

Dear Campers and Families,

Greetings and peace to you as you prepare for camp at Horton Center! The Ukama Partnership is so pleased to be selected as this year's Horton Center Mission Focus. As you prepare for camp, we invite you to pray for the Ukama Partnership between the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. We also invite you to get ready to participate in the Ukama Partnership Mission focus at Horton Center.

This Ukama Partnership Mission will have three areas of focus for the 2015 camping season; an educational focus, a hands-on component, and a mission offering.

To start off the educational piece, the Ukama Partnership is a church to church partnership between local UCC congregations in New Hampshire and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ). This is a partnership that began in 1996 and to date celebrates that 45 churches have been partnered. Partner churches pray for one another, communicate with one another (sometimes with letters, but increasingly with technology), and engage in cultural exchange. We have done projects together such as digging bore holes to ensure clean water, encouraging child sponsorship, and sharing resources. "Ukama" means "we are family" in Shona, one of the languages of Zimbabwe. We rejoice that God has called us to be family together across oceans and continents. *Campers can expect to learn some about Zimbabwe and the UCCZ this summer as well as about the Holy Spirit and their faith.*

For the hands-on component of the Ukama Partnership Mission, campers are invited to bring items to make school kits for children in Zimbabwe. Horton Center will provide totes for the items to be packaged in. *Items to bring to camp for school kits include pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, small packets of crayons, writing pads, uninflated sport balls (soccer is a favorite game), gently used or new books that have been meaningful to your family, and Revised Standard Versions of the Bible (this version is used in Zimbabwean schools).*

Each week at camp, *an Ukama offering will be received.* These funds will be shared with the UCCZ to help provide scholarships to children for their school fees (though school is "public," school fees are still assessed). This will help the church in their efforts to encourage education and will help families whose children might not otherwise be able to attend school.

The Ukama Partnership and the members of the Ukama Mission Group are so happy and humbled to be selected as this year's Horton Center Mission. We will look forward to sharing about our "hama," our family in Zimbabwe, and hope that you will enjoy learning and sharing as well.

Sending greetings and blessings,

Rev. Michele Bagby Allan

on behalf of the Ukama Partnership of the New Hampshire Conference of The United Church of Christ