

Glazed Strawberry Pizza

Ingredients:

- * 1 pkg. refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- * 1 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- * 1 cup sour cream
- * 1 tsp vanilla
- * 1 cup powdered sugar
- * 2-3 cups fresh strawberries, halved

Directions:

1. Spread cookie dough out evenly on a well-greased 14" pizza pan.
2. Bake at 350F for about 13-15 minutes or until the crust is just turning a light golden brown. Let cool completely.
3. Use an electric mixer to beat the cream cheese, sour cream, vanilla and powdered sugar together until smooth. Spread on top of the cooled crust.
4. Arrange the fresh strawberries on top of the cream cheese layer and then top with the glaze. Refrigerate until ready to serve. (You may want to make the glaze first so that it can be cooling while you make the crust.)

GLAZE:

- * 2 cups water
- * 1 1/4 cups sugar
- * 1/3 cup cornstarch
- * 1 small box strawberry Jello mix

1. Put the water, sugar and cornstarch in a small saucepan and heat over medium heat until the mixture is clear and thick.
2. Add the Jello and stir until well combined. Remove from heat and cool completely before pouring over the strawberries on the pizza.



May 12, 2018
1:00 PM—5:00 PM



Presbyterian Camp and Conference Ministries of SW FL
 1920 Streetman Drive
 Lithia, FL 33547
 (813) 685-4224



Spring 2018

Upcoming Events:

- **Shepherd's Sabbath**
April 2—4, 2018
- **Youth Workers' Sabbath**
April 5, 2018
- **Spring Bash**
April 6—7, 2018
April 13—14, 2018
April 20—21, 2018
- **Open House**
May 12, 2018
- **Summer Camp, Traveling Day Camp, and Challenge to Change**
June 3—Aug. 3, 2018

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
- Rebeca Franca**
Associate Program Director
- Kevin Taylor**
Facilities Director
- Jackie Butler**
Food Service Director
- Karin Dale**
Event Coordinator
- Patricia Holloway**
Office Manager

S'mores & More

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

If This Old Tractor Could Talk

As you may have read in our Nuts and Bolts section of this issue, we have a new tractor. The two tractors sat side by side for a few weeks until our old tractor found a new home. We hope the old tractor passed down words of wisdom to the newest member of our auto fleet. This is what we may have heard if we sat with them:

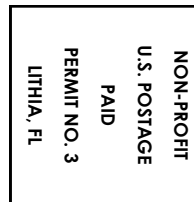
Welcome to this place that you know little about now, but will soon grow to love as you understand your vital role here. There is a scripture that often gets quoted here about all being part of the body of Christ and how each part has to work together with the other parts. You will soon find how important this is and how important you are.

For instance, I remember a time when there was a fire, maybe about 12 years back, down on the river banks. I had to clear a path for the small fire truck to extinguish the flames. So on that day I was protector. Other times, after hurricanes, volunteers and staff spent hours driving me around, hauling debris to make way for groups to continue their times for retreat, respite, and growth.

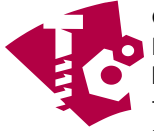
Of course, you are not only needed in times of trial. There are times when you will pull that hay wagon over there, which will be filled with God's children of all ages. Oh, the silly songs you will hear, including Christmas carols at any month of the year. The hum of your engine will not drown out the singing and laughs. There may be times you will have to wait a bit longer for the group to load because of guests that are confined to wheelchairs who enjoy riding and the freedom that comes with bouncing around camp under the stars.

So, you will come to love this place as I have. Just know that all you do will enable children of all ages and faiths to find solace, reconciliation, rest, and so much more. In addition to songs and laughter, there will be times you will see tears; like when children who have lost a family member within the last year come out to camp. You might see a group of foster children struggling with emotions that come with their sense of abandonment; or, witness those struggling together with addictions. Sometimes you will even hear other languages being spoken when our international college students join us through Christmas International House. And twice a year, you will get to be a part of the overwhelming joy that adults with developmental disabilities bring to this place called Cedarkirk.

As I have gotten too old to keep up it is now your job to carry on providing a "place apart to build up the body of Christ."



Nuts & Bolts

 Cedarkirk has a new Deere in its barn; we have purchased a new tractor to replace our nearly 50 year old John Deere that has served this ministry so well. This new tractor has many more options that will help and speed up many projects around the camp. The next time you come to camp be on the lookout for the new green tractor moving brush, digging a ditch or pulling your hay wagon ride.

Cedarkirk has numerous projects around camp that groups can adopt and help make a reality. Projects range from grounds work (clearing trails and brush) to painting (interiors and exteriors of buildings)

Beyond Belief! the Universe of God

Camp can sometimes be such an immeasurable and vast experience that it becomes hard to put into words. That's why sometimes you ask a camper how their camp week was the only available words are "It was AWESOME!". During a week at camp a child might experience so many emotions, and so many things that are hard to put into words. The immense experiences of connecting with others, learning more about yourself, and finding God in the beauty of nature lends itself to our curriculum this summer.

