2022 Annual Report



Sequanota Conference Center & Camp



SUMMER CAMP

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE & RETREAT



STOUANOR

YOU Are Making a Difference

The 2022 camper survey results are in! Here is a snapshot of the survey responses and the impact of camp!

Campers surveyed agreed:

- 94% felt they were included.
- 91% felt they grew in their faith in God.
- 94% had fun.
- 94% felt safe.
- 91% tried something new.
- 84% practiced their faith habits.
- 85% didn't give up when challenged.
- 97% had a great week.

How has your time at camp changed you?

"I think it will help me be more aware of my actions." "It taught me how to pray so I can pray every night now." "to be more confident"

"It made me realize that you don't have to be online all day." "I learned to talk more and not be on my phone" "It changed me by not being scared of people (like always)." "I think that I'm just more comfortable with myself." "Got to try different things like zip-line, tie dye, archery, etc."

Summer Camp

YOU Are Making a Difference

The American Camp Association, which Sequanota is an accredited member, just completed a five year study detailing the benefits of camp. Responsibility, appreciation for differences, relationship skills, an affinity for nature, and appreciation for living in the moment were the most frequent responses that campers and parents see as lifelong values of camp. Camp makes a difference for life!

Campers	2022	2021	2019	2018	
On Site	341	301	308	298	
Off site Day Camp	57	0	224	272	
Hosted Youth Camps	298	133	238	266	
Summer Totals	696	434	770	836	

Swimming students taught!

Bring a Friend Free & financial scholarships awarded

Congregations supported 61 kids to come to camp with direct financial assistance.



Sequanota offers a holy place to connect with Christ, creation and community.

- In living out our mission, Sequanota invites people from all walks of life into a community that:
- encourages inclusivity, balance and wholeness;
- creates a deeper respect for nature;
- fosters a further understanding of faith;
- enables time for reflection
- develops a greater sense of life together for the common good.

Pastors & "everyday Christian" leaders served for a week with kids at camp.

Leadership Development





Valuation of

Young adult summer staff members hirec

YOU Are Making a Difference

Every summer Sequanota hires young adult leaders to serve as staff members. We also welcome another 20 volunteers over the summer, who also build the camp fellowship. This community creates experiences for Sequanota's campers and guests to engage faith, gain relationship skills, appreciate differences, and grow in independence and grit. Though the community is created for campers it also impacts the staff. Recent research shows that leading at camp provides lasting meaning, a challenging work setting, and growth in confidence as staff try new things and see their work as making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your contributions that help us support a great staff!





2022 Programmed Ministries New Year's Day Hike Snow Camp IGNITE Spring Youth Retreat Synod Day at Camp Spring Work Day 5 School Field Trips 75th Anniversary Reunion IGNITE/PLUNGE Youth Retreat Adult Day Study



What is the difference between Hosted and Program Ministry?

Hosted Ministry = groups that use Sequanota's facilities, but Sequanota is not part of planning the content of the event.

Program Ministry = events that Sequanota directly oversees, plans, and executes, often with the help of great volunteers.



Facility Improvements

Sequanota's facilities team and volunteers from synod congregations (Grace, State College; Zion, Hollidaysburg, Messiah, New Centerville, St. Matthew, Martinsburg) continue to make renovations to the campus. The past two years have seen new bathroom facilities completed in Hillside C, Cabin 2 and the Director's Cabin. Cabins 4 & 6 received improvements to the interior and exterior of their cabins. As Sequanota strives to be

more inclusive we installed an ADA shower in room #11 of the Bowersox Center. We have also completed necessary improvements for the waste water treatment system throughout camp's property. We hope to finish the landscaping work behind the retreat center in late summer or early fall.

Why Choose SEQUANOTA

People are hardwired for connection. From the time we are born, humans are constantly seeking loving, safe relationships of family and friends to support us. Whether you are a 12 year old or 60 year old, we all have the desire to belong and be valued for who we are.

