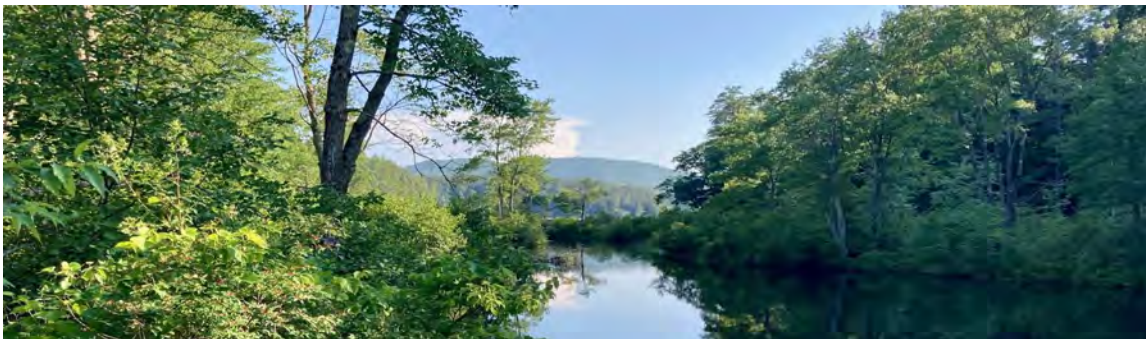


FACE to FACE

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face..." ~Genesis 32:20

A Publication for Friends of PENIEL ~ Summer 2020



A Letter from the Director:

Dear Friends of Peniel,

It is my sincere hope that this communication reaches you and your family in a place of health and safety. These unprecedented times have been trying for each of us and for our country. Although we have seen drastic changes and an uncomfortable "new normal" form in our world and communities, as Christians it is so comforting to know that we serve an unchanging God (Hebrews 13:8) who will never leave us or forsake us (Deut 31:6)! Our reliance can be upon him, not a system or governance. We have a great hope that allows us to wait patiently for the Lord to reveal his good plan in these difficult days. The ministry of Peniel has touched thousands of lives that now span many generations. God's faithfulness to this place and his people can be seen in each of you and your stories. I am reminded again that God's truth is unwavering, his promises are unstoppable, and his plans are sure to be completed: *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations". Psalm 33:11*

That being said, we had many plans in motion for this summer season with Camp Encounter, Teen M@tters, and other retreat groups coming to use our beautiful campus for ministry. Due to COVID-19 and NYS restrictions, we were forced to cancel our programming. This has presented significant ramifications financially, as the summer season is our time to generate income through rentals and programs. Even more than that, the isolation from our local youth and volunteers has been difficult, creating a lag in the momentum we were building with our Teen M@tters program this winter. We had seen great interest from local youth, drawing 45 or more teens to some events. We enjoyed time together doing community service, making personal connections, and growing spiritually. The sudden "pause" has changed our course, but not God's plan! (Continued on page 6)





TEEN M@tteRs



Despite the pause and waiting, it has also been a season of newness at Peniel. We launched a new teen program called TEEN M@Tters. M@Tters is an acronym for Meet @ The Restaurant, as well as a symbol of our mission to reach teens to let them know that they matter; that their trials and triumphs matter, that their presence in this world matters, to God, to one another, and to us. We have founded this program with the dual purposes of creating authentic fellowship with God and others and to serve in our local communities, thus showing how we matter. We gathered 35-45 teens for each of our winter events. We had a New Year's Program launch, a sledding day, and a movie night. We gathered 377 cans of soup for our first service challenge. Unfortunately, we were halted by the

pandemic and had to postpone our service projects at the Open Door Mission, the Open Arms Pregnancy Center, and at Peniel. We also halted our spring and early summer meetings. However, we are now in prayer and consult with the state to determine if we can go ahead with day programs with extensive safety precautions in place. So we are very excited by the possibility of regrouping for weekly summer events, meetings, and service opportunities. This population is living in unprecedented times where truth and morality are denied. That makes our teen programs so essential; we have a call to reach our teens with the grounding Word of God and to teach them practical ways to apply this truth to the lives they walk out. As we swim and cook out and play on our fields, we will be showing God. As we sing and open God's Word and sit quietly to talk and listen we will be showing God. We are absolutely driven in our mission to meet our teens where they are and lead them to a place of foundational truth and peace.

Kids M@tteR 2

We have certainly not overlooked our younger Peniel friends. Although our spring fun night was canceled due to the global pandemic, we have them on the tentative calendar for summer fun days as well!



Peniel Management Team ~ 2020

*THE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETS BIMONTHLY TO PLAN PROGRAMMING, FUNDRAISING, AND MARKETING.

