Summer 2022
COMING TO SILVER LAKE
Changing Lives
Since 1957

“Great job putting together a camp during the pandemic! Keeping everyone safe was well done. Isaiah came back more mature than when he left us. It was amazing to see the more mature Isaiah. Thank you for your effort!”

COURTNEY K. MASON

“Thanks to all the Silver Lake staff for taking great care of Janelle and giving her a meaningful and fun experience! Special thanks to Jalyn and Emily, her counselors. Janelle couldn’t stop talking about how wonderful you were! We have an unconventional family makeup. She learned that ‘normal family’ can come in many different shapes. Thank you for opening her eyes to this and having her understand that with God, all things are possible.”

GINA MAGENNIS

“This was Madison’s third time going to Silver Lake. I can’t begin to explain all that she learned about God, but also, the friends she made. We all couldn’t be happier with the experience she received from Silver Lake!”

SUSAN LUSKER

Silver Lake is the Year-Round Outdoor Ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ

www.silverlakect.org
Welcome to Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, where we are doing something new! We are excited to enter 2022 with a new name that better describes who we are and what we do. We are offering new ways to be involved, from family days this spring to volunteering at summer camp to coming as a camper. Another new thing this year is Day Camp. New campers entering grades 1 through 3 will have a chance to experience the magic of Silver Lake alongside our Week 1 conferences.

We continue to widen the welcome at Silver Lake, this summer offering campers the option of a non-gendered cabin. Check out the website for more information.

And, I am proud to tell you, Silver Lake Camp continues our long tradition of providing life-changing experiences of God’s love in creation. Young people come to camp to learn about who they are, to learn about others, to learn about living in community, and to learn to simply be, just as they always have.

Our summer staff develop leadership skills and gain real-world experience that prepares them for both college and future careers, while gaining real-world experience that prepares them for college. Check out the Week 1 conferences.

Adapting to COVID-19
Silver Lake’s Covid policies will evolve over the spring and follow recommended guidelines. We will communicate out to our camp community as soon as we can.

For 2022, we are planning a leaner, but stronger and more flexible program. This will give us the ability to adapt as circumstances change. Our hope is to expand offerings throughout early 2022. Stay tuned to our website and social media for updates.

And, everyone who comes to Silver Lake must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Staff, volunteers, campers. If someone in your family is coming to camp has a medical exemption or is too young for a vaccine, please contact us for more information.

We appreciate your patience as we work to bring you a safe, fun, and fulfilling summer camp experience.

Open House
Sunday, May 15
1-5 p.m.
Silver Lake staff, counselors, and deans are ready to introduce you to camp! Take a tour on foot or hop on the hayride. See the cabins and other buildings, find out where the Frogs (bathrooms) are, and check out the ropes courses and the waterfront. A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first-time camper (conferee) to know what to expect – you might even run into a new friend who will be in the same conference this summer! We’ll provide the cookies, you bring your questions. See you there!

RSVP for Open House to site@silverlakect.org by May 10.

You are welcome as you are
Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center strives to create an intentional, welcoming, Christian community accessible to all. The staff and Board of Directors believe that exposure to diverse expressions of humanity is beneficial to all God’s children. Silver Lake welcomes and affirms campers, staff, volunteers, and guests of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, and sexual orientations. Please be in touch with camp administration so that we can best support you while you are here.

Grade 6
“Silver Lake is fun and respectful of who you are.”

Grade 5
“Even though I’m gluten-free, kitchen staff had food for me.”

Grade 4
“I learned how to be enthusiastic and have fun. It’s okay to try new things and talk to new people.”

Grade 3
“A camp accepting of minority groups and fueled by social justice and making kids feel safe.”

2022 Day Camp at Silver Lake
Bringing the Magic of Silver Lake to Younger Campers
Rising 1st-3rd graders, join us for daily adventures!

Life at Silver Lake
It’s my first time at camp!
Welcome! We’re glad you’re here! And you will not be the only one here for the first time (even if you’re in high school). Our conferees (campers) tell us they make new friends on the very first day of camp. Every year, you’re in for a week of outdoor fun with a whole conference (your camp group) full of new friends.

