

Camping news



Marking *ministry milestones* Celebrating deep roots, looking to the future

Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point — Christian sister camps serving the Midwest — concluded summer 2025 with gratitude and joy, as they served almost 3,300 campers. Now, they look toward ministry in 2026 and beyond.

Covenant Harbor's Dining Commons

Pages 2-3 of the *Camping News* tell the story of how God has provided more than \$7.3 million toward the \$8.1 million project. The Dining Commons will be the center of the camp, the welcoming, gathering and dining space for summer campers and year-round guests. It will be on the site of the current Lodge. The Dining Commons marks a new milestone in Covenant Harbor's 78-year ministry.

Covenant Point's Centennial Celebration

Pages 4-5 of the *Camping News* tell about the August 2026 celebration that will commemorate the founding of Covenant Point in 1926. The weekend event will bring together churches, ministry leaders and partners, former staff, campers, friends and families to experience a time of remembering and celebrating God's work through the camp's 100 years of ministry. Stay tuned for more details yet to come!



I love how much my daughter loves camp. But that's bittersweet because she is already talking about working at camp and I will miss her a lot if she is gone for more than a week!

SUMMER 2025 CAMPER MOM



Summer 2026 Registration Opens Nov. 11!

Registration for both Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point's summer 2026 youth programs begins at 7am CST on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Registration for family camps at Covenant Point begins Nov. 11 at 9am. Register early for the best selection! Visit covenantharbor.org and cpbc.com to see schedules and details.

covenantharbor.org | cpbc.com



I feel refreshed and free.
I have felt so happy this
summer at camp.

SUMMER 2025 CAMPER



This rendering shows the Dining Commons from the perspective of Covenant Harbor's main parking lot.

Dining Commons project advances

Fundraising progresses to within \$750,000 of goal

Thanks to a multitude of generous donors, fundraising for Covenant Harbor's new Dining Commons continues to gain momentum and energy as the campaign has reached \$7.35 million, with \$750,000 yet to raise.

"We are incredibly thankful for the broad support for this project," said Covenant Harbor Executive Director Eric Anderson. "From the Foundation for Covenant Harbor, to our board, to individuals and families, to churches and ministry partners, we have experienced tremendous excitement and response. Now is a great time to support this project as we have received a \$200,000 matching gift. With \$155,000 raised toward this match already, we are getting closer to our \$8.1 million goal."

Making the transition

The Dining Commons replaces the camp's Lodge, which was built in 1949, two years after the camp was founded. It offered space for cooking and serving 5,000 meals a year. In 2024, Covenant Harbor served more than 100,000 meals from the Lodge. Construction of the Dining Commons is slated to begin in August 2026.

Plans for launching the construction of the Dining Commons include a retirement party for the much-loved Lodge on Sunday, August 2, 2026. "So many people have poured into the Lodge over the years," said Eric. "We want to honor the volunteers who built it and give people an opportunity to say goodbye to it. It's been the centerpiece of the camp for decades."

Looking ahead

During construction of the Dining Commons, meals will be prepared in the Geneva Bay Center kitchen and other supplemental places. Programs and rental opportunities will continue, with specific logistics around meals and dining communicated with registrants throughout the project.

"We plan to operate as robustly as possible," Eric said. "There will certainly be adjustments and we are planning to

Save the Date

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026

Lodge Retirement Party

Come to celebrate all the Lodge has meant to generations of campers and guests. Watch for details and registration information!

Staff Update

Welcome new staff

- Daniel Botros and Caitlyn Fortune have joined as ministry staff. Daniel hails from Indiana and Caitlyn from South Africa.
- Dustin Onstott started as food service coordinator in March.
- Saifullah Arabzai (Sai) was promoted to serve as grounds and volunteer coordinator.
- Liam Vanderwerf started as program coordinator.
- Angel Fischer joined as Snake Road Adventure Center office coordinator.
- Jackson McFaden started as guest services coordinator.
- Ethan Oliver began as activities coordinator



Daniel Botros



Caitlyn Fortune



Dustin Onstott



Saifullah Arabzai



Liam Vanderwerf



Angel Fischer



Jackson McFaden



Ethan Oliver

Fond Farewells

- Riley Callahan, ministry staff, left for an internship at Northwest Covenant Church, Mt. Prospect, IL.
- Jayda Josias, ministry staff, returned home to South Africa.
- Keely Lofy departed for new opportunities after many years as Snake Road Adventure Center office coordinator.
- Hannah Carlson, communications coordinator, left to pursue a career as a licensed professional counselor.
- Derrick Mosely, food service coordinator, moved to Sweden to be with his wife and baby.

