



Welcome to Mount Carmel!

*“And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only.”
Mark 9:8*

Mount Carmel is a place of blessing. We believe that God can bless you in many ways here – with the loving community, with the lake, with the time away from normal life, and with the time to listen to God’s Word. Welcome to Mount Carmel!

Mount Carmel is a community centered around the words “Jesus Only.” We believe that the coming of Jesus 2,000 years ago changed the world. We believe that Jesus comes today into our individual lives and into our community – and we are changed. We believe that a time away at Mount Carmel can be a time of renewal of that wonderful relationship with Jesus.

Mount Carmel is a Bible Training Center for all ages. Mount Carmel was originally a place where young adults were offered intensive Bible courses. Now we offer Biblical teaching for all ages in a variety of ways – Family Camp, Adults of All Ages Camp, Congregational Renewal Weekends, the Lakeside Bible Initiative, The Awaken Project, and other specialized retreats.

Mount Carmel Family Camp is a place and time of “rest, renewal, and recreation where people experience Jesus.” Coming to Mount Carmel each year for Family Camp has been a blessing for many families. We have a balance of age-specific activities (children, youth, adults) and family-centered activities where everybody participates together.

Mount Carmel recognizes that people have different perspectives on the Christian faith. We are a community centered on Jesus and God’s Word. But you are also welcome to come and be a part of our community if you have a different religion or no religion, or if religion is less important to you. We offer times of prayer, worship, Bible study, and blessing, and we encourage you to take part in these activities – but you don’t have to. We believe that God’s blessings can come to you in many ways. We want to tell you about Jesus – but we don’t want to force the message of Jesus on anybody.

We try to have only a few rules at Mount Carmel. We believe that God’s Grace frees us from living a life centered on trying to obey rules in order to please God. Jesus died for us, so that we could be freed from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Jesus accepts us as we are and brings us forgiveness and a New Life.

But we do have a few guidelines and we ask you to respect them:

1. **Please help us to be a welcoming community.** One of the most important parts of the Mount Carmel experience is the community we have here. You are a part of making that an effective community. Please help us be welcoming by welcoming the people around you.
2. **Please be considerate of your neighbors.** We need your help so that everybody can have a good time at Mount Carmel. Especially, be aware of making noise late in the evening. We have many young children (and some older folks!) who need to get their sleep – and our cabins are close together.
3. **Please follow our safety guidelines.** We want you to be safe while you are here. We want you to enjoy the lake – it’s a special part of Mount Carmel. But the lake can also be dangerous. Please follow the directions of our lifeguards and other staff. And parents – remember that the lifeguards are not on duty at all times and, even when they are, we ask that you ensure that someone is watching your children to keep them safe in the water.
4. **Please do not smoke in any of our buildings.** We want to keep smoke-free facilities. When smoking outside, we ask that you not smoke around other guests.
5. **Please do not use alcohol in public during Family Camp.** We allow the use of alcohol in private gatherings, in cabins or rooms. But we ask that alcohol not be used outside or in the public areas of our buildings, such as the chapels, the Lodge Dining Room, and the Lodge Library.
6. **Please do not bring your pets.** We love pets, but we do not allow our guests to bring them. We are sorry about having this rule, but we need to have it to keep our facilities in good shape for all. Licensed service animals are welcome.
7. **Please respect Mount Carmel’s position on marriage.** Many people in our society have changed their views regarding sexuality, gender, and marriage, but Mount Carmel has not changed. Our faith statement affirms the traditional Christian view of marriage as a God-created relationship between one man and one woman. We believe that God commands that sexual intimacy be limited to the marriage relationship. We celebrate marriage and the family as gifts from God and the basic structures that form human society. The love and commitment in marriage is a symbol of God’s relationship with people. We have decided to affirm the Biblical teaching regarding marriage, as we understand it and as it has been traditionally understood in the Christian Church. We invite unmarried couples and same gender couples to come to Mount Carmel, asking that they stay in separate housing.
8. **Please use the internet in an appropriate way.** Better yet – don’t use the internet at all! Turn off your computer! Turn off your phone! Get away from life, from work, from the news, from social media, and have a mountaintop experience at Mount Carmel! But we realize that this is not possible for everyone – or not completely possible. If you do use our internet, we ask that you use it respectfully (nothing obscene or illegal). And we encourage you not to stream video using our internet system. It can work, but we don’t have enough capacity if everybody does it. It’s OK if there aren’t many people here, but if there’s a crowd, it can become a problem. So, turn off that computer – and enjoy!

Welcome to Mount Carmel! May You Experience God’s Blessings Here!