

Veggie Lasagna

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 (29 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 pinch ground cinnamon
- 1 (16 ounce) package lasagna noodles
- 1 pint part-skim ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Vegetable Filling:
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 pound spinach, rinsed and chopped
- 2 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Heat 1/4 cup oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in chopped onions and bay leaf; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Add 2 cloves minced garlic, oregano, and 2 teaspoons basil; cook and stir for 2 more minutes.
2. Mix in undrained crushed tomatoes and diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 1 hour. Stir in cinnamon and set pan aside.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
4. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil, add lasagna noodles and bring water to boil again. Cook until noodles are al dente. Drain well.
5. Mix together ricotta, eggs, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, 2 teaspoons basil, and 1 clove minced garlic.
6. Sauté sliced onion and mushrooms in 2 tablespoons olive oil until tender, about 5 minutes. Add spinach and zucchini to the skillet. Cover, and cook until spinach is wilted, 2 to 5 minutes. Remove skillet from heat and set aside.
7. Spread 1/2 cup of the tomato sauce in the prepared baking dish. Place a layer of noodles on top of the tomato sauce; spread all of the ricotta mixture onto the noodles. Place another layer of noodles on top of the ricotta mixture.
8. Pour about 2 cups tomato sauce onto the noodles; arrange all of the sautéed vegetables on top of the sauce. Top vegetables with noodles and spread the remaining tomato sauce over the final layer of noodles. Top with mozzarella cheese slices and 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese.
9. Bake the lasagna in the preheated oven until filling is bubbly and cheese is melted and beginning to brown, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Remove the lasagna from the oven and let it cool 10 minutes before serving.



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Fall 2016

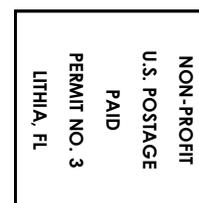
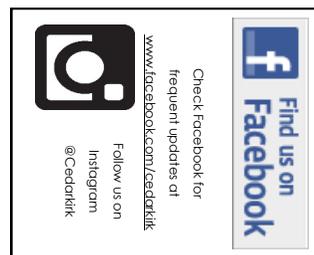
Upcoming Events:

- **Falltastic**
October 7—8, 2016
- **Senior Adult Retreat**
October 12, 2016
- **Silent Retreat**
October 23—25, 2016
- **FUSION: Fall Youth Group Retreat**
November 11—13, 2016
- **Christmas Retreat**
December 16—18, 2016
- **Creative Writing As A Spiritual Practice**
Jan. 30—Feb. 1, 2017

Visit our website for more information on these and other programs that Cedarkirk offers.

Cedarkirk Staff:

- Rev. John Reiter**
Executive Director
- Mark Orendorf**
Assistant Director
- Matt Shick**
Program Director
- Kevin Taylor**
Facilities Director
- Jackie Butler**
Food Service Director
- Karin Dale**
Event Coordinator
- Patricia Holloway**
Office Manager
- Rebeca Franca**
Associate Program Director



S'mores & More

The Newsletter of the Presbyterian Camp & Conference Ministries of SW FL

PCCM/Cedarkirk Board Member Corner—Robert Fort

All of us have our own special reason why we consider Cedarkirk a place apart. I was reminded of my own reasons a few weeks ago when I went to pick up my two sons from their first week experiencing camp. It had been a typical week for me, the busyness of my occupation, stress of managing the household with my wife and now I was stuck in traffic on Highway 60, hoping I would make it to camp before closing program started. Perhaps you have found yourself in a similar circumstance? Like a vehicle running on fumes, we are just trying to make it to the next respite before our spirit runs empty and we are stuck on the side of some road.

As soon as we parked and joined the other families for closing program, I noticed a significant difference in my own spirit and mentality. All the weight and worry that I had been carrying with me on that road had stayed there. How is that possible? Why doesn't it work when I go to work? The worry usually follows me through the door and sits in the seat next to mine. What a great relief to have one's burdens taken away. It gives you the opportunity to see what you forgot was there. As I listened to the campers share some of the praise songs they had worshipped with that week, I was reminded why Cedarkirk is one of God's extraordinary places here in central Florida. It is a place you can leave all that seems important behind to discover what really is important.

Jump forward a few weeks and I find myself reading (1 Samuel 20) about David's life out in the wild, hiding in the strongholds of the wilderness so that he could escape Saul who was hunting

him down. I have to wonder if David didn't find his own "Cedarkirk" out there in the wilderness. David's refuge is referred to as a stronghold. We all need one of these somewhere in our lives. A place we can go when we seem to be surrounded by our "enemies". A place of safety and fortitude, a place we can regather ourselves and connect with the Lord. One wonders what David's encampments were like as he hid from Saul's army and sought God. We read that he had multiple opportunities to take matters into his own hands (1 Sam 24 and 26), yet his communication with God was so strong that he was certain God would take care of this for him.

It is perhaps this aspect of Cedarkirk that resembles David's time in the wilderness the most. When we are there, it is a place and time we can cast all other things aside and renew our relationship with Christ. No matter how big the "army" is that may be hunting us down, we are safe in our stronghold there. Whether it's a paddle down the lazy river, challenging ourselves physically or spiritually through high ropes and prayer walks, or spending time in community with others, Cedarkirk is the respite we need to continue our individual calls as we continue to answer the great commission. I feel much gratitude to God that we still have a place like Cedarkirk to call our own stronghold. A place that we can reconnect with Him and our brothers and sisters in Him. A place where we can seek wisdom and train each other in the good word. A place set apart for God.

