

2017 Workcamp Commissioning Resources

Theme Scripture

3 John 13-14

The Message

I have a lot more things to tell you, but I'd rather not use pen and ink. I hope to be there soon in person and have a heart-to-heart talk. Peace to you. The friends here say hello. Greet our friends there by name.

New International Version

I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

New Revised Standard Version

I have much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; instead I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face. Peace to you. The friends send you their greetings. Greet the friends there, each by name.

New Living Translation

I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to write it with pen and ink. For I hope to see you soon, and then we will talk face to face. Peace be with you. Your friends here send you their greetings. Please give my personal greetings to each of our friends there.

Litany

Leader: You have been invited to a home with an open door—a home where they know you by name and greet you with a "hello."

Congregation: You are welcome there in the company of Jesus.

Participant(s): I(We) look forward to accepting my(our) invitation to enter into fellowship with others.

Leader: Child(ren) of God, may you be blessed and feel the love and support of the congregation as you journey to serve at a workcamp. We pray that you join in community with your fellow workcampers and grow in your faith together.

Congregation: You are welcome there in the community with fellow believers.

Participants: We are ready to join with new friends in our journey of faith.

Leader: Children of God, open your hearts to communicate through prayer, service, and love.

Congregation: You are welcome there in the peaceful presence of God.

Participants: We yearn to be closer to God and will work to be deep-spirited believers.

Leader: Children of God, find more ways to connect with others. Seek opportunities to have heart-to-heart conversations and recognize each other as incredible, valuable people.

Congregation: You are welcome there in a community safe for conversations.

Participants: We look forward to getting to know one another, acknowledging each person's unique gifts.

Leader: Children of God, know that you are loved. May you love yourselves and think kind thoughts toward yourself, for you are created in the image and love of God. May you recognize the individual gifts and skills you have been blessed with and use them to bring prosperity to others as you lend a helping hand.

Congregation: You are welcome there in your beautiful individuality.

Participants: We come to this time of service, spreading love from the inside out.

Leader: Children of God, may you set an example for the world, shining like a city on a hill.

Congregation: You are welcome there as the hands and feet of Christ.

Participants: We will witness to those we meet, sharing the love of God with outstretched arms and with God guiding our feet.

Leader: As children of God, go now with the peace that passes understanding, with the strength of Jesus Christ, with the exciting opportunity to foster friendships, and with the eagerness to serve.

Congregation: You are welcome at the workcamp, and we will listen to your experiences when you return.

Participants: We thank you for your continued support, and we leave with the readiness to greet our neighbors in word and in action.

Prayer of Sending

Lord of Heaven and Earth, Lord of all creation, we thank you for these youth. We thank you because they see the world and want to bring peace to it. They desire to create heaven on Earth by extending your hand to the weary. Be with them as they travel and do your work in (insert workcamp name). We ask you to keep their bodies safe, but that you stir in their hearts, causing them to deepen their relationship with you and the communities they will serve in. Lord, please also be with us, the congregation, as we watch these youth be the church. Encourage us to follow their example and to take the leap of faith that lies before us. In your most holy name, we pray. Amen.

Suggested hymn: Move in our midst #418, Brothers and Sisters of Mine #142

Workcamp Project Descriptions

Feel free to read the workcamp description(s) below for your participants' workcamp(s) so your congregation knows more about how they are serving.

Baltimore, MD

Workcampers will focus on repairing homes in Baltimore's neighboring communities as they partner with Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW). BCCW is a church-run organization dedicated to improving the lives and homes of impoverished residents in Baltimore County. Some projects may include building wheelchair ramps, installing railings, painting, re-tiling floors, gardening, or clearing out yard debris. Mays Chapel United Methodist Church will host this workcamp for the week as participants explore Baltimore, the Inner Harbor, and all that the city has to offer.

Broadway, VA

Workcampers will be immersed in brethren heritage as they live and work at the John Kline Homestead. They will eat and sleep in the house that John Kline built and lived in. Participants will work the same lands that he did with his family, working in the garden, clearing the spring, and cleaning the springhouse. This workcamp will foster an educational experience and will help youth understand significant attributes of the Church of the Brethren.

Cañon City, CO - BRF

Participants attending the workcamp in Cañon City, Colorado will be serving with New Horizons Ministry, an organization that provides Christ-centered nurture and programming for children and families whose parents are incarcerated. Workcampers will be doing work projects both with their children's ministry and at their thrift store.

Flint, MI

This workcamp is hosted by the Flint Church of the Brethren. Workcampers will work with a variety of organizations to aid Flint during the ongoing water crisis. Because of the crisis, many areas of the social sphere have been impacted, creating widespread distrust. Workcampers will volunteer in ways that can build bridges in the community. Some of the work projects are spray-painting labels on storm drains, gardening, distributing books, installing rain barrels, and hauling water.

Harrisburg, PA

This workcamp partners with On Earth Peace to serve the Brethren Housing Association, which helps to provide housing and social services to homeless individuals in the Harrisburg area. Work

will include projects such as renovations, yard work, and cleaning. Participants of this workcamp will also be helping with the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren's Vacation Bible School. Workcampers will learn about urban housing issues and homelessness as well as explore peace education and justice. Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren will be their hosts for the week.

Knoxville, TN

Workcampers will be staying at the Knox Central United Methodist Church and will be volunteering with Knox Area Rescue Ministries, The Love Kitchen, and the Knoxville Dream Center. The work will include serving food to the homeless community, organizing a food pantry, working with a facilities team at KARM, serving food, sorting donations at a thrift store, and many other projects. Participants will learn about the current housing issues in Knoxville and the ways that these organizations try to assist those affected by them.

