



## Greetings!

After a break for paternity leave and a summer packed full of faith and fun, we are back into a regular monthly release of Forest and Fables! During these past three months, Walter Scott has been awash in the seasons of life. We have been seeing life bloom with not just our core youth summer camps and family camps, but family fishing trips, showing up to the Disciples of Christ General Assembly in Memphis, workdays and service weeks, and many more expressions of God's love on these grounds. We also experienced its waning with the passing of one of our goats, memorial gifts, and trees coming down in powerful storms. Both the blooming and waning are parts of the seasons, sacred, and we are grateful to bear witness and walk in them all.

Perhaps one of strongest expressions of seasonality was the perennial return of interns to Walter Scott! This summer we were privileged to host three interns who each added to the ministry; Bella helped us think through accessibility spiritually and physically with several projects, Nora helped us create evaluations of our programming and re-imagine some of our administrative work, and Evan assisted in many physical maintenance projects including the beginnings of a full circle lake trail. While we think about the shape of our intern program next year, we remain grateful for the experiences this summer.

As we look ahead, many new programs and ways of being are taking root at Walter Scott. We don't have enough room in this Newsletter to talk about them all, but make certain to scroll down far enough to the 12-Month Glance for more information and the new web page with quick access to all Disciples events at Walter Scott in the upcoming year. We hope we get to see you at some of them!

**Peace on the Journey,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clayton Summers'.

Resident Minister and Caretaker

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## Summer Camp In Review



This summer we saw the camp continue to impact lives through our camps. Camp remains fun with fishing, boating, tie-dye, scavenger hunts, large group games, D&D, golden plunger awards, talent shows, goats, and much more, but it also continues to make deeper impact with worships, vespers, keynotes, small groups, other campers, counselors, directors, and kitchen volunteers. We are grateful for all of our volunteers, staff, and donors who make our summer camps possible.

While there were countless small moments of God's realm being glimpsed, they could be summed up best in the experience of belonging one of our campers experienced. Having spent their first week at Walter Scott this summer, on Saturday they reflected in the closing circle, "This has been the best week of my life". When we create spaces of belonging where campers feel this affirmed, we know we are following in the footsteps of Christ.

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## New Entrance Sign



We are excited to unveil our new camp sign! Volunteers across workdays, the service week, JYF Camp, and Chi-Rho Camp made it come into reality. Even all three of our associate Regional Ministers physically had a part in creating it. One exciting part of this refresh is the ability for it to change. Currently we have four arrowheads which will be swapped out (one per month) to greet visitors. The Chalice is up for July with the goat, owl, and rooster to be rotated through in the months ahead. Make sure to visit often for a chance to see all the designs!

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## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)





Caring gently for God's Creation is both that which is visible and invisible to our eyes and perception. At Walter Scott, after three years of labor our original native prairie project along our road frontage is flourishing. For a half mile strip under our power lines, the native wildflowers are supporting bees, pollinating insects, and many small critters as a part of the ecosystem. In a testament of vibrant colors, Creation witnesses to its own health. In a quieter witness, our goats have cleared out invasive underbrush in the forest to allow the ecosystem to begin to reemerge. While pseudo-monochrome above, the regeneration of the forest ecosystem is mostly happening underneath the soil. The trees roots grow stronger as they are able to soak up more of the water, native seedbeds begin to reemerge, and the small mushrooms we see coming back are only the tip of the underground fungi whole. Creation is able to heal itself when we are willing to acknowledge our role as part of Creation instead of as its master. When we come to understand our actions, intentional and unintentional, individual and communal, are living into a vocation of caring for that which God has entrusted us with, we too are Cared for Gently.

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## 12 Month Glance at Disciples Events

In an effort to share all that is happening at Walter Scott, we have created a new infographic about all of our Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) programming happening at Walter Scott over the next 12 months! This infographic will be updated and included in each Forest & Fables edition, on our website (linked below), and on social media. Take a glance and explore what our programming next year! Links for registration and more information about the programs it lists are found at by following the button below (as well as a higher resolution image).

[12 Month Disciples Glance](#)

# 12 MONTH GLANCE

**NEW!**

## LGBTQ+ Retreat

This virtual event is open to youth who completed 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in the '24-'25 school year.

**SAT**

**AUGUST**  
23, 2025

**AUG-SEPT**  
29-1, 2025

**FRI-MON**

## Fall Family Camp

Bring all the family for a low-programmed weekend of camping at our beautiful facility.

## Workday

Care for the sacred space of Walter Scott together. All skills and ability levels welcome!

**SAT**

**SEPTEMBER**  
6, 2025

**SEPTEMBER**  
19-21, 2025

**FRI-SUN**

## Men's Retreat

2025 Disciples Men Retreat: Let's Get Real! Join with other men to grow in faith and fellowship.

**NEW!**

## Women's Retreat

2025 Fall Disciples Women Retreat. This year's theme is "A Time to Let Go".

**SAT-SUN**

**SEPTEMBER**  
27-28, 2025

**NOVEMBER**  
1, 2025

**SAT**

## Workday

Care for the sacred space of Walter Scott together. All skills and ability levels welcome!

