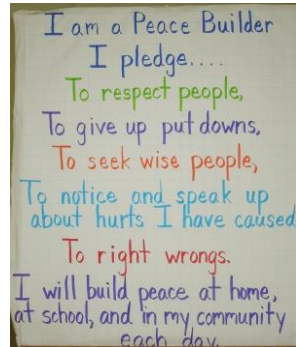




## Littlefield Presbyterian Church Dearborn, MI July 2016

For the 18<sup>th</sup> year, Littlefield Presbyterian Church hosted Peace Camp in July 26 - 28. The 24 campers included children from the church neighborhood, a few members' grandchildren and others who saw our application. With much enthusiasm, campers waited at the top of the kitchen steps to enter the church to begin this year's adventure in peace.



As for most years, the weather was very hot and the energy of the campers heated up Fellowship Hall even more. The campers were very busy working on art projects, constructing their buildings of peace, singing and sharing. A good dinner started each evening. Key leadership was provided by Trudy Mason McCreddie and Lonnie Luzod for community building, discussion topics and music. Littlefield members volunteered as group leaders, art project coordinators, food preparation, registration and clean up.



Each year, Peace Camp is an opportunity to make new friends, talk about living in a peace-filled world and community and to use summer energy for fun and projects. Again, Sweat-Free T-Shirts were handed out to decorate for camp. "Peace" stones were decorated and placed around the peace pole near the foyer entrance to the church; a discussion of where other peace



poles are located (schools, churches). You can check out the Littlefield peace pole to see the work of the children; the stones are still there.

Of course, building the peaceful neighborhood of packing boxes was a highlight. For this year, there was much more intentional discussion about what was needed to build a new community if all has been destroyed by some disaster of nature.

Small group conversations gave the children an opportunity to discuss how they feel when they are rejected or bullied in some way. The graffiti wall was the place for the children to write their feelings about issues in their lives. Questions discussed included:

- What is peace to you?
- What makes you feel peaceful?
- What makes you angry?
- What do you do when you are angry?
- What can you do, when faced with conflict, to make a peaceful choice?
- How do you feel when you are a peacemaker?



New this year was to have a couple of our former campers as adult leaders. We were excited to have a group of youth leaders help as assistants for all programming. We are certainly providing special opportunities for these young people.

We ended Peace Camp with a rally near the Peace Pole, singing for parents and then returned to Fellowship Hall to share the building projects and ice cream.



There is no doubt that the neighborhood will be looking for the next Littlefield Peace Camp in 2017. Everyone left with the words of songs and chants in their hearts and pictures of their building group to put on the wall.

