

#CampLife

Serving God, the Church and Our Community

Pine Brook Camp and Conference Center

October 2024

Dear Friends,

What an amazing summer we had! As many of you are aware, this past winter/spring we had some serious financial challenges. Despite the trials, God remained faithful and provided us with many blessings!

The blessings began as multiple individuals, businesses and churches gave sacrificially in order to help camp. Beyond the financial gifts came words of encouragement, through letters, notes and conversations, expressing what Pine Brook Camp has meant in your lives, your children's lives and even your grandchildren's lives. Various churches shared how Pine Brook has impacted their congregations and helped build the family of Christ. These gifts of money and words of encouragement were a beacon of hope in an uncertain time. It showed the staff and the Board God's provision, blessings and presence in the midst of the storm. Many times this year, when we were feeling discouraged a card would show up with a check and an encouraging note enclosed. It was always a reminder that God is in the business of doing the impossible. We were fortunate to be able to go into our summer season with the winter bills completely paid! This took a huge weight off our shoulders and enabled us to move forward and focus on our summer ministry. The past season was hard, but God was in the midst of it all and there were many *praises* to be had!

Praise #1 - Much needed new mattresses! Last year we ran a campaign to raise funds to help replace several old mattresses in our Mapleview building and A-Frames. By June enough money had been designated specifically to this fund and allowed us to get our replacement mattresses, as well as, new water-proof covers to replace or cover every bunk in the cabins. This was a wonderful improvement for the aesthetic of each cabin.

Praise #2 - The Ascend Team was fantastic! In the summer of 2022 we began a new program called Ascend, that allows teens as young as 14 to participate and gives some flexibility on participation dates. This program has shown steady growth. Ascend provides training, team work and true summer missions.

The 2024 team was comprised of several returning participants and new additions. The team was hard working, but more importantly than that, they served their campers well. Serving in this capacity isn't always easy, but they did a fantastic job. They fulfilled the roles of counselor, lifeguard, program leader and Bible class facilitator with determination and grace. This fulfilled our hope, that students would be trained and integrated into the leadership structure of the entire program and trust that our participants will go on to serving in their local church in the same way.



Praise #3 - Camper enrollment was up across the board! Each summer since COVID has shown growth, but this summer was the best. Each Day Camp week showed numbers in the 50's and 60's. We had several campers from our surrounding community of Shutesbury and Wendell. This proved to be a great opportunity for us to have a positive spiritual impact in our community.

Junior Camp was amazing, with over 100 campers in attendance. If this is any indication, next summer will most likely be larger and we will need some additional counselors (hint, hint). Our general sessions were led by

Jennifer Ames, (aka...Jesus Lovin Jen) who has an amazing way of connecting with junior aged children. She shared incredible Bible stories that presented the gospel and laid out the importance of having Jesus in your life. By week's end, several campers received Christ as their personal savior.

Teen camp was also a great experience with over 70 campers! Our theme this summer was WORSHIP. The purpose was to show worship as part of our daily life, not just an event, song or action. Worship is how we live each moment in Christ. Ryan Bradley from Red Oak Church in West Springfield was our speaker. He communicated Gods word with bold clarity. Each evening was a special time. Our evenings were spent worshipping through music, studying the Scriptures and prayer. Each session concluded with young people praying for each other, staff praying with campers and numerous teens staying back to continue to worship through song. It was hard to find a dry eye in the room as we witnessed God, doing God sized things in the lives of our teens. God is certainly preparing the next generation to carry on the mission of the Church.

We are sure the blessings will continue! If you missed joining us this summer, we hope you will join us for our annual **Christmas dinner!**

December 7th is our annual Christmas Dinner and "Brown-Bag" auction. Come and join us for a great meal and more laughter than your stomach can handle. All of the funds raised from this event are used to help camp as it enters a slower winter season. The dinner is free! We ask each person that comes, to bring a gift in a brown paper bag (or any kind of bag. as long as no one can see what is in it) for the auction! The gift can be any value, bought or homemade, funny or serious. Children's gifts are welcome too as this is a "child friendly event." If you have not joined this in the past you don't want to miss the opportunity to join the party.



YEAR-END GIVING

As we look toward our winter season, I would like to ask you to please consider a donation to Pine Brook Camp. Winter is our longest season and traditionally has been a difficult time on the budget. We would truly appreciate any support you can provide. Some of the ways you can support Pine Brook are:

- **One-time donation**
- **Recurring donations** - You can set up a monthly or quarterly donation for Pine Brook. This can be done through our website using your local bank, credit card or sending a written check directly to camp.
- **Fundraisers** - Join us in our regular, ongoing fundraisers such as the Football tournament, Golf tournament, Christmas dinner, Basketball tournament and Dessert auction.
- **Gift Stock Options** - Perhaps you have some stock that you'd like to pass onto Pine Brook. We are now set up to accept these kind of gifts! This is a good way to realize the full value of a non-profit donation. Transferring stock allows you to pass the full value of your donation without any tax penalty and camp can realize the full donation without any tax liabilities. (Please call camp if this is something you'd like to learn about)

Again, thank you all for your support and prayers! We are blessed and grateful! Hope to see you around camp in near future!