



To our partners in ministry,

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from the Father, Son, and Spirit! First, and most importantly, thank you for being a significant supporter of outdoor ministry; specifically, the ministries found at HopeWood Outdoors. This past year was a significant year in the development and planning for the future of our organization, and several things have naturally changed to fit that pattern. We had a major restructuring of year-round staff, allowing us to better define roles and responsibilities from a centralized staff. Additionally with the change, we said goodbye to several beloved staff: Hannah V Clay, Brennan Miller, Hannah Wolfe, and Jillian Russel. We welcomed Cloe Smith as the new Associate Program Director of Education and Formation, Seth Zimmann as the Assistant Program Director for Family Programs, Cindy Smith as the Guest Relations Coordinator, and Aidan Malloy as the Property and Facilities Manager of HopeWood Pines. Though our staff is predominantly new, they are rising to the occasion and full of energy and eagerness towards delivering a camping experience full of excellence and faith formation.

In June, we launched the Growing Hope Capital Campaign. This campaign is designed to raise at least \$2.5 million over the course of five years to increase accessibility, comfortability, sustainability, ministry programs, and ensure the legacy of outdoor ministry for the future. Growing Hope will fund several projects at both of our main campsites, Pines and Shores. With the launch of the campaign, several small projects were already funded through donations and grants secured in our "silent phase." These include a prayer labyrinth, accessible firepit, sustainable gardens, new mattresses, a new lodge deck, and accessibility ramps. Each site's priority for the 2025 year was the new pool for Pines, working it into the current campaign from the past efforts, and a brand-new shower house for Shores, which completed funding in early March 2026! We have raised over \$980,000 so far for the campaign, so we are well on the way to reaching our goals!

On the back end of things, support increased in total from last year. We gave out \$65,000 in camperships and discounts to over 200 campers, ensuring that camp remains affordable to all. For the first time since pre-pandemic, we served over 5,000 campers. Our Congregational Partner program continues to thrive, extending visits and experience sharing opportunities from our staff and building relationships in the greater Ohio area. All of this to say, outdoor ministry is growing rapidly at HopeWood! Your continued partnership with us in this season of uncertainty for the church is a necessary and deeply appreciated part of the mission of the church and the future of faith through your monetary support, volunteering, and spreading of the good news. Thank you for being good and faithful servants to our Creator and for ensuring the flourishing of creation for generations to come.

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Development Coordinator

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