



Northern Pines

A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE

*The premier Christ-centered family vacation
experience in the upper Midwest!*



Northern Pines 2021
"LOVE IN A PHOTOGRAPH!"

A LETTER FROM DEAN & JULIE



Most of us are old enough to remember Polaroid cameras. Big, boxy, unwieldy cameras that back in the day were the only way to take a picture and see it a few seconds later. You would insert the big film pack, then frame your perfect picture. There was this anticipation as you shook the picture, waiting for it to finally appear. They were the go-to item of youth scavenger hunts, and for years the only way to take family photos during registration at Northern Pines.

We got to thinking about Polaroid pictures as we were reminiscing about our 2021 Northern Pines conferences. If we had to frame a few moments that stood out to us during our two weeks of camp with a vintage Polaroid camera, what pictures would we take? Here's a few we would have tried to catch with our trusty old Polaroid camera...

- The staff showing up for training after missing a year. It took forever to get us going because everyone was so happy to be back together and everyone wanted to catch up.
- A conferee with tears running down her cheeks as she worshiped corporately for the first time in over a year.
- A counselor having a one-on-one with one of his campers and praying together with their open Bibles.
- A beautiful night sky and passionate students at our first ever outdoor intergenerational worship concert.
- Young and old gathered around the piano singing their favorite hymns and never wanting to stop.
- Youth campers surrounding their directors and praying for them.
- The excitement of conferees' faces when we announced they could scoop their own ice cream at the banquet!

That was one of the problems with those old Polaroids...you quickly ran out of film and you still had more pictures to take. But the emotions those pictures bring up are powerful. There is an Ed Sheeran song lyric that says, "We keep this love in a photograph..." That's how we feel about our Northern Pines pictures. There is so much love in these old photographs. The memories of those mental pictures still stay with us and make us realize more than ever how much we count on two weeks every summer to help us reconnect with friends and family while at the same time we grow in our walk with Jesus.

There was one other problem with those old cameras...you only got one chance at the shot. If it was gone, the moment was past. The good news about Northern Pines is that we get another chance next summer to build new memories and take new pictures. We hope you join us in 2022 and make your own mental "Polaroid" scavenger hunt of memories!

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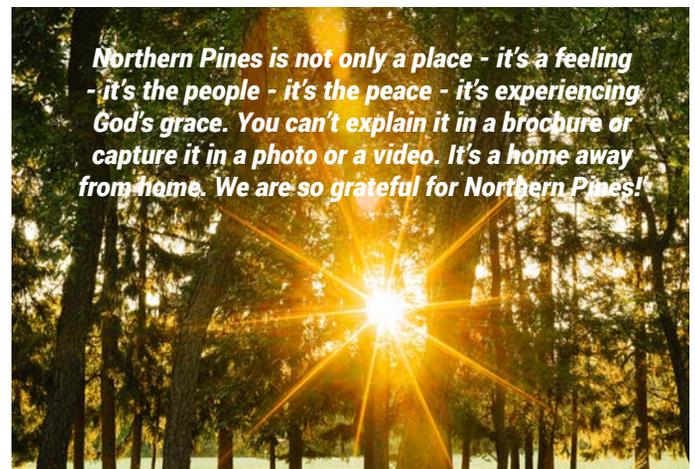
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Northern Pines Magazine designed and edited by Julie Jaderston. Photos by Andrew Vick and Graham Gardner. Stories by Northern Pines conferees and staff.

Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/NorthernPines] or follow us on Instagram [[npines](https://instagram/npines)] Check out our NEW AND IMPROVED website www.npines.org!



Northern Pines is not only a place - it's a feeling - it's the people - it's the peace - it's experiencing God's grace. You can't explain it in a brochure or capture it in a photo or a video. It's a home away from home. We are so grateful for Northern Pines!

First & Second-Time Families come for HALF-PRICE!

The Welcome Rate

All first and second-time families (adults with at least 1 child) come for HALF-PRICE! The rest of your conference fees are paid for you out of our generous WELCOME gift! To receive the Welcome Rate you must register by January 1, 2022.

FIRST AND SECOND year CCAs are also FREE!

The WELCOME gift will also pay all fees for first and second-time CCAs. Returning CCAs can register online and new CCAs can apply online as well at npines.org.

