

THE BUCKING BOARD

SILVER BIRCH RANCH

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2023

ARTICLES

- **SUMMER 2023: FREEDOM**
- **THE HIDDEN REALM**
- **NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE**
- **BREAKING GROUND (NORTHWOODS RETREAT)**
- **FOSTER FAMILY CONNECT EXPANSION**



SUMMER 2023: FREEDOM

-Dave Wager

We had the privilege of wrapping up the 56th summer camping season this past August. As I have done for many years, I positioned myself so I could watch the last bus of summer leave our grounds full of tired teary-eyed campers. As the bus approached, I began to see the world in slow motion. I wondered how many of the campers on that bus were introduced to Christ that week, how many would go on to join their church youth works, share the week's message with their families, and relive their experiences with the many friends they made.

As I thought and prayed for those on the bus, I also thanked God for another year He gave to us to bring the precious Gospel message to this generation of campers. I always pause and reflect a bit when that bus rolls out the gate, and wonder if God will give us another year, or if this past year would be our final opportunity. I do not think that way for any reason except for knowing that nothing is guaranteed, and the privilege we had this summer was indeed a privilege that we are not promised again.

I began to think of the many camps in the past few years that had to decrease their options due to staffing shortages, and I was thankful we could have full camps with full activities. I thought of the camps that broke under the burden of Covid closures and gave in to the ever-increasing pressure of inflation.

Once again, I thanked God for His faithfulness, and for many of those reading these words who volunteered, gave, served, loved, and prayed for us. I was reminded of the tremendous privilege and responsibility we enjoy, and thanked God, while asking Him to allow us to continue for many years to come.

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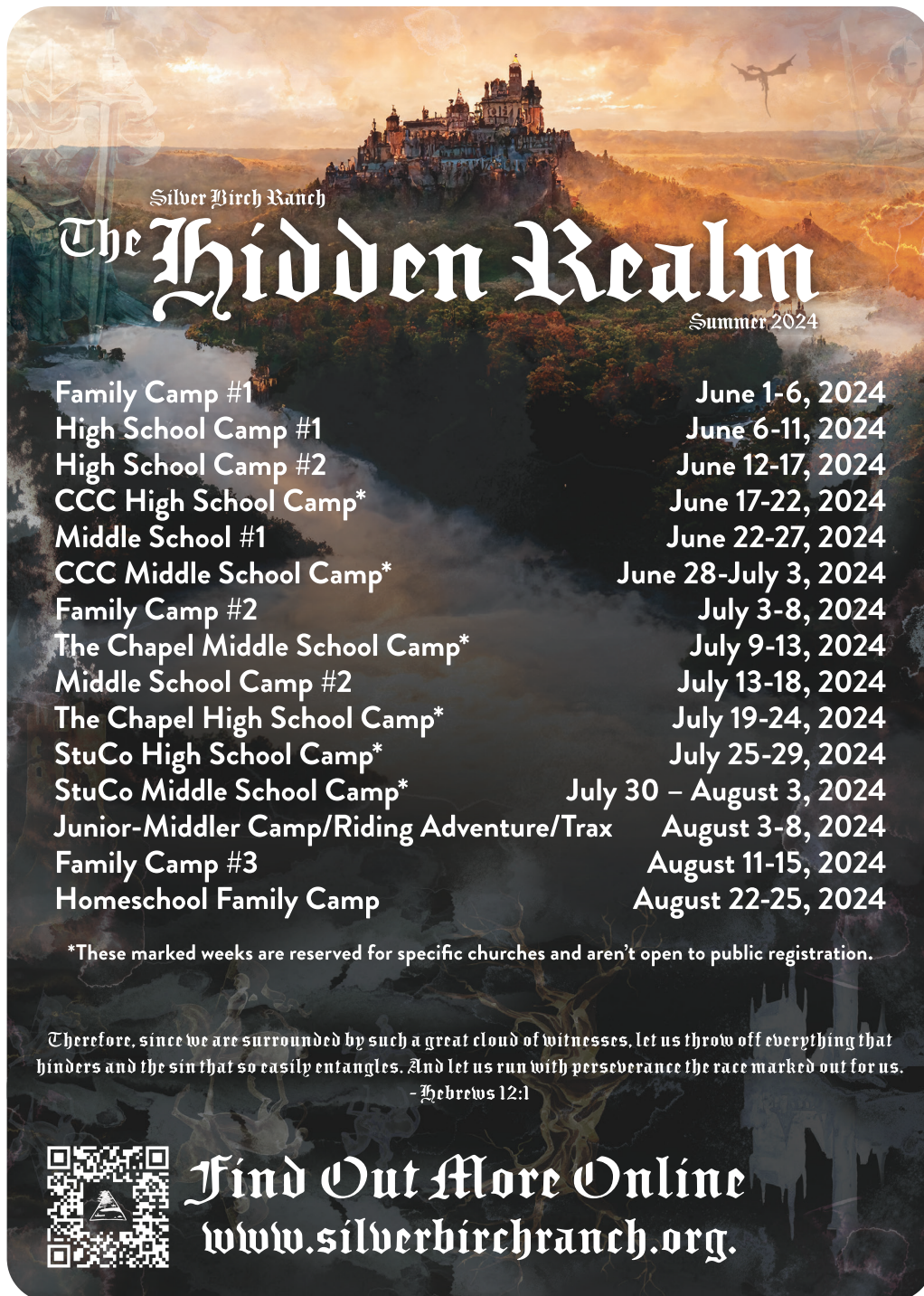
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With the start of fall, we welcomed a new class of Nicolet Bible Institute students, and begun construction on a new NBI Dorm and a new Dining Hall/Meeting Room at the Northwoods Retreat. We are busy organizing a state-wide ministry to encourage churches to be involved in the foster care system, and are making plans for our winter and summer seasons.

