

PRAYER PROFILE: CAMP WHITMAN ON SENECA LAKE – Penn Yan, N.Y.

If you recall, Camp Whitman was featured in a prayer profile not long ago. But really, we can't pray enough for the campers, volunteers, church supporters, volunteers, and staff, so here we go again!

One big change in the past year is that Camp Whitman has a new director, **Bryan Muecke**. Meeting for the first time over the phone, it was exciting to hear his thoughts about sustaining and growing this long-time ministry of the Presbyteries of Geneva and Genesee Valley. It is striking how much he is already in tune with the same vital concepts and themes that have been guiding the Camp Whitman Board for many years: an exceptional summer program for children, gifted staff, wonderful programs for adults with disabilities, family camping, use of the camp facilities outside of the traditional summer season, and exploring ways to connect with families, community agencies, area colleges, and even by thinking of ways to take Camp Whitman "on the road" to congregations. Oh, to be a kid again!



Bryan explained, "Camp Whitman is the ONLY presbyterian camp program that continues to operate in the State of New York. This is an opportunity to serve beyond our historic boundaries, and Whitman is already reaching out to neighboring presbyteries."

So now the big question: How can Camp Whitman be in our prayers?

Let's pray that families from inside and outside of our congregations find a way to get to Camp Whitman this summer. [Visit the Camp Whitman website](https://www.campwhitman.org/) to see the summer schedule of amazing camps offered. Lots of photos and staff introductions are there as well.



Bryan is excited by the summer staff that will be serving, so *let's pray* for all of those engaged with hands-on work in every aspect: registration, program development, counselor care, maintenance, board members, and volunteers. *Let's also pray* for staff and volunteers who are already getting the camp ready prior to the summer season.



Let's pray for the financial health of the camp. It's not easy to create a quality program that is affordable to families. Perhaps some of our churches might contribute scholarship funds to Camp Whitman to help with this?

Let's pray that people are touched, nudged, and even transformed by a week at camp.

Years ago, a young man from Rochester came for a week at Whitman. He had never been away from home, had a few mental health challenges, and found it hard to mix with other kids. He was a frequent visitor to the nurse's and director's cabins all week long. Years later he had been incarcerated and during a visit his first question was "Do they still have night hikes at Camp Whitman?" A week at Camp Whitman proved to be one of the best experiences he had ever had!

Let's pray that all campers have many unforgettable experiences this summer!



Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake

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<https://www.campwhitman.org/>

Bryan Muecke, director

Thanks to Rev. Jim Renfrew, Relationships Working Group, for preparing this profile.

NOTE: all photos used with Camp Whitman permission