



# GLACIER CAMP NEWS

[Jesus] said to them, "Come away to a secluded place all by yourselves and rest a while." – Mark 6.31

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**April 13-18**

**Work Week**

Help us get Glacier Presbytery Camp ready for a busy Spring and Summer season! Mostly indoor projects will be ready for your help any time during this week. If you are so inclined, come early for the TIM Talks and spend Saturday (or Friday and Saturday) night at Spruce Lodge

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**April 19-21**

**Spring TIM Talks --"I Am" Portraits of Jesus in John's Gospel**

John's unique witness to the events of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection can be both confusing and compelling. Join us as we explore the different portraits of Jesus found in John's gospel and why they are important for our faith.

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**May 10 -- Mother's Day Luncheon**

Again this year we will host a Mother's Day luncheon at Spruce Lodge. See inside for more details!

## Awakening

### Preludes to Summer

*Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead. And Christ will shine on you...*

-- Ephesians 5.14b



by Tim Lanham, Glacier Presbytery Camp Director

The soft breeze which comes with the break of day on this March morning interrupts the quiet of the night now passed. I listen, and the breeze seems to whisper the lyrical summons of Ephesians 5. *Awake!* Winter, at least what there was of it, is pretty much passed (although I have lived in Montana long enough to know that sometimes it can still catch up with us in April and May).

*Rise from the dead! And the fullness of life hurries to return now that Winter's long nights are past. And Christ will shine on you.* As the lingering shadows retreat and the morning sun arcs higher above the lake, I thought it would be appropriate to share with you how Christ's light is shining here at Glacier Camp and how our ministry is awakening from its regular Winter sabbath with these preludes for a busy and productive Summer. Here are some highlights.

**Winterfest:** Even though there wasn't much Winter during February's first weekend, we celebrated Winterfest at Glacier Camp for the first time since 2023. We are particularly grateful for Sarah, the youth director from Missoula, and David and Jane, youth leaders from Conrad, for bringing kids from their churches! More than twenty youth and adult chaperones participated -- making this the best attended Winterfest during my tenure as the Camp's director. For many of our participants, this was their first experience at our camp. That is great. Greater still is the kids had such a good time, they are excited to come back in the Summer. And yes -- they plan to bring their friends!

**Summer 2026 Preparations:** Our Leadership Team has been busy building the foundations for our upcoming camping season. Unlike the ground squirrels (those sleepers will not arise for another few weeks or so), Olly, Aaron, and Josiah have been busy -- even in December and January -- preparing for Summer 2026. On-line registration went "live" before Christmas.

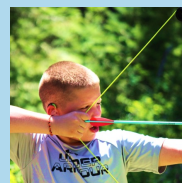
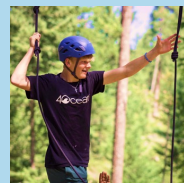
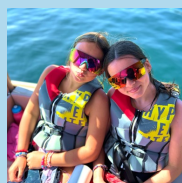


NO SNOW BUT STILL FUN! WINTERFEST HELPS GET KIDS "STOKED" FOR SUMMER CAMP



# Summer Camp 2026

Sleepaway camp on Flathead Lake with week-long summer programs for 6-17yr olds



Scan here for more info & registration!

camper scholarships available

camp 2026 theme—*Overflowing Life!*—Psalm 23:5-6

Counseling and support staff have been interviewed and hired -- with our roster of workers almost complete. Now we are in the process of on-boarding our new and returning staff; it is important to begin building that community prior to their arrival on sight in June. I am very pleased with the hard work this group has invested and the fruits those labors are already beginning to bear. As I write this, more than 40 campers have registered for our Summer camps. Fifteen campers have applied for and received scholarships to help make camp possible for them. The Summer season is coming together well.

**Camp Promotion:** The Leadership Team has been hard at work in publicizing our Summer 2026 program. Again this year, we are advertising Summer Camp with a fifteen second promotional video which gets shown before feature presentations at the Kalispell movie theater. Word about Summer Camp is also getting out through targeted email blasts and on various social media platforms.



AARON PROMOTES CAMP DURING WORSHIP AT HAMILTON

Congregational visitation is vital in

keeping people in our churches informed and excited about camp. Sunrise Church in Great Falls and First Presbyterian Church in Hamilton have hosted Camp Sundays in March -- offering us the opportunity to share all the good things that are happening with our ministry and help get kids, parents, and grandparents excited about Summer camp.



CLOSET -- WHAT CLOSET? JENA AND AARON CELEBRATE THE EXPANSION OF THE LAKE LODGE DINING HALL

**Lake Lodge Reboot:** In 2022, we made a major change in our camping program by moving our food service to the Lake Lodge, where campers would be served in the dining hall. This year, two other significant

changes are being made. The Lake Lodge kitchen is being renovated so that all our camper meals can be prepared there instead of just served. Speaking as someone who helped transport meals from Spruce Lodge to Lake Lodge, I can personally appreciate how much easier this will make things for our support staff. Along with work on the kitchen, the Lake Lodge dining area has been expanded. Dining capacity for us is closely related to camper capacity, so it made sense to knock out a closet built on the north side of the dining hall. We have roughly 30% more space available for campers and staff.

**Concluding Thoughts:** My illness and subsequent hospital adventures in January have given me a new appreciation for the sheer gift of life -- especially here in this season where Spring takes root. Among the many things I have learned from those adventures is that my usual frenetic busyness needs to be interrupted regularly. As my dear friend Risa commented in a sermon she preached (which seemed to be just for me!), I must take time to be as well as to do. And in being, it is important to listen -- to listen particularly to the Spirit and its song of life. *Sleeper, awake!* Otherwise, I might have missed hearing the hymn of Ephesians, borne of the wind and the sunlight on this March morning. *Rise from the dead!* As I anticipate the celebration of the coming Day of Resurrection, I am grateful for so many things. *And Christ will shine on you.* Especially, I am grateful for these awakening preludes which point to a hopeful and meaningful Summer of ministry and outreach in Christ's name.



TOO COLD FOR SWIMMING -- BUT  
WINTERFESTERS STILL ENJOY THE LAKE!

*For now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land...*

-- Song of Songs, 2.11, 12



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**  
**GLACIER CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We are seeking inside volunteers for the week of April 13-18<sup>th</sup>  
 Times available 9am-4pm.

Projects:  
 Spring cleaning cabins, lower Lodge & Chapel, painting, minor maintenance and ground cleanup if the weather permits.

*We will have supplies for cleaning and painting.*

*Lunch and drinks provided*



Next Volunteer week is May 11-16 Outside only!



Contact us today to learn more about this & other exciting volunteer opportunities.

17482 O'Neil Rd, Lakeside, MT

**SIGN UP**

[terri@glaciercamp.org](mailto:terri@glaciercamp.org)

**406-844-2114**



## “I Am...” Portraits of Jesus in John’s Gospel

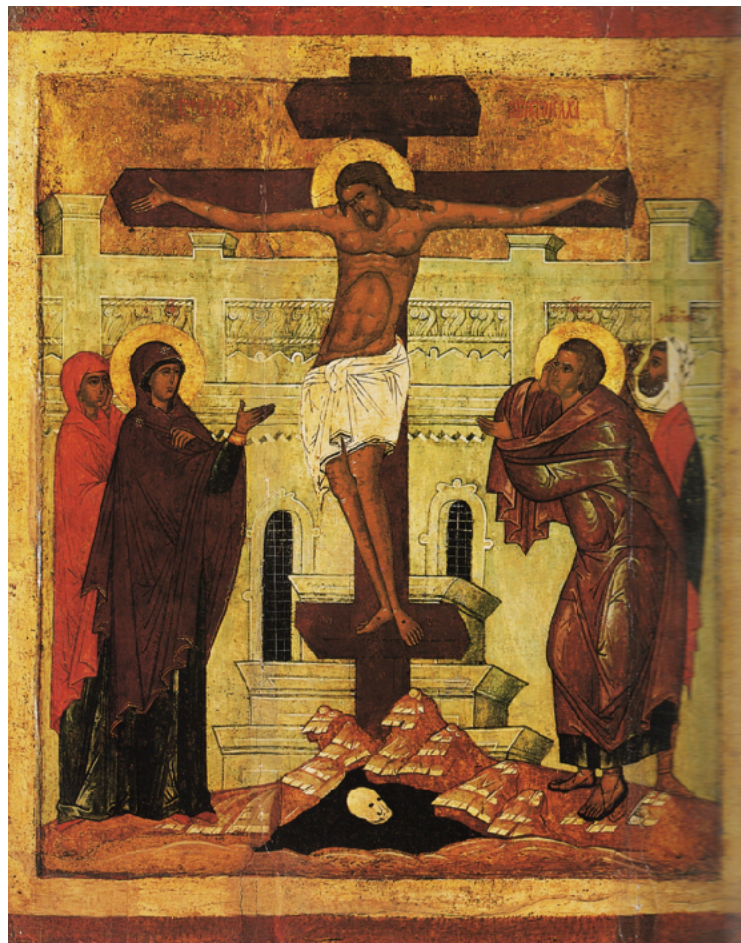
*Spring 2026 TIM Talks -- April 19-21, Spruce Lodge*

The Spring TIM Talks will explore how Jesus is portrayed in John’s gospel. All four of the evangelical witnesses provide unique perspectives on the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Matthew focuses the narrative of his gospel through a decidedly Jewish perspective. Luke, with a soft spot for the downcast and outsiders, highlights the meaningful ways Samaritans and tax collectors responded to Jesus’ ministry. Mark, always seeming to be in a hurry, depicts Jesus moving through his gospel at break-neck speeds. “And immediately...” is one of Mark’s favorite phrases.

And then -- then there is John. What do you do with John’s gospel? It is so different and, to some extent, even strange compared to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The synoptic writers don’t always agree. And they bake their own unique perspectives into the gospels that they write. But to a large extent, they follow a common chronology. And the portraits they paint of Jesus share compelling similarities.

Then, there is John.

In John, Jesus cleanses the temple at the beginning of his ministry (John 2.13-22) rather than during its Holy Week climax. In the other gospels, Jesus responds to conflict with the religious authorities very much like a first century rabbi, citing examples from Scripture and Torah precedent. “Have you not read in the book of Moses?” Jesus wondered, in offering proof of the resurrection. But in John, such erudite reasoning is replaced by bold, provocative statements. In



acting to heal the blind man in John 9 (which also happens to be on a sabbath), Jesus declared: “We must **work** the **works** of him who sent me while it is day.” (The Fourth Commandment, remember, prohibited **work** on the sabbath day.)

The Spring TIM Talks will explore John’s different and unique portraits of Jesus. We will look at the different ways Jesus’ portrait is sketched. Sometimes, those strokes are bold and portray Jesus in ways that are argumentative and confrontational -- such as in John 8, where he responded to the taunts of the religious authorities by declaring: “Before Abraham was, I am!” In other places, John presents Jesus from a perspective that is tender and offers enduring, beloved imagery -- like his self-description in John 10, where he explained: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John provides us with many perspectives of Jesus.

## 2026 TIM Talks Schedule

**April 19–21:** “I Am...” Portraits of Jesus in John’s Gospel

**July 12–14:** “My Cup Overflows” -- Jesus and the Promise of Abundant Life

**September 13–15:** “As of First Importance” An Exploration of our Reformed Faith in the Book of Confessions

In addition to exploring those different perspectives, we will also reflect on their relevance for our lives of faith today. What would be missing if Christianity did not have John’s witness? What does his very different perspective bring to our understanding of who Jesus is and what his ministry is all about? I have always been grateful for the four different gospels and the unique point of view they share with us in telling the story of Jesus Christ. I

especially look forward to our

exploration of John and the lively discussions we will engage in as we look at his witness to Jesus Christ.

Full and partial scholarships are available -- so don’t let the cost get in the way of your participation. Email [timothy@glacercamp.org](mailto:timothy@glacercamp.org) to register or for more information.

TIM Talks 2026 Rates

Commuters \$ 90/person

Single Room \$250/person

Double Room (all meals included) \$125/person

*Italian*  
**MOTHER'S DAY  
 LUNCHEON**  
*Spruce Lodge at Glacier Camp*



**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

ADULTS \$20  
 CHILDREN 7-14 \$12  
 6 & UNDER FREE

TWO SEATINGS 11:30 AM & 1 PM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MAY 6TH

CALL: 406-844-2114

EMAIL: [INFO@GLACIERCAMP.ORG](mailto:INFO@GLACIERCAMP.ORG)



17482 O'NEIL RD, LAKESIDE, MT

Menu: Spinach Tortellini, Spaghetti w/Meatballs, Chicken Alfredo  
 Side Salad, Breadsticks, Roasted Vegetables,  
 Lemon Cake, Cannoli



# New Sound System for Spruce Lodge

Anyone who has been to a meeting in the Genesis Center or attended an event in the Spruce Lodge dining hall understands how inadequate the existing sound system has been. It worked -- at least in theory. Kind of. Sort of. If you crossed your fingers the right way and kept the microphone a quarter of a wavelength away from one of the speakers, you could overcome the feedback and reverberations to get your spoken words amplified -- at least somewhat. Sometimes, not using the sound system was easier (and always less complicated) than trying to get it to work.

These frustrations were especially noticeable at last Fall's presbytery meeting and at the donor appreciation dinner in November (where, incidentally, we tried using the sound system but just gave up on it because the effort we expended was not worth the very meager amplification). The problem was obvious. And I was often asked what became a familiar question: "When are you going to do something about this problem?"



RON AT WORK, TESTING THE GENESIS CENTER SYSTEM

Fortunately, our good and faithful friends from the Dayton church stepped forward to offer their help. Recognizing the problem, they wanted to find a solution. "You get something put together," Ron Tjaden explained to me. "And we will cover the expense." With that promise was a single caveat: "We want you to get this done. But make sure it is done right!"

The next challenge involved finding a person who could do this job. Here is another example of God’s providential grace. I was ready to start an internet search for sound system installers when Camp Committee member Wally Congdon intervened. “Call my friend Ron,” he said. And so I did. I still remember Ron’s first question to me: “How come you called me?” And then, when I explained the story to him, he reflected: “This isn’t the first time Wally has gotten me into trouble!”

In the intervening five months, as work on this project has progressed, Ron has repeated that statement. “This isn’t the first time Wally has gotten me into trouble!” And how thankful I am for that! Since late November, Ron has been diligently working on this project -- making sure the Dayton church’s stipulation has been observed. The job needs to be done. But most importantly, the job needs to be done right. Ron has devoted his efforts to fulfilling that goal.



DINING HALL AMPLIFIER AND MIXER...

It has taken time. Everything from the placement of the speakers to the location of the mixers and amplifiers had to be carefully thought out. Running the wires was another challenge -- especially in the dining hall. The viability of existing equipment needed to be assessed. Some things could be incorporated into the new system. Other things needed to be replaced. Ron proved to be the ideal person to make these decisions. And after many hours of hard work, the new sound system is at last in place and ready to go.



... CONNECTED TO THE NEW OUTLET/MICROPHONE

We will celebrate the completion of this project and honor Ron and the people of the Dayton church for their commitment to this project at a special dinner on Sunday, April 19. If you would like to join us for this event, RSVP by email: [timothy@glaciercamp.org](mailto:timothy@glaciercamp.org).

# Presbytery Churches You're Invited to Glacier Camp & Spruce Lodge

17482 O'Neil Road, Lakeside, MT 59922

# MEMORIAL WEEKEND

# ★ MAY 22-25, 2026 ★

Book your family in one of our summer rustic cabins or Lodge rooms. Enjoy canoeing, paddleboarding, hiking, or just hanging at the lakefront. This event is for you to enjoy the camp and learn what we have to offer your Churches and Families. No classes, No group events, No schedules (besides meals) just pure FUN!

*Includes: Use of canoes, paddleboards, volleyball, basketball court, lakefront & campfire s'mores*

*Cabins: sleep 8 people bunk style (bathhouses next to cabins)*

*Spruce Lodge Room: sleep 5 or 6 family style. Private baths. Ask for room details.*



Meals:  
\$10 Grab-N-Go breakfast & lunch  
\$20 seated dinner  
*per person, per meal*

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE -  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!  
RSVP BY / APRIL 24  
406-844-2114**



**★ ANY DONATIONS RECEIVED ARE DESIGNATED  
TO FRIENDS OF GLACIER**

**Booking / [terri@glaciercamp.org](mailto:terri@glaciercamp.org)**

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## Director's Reflections

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### Thoughts on a Windy, Dusty March Day

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*You are dust, and to dust you shall return.* -- Genesis 3.19b

"Remember you are dust..." Words from Genesis' narrative of the Fall, fashioned into the refrain of Ash Wednesday, come to my mind in the midst of this dry and windy March afternoon. On the horizon, I can see the dust rise as it trails after a flatbed pickup hauling hay. The pickup moves quickly along the dirt road before turning onto the highway.

But the dust cloud that it stirred up lingers, even in the crisp, windy air of this almost Spring day. I watch the cloud rise above the horizon, reaching ten or maybe twenty feet in the air before the wind starts pushing it towards the south-southeast. The cloud stays together for a little while. And then it is gone. All gone. I watch it first dissipate and then disappear. And the wind -- it seems to whisper those four somber, sobering words addressed first to Adam. Now they accompany the imposition of ashes: "Remember you are dust..."

