

The Virginia Christian CAMP EDITION

September, 2026

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Mission Camp

Seven Reasons you should go on the 2027 Virginia Region Multi-Generational Mission Trip:

1. It is a time to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving others.
2. No matter what your skill level or interest, we will find a team for you to serve on - you can do construction, sorting of food, garden work or a variety of other jobs.
3. You will form wonderful friendships with Disciples from around the region.
4. It is truly multi-generational - we will have 5 different generations represented.
5. We have wonderful worship experiences each evening.
6. It is a time of joy - working together, laughing together, late evening games and side trips.
7. It is a time of conversation - you will get closer to family members, friends, church members and new friends.

The 2027 trip will be lead by 5 experienced mission trip leaders - Diane Clark and Suzanne Dale (not pictured) from Bon Air Christian Church; Vanessa Law from Pembroke Christian Church; Abby Matske from Olive Branch Christian Church; and Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster from Perseverance Christian Church. We will share the location and date of the 2027 trip in late September. Please pray about your decision and we hope many previous and new mission trip participants will join us.



Special Camp

Special Camp was a wonderful week filled with faith, friendship, laughter and unforgettable memories. Throughout the week, we explored the theme of “In The Wilderness” by learning about people in the Bible who experienced difficult seasons and discovered God’s faithfulness along the way. From the Israelites to Elija and Jesus, we were reminded that God is present even in life’s hardest moments. These stories encouraged us to trust that when we face our own wilderness times, God walks beside us, providing strength, hope, and guidance.

The weather certainly gave us a wilderness experience of its own, with very high temperatures throughout the week! Thankfully, everyone stayed safe and comfortable by enjoying plenty of time in the swimming pool and cooling off in the air-conditioned rooms of Oak Lodge. It was the perfect balance of outdoor fun and refreshing breaks.

The week was packed with exciting activities that brought smiles to everyone. Campers enjoyed a lively game night, celebrated together at a birthday party, shared their gifts during the talent show, and danced the evening away at our camp dance. Creative craft projects, daily swim time, and simply spending time together helped build friendships and create lasting memories.

More than anything, Special Camp was a beautiful reminder of God’s love shown in so many ways. We are grateful for the love of God that surrounded us throughout the week, for the dedicated staff who served with joyful hearts, and for the campers who made each day special with their kindness, enthusiasm, and encouragement of one another.

As we returned home, we carried with us the lessons we learned: even when life leads us through wilderness seasons, God remains faithful. We are thankful for another incredible year at Craig Springs and are already looking forward to Special Camp 2027!



Triple 1 Camp

What an incredible week we shared at Triple 1 Camp 2026! With 80 campers joining us, the camp was filled with laughter, friendship, worship, and countless moments where God moved in powerful ways. It was truly a week that will leave a lasting impact on everyone who attended. Throughout the week, campers grew closer to one another while growing deeper in their faith. Watching campers step out in faith, encourage one another, and build lasting relationships reminded us of all the incredible work God continues to do through this ministry.

Of course, camp wouldn't be camp without plenty of excitement! Campers enjoyed an action-packed Capture the Flag competition, tested their teamwork during our exciting Survivor Night, showed off their creativity and confidence in the always-entertaining Lip Synch Battle, and wrapped up the week with an unforgettable Campers vs. Counselors Soccer Game.

None of this would have been possible without our amazing camp staff and volunteer team. Their countless hours of planning, preparation, leadership, and service helped make this week such a tremendous success. They generously shared not only their time and talents, but also their resources, giving sacrificially to ensure every camper had the opportunity to experience an unforgettable week. Their love, dedication, and servant hearts reflected Christ in so many ways, and we are deeply grateful for each and every one of them.

Thank you to everyone who prayed, volunteered, donated, and supported Triple 1 Camp. Your investment made an eternal difference in the lives of these young people. As we reflect on an amazing week, we celebrate the friendships formed, the memories made, the lives changed through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

We are already looking forward to what God has in store for Triple 1 Camp next year!



New Covenant Camp

We encountered God in incredible ways at New Covenant Camp 2026. Our campers and staff braved the rain and heat and power outage to discover God In the Wilderness. We hiked, swam, stargazed, crafted, and studied scripture, in addition to worshipping, singing, and generally having lots of fun. We loved sharing the facilities with CAMPDD, who had fun with us, including an epic variety show in the dark. Please enjoy our pictures of us In the Wildnerness. We look forward to seeing all of our young campers again next year!



Triple 2 Camp

Triple 2's Wild Wilderness campers and staff shared an amazing week filled with love and wonder. We played crazy games and hiked to the Boulders and Potts Mountain. Lives were transformed. Friendships were made. God's spirit moved among us and kindled the fires of love and faith. As we came down from the mountain we knew we'd found the serendipity of discovering ourselves and discovering God and we are thankful.



CAMPDD Camp

This year was amazing to find ourselves and our creativity in the Wilderness at CAMPDD Camp. This year we had Culinary, Drama, and Art groups, who used the time up on the mountain to get lost in the wilderness and find God in it. We did some trail trekking exercises, silly games, bonded with friends, and prepared for a great show to round out the end of the week. This year, the Culinary group made a great French dinner, the Art group had an amazing gallery accented with our slideshow put together by some campers' photos and our photography counselor, and our Drama Group put on a fun little play about a veterinary clinic and the goings-on with the animals and people in there.



Adult Hiking Camp

NOTES FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER:

Proximity and/or the Need for more Camp Experiences for Adults:

This past week I spent 33 miles on the Appalachian Trail hiking up and down mountains with nine other individuals in what can only be described as church camp for adults. It only costs \$25 for the experience and I know that it is not for everyone, but what happened on the trail was the best kind of church camp experience. 10 people came together, some knowing each other but most meeting each other for the first time.

Throughout the miles each of us found something that we had to give and moments when we needed to receive from others. We saw beauty in nature and God in each other. In the end we left changed for the experience. Church, what if we started thinking of other ways to create church camp experiences for adults both in our local congregations as well as in the ministries that we do together as the 120 Disciples congregations throughout Virginia?



Family Camp

There's just something special about being on the mountain. This year's Family Camp at Craig Springs flew by, but it was filled with so much connection, laughter, hiking, swimming, fellowship, and praise. With Maria's help bringing fresh ideas to the weekend, we were able to create meaningful moments for families to slow down, reconnect, and enjoy time together in faith.

Our weekend ended with a beautiful Sunday service led by some of our younger campers. One of my favorite moments was placing our worries and concerns together on the cross, then burning the paper and watching it become a black rose; a powerful reminder that we can give our burdens to God and trust Him to transform them.

I always leave Craig Springs feeling renewed by the fellowship and the Christian family we have there. We truly hope the weekend was as meaningful to the families who joined us as it was to us.



TREC Camp

Virginia Region celebrated 23 years of TREC Camp this past June at Farm Camp outside of Lynchburg. Our camp of 15 kids and 11 adults enjoyed an exciting week filled with high-adventure experiences, laughter, challenges, worship, and friendship.

The week began on Claytor Lake with tubing and paddle boarding. The next day brought horseback riding and canoeing, along with evening games that included our famous Ultimate Frisbee tournament and water polo games in the pool. Later in the week, we went snow tubing at Snowflex and enjoyed rock climbing. We finished the week on the disc golf course and with a mountain bike ride across the historic High Bridge near Farmville, Virginia.

In the middle of all that adventure, our kids found something even more important—new friendships. Through small-group conversations, shared experiences, games, meals, and simply spending time together, relationships began to grow.

Each evening's worship gave the group an opportunity to connect the day's experiences with their faith. Our theme of friendship reminded us that Jesus calls us into a relationship with God and into a community where we care for one another.

The theme of friendship connected naturally with the adventure that is such an important part of TREC. Whether campers were climbing, hiking, paddling, playing, challenging themselves, or simply sitting around talking, they experienced how shared adventures create relationships and memories that can last far beyond the week at camp.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of TREC 2026 was that faith is not meant to be lived alone. God places people in our lives who help us discover who we are, who God is, and what it means to love one another.

As we all know, TREC is about much more than a week at camp. Our hope is that the friendships formed at TREC will continue when the campers return home—and that the lessons learned around the campfire, on the trail, during worship, and through adventure will become part of how they live their lives.

TREC 2026 reminded us that God calls us to walk this journey together.

Amen!



Nature Camp

Nature Camp is a camp for children who are not as privileged and may not have a chance to go to an overnight summer camp without it. It is run by the youth in Virginia, and there is a youth Director and Assistant Director who leads the entire camp. This year, Tristan Goodman was the Nature Camp Director and Carl Prince was the Assistant Director, and Carl will be the Director next year. At Nature Camp we pair a teenager (called Counselor) with a child (called camper), and the teens are responsible for their camper the entire week. Each pair develops a bond that lasts a lifetime. There is plenty of adult guidance consisting of a Minister, a Registered Nurse, a Teacher, a Youth Minister, an Administrator from VA Tech, and others who have deep history with Nature Camp and Craig Springs. The teen counselors learn leadership skills, they get an understanding of what it's like to grow up differently than they are used to, and a lot of Nature Camp Counselors decide to go in the ministry after this experience. The campers are able to have a safe place to be kids and they beg to return every year. We have farm animals come visit at camp, play lots of games, have swimming every day and a night swim, we have a dance, a talent show, fun worship every night, we hike, have a cook out, we have the best crafts, great food and snacks! We now have former campers who have come back to be counselors, which is a testament to how Nature Camp changes lives.



PDC Youth Camp - PDC Youth Choose Faith Over Fear

The Piedmont District Convention Camp & Conference 2026, held at Radford University, was a wonderful, spiritual, educational, and empowering experience for our youth from Virginia and North Carolina.

Our theme was “Faith Over Fear,” based on Isaiah 41:10 (NIV): “So do not fear, for I am with you...” Throughout Camp & Conference, our youth were encouraged to trust God, build confidence, embrace new opportunities, and recognize the potential within themselves.

Throughout their time at Radford Univ., the youth were given opportunities to be hands-on and fully engaged. From exploring the courtroom and broadcasting room to participating in campus tours, interactive library activities, swimming, recreation, and other educational experiences, they were able to learn by doing, ask questions, explore new environments, and discover possibilities for their futures. The Faith Over Fear curriculum incorporated the wisdom, messages, and spiritual guidance of our PDC pioneers and leaders. Through Bible study, discussions, activities, prayer, and reflection, our youth were encouraged to grow spiritually while developing confidence, leadership, accountability, and positive relationships.

Camp & Conference was about more than activities - it was about exposure, empowerment, faith, fellowship, and planting seeds for the future. We are thankful for everyone who helped make this experience possible as we continue encouraging our youth to choose Faith Over Fear.