Cedarkirk Launches \$4 million Capital Campaign for New Dining Facility!



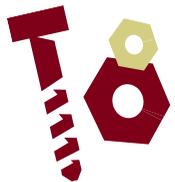
It's an exciting time at Cedarkirk!

As we celebrate our 45th anniversary, the Board of Directors has launched a fundraising campaign with a \$4 million goal to construct a new dining facility and retreat cottage and to renovate existing space at Cedar Lodge.

In January, we hired a Capital Campaign Director and formed a Steering Committee and group of Ambassadors to assist in raising the funds to ensure our vision becomes a reality. To date, we have raised \$225,000 and have begun reaching out to a group of committed supporters and donors who can help us reach our goal.

For more information about Cedarkirk's Capital Campaign, please contact Rev. John Reiter, Executive Director, at john@cedarkirk.org or Julie Poulin, Capital Campaign Director, at campaign@cedarkirk.org or call [813.685.6224](tel:813.685.6224).

Nuts and Bolts



As the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is downsizing and moving its offices, Cedarkirk has been the grateful recipient of a

variety of office supplies and equipment including: padded chairs, conference tables, round tables, dishware, and numerous supplies. Thank you to Presbytery of Tampa Bay and its leadership

for caring for your covenant partner in such a helpful way.

We also share a special thank you to summer staff member Paul Anderson and his family for the donation of a windshield for our touring golf cart.

We invite you to check out our Wishlist online and to consider Cedarkirk as you clean your garage and come across useful items.

We Finally Have a Luke!

As three of our leadership staff are named Matt, Mark, and John, many guests have often joked that we needed someone on staff named Luke. Well, we are now blessed to complete the lineup with Luke Harshman. Luke served as a counselor on our 2016 summer staff and is now a participant in our Discernment Through Service (DTS) program. Through service to camp, intentional communal experiences, and directed discernment opportunities, it is our hope to provide DTS participants with a program that will allow them to more fully listen to God's call. Please say hello to Luke when you visit Cedarkirk this year. We invite your prayers for Luke, the DTS program, and our staff as we all seek to follow God's will and listen to God's call.

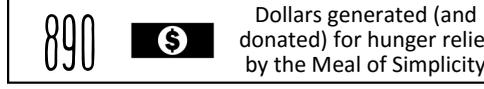
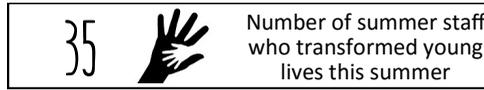
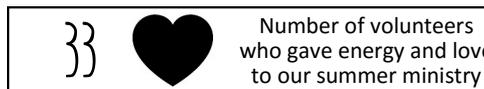


December 16–18

Open to anyone currently in grades 1-12.

Register online TODAY!

Summer Camp By The Numbers



Another summer of ministry—our 45th!—has drawn to a close. The dust in the gaga pit has settled and joyous peals of laughter from every corner of camp have again been overtaken by the nervous plaints of cicadas and crickets.

It was a summer of life-changing—and life-giving—ministry. 957 campers were challenged to approach and embrace their faith in new and meaningful ways.

To the staff, volunteers, and those who continually hold this place in prayer: thank you for your love, generosity, service, and care for this place apart. We eagerly await the next 45 years of summer camp!

NEW Traveling Day Camp is a Success

Cedarkirk's first summer of traveling day camp programs was an exciting and successful one! We were thrilled to partner with seven churches to provide a vital, new ministry to these congregations and their communities.

Days were filled with nature blocks, water activities, group games, crafts, adventure blocks, and lots of fun. Our portable gaga pit was a hit, as were songs and games that are usually heard and played in the woods at Cedarkirk. Counselors led campers in Bible studies and worships and helped build real relationships to foster personal growth and spiritual development. Each church welcomed us into the love and commitment their congregation shares with its children and its community.

We are looking forward to connecting with even more churches and new campers next year. If your church is interested in partnering with us to host a traveling day camp in 2017, please email Rebeca Franca, our Associate Program Director at rebeca@cedarkirk.org. We look forward to bringing traveling day camp to your church next summer!

Two Great Offerings for Growth in Your Spiritual Journey

Cedarkirk is excited to be offering two special retreats for adults! The first is a **Silent Retreat** October 23rd-25th. Participants will spend time silently in the presence of God on our 170 acres of seclusion (except for the scheduled worships). These times of worship will be led by Rev. Peggie Roy with music leadership by Adam Balic. There will also be time to meet in conversation for spiritual direction if you desire.

Then, from Jan. 30th-Feb. 1st we are hosting the **Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice Retreat**. This is our 2nd year providing this powerful way to explore spirituality. Once again, this will be led by Rev. Dr. Debbie Bronkema who received her doctorate in this very subject. If you feel you are not a writer, don't worry, the focus is on the process as opposed to the product.

Both these events will have private rooms with shared restroom facilities. Please check our website for more information on these events. We hope to see you at one or both of these retreats created to enhance and enrich your relationship with our loving God and community around us.