A typical day
A day at camp is busy, full of games, crafts, swimming, singing, and campfires. And you’ll have quiet time after lunch to read, write letters home, or even take a nap. You will have the chance to meet God in a very unique setting. Your conference will lead worship one night. You and your new friends will pick the songs, stories, poems, prayers, dances, and sometimes silliness that add up to a truly engaging worship service.

The camp experience
While a lot of your group’s activity will center on your theme, all conferences are camp experiences first: You will live at camp, eat in the Social Hall with the other conferences, swim in the lake, have the opportunity to check out the high and low ropes courses, dig around in the garden, and sit around a campfire. Also, each conference takes turns leading all-camp worship one night of the week.

For more information about what to expect at camp, visit our website at www.silverlakect.org/summercamp.

Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center
Mission Statement
Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center, a year-round outdoor ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, is called to covenant with God and with the churches and people of the conference in the work of forming life-sustaining leaders for the church and the world, by offering:

• Experiences of inclusive and nurturing Christian community
• Opportunities to grow and participate as Christ’s disciples
• A model of sustainable environmental stewardship of God’s world

We worship, learn, play, serve, and work together, respecting the right of private judgment. We seek to provide a safe environment of acceptance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, reflecting our unity in Christ and respecting the faith journeys of all of God’s children.

Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer
Executive Director
ryang@silverlakect.org

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www.silverlakect.org/summercamp

More info inside!
### Silver Lake Summer Schedule 2022

#### LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

**March 4-6**
- **Counselor-in-Training**: Betty Gelling
  - So you want to be a counselor at Silver Lake? Join us for a three-day interview and training session to become one of the future leaders of Silver Lake. You will learn how to lead games, how to quiet a roomful of children, how to keep them safe, and how to help God change their lives while enriching your own. Successful completion of this weekend program will make you eligible to be a counselor or CIT in Summer 2022.

- **Cost**: $145
- **Ages**: 13 & 16

**April 8-10**
- **Counselor Retreat**: Jennifer Kronholm Clark
  - Group committees, cabin bonding, faith exploration, homework, news, fun. Fun, fun, outdoor adventures! We’ll cover it all! Learn how to make the magic of camp happen for your campers, while keeping them safe. This retreat is open to all who will serve as counselors at Silver Lake, whether it’s your first time or your 20th time. Join us for a weekend of community building and skills training and get ready to have the best week of your summer! We’ll even fulfill the in-person training requirement for counselors serving in 2022.

- **Cost**: $45 / $55 / $65
- **Ages**: 16 & Adult

#### WEEK 1 June 28-July 2 • Chaplain: The Spirit Is Still Discerning, TBA

- **My Loved One & Me**: Jen Bourque & Graham Sweetnam
  - WEEK 1: Age 15 & 16
  - **Grade**: 8
  - **Description**: This week is for you and your loved one to spend time together. Come explore the waterfront, adventuring on the open courses, digging in the garden, and playing on the ball field as we make wonderful things.
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Wonderfully Made**: Josh Gelling & Amanda Gren
  - **Grade**: 12
  - **Description**: You are wonderfully made by God, and you are a creator, too! Join us at camp for a week of creation. Together we will make art, music, friends, and so many memories! Enjoy swimming at the waterfront, adventuring on the open courses, and many more adventures. $675 / $600 / $525

- **Raise Your Voice**: Brittany Anderson
  - **Grade**: 11
  - **Description**: Who are you and how do you let others know who you are? Join us as we find that voice inside of each of us, the one that has a lot to say but doesn’t often speak, and tell our stories through poetry, art, lyrics, and more! We are all created uniquely in the image of God and desire to shout it from the rooftops (or through the hallway). Bring your pens, your instruments, and let’s raise your voice! $675 / $600 / $525

