

Dear Parents and Youth,

February 24, 2017

While it is snowy and cold it is hard to think about summer and yet in four short months it will be the end of the school year and workcamp time! We depart **SUNDAY, JUNE 25 after lunch** and travel to Rochester, NY to volunteer at multiple agencies. We will return early afternoon on **SATURDAY, July 1**. Important calendar dates are highlighted in this letter and are on the enclosed covenant form as well. Please keep the top half of the Covenant Form with the dates to post on your fridge!

Workcamp is a way to learn how to be away from home, make new friends, stretch comfort levels, see the world through different eyes, and put our faith in action. If your daughter/son wishes to bring a friend, please contact me *before* the friend has been asked so we can have a chat about this possibility as there are many things to factor into a mission trip. All youth need to have completed ninth grade and take part in some of the events to “qualify” for workcamp.

The **STOCK BLITZ** and **Shareholder’s Dinner** have become something the congregation looks forward to plus it is a practical way to meet both the fundraising aspect needed to cover the cost of the trip; as well as providing a way for the youth to connect with those sponsoring the trip! **On Sunday, April 23 at both 8:30 and 10:30 services**, we look for youth who have attended workcamp in the past to volunteer to talk (briefly) to the congregation about its importance in their lives. Youth who have not been to workcamp yet are also welcome and encouraged to talk about why they wish to attend workcamp this summer. Immediately following worship people will have the opportunity to purchase shares of stock for \$5.00 each. **On Sunday, April 30, we will host a Stock Shareholder’s Dinner** as a way to say “thank you” to those who are supporting the trip. If you have been to workcamp before, expect to be contacted with the request to speak in worship on April 23 and/or at the Shareholder’s Dinner. The highlight of the dinner is the **Dessert Bar** and youth are expected to bring a fancy dessert that night to share. It does not have to be home baked; however it does need to be “special”.

Please **complete the Registration Form** and the **double-sided Medical Form** and return it to the church office with a **deposit of \$50.00 by APRIL 1**. The total fee is **\$200 per youth - \$350.00 total for a set of siblings**. This amount helps to cover the fees for vans, gas, supplies and food. We have a long standing tradition at OPPC of not just talking about mission to youth but taking and engaging them in hands-on experiences that prove to be life changing for those we minister alongside and for the youth themselves. **On Sunday, July 9 at 9:30 a.m. the youth lead worship** to tell their story to the congregation which helps create a lasting memory of good and faithful work for everyone involved. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via cell or email at lindab@oppchurch.org.

For the youth,

Linda Babcock
Director of Education and Mission
716.863.2801

Enclosures (registration form & double sided Medical/Permission Form)