

PVUMC Church Family Camp 2010 FAQ's:

When is it? PVUMC's Church Family Camp ("Family Camp") will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 4-6. You can come for the whole weekend, for the day on Saturday, or for the day on Sunday, when we'll dedicate Mingus' new bell.

Why Labor Day weekend?

Labor Day offers a three-day weekend that is a fun last hurrah before Fall kicks in. And the timing offers a welcome cooling off up in the pines!

I've never been to Family Camp before. What should I expect?

Family Camp is a gathering of people from our church of all generations at Camp Mingus, a Methodist camp near Prescott. Everybody relaxes, can choose to do whichever of the planned activities interest them, such as hiking, stargazing, crafts, photography, campfire singing, or can find a comfy place to sit and read or contemplate the beauty of nature. Some of the highlights of Family Camp are the fantastic food prepared by the camp staff at Mingus, stargazing, and the Sunday morning worship service in the great outdoors. A special highlight this year will be the dedication of the camp's new bell.

I don't know anything about where the camp will be held. Where is it?

Camp Mingus is on top of Mingus Mountain between Prescott and Jerome. The setting is magical, with pine forests, open meadow, starry skies at night, 7600' elevation, cool weather, a soulful vintage dining hall, hiking trails, fishing pond and a spectacular scenic overlook of the Verde Valley. It takes between 1.5 and 2 hours to get there from the Valley, depending on traffic.

What kind of accommodations are there? Where would I sleep?

Mingus has beautiful retreat cabins with fireplaces, carpeted gathering areas, mini-kitchens, front porches that look out over the meadow, and indoor women's and men's restrooms and showers. There are separate rooms within the retreat cabins for sleeping, each one of which sleeps 5 people. You bring your pillow, bedding

or bedroll and set up on bunk with a comfy mattress. The accommodations are comfortable, and rooming is assigned on a first come, first served basis. For those who would feel too pampered being in one of the new retreat cabins, there also are rustic cabins available that offer the vintage camp experience.

I'm single. What would Church Family Camp be like for me?

Hopefully, you'll have a blast. There will be other single people at camp, as well. Activities are designed for a variety of interests, and the camp experience is designed so that we all play and relax together as a church family. You can opt in or out of any of the activities, depending upon your interests. Your rooming arrangement most likely would be that you would room with another single person(s) of your gender.

We have young children. How do they do at Family Camp?

They love it. Family Camp provides a unique opportunity for them to explore nature and to meet other people in their church family. Chances are that they will fall in love with camp and develop relationships that will last for years. Plus, for parents, you get to have quality time with your kids where you have absolutely no responsibility for cooking and planning activities. Your kids get to play, and so do you.

My family needs to have its own separate space for sleeping. Can that work out?

That's totally understandable. We work to make sure that each family unit that goes to camp has its own separate sleeping space. Sleeping rooms in the retreat cabins accommodate up to 5 people. The rooms are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Get your reservation in as soon as you can to reserve your family's separate sleeping space.

I don't know whether my teenagers would want to go to camp. What would there be for them to do?

We expect a good number of teenagers at camp this year. They will have fun hiking, hanging out, playing games, and having a last bit of freedom before the school year gets very involved. Special attention will be given to making sure it's a good experience for teenagers.

We used to go to Family Camp at Mingus but haven't been for years. Would there be any people around our age there this year?

This year, we expect to have families with babies and young children, as well as a number of families whose children are in elementary, junior and senior high. There will also be singles, retired people, and couples whose children have flown the nest. This will be a fun opportunity to rekindle memories of Mingus and to make new memories in a very special place.

I can't go for the entire weekend. Please explain how I can arrange to come up for just a day and what I could do on either Saturday or Sunday.

To go to camp as a "day user" you will need to fill out a registration form so that we'll know to expect you. For Saturday day campers, plan to arrive early enough to take advantage of any of the fun activities that will happen that day. Enjoy the cool air, do whatever you'd like to do, eat a fabulous lunch and dinner, and head back to your own bed that night.

Alternatively, register to come up for Sunday, which is going to be a historic, exciting day in the life of the camp. Plan to arrive at camp before 10:00 a.m. and participate in the morning worship service, which will start at 10:30 a.m. Afterward, enjoy a delicious cookout lunch and picnic on the grounds. At the morning worship service, we're going to dedicate a new bell for Mingus and ring in the next chapters of Mingus' history. Don't miss out on this special day!

Labor Day weekend is a heavy traffic weekend. What advice do you have about the drive up?

The advice that is offered by Labor Day Family Camp veterans is that you'll avoid a great deal of the heavy traffic if you depart Phoenix on Friday afternoon by 1:00 p.m. Keep in mind that you'll need to get dinner on your own, or bring a picnic, as there is no dinner served at camp on Friday night. Some people prefer, though, to get an early start on Saturday morning to avoid Friday evening traffic. If you have to leave the valley later in the day on Friday, you will most likely experience heavy traffic.

I'd like to carpool with someone else. How can I arrange that?

Contact Andrea Address (AAddress@pvumc.org) or Mary Sue Ingraham (msingraham@cox.net) and we'll try to find someone with whom you can share a ride.

Do I have to pay the full amount when I send in my registration?

No. You can pay in installments. Go ahead and let us know as soon as you can if you're planning to go. You can pay in full or make payments in installments. If you would like to pay by installments, please contact Andrea Address to work out the details. Requests for scholarship assistance should be addressed to Andrea, as well.

What's the deal with the bell? Why did the camp need a new one?

The beloved cast iron bell that hung outside the camp dining hall for almost 50 years was the victim last winter of an intense storm, during which an enormous wind gust blew over the Ponderosa pine tree from which the bell was suspended. The bell shattered into pieces when it fell to the ground. The new camp bell is also a historic bell, made by the same bell company and most likely from the same mold. It will be hung from a freestanding bell tower. Maybe you remember ringing the old bell. Come ring the new one this year!

How do I register? Who do I go to with more questions?

Registration forms are in the church office and should be turned in there. For more information, feel free to call Andrea Address at the church office at 602-840-8360 (ext. 142), or e-mail Mary Sue Ingraham at msingraham@cox.net.