#### WEEK 2 July 3-9 • Chaplain: Rev. Jennifer Girgras

- **Cone M.A.D.D.**: Betty Gelling
  - **Grade**: 8
  - **Description**: Music. Art. Dance. Drama. We’ll explore it all while making new friends, learning about God, and having fun outdoors at camp. Explore your passion – what are you M.A.D.D. about? Bring your voice, your instrument, your sense of adventure and wonder and see what we can create together.
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Te Fiti, Ohana, Mop’Du and The Elements**: Miranda Moeller
  - **Grade**: 12
  - **Description**: Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself, love creation - it’s the Silver Lake way! Explore the Silver Lake loves through familiar animated characters and beloved stories, while learning more about yourself and making friends.
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Compass**: Tush Allman-Norton & Taylor DeFur
  - **Grade**: 11
  - **Description**: Come explore your talents, experiences, and relationships that make you who you are. At Compass we will navigate the challenges that young people face and learn how to guide ourselves and the people around us to a bright future. Dive into the music, nature, and culture of Silver Lake to discover your direction.
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Still Sincere**: Whendy Cook, Val Tutson, & Vin Urbanowski
  - **Grade**: 12
  - **Description**: Bring your dramatic voice, your dancing feet, your brilliant mind, your musical instrument, and any other of God’s gifts to yo that you want to share. We will explore where our faith meets the issues of today as we write, compose, and perform an original biblical musical for a joyous experience of worship.
  - **Cost**: $750 / $675 / $600

#### WEEK 3 July 10-16 • Chaplain: Rev. Nicolette Siragusa

- **Team Lego**: Kristen Kleiman
  - **Grade**: 16
  - **Description**: Everything is awesome when you are part of a team! During a fun-filled week, we will build connections with God, creation, and each other as we play games, participate in the Challenge Course, swim, do arts & crafts, enjoy God’s creation, worship service!
  - **Cost**: $45 / $55 / $65

- **Cod Song**: Ally Massi
  - **Grade**: 11
  - **Description**: Do you love to sing, act, write, dance, create art, or play an instrument? Join us as we form a community of creative spirits, discovering each other’s talents. We’ll go for nature walks, write and perform, form a band or two (Bring your instruments and be prepared for a great week here.)
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Fun in the Sun**: Cameron Hall & Brian Lapis
  - **Grade**: 12
  - **Description**: When Jesus is your head coach, welcoming the stranger and loving your neighbor are more important than defeating your opponent. In this high energy week of playing, passing, and scoring, we’ll exercise our bodies, minds, and spirits (yoga, too!) together to become one of the future leaders of Silver Lake!
  - **Cost**: $675 / $600 / $525

- **Rock of Ages: Unplugged**: Bowen Kirwood & Amber Novotny
  - **Grade**: 12
  - **Description**: The sounds, the songs, the smell of the campfire & cookies – explore your love of music at camp! Bring your voices, creativity ideas, instruments and spend a week unplugged learning about the joy of making music. $45 / $55 / $65

#### Summer 2022 Schedule

**Week 1**: June 28-July 2 • Chaplain: The Spirit Is Still Discerning, TBA

**Week 2**: July 3-9 • Chaplain: Rev. Jennifer Girgras

**Week 3**: July 10-16 • Chaplain: Rev. Nicolette Siragusa

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**Silver Lake**: Camp & Retreat Center

**Experiencing God’s Love in Creation**
Bringing the Magic of Silver Lake

As we swim, explore nature, play games, do arts & study, sermon prep, and vocational development. Silver Lake has to offer — boating, hiking, singing, worship in the woods. We’ll enjoy all the best that they can make it to camp by June 21. Attendance of this conference, youth are eligible to attend if carpenter or have never seen a hammer in your mission trip but at camp! Whether you’re a master finding new BFFs? COME TO PIONEER! It’s like a gift of music and all the other gifts that make you love mission trips? Do you like helping out? does, includes arts & crafts, have fun with Legos. As we play games, participate in the Challenge we’ll worship together, be challenged by the ropes and spend a week unplugged learning about the sounds, the songs, the smell of the campfire & dancing, too!). We’ll share some laughs, share God’s love, and make lifelong friends. Join our team! Step up a notch. YOU have what it takes to reach the horizon, and support each other. Y’all are important than defeating your opponent. In this stranger and loving your neighbor are more than we do. The week learning to be the best friends we can be to each other, to ourselves, and to God. Laugh, worship service! & dancing, and teamwork. We’ll also make time for art, with our fellow adventurers, and connect with God. Conferences should be for enough to enjoy challenges such as a hike to a local summit, six miles total for the hike. Rental included. $30, snack included.

**What’s In A Name?**

**TEAM STEAM**

Sara & Dan Krhla
If you love science, technology, engineering, art, or math, then this conference is for you! We’ll build boats like Noah, do experiments with water, and play with important numbers from the Bible. Nature hikes, campfire, and swimming will inspire us to our works of art. Come stretch your creativity as we enjoy the wonder of God’s creation.