Generation 2 Generation Prices

FUN BONUS...If you're coming as a 4-generation family to camp, great-grandparents come for no charge!

If you would like us to send someone a Registration and/or Welcome Rate information, please email Julie at jjaderston@npines.org.



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

By Stephanie Hanson



“We are so thankful for the ministry of Northern Pines and for all of the many individuals and financial donors who give of themselves and their financial resources to make this camp and conference possible.”

“Northern Pines” as a phrase brings to mind so many images for me. Cabins, CCAs, blue moon ice cream, walking up and down hills, dipping candles, making tie-dye t-shirts and bracelets, Indian Village, Tim Lemmens’ songs, senior high campfires, worship in the woods, God-whispers in the quiet under the stars. Northern Pines was an annual tradition for my parents, my brothers, and me during our most formative growing-up years and I look back on those times with great fondness.

In 2019, after several sleep-depriving and hard years raising a young family of our own, my parents suggested to my husband and me that we might consider attending Northern Pines. Ironically, the thought of attending as an adult had never occurred to me until that moment! The more I was reminded of the adult programming—and the CCA program—the more I agreed that Northern Pines was exactly what we needed. It had been a rough few years for us; we were struggling adapting to life with young kids, continuing to balance work responsibilities, and still figuring out how to invest in and care for each other when it felt like we barely saw each other anymore. Northern Pines sounded like a wonderful reprieve!

It had been a solid three years or so since I’d been able to listen to a teaching uninterrupted and I devoured them, taking copious notes. The speakers reignited my commitment to my family and marriage, inspired me to search the Scriptures for new truths, and be intentional about bringing Scripture into our home. At Victory Circle that Friday, a couple’s testimony about God’s work in their lives, hearts, and marriage gave me renewed hope that God could work a similar outcome in our lives.

And that renewed hope and commitment came at such a critical time! That testimony, combined with the content the speakers shared in 2019, was used in a major way by God to give me peace, perspective, and hope throughout all of the challenges that arose throughout 2020.

This summer’s Northern Pines experience was every bit as excellent as in 2019, despite the challenges of navigating hosting a conference in the midst of a pandemic. The whole experience was such a breath of fresh air to my family, so life-giving and grounding, after the challenges of the pandemic and the civil unrest we experienced in the Minneapolis, MN, area. Our family, our hearts, and our marriage benefited richly from



the whole week experience. The content shared by the speakers sparked deep, intentional, life-shaping breakthrough conversations. Our vision was rekindled. We realized a need to be more intentional about being followers of the Way of Jesus—and not just raising good pagan kids. We were challenged to live from a place of vision vs. fear, to be more generous in sharing our resources, to embrace the leprous. And to share the hope of Christ, the redemption of marriages and of relationships. Our kiddos, too, were poured into and encouraged in their understanding of God. They loved the songs, the teachers and teachings, the bubbles, the wagon rides, and their evenings with their CCA. (After getting back to home after camp, they asked me if they could have their CCA come babysit again that night—and every night!) We are so thankful for the ministry of Northern

Pines and for the many individuals and financial donors who give of themselves and their financial resources to make this camp and conference possible. You are investing so richly in the lives of the individuals and families who attend. My life, for one, has been markedly impacted by Northern Pines—as a kid and now, also, as a mom, wife, and fellow co-laborer in the fields. Thank you for your role in building up, strengthening, encouraging, challenging, and inspiring us to love and follow Christ with complete abandon, and to be brave in loving others in radical, selfless ways.

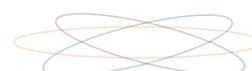
We can't wait to come back, and are already working hard to bring several friends along with us.

Photos below of Stephanie in Indian Village and in the Children's Program at Lake Geneva, ages 7&10.



THE JOY OF COMING HOME

By Maria Hoekstra



I do not remember a time in my life before Northern Pines. I have not missed a summer since I was two years old, and since I was 13, I have only missed 4 weeks that camp has been in session. To say that Northern Pines has held an influential role in my life would be an understatement. Along the way, I have been a part of every program and as a result have grown deeper in my faith and developed lifelong friendships. Since we moved several times during my childhood, Northern Pines was the constant.

