



# CAMPING SUNDAY 2023

## W O R S H I P   R E S O U R C E



**THE CHINOOK WINDS REGION,  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
[CHINOOKWINDSREGION.CA](http://CHINOOKWINDSREGION.CA)**



# Acknowledgements

The Camping Sunday 2023 Worship Resource was developed by First Third Ministry to support camping in Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils.

The First Third Ministry of Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils CONNECT, EQUIP, IMAGINE to partner with United Church of Canada communities, to inspire individuals who are in the first third of life, to live Christlike lives of justice, hope and compassion in the world.

We thank Bar Harbour Church Camp, Camp Kasota West, Canyon Church Camp, and Kasota East Camp in Alberta for the use of their pictures for this resource and for the staff, directors and volunteers who participated in the videos.



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# Table of Contents



- 4. Welcome & Introduction
- 5. Camps in the Chinook Winds Region
- 10. Camping Sunday 2023 Worship Resource
- 11. Introduction for Leaders
- 12. Land Acknowledgement
- 13. Lighting of The Candles
- 15. Exploring the Word Intergenerationally – I SPY
- 16. Blessings of Camp
- 17. Prayers of the People
- 18. Offering, Benediction, & Closing
- 19. Ways your faith community can support camping ministry all year long.



# Welcome & Introduction

Welcome! Today is Camping Sunday, a tradition of The United Church of Canada.

Camping is one of the biggest children and youth ministries in the United Church. Each summer thousands of children and youth across Canada come together to be in relationship in community, with creation, and with Creator God.

Camp is a place where young people are welcomed as they are; it is a place where they are encouraged to wonder and deepen into their connection to the environment and respect for creation. Camp is a place to be creative and engage in questions about our everyday lives and of the mystery of the Holy. Camp is a place where young people are encouraged to be their authentic selves and are led in a way that is informed by care and trust. Children so often experience a transformative time at camp and are inspired to return again and again until they can return as staff. Camp is a place where young people are nurtured and mentored in their own leadership skills and abilities.

We invite you to consider how your community of faith can connect and support your local United Church camp community.

Today we celebrate the work of God through our United Church Camps.

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# United Church Camping

THE CHINOOK WINDS REGION,  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Camping is a vital ministry in Chinook Winds Region and across The United Church of Canada. For nearly 100 years, people of all ages have come to United Church camps to develop leadership skills, experience the outdoors, have fun, build community and deepen their faith in God. It is part of the larger Faith Formation Ministry within the region and works to connect camps with campers.

Our four main camps in the Chinook Winds Region are:

- Bar Harbour Church Camp ([barharbourcamp.com](http://barharbourcamp.com))
- Camp Kasota West ([campkasotawest.com](http://campkasotawest.com))
- Canyon Church Camp ([canyonchurchcamp.com](http://canyonchurchcamp.com))
- Kasota East Camp ([kasotaeastcamp.org](http://kasotaeastcamp.org))



# Bar Harbour Camp



Like bagels need cream cheese, kids need camp. Bar Harbour Camp strives to provide a safe and inclusive space, offering a variety of high-quality, rustic-feeling camping programs for campers ages 6–17.

At Bar Harbour Camp you will experience smaller, more intimate sized camps– perfect for creating friendships and memories you’ll carry with you for years.

In each one of our camps, you’ll get to experience some camp basics including crafts, canoeing, wide games, gaga ball, swimming in the lake, campfire, learning a little bit about God, and of course great food!

In 2023 we are offering camps for ages 6–17 years of age in the month of July.

We’ve been offering camping for youth as a United Church Camp for 100 years so we have good grounding in offering a safe community for all of our campers to experience Christian values in an accredited, outdoor setting.

For more information or to register:

**[BarHarbourCamp.com](https://BarHarbourCamp.com)**



**ALBERTA CAMPING  
ASSOCIATION**  
ACCREDITED CAMP





# Camp Kasota West



Camp Kasota West is located on 42 Acres of lakefront property in the Sylvan Lake Area. In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

We work hard to provide a fun and educational program for campers from Calgary and the surrounding area to grow, have new experiences, make new friends and enjoy the great outdoors. We do so by having a diverse staff with many backgrounds and certifications, and providing a wide variety of programming options for all age groups.

