

UCG ANNUAL RETREAT



APRIL 21 to 23, 2017 WARREN WILLIS CAMP

Registration:

Sundays, March 12 & March 19 in Reimer Hall
from 10:15 to 12:15

Monday to Friday – March 13 - 17 & March 20 - 24
from 9:00am to 4:30pm in the church office

Registrars: Sally Simonis, Donn Smith, Melissa Varady

OUR THEME: "Find the Balance" Our program will help find the balance in life, between work, friends, family, faith, and personal growth. One of the biggest appeals of coming on Retreat is simply finding the flow of the weekend. Join us, to unplug from the business of these challenging times, to get reacquainted with self and spirit, and "Find the Balance."

OUR PROGRAM includes worship, recreation, relaxation, a variety show, and workshops for adults with concurrent activities for youth and children which are planned by members of the Retreat Committee and supervised by adult volunteers. There is wonderful child care for babies and toddlers during the daytime adult workshops, as well as child care for all children (babies-5th graders) during the evening adult activities.

WARREN WILLIS CAMP is in Fruitland Park, about 5 miles north of Leesburg on Lake Griffin and is owned by the United Methodist Church. We will have all of our meals, most of our activities and lodging for families with children, for youth and for some of their parents, as well as other adults who wish to stay in the main camp in a cabin or RV. There is a Frisbee golf course, a large swimming pool with two water slides, basketball and volleyball courts, a lake with a dock, a nature trail and lodging and bathrooms for families and children. Adults attending Retreat without children may stay in a cabin or camp in their own RV in the main camp, or camp in their own tent or stay in motel rooms in the Life Enrichment Center just across Picciola Road. The Life Enrichment Center, also on the lake, has an outdoor Labyrinth and a beautiful small chapel. Our Friday opening, variety show, many of our workshops, and all of our meals will be in the Barnett Lodge building. Directions and maps are available when you register. For more information about Warren W. Willis Camp, visit their website at www.warrenwilliscamp.org.

LODGING

- **Families with preschool and elementary school children** will stay in one of the Lodges. Each Lodge has a full kitchen (including a stove, sink, refrigerator and microwave), a common room where the children's daytime activities will be held, and a small porch overlooking large beautiful grounds that face the lake. In each Lodge, there are eight carpeted partitioned areas with bunk beds. Each partitioned area has its own tiled bathroom with 1 toilet, 1 shower and 2 sinks. Some areas can sleep 8; others can sleep 6.
- **Middle school and high school youth** stay in their own cabins with chaperones. Each side of these cabins sleeps 14 and has a large tiled bathroom with 2 toilets, 2 showers and several sinks. Parents of middle and high schoolers may indicate on their registration form a preference for staying in a cabin in the main camp or in a motel room.
- **Folks attending retreat without children** may stay in a cabin in the main camp, a motel room, or in a tent or RV.
- **If you would like to share a cabin or motel room with someone you know who is coming to Retreat**, simply request to be with that person or family when you register.

FEES are listed on the registration form and include 2 nights' lodging, 4 meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner – and Sunday breakfast), evening snacks, all camp facilities and UCG programs, plus 8 hours of daytime care for infants and toddlers, and two evenings of child care for all children.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID at the time of registration which ends at 4:30pm on Friday, March 24

You may also order T-shirts when you register. Adult sizes (men's and women's styles) are \$10; children and youth sizes are \$6.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for church members is available through the *Peterson-Currie Retreat Scholarship & Loan Fund*. **We do not want anyone to miss Retreat for financial reasons.** If you need financial assistance, there is a basic fee of \$60 for adults; \$30 for undergraduate, middle or high schoolers; \$20 for elementary schoolers; and \$10 for preschoolers. You may request scholarship or loan money on the registration form to cover any portion of the cost above these basic fees. *You may also talk to the registrar if you need to reduce the basic fee.* If you have any questions about financial aid, please contact Lisa Goldstein at 352 378-3500. **The deadline for Financial Aid requests is Friday, March 24.**

COMMUTERS **We strongly encourage you to attend the entire Retreat.** If you cannot, you may arrange to come for the whole day on Saturday. The cost for commuters is \$42 for adults, \$27 for children, and \$16 for babies and toddlers. Adult commuters need to sign up to help with one Saturday activity. *Middle or high school youth must talk to Andy Bachmann to see if commuting is an option.* **Remember to pick up your program at the church office on Friday, April 21 before noon or in the Barnett Lodge Breezeway from 8:00 to 9:00am on Saturday.**

DEADLINES and REFUNDS Registration ends at 4:30pm on Friday, March 24.

Please remember that if you have not paid, you are not registered. *If you have to cancel, all refunds are made after Retreat.* Our refund policies are:

- Cancel by March 24 = 100% refund
- Cancel March 25 – April 16 = 50% refund
- Cancel April 17 and after = no refund
- Your retreat registration is not transferrable to someone else.

