**  
**INFORMATION**  
**COFFEE HOUR**

Learn about opportunities to serve with BVS through light and casual conversation

**EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN**  
**OCTOBER 8-NOVEMBER 19**  
**10:30-11:30 AM CST**

Register:  
[tinyurl.com/BVSCoffeeHour](http://tinyurl.com/BVSCoffeeHour)



## Inspiration Hills Camp

Winter Camp for Junior Campers (grades 3-5) is back in 2022! Join us January 21-23, 2022, for all of the best camp activities and some new ones.

There will be marshmallows for toasting, hot chocolate drinking, crafts, gaga ball, snowman building, sledding, seeing your old friends and meeting new ones, and most importantly, learning about God!

Camp will begin on Friday night at 7:00 P.M. and end on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 P.M.; cost \$95.

As soon as we receive your registration, we will mail the necessary medical forms for you to fill out and return—the cool part being these forms will then be valid for the entire year at camp! Make sure to bring a friend!

Registration forms link: [Winter Camp Registration Form 2021](#) or directly visit event page at: <http://www.inspirationhillscamp.org/camp/uncategorized/winter-camp-is-back/>