When COVID-19 arrived in the Spring of 2020, the idea that things would still be affected in July and August seemed absurd. There was no way that camp would not happen. When the decision to not hold camp was made, I was crushed. This was the time when I needed my Northern Pines family the most! Why would God allow something so valuable to be taken away from so many of us who rely on our time in Wisconsin to grow closer to the Lord with the truest of friends by our side? The theme of the 2019 conferences was "Raise a Hallelujah" and throughout the year without camp, I was reminded of it time and time again. God was still faithful through it all!

My two weeks at Northern Pines this summer felt like a peaceful oasis in the midst of chaos.

As the summer of 2021 drew near and it seemed that Northern Pines would take place, I was so excited but held loosely to the idea of actually being there again. As I drove onto the campus, my heart lifted with the familiar sight of Green Lake and Roger Williams Inn. It felt like coming home after a long, hard journey. Seeing my people felt almost like we had never been apart and being able to cry, laugh, and talk with them again was a precious gift. My two weeks at Northern Pines this summer felt like a peaceful oasis in the midst of chaos. The last year and a half had been filled with uncertainty, fears, and disunity, but on the shores of Green Lake, we found the true unity and peace that only comes through time with God.

**Maria has been on NP staff in various programs since the year 2000. She has served as a Children's Teacher for over 10 years.*

BLAST FROM THE PAST PHOTO GALLERY

SNEAK PEEK OF SOME FUN PHOTOS THAT WILL BE AT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY.
SEE SAVE THE DATE ON PAGE 3!



2022 Rates

ALL INCLUSIVE / ALL YOU CAN EAT

Prices include all programming and activities, accommodations, meals, evening childcare, and use of non-motorized rental equipment (boats, bikes, games, etc.).

Adult Program	Campsite ¹	Cabin	Lodge	House	Family Suite
2 Adults	A: \$1010 B: \$910	A: \$1,520 B: \$1,420	\$1,860	A: \$2,070 B: \$1,970	\$2,070
3 rd & 4 th Adult (in same room)	A: \$430 B: \$380	A: \$640 B: \$590	\$585	N/A	\$585
Single Adult (in own room)	A: \$591 B: \$510	N/A	\$1,260	A: \$1,045 B: \$995	N/A
Single Adult (with children 0-11)	N/A	A: \$990 B: \$940	\$1,160	N/A	\$1,670

Children's Program

Young Children (infant to 5 years*)	No Cost!
Elementary Children (kindergarten to 3 rd grade*)	A: \$300 B: \$240

*Age/grade as of September 1, 2022

Youth & Young Adult Programs

Wilderness (4 th to 6 th grade*)	\$430
Junior High (7 th to 9 th grade*)	\$505
Senior High (10 th to 12 th grade*)	\$505
Young Adult (singles 19 and up)	\$435 ²

A = Full Meal Option

B = No Breakfast Option

CCA childcare is available for all locations, although some campsites, cabins, and houses may have drop-off service only. Learn more about housing options at npines.org/accommodations

1. Sites without hookups receive an \$80 discount.

2. Price does not include breakfast. Young Adults stay together in a house or cabin and bring/buy groceries to make breakfast together each morning.

Scholarships & Discounts

In an effort to make a week at Northern Pines affordable to all families, Northern Pines, along with Green Lake Conference Center, offers several discounts and scholarships.

Learn more and apply for ALL scholarships at npines.org/discounts.

Northern Pines Assistance Scholarships

Families or individuals who have additional financial need can apply for Northern Pines financial assistance scholarships.

Special Scholarships

Limited Scholarships are available for members of the military, full-time ministry professionals, and those who have been or have had family members incarcerated.

Multiple Children Discounts

Families with children ages 6 to 11 pay full price for the first two children and then receive a 50% discount for each younger child.

First Time Conferee Discount

10% discount for all first-time families without children, and for families registering after Jan 1, 2022

Welcome Rate

All 1st and 2nd time families (Adults with at least one child) come for HALF PRICE! Must be registered by 1/1/22.

Generation 2 Generation: A Legacy Gift

A full scholarship for great-grandparents who come with four generations.

Special Needs

We know that sometimes a week away from the comforts and routine of home can be difficult, especially those with special needs. Northern Pines wants to help make a weeks' vacation away possible for everyone. We have scholarships available to help fund an additional staff member to help aid a conferee that may need individual attention. This scholarship is available for conferees of any age.

