



Ganson Street Baptist Church <church@gansonstreet.org>

Untitled

3 messages

Camp Barakel <timandalyssatocamp@235736706.mailchimpapp.com>

Fri, Jan 2, 2026 at 12:58 PM

Reply-To: timandalyssatocamp@gmail.com

To: church@gansonstreet.org



Dear family and friends,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas season. We were blessed to visit with our family and friends over the holidays this year.

These past few months have been quite busy for us. At the end of October, all resident staff went on a short staff retreat to Maranatha in Norton Shores, MI. We absolutely loved this time! We were very encouraged by our speaker over those few days, and we also loved spending time with other staff over board games and fellowship.

Once we arrived back at camp, we jumped right into planning for next summer. Tim has been working on the programs for summer camps. This is a multi-faceted process, ranging from planning ambush and lunch games to aligning schedules. There have been some differences in the past between the counselor schedules and the master schedules, which meant that multiple things might be scheduled for the same time and location. Tim was able to take some time to look at every schedule to make sure they fit together, so hopefully that won't happen in the future.

We have both started working in a new role for the summer as well! We are the 2026 YAPS coordinators, which means that we oversee the summer staff who help run activity areas. At this point, we are talking with several "yapplicants," answering questions, and helping them work through the application process. There are about 40 summer staff applications right now, with 18 of them likely applying as YAPS. If you know (or you are) a college-aged person who loves God and kids, encourage them to apply for summer staff this year! It was a great experience for both of us.

I (Alyssa) have also started working in the office a little every week in accounting. It's been good to put some of my office and business skills to use in this area.

In mid-December, the board announced that Matt Dymond will be joining us as the interim director. He and his wife, Christi, have both been very involved at Camp Barakel in various ways throughout their lives. We are thankful that God has led them in this way, and we are looking forward to having them up here with us!

It has been so beautiful at camp over the past few months. We had a good snowfall in early December that left us with about 8" of snow. Over the next few weeks, that increased to about 10" (our header picture), but then it melted before Christmas. It is so peaceful up here during the winter months.

Here are some ways you can pray for us:

- That we would continue to learn our new role as YAPS coordinators, especially as we begin to interview and organize for the summer.
- Winter is very peaceful, but can also be very lonely, especially without campers present. Pray for opportunities to spend time with other RMS during this time.
- Continued planning for spring retreats and summer camps.
- Pray for a smooth transition for the Dymond Family as they come to camp soon.

Thank you all for your prayers and continued support for our ministry. Happy New Year!

Alyssa, for the Elliotts



This was our view from the beach at the staff retreat. Beautiful!

This was the good snowfall we got in early December.



[View email in browser](#)

Camp Barakel · PO Box 159 · Fairview, MI 48621-0159 · USA

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

