

The Harvester



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Grace

On Friday we took the students rock climbing at nearby Eagle's Bluff, just two miles from our camp. It poured during the hike in, but the rain gradually stopped leaving behind wet rock and hard climbs. It was the perfect environment to address good and bad in the world, in ourselves, and in others.

Truth

One night we hiked in the dark to a deserted cabin up the road, lighting single headlamps little by little to reveal the way. Then we discussed 1 John 1, walking in the light, and offered a time of confession followed by, "What will it take for this group to live in the light? How can you foster that environment back home?"

Time

Saturday morning found students rescuing their friends on a paddle-boarding trip. At first the friends were happy to be rescued, then they were apathetic; the third time they were actively rebellious. Likewise love can take energy, work, and sacrifice. Are we willing to love like Jesus did? How would that change the youth group and the church?



Leaders in Training

Ten high schoolers converged on our house this weekend to eat at our dining room table, play volleyball with our own teens, and seek God together. Many of these leaders from the Fayette youth group have attended annual Thrive events and it has been a joy to watch them grow up. The weekend theme was "Living in Grace and Truth." Our desire was to create a Christ-centered environment for growth for the students and to direct their thinking outward toward creating that same environment with others. In their final evaluations, one wrote, "I would definitely recommend this to others because it helped me know not only how to lead well, but also to be a good friend."



Pay it Forward?

For the two past years we have been committed to offering retreats and events for free so that no one loses the opportunity to know God and live like Him through a Thrive activity. We have adopted a “Pay it Forward” policy by inviting participants to give a donation to a future Thrive event to bless others with what they themselves just experienced. Our hope is that people would be generous in their giving without feeling coerced or too financially strapped to participate. Recently we have led some large, gear intensive retreats coupled with rising food and gas prices. Despite great feedback from those we’ve served, only a few people have given donations this summer. Please pray with us for discernment to know if we should trust in faith for God’s provision or if we should, in faith, change our policy.

Prayer Requests

Please pray that God would open doors for us to connect with and build godly leaders on campus at the University of Maine.

Pray for fruit from the student canoe trip and the men’s hike in September.

Pray that the 11 students in my Apologetics class will grow in faith, knowledge, and clarity to discern and express Truth by the end of the semester.

Please ask God to generously fund our new staff so they can finish their support raising.

Women’s Adventure

Tears rolled down her cheek as she tried to regain composure. Husband recently imprisoned, the house lost, and her family turned against her, this woman had lost everything, but in the process she had found new life in Christ. Her story inspired us all to trust in Jesus as our only source of strength and hope. We were camping out on a lake for three days to experience the adventure of following Christ. We led programs related to faith, hope, and love while paddleboarding, hiking, and doing learning activities. Yet, what we really did was provide an environment and an opportunity for women to be real with each other and pursue Jesus together. And God showed up. He moved in these women’s hearts, taking total strangers and knitting them together in His love. The women shared deep wounds and fears. We prayed over each other, consoled one another, praised God in the trials, and came together through Scripture. What did they learn on the hottest weekend of the summer at a remote beach in rural Maine?

“Stop trying for the perfect picture and start just being me in Christ.”

“In weakness there is strength. It is OK to let go and let God take care of what I can’t do on my own.”

“I re-encountered the joy of community.”

“A much-needed reset for my life.”

“I am leaving with hope.”

Praise God!



Family Matters: We snuck in a two-day canoe trip on the St. Croix before taking Emma to college last week. Micah is now in Drivers Ed and he and Aliza have started homeschool again. Caleb is searching for full time jobs. I will soon coach soccer and teach Apologetics and other classes at our co-op. Meanwhile, Dan is looking forward to getting back on campus alongside Keith at UMaine, where we first began in ministry!