

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

www.campbluediamond.org ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

August 2025 ♦ (814) 667-2355



Executive Director: Brian Bert
Program Director: Gabe Imler
Food Service Director: Shawnee Rupert

Facility Director: Paul Witkovsky
Office Administrator: Amanda Helfrich
Head Cook: Sarah Rupert

Reflecting on Summer 2025

At the end of each summer, it is important to take time to reflect on the summer that passed. Each year we are reminded of the importance of having a Christian summer camp for the children and youth of the Middle PA District and beyond.



In today's fast-paced world, children and teens are often surrounded by constant noise—social media alerts, busy schedules, and cultural pressures. Camp Blue Diamond offers something different: a sacred pause. It's a place where young people can step away from distractions, connect deeply with others, and encounter God in ways that can change the course of their lives.

At Blue Diamond, faith isn't just an hour on Sunday—it's woven into every part of the day. From morning watch to evening campfires, campers are encouraged to see God's presence in nature, in their friendships, and in themselves. Surrounded by Christian role models, children and youth see what it means to live out faith with joy, compassion, and authenticity.

Camp creates space for questions, discovery, and personal decisions about faith. Whether it's through Bible study, worship, or quiet reflection by the lake, campers are invited to explore God's Word in ways that are engaging and age-appropriate. Many young people make first-time commitments to Christ or take steps to deepen their walk with Him while at camp.

One of the most powerful influences on a young person's life is a caring adult who believes in them. At Camp Blue Diamond, staff and counselors intentionally invest in building relationships with campers—listening to their stories, encouraging them, and modeling what it means to live a Christ-like life. These connections often continue long after camp ends.

Whether it's learning to paddle a canoe, speaking in front of a group, or tackling the tower and zipline, camp challenges kids to step outside their comfort zones. In a supportive environment, they discover that they are capable of more than they imagined. With every success—and even with failures—they build resilience, confidence, and a stronger sense of identity rooted in God's love.

Camp friendships are often some of the deepest and most lasting. Without phones or social media distractions, kids talk, laugh, and share life face-to-face. They bond over shared experiences—hiking trails, campfire songs, and late-night cabin conversations—that create memories they will carry for years.

The end of camp is never the end of the story. Campers return home with a renewed sense of faith, a stronger understanding of who they are in Christ, and a clearer picture of how they can live for Him every day. The lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the moments of spiritual awakening often influence their choices, relationships, and character for years to come.

In a world that can pull young people in so many directions, Camp Blue Diamond stands as a place of hope, growth, and transformation. It's more than just a week away—it's an investment in a camper's faith journey that can last a lifetime.



Heritage Fair: Sept. 20th

Heritage Fair is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome you and your church family to Camp Blue Diamond for a day of fellowship, fun, and fundraising in support of both Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. This annual event is a true joy—a time to reconnect with friends and family, savor delicious food, enjoy great activities, and take in the beauty of camp.

Children will have their own special area filled with fun, including scarecrow making, a bounce house, a sawdust pile, and plenty of games and activities. Adults and youth can browse food and craft booths, explore displays, listen to live music, take a turn at the Dunker Dunk Tank, and bid on unique items at the auction. We hope your church is already spreading the word about Heritage Fair and making plans to host a booth or contribute to the auction.

Overnight lodging is available in the Lodge, summer camp cabins, and the campground. To reserve a room, cabin, or campsite—or to get your questions answered—email us at info@campbluediamond.org or call (814) 667-2355. We look forward to seeing you at Heritage Fair!

We Need Your Help

Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District are seeking volunteers to help make this year's Heritage Fair a success! There are plenty of ways to get involved—from assisting with parking and supporting the auction, to staffing the camp booth, helping in the children's area, and more. Even if your church doesn't have a booth, this is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the fun and serve in a meaningful way. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact the camp office—we'd love to have you on the team!

Friday the 19th – Set-Up

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs on the Grill

Saturday the 20th – The Fair

7:00 a.m. Polar Plunge Fundraiser

6:30 - 8:30 a.m. Diner Style Breakfast in the Lodge

**8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Food/Craft Booths, Displays,
Children's Activities, Entertainment**

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Ministry Support Auction

1:30 p.m. Pumpkinfest Activities

Sunday the 21st – Wrap-Up

9:30 a.m. Free Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship in the tent



Heritage Fair Polar Plunge

Take the Leap at the Annual Polar Bear Plunge!

Join us for the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Heritage Fair on September 20th! The excitement kicks off at 7:00 AM down at the beach, where brave participants will take a refreshing leap into the water. Signing up is easy—either have your church sponsor you by raising the \$50 minimum entry fee or cover the fee yourself if you'd like to go solo. Every Polar Bear Plunger will receive a certificate and a limited-edition 2025 Polar Bear Token to commemorate this unforgettable experience. Submissions are due by September 13th

Name _____ Congregation _____

I am paying my own Entry Fee of at least \$50 ☐

My Congregation is sponsoring my Polar Bear Plunge & hopes to raise more ☐

Brethren Open - Aug. 12th

A huge thank you to all the sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who helped make this year's Brethren Open at Iron Masters such a fantastic event! Together, we raised over \$11,000 to support Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. Golfers and volunteers capped off the day with a delicious meal provided by Frederick's Meat Market, sharing laughs and memories along the way. We can't wait to tee off again next year—mark your calendars and join us for another day of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition!