Now hiring staff for summer 2026

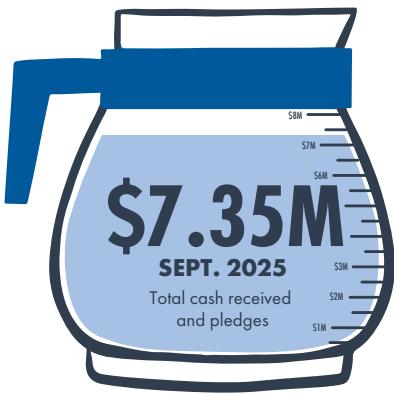
Covenant Harbor is seeking young adults 16+ who love kids and want to share Jesus. We have increased our pay rates for 2026 and offer many incentives, including a \$500 bonus for completing an application by Jan 1, 2026. Find details at covenantharbor.org/summer-staff.

Continued on next page



Camp helps me stay off my phone and do fun things to take my mind off of it.

SUMMER 2025 CAMPER



accommodate our own programs and events, as well as the many groups we serve. The anticipation of our new, expanded space will be worth the modifications we need to make during construction."

Join the effort

To learn more about the Dining Commons project, watch an informational video, see renderings, understand specific features of the building and to make a gift to the Campaign for Covenant Harbor's Dining Commons, visit covenantharbor.org. To speak with a staff member, contact eanderson@covenantharbor.org.



Seniors enjoy a special day

On a spectacular, sunny day in early September, 110 senior adults attended Covenant Harbor's 60+ Day. The event drew people from retirement communities and churches in Illinois and Wisconsin, along with couples and friend groups. A time of morning worship was followed by lunch, a boat tour that highlighted the stories of many of the historic homes on Geneva Lake and fika (Swedish coffee break). Pastor Steve Larson, third from right, and a group from Libertyville Covenant Church in Libertyville, IL, joined the fun.

Alpha forms disciples through service

Covenant Harbor's Alpha program offers students in grades 10 through 12 a unique opportunity to live in community and engage classic camp activities while daily supporting summer camp operations. Alpha campers serve in the kitchen and dining hall, on maintenance and grounds, as well as in program roles. "Our Alpha kids often come back for two or three summers," said Program Director Emma Mueller. "Then, some serve on full-time summer staff. They mature in faith, grow personally and become strong young adult leaders." To learn more about how Alpha campers earn community service hours, visit covenantharbor.org/alpha-10-12-grade.



Summer 2025 Snapshot

Theme: Live Out, from Luke 10:27. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Youth campers: 2,684

Alpha service leadership campers: 88

Camper scholarship funds distributed:
\$92,982, serving 189 campers

Summer staff: 72 summer staff + 7 high school camp associates + 24 RNs and community care workers + 12 volunteers

Summer staff scholarships distributed: \$24,603, serving 22 staff

Mission offering for Camp2Camp

Food Security in Honduras Project:
\$5,022



My son's cabin wrote down things they were struggling with, then threw them into the campfire, giving their worries over to God. This was impactful for him.

CAMPER PARENT

Extending the goodness of camp

Rhythms of Faith fosters faith at home and church

Pastors and parents appreciate the faith-forming value of a child's week at summer camp. And along with Christian camp leaders, they know that formation is at risk of stagnation or even decline as the school year starts and the demanding routines of life re-emerge.

"What happens in a week of camp might equal what happens in a year at church," explained Kyle Mecher, pastor of Children's Formation at Resurrection Covenant Church in Chicago. "Camp is compressed spiritual formation because kids are out of their daily context and placed in an immersive community. It's often a mountaintop experience. That can catalyze what we are already doing at home and in the church."

Kick-off summer

Rhythms of Faith is a two-year, interactive research project funded by a Lily Foundation grant offered

in partnership with Honeyrock, the Center for Leadership Development of Wheaton College. Covenant Point is one of nine camps nationally participating in the project, which launched in spring 2025. Results from the survey portions of the project will be shared with all Christian camps.