**NEW!**

## Quilting Retreat

"Ties that Bind", a Day of Quilting and Community. No previous experience needed!

**SAT**

**NOVEMBER**  
8, 2025

**NOVEMBER**  
9, 2025

**SUN**

## Friendsgiving

Gather with us for a new expression of Church with a Thanksgiving Meal, fellowship, and table worship!

**NEW!**

### Fireside Retreat

Fierce Conversations, Fearless Faith, & Fall Vibes! Youth in grades 6-12 + Adult Sponsors.

FRI-SUN

• **NOVEMBER**

21-23, 2025

**JANUARY**

10, 2026

SAT

### Climate Amb. Training

This virtual event will teach you how to speak clearly and from our faith about caring for Creation in the midst of climate change.

NEW!

### Winter Workday

Care for the sacred space of Walter Scott together. All skills and ability levels welcome!

SAT

• **JANUARY**

17, 2026

**MARCH**

23-28, 2026

MON-SAT

### Green Justice

Service and Learning around climate change mitigation, biodiversity restoration, advocacy, and faith!

NEW!

NEW!

### Resurrection Service

A sunrise Easter Service in the Walter Scott Chapel with a message of resurrection amidst the Cathedral of Creation.

SUN

• **APRIL**

5, 2026

**APRIL**

11, 2026

SAT

### Non Profit Fair

An alternative Christian worship experience where our faith is expressed through partnering with those doing the work of love.

NEW!

### Workday

Care for the sacred space of Walter Scott together. All skills and ability levels welcome!

SAT

• **APRIL**

18, 2026

**APRIL**

25, 2026

SAT

### Faith & Climate Forum

Interactive sessions, inspiring keynotes, and practical resources for this nationwide event equipping people of faith.

NEW!

### Spring Family Camp

Bring all the family for a low-programmed weekend of camping at our beautiful facility.

FRI-MON

• **MAY**

22-25, 2026



**MAY-JUNE**  
31-6, 2026

**SUN-  
SAT**

### Service Week

A week of service projects for all skills and abilities. Together we prepare for the camping season and improve this sacred space.

### CYF Camp

Open for youth who completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Experience God's love and explore who God created you to be.

**SUN-  
SAT**

**JUNE**  
7-13, 2026

**JUNE**  
14-17, 2026

**SUN-  
WED**

### You&Me Camp

Open for kids who completed K-5<sup>th</sup> + a Trusted Adult. Spend time building a bond in faith and developing a love for camp!

### Beginners Camp

A short camp to introduce kids to camping at Walter Scott. Open to kids who have completed K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades.

**THU-  
SAT**

**JUNE**  
18-20, 2026

**JUNE**  
18-20, 2026

**SUN-  
SAT**

### JYF Camp

Open to kids who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades. Spend a week growing in faith in a fun and safe environment!

**NEW!**

### All Ages Family Camp

A fully programmed family camp immersed in Scripture, games, and community. Come with your family, however you define it!

**WED-  
SAT**

**JULY**  
1-4, 2026

**JULY**  
5-11, 2026

**SUN-  
SAT**

### Chi-Rho Camp

A week where youth are able to come out of their shells with new and old friends. Open to youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades.

**NEW!**

### Green Justice

Service and Learning around climate change mitigation, biodiversity restoration, advocacy, and faith!

**MON-  
SAT**

**JULY**  
20-25, 2026



### Register Online Today!

To register for these events, go to [CampWalterScott.org/Disciples](https://CampWalterScott.org/Disciples) for a list of registration pages.

## Photo Gallery...Follow us on Instagram for more!



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## Meet the Neighbors!



Meet some of our neighbors, partridge pea and plains coreopsis. These native wildflowers are part of our prairie restoration projects (those photographed are from one of our Year One plots). These wildflowers provide seeds for a variety of birds and earlier in their lifecycle are an important food source for pollinating insects. Next time you're outside, take a moment to get to know some of your neighbors too; iNaturalist is a great wildlife identification app for plants, birds, animals, and more if you need some help! As stewards of God's Creation, we can only properly care for what we know, and a great place to start is learning the names of some of our neighbors.

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## Sowing Wild Seeds



[Ways to Give](#)

[Book Your Group](#)

[Wishlist](#)

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# The Land Beneath Our Feet



## Quick Creation Care Tip

Urban agriculture—cultivating crops within city areas—provides access to fresh and healthy food, reduces food's carbon footprint, and creates a healthier social environment. People come together to transform rooftops, patios, backyards and front yards into gardens or simply to “stop by.” Either way contributes to the sense of a cool community. - UMC Justice Movement

Unsubscribe from this list

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*Since you stuck around this long, enjoy the goats. And care gently for God's creation.*