Tournament Sponsor (\$1000):

The Huntsman Family Foundation Dr. Ramon Burket

Course Sponsors (\$500-\$600):

Ameriprise - Hinish & Associates	Berts/Flumerfelts/Glennys/Helfrich/Shunks	Angle Properties
Cordell Construction	Cove Lumber	Bolger Brothers, Inc.
Juniata College	Cove Flooring	Greg & Kim Stoudnour
Smith Warehouse	Xtreme Painting & Wallpapering	Scott & Kyle Stern
Anonymous Friend		

Hole Sponsors (\$250):

Martin Oil
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Brumbaugh Fireworks
Everett Marble & Granite Works
Overhead Door of Blair Co
Brethren Mutual Aid Agency
Stuckey Automotive

Prize & Food Sponsors:

Frederick's Meat Market
Teeter Insurance Group
Spring Cove Container
Crystal Springs Bottled Water
Dale & Sandy Roth



Summer Camp 2026 Schedule

It is time to start planning for next summer! The 2026 Summer Schedule is out, and many campers have completed their pre-registration.

Early Bird Registration opens in January and runs through February.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 - 6	May 15 - 17
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7 + Adult	June 6 - 7
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 6 - 7
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7 + Adult	June 18 - 19
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 18 - 19
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 21 - 26
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 21 - 26
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 28 - Jul 3
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 28 - Jul 3
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	July 7 - 10
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	July 7 - 10
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 12 - 17
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 19 - 24
OLS	Grades 9 - 12	July 19 - 24
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 26 - 31
Jr. Adventure	Grades 4 - 5	July 26 - 31
Family Camp	All Ages	Aug. 21 - 23



Summer Bible Study Reflection

Psalms 46: 10 says “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted among the Earth.”

This message started every week of camp, reminding us that it’s important to take a moment to pause and recharge while opening our eyes to the things God is doing in our lives. Even though we focused on that need to sit still, it hardly feels like that was the case as we enter September and the fall season once again. Ask any camper, counselor, or program director and I’m sure they’ll all agree, it hardly felt like we were sitting still. Yet, Camp magic allows us to be in a constant state of motion while also being relaxed and observant.

For many, their week at Camp Blue Diamond was a reminder that God loves and wants to be in conversation with all of us. For others, this was the first time they had ever heard such a message. We learned how to get real with both ourselves and the world around us, how to be open to new perspectives and wild ideas. We spent time reflecting on how God calls us to include everyone, whether we’re at camp, church, school, or even the grocery store.

We ended our weeks encouraged that these new perspectives can and should be shared so that others might take a moment to be still and check in with God. If we want to live Another Way, we must be open to what that different way might be. In a world where things are rarely viewed in technicolor, we can get lost in the black and white thinking that is so often presented to us. But when we take a moment to come to a place like Camp Blue Diamond and pause, our world becomes full of color and possibilities.

Sometimes, you need to immerse yourself within the rich green hues of the leaves and grass to remember we are all part of this stunning creation. Sometimes it takes seeing the vibrant red of a Scarlet Tanager or the gorgeous blues of an Indigo Bunting to remember that God has made us unique, with different gifts and experiences we can share, and share we must!

Matthew 5: 14-16 reminds us “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Sharing our hopes, stories, and experiences helps to light up the darkness surrounding us. We are thankful for all who came to share their lights here this summer. Whether that was working on staff, volunteering, or attending as an energetic camper, you all made camp a much brighter place. We are thankful for all who supported us through donations and prayers this summer. Sometimes our prayers can feel small, but they light up the summer camp season like a whole field of fireflies.

We are grateful to have all of you joining our journey to live another way, the Jesus Way!

Blessings in this offseason, and we hope to see you in summer 2026! -Gabe Imler, PD.



back row left to right: Landon Meadows, Gabe Imler, Daniel Longwell, Paul Witkovsky

fourth row left to right: Brian Bert, Jack Myers, John Foster, Kyle Duvall

third row left to right: Brynn Flatt, Bailey Wilt, Ben Smith, Noah Hinkle

second row, left to right: Lauren Duvall, Sage Evans, Ebbie Berry, Yalena Harris, Shawnee Rupert, Rachel Mickle

front row, left to right: Sarah Rupert, Julie Witkovsky, Hope Gandy, Amanda Helfrich

Campers and Parents Willingly Supported the Chepang Girls

In 2022, Camp Blue Diamond proudly partnered with the New Community Project's Give a Girl a Chance initiative, helping Chepang girls in Nepal stay in school and build safer, brighter futures. Once again in 2025, we were able to partner with these same girls in Another Way to make a difference!

