

**CAMP SUMATANGA ACTION TEAM:** Assess the mission of the Camp and address pertinent governance issues, evaluate current leadership and staffing model, and examine the Camp's relationship to the North Alabama Conference and Conference Trustees with maximum authority to act in the Camp's best interest. **Members:** Rev. Dr. Andy Wolfe, Convener, ex-officio; Neeysa Biddle, Sandy Wright Brown, Rev. Dr. Bill Brunson, Mike Byrne, Tiphonie Gatgens, Terry McElheny, Harlan Prater, Allan Robertson, ex-officio, Daphne Orr, Interim Executive Director and camp consultant, Rev. Mark Johnston, previously Executive Dir, Camp McDowell.

## **SUMATANGA ACTION TEAM COMMUNIQUE June 25, 2020**

**CURRENT TIMES AT SUMATANGA:** The beautiful and beloved grounds of Sumatanga are open on Saturdays and Sundays from sunrise to sunset with proper social distancing, no bathroom facilities and no camping. Come, bring a picnic and enjoy!

Regarding retreats and meetings onsite, we are making lists - and checking them twice - for procedures and supplies that will be required when we can reopen. We continue to stay current with federal, state and local governments guidelines as well as the Alabama Public Health Department, North Alabama Conference, CDC, United Methodist Camp Retreat Ministries and the American Camp Association.

**FINANCES:** Without Retreat revenue and Summer Camp income, we need financial assistance from our Sumatanga family. As we have shared in prior months, we have been diligent in managing expenses and reducing payroll during these quarantined months. Yet, like every household, there are recurring expenses to cover.

THANK YOU to congregations who are participating in the Conference **Special Asking!** We have received additional donations from 199 churches through the Conference Special Asking. We appreciate the message of love and support that come attached to those dollars, especially in this critical time!

THANK YOU to congregations who designate Sumatanga to receive special offerings such as Lenten Offerings and communion offerings!

THANK YOU to the numerous individuals and families who have sent donations, honorariums and memorial gifts!

We appreciate all gifts but ask specifically at this time for unrestricted donations to help us sustain operations during this crisis. To make your gift online, go to

[www.sumatanga.org/donate-online](http://www.sumatanga.org/donate-online). You can also mail a check to Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center, 3616 Sumatanga Road, Gallant, AL 35972.

**REMINDER TO SUMATANGA SUMMER CAMP 2020 FAMILIES:** Please update your child's registration status on-line **by July 1, 2020**. There are three options: 1) pre-register for the 2021 Summer Camp carrying-forward the fee; 2) donate the deposit to Sumatanga for current use; or 3) request a refund. Please complete the on-line form to document your choice.

**SUMMER CAMP 2021:** Registration is open for Summer Camp 2021 on the Sumatanga website. *Campers who register before October 31 will receive an early bird rate.* Plan now to join us!

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Refrain: Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

*- Mesmerized by the beauty of the countryside surrounding him, Folliott S. Pierpoint*

*wrote "For the Beauty of the Earth" as a hymn in 1864 when he was 29 years old.*

Please join us as we continue to pray for strength, guidance and healing for family, friends, neighbors, leaders....then guide our feet and hands to serve how and where we can.

Andy Wolfe, Convener Daphne Orr, Interim Executive Director

**Sumatanga Camp & Conference Center** † **It is the Mission of Sumatanga** to provide sacred space and an environment rich with opportunity for encounters with God through nature and nurture. † **Our Vision** is to be *the* home for Christ-centered hospitality. † **We Value** the teachings of Jesus Christ and use these teachings as the very foundation of our existence. We seek to serve as he served, to love unconditionally as he loved, and to treat all those we encounter with compassion and justice. † **We Value** our partnership in ministry with the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church and seek to be jointly committed and accountable in ministry to them and to those God calls to us. † **We Value** Christ-centered hospitality and will strive to make every guest feel at home. † **We Value** community and invite churches, organizations, agencies and individuals to join us and each other in Christian fellowship. † **We Value** wholesome recreation as a means of building both strength and character. † **We Value** life-long learning and the call to deepening spiritual development and strive to be a resource for those searching, growing and leading. † **We Value** sound stewardship. In honor of those who join us in ministry with financial gifts, we pledge to wisely deploy all proceeds to build a sustainable future for continuation of this ministry.