



***Coming to your church in 2018!***

# **Silver Lake Sunday**

Celebrate the gift of Silver Lake! Encourage your congregation to take advantage of your camp and conference center right in “God’s Backyard”! Each summer has 34 themed conferences for young people in 4th through 12th grade. In addition, we have off-site conferences, Family Camps for all ages young and old, and My Loved One and Me (a half-week camp for fourth-graders with a beloved adult).

Do you offer scholarship support for youth in your church to attend Silver Lake? If so, please share that good news with your congregation!

Together, we celebrate this life-changing ministry and extension of your local church community! Visit [www.silverlakect.org/promote](http://www.silverlakect.org/promote) to download materials. To request more brochures, call Silver Lake at (860) 364-5526.

## **Celebration Ideas**

- Present certificates to all conferees who attended this summer during worship (see enclosed template, or download one from [www.silverlakect.org/promote](http://www.silverlakect.org/promote)).
- Ask conferees or a Silver Laker from your midst to share a highlight, story, testimonial, or song (enclosed is a list of conferees from your church).
- Share what makes Silver Lake so special: We love God, our neighbor, ourselves more with each fun activity and challenge. It’s something that has to be experienced.
- Share our 3-minute Silver Lake video, “What brings you Back?” ([www.silverlakect.org/promote](http://www.silverlakect.org/promote)) with your congregation.
- Include the Silver Lake Litany (on back) in your service, or write your own.
- Celebrate that Silver Lake is an Environmental Justice Center for the Northeast, joining just four other such UCC centers across the country! Related camp programs focus on our organic teaching garden and creating a more just and sustainable world.
- Wear Silver Lake shirts, backpacks, or hats.
- Ask conferees to sing a Silver Lake grace at coffee hour before serving lemonade and cookies.
- Pass out Summer 2018 brochures and invite new families to register. Open House is Sunday, May 20, 2-4 p.m.

*Got a great video of your celebration? Share your Silver Lake Sunday videos with us (3 min or less, send to [slcc@ctucc.org](mailto:slcc@ctucc.org))! The best will be posted to our YouTube channel!*

# A Litany for Outdoor Ministries

**One:** For the miracle of creation, in all its infinite diversity and splendor, we give thanks to the one who sustains us.

**Many:** We give thanks that we, too, are part of creation. We pray that we might remember our status as children of God through our participation in the circle of life.

**One:** For the rhythm of a paddle gently striking the water, the morning mist in a field of clover, the call of the loon, the radiance of sunset, the sparkle on the water, and the dance of the dragonflies

**Many:** We praise you!

**One:** God, we know that we have too often isolated ourselves from the very things that bring us a connection to You. We pray for the wisdom to seek out places such as Jesus did: the mountain, the plain, the lake shore, the wilderness.

**Many:** We pray that we might remember that Christ is present in ourselves and in others.

**One:** We pray for all those who need to be part of an inclusive community, a place where the natural world radiates, or to both, and yet who cannot find the time or courage to do so.

**Many:** We give thanks for the places in our lives that give us renewal and help us to deeply know others on the journey.

**One:** Gracious God, we pray for camps and retreat centers, and all sacred places whose mission is to bring people to an awareness of your glory. We pray for each participant in all United Church of Christ Outdoor Ministry programs, that they may have a safe and meaningful experience and a season of strengthening faith.

**Many:** We thank you for the astoundingly beautiful place, infused with divinity, called Silver Lake. Bless this season with grace, abundance, safety, connection, and love.

**One:** And God, please help all of us to live out the message of Silver Lake as inspired by Jesus:

**All:** To love You, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor. Amen.