**STEPPING STONES**

Cheryl Caronan
God’s people come in many colors, but the world doesn’t treat all of them equally. Together we can take steps to make our world more fair and just. **We’ll also step up to the challenge of high ropes, create art, enjoy the outdoors, and take your life up a notch. You have what it takes to reach the next step. This is an intentionally diverse new justice conference.**

**WEEKLY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Rabyn Grey & Corey Michaelsi
Ready to make some new friends? We will spend the week learning who God wants us to be, and what we stand for. **We can be to each other, to ourselves, and to God. Laugh, sing, play, climb, swim, worship, and become lifelong friends.**

**WEEKLY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Sara Krhla
Families of every size and description are welcome to gather and enjoy all that Silver Lake has to offer. We’ll worship together, be challenged by the ropes courses, cook off the lake, and much more, while learning what it means to be a family, not just to each other, but to all God’s people.

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**Hiking the Way**

Diane Bailey & Nada Sellers
Mountain top highs and valley lows are both a part of the human experience, and God walks with us all along the way. We will be hiking and exploring with our guide for a week. The experience will be confronting and reflecting on the ways that God is in us in our daily lives. This will be a physically demanding conference, being an appetizer for adventure and an open heart. New hikes are planned! $675 | $600 | $525

**WEEKLY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Jamie Calligan & Emily McKenna
Descend upon Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center to explore where current events collide. Sing, dance, and laugh throughout camp as you strengthen your convictions and grow bold in your expression. Learn new shapes and sounds and enjoy the dynamic and supportive community in a way that is true to your faith and yourself. $675 | $600 | $525

**WEEKLY SING PRAISE**

Leanna Benomin & Val Tatsim
Let all the earth sing praise … and dance, and point to make music. We’ll explore different ways of prayer and worship as we join forces to create an original Biblical musical and share it with the Silver Lake community. Exercise your gifts and talents and perhaps discover something new.

$250 adult | $165 child | under 8 | $60 family cap

**WEEKLY STEAM TEAM**

Sara & Dan Krhla
If it feels like there’s so much more going on inside you than you can be the best from the outside? Join us for a week of camp fun as we explore what it means to be accepted as our full selves. We’ll build God’s beloved community through games, gardening, swimming, climbing, singing, and supporting each other. Y’all are welcome here!

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**WEEKLY HIKING THE WAY**

Sara & Dan Krhla
Families of every size and description are welcome to gather and enjoy all that Silver Lake has to offer. We’ll worship together, be challenged by the ropes courses, cook off the lake, and much more, while learning what it means to be a family, not just to each other, but to all God’s people.

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**WEEKLY FAMILY CAMP 2**

Half-Wk 8/7-8

Sara Krhla
Families of every size and description are welcome to gather and enjoy all that Silver Lake has to offer. We’ll worship together, be challenged by the ropes courses, cook off the lake, and much more, while learning what it means to be a family, not just to each other, but to all God’s people.

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**WEEKLY FAMILY CAMP 1**

Half-Wk 7/3-7

Sara Krhla
Families of every size and description are welcome to gather and enjoy all that Silver Lake has to offer. We’ll worship together, be challenged by the ropes courses, cook off the lake, and much more, while learning what it means to be a family, not just to each other, but to all God’s people.

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**WEEKLY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Rabyn Grey & Corey Michaelsi
Ready to make some new friends? We will spend the week learning who God wants us to be, and what we stand for. **We can be to each other, to ourselves, and to God. Laugh, sing, play, climb, swim, worship, and become lifelong friends.**

$265 adult | $165 child | under 8, $60 family cap

**MUGGLES & WIZARDS**

Sarah Hirs & Joanna Vastola
Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin? What if you were a fan of Harry Potter and how it connects with God’s call to each of us? Bring your favorite Potter memorabilia and share your sense of fun! We’ll talk about how God’s call in the wizarid world and in our own. We’ll play, pray, swim, sing, and perform, form a band or two (bring your instrument!), gaze at the stars, learn a dance, play games … and on the way we’ll create an amazing worship service!

$265 / $600 / $525