"Remember you are dust..." The words speak of a disquieting, unsettling reality. I think about this as I watch the contrail of dust get hurled into oblivion. People, I have found, are decidedly uncomfortable when it comes to contemplating the realities of human mortality -- either their own or that of others. I still remember the argument I had with the mortician involving my wife's obituary. I insisted on using the words: "She died."

But the mortician challenged me. "Wouldn't it be better to say she 'passed on'? To say that she died is just so, so blunt." Her voice oozed with a saccharine sentimentality. "'Passed on' is so much nicer," she continued, "so much more palatable." At the time, I thought about arguing with her. But in the interest of saving my energy, I just insisted: "We'll say she died." Sooner or later, that is what we are all going to do.

Yet the instinctive human inclination is to hide from this reality (perhaps the way Adam and Eve hid from God after violating Paradise's only rule). Such efforts, of course, always fail. However elaborate or ingenious the pretenses might be which people concoct to shelter themselves from this truth, they are doomed by the inexorable forces of time and circumstance to be exposed to our shared mortal gravity. Ancient words from Psalm 90 come to my mind here. The days of our lives "are soon gone. And we fly way<sup>1</sup>." This trajectory is our common fate. "And to dust you shall return."

In this moment, I can feel those days becoming so soon gone as I stand along this threshold of time and space. I look to the distant horizon, towards that point where these rolling plains reach the mountains and the mountains reach the sky. Out here, the sky is so big and so vast as to be almost overwhelming. Such a feeling frames my earliest recollections. The oldest memory I have is of the immenseness of this big, big sky -- which seemed to whisper those Ash Wednesday words even to my infant, illiterate soul. "Remember you are dust."

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<sup>1</sup>Psalm 90.10b -- This and other scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation

And in this present moment, the accompanying antiphonal response echoes: "And to dust you shall return." Those words are borne by the stiff and scattering March wind. They are given voice by the lengthening shadows of this now late-afternoon. And I hear them in the inexorable tick-tick-tick of time as it sweeps away like the fading daylight that will soon surrender to the twilight's darkling shadows.

The feelings which accompany my reflections at this point are not tainted by melancholia or tinged by the depressing sadness which our culture seems to assume must be associated with any thoughts of human mortality. Words, again from Psalm 90, come to my mind. I hear them echo and resound under this vast, now-almost twilight sky. "Teach us to count our days," the poet (who, according the Psalm's superscription, is Moses the man of God), "that we may gain a wise heart<sup>2</sup>."

Wisdom, in the biblical tradition, involves understanding the boundaries of time and space in which we live and are called to be faithful. It is shaped around the foundational thesis of Ecclesiastes -- that all created things, all mortal things, the sundry elements of life are vain. Not vain as in meaningless (I would argue that the New International Version's translation committee got the sense of the Hebrew term wrong). But vain in the sense of being unsubstantial, fragile, unreliable. You turn around, and these things (including the gift of life itself) can be gone. Plumb gone.

These thoughts come to my mind in the midst of this windy March afternoon. They are appropriate for this wilderness season of Lent where my preferred spiritual practice involves reflection on this foundational trajectory rather than the surrender of some cheap pleasure. In the distance, another pickup (this time hauling a stock trailer) heads toward the highway, stirring up another dust cloud. The wind is blowing harder and steadier now and the cloud disappears even before it has a chance to rise in the air.

More words echo from under this vast sky. "You return man to dust; You decreed, 'Return you mortals<sup>3</sup>!'" And while I am faced with my own fragile and finite nature, I am also reminded of the Lord's absolute strength and indefatigable power. The Day of Resurrection is still distant at this point. And Lent's wilderness journey, as it always does, must take that shadowy, tortuous Holy Week path of Thursday's betrayal and Friday's brutality and Saturday's haunting silence. The journey, I have found, never gets easier for such dust bound creatures like you and me.

But beyond Holy Week's heavy shadows, I know the promise of Light that emanates from the empty tomb. And other words come to me as this day begins to fold into night. "As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven<sup>4</sup>." And I rejoice in this hope which comes with the risen Lord.

Tim Lanham, Director

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<sup>2</sup> Psalm 90.12

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 90.3 -- Here I quote the Jewish Publication Society's translation.

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 15.48



GLACIER PRESBYTERY CAMP  
PO BOX 384  
LAKESIDE MT  
59922



QR CODE GIVES ACCESS TO  
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