

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

www.campbluediamond.org ♦ campbluediamond@verizon.net

December 2021 ♦ (814) 667-2355



Exec. Co-Directors:
Program Director:
Office Administrator:

Dean & Jerri Heiser Wenger
Brian Bert
Amanda Helfrich

Food Service Director: Shawnee Rupert
Facility Director: Paul Witkovsky

Thank You Dean and Jerri

Camp Blue Diamond would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Dean and Jerri. They have been the executive co-directors for over 30 years. During this time Dean and Jerri have always put the interests of Camp Blue Diamond and the campers ahead of their own. Anyone lucky enough to have spent any amount of time at Camp Blue Diamond over the last 30 years has certainly found it to be a second home. Many people have a mountaintop experience at camp, where they say they feel closest to God. This is in no small part because of the often behind the scenes hard work of Dean and Jerri to make camp the place it is today.



During their time at Camp Blue Diamond there have certainly been numerous improvements. These include leading camp through two successful capital campaigns that replaced the ageing Rising Sun and Lakeside cabins, made major improvements in the family campground, added new staff housing, a stand-alone maintenance shop, expanded the office and more. Through several other smaller fundraisers and careful financial management, additional projects were completed including; roof replacements, climbing tower and giant swing, winterized summer camp cabins and countless others. Dean and Jerri also worked to partner with Shavers Creek to bring Outdoor School to Camp Blue Diamond. It is through this partnership that 1,000 area fifth grade students are able to spend a week at Camp Blue Diamond learning about the beauty of the natural world. Summer camp numbers were also increased and an emphasis was placed on Bible study and campers experiencing God's beautiful creation.

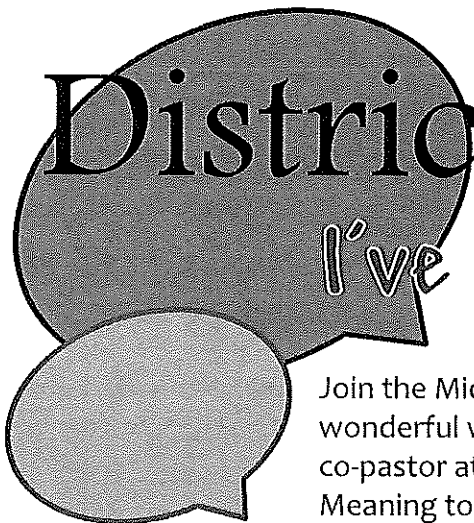
The real lasting legacy of Dean and Jerri will be all of the campers that got a chance to experience God during their time at camp. It is impossible to calculate the reach that the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond during Dean and Jerri's time here, but it is safe to say it reaches around the world and touches the lives of millions of people both directly and indirectly. We hear stories all the time of children's lives being changed because of an experience at summer camp. There have been numerous campers that have gone on to become ministers and other leaders in the church. Dean and Jerri were responsible for making many of these experiences happen. Just like in Jesus' parable in Matthew 25, Dean and Jerri took what they were put in charge of and multiplied it greatly to further God's kingdom. That is why we say, thank you and well done, good and faithful servants!

**Dean and Jerri have relocated to their
new home in Clovis, California!**

In parting they say, once again, thank you. It has been a pleasure.

**If you wish to stay in touch with Jerri and Dean,
here's their new address:**

**Dean and Jerri Heiser Wenger
757 W Los Altos
Clovis, CA 93612**



District Youth Retreat

I've Been Meaning to Ask...

Join the Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond as we gather together for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and conversation with Pastor Ben Lattimer! Ben is a co-pastor at Stone Church of the Brethren, and will lead us in the theme "I've Been Meaning to Ask," a series of questions and activities designed to foster curiosity, courage, and connection!

Come out to enjoy time in nature, engaging conversation and reconnect with friends old and new!

Who: All Youth in Grades 9-12	Cost: \$80 Early Bird Discount: Pay only \$70 if you register by January 15!
When: January 28-30, 2022 Registration begins 7 p.m. Friday Retreat ends 1 p.m. Sunday	
Where: Camp Blue Diamond	
What to bring: sleeping bag and pillow, Bible, flashlight, face mask, warm clothing for playing outside (we will sled if there's snow!)	

Please complete the form below and send it, along with payment, to:
Camp Blue Diamond, P.O. Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond** Questions: call (814) 667-2355 or email: campbluediamond@verizon.net

Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____

Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Youth Retreat

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **Sr. High Retreat at CBD on January 28-30**. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. I give permission to use pictures of my child in District and CBD brochures & publicity.

