

**100 YEARS  
THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Worldwide Festival in Dortmund

Oct 7 – 11, 2022

**CG**

**2022**

# Young people in the Christian Community

Ideals shape reality. Young people from all over the world are taking action to realize their ideals. The ways may vary. But they are connected by the Christian impulse – and the Act of Consecration of Man. Here five young people from different congregations write from their perspectives and let their view of the Christian Community and its future shine through.

## Meetings 2020

### **Large Planing Team** Saturdays 11 - 18 Uhr

Applications: [info@cg-2022.org](mailto:info@cg-2022.org)  
Feb 08 R.-Steiner-School Dortmund  
Apr 25 Congregation Essen  
Jun 20 Congregation Dortmund  
Oct 03 Congregation Witten  
Nov 21 R.-Steiner-School Dortmund

### **Youth Planingteam** Saturdays and Sundays

Applications: [youth@cg-2022.org](mailto:youth@cg-2022.org)  
Mar 28 - 29 Congregation Köln-Ost  
Jun 13 - 14 Congregation Köln-Ost

### **Württemberg Meeting** Saturday 11 - 18 Uhr

Applications: [m.gerhardts@gmx.de](mailto:m.gerhardts@gmx.de)  
Feb 22 Please ask for location

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## Phantasie – creating future International Youth Festival of the Christian Community 2019

Is it always there? Does its parachute only open, when we are falling? Is it a friend of boredom or time pressure? The prerequisite for everything new? Demanding? Responsible for breaking conventions? A grateful place of refuge or a hiding place from reality? Is trust a condition for it? Is long before it ends the beginning of the lie?

Lots of questions, discussions and thoughts got off the ground when young people from across the world were invited to concern themselves for four days with the theme of imagination and its significance for our future within the framework of this year's youth conference.



The conference began with the Act of Consecration and ended with the Close of Day at the altar. In between, there were talks that illuminated the theme of imagination from various perspectives. Then in the discussion groups there was time to share newly formed thoughts, to move them on, discard them or develop them. Afterwards the most diverse workshops invited people to stop their thinking, leave the floor to the imagination and let off steam in a creative way. One element that connected the various parts of the programme and days of the gathering was singing. In no timed familiar songs were brushed up, new melodies introduced, tired faces brightened up and the conference enveloped in an atmosphere of sounds.

In this intensive time together we sent out lots of energy, joy, singing and positive thoughts into the world and left a bright footprint behind in the world of imagination.

**JOHANNA SCHÄFER, 17, Cologne, Germany**

What I enjoy most at the conference are the people. Everyone I met there was friendly, open-minded and non-judgmental. It was also such a relief to know that I could wear whatever I liked, or sing if I wanted to, because no one would criticize me for that, in fact, someone might even join me. I remember that for the first few days it was such an unusual and exciting thing for me to observe that people who hadn't known each other could come up and say kind words, join someone who was sitting alone at the lunch table or get right into a serious discussion with roommates in the middle of the night.

What I also enjoyed was the fact that it was an international conference. Isn't it great that thanks to this non-political environment participants from around the globe could talk to each other, to people from a country that is at war or in an internal conflict? I think this is such a good way to remind ourselves that we are all human beings and that we all have quite similar problems.

In summary, the conference is the place where you can make lifelong friends and meet like-minded people, a place where you can discuss serious topics with your roommates in the middle of the night, a place where you don't have to worry that someone might start a political argument, and, finally, a place where no one will let you sit alone while you're having your lunch.

**IRENA INDERIKE, 18, Kiev, Ukraine**

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## Creative workshop

This summer the cultural camp took place again at the Dortmund Rudolf Steiner School. This project was organised by many helpers from various regions in Germany. Our aim was to arrange for an enjoyable, rich experience for over 50 refugee children through creative workshops, games and afternoon fun. The youngsters, who were between the ages of 4 and 17, thus had the opportunity to have a break from their everyday lives and for several hours experience an age-appropriate environment which had been prepared for them.

We started off by gathering in front of the school. Singing we formed our morning circle, with clapping, singing and storytelling. Next, there were workshops for which we divided the children into groups by age. "Dream catchers" and paracord bracelets were made and there was modelling too. For lunch all the groups met again and in German, Kurdish and Arabic we wished one another "blessings on the meal". One afternoon we put up a market of opportunities in the schoolyard; we put makeup on one another's faces to create butterflies, superheroes and adorned one another with lots of glitters. There was can throwing and a water fight and T-shirts were given to each child with the signatures of all the helpers as a souvenir. On another afternoon we walked to the Romberg Park which served us as a model for land art. With coloured ribbons, chalk and natural materials the path to the park was decorated and trees, bushes and fences turned into bright, colourful artworks.