For more information or to register:  
[CampKasotaWest.com](https://CampKasotaWest.com)



**ALBERTA CAMPING  
ASSOCIATION**  
ACCREDITED CAMP





# Canyon Church Camp



For more than 70 years, Canyon Church Camp has offered camping ministry to children, youth and adults at our location nestled in the heart of the beautiful Waterton Lakes National Park. Our mission is to nurture Christian faith through fun and fellowship in God's great outdoors.

In 2017 the Kenow Wildfire swept through camp and destroyed half of our buildings. We have been working ever since to rebuild it. A 21-year License of Occupation with Parks Canada has been secured and camp rebuilding will begin in the spring of 2023. This includes installing a new wastewater system, bringing our current buildings up to code, and reinstating the utilities along with building bathrooms, 4 camper cabins, staff accommodations, the craft shack, and a first aid station.

The fire has given the landscape new life and CCC an opportunity to improve our facility. This includes increasing the accessibility of our facility for diverse user groups focused on environmental education opportunities. With the addition of gender-neutral, accessible washrooms and a sustainable design plan to reduce our ecological footprint, we are planning for the camp's future.

Would you like to play a role in the exciting redevelopment of Canyon Church Camp? We are actively looking for board members, committee members, and volunteers. You can also help financially by donating: etransfer to [campcanyon@gmail.com](mailto:campcanyon@gmail.com), on our website

**[www.canyonchurchcamp.com](http://www.canyonchurchcamp.com)**, through Canada Helps, or by mailing a cheque to

Canyon Church Camp 210A – 12A Street  
North, #418 Lethbridge, AB T1H 2J1

Questions? Contact us at  
[campcanyon@gmail.com](mailto:campcanyon@gmail.com).



# Kasota East Camp



Kasota East Camp is located on beautiful Sylvan Lake. We are proud to be accredited by the Alberta Camp Association and United Church Camping Association. During July and August we offer summer camps for children and families. Our program includes a blend of traditional activities including swimming, canoeing and paddle boarding, archery and slingshots, campfires, gaga ball, and campouts, along with trendy activities that are updated yearly. Each day we provide time for campers to explore faith and fellowship through our Community Conversations and Vespers services. Our camps explore United Church values in an inclusive, no-pressure context. Connect with God in a beautiful setting with the best people! KEC offers affordable camper fees and financial assistance is available through our Campership Fund.

When camp isn't in session, our beautiful facilities are available for rental groups. Our commercial dining hall, heated cabins, full service washhouse, and outdoor pavilion with fire pit, allow us to accommodate a wide variety of rental groups including retreats, weddings, and conferences. Income from rentals helps us maintain our facilities, but KEC also relies heavily on volunteers and donations from our congregations. We are always looking for new ways to partner with supporting congregations and camp alumni.

Are you an energetic fundraiser? A social media savvy promoter? A trades or handyperson? There are countless ways that congregants and alumni can get involved with KEC. Please reach out to us by email if you are interested in supporting our work.

For information about Kasota East Camp, please visit our website:

[www.kasotaeastcamp.org](http://www.kasotaeastcamp.org)

For registration, rentals, and other inquiries, please contact us at:  
[info@kasotaeastcamp.org](mailto:info@kasotaeastcamp.org)

As always, thank you for being a KEC supporter!

Sincerely,  
Megan Anderson  
Director of Programs



**ALBERTA CAMPING  
ASSOCIATION**  
ACCREDITED CAMP







# **CAMPING SUNDAY 2023 WORSHIP RESOURCE: A COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND CARE**





# CAMPING SUNDAY 2023

## WORSHIP DOWNLOADS

<https://chinookwindsregion.ca/more-programs-resources/camps/>



### Introduction for Leaders:

This service is designed to be intergenerational with opportunities for people of all ages to provide leadership and to engage in a celebration of camping.

### Preparation:

Please review the PDF worship resources in the following pages as well as the videos and slides.

### Videos and Slides include: (Videos at Link above)

- Why is Camp Important Video – Camp staff and volunteers talk about the important ministry of camps and how these ministries have positively influenced them and others. Video can be used as a whole or use clips.. Could be used as part of a worship service message. 7:45 minutes
- What's Your Favourite Camp Song Video – a fun video that can be used towards the end of worship or to introduce a fun camp song/hymn or where you see fit! 2:54 minutes
- Offertory Video – essentially a beautiful slide show of camp images. 2:20 minutes
- Map Slides — PowerPoint Slides of Chinook Winds Camp locations
- Individual Videos of Bar Harbour Camp, Camp Kasota West, Canyon Church Camp, and Kasota East Camp. Use one or more in your service or share on your website/social media to help promote our camps. Make sure to link the Camp's website for registration.

