



Good afternoon! Thank you for being here and supporting Camp Jo-Ota! The second year running camp under the Jo-Ota Methodist Association has been a success!

Our continued focus has been to keep costs low by relying on volunteers that exceeded hours of 100, donations of craft supplies, paper goods, cleaning goods, Bibles, and food. Your financial support gave an opportunity for 11 camps to bless 232 kids between the age of preschool to age 19, 35 adult campers, 14 directors, and 38 counselors during our summer season. The Lord has answered prayers by providing enough counselors just in time for events and He provided life changing experiences for many campers. There was one child baptized at the lake and many others came to know Christ for the first time. The retreat center with its wonderful kitchen was used to feed over 115 meals. We had a wonderful staff of six people that helped make this camp function well during the 10 weeks of the summer.

Maintenance was a high priority before camp and during camp. Following an Energy Audit conducted by Macon Electric Cooperative last November all cabins had additional insulation blown in, two of the four cabins had new energy efficient doors installed, attic fans have been sealed, along with sealing trim around the doors, windows, floor, ceiling, and outlets. All four cabins are in good working order and were used regularly for all camps that had overnight stays and for the other 40 groups that used facilities throughout the 2017 year.

There are few improvements that would enhance our grounds in the near future such as the upkeep of the trails, additional rock for roads leading to facilities, and mulch to be added to the trails around the property. Please consider these projects as a mission that you, your family, or church can finance and participate in completing. A future visionary and improvement to Camp Jo-Ota to be considered is a large outdoor worship area. A mid-size amphitheater to accommodate up to 200 people is an ideal dream for those who wish to continue their connection with God through the outdoor experience of worship. The board has established a committee to start looking at long-range camp improvements and will be discussed in the near future.

As part of the agreement with the Missouri Annual Conference, a payment for this camp is only \$1 the first three years of use; membership dues are required for maintenance and establishment of services. Your donations that exceeded expenses this year will be used to purchase the camp when the annual payment begins in the amount of \$30,000 for four years. The camp is being supported with over 200 people being a member. In addition, many churches in the Mark Twain District and a few beyond have given their support. As you and your church plan your mission giving for 2018, I ask that you would consider adding JMA as a line item in your church's budget. Also, consider listing this association as a beneficiary in life documents of wills and trusts. Jo-Ota Methodist Association is a 501(c)(3) IRS non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Now that JMA is established and has an office running from the camp's physical address please send ALL donations and payments to the Camp Jo-Ota office. This will help to alleviate miscommunication as to who received any monies sent to JMA. With that being said you may still continue making donations through your church by making your check payable to your church and placing JMA in the memo. Please ask your church

treasurer to include your name when sending the check to Camp Jo-Ota so you may receive credit as well and we can recognize you as a member.

There are a number of available dates for retreats throughout the fall and winter months. Consider hosting a family reunion at the camp this fall. The shelter houses make for a perfect picnic area and the trails are beautiful during the fall months. Camp is open to you year-round and we are happy to host your Thanksgiving meal or Christmas parties around the holiday seasons. Consider hosting a game night to bring families together at our large dining hall. Events scheduled for you to consider attending is the Lay Ministry training hosted by the Mark Twain District office this coming Saturday, October 7. For more information contact the Mark Twain District office and register for this event.

Throughout the winter months I will be in contact with churches to schedule a visit with congregation members. If you know of a person to be in contact with at our local churches ask them to contact me; our board members or myself will be glad to come to speak about the success and continued needs of Camp Jo-Ota. We need more people in this District to have a place in their heart to support this important ministry. If you know of a great person to be in contact with at our other local churches for me to correspond with, ask them to consider having a guest speaker come to speak about the success and continued needs of Camp Jo-Ota. Other United Methodist will find details about Camp Jo-Ota most interesting and will open a place in their heart to support such an important ministry.

We are an association of Christ followers that are committed to carrying out Christ's commission by the actions of our hands and feet. Your involvement, your donations and your prayers are what make this a place of refuge and life-changing experiences. Thank you for being committed to Camp Jo-Ota.