- **Kristen Coltart & Philip Coltart**
- **Erin Frasier & Dave Frasier**
- **Beth Sweeney**
- **Ayla Sutton & John Sutton**
- **Michelle Hodges**
- **Dianne Spelter (PC Member)**

Peniel Fundraising Events and Opportunities

Without our traditional spring fundraisers, our summer rentals, and our programs, fundraising has taken on a heightened significance. We are raising funds to reach out again to our youth, but also to maintain our staff, buildings, and grounds. Raising funds to open our pool was our first fundraising goal of the season. One of our incredibly generous board members has covered the bulk of this cost. Amazing! Now we hope to bring more youth onto our campus for summer fun and we can steward the pool well by not leaving it dormant for a season.

Summer Meals To Go: We face our additional needs with a dual approach: For operational costs we are raising funds to supplement the donations of our generous monthly donors by preparing weekly **Summer Meals To Go**. These Friday meals have been a big hit and can be purchased by donation. We have been averaging 18 meals sold/week. We don't approach this without thanksgiving in our hearts for those who gave for the procurement of a wonderful commercial oven and dishwasher. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or group for our weekly menu.



A Matching Grant! Maintenance is our second fundraising focus: We are looking to purchase a small tractor to maintain our roads, as each spring and summer storm results in a washout. And our plow truck, so kindly donated last year, allowed us a season of snow removal, but with its age it now requires more work than we can economically provide, so our second fundraising focus will be to raise money to purchase a multi-purpose ATV for mobility, snow removal for large parking lots, and maintenance duties on campus. **A long time Peniel friend has set up a matching grant to help us reach \$2000 of our overall maintenance fundraising goal of \$3500. The first \$1000 will be matched! You can donate via check, PayPal through our website (www.penieltbibleconference.org), or visit our facebook page @ Peniel Bible Conference and use the Donate button on our Face To Face publication there.**

Ongoing Fundraising Opportunities

You can support Peniel by shopping at **AMAZON!** Shop through this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364579> and Peniel will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases.

You can also register for the SCRIPT program. When you do your regular shopping at your regular stores Peniel earns a percentage! Visit www.shopwithscrip.com. Then at the top right of the page click, Join a Program. Then type in our enrollment code: **8CE5F68263373**

You can donate your gifts, talents, time, or contribute to Peniel with a one time monetary gift or monthly donations.

Yes, I would like to pledge partnership with Peniel

Enclosed is my one time donation of \$_____

I would like to pledge a monthly contribution of \$_____

Please mail this form to: Peniel Bible Conference, P.O. Box 369, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

Peniel Graduates and Counselors: A Glimpse

~Names, plans, and testimonials to add to your prayers and praises

Four of our long time Peniel campers graduated from high school this year:

- **Emily Bailey** graduated from The King's School in Lake Luzerne and will attend SUNY Potsdam this fall to study music and theater.
- **Calvin Girling** graduated from The King's School in Lake Luzerne and will attend SUNY Adirondack.
- **Lilah Lugo** graduated from The King's School in Lake Luzerne and will attend Gordon College this fall to study history.
- **Lila Verra** graduated from The King's School in Lake Luzerne and will attend SUNY ADK in the fall and Maria College in 2021 to study occupational therapy.



What Are our Counselors Doing Now?

- **Isabelle Bailey:** Sophomore in the SIM program at SUNY Potsdam
- **Mackenzie Coltart:** Sophomore at Gordon College studying occupational therapy
- **Mackenzie Dolan:** Junior at SUNY Plattsburgh studying mathematics and secondary education
- **Zachary Ellis:** Graduate of SUNY Adirondack working in the field of cyber security
- **Katherine Frasier:** Sophomore at Russell Sage College studying art and extended media
- **Joshua Kipp:** Senior at Paul Smith's College studying natural resources and conservation management
- **Rachael Kipp:** junior at SUNY Plattsburgh studying art history
- **John McKnight:** Senior at SUNY Polytechnic studying mechanical engineering
- **Dustin Ruggiero:** Sophomore at SUNY Adirondack studying biomedical engineering
- **Lauren Woodhouse:** 4th year Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

A testimonial from a camper turned counselor:

Peniel has always held a special place in my heart. I've been able to experience Peniel through many stages of my life: first as an 8 year-old staff kid running around and annoying all the camp staff, next as a young camper having my first real experience of encountering God, then finally as a camp counselor given the amazing privilege of encouraging other children in their faith. Peniel has been an incredible influence in growing my faith in God, and I've always looked forward to either participating in or helping to lead youth programs at the camp. As I begin the next chapter of my life studying theatre and music at SUNY Potsdam, I hope to use my unique experiences gleaned from my time at Peniel to lead others to the joy of a relationship with Christ.