# A Community of Love and Care

## Land Acknowledgement

We rest our hands on the land.  
Sacred creation.  
We give thanks for its sustaining care.  
We raise our hands to the Indigenous peoples of  
this place.

[Name Indigenous peoples, treaties]

We know that this place is sacred, ancestral, treaty  
and/or unceded, surrendered land (area  
dependent).  
May we walk together in good relationship.  
We reach out our hands to each other.  
Beloved community,  
we celebrate each other's gifts and growing edges.  
May we work together with good minds.  
We hug our hands to ourselves.  
Gifts from creator,  
We give thanks for all that we are and all that we  
may yet be.  
May we live with ourselves with good hearts.  
Amen





# A Community of Love and Care



## Lighting of The Candles

(This liturgy is written for a set up of three candles)

We are gathered as beloved community.

We light candles to remind ourselves of the presence of Holy.

Let these lights warm us, sustain us, and signify our collective prayers, offered in good faith, entering the light of the Creator.

With our first candle we proclaim the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who was born to a woman in poverty, in a time of social upheaval, and political oppression. Who knew human joy and suffering, and who preached of liberation not domination. May we live peacefully together.

Jesus preached of reconciliation between peoples. Our second candle represents our commitment to Reconciliation. We recommit ourselves to the principles and actions needed for de-colonized society.

May this candle remind us of our responsibility to act in solidarity and in hope.

Jesus preached of love, Affirmation, and inclusion. This candle represents our commitment to being an Affirming community.

We Affirm the Holy beauty of every person.

You are beloved because of who you are, how you identify, and who you love.

May this light represent our radical welcome and remind us that the Holy spirit shines through every one of us, in all our diversity.

We light these candles to remember, to celebrate, to welcome.





# A Community of Love and Care

## Opening Hymn Suggestions

"This Is the Day" Voices United 412

"We Are One" Voices United 402

## Confession

God of Love, we bring to you the times in our lives when we speak without love or act without care. We bring to you the times when we forget that our actions impact others and impact creation. Create in us a Spirit of love and care, hope and community. Create in us the strength to live into our authentic selves and live out your love and care in our world. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen

## Hymn

"Like A Rock" MV92

## Words of Assurance

God loves us more than we love ourselves.

God set us free to love others.

Thanks be to God.

## Hymn Suggestions

"Spirit, Open My Heart" MV79

"In Christ There is No East or West" VU 606

"It Only Takes a Spark" Voices United 289

## Hearing the Word:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.*

*Thanks be to God.*



# A Community of Love and Care

## Exploring the Word Intergenerationally

### I spy

#### Background

Campers, young leaders, and people of all ages encounter the Divine and the Holy Spirit in creation and the ministry of camps. As part of Camping Sunday, we decorate our sanctuary spaces to remind us of how we experience The Holy at camp in creation.

#### Set-Up Instructions

Consider placing some camping items and other decorations around the sanctuary: backpacks, sleeping bags, headlamps, paper cut-outs of birds, trees, animals, maybe even a tent or mock-campfire.

#### Activity

Invite the congregation to notice the items and imagery around the sanctuary. Perhaps ask some wondering conversations with the congregation:

- What do you “Spy?”
- Does it bring back any memories of a camping ministry experience?
- Have you ever had spiritual experience in nature? What was it?
- Do you remember learning something new at camp?
- Does it make you think of a favourite camp activity?

#### Wondering

At camp we’re invited to arrive as our authentic selves. We leave behind our homework, hometowns and home bases for a little while to explore new relationships and ways of being. We learn how to be humble and helpful; we lift up each other’s gifts and live by community rules. The memories of the fun, trust and authentic love stay with us for a lifetime. We delight in remembering them. How can experience of camp transform our relationship with God? How can camping ministry transform everyday congregational life? What are some parts of camping ministry we can bring into everyday ministry?

# A Community of Love and Care

## Blessing Of Camp

Dear Creator God,  
As we gather to celebrate Camping Sunday, we remember all of our Camps in the United Church of Canada, from the rainy coast of Vancouver Island, to the mountains of the Yukon, to the plains of the Prairies, to the forests of Central Ontario, to the windswept seas of the Maritimes. Let each child experience your love through the fresh air, campfires, songs, good food, and fellowship of others in your creation. Bless each backpack and sleeping bag, as each camper experiences your love, Bless each headlamp and first aid kit of each leader and volunteer who lovingly cares for each child in their care, And bless each camp in our church as they go into a season of making memories that will last a lifetime.  
In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.

## Hymn

Hymn: You may wish to show the What's Your Favourite Camp Song video and then encourage people to share their favourite Camp song. Choose a camp song as a hymn or "Draw The Circle Wide" MV 145





# A Community of Love and Care

## Prayers of The People

Preparation:

*Ahead of time, prepare paper hearts to hand out to the community. Create a 'community map' either on a cloth or paper locating your community of faith and the camp to which you are connected and celebrating today in worship. Use this 'map' to receive the heart prayers.*

*Alternatively, you may wish to simply ask people to turn in the direction of a camp to which the congregation has an affinity.*

*This would also be a time where you could use the PowerPoint Slide of the Camp locations.*

For your personal prayer, I invite you to write a word, a name, a place or draw your prayer on the paper heart. This is the prayer that's in your heart

Creator God, source of love, we celebrate your presence in and around us. We give thanks for the length and breadth and depth of ministry in the camps within our United Church of Canada. Thank you for INSERT CAMP NAME. Thank you for this place and the space of acceptance, fun, faith, and adventure that has been and is a part of this camp. Thank you for the ways in which this camp shares your love and call to be in community. Inspire us today to participate in the ministry of camp in concrete ways.

This day we pray for peace. We pray for peace and justice for our siblings in our community, church, workplace, and across our world. We pray for peace within our own hearts and minds.

Compassionate God, empower us to live out your message of love and care in our world. Help us to see you in the face of those we meet. Hold us close in our own hurt and remind each of us of your unfailing love. Help us to remember that your love is supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting and to live this kind of love out in our community and in our camps.

We name out loud or write on the paper heart prayers that we hold in our heart on this day.

We join these prayers together with the prayer that Jesus taught us...

And at the end of this time of prayer you are invited to paste your prayer on the map.

# A Community of Love and Care

## Invitation to Offering

Videos and images of camp speak to why we need camps: connection, fun, skill building, leadership development, connection to creation.

There are many ways that we serve those in need, disrupt the narratives of scarcity, act generously and work in solidarity. Our camping ministries are sustained through generosity. By working in harmony with each other we sustain the life and gift of our camps and other places and communities of welcome, love and care.

## Dedication of our Gifts

### Hymn:

"What Can I Do?" More Voices 191

### Benediction

Let us go in peace and love, knowing that we never go alone, for the peace of Jesus, the love of God, and the wisdom of the Spirit are always with us.

### Closing Hymn

"Hey Nayana" MV217

"Sent Out in Jesus' Name" MV 212

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

Beloved People of God! As you leave this place, you may wish to share signs of peace which each other. The peace of Christ, who unites us in love and discipleship, be with you all.



# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF UNITED CHURCH CAMPING

It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for your continued support for United Church Camping in the Chinook Winds Region. Here are six ways your faith community can support camping ministry all year long.

## **Know the Camps and their ministry**

Whether it's all four Chinook Winds Region camps or the United Church Camp your faith community supports, help your faith community learn about the camp and their programs. Tell their story of the Church's ministry beyond our doors.

## **Promote the camps**

Encourage members of your faith community to attend and spread the word about the camp to their friends and family. And follow up with campers after camp to show continued support and interest in their spiritual growth.

## **Volunteer**

Encourage people from your faith community to volunteer as camp counselors, cooks, staff or volunteer their skills for a special project.

## **Share news about United Church Camps**

Share news about United Church Camping in your faith community. The sharing can include in announcements during worship, bulletins, newsletters, social media, website and bulletin boards.

## **Donations**

Consider providing financial support through donations for camp bursaries, programs, donating supplies or equipment, and/or supporting capital projects at a United Church Camp or even organizing a fundraiser to support the project. Check with a United Church Camp about their specific needs.

## **Prayer**

Pray for the camp's success, volunteers and staff, the attendee and their safety, and the great fun and growth for all involved.