2022 Northern Pines Registration

Register Online at npines.org/register
or mail registration with deposit to Northern Pines, PO Box 1864, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Name _____

Birthday _____

Spouse _____

Birthday _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Home Church _____

First Time at Northern Pines

Introducing Family _____

Children and Young Adults

Age/grade as of September 1, 2022

Name	Gender	Age	Grade	Birthdate

Additional children listed on separate sheet

Additional Comments

Please include any food allergies or other medical conditions

By submitting this registration, I hereby:

- Affirm there is no need for a doctor's examination prior to camp based on current health or that such an exam will be obtained with recommendations supplied to camp staff.
- Authorize camp staff to give medications to children and youth in camp programs based on the parent/guardian instructions.
- Authorize qualified camp personnel to give emergency medical care and determine the need for a physician's service.
- Release Northern Pines, its staff and volunteer workers from any liability or claims which may arise related to registrant's participation in programs or trips sponsored by Northern Pines.
- Provide Northern Pines the authorization to use photos & videos of you and your registered group for promotional purposes.

Select a week:

- Week 1 (July 24 - 30, 2022)
 Week 2 (July 31 - August 6, 2022)

Number your first three housing choices:

- ____ Family Suite
____ House
 Prefer no breakfast
____ Lodge
 Prefer Lawson Lodge (1 Queen bed)
____ Cabin
 Prefer no breakfast
____ Campsite
 Prefer no breakfast

Hookups needed:

- Electric Water Sewer None

If my housing preferences are full:

- I will accept any accommodations
 I would consider attending the other week
 I prefer to be on a waiting list

Housing choice is treated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have concerns or questions, please email us at information@npines.org or call 612-861-5100.

DEPOSIT - A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per person or \$100 per family must accompany your registration. This may be paid with check made payable to Northern Pines or online with credit card at npines.org/pay

PAYMENT POLICY - Unless otherwise arranged with the registrar, payments are due as follows: 50% due February 1st; Final Payment due May 1st. If registration occurs after February 1st, 50% payment is due immediately and full payment is due by May 1st or as arranged with the registrar. Monthly payment plan available online at npines.org/pay

LATE FEES - Any payments made after June 1st (unless otherwise arranged with the registrar) will incur a \$40 late fee. Any registrations with no payments made by May 1st will be automatically canceled (and deposit forfeited). Full payment will be necessary to secure a new registration.

CANCELLATION POLICY - Registrations canceled on or before July 1st will receive a full refund of registration fees (minus deposit). Registrations canceled after July 1st will forfeit all paid registration fees (including deposit).

2022 Speakers and Musicians

Week 1: July 24-July 30, 2022

Family Hour: "Build Your Marriage" Brad and Heidi Mitchell



Brad and Heidi developed Build Your Marriage to help couples build a Christ-centered marriage. They lead marriage retreats across the country and internationally and have authored multiple resources to help couples build their marriages. They have three married children and a grandson, and this will be their second Northern Pines conference.

Bible Hour: John Erwin



John is a long-time friend of Northern Pines. He is a long-time pastor, currently serving as an associate pastor of adult ministries and community life at Agoura Bible Fellowship in Moorpark, CA. He is also the founder and former president of "The National Association of Family Ministries". He is married to Cheryl and they have two adult children. This will be John's sixth Northern Pines conference.

Evening Hour: Dioane Gates



Dioane has pastored The Mending Place in South City in Wichita, KS since 2009. He also served for 18 years as a commissioned deputy in the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office. He also is a member of the Field Team of the Kansas Leadership Center. He is married to Heather and they have three children. This is Dioane's first Northern Pines conference.

Week 2: July 31-August 6, 2022

Family Hour: Ron Harris



Ron is the founder and CEO of "A Level Up", an organization focused on helping young people rise above their circumstances and overcome their greatest obstacles to fulfill their goals and destiny in life. He is also the National Disaster Relief Director for Worldwide Evangelism. Ron and his wife Monique have 2 children. This is his first Northern Pines conference.

