

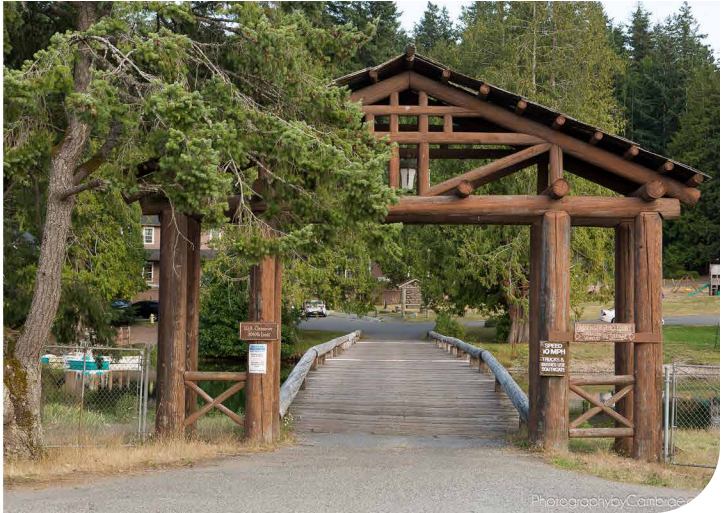


Just Days from Now...!

A Seabeck Newsletter

July 2025

July 27th to August 2nd, 2025



We'll be there so very soon.

There's not much more to say than we've already been communicating from the Seabeck Council, in these newsletters, but there certainly are a lot of last things to make sure you all know about as you get your bags ready and prepare for the journey to this family reunion of God's children in exploration of the message.

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Before You Close That Suitcase...Got Room for More?

You've got something for the Food Drive, maybe an Auction item, and a treat for the Flea Market, but there's a few other general things to maybe bring.

Cash

Once at the retreat, there are a few times you may wish you had a dollar or two on you! You can pay for most purchases with a check or by Venmo (Auction purchases, calendars, Chicken Football snacks). However, some things might require cash (snacks from the Seabeck vending machines, ping-pong balls, laundry facilities, babysitting fees, tips for the hardworking Seabeck staff).

Pickleball

There is a pickleball court on campus! If you are pickleballer, bring your own equipment to take advantage of the court.

Adult Crafts

Adult Crafts will take place during **Small Group** time, in **Reeser**. Feel free to bring your own craft materials; some may also be provided.

Snack Attack

If you have any snacks to donate to our all-retreat Snack Time, you can bring those to **The Pines** either at or after Check-In. Single-serve snacks are especially awesome, but any snack will be appreciated! (Especially fruit!)

Do NOT bring: Weapons, illegal drugs, or pets. Skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, and rollerskates may not be used on the Seabeck Conference Center grounds.



Come Say Hi to Brittany!

Your intrepid Registrar **Brittany Peterson** will be at The Pines to greet you Sunday afternoon. Details on Check-In are on the facing page, but here's a last few things to be aware of regarding this year's retreat.

First, we will be a very *full* campus! In addition to our group of more than 170 adults, youth, children, and infants, we will be sharing the Seabeck Conference Center grounds with three other groups—one of which consists of high-school-age cross-country athletes.

Second, **more than 30 of our family are new to Seabeck** or returning after a long time. Wow! Be sure to say hello and meet at mealtimes, help get oriented, and encourage participation in the many optional activities.

Third, we are actively seeking a **Registrar for the 2026 retreat!** If you're organized and have great communication skills, and are interested, please let **Brittany Peterson** know: brthomas317@gmail.com. She will be happy to tell you about what the job involves, whether during your stay at Seabeck or afterwards. A **Morning Worship Music Leader** is also needed for 2026.



Where to Go on Arrival

When you reach Seabeck, Sunday afternoon, proceed directly up the hill to the right to check in at **The Pines**.

Check-In is from 4:30 to 5:45. You are welcome to gather at the **Salmon Bake Beach** (across the road) if you arrive a bit early.

Where do I check in? There will be a number of check-in tables at the lower level of **The Pines**. Follow the signs when you arrive, to allow for a smoother registration process.

What do I need at Check-In? The Code of Conduct form (signed by all family members) and your remaining payment—cash, checks, or Venmo payments (credit cards are not accepted).

There will be an array of tables with retreat staff ready to greet you and answer questions, including our **babysitting** coordinator whom you can notify if you either need or can provide that service, the **Activities team** ready to sign you up for use of the **golf carts for mobility needs** (and to recruit available **drivers** for them), and you will receive a copy of the week's **Program Book** with daily schedules and a staff list, plus a **campus map**. Parents will be told where children's classes will be held.

This is when you'll be able to indicate whether you'd prefer to participate in **Small Group** meetings after each morning's program or be part of Resource Leader January Jaxon's **creativity exercises**.

You will be informed as to where **parking** is available, and then you can proceed to your lodging...but hurry, because **dinner's at 6:00** at the Inn's **Dining Hall**!





But Wait...There's Still More Going On Next Week!

In addition to the wild lineup of activities prepared by Activities Director **David McPete**, there are some less-energetic traditions for all available Seabeckers to participate in...plus we have a schedule change and another afternoon option.

First, the schedule change: **Teddy Treats** has been moved to **Monday** evening. The Teddy Bear Parade to Campfire is still scheduled for Thursday after dinner.