If you have to cancel any time after noon on Friday, April 21 please call Camp Liaison Sam Harris at (352) 278-3230, so we don't worry about you! The camp number is 352-787-4345.

TO MAKE RETREAT HAPPEN - We all help! Each adult assists with one Activity during Retreat. After you register and designate your lodging, you will sign-up to help with an activity on the volunteer posters. Information about each activity will be available in the folders by the sign-up posters. We especially need volunteers to help with activities for children and youth. **Please be conscientious about signing up for and completing your job!**

RETREAT PROGRAM INFORMATION - A map with directions to Warren Willis Camp and an overview of **the program schedule** are part of this registration packet. You can pick up your complete Retreat program on Friday, April 21 when you arrive at Warren Willis Camp or you can come by the church office by noon on that Friday and get your program.

Check-in at Warren Willis is from 5:30 to 7:45 on Friday evening. When you arrive at the camp, go directly to Barnett Lodge. Eat dinner on the way or bring a picnic dinner to eat after you check in. Plan to leave Gainesville by 5:30 pm, so that you can check in, find your cabin and unpack **before it gets dark.** The opening session for youth and adults is at 8:30pm in the Barnett Lodge. Child care aides are on duty in the cabins at 7:45pm.

There are planned supervised **activities for children and youth** on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Our own UCG child care aides, supervised by Shay Smith, take care of our babies – 2 year olds. During these times, there are a variety of **workshops for adults.** Most workshops are open to anyone who shows up. If a workshop requires an advance sign-up, you can do that at check-in on Friday night. If you are interested in bird watching, bring binoculars; for yoga, bring a mat or blanket.

There is a Friday evening opening session at 8:30 for all adults, middle school and high school youth, followed by activities for youth and an opportunity for reflective worship and Communion for adults at 10:30pm. On Saturday evening, there is an inter-generational, PG-rated **Variety Show** followed by snacks, a dance and a music jam.

Evening child care for babies, toddlers and their siblings is provided by Shay Smith, Michael Moore and child care aides in the buildings where those families are staying. Parents are responsible for having their children ready for bed. Child care aides cannot dress or bathe children. Child care aides watch the children in their lodge: reading stories, playing board games, and settling the children in bed. Child care aides remain in lodges until the last parent arrives or until a parent volunteers to let the child care aide leave because all children are asleep and most parents are there. **Please be prompt at picking up your children at the appointed times to allow our amazing child care aides time for meals, rest and sleep.**

Middle and high schoolers have their own cabins with adult chaperones. Parents of youth stay in cabins nearby, or in motel rooms at the Life Enrichment Center across the road.

If a child or youth is not able or willing to participate in the supervised activities for his/her age group, that child or youth must be with his or her parent(s). No child or youth may be left alone in a cabin or anywhere on the camp grounds. **During free time and meals, parents supervise their children and youth.**

MEALS

- ◆ Our meals will be served in both Lakeside Dining Hall and Roadside Dining Hall.
- ◆ Warren Willis will accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free diets. Just note your needs on the registration form. It costs UCG extra for these special meals. Please eat your special meal if (and only if) you registered for it.
- ◆ Breakfast is served for 45 minutes, lunch and dinner for one hour.
- ◆ The people who cook and serve our meals work long hours on Saturday and Sunday. We will thank them at dinner on Saturday night.

VARIETY SHOW

- ◆ **The Variety Show is Saturday evening** at 7:30pm. It is intergenerational, PG in content, and lasts approximately 1¼ hours without an intermission.
- ◆ To keep the show a reasonable length, we ask that all acts have at least two participants, that participants appear in no more than two acts, and that acts be no more than 3 to 5 minutes long. Volunteers are also welcome to tell a joke between acts.
- ◆ Out of respect for those of all gender identities and expressions, please no drag.
- ◆ You may sign up at registration or contact David Dick at dicknbates@yahoo.com if you have an act. **All acts must be registered prior to arriving at retreat.**
- ◆ Children are welcome at the Variety Show; there is also child care available for those who wish to use it. Specific information will be included in your Retreat program booklet.
- ◆ After the Variety Show, children may attend the dance in Barnett Lodge under the direct supervision of their parent(s). If they don't wish to attend the dance, child care aides will be sent to Barnett Lodge and parents may send their child(ren) back to their cabin with the CCAs, or they may take their child back to their cabin themselves. Parents who choose to send their children with the child care aides must have their children in their pajamas prior to arriving at the variety show, and sign their child over to the CCA. Parents may then go to any evening activity of their choice. Middle and high schoolers may attend the dance or participate in another activity for youth, which will be announced in your program booklet.

SAFETY

- ◆ Preschool and elementary school children must be under parental supervision when they are not at their organized age-group activities.
- ◆ All children 5th grade and under must be accompanied by a parent when they are at the pool or at the waterfront. The hours when the pool is open will be listed in your Retreat Program; you must accompany your own child to the pool. Please do not allow children or youth to be in the water at any other times.
- ◆ At the pool, the lifeguards are in charge – and their word is the final word.
- ◆ Anyone under the age of 18 is required to take a swim test before they can use the water slides. There will be a time when the rest of the pool will close and the lifeguards will be stationed at the slides so that children who cannot pass a swim test can try out the slides. You'll get more information about times and procedures when you arrive at Retreat.