Bible Hour: Jon Herring



Jon Herring has pastored churches in Chicago, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, most recently serving for 27 years as senior pastor at Cross of Glory Church in Hopkins, MN. Jon and his wife, Connie, have two grown children and two grandchildren. He brings a range of experience with degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the Moody Bible Institute. This will be Jon's seventh Northern Pines conference.

Evening Hour: Trent Casto



Trent Casto currently is the Senior Pastor at Naples Covenant Church in Florida. With both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree; Trent has also served in various other positions in church ministry including worship, family ministry and small groups. Trent and his wife, Emily, have three children. This will be Trent's second Northern Pines conference.



Worship: Austin Renfroe and Newspring Worship

Austin Renfroe is the lead worship pastor at Newspring Church in Wichita, KS. He is also a long-time Northern Pines conferee, staff member, and program director. He is married to his wife Jen and they have two children. This will be his first conference as a worship leader and he will be joined by members of the Newspring worship team.



NP Photo Gallery



REFLECTING ON A DECADE OF WILDERNESS MINISTRY



Thank you to Adam, Eve and Orpah:

Northern Pines 2021 marks Adam and Eve's final year of directing the Wilderness program. With Adam, Eve and Orpah at the helm, the Wilderness program was truly so much more than just a 4th-6th grade camping experience. Under their leadership the great traditions of Wilderness life like Tabernacle Time, the Polar Bear Swim, Pinky Push-ups, Trail Talks, the Raiders of the Lost Ark game, and Cabin Time continued but also took on new dimensions. Under their leadership some new traditions were also formed including the daily parent updates, Wilderness Blessing, the life-size Tabernacle, and new leadership curriculum for cabin leaders.

What really made Adam, Eve and Orpah so special, however, was their genuine deep love for Jesus, the Wilderness campers and the cabin leaders. Their ability to connect, have fun, and not take themselves too seriously while simultaneously running a premier program made all the difference. Often directing with no to little sleep, they sought and relied on the Lord to make the Wilderness the best it could be. Northern Pines was so blessed to have them for so many years and they have left a legacy and impacted so many lives. We will never forget them.

From Adam (and Eve):

This past 2021 conference, Eve (Kelsey Jaderston) and I wrapped up our 10th and final year of directing the Wilderness here at Northern Pines (as well as our friend Orpah (Molly Barry) who has been with us from the start). Our first year directing was 2 weeks after we got married, and these last two weeks were complete with our 5-year old, 2-year old, and baby girl due in November. Yes, Eve directed the program while taking care of 2 kids and being 6 months pregnant. She is incredible.

“The Wilderness embodies so much of the core of who I am; wonder, adventure, childlike faith, humor, courage, community, the outdoors, goofiness, creativity.”

What a ride it has been. There has never been a place in which I have felt more fully alive, doing ministry with my closest friends for two weeks every summer. The Wilderness embodies so much of the core of who I am— wonder, adventure, childlike faith, humor, courage, community, the outdoors, goofiness, creativity. And this last year was unforgettable. Our curriculum centers around the Israelite's journey to the



promised land. Throughout the week, we taught the kids about the Tabernacle and how each part foreshadows Jesus dwelling with us. One of the highlights was building a life-sized replica of the Tabernacle and having the 4th, 5th and 6th graders walk through it. As a tribe they participated in hands-on activities that helped these ideas become concrete. It was amazing to see how these realities came to life in the campers as they journeyed through the stations.

We are so grateful for the memories made during this season of our lives. We felt so much love and affirmation from the campers, parents and staff in this final round. Although we are sad to be finished, we are excited for the future of the Wilderness. We know it will continue to be a place where campers get a glimpse of our great God, discover His wild love for them and learn that not all who wander are lost. Thanks to all who joined us along the way.

From Orpah:

Humbled. That about sums up how I am feeling about wrapping up 10 years of ministry as Orpah in the Israelite-themed Wilderness program at Northern Pines. Serving with my dear friends Adam and Eve, I have had the distinct privilege of laughing and playing with these 4th-6th graders and more importantly showing them what personal time with God looks and feels like and the power of memorizing Scripture. On the last night some students shared what they learned during the week, and I was so awestruck at what the Holy Spirit had done in their lives yet so perplexed as to why they used my name in explaining it. I am so profoundly humbled that God for some strange reason chose me for this great work and blessed me with incredible friends Mike Jaderston and Kelsey Jaderston in the process (plus Stephanie Nelson and Mark Nikolai Nelson RIP Jem and Zeke)...