Sequanota's programming has been focused both on the individual camper and the small group (cabin group) community for over 35+ years. The reason the past directors and the current staff have chosen this



model to run camp is because it provides a place where the individual can be valued and find a place of acceptance. Every week one of the first activities of camp is "get-to-know-you" games. These games provide campers and staff a time to share a little bit about their personal stories. They are great ways to share who we are. Telling our personal story and finding a place where we are valued for who we are is critical to one's confidence. In these times of creative expression, the Sequanota staff begin to form an inclusive, accepting small group, we the goal is to help every camper feel welcomed and belonging.

It is in the security of finding our place to belong, that we can then appreciate the differences of others. No camper, staff member or human being is like another. We are all a little different. From the music we listen to, to our favorite colors; from the things we are passionate about, to our personal identity; from our physical abilities, to our race or gender; we are all different. Small group camping gives us an opportunity to appreciate each other's differences. It is in the safety and acceptance of a small community that we can learn to trust one another.



Belonging, connection and community are at the heart of Sequanota's programs. These values have been taught and experienced by campers and guests for generations. They are the building blocks of healthy people and society. Sequanota believes that in providing this kind of living environment, we inspire campers and guests to live more fully into God's love that will guide us all to change the world for the better.

Past directors gathered at the 75th Anniversary Reunion

Round Table (left to right): Rev. Jack Timm (2003 - 2004) Rev. George Mason (2007-2012) Tom (& Peggy) Grote (1986 - 1992) Rev. Nathan Pile (2013 - current) Dick Peterson (1982 - 1986) Front (left to right): Beth Belsterling (1994) 'Chelle Jellef (1993)

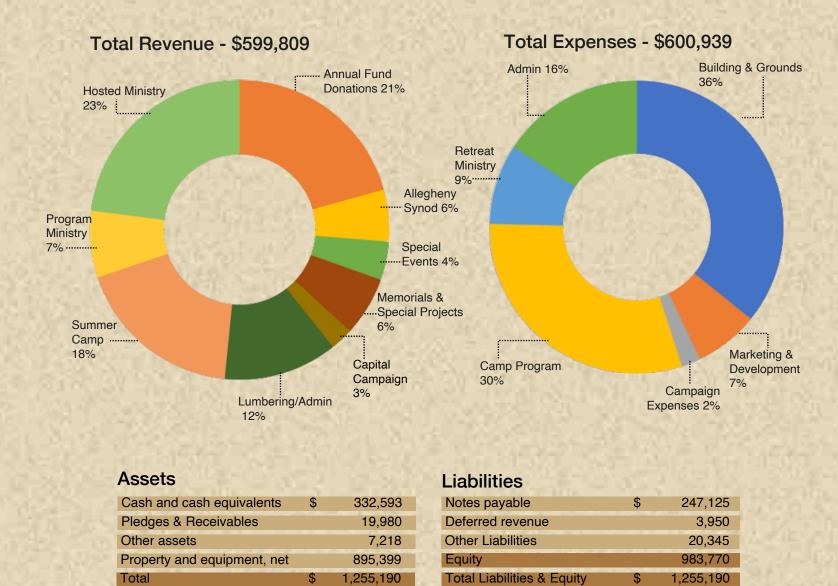




Special Events	Participants	\$ Raised
5K Fun Run	21	\$2,018
Spring Benefit Dinner	86	\$10,058
Mother's Day Buffet	305	\$4,536
Golf Benefit	40	\$4,212
Breakfast with Santa	135	\$1,020
TOTAL	769	\$21,844



\$



Note: The 2022 audited financials will be available after September 2023.

\$

Have you noticed the trees?

Sequanota is 76 years old. Our forests are around 85-90 years old. The timber stand on the property needed some age diversity. The forest is made up of many trees about the same size and age. The forest was beginning to thin the trees naturally,



but the Sequanota Board decided to work with a professional forestry team and use this time of natural selection to our advantage and create some funds for Sequanota's ministry and property maintenance. We recently completed several selective cuts around camp's property in an effort to make main camp and trail life safer.

We also created some natural habitat for our wildlife neighbors

while also protecting our dominate Oak tree species. This work has been slow and intentional. The Board of Directors and staff take very seriously our responsibility to care for these sacred woods and the streams that flow through this holy hillside. Our recent work will make the forest and camp healthier for years to come.