Friday, 7-ish, after the Salmon Bake, we gather at the **Amphitheater** to share in **Communion**. Gluten-free bread will be available, as well as the option to have wine or grape juice. Then get yourself ready for the **All-Retreat Dance** at the Pines, complete with a special Zorba's Dance for the kids!

We also assemble for a **Group Photo** of all attendees, usually on Friday after lunch; consult your Program Book for details.

Right after breakfast on Saturday, at 9:30am, Seabeckers gather in front of the Inn, in the area beyond the flagpole, for a **Closing Circle** before leaving the campus. It's an opportunity to share joys and concerns, prayers, and last thoughts together. Lost and found items will also be laid out on the grass there. Then hit the road, Jack, because we need to be off the Conference Center grounds by **10:00!**

Parents: please pick up your children from their classes promptly after the morning program ends!



Resource Leader **January Jaxon** invites you to join her afternoon Bible study.

"I like to describe **Lectio Divina** as a lesson in 'how to read the Bible with your body'—it's a contemplative, meditative practice with lots of silence that is not about intellectually comprehending a text but is about noticing ourselves in relationship to it. We'll ask ourselves what in the text sparks our imagination, what connects to our own lived experience, and get curious about what God might be inviting us into by bringing these associations to mind.

"There's no need to bring anything if you want to join in for this; I'll have everything that's needed on hand. Just show up at the **Meeting House** from 2:00 to 3:30pm, and we'll wrap up in time for you to join in with afternoon activities such as Chicken Football and the Slip 'n' Slide."





A Grab Bag of Updates

La Roy King and **Adrian Hoare** have reminders and news for you on what's happening and where to look for it.

Please bring food items for the **Food Drive** with you to Check-In. There will be a table there to put your items on. Remember you can also bring non food items such as toothpaste/brush, shave soap, razors, deodorant, feminine products, etc.

They say location is everything. Well, the location of the **Flea Market** is in the back of the **Meeting House**, on the bottom floor. Tables will be set up, and all you have to do is take your items and set them out. Please bring good, useable items...and, as a reminder: *No electronics, firearms, or fireworks.*

If you bring any items for Thursday evening's Auction, please keep them in your room until asked for them.

Ninth Graders

For those of you going into the ninth grade next year, this is just a reminder that at the retreat you have a choice. You may return to the **Mid High Group** for one more year or move on to the **Senior High School Group**. Either way, you will have a great time with great leaders and other great youth. See you all REAL soon for fun times!

Mid Highs

Evelyn and **La Roy** have been busy with some great activity plans. Some are new activities, some are traditional activities we have done, and some are traditional activities we have done but with a twist. Two things for this year: *Make sure you know (or bring) your mailing address, and bring the address of a friend or two.* You can also bring an address of a family member not at this year's retreat.

Young Adults

Some adjustments have been made since the last newsletter regarding the young adults group. Instead of a morning meeting, there will be a board-game get-together during Quiet Time on Monday, held by **Sarah Crespo** at the **Rhododendron** portables. Further meetings for the Young Adult group will be discussed at this Monday hangout. Please reach out to **Adrian Hoare** or **Sarah Crespo** if you are interested in getting together for games and chats and all around good times at other points during the week!



Relax—No Crazy Food After All

Meals will be served family-style except at the Wednesday **BBQ**, hosted under the shelter beside the volleyball courts, and Friday's **Salmon Bake**, hosted across the road on the shore of Hood Canal. Word from Conference Center director **Chuck Kraining** is that there will be chicken on Wednesday (in honor of Chicken Football, but it won't be rubber chicken they serve) and—yes!—blintzes on Saturday. (No word on Little Tuna Fish, though.)

Before meals begin, there will be a prayer and then brief announcements by the codeans. *Please be quiet for those announcements*, or you and your tablemates might well miss something you'll have wanted to hear about!

Please be aware that tipping of individual Seabeck Conference Center staff members is not permitted. A staff appreciation fund is maintained, through which donations are gladly accepted and distributed among all the employees.



Got Time for a Preparatory Video?

If people have time (it's a long video, 90 minutes, so not everyone will have room in their lives for this), Resource Leader **January Jaxon** highly encourages watching this video.

It's a presentation by Catholic priest and theologian **James Alison** on how to understand the basic mechanism of Christianity's function—what it changed, in us and in the world, when Jesus died on the cross. In a larger sense Father Alison is talking about important things like why



this understanding of Christianity flows naturally into an embrace of LGBTQ+ folks, but understanding the basic mechanism will help make my Seabeck program make the most sense. Plus, he's just plain fun to listen to! I referenced his book *Raising Abel* in the June newsletter.

*"The end of the Christian story is not our removal **from** the physical world; it's the restoration of God's kingdom **to** the physical world."*

—January

Let us join together as a family in Christ and in love.

We'll be there so very soon.

Seabeck Christian Family Retreat

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seabeckchristianfamilycamp@gmail.com

2024–25 Seabeck Council Officers:

President: **Victory Walker**
Secretary: **Karen Ford**

Vice President: **Jessi McPete Ford**
Registrar: **Brittany Peterson**

Treasurer: **Janette Murry**
Emeritus: **Wes Pruitt**

The Seabeck Council will meet twice during the retreat, at the Amphitheater; Meetings are open to all.

The Seabeck Christian Family Retreat is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered under the name **Seabeck Christian Family Camp**.