

Camp Deerpark

SPRING 2025

A MINISTRY OF THE NEW YORK CITY MENNONITE CHURCHES

CAMP DEERPARK OWNER CHURCHES

Believers Mennonite Garifuna Ministries

Pastor Andrew Nuñez

Centro Misionero Cristiano

Pastor Aristidez Shee

Evangelical Garifuna Church

Pastor Lilian Flores

Retired Pastor Celso Jaime

Evangelical Garifuna Church of Brooklyn

Pastor Martin Alvarez

Evangelical Garifuna Church of Manhattan

Pastor Margarito Martinez

Friendship Community Church

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Pastor Anita Castle

Iglesia Evangelical Menonita Eben-Ezer

Pastors Julio and Ana Damaso

Immanuel Community Church

Pastor Mark Perri

Infinity Mennonite Church

Pastor Albert Taylor

King of Glory Tabernacle

Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship

Pastor Jason Storbakken

Mennonite Bible Fellowship, CT

Pastor Cedric Smith

Mennonite Evangelistic Tabernacle

Pastor Nestalis DeLeon

Muros de Fuegos

Pastor Maria Teresa Flores

North Bronx Mennonite Church

Pastor Ruth Wenger

United Revival Mennonite Church

Bishop Nicolas Angustia

Valley of Jesus Mennonite Church

Pastors Bernardo & Linda Rodriguez

WHAT IS CAMP TO ME? BY MRS. EIVY RODRIGUEZ



First and foremost, with every word that I write I want to honor the master, love, and beloved Lord and Savior “Jesús Cristo” (Jesus Christ). Mi nombre es (My name is) Eivy Rodríguez, and I have the privilege to be married to Gino Rodriguez. I am a proud mother to my beautiful children and abuela to my beloved granddaughter, Hannah. Last but not least, a faithful member of United Revival Mennonite church in Brooklyn, NY for over twenty years.

Saying “Yes” to the calling of God to work at Camp Deerpark was not easy. Reason being, I am a home health aide by profession, and in that field I served God by serving and taking care of His special angels, the elderly, for more than twenty years. To me, it has been a pleasure to care for the elderly and serve them to the best of my ability. In serving these angels, I felt that I was doing God’s work in caring for them. I had the pleasure of ministering the Gospel to each patient I encountered. Now when my husband, Gino, told me that he felt God was asking him to take the Facilities Director position at camp, the first thing I asked him was “Are you sure? Moving to camp and working at camp would be a drastic change for me”. However, the confirmation to my “yes” came when we spoke to our Bishop about the matter. After prayer, conversations with Gino and our Bishop we said “In everything we do, we do to please God and obey Him the best we can”. We were obeying Him, and I said yes to the calling to serve as Camp Deerpark’s Head of Housekeeping.

The change for me to move was very similar to Genesis 12:1 “Pero Jehova habia dicho a Abram: vete de tu tierra y de tu parentela, y de la casa de tu padre, a la tierra que te mostrare (But the Lord had said to Abram, Go from your country, from your relatives, and from your father’s house, to the land that I will show you).” The move was hard, because I have never been away from my children, especially two hours away, but I had to obey God’s calling because of what camp is for me. When my children were younger my pastors, Bishop Nicolas and Bishop Moises Angustia spoke very highly about Camp Deerpark’s children summer program. My pastors asked if I wanted to send my kids to camp. However, at the time finances were a hardship. My pastor told me that camp had sponsors who would pay half of the fee, and I would have to pay the other half. Unfortunately, I could not even pay the bare minimum. Until this day, I remember God blessing

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me through my pastors Bishop Nicolas and Bishop Moises as they paid the fees for both my children to attend summer camp. With this opportunity to serve at Camp Deerpark, I want to thank the people like our pastors, who contribute to camp and donate to help with the summer camp program. I can now understand and appreciate the impact the summer program has on the families that are in financial hardship.

Now living at camp for several months, it is like the Promised Land. It is a completely different world for me. Coming from the city, it felt like an isolated place. However, we have come to understand its Holy land. This Holy Land is a place designed to disciple youth by mentoring and equipping them to become leaders. It is a place that builds leaders. I have witnessed the youth from our church become camp staff and today are pastors and leaders. My children today are successful adults in the community we serve and repay the acts of our pastors by assisting other children to make it to summer camp. This is what camp is for me, donating so that other children get the opportunity to come to camp. If you are reading this, and if you donate and contribute, thank you again!

Hearing about camp twenty years ago and now being able to serve in this ministry is an honor. I enjoy what I do here in the housekeeping department. Being able to clean the facilities with love and care, prepping our lodging for our guest to find it clean and smelling good brings joy to my heart. Besides thanking the donors and contributors, I want to thank the staff here at camp for accepting us with open arms. I am very thankful for my pastors for always supporting me with their advice and love. I want to thank my family for their support but most importantly, I want to thank God for choosing me and assigning me with this task here at Camp Deerpark!

¡Dios te bendiga! (God bless you!).

THANK YOU!