All camper parents are included in key aspects of the research and shared tools. For example, this summer Covenant Point sent daily emails to camper parents seeking to empower their roles as spiritual leaders. Additionally, Executive Director Erik Strom met with parents during a closing day session to share the fundamentals of Christian camping. The project also includes periodic surveys of parents about their child's camp experience. The results will be used to develop new resources and tools, and to improve the camp's spiritual formation.

Continued on next page



Covenant church pastors and camp leaders gathered in April to launch Covenant Point's participation in Rhythms of Faith, an interactive research and equipping project that connects faith formation at camp to families and churches. Gathered at this table are Covenant Point Executive Director Erik Strom, back to camera, then left to right: Alicia Reese, pastor, Resurrection - Chicago; Mike Poindexter, pastor, Grace - Iron River, MI; Eric Anderson, Covenant Harbor executive director; Eric Landin - pastor, Batavia ECC, IL; and Melissa Wall, pastor, Anchor ECC - Lake Geneva, WI.

Staff Update



Ray Marth started as operations manager in September. He previously served as maintenance coordinator in summers 2021 and 2022 and managed the camp's annual triathlon with his wife, Laura. A Spanish teacher at Benet Academy for almost 35 years, Ray retired in May. "I am excited to join the staff and am grateful for Covenant Point's role in my life of faith, as well as my family's," he said.



Jon Starr, Lindsay Creeth and Aidan Tack are former summer staff members who are serving as interns this year. Lindsay is a 2025 graduate of Purdue University, Jon is a 2021 graduate of the University of Illinois and Aidan is a 2025 graduate of Columbia College Chicago.

Saying farewell

Covenant Point said goodbye to two valued staff members this fall, Anders Ahlberg and Cortney Tomczak. Anders served three years as operations manager and many prior years in various roles. He moved to the East Coast to pursue new opportunities. Cortney served two years as hospitality manager and many previous summers on staff. She moved to Chicago with her husband, Eric.

"Anders and Cortney will be deeply missed," said Executive Director Erik Strom. "They made meaningful contributions to ministry and were beloved friends and coworkers. Anders diligently cared for our property, and Cortney built on our long tradition of excellent food service. We send them off with gratitude and blessing."

Now hiring staff for summer 2026

Covenant Point is seeking young adults 18+ who want to help campers take a new or next step in faith as summer staff, as well as students ages 16-18 for 4-week work crew sessions. Find details at cpbc.com/staffopenings.

practices and parent/church communications.

The camp also worked closely with partner churches, who received prompts and tools to help integrate their campers' experiences into the life of the church and who are sharing insights and ideas going forward. "Partner churches are trying to implement components like holding a pre-camp prayer of blessing and incorporating camper testimonies into worship after camp," said Shelly Poindexter, Covenant Point's Rhythms of Faith administrator. "We also are counting on their feedback and input."

Lasting impact

Supporting the formation of Christian faith in children and youth is the mission of camp. Learning how to extend that support to engage parents and churches before, during and after camp is Covenant Point's exciting commitment through Rhythms of Faith.

"We desire to help equip parents so they are more confident in discipling their children and churches so they are supported in lifelong faith formation," said Shelly. "Intentional partnering, measured over time, will help ensure that steps of faith taken at camp will continue as camp, families and churches work together." 

Camp is a
fantastic
adventure for
my children!

CAMPER PARENT



A boat like no other

Covenant Point received the gift of a custommade, wooden boat this summer, from a friend of the ministry. With its burnished mahogany hull and interior, charming canopy, side seating, a fold-out table and custom cushions, the boat is one of a kind. Here, family campers enjoy one of the first rides in the boat on Hagerman Lake, with Executive Director Erik Strom as their skipper.



Summer 2025 Snapshot

Theme: Transformed, from Eph. 2:8. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God."

Youth campers: 556

Family campers: 175; 42 families

Camper scholarship funds: \$36,320, serving 100 campers

Summer staff scholarship funds: \$16,250, serving 10 staff

Summer staff: 39 + 26 work crew students

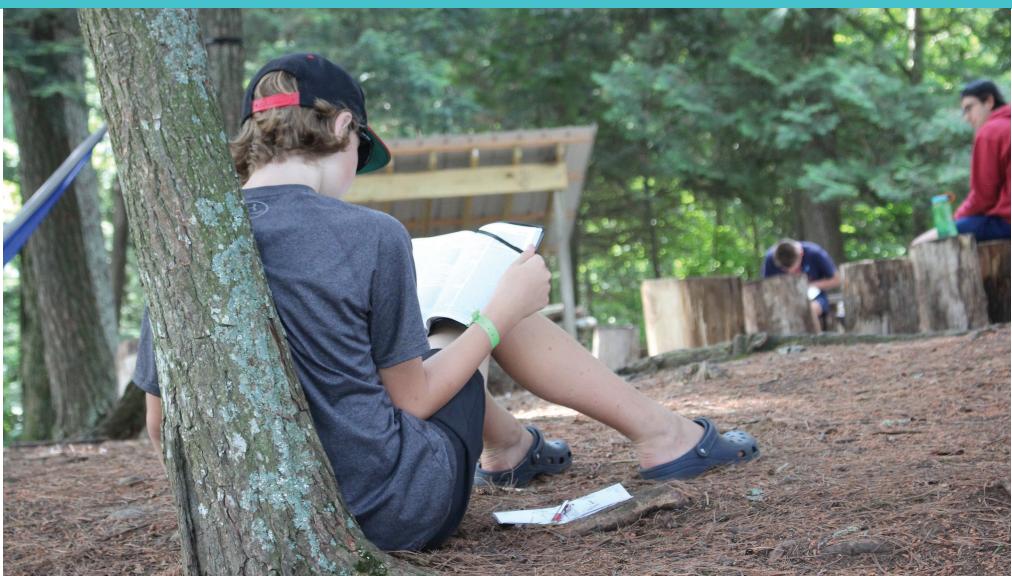
Fundraising Triathlon: \$10,870

Mission offering for Camp2Camp Food Security in Honduras Project: \$1,961

Pastors of the week: Pete Anderson, North Park University, Chicago; Peter and Genevieve Dibley, First Covenant, Rockford, IL; Karen Hinz, Covenant Living, Northbrook, IL; Jeff Hunter, North Park Covenant, Chicago; Kate Klemp, Trinity Reformed, Grand Rapids, MI; Alicia Reese, Resurrection Covenant, Chicago; Andrew Sturdy, United Covenant, Gladstone, MI

Honor and Memorial Gifts

Harbor Point Ministries honors and celebrates the lives of our friends and supporters and thanks the following donors for their contributions. Gifts recognized here have been received by Harbor Point Ministries, Covenant Harbor Bible Camp and Covenant Point Bible Camp between Sept. 16, 2024 and Aug. 15, 2025.



Experiencing quiet reflection and time alone with God is an important part of programs at Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point.

IN HONOR OF

John and Linda Anderson

Bob and Jane Klockars

Mike and Lois Augustson

On their 50th wedding anniversary

Brad and Sarah Augustson

Steve and Judy Guy

Bob and Joyce Karlson, Sr.

Heidi Nevoso

John and Lorraine Weszely

Lois Auker

On her birthday

Steve and Judy Guy

Daniel Casey

On his birthday

Marty and Susan Casey

Alyssa Curry

Richard Street

E. Elvira Englund

On her 100th birthday

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Karl and Lynn Klockars

On their 50th wedding anniversary

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Keith Gustafson

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David and Janelle Lee

Erik Strom

Austin Fiascone

Cole Tomei

Tom and Claire Johannesen

Jessie (Rosell) and Austin Wagner

Beth Hjelm

Windmiller Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

Bernie and Esther Windmiller

Yuen Grandchildren

Frederick and Stella Fei-Chun Yuen

IN MEMORY OF

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Mike and Mary Doucette

Fay Andersen

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Sharon Byrne

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Sandy Edstrom

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Jane Frasier

Wally and Wendy Frasier

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Wes and Deb Lindahl

Stephen Keller

Karen Miller

Gunnar and Thelma Klockars

Bruce and Diane Klockars

Rev. James Know

Mary Ellen Ostrom

Lloyd and Mazine Kornmann

Lynn and Jennifer Stickle

Kirsten Leys

Curtis and Janet Anderson

Marguerite Anderson

Charles Bjork



The intentionality of 'no screens' fosters community and faith conversations. Thank you!