These young students face a grueling 7-hour roundtrip walk through mountainous terrain just to attend school. Along the way, they brave unpredictable monsoon rains and even monkey attacks. To protect their limited school clothes and shoes, most girls make the trek in worn-out clothing and sandals.

This summer, New Community Project launched a new way to help—by providing travel kits designed to ease the girls' journey. Each \$53 donation funds one kit, which includes:

- ◆ 1 pair of locally made shoes ◆ 1 pair of socks ◆ 1 school uniform
- ◆ 1 umbrella (for rain and monkey defense—seriously!)



We are pleased to announce that our campers and parents generously provided 24 kits with over \$1,300 in total donations! Thank you to everyone that gave.

Thank You

Camp Blue Diamond is blessed with many faithful donors and volunteers. Thank you to everyone that made a monetary donation, bought something off our Amazon Wishlist, encouraged someone to attend summer camp or prayed for Camp Blue Diamond. There are so many ways to support Camp. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful supporters!

Summer Camp Volunteers:

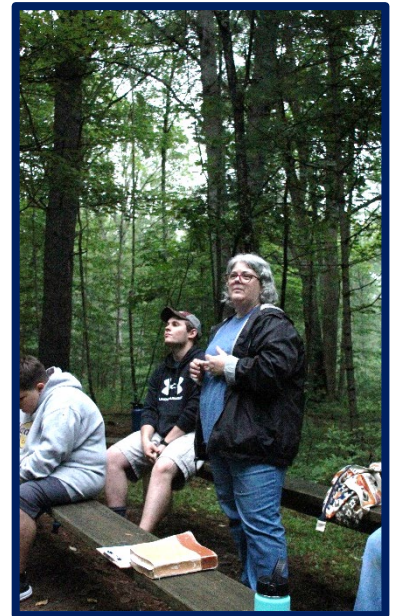
Nurses: Annette Chadwick, Chelsey Dick, Lisa Duvall, Jeannie Strunk, Jill Stull, Lindsey Suter, Tiffany Tomlinson

CITs: Eliza Anderson, Sophia Keith, Willow Miller, Maya Morgan, Allison Trigona, Bailey Wilt

Counselors: Nadia Ebersole, Abby Mickle, Chloe Soliday

Chaplains: Travis Mills, Beckie Zeek, Debbie Eisenbise, Lindsey Frye, Tammy Frye-Carter, Brittney Saltsman, Jonathan Whitsel, Steve Kiem, Mary Garvey

Program Help/Others: Abby Zeek, Tyson Daniels, Joe Hinich, Kenny Ott, Amber Weaver, Grace Lippincott, Aaron & Shannon Specht, Colton Specht



Summer Camp By The Numbers

335 Total Campers	205 Middle PA Dist. Campers	19 Campers from other affiliated Churches
9 Other CoB Campers	25 Campers of other Denominations	77 Campers with no Church Affiliation
27 Middle PA Dist. Churches Sent Campers	40 Scholarships Given Out	Totaling \$6,587.40

335 Campers Following Another Way

Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Heritage Fair Weekend | September 19-21 | ❖ Outdoor School | Sept. 29 – Nov. 7 |
| ❖ District/Camp Meeting | October 11 | ❖ Junior Retreat | Jan. 30 – Feb. 1 |
| ❖ Jr. High Retreat | February 13 – 15 | ❖ Youth Retreat | Feb. 27 – Mar. 1 |



**Camp Blue Diamond Inc.
Church of the Brethren
PO Box 240
Petersburg, PA 16652**

**Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 141**

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Prayer List

Prayer is the most important way that everyone can support the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond. We have been blessed throughout the years with faithful prayer partners that keep the needs of camp in their prayers. With that in mind, we wanted to share some general prayer needs to reflect on as you pray. Thank you again for your faithful prayers.

**Staff and Campers as they Return to School/Work
Annual Camp Meeting and District Conference**

**Successful Heritage Fair
Fall Outdoor School Season**

Wish List

Our Amazon Wish List has just been updated with all the latest items that help Camp Blue Diamond thrive! From the behind-the-scenes essentials in maintenance, the kitchen, and the office, to the supplies that make programming fun and meaningful, there's something on the list for every part of camp life. And the best part? There's something for every budget—items range from under \$10 to over \$500, so everyone can join in making a difference.

By scanning the QR code, you'll be taken directly to our Amazon Wish List, or you can visit <https://a.co/2AO626u>. Each item on the list is carefully chosen to support our campers, staff, and volunteers, helping us provide a safe, fun, and faith-filled environment. Whether it's a small item that brightens a camper's day or a larger donation that supports an entire program, every contribution plays a vital role in making our ministry a success.

Our needs are always changing as we grow and adapt, so be sure to check back often. Remember, you can always find a link to the Wish List on the "Donate" page of our website. By participating, you're not just purchasing supplies—you're investing in life-changing experiences, unforgettable memories, and the spiritual growth of countless children and youth at Camp Blue Diamond.

