



HARTMAN CENTER

Camp, Conference & Retreat Center
Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ

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REV. DR. BRUCE R. DRUCKENMILLER

Conference Associate Minister

Youth, Young Adult & Outdoor Ministries

Dear Friends of Outdoor Ministries,

During a time when many children and young people would rather spend their time indoors in front of a computer or TV screen, I come to you asking for your help in promoting outdoor ministry to the members of your congregation and in the process promoting better mental, physical and spiritual health for those individuals. That's right, it has been documented for years that being in the outdoors not only enables individuals to experience a closeness to God as Creator and to understand what it means to live in community but also helps people to unwind and get away from the busyness and chaos of everyday life and to experience the therapeutic and healing power that comes from being in creation (a great book to read is *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv).

Greetings again from Hartman Center, the Sun-Shine Place! It's hard to believe another year has rolled around but we are in the process of putting together an amazing program again for this summer! I encourage you to go to our website – www.hartmancenter.com – and see what camps are available. There is a camp for every age group – from 1st grade through adult – every week of the camping season. This year there are a few changes to our camps. First is that the early bird deadline is now **April 1st**. You may deduct \$50 from your camp fee (\$25 for 3 day camps) if you register before April 1st. We still encourage churches to underwrite a portion of the costs for campers from your churches, but hopefully (and prayerfully) this will encourage more people to come to camp. There is also scholarship money available and if there is a need you may fill out an application which is found on the website under the Media tab. **Remember, it is our policy that money will never be an issue as to why a person cannot come to camp!**

We have several new camps this summer: we are experimenting with a Day Camp in York County which is being held at Salem, Dover; Fishing Camp (grade 3 – Adult); Mission Impossible (Grades 6-8); Team Building Adventure (grades 7-9); Guitar Fun & Strum Camp (grades 7-10); we are offering a 2 different full week Intergenerational camp and we have returned 2 Grand camps specifically geared toward grandparents and their grandchildren.

Another new camp that we are offering is a Canoeing Adventure to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. Please inquire with me if you are interested...the trip will be in September but we are still working on the specific dates. The cost will be about \$500 per person.

Something new we are doing this year is offering an **All Camp Open House on May 16th**. We realize that many people in the Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Northeast Conferences (and even PCC folks)

of the UCC have never been to Hartman Center, so we want to extend a special invitation for churches, families or individuals to come and visit! We have done this the past 2 years for the Disciples Of Christ congregations in Eastern PA and it was very well received, so this year we are expanding the invitation to include not only our **DOC** partners but also **PSE** and **PNE** congregations (**and PCC**)! It will begin at 11am on the 16th of May and will include a complimentary lunch and tours of the camp all afternoon as well as some games and activities that are a part of Hartman Center camping. Also, if you sign up for camp that day, you will receive the \$50 early bird discount that is offered before April 1st.

PLEASE TRY TO JOIN US AND KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN FOR MORE PUBLICITY LATER. We are currently looking into possibly renting a few buses.

Please note that the best way to register for camp is to go on-line at www.hartmancenter.com and click on the registration button. Our registration program is much more user friendly and includes the Health Form for you to fill out. Oh, and if a camper wants to come back for a second week of camp there is a \$75 discount for that second week of camp!!

Please help to promote this ministry through your newsletters, bulletins, announcements and personal invitations. I promise, participants will have a wonderful time!

Oh, and if you need more brochures, just call us and we will see that you get however many you need!

Shalom and see you at camp!!

Rev. Dr. Bruce R. Druckenmiller

Conference Associate Minister
Penn Central Conference U.C.C.
Young, Young Adults & Outdoor Ministries

PS: If you would like to have a speaker come to your church to talk about camp this spring, let me know!