CAMPER PARENT

Eloise Bjork
Jennie Bjork
Richard and Ruth Blohm
Nora Bogehegn
Doris Corwin
Vernette Dahlstrom
Mary Ericson
Reuben and Marjorie Hanson
Rev. Steve and Bobbi Jackson
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Duane and Diana Johnson
Robert and Mary Ann Johnson
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Daphne Tarabichi

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Beverly Chatfield

Edna Spolander Munson
Bruce and Diane Klockars

Thelma Spolander Munson
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Jason and Julie Barber

John C. (Jack) Swanson
Samuel and Wyllis Paravonian

Viola Voohries
Judy P. Tague
Randy and Liz Voohries

Chuck Walles
Darlene Walles

Virginia "Ginny" Woodrow
Michael Woodrow

OTHER GIFTS

We celebrate the memories of the following friends, as well as Milwaukee Evangelical Covenant Church and Fellowship Life Bible Church, whose gifts remind us of God's provision through legacy support.

Harbor Point Ministries
Estate of Donald and Shirley Hacker
Estate of Wayne and Margene Rosenquist
Final Gift of Milwaukee Covenant Church

Covenant Harbor
Estate of Alfred and Eleanor Erickson
Estate of F. Wilbur and E. Kathryn Gustafson
Estate of Thorsten M. and M. Jeannette Lindgren
Estate of Verna M. Larson
Final gift of Fellowship Life Bible Church

Covenant Point
Estate of Thorsten M. and M. Jeannette Lindgren



Thank you for your support!

We are grateful for the significant financial contributions of many friends of camping ministry who support scholarships, daily operations, capital projects and special initiatives. Thank you, all!

HARBORPOINT
MINISTRIES

centralconf.org/ministries/camps/give-to-camp-ministry/
P.O. Box 643
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
(414) 416-8265



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Iron River, MI 49935
(906) 265-2117



covenantharbor.org/give
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Lake Geneva, WI 53147
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Lake Geneva, WI 53147

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Going on at Camp



Covenant Harbor

Village Retreats

Nov. 7-9 | Nov. 14-16

These retreats are for church youth groups and their year-round leaders. They are intentionally small, with relaxed programming to allow room for leaders to build community among their group. Each retreat is designed with youth leaders' input to promote the best experience for each group.

Winter Camps

Jan. 23-25 | Feb. 6-8 | Feb. 13-15 |
Feb. 20-22

These weekends for church youth groups are a time away from normal rhythms and distractions. They offer high-quality, large-group teaching and worship, free-time options and time for small-group interactions to encourage bonding and community-building. Volunteer and parent leaders are welcome.



Covenant Point

Christmas Camp

Dec. 27-Jan. 1

Enjoy a week of relaxation with family and friends, winter sports, good books, great food, intergenerational worship and warm fireplaces.

One Life Retreats

Jan. 16-19 | Feb. 13-16

Bring your senior high youth group for a long weekend of broomball, polar bear dip, optional downhill skiing, group bonding and lively, meaningful worship.

Men's Retreat

Feb. 20-22

A highlight of the year for many, this weekend is for church and friend groups to gather, eat well, fellowship and enjoy worship and recreation.

Follow the camps all year long on Instagram and Facebook and visit their websites at covenantharbor.org and cpbc.com.

Save the Date
Nov. 11, 2025

**Registration opens for summer 2026 programs
at Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point!**



All Covenant Harbor programs
open at 7am CST



Covenant Point's Mainland, Island
and Trip Camps open at 7am CST

Family Camps open at 9am CST

Visit covenantharbor.org and cpbc.com to see program schedules, prices, discounts, scholarships and details.

Questions? Call Covenant Harbor at (262) 248-3600 and
Covenant Point at (906) 265-2117.



The Harbor Point Camping News is published annually by Harbor Point Ministries, the organization that connects Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point to each other and their sponsor churches. To learn more or to change your mailing information, email Beth Fredrickson at bfredrickson@harborpointministries.org.

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