**Camping Sunday (April 21)**

*Music suggestions:*

From The United Methodist Hymnal-

62 All Creatures of Our God and King

144 This is My Father’s World

191 Jesus Loves Me

92 For the Beauty of the Earth

344 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

399 Take My Life, and Let It Be

77 How Great Thou Art

572 Pass It On

From The Faith We Sing-

2222 The Servant Song

2152 Change My Heart, O God

2164 O Lord, You’re So Beautiful

2032 My Life is in You Lord

2215 I Cast All My Cares Upon You, Lord

2226 Bind Us Together

*Call to worship based on Isaiah 40:21-31*

We know that God’s power created the universe,

**It stretched out the heavens, created a place for us, and continues to guide us.**

God has no equal, no one can compare.

**God has created every being and called them each by name.**

There is nothing hidden from our God. Our God never tires.

**The Lord gives power to the faint, and strength to the powerless**

Those who wait for the Lord will be renewed. We recognize the importance of places for renewal.

**Our camp and retreat centers offer space for the young and the old to come together in a community that follows God and celebrates creation.**

*Opening prayer:*

God of all creation, we give you thanks for this community that has gathered today. We ask that you would help us care for one another, both in and out of this space. We are grateful for the creation you have blessed us with and those places that have been set aside that we might enjoy the beauty you have created. Amen.

*Pastoral prayer:*

Loving God, you know how much camp and retreats have meant in our Methodist heritage. So many people feel your presence when they are able to go to camp. May they reflect and grow in love with you. Send aid to those who need a camp experience and are met with roadblocks. Seek out those who need retreat and meet them on the path. Help us to cherish the spaces we have to celebrate your creation and to create communities for the transformation of the world. In your name we pray, amen.

*Children’s moment:*

Have each child make a paper chain piece. Pull out some of your own pieces of chain, already made; have one of the pieces be ripped. Ask the children what you should do about it. Talk about the ways we can try to connect to others or to nature but there’s something stopping us from being connected. We need to find ways to help repair the world around us so we can all be linked by love.

*Sermon ideas:*

(4/21/24) This year’s theme for camp curriculum is “linked by love.” The gospel lesson is about going out and finding others to bring into community, to link them to love. The second reading also focuses on love of neighbor and how God’s love is within us if we care for the hurting and the vulnerable, linking ourselves to them.

*Benediction:*

May you go out from this place with the knowledge that you are connected to all the people and places around you. May you work to make those connections look like the kingdom of God.

     