

# Welcome to “Northwood’s Time Apart” #453

Northern Pines United Methodist Campground: 20033 County Road 1, Park Rapids, MN

[NorthernPinesCamp@campminnesota.org](mailto:NorthernPinesCamp@campminnesota.org) 218-732-4713

Sunday afternoon, September 19-Friday noon, September 24.

**This letter confirms your registration for 2021 “Time Apart” camp.** We are excited to be sharing the adventure, the “time apart”, and the fellowship with friends, old and new amid the beauty of the Northwoods fall splendor.

You will find a “Medical Information Form”, “Release of Liability”, “COVID-19 Release of Liability”, and “Medications List” in your camp materials, and these need to be brought with you to camp on 9/19/21. (If you misplace them, they can be downloaded from the camp website or requested from the Camping Office.)

We are looking forward to spending time enjoying fall’s colorful beauty, experiencing a time of inspiration, of relaxation and enjoy new and re-newed friendships, in a safe pandemic atmosphere.



## **Where is Northern Pines and what happens when we arrive at camp?**

**Directions to Northern Pines:** From the intersection of Hwy #71 & #34 in downtown Park Rapids, turn east on #34, and then left on Hwy 1. There is a traffic light at the intersection. (If you are coming on #34 from the east, Hwy 1 is at the second traffic light. Continue on Hwy #1



for about 2 miles, to the sign for Northern Pines on your left. (There is a golf course across the road.) Follow the camp lane to the Lodge (2 story building on your left.) Registration (from 3-5 p.m.) will be inside the Lodge. You will turn in your required forms (health, both liability forms, meds); get your room assignments and an information packet....and then have time to explore, unpack, or relax with a cup of coffee/tea. We will meet for supper at 6 at the Red Pine Dining room.

## **Camp Schedule for 2021**

A detailed camp schedule will be in your information packets that you will pick up when you arrive at camp.

Each morning at camp, (Monday-Thursday), we will begin our day, on your schedule, with a continental breakfast served from the Lodge kitchen, including fruits, cereals, breads, egg, etc.

The group will gather in the lower level of Red Pine for morning worship, followed by a time of study and discussion, using the book by Matt Rawle, "**The Gift of the Nutcracker**".

At noon, lunch will be served in the Red Pine dining room (upper level), or, weather permitting, there may be a picnic or cookout at the campfire on the campgrounds.

**Afternoon activities** will be a combination of planned activities or chances to pursue your own interests. You may wish to take part in a craft, go for a walk, explore the new addition of land acquired by Northern Pines, go canoeing or kayaking, take a pontoon ride on Fish Hook Lake, play a round of golf, bike or hike the Heartland Trail, read a book, take a nap.....it's your choice. Weather permitting, we may plan a trip to Itasca State Park, with a bag lunch and maybe a cruise on the park tour boat. And sometime during the week, we will have an opportunity to see what books "Beagle and Wolf" are suggesting for winter reads. (What "off-campus" activities we can safely take part in, and are available, will depend on the pandemic situation for September, and we will try to get more information to you in late summer.)

Supper is usually at 6 p.m. and in the Red Pine Dining room. Depending on the "pandemic situation", we hope to be able to have dinner out one evening, possibly at one of Dorset's eateries. On Thursday evening, we will be treated to a "Candlelight Dinner" followed by entertainment.

Evenings are dedicated to informal group games, and fellowship.

### **Camp Discussion and Study: "The Gift of the Nutcracker"**

Most, if not all, of us are familiar with Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite and Ballet", and Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way---thru the lens of faith. Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ Child and of the Kingdom Christ came to build. And much like Clara, we are caught pondering a most extraordinary gift.

Last year during camp, we all found the book, "The Grace of Les Misérables", by Rawle, to be Thought-provoking and the basis for some heartfelt discussion.

Books are available at Cokesbury and other bookstores. You will receive a study guide in late summer.



## Camp accommodations:

Housing for “Time Apart” camp will be on the second floor of the Lodge Conference Center, and if more beds are needed, Wesley and Cornerstone will be used. The bedrooms contain both regular beds and bunk beds....we will only be using the lower beds. Each bedroom has an adjoining bathroom with a walk-in shower. You may either bring your own bedding (sheets, blanket, pillow), or rent bedding/towels, (including sheets, blanket, quilt, pillow & case, towel and washcloth) for \$7.50. Contact Leslie at 218-732-4713 to reserve bedding.

If you would prefer to not carry suitcases, etc. up a flight of stairs, you can park behind the Lodge, and that entrance is at second floor level.



The lower/ground floor level of the Lodge contains a multipurpose lounge area with seating facing a fireplace, as well as tables and chairs. There is a large kitchen where our continental breakfast will be available, and there is a game room with ping pong, foosball, etc. In the kitchen, there is a second refrigerator for camper’s use and a table for shared snacks

### **What to bring...**

- ~~~a spirit of awe and adventure
- ~~~signed and filled out health and liability forms
- ~~~Medications, in original containers.
- ~~~ “Time Apart” Medication sheet, (filled out)
- ~~~Bedding (sheets, blanket, pillow), towels.
- ~~~toiletries
- ~~~Bible, notebook or journal, pen/pencil.
- ~~~Casual clothing, layers to deal with temperature and weather changes, possibly rain.
- ~~~Windbreaker, sweatshirt, raincoat, umbrella,
- ~~~Comfortable walking shoes, + extra pair of shoes
- ~~~Camera, golf clubs, fishing gear, book, bike, needlework---whatever you might need for your afternoon free time.
- ~~~flashlight
- ~~~mask



## **Covid-19 implications and policies:**

We discovered in September of 2020, that we could hold a very comfortable camp during the middle of the pandemic by following distancing/masking practices. Hopefully, by September of 2021, we will be able to meet with less restrictions. By then, we should all have been able to have received our vaccinations, and the state/conference will be able to relax the pandemic rules. We will know more what awaits us as September nears.

## **Later this summer.....**



Later this summer, you will receive e-mails

(or mail) with up-dated information about camp, a tentative daily schedule, and possible afternoon and evening activities that will be available for your choice. Also, you will get a “study guide” for the study book, to help you prepare.

## **A note of welcome from your dean:**

*A warm welcome to each of you, whether a new camper, or an “old timer”. It will be good to get to know each of you and to catch up on your lives. It is our hope, during the week, that you will find some “time apart” to relax, find moments of inspiration, enjoy God’s beauty of creation and the beauty of fall in the Northwoods. There will be times of inspiration and new understanding as we study and discuss “The Gift of the Nutcracker” and find applications for our daily walk with God. Our schedule for the week has allowed time to explore the beauty, history, and opportunities found in the surrounding area. We will have time to relax, to enjoy “time apart”, to take time to laugh, learn and escape the “news of the outside world”...and return home with a new lease on life. Look forward to seeing you soon.*

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