~Emily Bailey



Maintenance Updates

Well, the pandemic pause has given us some time to get some needed projects completed

- Motel plumbing quotes obtained and plans initiated
- Given the Cottage a kitchen and exterior facelift and replaced broken pipes
- Replaced pool filtration
- Maintained our beautiful grounds
- Repainted the entire apartment interior
- Opened the motel units and Pines
- Scheduled a work day for July 15, 2020

Maintenance Needs for 2020

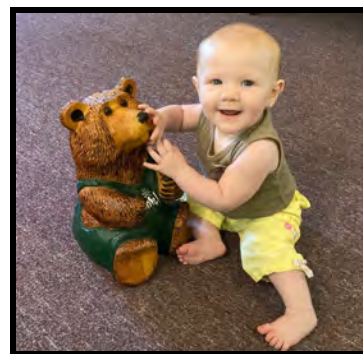
- Gut and redo the Nurse's Station
- Purchase and install gutters on Lodge
- Purchase and install drainage systems to prevent road washout
- Replace the Sport Shack roof
- Repair the Ping Pong Pavilion roof
- Replace Lakeview roof



Peniel Prayer Council ~ 2020

*THE PRAYER COUNCIL MEETS SIX TIMES A YEAR TO DIRECT SPIRITUAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

- Dave Bouffard (President)
- Dianne Spelter (Vice President)
- Kristen Coltart (Director)
- Jalane Lord (Treasurer)
- Sarah Maynard (Secretary)
- Pastor Phil Allen (Member)



She may not be running the place yet, but meet Aspen Goodwin, a 3rd generation Penielite.



Remember us as you plan for fall events, retreats, and vacations. We can accommodate a family or a large group. Rentals range from rustic cabins to Adirondack style motel rooms. We have spacious facilities for weddings, graduations, and parties. For more info contact:

Phone: 518-696-4038

Web: www.penieltbibleconference.org

Email: office@penieltbibleconference.org

Director's Letter Continued:

Today, as I worked at reopening the pool, God showed me a picture of the "Great Pause" and the spiritual surface tension it has created for Peniel, Camp Encounter, and for me. Personally, and as a camp, we have had to stop, rethink and reorganize our lives and how we operate each day. Life seems to be more intentional and much slower. Now that restrictions are lessening, thus allowing us back on campus, we are making plans to open limitedly using the appropriate CDC recommended social distancing practices and sanitization. Our ability to do overnight camps has been restricted, but our tentative plan is to continue ministering to our youth and our community through Teen M@tters day events. If guidelines allow, things will look a bit different than usual, but our efforts to minister God's life changing truth and unconditional love will remain the same! Now more than ever our youth need to hear a message of hope for the future. They need to be reminded that they were designed for such a time as this, and they must learn to cast all of their cares upon him who can keep them in perfect peace! Please pray for this ministry, our message and its givers, and finally for wisdom to lead safely.



God seems closer somehow in these quiet spaces and his voice more evident. He seems to be calling us to be at peace and to be still (Psalm 46:10). I am reminded once again, that just "doing" is chasing after wind, unless, we are doing his will and working in his strength alone. Just as the pool became clearer with the intentional addition of chemicals and PH balancers, so God's plan for our lives becomes clearer with time spent at his feet and in his Word. As I sat watching tiny bubbles percolate and almost dance up to the pool's surface, I could hear God softly whisper, "Wait with great anticipation for my plan is rising up, and you will be amazed at what I can do with willing hearts....just wait!" It isn't about striving and doing more to make up for lost time. God never loses time! It's about listening and then moving in God's perfect timing. We are indeed his willing servants here, and we are forever humbled by his hand of grace and provision. In these days, we wait expectantly for God's next big move, and we will surely rise up and follow him! Thank you for your faithful prayers and support that make our continued ministry possible! Our prayer for each of you is that God would keep you and bless you to a thousand generations!

~Kristen S. Coltart (director@penielbibleconference.org)

Looking Ahead



Though this season has not been what we expected, it has its purposes: It has set aside time to reflect on our mission, to look ahead to better days, and to take time to maintain what we have. It has also given us further insight into the nature and goodness of our Lord and Savior. That we still walk these grounds in communion with him, that we still have a fire in our hearts to reach youth with his Good News, that we understand that our campus is to be a place for churches to expand and deepen their ministries; that is what God has shown us: Peniel is a place of service and connection and we treasure in our hearts the plans God has those who are

yet to come to our beautiful campus and that we can be a part of his perfect plan. So we pause this summer and look ahead to autumn retreats and the return of our teens. It is in the fire that we are refined, and we see these difficult days as opportunities to reach our youth with the one true hope: Jesus Christ.