We continue to invite our camp friends and alumni to pray for opportunities, financial provision, and staffing in the coming years, so we can continue to press on knowing Christ and making Him known.

We thank all those who participated with us in any way throughout the past 56 summers. God is honored and we are grateful.

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9



Silver Birch Ranch

The Hidden Realm


Summer 2024

Family Camp #1	June 1-6, 2024
High School Camp #1	June 6-11, 2024
High School Camp #2	June 12-17, 2024
CCC High School Camp*	June 17-22, 2024
Middle School #1	June 22-27, 2024
CCC Middle School Camp*	June 28-July 3, 2024
Family Camp #2	July 3-8, 2024
The Chapel Middle School Camp*	July 9-13, 2024
Middle School Camp #2	July 13-18, 2024
The Chapel High School Camp*	July 19-24, 2024
StuCo High School Camp*	July 25-29, 2024
StuCo Middle School Camp*	July 30 – August 3, 2024
Junior-Middler Camp/Riding Adventure/Trax	August 3-8, 2024
Family Camp #3	August 11-15, 2024
Homeschool Family Camp	August 22-25, 2024

*These marked weeks are reserved for specific churches and aren't open to public registration.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
- Hebrews 12:1

Find Out More Online
www.silverbirchbranch.org



TOP 10 LIST

1. Kitchen - Bowls
\$1,000
2. Kitchen - Plates
\$3,000
3. Zip Line - 16 Chest Harnesses
\$520 (\$32.47 each)
4. Zip Line - Six Trolleys
\$630 (\$105 each)
5. NBI - Reference Computer
\$2,500
6. 12 Broomball Sticks
\$288 (\$24 each)
7. 10 Pairs of Ice Skates
\$750 (\$75 each)
8. 10 Cross-Country Ski Sets
\$2500 (\$250 each)
9. Laser Projector
\$17,000
10. Horse Arena Gates
\$2,500

If you can help with one of these items, please contact us at 715-484-2742. Silver Birch Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax-deductible and are appreciated. If you are interested in finding out about other ways to support the ministry of Silver Birch Ranch, visit our website.



