

Newsletter

Volume 14
June 2020
COVID-19
Edition

The Mission of Camp Agape

To provide a free summer camping experience, in a setting of *agape* (the kind of unconditional love God has for each of us) for Vermont children who have experienced the incarceration of a parent or caregiver

Camp Agape For Older Kids This Summer

We will be serving 39 Camp Agape campers ages 11-17 this summer. They are incredibly excited to come, and we are excited to welcome them!

In early June, the Scott administration set the guidelines for the re-opening of overnight summer camps. In order to meet those guidelines, Bethany Birches Camp, our hosts since 2015, would only be able to serve half their usual number of campers. Unlike most camps in Vermont, the Bethany Birches mission is God-centered, not driven by the bottom line, and they are uniquely able to offer a completely outdoor program. Their board decided to go ahead with camp. The board of Camp Agape chose to offer camp to as many of our returning older campers as Bethany Birches could accommodate. Sadly, we decided that our youngest campers, and campers new to our program, would have difficulty adjusting to the mindfulness required to keep camp a safe place for everyone. To let them know that they are still very much in our hearts, they will be receiving backpacks and quilts, and we hope to host them for a “Fun-Day” toward the end of the summer.

2020 Camp Dates

One Camp Only!
August 2—August 7
For campers
Ages 11-17

Camp held at:
Bethany Birches
Camp, Plymouth, VT

WHAT CAMP WILL FEEL LIKE

THERE WILL BE

- ◆ Friends
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Boating
- ◆ Great Food
- ◆ Nature
- ◆ God



THERE WON'T BE

- ◆ Contact Games
- ◆ Hugs
- ◆ Singing
- ◆ Crowding
- ◆ Indoor Activity
- ◆ Boredom
- ◆ Loneliness



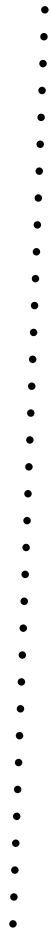
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**Please
VOLUNTEER**

Please DONATE

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**An ecumenical ministry of:
The New England Conference of The United Methodist Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont
The Vermont Conference of The United Church of Christ
With generous assistance from the Fanny Allen Foundation**

WHY DOES CAMP MATTER SO MUCH THIS YEAR?

At 10:00pm, on the Sunday night of the most distressing weekend of clashes between protestors and police across the country, I received a text on my phone. It was from a 16 year old young person of color who has been a Camp Agape camper for

nine years. The text read: "Hey Beth Ann this is J. I was wondering if there was a spot for me at camp this year?" What must he have been feeling that led him to reach out like that? Camp Agape may very well be the only place in his life he can trust he will be fully accepted, as he struggles to make sense of his relationship with the world, and with God. All of our older campers are struggling more than ever to find truth and love they can trust. That is why camp matters.
Beth Ann Maier



- ◆ VOLUNTEER
- ◆ DONATE
- ◆ PRAY

www.campagapevermont.org