- ◆ Children 5th grade and under may not sleep in the top bunks. If needed, take the mattress off the top bunk and put it on the floor.
- ◆ Each lodge/cabin will have an assigned captain who will contact the camp liaison with any facility problems and coordinate clean-up. The lodge/cabin captain has directions to the nearest hospital. Those directions will also be posted in each lodge/cabin.
- ◆ Be sure that someone in your cabin knows where you are, especially if you are going off by yourself. Parents may not go off-site and leave children behind at the camp.
- ◆ The large, fully stocked, first aid kits will be located in the Fellowship Hall in Barnett Lodge and in Lodge #3. Each other family lodge will have small first aid kits in the kitchen area.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- ◆ **Be proactive.** Decide what is most important to you, what you want and need on this Retreat. Choose activities that support these goals. If you are an introvert, you may need to look for some opportunities during the week-end to drop out of the crowd and recharge! It is good to bring something to do during the unstructured times: a book, a journal, a camera, a craft.
- ◆ **At check-in,** welcomers will be there to orient you to the camp and answer questions. Bring a picture of yourself/your family doing something that helps you feed balanced. You can make your nametag, pick up your T-shirt (if you ordered one), post your picture, get your retreat program and a map that will take you to your cabin.
- ◆ **Settle in at your cabin or room.** Child care aides are on duty at 7:45 in the cabins; check your program for information on what is available for older children at 8:15. The opening session for adults and youth begins at 8:30 in Barnett Lodge.
- ◆ **During free time on Saturday afternoon,** you can take a nap, hang out at the pool or by the dock, by your cabin, or go to free-time activities.
- ◆ **Bring your sense of humor and a positive spirit of adventure.** Be ready to try new things and meet new people. Living in community, even for 40+ hours, is like camping: it requires less sleep, more flexibility, and a willingness to appreciate the blessings without dwelling on any discomfort.

Remember: If you are lucky enough to come on Retreat, you are lucky enough!

CAMP POLICIES:

- No alcohol or drugs can be brought to or used at the Retreat. We ask everyone to abide by this rule: children, teenagers and adults. If you know of, or see someone using alcohol or drugs, please gently remind them that the camp could cancel our contract for next year.
- Smoking is not allowed in buildings, around buildings, or around group activities. If there is evidence of your smoking in any building or around any group activity, the camp charges the church a fee of \$100 per incident, which we will pass along to the smoker(s).

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact the church office at 378-3500 or info@ucgainesville.org

or contact

Sally Simonis at 954-309-2296

WHAT TO BRING

- **a picture of yourself or your family “doing something that helps you to feel balanced” to check-in Friday evening at Barnett Lodge.**
- **sleeping bag or single bed linens, blanket, and pillow, plus towels.** *If you are staying in a motel room, bed linens and towels are provided.*
- **sunscreen, insect repellent, and toiletries,** including soap, shampoo, hair dryer, toothpaste and toothbrush, and deodorant
- **a watch, a flashlight and spare batteries**
- **comfortable camp clothes:** t-shirts, shorts, jeans, underwear, socks, two pairs of shoes, sweatshirt or jacket, night clothes suitable for group living, and a bathing suit and beach towel if you want to swim in the pool
- **umbrella, rain gear and a board game that you like to play**
- **lawn chair and/or blanket for sitting outside**
- **an insulated coffee mug** for early morning coffee & **a water bottle.** The water fountains in Barnett Lodge have filtered water available to refill water bottles.

PARENTS, please also bring:

- clothes and shoes for children that can handle outside play and messy crafts
- snacks and drinks for your child(ren)
- **Babies and toddlers** need a port-a-crib or playpen for sleeping; their own sunscreen and bug spray; inside books and toys; outside toys to share and a wagon or stroller for getting from one place to another

OPTIONAL ITEMS that may be useful:

- yoga mat for “Touching the Earth” workshop
- for bird-watching, binoculars; art supplies; sports equipment like a basketball or kickball; kites
- campers and motel folks: a bike to go from the Life Enrichment Center to the main camp
- water bottle or Gatorade for your family members for outdoor activities
- for the cabins and lodges: bathmat for the shower
- a journal, notebook, sketchbook and pen
- musical instrument, sports equipment, fishing gear, binoculars, camera
- some folks like to bring twin-size convoluted mattress pads for the beds
- you won’t need to bring floor mats for the cabins/lodges because they all have carpet!
- The temperature in the family lodges can vary. For it to be cool enough in one area, other areas can be too cold. A small space heater could be helpful if you tend to be cold.

Once you arrive at Retreat, please put away all electronic games or equipment – let the weekend be a tech sabbatical, other than your cell phone.