

# 2025-09 Coworkers Retreat Camp

Pastoral Message - Pastor Chu

Tomorrow marks the beginning of our Sabbath Retreat Camp. We will look back to “those years,” walking in the footsteps of our forebears, and take the Ten Commandments—given by God through Moses—as our guide as we worship the Lord at the close of the Sabbath. In the Hebrew tradition, preparation for the Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday, and the Sabbath is observed from Saturday morning until Sunday morning.

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:12–15)

One special feature of this camp is the generous amount of free time. Working together, serving together, and learning together can be easier; but simply enjoying life together—sharing space, relaxing, and building fellowship—may sometimes be challenging. That is why we hope each moment of free time becomes an opportunity for sharing in fellowship. Believers of different generations are encouraged to be open and honest, ready to listen to one another's life stories.

Another unique aspect of this retreat is how we are transforming the traditional game of mahjong—often associated with gambling—into a tool for friendship and service. It will become a way for young people to serve the elderly and help prevent cognitive decline. Just as the church once transformed Sunday—the Roman Empire's day for sun worship—into the Lord's Day of resurrection, so too we hope the community will slowly come to see mahjong not as gambling, but as a wholesome, caring activity of shared enjoyment.

We have also arranged three optional workshops:

Spiritual Direction in learning to serve one another. Nurturing family life through love and marriage. The practical wisdom of John Wesley's teaching: “Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.”

Our hope is that these topics will encourage meaningful conversations in a relaxed setting.

Another distinctive feature of this Sabbath Retreat Camp is that we have kept the number of organizing staff to a minimum, leaving plenty of “open spaces” throughout the program—for translation, leading prayer, Scripture reading, tidying up, coordinating activities, and more. We hope that, like a family, everyone will pitch in spontaneously. It may be a little messy at times, but we trust that as one family in Christ, there will be order in the midst of disorder.

We are deeply grateful to our A team for providing this opportunity for Sabbath retreat, and to the camp staff for serving us. Above all, we give thanks to our Triune God:

To the Father, who lovingly cares for us, To the Son, our Lord Jesus, who shows us grace, To the Holy Spirit, who binds us together in unity.

## Photos and Videos

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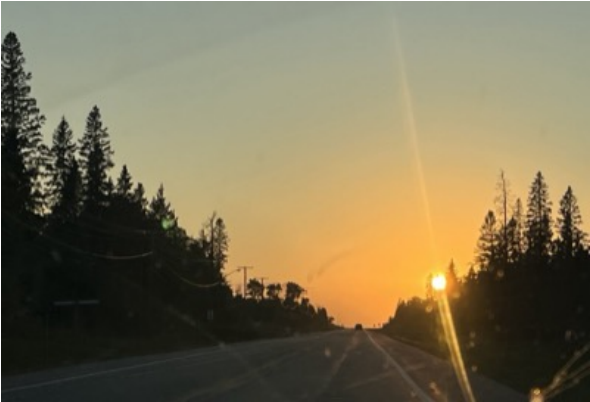
















































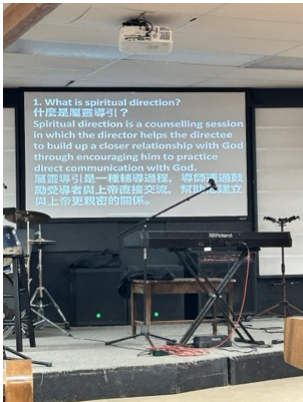


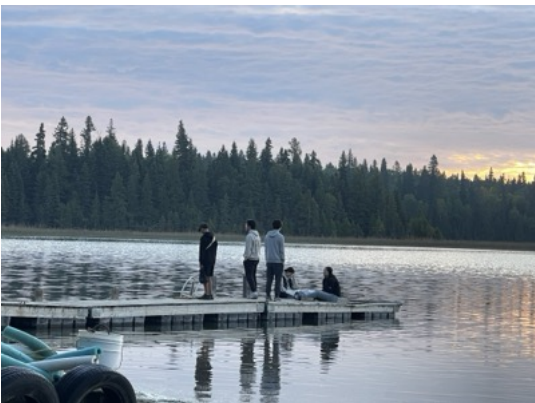
































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