

Letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Clearwater Community,

Exciting things are happening here at Clearwater Forest but first, let me introduce myself. My name is Megan Young-Black, alongside my current role as Board President, I have also known Clearwater as a camper (ten years), counselor (three years), and retreat goer. It is with great optimism, dedication, and ambition that I continue to serve Clearwater Forest in all the ways I am able.

Hopefully, by now, you are all aware of the blessing that is Erin Anderson, who joined our talented team back in January. Erin, Lance, Emma, Angie, the Board, and the rest of our staff have been hard at work hosting retreats, families, and youth groups, and planning for another great Summer Camp season. This summer's theme is "What's In A Name" and we've set a goal of getting 300(!) campers up north to experience the wonder that is Clearwater's woods and waters.

We have a lot to be thankful for and many plans for expanded faith community retreats, activities, and opportunities to grow together in fellowship.

We thank you for your continued support of our mission, "changing lives in God's woods and waters". We look forward to seeing you soon!

With joy,

Megan Young-Black
Board President

Update from Executive Director: Erin Anderson

***Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, lean not on your own understanding.
In all of your ways, acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths. ~ Proverbs 3:5***

We all know that every good camp director wears sandals and a toe ring! So one of the first things I did when I was hired as the Executive Director here at Clearwater Forest was buy a toe ring. But this wasn't just any toe ring. This toe ring was a replica of the one I had worn many years ago, when I was first meeting my future in-laws. In fact, when asked about his son's new girlfriend, my future father-in-law's only response was, "Well...she wears a toe ring...!"

The more significant meaning of my toe ring is the image on it: footprints. These footprints are meant to remind me of the poem Footprints in the Sand, the familiar story about how Jesus carries us during difficult times. A story that encourages me more and more to 'trust in the Lord with all of my heart.'

Proverbs 3:5 is one Bible verse that has helped me throughout the past year as I have prayed, studied, and tried to discern my own life path. I am finding that this verse continues to carry me as I have transitioned into my new role as Executive Director of Clearwater Forest. Specifically, Clearwater board members and staff have established two goals for the next few months:

- Earn accreditation through the American Camp Association (ACA)
- Grow summer camp from 200 (in 2022) to 300 campers

I trust God to carry us as the Clearwater community as we strive to meet these goals.

We are also looking forward to an exciting fundraising event that will be happening on Saturday, July 15th. Mark your calendars! I trust God to carry us as we work to create an event that showcases the wonderful ministries and spaces we want to share and use to serve others.

Finally, I am so thankful for all of the people who have volunteered numerous hours of their precious time to introduce me to the wonderful people in the Clearwater community, teach me how to use the various platforms, opened my eyes to social media, or assisted in my transition in any other way. Thank you!!

I look forward to meeting all of the people who make up the Clearwater Forest community. I am excited to hear your stories and learn about how Clearwater can serve you, your church, and our awesome extended camp community. I trust that God will continue to carry our community through this time of transition into a mission-centered, meaningful future!

Update from Interim Program Director: Angie Fay

My goodness, is it already March? Or my goodness is it March already? At Clearwater Forest we have been concentrating our efforts to have everything ready for summer campers when we open the gates in June. If you haven't already, you will want to register for summer camp soon. You don't want to miss out on the session of your choice. You can see sessions and register at clearwaterforest.org.

You will notice that we have added a few new sessions, or brought back some older sessions. We will be offering Family Camp the weekends of July 21-23 and July 28-30 come to Clearwater Forest and enjoy all aspects of camp with your entire family. This is a great way to introduce camp to younger campers as a way to prepare them for when they can come on their own. Another new session, or returning session, at camp this summer will be Beach Camp, July 23-29 frolic in the lake and sand, stay up late and look at the stars, and then sleep later the next day. Beach Camp is where it's at!! And, Sailors, you asked for it, and you got it! Sailing Camp has been extended this summer enabling campers to spend more time actually sailing. Sailing Camp is July 5-July 15 this summer. Register soon.

During these long winter months, we have been busy recruiting the best staff to work with your children. Many of your campers' favorite counselors are returning. There will be new staff, and this summer we will have counselors from Turkey, England, and Mexico. These dedicated young adults are looking forward to seeing your faces this summer and showing your campers a great time.