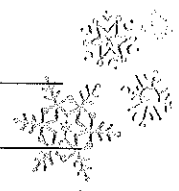
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: _____

Allergies or dietary restrictions: _____ Is Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance?: Y/ N

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____ Insurance Phone #: _____

Check Card Number ____/____/____/____ Exp. Date: ____/____ Security # ____ Name _____



A Note From Brian



I am excited to be taking over as the executive director at Camp Blue Diamond in January. Camp has a great reputation and relationship with the churches and members of the Middle PA District as well as those outside the churches connected to camp. Camp is fairly financially stable considering the loss of revenue over the last several years (but please continue to support camp financially). Camp maintains a high level of accountability through our commitment to American Camp Association accreditation. Camp also has amazing employees that will continue to keep camp running at a high level. However, the most exciting part of taking over as the executive director of Camp Blue Diamond, is to be a continued part of providing all of the amazing opportunities a summer camp can give to children.

The summer camp experience can be one of the most life changing times in the development of children. First of all, Camp Blue Diamond can be a socially, emotionally and physically safe place for children and youth. When campers come to spend any amount of time here, they know they will be well cared for and provided with plenty of well-balanced meals. This is, unfortunately not always the case for all of our campers. Campers are also coming to a place where their social and emotional needs will be cared for. Campers will be listened to and know that their needs are important.

Along with being a safe place for campers, Camp Blue Diamond is also a place where campers learn a lot during their time here. There are the obvious Bible studies and nature lessons that are important, but there is also a lot of learning that goes on at summer camp that the campers may not even be aware of. Campers will learn empathy as their fellow campers may struggle with homesickness or climbing the tower. There is nothing more satisfying than watching a group of campers encourage and then celebrate one of their cabin group mates success when they are finally able to leap off the tower and experience the zipline. Campers also learn problem solving skills as they navigate through a week of living with people they are not accustomed to living with and find that they have disagreements over the proper speed at which to churn the homemade ice-cream. Campers also learn decision making skills. Campers are directly involved in the development of the schedule for their week at camp. They get to make numerous other decisions throughout the week that effect their experience. Counselors are also taught to encourage campers to think about the potential consequences of their decisions before going through with them.

Campers get to experience some amazing mentor relationships during their time at camp. Camp Blue Diamond has been blessed with amazing counselors. These counselors play a huge role in all the of the benefits that campers get out of their camp experience. When the campers see their counselors practicing all of the supportive traits we are trying teach it is so much more powerful than just telling them to be nice to others. Campers want nothing more than to be just like their cool counselors.

There is so much more that children and youth get out of the summer camp experience than I could ever possibly list here. I cannot image a better place to work than a place that is able to provide all of these amazing things to campers and I cannot image a better camp to work at than Camp Blue Diamond. The churches of the Middle PA District and everyone else connected with Camp Blue Diamond make it clear that the camp is well supported and cared for. It is with this support and knowledge of the benefits of summer camp that I know Camp Blue Diamond will continue to provide a valuable experience to campers of all ages.

Inviting all 6th, 7th and 8th graders for a great weekend at the...

Jr. High Retreat

February 11th – 13th at Camp Blue Diamond

Join us along with our new Program Director, Gabe Imler for the Jr. High Retreat. This is a great opportunity to spend time at camp in the winter. We will communicate exact Covid plans, but precautions will be in place.

Cost \$70

Special Discount

Pay only \$65 if you register by Jan. 31st

Who: All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

When: February 11th – 13th; 7 pm Fri - 1:30 pm Sun.

Where: Camp Blue Diamond

What to bring: Sleeping Bag & Pillow, Bible, Face Mask, Flashlight and Warm Clothing for Playing Outside



Please complete the form below, and send it, along with payment to:

Camp Blue Diamond, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

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★ to receive early registration discount, mail must be postmarked by January 31st ★

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Congregation _____ Grade _____ Sex: M F Jr. High Retreat

Parent/Guardian: I give my child permission to participate in the Camp Blue Diamond Jr. High Retreat on Feb.11 – 13. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. Also, I give permission to use pictures of my child in brochures and other publicity used by Camp Blue Diamond.

Signed _____ Date _____ Parent's E-mail _____

Allergies: list all known (include medications, foods, and environment) _____

List medications being brought to camp: (be sure to bring them in original bottles with instructions) _____

Is the participant covered by family medical/hospital insurance? Y N

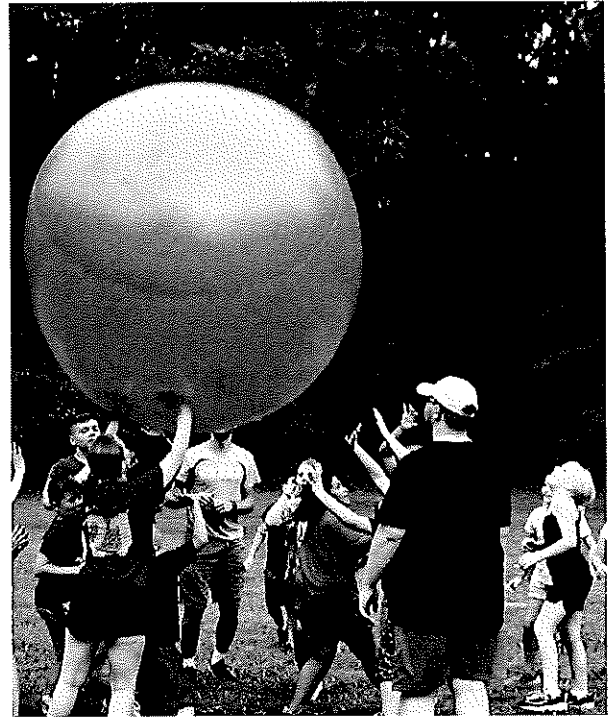
Insurance carrier or plan name: _____ Group #: _____

Carrier address/phone: _____

Summer Camp 2022 Schedule & Registration

Next summer's camp schedule is set, and already 80+ children and youth pre-registered this past summer. 2022 summer camp registration will begin again on Jan. 1. Everybody signing-up in January and February will get the Early Bird discount. Online registration will be available at campbluediamond.org, and past campers will receive registration brochures in the mail. Churches will receive registration brochures after the Camp Rep. Meeting in mid-January. To see more information, fees, and photos visit campbluediamond.org.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 – 6	May 20 - 22
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 4 - 5
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 4 - 5
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 16 - 17
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 16 - 17
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 19 - 24
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 19 - 24
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 24-July 1
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 24-July 1
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	July 5 – 8
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	July 5 - 8
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 10 - 15
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 17 - 22
Outdoor Living Skills	Grades 8 - 12	July 17 - 22
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 24 - 29
Jr. Adventure	Grades 4 - 5	July 24 - 29
Family Camp	All Ages	Aug. 19 – 21



When Registering Don't Forget!

- ❖ Register online Starting January 1!
- ❖ Register by February 28th & get the Early Bird Discounts: \$5 - \$20!
- ❖ Regular Summer Camp Fees from March 1st – May 31st. Late fees start June 1.
- ❖ Church Stipends - Brethren & American Baptist pay ½ or more of the camp fee.
- ❖ Sibling Discount - Campers with siblings coming to CBD get an extra \$10 - \$25 off.
- ❖ Summer Camp Brochures will be mailed to all past campers starting Jan. 3th.
- ❖ Scholarships are available for families that make less than \$60K.
- ❖ If you want a Scholarship or Extended Payments (\$25 down), complete the paper registration.



3rd, 4th and 5th Graders Won't Want to Miss Camp Blue Diamond's

Junior Retreat

March 4-5

WHO: 3rd, 4th & 5th graders

WHERE: Camp Blue Diamond

WHEN: March 4th & 5th
7:00pm Friday
to 7:00pm Saturday

Cost: \$40.00
≥Special Discount≤
Pay only \$35 if you register by
February 25th!

BE SURE TO BRING: sleeping bag & pillow, Bible, clothes for outdoors & a facemask

★ We will be staying in winterized cabins ★



This is a great chance for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to come camp. We will also have all of your camp favorites.

There will be singing, games, a campfire, outside fun, arts and crafts, and your favorite summer camp counselors. Plus, what a great chance to see the new program director, Gabe Imler, in action.

Please complete the form below, and send it, along with payment to:

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Make checks payable to: *Camp Blue Diamond* Questions: call (814)667-2355 or email campbluediamond@verizon.net

✂ **★ to receive early registration discount, mail must be postmarked by February 25th ★** ✂

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Congregation _____ Grade _____ Sex: M F Junior

Parent/Guardian: I give my child permission to participate in the Junior Retreat at CBD on Mar. 4-5. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. Also, I give permission to use pictures of my child in brochures and other publicity used by Camp Blue Diamond.

Signed _____ Date _____ Parent's E-mail _____

Allergies: list all known (include medications, foods, and environment) _____

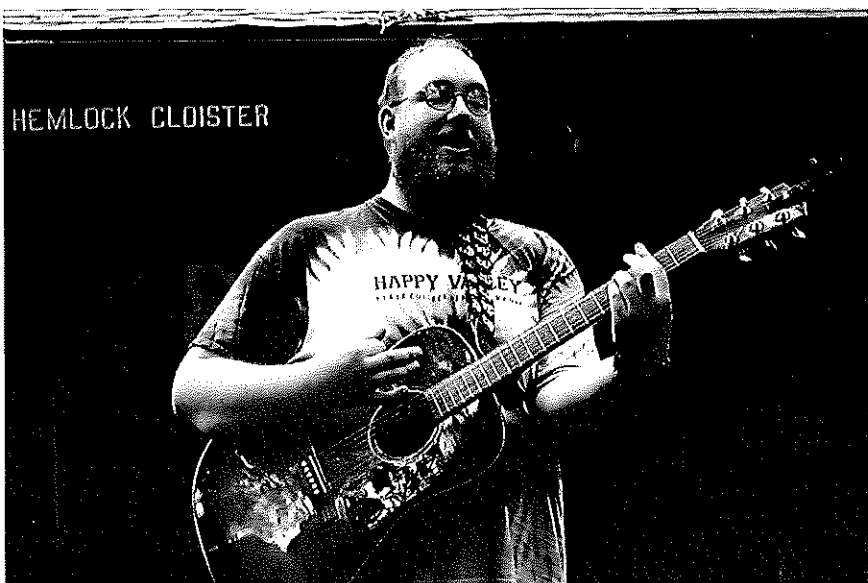
List medications being brought to camp: (be sure to bring them in original bottles with instructions) _____

Is the participant covered by family medical/hospital insurance? Y N

Insurance carrier or plan name: _____ Group #: _____

Carrier address/phone: _____

Camp Welcomes Gabe Imler as New Program Director



Camp Blue Diamond is excited to welcome Gabe Imler as our new Program Director. Gabe has a long history with Camp Blue Diamond. He came to summer camp as a child and continued through high school where he also served as a counselor in training. Gabe has worked on staff for eight different summers. More recently, Gabe has been an assistant director and instructor at an outdoor environmental education program in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Gabe grew up in the Hollidaysburg area and the Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren. He graduated from Penn State with a degree in Biology.

Gabe's passions in life include music and outdoor education. Gabe has led music countless times at camp through his guitar playing and singing. He has also served as Naturalist during the summer and enjoys passing on his love of God's creation to campers of all ages. Gabe is especially interested in birds and will often stop in the middle of doing something else to share with the group when he hears an interesting or unique bird call. Gabe is also exploring his call to the ministry. Gabe is currently working toward being officially licensed for ministry through the Hollidaysburg congregation. This training will be put to good use as Gabe ministers to the campers and counselors alike.

Thanks Maintenance Volunteers & Gifts!

Ron and Linda Bashore - *Donation for Climbing Tower Helmets*

Scott and Lisa Yohn - *End Table and Ceiling Fan for Ouch House*

Don Snively, Homer Schriener and John Knepp - *Work on the New Campground Washhouse*

John Heichel - *Mowing & Work on New Campground Washhouse*

Ken Ott, Randy Singo and Bill Baker - *Cut and Split Wood*

Rich Zeek, Abby Zeek and David Harclerode - *Work on the Executive Director's House*

Julie Witkovsky, Mike Campbell, Gabe Imler and Bob McClay - *Moving Help for the Wengers*



Upcoming CBD Events

◆ Youth Retreat
◆ Junior Retreat

Jan. 28 - 30
March 4 - 5

◆ Jr. High Retreat
◆ Outdoor School

Feb. 11 - 13
March 28 - May 6



Camp Blue Diamond Inc.
Church of the Brethren
1113 Mount Vernon Ave.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Huntingdon, PA 16652
Permit No. 141

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Summer Staff Needed!

If you love camp and enjoy kids, working at CBD is the greatest! Staffers will grow in faith, make new lifelong friends and grow and develop their leadership skills. **Counselors** must be at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. **Maintenance Staff** need to be at least 16, and work 8-hour days with time off in evenings to join activities. Pay ranges from \$190 - \$250/week. Room & board are provided. Camp runs from June 8 – July 30. Application Forms and online applications are now available at campbluediamond.org. If you need additional assistance, please contact Camp.

Maintenance Projects

Work is continuing on the new washhouse in the campground as part of the capital campaign. As part of this new washhouse, we will be adding a new well. This will allow the campground to be part of its own self-contained water system and remain open year-round. Plans are in place for this well to be drilled within the next month to keep with our plan to have the wash house ready for the opening of the campground in May.

Speaking of water systems, the water softener system was recently upgraded at the lodge. The old system was inadequate to handle increased group numbers.

There are also upgrades happening at the executive director's residence. These include new flooring, paint, some drywall work and bathroom work. These needed upgrades were made possible because of a bequest from the Dolnikowski estate. Thank you!