



As early as the 12th century, walking a labyrinth served as a substitute for an arduous pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It was viewed as taking one to a holy place.

A trip to DuBois Center is its own pilgrimage to a truly sacred space that provides our congregations and our community with opportunities to:

- grow closer to God and each other,
- experience and appreciate God's vast creation,
- develop leadership skills,
- discover our own special gifts,
- find our center, our rock, our foundation.



December 2018

May God's Gift Remain at the Center of Your Lives this Season.

Dear Friends and Supporters of DuBois Center,

Nestled among DuBois Center's tall oak trees lies what a casual passerby could view as an insignificant rock garden. From a distance, it may look like random, casually strewn stones. For those who venture a few paces off the road and explore the labyrinth they discover there, a deeply fulfilling and enriching experience awaits — a pilgrimage to a holy place.

The labyrinth is an ancient tool for prayer and meditation. It consists of a winding path that begins and ends at the same point, with only one route to the center. There are no blind alleys or dead ends. You can't get lost. It's not magical, but it can provide an inner space for listening to God. Walking the path serves to still our thoughts, allowing room for God amid the jam-packed confines of our minds. There is a certainty of reaching the rock at the center – the journey is clearly marked.

Our labyrinth is a microcosm of DuBois Center and of our lives. When we think of the DuBois experience, memories jump quickly to the games and songs, life-long friendships, vespers, horses and campfires that can make up a typical day. But waiting to be found, at the center of it all, is Christ. At DuBois Center we can let go of the "stuff" that weighs us down – our insecurities, fears and prejudices. We can move through life's twists and turns, relinquishing our need to feel "in control", acknowledging our dependence on God, trusting in God's immense love and grace. Then, as we make our way back out into the world, away from DuBois Center, we are inspired to remain centered on that foundation.

Like our labyrinth, DuBois Center is lovingly maintained by dedicated volunteers and staff, as well as generous donors. It is cared for by those who recognize the importance of centering their lives on Christ.

As this year draws to a close, please consider making a financial gift to support DuBois Center and our journey together.

We will be praying that you and your families find yourselves spending time in the center with Christ as you walk through your labyrinth of life.

Merry Christmas!

Peace on Your Journey,

Shirley Asmussen
Director, Outdoor Ministries

Growing Together...
In Faith, Respect for Ourselves & Others,
and in Our Care for Creation

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Faith Works

2018 has been an exceptional year for volunteer engagement at DuBois Center – from the Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) to summer camp leaders, from the equestrian team to facility volunteers, from committee members to fund raisers.

Volunteer efforts and donations made a number of significant physical improvements and additions possible: new boat/water mat dock, new swim dock, safety upgrades to the beach house, new exterior wall on the office, “new” golf cart and electrical upgrades in the rustic cabins.

Green DuBois

Newest on the scene is the Green DuBois Team. This exciting endeavor has three areas of focus:

Actively managing our forest and removing invasive species,

Increasing our sustainability and environmentally sensitive practices, and

Bringing more people and groups to DuBois Center to explore our unique and sometimes rare ecological biodiversity.



Growing Together... In Faith, Respect for Ourselves & Others, and in Our Care for Creation

Proceeds from this Holiday Appeal help send children and youth to camp, enhance our camp and retreat experiences, and maintain DuBois Center as holy ground and a place of welcome.

Thank you for your partnership and for keeping our shared mission in your thoughts and prayers.

Why DuBois Center?

As the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ, we seek to provide programs, leadership and a sacred space where church members and the wider community can:

- Deepen their Faith**
- Discover Christian Community**
- Learn to Appreciate & Care for Creation**
- Grow in Respect**