NICOLET BIBLE INSTITUTE

Are you passionate about growing in your relationship with God and serving others? Then Nicolet Bible Institute is the perfect place for you! Our one-year program is designed to help you develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and Christian theology, while also providing you with the opportunity to serve within the context of Christian camping here at Silver Birch Ranch.

At NBI, you'll learn from experienced faculty who are committed to helping you grow in your faith. Weekly chapels with worship along with opportunities to go on mission trips are all part of the experiences provided. If you or someone you know is looking for a challenging and rewarding option that will help one grow in his/her relationship with God, then Nicolet Bible Institute is for you. Head over to www.nicoletbibleinstitute.org to apply today!

LIVE
LIKE IT
MATTERS

APPLY
TODAY



Nicolet Bible Institute
TEACHING | TRAINING | REACHING

BREAKING GROUND AT THE NORTHWOODS RETREAT

-Jason Kemper

As we prepare to break ground for the Lodge expansion at the Northwoods Retreat, we can't help but get excited. This past summer we were able to host several youth groups, and, as a result, we saw God change lives.

Each summer is a testimony to God's faithfulness and how He has used and continues to use Silver Birch Ranch to impact the lives of so many people who come through our gates. As we begin to watch a new building take shape at the Northwoods Retreat, we are eager to see what God has in store. We are not sure what the future holds; however, we are certain that God has called us to provide a place where people young and old can come and enjoy healthy relationships together.

We invite you to pray, be involved, and watch how God is going to use the Northwoods Retreat. To stay up to date on the progress of the building and to start planning your next visit, head over to northwoodsretreat.org. We look forward to hosting you and your group soon!



FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

www.northwoodsretreat.org





Silver Birch Ranch
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715-484-2742

FOLLOW US ON:



• **QUILTERS' RETREAT**

October 26-29, 2023

• **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT #1**

November 9-12, 2023

• **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT #2**

November 16-19, 2023

• **WINTER FAMILY CAMP**

Dec. 29, 2023-Jan. 1, 2024

• **WINTER JAM**

February 2-4, 2024

• **ADOPTION RETREAT**

March 8-10, 2024

• **DO YOUR OWN THING RETREAT**

March 21-24, 2024

• **SPRING MEN'S RETREAT**

May 3-5, 2024

Scan QR code with your smart phone to learn more about our events and retreats!



FOSTER FAMILY CONNECT EXPANSION

-Mike Jewell

Foster Family Connect (FFC) has been chosen as the Wisconsin Implementation Partner for the CarePortal software platform. (careportal.org) CarePortal connects foster families, county case workers, church volunteers, and donors to fulfill foster families' requests for support. Here is how it works. A foster family receives a new placement. The caseworker sees that diapers are needed and puts a request on careportal.org. A donor sees the request and donates money to purchase the diapers. The church sees that the request is paid for and agrees to send a volunteer to buy the diapers and deliver them to the foster family. Here, FFC trains the church to connect with the foster family to continue supporting and encouraging them. We aim to draw the foster family to Christ and reduce the incarceration rate for foster boys, and the pregnancy rate for foster girls, because the foster family has the support they need to thrive.

FFC has hired the following people to carry out our mission of "A Family for Every Child": Leah Harrett is the Communications Director, Holly Holly is the NW-Wisconsin Executive Director, Trey Lesatz is the NE-Wisconsin Executive Director, Jessica Kayhart is the SW-Wisconsin Executive Director, and Toni Davis is the SE-Wisconsin Executive Director. Please be in prayer as FFC expands our services across the state.

I encourage you to visit our website (www.fosterfamilyconnect.org) to learn more about supporting the foster family, and if the Lord leads, please leave a donation to advance our efforts to care for the foster children of Wisconsin.

