




Merry Christmas from Camp Caroline – 2020

This year has been a different year than we've ever experienced for certain. We wanted to take a few moments to let you know many of the things that have occurred at Camp Caroline. While we all are struggling with navigating the COVID 19 Pandemic, Camp Caroline has been moved in special and new ways as we continue to seek to support and stay focused on the Camp's mission for people and the entire Region of North Carolina. We praise God for all of you and for all the prayers received throughout the year. We praise God for all of the volunteer efforts and leadership efforts from our churches to assist in these difficult times to stay focused and encouraged.

From January to mid-March we welcomed the CYF Mid-Winter and Chi-Rho Spring retreats, as well as a powerful Women's Day Apart retreat. The weekend immediately following the DWM retreat, we welcomed our largest mission team ever for Hurricanes Florence and Dorian recovery efforts for Pamlico County, the surrounding area, as well as Camp Caroline, from Indiana State University. The week ISU was on-site was the week that COVID 19 was spreading at an alarming rate, and those students learned while here that they could not return to campus. The day after they departed, Camp Caroline followed public health and governmental directives to close to the public.

Our Camp Staff, Camp Volunteers, and Regional Leadership began writing safety protocols for the time in which we would be allowed to re-open with safety and health as our #1 priority. While we were physically closed to the public, small numbers of staff and volunteers, following safety guidelines, took opportunities to work on some infrastructure needs. They installed new doors along the waterfront cabins, a new roof on Crossfield Cabin, and removed the wall in between AC worship room and the Dining Hall. A movable wall will be installed to allow two spaces as before, but this will allow groups a larger dining or worship area if needed. A leak at one of the pressure release valves in the bottom the pool was repaired and the pool pump was replaced. Boat care at the waterfront was completed and we were blessed with a donation of our first standup paddle board! We installed a new maintenance office behind the golf cart hut with donated custom cabinets at no expense to the camp. The Camp's property committee is invigorated to re-connect with adoptive churches and welcomes new church collaborations to consider adoptions in 2021.

We all have spent time grieving this year in the decision to not have in-person camp during the summer and fall. With regional leadership from Luke Miles and dedicated Camp Directors, Camp Caroline Connects, a virtual summer camp program began on June 22. For all the volunteers, parents and especially campers who participated, we hope you had as much fun as we did! We enjoyed each week and had so much fun completing the tasks set forth through



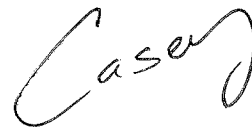
your support! Thanks be to GOD for Camp Caroline Connects and for joy and ministry it brought into our lives.

Since reopening June 15, Camp Caroline has welcomed over 450 people for personal and family retreats, day-group visits, and ministerial trainings. We have developed a "Staying Safe Together" welcome orientation which continues to get great feedback that we feel helps us all keep safety as a top priority while at Camp Caroline. We want to thank everyone for participating in accordance with our safety protocols. Camp Caroline is pleased to be using the Clorox T360 electrostatic disinfection technology in all of its indoor facilities to help protect folks and ensure our readiness and safety measures are stepped up also for the upcoming cold-and-flu seasons. One of the best votes of confidence that helped us decide to get the Clorox T360 technology comes from a local school district sharing with us that for the past 3 years pre-COVID, they show less days out for illness in their schools and attribute that to the use of this system. Camp Caroline is committed to keeping Public Safety measures at the top of our priorities. Most recently, we have reopened our Dining Hall and AC rooms' larger space which supports social distancing for groups. We are honored to have welcomed both Boundaries and Racial Equity training into that space and have provided boxed meals for all of those ministers.

One of our biggest celebrations of 2020 has been the completion of the third cottage, the Jack and Kate Brinson Cottage. The three 6 bedroom/6 bathroom family and adult cottages are an amazing way to celebrate the mission and ministry of Christ at Camp Caroline. They provide safe and secure space for guests to be at Camp easily. Our motto since June 15 has been "minimize our indoor use of facilities and maximize our outdoor use of Camp spaces and its facilities for nurture." We are all blessed with such sacred ground here. Praise be to God for all our returning and new guests since June 15, who have commented on how they were nurtured in positive ways and truly needed and enjoyed their time with us.

We praise God for all of the hard work and efforts of the from all our VOLUNTEERS to include, but not limited to, our Regional Board, Camp Caroline Committee members, Executive Committee leaders, Regional Staff, and especially the Camp Caroline Volunteer Core who have come weekly and bi-monthly to camp for over 4 years now. To those who have nurtured our Camp for over 67 years in order to be ready for this year and the 67 years to come, we give you thanks and God praise. We invite you to stay connected and encouraged with us as we look into 2021 prayerfully. We have some tough struggles ahead, but we are praying to God that we are all staying safe and ready for the new days to come. We remain encouraged and inspired by Camp Caroline's Mission and Ministry as we look into 2021.

Thank you all, and Merry Christmas from Camp Caroline!!



Camp Caroline – Camp, Conference and Retreat Center
Owned and operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina

