

## LETTER FROM WI-NE-MA FAMILY CAMP PROGRAM DIRECTOR June 30, 2020

It has been a long, hard spring. I'm sure everyone reading this note has had their share of quarantine. But now that the state is re-opening, I know that many are wondering if Family Camp is going to happen.

### **The answer to that is YES!**

Jeff Walling is confirmed as our conference speaker. You will remember Jeff from Family Camp 2018 (Monkey in the refrigerator light ... remember?). He is an extremely gifted family and youth speaker.

As you might guess however, living with COVID means things will be quite different. The state has issued governing rules for both youth and family types of camping. Family Camp falls under both. Some of these are as follows; please read carefully!

1. Family Camping – single families must be housed together (tent, cabin, RV).
2. RV's and tent spaces must have 10 feet between them.
3. Youth Programming – there are a number of rules that apply here. However, the most difficult to abide by is the requirement that youth be allocated in cohorts of no larger than 10 kids. They must remain in these cohorts. They cannot co-mingle (i.e. multiple cohorts cannot come together to play a game, or conduct an activity). This rule applies throughout the duration of the camp. While the State of Oregon eventually canceled all over-night youth camps state wide, the “cohort of 10” rule had already driven Winema to cancel all youth camps in 2020. Camp Directors were confident that there was no way that they could reasonably manage the kids to this constraint, and still deliver a meaningful youth camp. For this reason, we will not have youth programming this year. This applies to all ages. Because of the family element of Family Camp, we believe families can camp together and still enjoy the beauty and family camaraderie that camping at Winema offers. We are opening what typically would have been adult sessions to all ages. Our desire is that you would bring your entire family. Jeff Walling is a deeply experienced CIY (Christ In Youth) circuit speaker, and is well suited to message mixed groups containing all ages.
4. Also different could be the venue. Depending on the number of attendees at this year's camp, we may be worshipping together out of doors as opposed to being in the missions building. The rule set by the state is 35 square feet per person to maintain social distancing requirements. Because of the mission's building capacity, its use is in question. We are still monitoring this requirement and attendance. So while this could change, for now this is the plan.

There are a number of other things that we would like for you to be mindful of while camping together at Family Camp. These are all listed out clearly in the attachment.

Finally, a personal plea that I would like to make to you. There unfortunately is politicization around many things related to COVID, most poignantly around the use of face masks and maintaining social distancing. We will be abiding by these to a degree this weekend. I personally would like to challenge us to step up to the maturity in Christ that we are all called to. I would ask that you put your personal feelings for these things aside for the betterment of the larger

good. Agree or not, these are for the safety of all. I would like to ask you, in the spirit of “not being a stumbling block” as spoken of by Paul in Romans 14:13-23, to put these feelings aside and abide by the rules we will be engaging.

There is an old adage often spoken in Restoration Movement circles that goes something like this: *“In Essentials - Unity; In Matters-Of-Opinion - Freedom; But In All Things - Love”*. I would like for us on this occasion to minimize the second, and heavily engage the third. Let us please not waste effort on, as Knofel Stayton once said “arguing, fighting, and splitting up over things the angels care nothing about”.

Peace, and, as the old song says ... "See You In September".

YBIC,

Gerry