The Camp Deerpark board and staff would like to thank the PA Banquet table sponsors listed below, our speakers Celmalí Jaime, summer camp pastor, and David Barrett, pastor of El Elyon Church of the Most High God, Paul Holderbaum & Phil Yohe for the music, the 153 participants, Shady Maple Restaurant, photographer Scott Reichert, and everyone who helped to contribute \$44,413.00 to the Camp Deerpark ministry. Join us next year, Friday, April 10, 2026 at Shady Maple.

Obed & Jamila Ayala
Rick Buckwalter & Ann Rutt
El Elyon Friends
Frank & Barb Freeman
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Gladys Landis
Keith & Ernestine Lehman
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Les & Jane Miner
Victor & Lourdes Mendez
Sharp Shopper
Kevin Smith
Wes Newswanger & Janet Breneman
Ana Villanueva



Top to bottom, left to right: Speakers Celmalí Jaime and David Barrett; Camp Deerpark board chair, Jeryl Zimmerman & Ben Cheek, executive director; Table group #16 enjoying the banquet; Camp Deerpark staff

FROM THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S HEART BY KEVIN SMITH

As we move on from our benefit banquet this past April, themed "The Impact of Camp," Camp Deerpark is excited about our direction and purpose, and so am I.

At our banquet, we heard powerful stories about the experience of summer camp and weekend church retreats—stories from both the past (the 1990s) and the present (just last February, a pastor's personal retreat).

We heard about how the space and tranquility of camp allows one to have a spiritual experience simply by listening to the wind whistle through the trees as you're sitting on the front porch or the feeling of the sun on your skin as you explore one of our trails and even as one serves as a passionate counselor for summer camp. Spiritual experiences are still happening.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." (Matthew 19:14). Having been the Summer Program Director for ten years, this verse rings loudly in my heart. We are not only creating space for children to come for fun (the pool, rafting down the Delaware River, etc.) but for a spiritual

experience as they sing campfire songs and listen to our camp pastor. The beautiful thing is that while caring for our campers, we can see how God cares for and sees us. The ability to be "like a child" and appreciate the Creator by getting us out of our typical environment and into nature, having a mountain-top experience. To God be the Glory!

My inner encouragement has been my time here as a staff and even as a camper—my many stories of a mountain-top experience. What excites me and emboldens me are the other stories happening today and the coming stories! In John 14:12, Jesus talks about how we believers are to do bigger miracles than He because of His sacrifice and obedience. So now Camp Deerpark has the privilege to be obedient to Him by creating space for church retreats to "Have a place of resting, learning and growing spiritually" and for summer camp to provide a program that will "Empower Youth to Serve Christ in the City"! Forever God is still Faithful!

You can always pour into this ministry with prayers, volunteers, or donations as we continue to support these impactful stories!

"MY OLD SELF HAS BEEN
CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST.
IT IS NO LONGER I WHO
LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES
IN ME.
SO I LIVE IN THIS EARTHLY
BODY BY
TRUSTING IN THE SON OF
GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND
GAVE HIMSELF
FOR ME."
GALATIANS 2:20

LOST
AND
FOUND

2025 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

SESSIONS	DATES	COSTS
Children's Camp Session 1	June 29-July 4	\$200-300*
Children's Camp Session 2	July 6-11	\$200-300*
Children's Camp Session 3 & Teen Discipleship A	July 13-18	\$200-300*
Children's Camp Session 4 & Teen Discipleship B	July 20-25	\$200-300*
Children's Camp Session 5	July 27-Aug 1	\$200-300*
Teen Camp	August 3-8	\$200-300*

Summer Camp Discounts

*Based on when registration and payment are received in the office:

- \$200/week if received in April
- \$250/week if received in May
- \$300/week if received in June.

Register online at www.campdeerpark.org or call the office for a paper registration.





CAMP DEERPARK HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

There will be many activities & games for children and adults, plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. You do not want to miss the fun and exciting auction! If you have any gently used or still in good condition items you would like to donate for the auction, please contact camp.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know the rest of the Camp Deerpark family.

For more info or to make a reservation call the camp office at 845-754-8669 or deerpark-guests@gmail.com. There is a charge of \$20 for adults (ages 12-up) and \$10 for kids (ages 5-11) for this event. Lunch is included. Please make reservations.

The newsletter is published four times a year and is distributed without charge to members and friends.



Camp Deerpark is owned by the Mennonite Churches of New York City.

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www.campdeerpark.org

Camp Deerpark

WISH LIST

- Computer monitor
- New office chairs (4)
- Heavy Duty full size pick up
- Hot water tank for admin house
- Backup generator for kitchen
- Hot water heaters for Spruce Lodge (x2)
- Cues for new pool table in the game room
- Chalks for new pool table in game room
- Ping-pong ball machine for game room
- Dump trailer

THANK YOU!

- Lights for game room
- Spot lights
- LED strips
- Dryer for staff house

DID YOU KNOW?

You can receive your newsletter via email. Just call 845-754-8669 or email deerparkguests@gmail.com to switch over to an emailed newsletter.

Camp Deerpark
WWW.CAMPDEERPARK.ORG

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