

Commonground Baptist Camp



A ministry of
Southeast Bible Baptist Church, Penfield, NY
www.myground.org



7/21/26

Pastors, Youth Leaders, and Supporting Churches,

We have some exciting news!

Many of you will have already heard about it—even though we only found out less than a week ago—but we are unable to renew our contract with the Nazarenes for next year. Our relationship with the Nazarenes, which had been outstanding since we started renting this campground in 2006, has suffered the last few years with the advent of a new camp director. Metaphorically, there arose another Pharaoh that knew not Joseph. We have shared this as a prayer request in counselor meetings on camp the last couple of years. We have prayed for clarity and God has given us clarity. So, as surprising as this news may be, many of us on camp staff are relieved.

This is actually not the first time something like this has happened to us. In the old days, we used to rent Covenant Acres in Pike, NY. After camp way back in 2004, they just delayed and delayed giving us our contract. They finally sent the contract to us in December of that year and it was completely unworkable with unusable weeks. There we were with the flyer designed and we no longer had a campground.

What happened next is that God miraculously gave us a campground within a month of finding that out. I put the new location on the flyer, printed it, and sent it out. That was the year we rented Camp Troutberg on Lake Ontario. It was a Salvation Army camp and they made the decision to not run camps any longer at about the same time as I found out I needed a camp. It was available only for the year that we needed it and it was sold after that. The following year, we came here to Butler.

Something similar may be happening again. Within 2 hours of finding out that we needed a camp, we got a call back from a lead in central PA and we may have found our Troutberg, a temporary camp for next year. It is just coming available and will only be available in 2027. It is far from settled and we have not visited the location yet—we just found out about our need for a camp less than a week ago!—but it looks promising.

This is huge. Most campgrounds that can accommodate a camp of our size are already filled.

This is all still very new, but our current desire is to eventually build our own camp. I have been very content to rent. I have never been the one that had to have his own campground, but I feel like God is giving us a shove in that direction. Many pastors that come to camp have expressed to me how they would like to see a campground in the Northeast that could be used by Baptists for Pastor's Retreats, Couples' Conferences, and other things that are not just Children's Camps. This could be that.

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Obviously, there is no way that we would be able to achieve all that in one year, hence the need for a stopgap campground for 2027. Our current desire is to stay in PA. It is centrally located among all the churches that come and its regulatory climate is better than NY. Here is what I would like you to pray for:

1. **A Stopgap Camp**—This can be anything from a small camp of 100 to our current size. If we do have to settle for a smaller camp, there are things we can do to make do for one year as long as it has a good dining hall. While we like western PA, we are willing to stray from that for a year. Honestly, the camp we have a lead on might be near perfect for what we need, so pray about that.
2. **A Permanent Camp**—This can be anything from raw land to something with a house on it, to a small camp that we can grow. For the permanent camp, the location is more important than the temporary one. Being near an interstate is a plus because it shortens the travel time for people coming no matter where they are coming from. Being closer to the NY border is also a plus because it is closer to my church.
3. **Finances**—While we have been diligent with our finances and have some saved, we will need much more to do this right.

As soon as we get things nailed down, we will let you know more about the exact plans for next year and what you can do to help. We'll keep you posted!

I can't thank you enough for allowing my family to serve you. Pray for camp!

Pastor Jim Krohn

Isaiah 6:8

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