Lewiston, ME – BRF

Workcampers will experience a taste of day-to-day life on Horton Street in Lewiston, Maine, by interacting with the community. They will work with Root Cellar, an inner-city ministry that connects local churches with social, economic, and spiritual needs in the impoverished downtown neighborhood of Lewiston. Time will also be spent at Good Shepherd Food Bank, which provides approximately 36,000 meals per week throughout the entire state.

Lybrook, NM

At this workcamp, participants will experience a different culture than they are accustomed to as they work within the Navejo Nation. Workcampers will spend time gardening, building relationships with the locals, and working at the Lybrook Mission, the facility where they will stay. There will be physical work to be done with hands and relational work to be done with hearts. In the evenings, they will learn about the trades of 2 women in the community, eat some traditional Navejo meals, and experience southwestern landscapes.

Milford, IN

There's much more to Indiana than cornfields. Workcampers will spend the week at Camp Alexander Mack providing services to spruce up camp after a busy summer of camps and visiting groups by cleaning, painting, and other tasks. With Lake Waubee to cool off in and campfires to enjoy, those of us gathering in Milford are sure to have a memorable time in God's creation serving and worshipping together.

Nepal

On April 25, 2015 a massive earthquake struck Nepal, devastating tens of thousands of families. Participants will provide some relief to families in the village of Kewalpur in the Dhading district outside of Kathmandu. Participants will be engaged with some reconstruction activities while partnering with Heifer International, and will also have plenty of opportunities to interact with the people of the village, explore the diverse cultures of Nepal, and hike through the beauty of the Himalayas.

New Meadows, ID

Amidst the Payette National Forest, workcampers will get a taste for Idaho as they work with Idahoans at Camp Wilbur Stover preparing for the summer of camps. Workcampers will likely be painting, cleaning, and other services to help spruce up camp. In the peaceful outdoors, participants will worship and work together and explore the beautiful surrounding nature.

N. Ft. Myers, FL

This workcamp will be hosted by the Saving Grace Church of the Brethren. It is a small congregation, but they are enthusiastically welcoming us into their space. While in Ft. Myers we will work at ECHO Global farms, an incredible organization that is working to alleviate hunger by teaching sustainable farming methods and spreading the message of Christianity.

Perryville, AR

This workcamp will be serving at Heifer Ranch, a working farm in Perryville, Arkansas that has deep roots in the Church of the Brethren. Participants' time there may include working with Heifer's livestock crew repairing fences, clearing brush, working in the pasture, and helping with different animal chores. Workcampers will also get to experience Heifer's Global Gateway which creates an existence in which participants prepare a meal with limited resources and spend a night in the Global Village – living in conditions similar to what could be found in other countries around the world.

Portland, OR

Peace Church of the Brethren will be hosting the workcampers while they are in beautiful Oregon. The work in Portland will include serving at SnowCap and Human Solutions (two Brethren Volunteer Service projects) by sorting through donated food, organizing a food pantry, playing with the children of the homeless families that are supported by Human Solutions, painting work sheds, and other projects. Participants will learn about the housing crisis in Portland and the ways that these organizations are trying to combat it. With a myriad of waterfalls, miles of coastline, and beautiful mountains setting the scene, the week will be filled with adventure and opportunities to learn and grow as a group—a group who is faithfully coming to serve in the name of the Lord.

Roanoke, VA

The Roanoke First Church of the Brethren will be hosting the workcampers this year. Workcampers will serve with 3 organizations in the area, Samaritan Inn, Roanoke Rescue Mission, and RAM House. Each of these organization work with Roanoke's homeless or low income population. Each organization has a different strategy to do this work and the participants will experience each method. Workcampers will be in service to this population by serving meals, organizing donations, listening to their stories, having an opportunity to wash their feet, and other projects.

Santa Ana, CA

Located in the bustle of sunny California, Príncipe de Paz Church of the Brethren will be hosting the workcampers as they paint Sunday school rooms, cook food for a local soup kitchen, and help organize the food pantry run through the church. In this vastly Hispanic community, workcampers will get to experience a worship spoken in Spanish and meet some of the incredible people working at the church to create a better community. Workcampers will also visit a marine mammal rehabilitation center where they care for sea lions and seals to more deeply understand the issue around the area.

Waco, TX – Family Abuse Center

Lake Shore Baptist Church and the Family Abuse Center will host the workcampers in Waco, TX, providing insight into Waco culture, but also some delicate situations that people in the area are going through. Participants will serve at the Family Abuse Center's shelter and thrift store by spending time with the children who live at the shelter, painting fences, cleaning, gardening, and organizing donations. They will also do work projects for the Lake Shore Baptist Church. Workcampers will come together to celebrate the 4th of July, but will also gather to learn more about poverty and the work they are called to do.

We Are Able—Elgin, IL

We Are Able participants will have an opportunity to serve at food banks and distribution centers in the Fox River Valley of Northern Illinois. They will serve together to sort, repackage, and distribute food through several organizations in the area. There will also be fun recreational outings which may include a bowling night, attending a concert or movie, or visiting a nature center.

We Are Able Assistants—Elgin, IL

The We Are Able assistants are participating in the We Are Able workcamp, a workcamp for intellectually disabled youth and young adults. These participants will serve alongside the We Are Able workcampers, helping to care for their needs and helping them with their work at food banks and distribution centers in the Fox River Valley of Northern Illinois as they sort, repackage, and distribute food through several organizations in the area.