Trees planted near BC during confirmation camp

How YOU DID IT Kindle Monthly Giving Club



In 2020 we began encouraging folks to become members of Kindle Monthly Giving Club. KINDLE monthly partners ignite our ministry to serve in new ways. When you give though monthly gifts, you provide regular and consistent income to help Sequanota kindle the faith of our campers and guests.



\$10 - \$250

Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Financial offers a program to encourage community involvement by its members. Members can organize an "Action Team" for a service project, a fundraiser, or an educational event and Thrivent will provide \$250 in "seed money." In 2022 the Sequanota community was the beneficiary of 5 Action Teams. Handicap Bathroom Remodel Garden Planting Bowersox Center Landscaping Cabin Renovation Breakfast with Santa

If you are a Thrivent member, please let us know and we will help you put a team together. Teams can be organized for fundraisers, service projects, or education.



Call the office to let us help you set up an Action Team. (814)629-6627.

Founders' Fires Giving Tiers

2022 gifts to the Annual Fund, Benefits, and scholarship funds



+ Denotes Kindle Club Members Founders: \$1000+

Lisa Bahr and Kevin Shock Pamela Baker Kirby and Susan Barclay + Susan Baughman + **Benscreek Lutheran Church** Elda Burket Dennis and Evelyn Calhoun Christ Lutheran, Johnstown Christ Lutheran, Dubois Samuel and Fern Clapper Faith United Lutheran Church Gary and Jackie Gable Sandy and Denny Hall Scott Klimke and Julia Sprenkle Kathy Landis + Dave and Cindy Liska Traci Marriott + Bill and Holly Marriott + John and Pam Maurer **Dennis Merringer** Jane and Mark Nicholson John and Gail Palko Greg and Barb Pile Nathan and Angie Pile + **Colleen Reeves** George and Joanna Rudisill Michael and Marcia Satryan **Bishop Paula Schmitt** Susan Sedory Marvin and Jeanie Shaffer **Ruby Shaw** St. Luke's Lutheran Church St. Matthew Lutheran Church St. Paul's Lutheran Church Stoystown Tank and Steel Co. **Eva Strang** Trinity Lutheran, Hooversville Trinity Lutheran, Somerset **Barbara Wachter** The Law Office of Megan E. Will Greg and Amy Will Larry Mazer and Susan Winger + Joy Zimmerman Zion Lutheran, Hollidaysburg

Luther League: <u>\$500 ~ \$999</u>

Kim Ankeny Vicki Beilfuss Kevin and Melody Berg Dan and Sharon Berkebile. **Kevin Borchert Brian** Coltin Dan and Fran Decker Dan and Geeg Eash + Megan and Ben Flower **Friedens Lutheran Church** Debra Garland + Michael and Staci Gaunt Grace Lutheran, State College Grace Lutheran, Johnstown Rev. Edward Harshbarger Jim and Ginny Hockensmith Bruce and Wilma Horner **Raeanne and Sean Knull** Donald F. Koontz **Charlie and Gail Korns** Laurel Trinity Lutheran Church Lavansville/Bakersville Parish **Bonnie Leibfreid** M. J. Miller Family Agricultural Heritage Fund George and Ardelle Mason + **1st Summit Bank** Stan and Deb McQuaide Carl and Nancy Miller Tom and Jill Mitchell + Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Johnstown Randy and Linda Musser **David Myers** Jeff Nider Larry and Allison Olson Will and Elisa Osman Major Builders Inc. Barbera Law St. Mark Lutheran, Pleasant Gap **Robert & Linda McElroy Thomas** Stacy and Paul Wheeler **Cindy Winger** Zion Lutheran, Johnstown

