

Update: FLBC & COVID-19  
April 29th, 2020

*"Therefore, we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)*

This is a scripture that I cling to tightly, when things get rough, or when I feel very alone. This has been my mantra over the last 6 weeks, as we have grown into what it feels like to live in this time of a horrific pandemic in our world.

I am thankful for you... **thank you** for your care, prayers, financial gifts, letters, emails, texts, FB posts & phone calls, and for your testimonies of what camp means to you. As staff we even received a very special pound cake in the mail from Minnesota friends to cheer us up! It is all so very appreciated and lifts my spirit daily. You are an amazing "cloud of witnesses."

And, thank you for joining us in spirit for our online worships. We hope you could "smell" the campfire smoke, eat some s'mores...and sing along with us.

The FLBC board met April 28, 2020, and in consultation with our health department, has decided to keep camp closed through most of June. We have postponed our June events, and are in the process of contacting campers from our June weeks, to hopefully move them to later weeks in the summer. Our summer staff will arrive late June, and we will be doing much of our staff training online. We pray we will be able to open in late June, however we will not open if we cannot feel prepared and confident about welcoming campers.

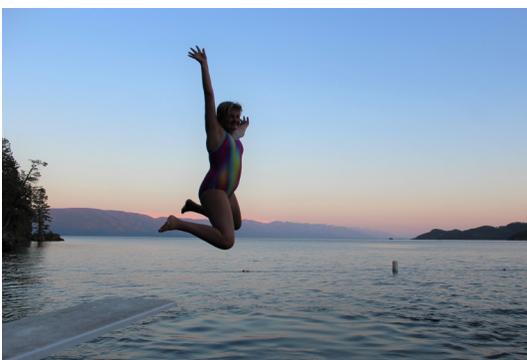
We also know that *if* we are able to open camp this summer, that *it will look very different* from what we've known at FLBC. We are working hard to make changes in how we operate programming, in order to stay in small groups- taking ideas from our successful offsite small group model and bringing them to onsite camping. We also are writing protocols that will be reviewed by our health department as to how we will do food service (more meals to go?), how the check-in procedure may change (temperature check before a freeze pop?) and how we will continue to pride ourselves in super clean facilities, while disinfecting, scrubbing and cleaning even more. All of this in order to keep risk down and our staff and campers healthy and safe.

As a people we have a hard time with changes. "New wine in old wine skins? Nooo, the old wine was so much better!" Change is hard, very hard, and yet we know we will experience the love of Christ with masks on, with social distancing and whatever it takes. *"Put new wine in new wineskins, and so both are preserved."* (Matthew 9: 17b)

The FLBC board will meet again May 26th, to determine if we will be open in July and August. If you register your child for camp, you will need to sign off on a form about exposure to the virus, temperatures taken, and that you have not traveled outside of MT for 14 days prior to coming to camp. If you decide not to send your child to camp this summer, we encourage you to roll your deposit to 2021, or donate all or part of it, if possible. We will provide full refunds, if that is your request.



*Our Mission:  
Experience Christ's grace  
through meaningful  
relationships,  
shared adventures, and  
purposeful service.*



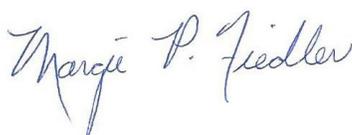
Nothing will take the place of being at camp and we are so eager to welcome you home to FLBC when we can open again- whenever that might be! The last group we were able to host left on March 11th and the camp has been very quiet since, with the exception of the staff busy at work! Projects have included finishing the remodeling of Teton Cabin, clearing a new access road into the Hagen Hall area, laying sod in front of the camp office, closing the "road" that used to go right through camp, and the list goes on! We give thanks to the donors and grants who make these projects a reality.

Between January 1- March 11, Nell, FLBC's Food Service Coordinator, served 1662 meals to 302 guests, and now she is cleaning, painting, and doing office work. The program staff- Jacob, Kyle, Kristin, and Jonathan- continue to register campers, plan for staff orientation, summer camp programs, and fall and winter retreats, all the while looking at how we 'do camp' in a new way. Renda, our Administrative Assistant, has been busy with all the changes many groups are making, i.e. family reunions postponing until 2021, while answering many questions by phone and email. Carlee, our Development Coordinator, continues to keep very busy with getting the word out about what is happening and asking our community to consider a recurring online gift to camp. Grace, our Senior Development Consultant, has been visiting with many supporters, and Shane and David, our maintenance team, are working hard on projects that are hard to do when people are here. So many good things are happening in the midst of these times, and the land and grounds at camp are healing and looking great!

Yes, we are eager to welcome you, whenever that can be...and we know when that happens "that all the trees of the field will clap their hands." For YOU!!

With thanks and praise to God,

Margie Fiedler



Executive Director

**Please mark your calendars for these FLBC sponsored events date changes:**

May 22-25- Memorial Day Weekend Work Retreat-rescheduled for Labor Day weekend: September 4-7; our regular Labor Day family camp program will happen the same weekend.

June 11-13- Women's Retreat, rescheduled for September 11-13; Pastor Miriam Schmidt will still serve as our retreat leader.

June 12th- Partners Luncheon- rescheduled for October 10th. Luncheon will take place just prior to the annual meeting- we hope you will stay and enjoy the meeting!