Taking off my Orpah name tag last night for the last time was one of the toughest things ever, but I am so lucky to have experienced something so good that makes saying goodbye so hard. I am so grateful for Northern Pines! Orpah won't be there next year, but there will be this new girl named Molly who looks a LOT like her!



THOUGHTS FROM A 1ST TIME CABIN LEADER

By Wedu Theopolis



“What was your experience like at Northern Pines?”

Honestly, it was the best and worst week of my life. I didn't know much about Northern Pines before signing up, but a couple of my friends were repeat attenders and roped me into applying to be a CCA. I truly didn't know what to expect but I was keeping an open mind and ready to be flexible.

When we got there, it was the usual check-in and registration and they explained to me what a CCA was and what I was going to be doing all week. I was super excited but things didn't end up going according to plan. One of the Wilderness leaders was unable to come and they were scrambling to find a Wilderness leader and so they asked me. I had previous experience as a middle school counselor and small group leader and so I was open to being a part of the program.

I arrived at the Wilderness program and immediately they told me that I couldn't use my real name which initially weirded me out but I came to understand that it was a Wilderness tradition. I got to meet some of the leaders and staff and soon after students began to arrive, I had no idea what I had gotten myself into and I wouldn't know until the week was over.

The week was one of the most physically taxing but also spiritually rewarding weeks of my life. I got to spend time with fourth through sixth graders and got to talk about Jesus. I developed some sweet friendships with my other counselors and staff members and just got to have fun. Back at home I was faced with the decision of whether or not to continue leading students and this week was such a sweet confirmation of that. I was able to see the Lord moving and stirring in the hearts of these young students and watch them work through what a relationship with Jesus looks like. I got to eat, sleep, and do life with students for a week and I wouldn't have traded it for the world.

The success of the week only further reveals the goodness and the greatness of our God. He was faithful in providing me as a leader but also faithful in equipping me as a leader. He allowed me to be at camp this year, do ministry, and love students.

We Need CCAs ...

And we need your help!

Once again, we have record number of children registered for our upcoming conferences and we will need 70 - 75 CCAs each week. A personal invitation is the best way to recruit new CCAs. Please reach out to your favorite babysitter, contact your youth leader, and/or that amazing teenager you know! Email Julie at jjaderston@npines.org with potential CCAs.

During a week at Northern Pines, CCAs:

- Assist teachers in the Children's Program
- Participate in worship, Bible study, and small groups designed just for them
- Enjoy free time with several activity options including swimming at the beach, biking, volleyball, disc golf, and being with friends each afternoon
- Babysit for the same family each evening
- Enjoy their own housing, directors, counselors, and programming

Child Care Assistant Welcome Rate

*All 1st and 2nd time CCAs come at NO CHARGE!
Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, first and second-time CCAs food and lodging fees are fully covered.*



Building into the Lives of Young Adults

By Jeff Nelson, Week 2 Young Adult Director

The Week 2 Young Adult Program was an absolute blast! We had an awesome time together packed full of fun activities and deep connections. Packed around late-night bowling, high-ropes adventures, river-tubing and bonfires each night were deep one-on-one mentoring conversations, daily worship and Bible study.

Our curriculum challenged the young adults with the New Testament book of John as we sought to answer, "Who is Jesus?" and "What does it truly mean to be Christ-like?" We simply read Scripture and unpacked God's Word together as a group. It was so encouraging to see them make connections and begin to apply the verses to their own lives.

In our study of the first four chapters of John, we saw that Jesus miraculously up-ended the daily life of regular men and women. Jesus brought purpose to the ordinary. Jesus brought life to the withering. Jesus introduced himself as the one and only solution. Such an encounter requires a response. It became our challenge for the week, "to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing [we] may have life in His name." John 20:31

As a supplement to our reading, we also paired each chapter of John with a corresponding portion of "The Chosen" television series. It was powerful to see a visual representation of Jesus' radical love and healing ministry. We are steadfast in our prayer that God continues to move mightily in the lives of these young adults as we all seek to know Him and become more Christ-like.





