



Dear Horton Center friends and family,

It is with profound sadness that we announce that in-person camping at Horton Center will not be taking place this coming summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (see Conference Minister's Letter) We are disappointed that our thin space atop Pine Mountain will not be filled with joyful campers, volunteers and staff in the coming months.

As always at Horton Center, safety is our top priority and for the 2020 summer season we cannot guarantee everyone's health and safety on-site. In-person camping will resume as soon as it is safe again.

We want to affirm whatever you may be feeling with the delivery of this news. Perhaps you are sad, disappointed, frustrated or even angry. Whatever you are feeling is legitimate and necessary for you. And as we all make sense of what this means for us as individuals and an organization we encourage you, when you are ready, to look ahead to the promise of the future and all that it holds.

While grappling with this virus and its reaching impacts, we have begun planning how to adapt Horton Center's program in order to still provide some camp experience for you and your loved ones, knowing how important camp is especially in a time like this. Our deans and summer staff have excitedly begun developments of what we have named HC@home (check out our logo!).



More information about HC@home will be coming soon as we plan a balance of remote sacred community building, faith journeying, fun and encouraging plenty of time spent outside (it is Outdoor Ministries after all).

All registration fees paid to this point will be refunded as soon as possible. Your camper will be automatically registered for the HC@home version of the same week-long camp led by the same volunteer leaders. Going forward you can also expect to see a

survey distributed so that we can get a sense of you and your camper's needs and interests in order to make HC@home a great fit for all involved.

Our hearts are filled with hope at the prospect of still making a camp experience possible this summer. If you can't come to the mountain, we'll bring the mountain to you!

The Horton Center community is strong and inspired and we are deeply saddened and will miss seeing everyone and camping together in-person this summer. We are determined to continue our ministry in a way that still builds community, explores faith and encourages time spent outdoors. Know that each and every one of you is in our prayers. Please share the following 'Letter to Campers' with your own camper(s) to help them understand the changes coming this summer and know that we are thinking of them.

Blessings and Peace,

Tim and Tivvi

Tim Hughes, Interim Executive Director, Horton Center

Tivvi Paré, Summer Director, Horton Center

As always you can contact Tim Hughes with any questions at:

thughes@nhucc.org or 603-545-9660

Dear Campers,

We are very sorry to inform you that camping at Horton Center won't be possible this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that so much of what is important to you has already been disrupted by this virus and we really wish camp didn't have to be another missed opportunity for you. We are saddened to not get a chance to see you this summer. This was not an easy decision because just like you, we love Horton Center and all the friends and experiences it brings.

Whatever you are feeling right now, whether it be sadness or frustration or something else, those feelings are okay. We encourage you to talk to someone you trust about those feelings too. The Horton Center staff and volunteers are also feeling some of those very same things at this moment.

Dealing with this news may take some time but when you feel ready we want you to explore the possibility of HC@home with a parent or guardian. What is HC@home you ask? Well, we decided that although we may not be together in person, we still want to have some of the camp experience together! If you can't come to the mountain, we'll bring the mountain to you!!



More information about how to participate and what activities you can expect to do will be coming soon.

Campers, you are the reason we do what we do every summer and we know that this is a difficult time for you. Please keep in touch and complete the survey about HC@home that is coming very soon so you can let us know what you think would be the best way to get the Horton Center-magic at home! Remember that whatever you are feeling is real and valid and we are here for you. We can't wait to connect with you through HC@home this summer.

Blessings and Love,

Tim and Tivvi