Council Fire: \$250 - \$499

Aaronsburg Salem Lutheran David Andrews **Charlotte Aungst Rick and Tina Barron Bob & Beth Belsterling Richard Braun Christ Casebeer Lutheran** John Conklin & Maria Esposito Scott and Carol Custead Jane and Jim Fagans Jim & Sandra Fogle Jennifer Hollinger **Monica and Tim Knauss** Sarah and Jim Kucherer Tara Mckenzie **Troy Miller** Moxham Lutheran Mt. Zion Lutheran, Glasgow Andrea Paul Erin and Shane Peterson + Dick and Sharon Peterson + Kathy and Bob Reed Gloria Reed Dave and Theresa Shoemaker **Elaine Smith** Kristen and William Snyder St. John Lutheran, Centre Hall St. John Lutheran, Williamsburg St. Paul's Lutheran, Buckstown Mrs. Caryl Swanson Brooke and Jonathan Thiele Ed and Sue Vorhauer **Florence Warfel** Valerie and Wayne Weaver Weaver Services LLC Hanna Weimer + Christ Lutheran, Buffalo Mills Pine Hall Lutheran St. James Lutheran, Huntingdon Zion Hoffman Lutheran, Acosta

Framing Faith for the Future 2022 Donations & Pledges

Vicki Beilfuss Paul and Collette Beuther Tony & Susan Buda Robert and Patricia Byers Lisa Byers Matthew Campbell James & Ellen Campbell John & Donna Diercks Tom Drake Theresa Facini Vicki Sue Golemboski Grace Lutheran, State College Ann & William Gray Carolyn & Michael Hetrick Deborah Kaufman Matthew Lavine Larry and Linda Louder Deborah Lux P Stevens and Lois Lynn Marty and Alyce Mehring Mike & Gail Nedimyer Bruce and Lynn Rogers Carla Rossi Salem Lutheran, Aaronsburg St. John Lutheran, Millheim Holly Jo Stoltzfus Stephen Weimer Anne Whitney Shirley Willman

Nature Lodge: <u>\$175 - \$249</u>

Peter and Peggy Barta James Bassette + **Gillian Benton** Mike and Barbara Bittner Janet Hanson and Gary Conklin Ann and Randy Ferry First Lutheran, Johnstown Sandy Griffith William and Nancy Grove Dan and Barb Halverson Linda Himes Horace and Connie Hubbard **Ryan and Erin Knepper Tim and Leslie Lady** Christy Lesnevichm + Lois Miller **Olanta Lutheran Church Blake and Katherine Peese** Barbara Jean and Wallace Penrod Lou Ann Reckner **Crystal Schafer** Kellie Schwake + Doug and Linda Shrader St. James Lutheran, Ligonier St. John Lutheran, Meyersdale **Barb** Timm Ben and Marie Waltermire Joel and Kristine Weaver Zachary Weimer and David Schwartz + Gary and Amy Weimer Outpost:

\$100 ~ \$174

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Nancy Shaffer **Construction Equipment Service** Pat Sleek James Smith Jeff and Barbara Smith Nick and Kathy Snitzer **Robin and Bryan Spangler Robin Spangler & Bryan Brady** St. James Lutheran, Altoona Paula Townsend + **Ellen Vorhauer** Heather Vorhauer Rodger and Cheryl Vorhaurer Susan Wagner Blake and Karen Wagner Charlene Walker Brad ad Cindy Walker **Ed Warshel** William and Darlene Weible Daniel Weimer + Dana and Dennis Weimer James and Rebecca West Hattie Williams Susan Wray Janet Wright Gary and Shari Ziegler





Contributions up to \$99

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Thrivent Choice Dollar Donations for 2022 = \$5,463

Ann and Randy Ferry Sally Fink Revs. Lee and Dena Gable Gregory Geist Nora Gelnett Jay & Sara Hay Sam & Chris Hemminger Tom and Celine Horner Nelson and Sandy Ilgenfritz Regan and Bob Jones Bob and tyna Kaltenbaugh Wayne Kaufman Deborah Kaufman Christina Kimmel Sandra Kustaborder