As we embark on another summer journey, we are excited to announce our theme: **Beyond Belief! the Universe of God.** This summer, campers will explore how God can be seen in the vastness of creation, the power of community, and even in their own hearts.

We are excited for the connections that will be made in the camp

to facility improvement and construction. Groups of any size and composition (youth, men, women, families) are invited to contact the camp office to explore opportunities that match your group's interests and skills. Adopting a project can strengthen your group through community building and a shared experience as well as enhancing your camp and conference center. In addition to facility improvement projects, Cedarkirk also relies on the help of volunteer nurses and worship leaders throughout the summer program. For more information about how you could help in one of these areas, please contact Mark at mark@cedarkirk.org.

community as we eat meals together, talk with each other in small groups, and discover more about ourselves as we are challenged both physically and emotionally. They will also discover how God's endless love launches amazing adventures and that God always has new mysteries to explore. As we canoe down the river, go on the high ropes course, make s'mores, and sing silly songs, our curriculum will help campers ponder the BIG questions about God. We hope campers will be able to explore these big inquiries in a supportive and loving environment, and be able to take those experiences out into their communities.

To learn more about our summer camp programs, go to www.cedarkirk.org and check out all the ways your child or youth can experience camp this summer.

Honoring Cedarkirk's Past with an Eye to the Future

Founding Director AT and Doris Brown played key roles in establishing and developing this special place apart and unique ministry. In their 20 years of service at Cedarkirk, they touched the lives of so many children, youth, and adults and had a profound impact. Their gentle presence and welcoming spirit enabled those who came to Cedarkirk to feel like they were at home and could encounter God in new and transforming ways.

In order to highlight the work of these special people, we are hoping to raise \$1,000,000 in their honor and to name the new dining hall on their behalf. Our goal is 1,000 donations of \$1,000 or more. Gifts made to the campaign can be designated to the Brown Initiative.

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 813.685.4224.

After Easter, Respite and Renewal at the Shepherd's Sabbath



For over a decade, Cedarkirk has been offering a free, three-day retreat and renewal for church professionals and families immediately after Easter. The intent of **The Shepherd's Sabbath** is to offer a space for these shepherds to simply enjoy the beauty of creation and recharge after the busy season of Lent.

Meal times and devotions are fixed, but the rest of the schedule is open so that individuals and

families can take from this time whatever it is they need: a quiet spot to be alone with God; athletic outlet at the climbing wall; or a shady tree to read a book under. In essence, our goal is to provide an environment in which our faith leaders can be fed spiritually, physically, and emotionally. What we, as a staff, did not expect was how beneficial this time would be for us. The flexibility of the schedule, offering activities essentially on-demand, means that we need to be available and present. In one of Cedarkirk's busiest times, it's nice to be reminded that God not only

provides us with Sabbath, but expects it. Slowing down, enjoying fellowship with these servants of the church, and making time for self-care is an act of worship in and of itself. If you work in a church in Peace River or Tampa Bay Presbyteries, join us at Cedarkirk from April 2-4. It will be our pleasure to spend some time with you during The Shepherd's Sabbath and offer our facilities as a place of renewal. If you're a member of one of those same churches, please encourage your church staff to attend this event – they deserve it! And, from all of Cedarkirk's staff, we wish you a joyous Easter.

PCCM/Cedarkirk Board Member Corner—Spencer Briggs

On a recent retreat to Cedarkirk, I wandered out onto the well-worn balcony in Cedar lodge and took in the view. It is a sacred spot for many Presbyterians, young and old, a spot where friends and family members can sit on a rocker with a hot cup of something and contemplate the beauty of God's nature. My fellow gazer and I both mentioned how nice it was to just sit and talk and get to know each other in a one on one conversation. Having that conversation, framed in the context of the Christian faith, gave it a depth and quality that is rare and valuable.

The quality of relationships formed at Cedarkirk is one of the true gifts that campers receive from spending time at camp. In fact, a common comment from young

people at summer camp is that they get to know their friends on a deeper, more personal level. The staff and counselors at Cedarkirk work hard at weaving Bible study and life lessons into the activities of camp. God's love is just "in the air" as they go about their week... and deeper discussions of who they are and how they fit into God's greater plan are accepted and encouraged. Questioning and forming the faith of a young person takes time, talk, a few canoe runs, and several campfires.

The latest generation, sometimes called the "iGen", has grown up with the internet, social media, and smart phones. While these devices have improved our lives in many ways, they can be detrimental to helping youth learn

how to just...talk to each other. The barrage of information can be fascinating, fearsome, and habit forming. Social media is fine until it becomes a substitute for genuine, loving human interaction. Cedarkirk can be an alternative and a place to learn how to form deeper, more meaningful relationships.

The back porch at Cedar Lodge is a sacred spot for my wife and I, but there are a number of similar spots at Cedarkirk. God can be found at the climbing wall, the zip line, the Alafia river, and during a hunt for shark's teeth. Helping young people find their faith and Godly purpose is a challenge in our fast moving world. Sometimes it takes slowing down and squishing mud between your toes before it all sinks in.