A generation that seeks His face



This year, the youth worship directors introduced an opportunity for students and leaders to share words from God during worship. If anyone sensed the Lord impressed something on their heart to share with the group, they would chat with a designated leader about it. This leader would then discern if it would indeed be edifying to share at the time, and if so, they would encourage them to go up to the microphone and share what God put on their heart.

Through this practice, the atmosphere of worship completely changed. Many students both weeks shared profound, encouraging, earnest words with the group. We were blown away. Rather than feeling like the band was directing worship, it felt as if we were gathering together as a family to worship our God however the Spirit led. The same God that gave the Directors powerful messages for the students gave those same students powerful messages for the Directors. When this happened, it was clear the fruit that came from camp was not man-made, but truly flourished through the power and grace of God.

Youth Worship Director, Karissa Jaderston



From the Heart Sr High Director, Taylor Fair

I went into Wednesday night of Week 1 with expectancy. I had a sense that God wanted to move in some unique way in the senior high students that evening. We had been talking about Jesus' heart for our own sick and suffering hearts, and I anticipated that He wanted to make that known in a tangible and unmistakable way to at least one person. Yet as is often the mysterious work of God's Spirit, my expectancy was both affirmed and turned on its head in unexpected ways. The last person I envisioned Jesus extending His loving embrace to was me.

My wife Ashtyn and I are nearing three years of attempting to conceive. We have directed Senior High at Northern Pines for several years—it is our favorite thing we do—yet we entered camp this year both incredibly happy to be back and equally hopeless that God would ever give us the deepest desire of our heart.

Then Wednesday night, in the middle of worship, someone who knew our pain came up on the stage, convinced that she would be disobeying God's voice if she did not lead a prayer for Ashtyn and I. And the unexpected happened. Seventy teenagers—some of whom I have loved and known for a long time, some of whom I had come to know and grown to love that very week—physically enclosed the stage with hands laid on and extended toward us.

I lost it. I wept as I hadn't in years. I heard the bridge of the previous song rise around me, as seventy young voices cried out to God on my behalf, "You will make a way." You will make a way. The words I couldn't sing on my own were shouted for me by the people of God. In that moment, the Holy Spirit powerfully regenerated our hope. An outpouring of Christ's love through the people I love most.

Remarkably, that was only the beginning. We circled up after worship as a high school group. Slowly, student after student boldly shared their stories of brokenness—the shame they had been hiding and burdens they had been bearing alone. After each person shared, others spoke up and prayed for them, hugged them, wept with them, and encouraged them.

As we stayed in the room and heard each others' stories, it struck me that there were very few times I had ever seen any group of people so truly be the church. We shared the embodied experience of what it was like to be seen, known, and loved deeply, both by God and His people. And we left the room with hope that our Father wasn't finished with any of us yet. And it started with teenagers who listened to the Spirit and extended the compassionate heart of Jesus to the least deserving: me.



Steenpoorte Family Featured in 2009 Post Card



Scott and Maria, 2021 Conference



Son Hendrik NP Sr High Program, 2021

FINDING REST & RENEWAL AT NORTHERN PINES

By Maria Steenpoorte

Northern Pines' first year at Green Lake Conference Center, 2008, was also the first year our family attended. Our children were 7 years, 5 years, 3 years, and 5 months old. We returned in 2009, (to feature on the 'Wish You Were Here' postcard), and in 2010 another family took our two older children to participate in the Wilderness program. Then the years passed by, without another Northern Pines summer.

In 2019, my husband suffered a serious viral infection which damaged his brain and resulted in severe cognitive impairment, loss of executive functioning, logic, comprehension; a speech/language disorder; and short-term memory loss. At the time of Scott's medical crisis, our children were 19, 17, 15, and 11. I became my husband's legal guardian, 24/7 spouse caregiver, a solo parent, and the sole maintainer of our house and hobby farm.

In January 2021, I took a breath, and decided to make new choices for our family to thrive, rather than merely survive. Thankfully, Northern Pines kept us on the mailing list. I reconsidered the registration booklet that arrived in the mail several months earlier. An all-inclusive family camp – accommodation, meals, activities, and programs for our two teenagers – appealed greatly to my weary, burdened shoulders.