Dave and Cindy Liska John and Gayle Liska George and Ardelle Mason Rick and Diane Miller John and Becky Minnich Esther Mishler Dennis & Katherine Naugle Bill and Paula Nihoff Andrea Paul Laura Pearce Nathan and Angie Pile Cleone Rudisill Marvin and Jeanie Shaffer Dave & Theresa Shoemaker Linda Spoerlein Charles Stitt Noel Strattan Mark Swank Barbara Swanson Elizabeth Thomas Doris E Thomas Robert & Linda McElroy Thomas Lois Tomb David and Karen Truesdale Jean Vonada Ben and Marie Waltermire William and Darlene Weible Daniel Weimer Robert & Susan Will Cheryl Zwick



Faith-informed Learning & Community June 22–25, 2023

We are excited to invite you to Sequanota's Well Festival, an event that celebrates creation, wellness, social justice, and community. This unique festival offers a range of activities and events that promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, as well as an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Sequanota.

The Well Festival will take place on June 22-25 at Sequanota, and we would love to have you join us. We strive to live authentically as God's people. Over the generations, people have found that it is easier to live and strive when we do it together. This is what the Well Festival is all about living, learning, and loving together.

A key component of the event is to simply provide open space for participants to engage one another. The idea is for spiritual explorers to gather to find community and support as we engage in a wide range of conversations.

The festival is designed to offer different "tents" or learning experiences to provide opportunities for conversation. Maybe the conversation is new to you, or maybe you are a seasoned veteran on a topic, but this weekend is curated to provide the space to discuss and explore together.

For more information and to register, visit our website: <u>www.sequanota.com/well</u>

"Tents" (aka Learning Areas)

Environment

- Naturalist hike & technology
- Feeding ourselves and our neighbors
- Hunting and ethics
- Climate change and faith

Economics, Justice & Advocacy

- Gender & Sexuality 101
- Personal finance planning & stewardship
- Advocacy and living the economic life
- Shop Local does it matter?

Food & Health

- Mental Health
- Sports and faith
- Kids and Gardens
- The culture of greatness and how it affects our lives

Practical Theology

- Welcome in the congregation
- Finding your way in faith as a young adult
- Social media and evangelism
- Faith & Politics

Devotional/Spiritual Life

- Yoga
- Practicing Journaling
- Walking a Prayer Labyrinth
- Making a Prayer Shawl

Arts & Media

- Basket weaving
- Calligraphy
- · Accessible parish art
- Painting and crafts

Music

- Faith and sound workshop
- Hymn sing along
- Exploring the new All Creation Sings
 hymn book
- Live Band performances

Open Space

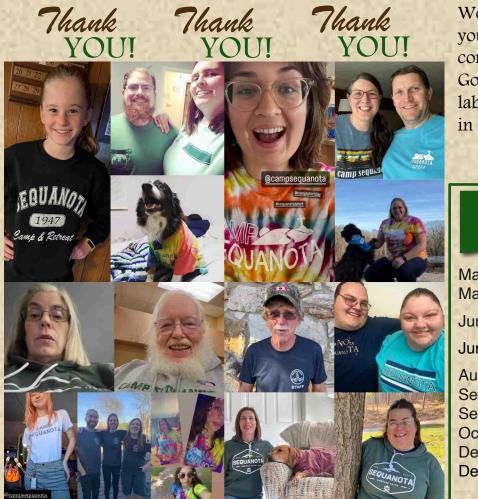
This is a designated tent area that will always be open to continue a conversation. Participants can share a topic they would like to talk about or continue a topic from earlier in the event. The space is designed to make an open space for continued conversation.



SEQUANOTA Lutheran Conference Center & Camp PO Box 245 Jennerstown, PA 15547

Contact us: web: www.sequanota.com Phone: (814) 629-6627 email: contact@sequanota.com U.S. Postage Paid Jennerstown, PA 15547 Permit #1 Non-Profit Org

Return Service Requested



We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Looking forward in 2023

May 6 May 14	Spring Work Day Mother's Day Banquet
June - Aug	SUMMER CAMP
June 22-25	WELL FESTIVAL
Aug 21 Sept 22 Sept 23-24 Oct 12 Dec 2 Dec 8-10	Golf Benefit Trail Clean Up Weekend IGNITE/PLUNGE - Retreat Adult Day Bible Study Breakfast with Santa Synod Youth Gathering