It has always fascinated me how open children spoke about their experiences in their home countries or of their time as fugitives. They also talked about their past and expressed their condolences in a truly sympathetically manner for family members lost.

The most important thing in the realisation of our ideas, apart from the actual activities themselves, was the mood that arose among all the participants. Through several preparatory meetings and setting up together at the school a true community of helpers came about which embraced the children. Although we only spent five days with the children, a special kind of holiday camp could come about, which was a wonderful experience for the children and for the helpers.

Esther Vondra, 20, Dortmund/Germany



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## Pokutje Summer Camp in West Ukraine

For many years, people from Ukraine and other countries have been gathering at a special place in the summer. The family summer camp is situated directly on the banks of the River Dniester. Several buildings, paths and pavilions form a small "town" remote from all civilization. On the other hand, the stunning nature of the Dniester Canyons gives the place a unique atmosphere. In a place that bears the name, the Pearl on the Dniester, children's state-organised camps usually take place. For only ten days every year, the camp is filled with workshops that are inspired by Waldorf ideas, with communal singing, spiritual work and recuperation for the participants of the Pokutje Camp.

The events and the inner life of the camp are unpredictable. From year to year, the course of events is so flexible that even the "old hands" are not shielded from surprises. People of all ages and from the most varied occupations attend the family camp. For each person, there is a suitable, stimulating activity. The young people take on the small children, trying out the role of carers to give the parents the opportunity of taking part at certain times of day in workshops of their interest, for instance, Gospel study, eurythmy or lectures on art history. The adolescents meet with joyful expectation of preparing and performing a play of their own.

After getting to know one another, partly through the process of confirmation and youth conferences, they can deepen their friendships here. For the young, who have grown up in the woods of the Pokutje Camp, a close community comes about that allows them to share some of their most heartfelt impulses. Growing up with the spirit of the camp through the years they begin to initiate activities themselves, leading groups, helping with rehearsals and organizing outings. Or else – as this year – even making a film. The possibility of testing one's abilities and bringing them forth is extremely important at this age when still searching for one's life's task. In the camp, they find support and engagement through a community that has grown over many years.

Thus, there is a meeting of different destinies, of people, each with their own character and temperament. Each person brings their own destiny into the community, their particular vulnerability and their particular initiative. It is out of this wealth of initiatives that a communal soul space is created. Whether it be the wish to walk for hours in the woods, or to gaze at the stars at night, or to engage in endless conversations – all these give rise to new friendships. Or else, someone will experience time flying because they attend courses and groups from morning till night and therefore have hardly any time to sit quietly. There is something for everyone, and everyone is heartily welcome.

NATASHA MAZUR, 22, Kiev, Ukraine

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## Children's Camp in North America

The sun is rising in fiery colors over the tall pine trees, and the early morning birds are welcoming the new day in all its splendor. The counselors are gathering, slightly sleepy-eyed, at the dining hall to practice a morning song. Moving from campsite to campsite, the counselors sing the children awake in beautiful harmony, greeting each group with a lively "good morning!" This is the Christian Community Children's Camp located in beautiful rural Maine. Running for two and a half weeks, the camp has been going for over 40 years and was founded by Rev. Gisela Wielki.

The camp is now under the direction of Rev. Carol Kelly, and is staffed by a lively group of youth counselors. Every year the counselors bring to life a reality that is rare in today's modern world. The reality of camp is one that doesn't involve technology; a reality where humanity involves human beings. The counselors create a reality where music is a language, and time simply isn't a concern. Our youth staff are as eager as the campers to return year after year because camp is a place to create true and human connections that last a lifetime.

The heart of the camp is the communal dedication that flows from the staff to the children. The counselors awake every morning brimming with excitement for the day's activities. After morning singing comes a morning assembly

where the campers and counselors raise their voices in harmony, celebrating the joy of song. The rest of the day is filled with adventurous activities like hiking, boating, swimming or exploring! The day concludes with dinner and an evening story. The whole day is a weaving of imagination, adventure, beauty, and exploration.

"How do we foster a reality where we can thrive as human beings of the twenty-first century?" Questions like these form the foundation of the Christian Community Children's Camp. In the words of Rev. Kelly, "I think the thing that makes our camp so special is love - it's the love that the counselors have for the camp and for each other, the love that the children have for each other... it's such an enjoyable, lovely event and it breeds harmonious community life and learning to get along with each other."

DOLAN POLGLAZE, 17, Belgrade, ME, USA



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An electronic newsletter on youth work in the Christian community with reports, information on youth conferences and much more can be found at  
www.cg-jugend.de

## **Imprint**

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Please send your comments and short contributions to

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