I considered the focus of Northern Pines - a Christ-centered family vacation featuring powerful worship and Biblical teaching. Scott has

little memory of the past 31 years of marriage and family. He has no idea of the current day of the week, month, or year. However, the Lord preserved Scott's memory of who God is and he frequently gazes at the night sky, to marvel at the Lord's revelation of Himself in the expanse of the Universe. He is fully aware of God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. While Scott had no recollection of Northern Pines, I knew he would sense safety and comfort during Northern Pines as it offered a focus on God and His Word. In that setting, Scott would understand his reason to be there.

We returned this summer and indeed, Northern Pines provided a safe environment and a meaningful experience for Scott. He was moved to tears during each worship session and during many of the messages. He appreciated the peace and quiet away from our teenagers, leisurely meals in the absence of busy household, and even a few afternoon naps. Without the daily distractions of family, house, and farm, I was able to relax and more calmly monitor Scott's whereabouts and activities. A week without usual level of stress and tension I experience as a 24/7 spouse caregiver was amazing. We attended every morning and evening session. At meal times we waved across the dining hall to our kids in the Junior and Senior High programs. And each afternoon we rode bikes around the campus, or kayaked on the lake. We both appreciated quiet spots along the lake to

nap or read in the shade of the trees, calmed by the sound of the waves which lapped at the shore.

I give thanks to the Lord for this special time of spiritual and physical renewal, refreshment, rejuvenation, respite and relief. Northern Pines is, indeed, a vacation with a purpose.

Thank you for your generous support!

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Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. -Psalm 34:8

Northern Pines family, the Lord is good and He loves each of you so much. In ways we couldn't possibly imagine, God proved himself and His goodness as we returned to camp after a two year absence due to COVID-19. In every program, people were touched by our personal and loving God in new and very substantive ways. As image bearers of God, we are called to bring light into the darkness. This summer God shined through with blessings, truth, healing, and closeness as we gathered for a holy and special time.

We are all facing difficulties in our lives as we continue to navigate through the pandemic, whether financial, relationally, or in other ways. Through it all, God has amazingly been meeting the needs of the ministry of Northern Pines through the radical generosity of those that give both one-time and recurring gifts. While some camps have not survived the pandemic, God continues to bless Northern Pines in ways we could never imagine.

Did you know approximately 25% of the cost of attending Northern Pines is NOT covered by your registration fees? This financial model allows families access to experience the blessing of a week at Northern Pines who might not otherwise be able to do so. We also currently have several donors that are supporting special programs to reduce costs for first time families, multiple generations of families, special needs, and recruiting and retaining CCAs. Did you know the Welcome Rate provides a 50% discount to allow new generations of families to make Northern Pines part of their family history?

In 2022, we anticipate having additional pandemic-related expenses in order to help ensure the safety of all of our attendees - from birth to 100! Do you have a heart for the work of Northern Pines? If you are able to support Northern Pines and bridge the 25% gap that we have, please help by giving either a one-time or recurring gift. You can use our website at npines.org/donate today to set up regular giving or make a one-time gift. If you desire to give non-cash assets such as real estate, life insurance, appreciated stocks and bonds, or gifting through provisions in your estate plan, we would love to discuss that with you. If you have questions, please contact us by emailing jjaderston@npines.org. Northern Pines is a registered 501(c)3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible. However you can give, we know that the Lord can multiply your gifts and we trust in Him that He will always provide for the needs of this ministry so that we can continue to provide a "Vacation with a Purpose" now and into the very bright future.

Friends, we are already looking forward to summer 2022 and seeing your beautiful faces enjoying God's goodness in your days at camp. God is good, all the time. We are so grateful for every one of you and will continue to pray for your families until we see you in person at camp

In Him,

The Northern Pines Board



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Northern Pines
A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE

KEY DATES

January 1, 2022

Registration deadline to receive Welcome
Rate and Generations Next Discount

April 28 - May 1, 2022

Mark your calendars for our annual Men's
Work Retreat at Green Lake

June 14, 2022

Join us as we begin 40 days of prayer leading
up to our 2022 conferences

July 24 - 30, 2022

Week 1 Conference

July 31 - August 6, 2022

Week 2 Conference

*The premier Christ-centered family vacation
experience in the upper Midwest!*

