Camp Freedom Courier

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The blessing of the Lord was apparent as worshippers gathered January 23 to February 01, 2026 at Camp Freedom. We enjoyed and profited by messages given by Rev Chris Cravens, President of the Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, by President Rodney Loper of God's Bible School in Cincinnati, OH, and by President Daniel Durkee of Penn View Bible Institute in PA. This was the year of the presidents! Our song evangelists were Tim and Amy Cooley, Jr, with son Nathanael. The group "Redeemed" from Hobe Sound Bible College provided a musical package on the first Sunday afternoon, and the group "Praise Singers" from Penn View Bible Institute gave a musical package on Tuesday afternoon. Congregational singing was exceptional again this year.

Sunday School lessons were presented by Rev Glenn Halstead of Hobe Sound Bible College, and by Rev John Geyer, pastor of the Brethren in Christ Church near Everett, PA. Youth services were led by Rev Harrold Taylor, with activities directed by Brian Miller. There was an average of 9 youth in their services, with a low of 5 and a high of 13. There were more children on the grounds this year than in recent past. Children's services were conducted by Linda Redcay, and her daughter, Betsy Becker. They reported 9 children and 5 teens attending. The children raised money toward new playground equipment; the old equipment was destroyed by the storm that came through Florida in the spring of 2025. The girls collected $675.55, the boys collected $781.33 for a total of $1,456.88, one of the largest offerings collected by the little people. One little girl was concerned about the amount they raised, and wondered if the equipment would be taken away if they didn't raise enough money! She was assured that it would still be there.

That same storm blew down our camp sign, and the board is in the process of getting it replaced. Those people traveling to camp will need to be on the lookout for the new sign! As well, several roofs have damage, a couple of them significant. Monies raised toward projects like those came to $6,643.00. General operating offerings came in at $31,452.00, for which we praise the Lord.

Our guest missions were the Gospel Proclaimers, who work in Mexico. This work was started many years ago by Sam and Nancy Davis. The representatives were Joel and Debbie Newton, with son Anthony and daughter Laura. This family shared in reporting, challenging, and singing, with video presentation accompanying. The total missions offerings from the two services on Wednesday amounted to $2,026.00.

People were present from AZ, FL, IN, KS, KY, MN, MO, NM, PA, VA, Canada, and Mexico. Attendance was significantly higher this year in every service except four, and two that were the same as last year. Persons eating in the dining room was 211 higher than last year, for a total of 1,663 this year, and persons staying on the grounds was higher, as well.

God has been good to us, for which we praise His name. We saw people responding to the invitation in at least three services, and a good number of persons who either came to be anointed on healing day, or who presented a need on a prayer cloth for someone not at the camp. The speakers and singers worked very well together, a real blessing to all who attended.

The next event on Camp Freedom's calendar is our Mini-camp, held each year here in the north. Again this year, we are going to the Clear Creek Brethren in Christ Church, near Everett, PA. Our guest speaker will be Rev Keith Bunch, and the guest singers will be the Praise Singers, both from Penn View Bible Institute. Date and time are Saturday, August 29, morning service at 10:30, banquet at 12:00 noon, and afternoon service at 1:30. R.S.V.P's are required for the banquet, invitations will be sent out closer to the event. If you don't get an invitation, and want to attend, please contact me with your request. You're more than welcome to come!

As the Lord tarries, we look forward to Camp Freedom 2027, with Rollin Mitchell and David Fulton as evangelists, and John Forsee as day speaker. The song evangelists are Duane and Gwen Newton. Plan to join us if you can, the dates are January 29 through February 07, 2027. If lodging is desired, contact Joanna Ritchey at 717-360-0280, or by email at "joannaritchey@outlook.com". The snail mail address is 641 E Church St, Lock Haven, PA 17745.

It has come to our attention that some individuals have been having trouble getting onto the Camp Freedom website. I had our web master check into the situation, and he discovered that there is another organization called Camp Freedom, that is located here in Pennsylvania, and that their website address differs from ours by only one letter, the small "a" at the end of "Freedom". To be sure you get this camp, use <www.campfreedom.org>. You'll find there the services from the early years of our live streaming, and an online schedule for the next camp.

In His Service,
Dennis L Ritchey, Director
Camp Freedom of St Petersburg, FL