

# CAMP BLUE DIAMOND



www.campbluediamond.org ♦ campbluediamond@verizon.net

September 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

**Heritage Fair: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** Last year we were unable to have Heritage Fair at CBD because of covid regulations, but plans are underway for camp hosting the event on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Has your church decided how to participate? Food and craft booths are needed as well as items for the auction, or your church could sponsor an activity, provide entertainment or do a demonstration. If you need ideas or have questions about what you can do, contact Camp.

At the fair there will be a special area for kids with scarecrow making, face painting, the sawdust pile, and other activities. Everybody can enjoy food and craft booths, displays, the Dunk Tank, Escape Rooms, GaGa and demonstrations. Entertainment includes Brethren Brass – 10 a.m., and the Tim & Duane Show - 11 a.m. The Auction begins at 11 a.m., and will include the District Quilt, which is only offered every five years.

For those who want to stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday, lodging is available in the Lodge (\$25 each), summer camp cabins (\$13 each, minimum \$52) and there are a couple of tent sites left in the campground. If you have questions about the Fair, or to reserve a room, cabin or site, contact Camp at 814-667-2355 or [campbluediamond@verizon.net](mailto:campbluediamond@verizon.net). See you there!



## Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> – Set-Up & Overnighters

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

## Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> – The Fair

6:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast available at the Lodge

7 a.m. Diamond Dash – 5K Run/Walk

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

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

## Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> – Wrap-Up

9:30 a.m.

Free Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship in the Lodge

- ♦ Apple Butter & Cider
- ♦ Baked Goods, Pies, Cakes
- ♦ Kettle Popcorn
- ♦ Beef n'Noodles
- ♦ Crafts, Sewn Goods
- ♦ Handcrafted Items
- ♦ 30 + Kinds of Fudge
- ♦ Homemade Chili, Soups
- ♦ Apple Dumplings
- ♦ Mums, Pumpkins
- ♦ Auction Baskets
- ♦ And Much, Much More!

## Upcoming CBD Events:

- ♦ Outdoor School Sept. 30 – Nov. 5
- ♦ Jr. High Retreat Feb. 11 – 13

- ♦ Heritage Fair & Diamond Dash Sept. 18
- ♦ Youth Retreat Jan. 28 - 30
- ♦ Junior Retreat March 4 - 5

## Highlights from the Summer Camp 2021

Throughout the Fall of 2020, we spent a lot of time listening to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Camp Association (ACA) in hopes of being able to have Summer Camp in 2021, though we knew that it would look different from past summers. The ACA provided a Field Guide for implementation of CDC Guidance that helped us develop protocol, and we took part in many Zoom conversations with other camp professionals enabling us, with confidence, to move forward with our summer camp plans.

To provide a safe, fun-filled summer in 2021, Camp Blue Diamond adopted the following procedures:

- ❖ Offered 17 camps, compared to 20 in 2019
- ❖ Limited the total number of campers to 300
- ❖ Limited each cabin to 4 or 5 girls or boys plus 1 or 2 staff
- ❖ Cabin Units (Family Units) stayed together for all activities (Each small specialty camps acted as one family unit)
- ❖ Tested all unvaccinated campers and staff upon arrival
- ❖ Staggered arrival times
- ❖ Campers immediately moved in after completing testing
- ❖ Increased the number of hand washing stations (Including the new canoe sink)
- ❖ Had all meals served by staff
- ❖ Ate meals, sang, did games, crafts & coffeehouses outside
- ❖ Rented a large tent for rainy days
- ❖ Wore masks when we had to be indoors



We are grateful for an outstanding summer staff and a committed full-time staff that made it all possible. Campers and staff wore masks when in the food line, but for other than that, masks were worn very little, which was good news for all! Everyone was very cooperative about the pre-camp testing, and there were no cases of Covid at camp. Thanks to all the staff, volunteers and parents for a great, fun-filled, and meaningful summer camp experience for the campers. Your diligence and cooperation made it successful and safe!

## Farewell Words from Dean and Jerri

This has been a bittersweet summer season as we found joy in welcoming campers back yet began saying “goodbye.” We are incredibly grateful to have served as Executive Co-Directors at CBD for the last 30 years. Thank you for welcoming us, supporting camp, and being our friends. It has been a joy to be a part of the important ministry of Camp. We have heard again and again from youth and young adults that Camp has played an important role in their understanding and relationship with God. We are grateful to have been a part of that growth, and it will be fun to watch, from a distance, what God will continue to do in the lives of campers and staff. Please keep in touch and know you will always be in our hearts.

Camp also played a major role in the lives of our family. Andrew, our oldest son, pastor of the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District, lives in Cuyahoga Falls, along with his wife Lauren and 4-year-old daughter, Grace. Jake and his wife Whitney, and sons Silas (6) and Calvin (almost 4), live in Fresno, CA where Jake teaches Entomology in the Plant Science Department at Fresno State University. Laban, after serving as the Facilities Director at Camp Stevens near San Diego for 7 years, is finishing a season as a sea kayak guide in Seward, AK. He'll begin his next adventure in the coming weeks. Camp has truly influenced all three sons and they hold dear many memories of exploring the wilderness, making life-long friends, learning leadership skills as staff members, and doing all kinds of jobs like picking up sticks and pinecones, staining buildings and working in the kitchen.

Our plans are to depart in November. We will be relocating to Clovis, CA, near Jake and family. After getting settled, we plan to find part-time jobs, spend time with grandsons, find a new church community, and travel. We will make an annual trip East to visit family, and swing through Middle PA where we hope to reconnect with many of you. Our new address will be 757 W. Los Altos, Clovis, CA 93612. When you're in the neighborhood, let us know! We're near the sequoias and Yosemite National Park. We have extra space and open arms.



## Staff Transitions:

After 30 years of ministry at Camp Blue Diamond, Dean and Jerri Heiser Wenger will be retiring at the end of 2021! Dean and Jerri will be relocating to Clovis, CA to be near family and begin the next phase of their lives.

Following the Wenger's announcement, the Camp Blue Diamond Board of Directors called out a Search Committee to conduct a national search for the position of Executive Director. After months of preparation, application review, and interviews, we are pleased to announce that Brian Bert has been selected as CBD's next Executive Director. Brian will begin this role in January 2022.

Brian has served as CBD's Program Director since 2008. He has provided leadership and supervision of Camp's summer staff and has been active in program development. He strongly supports the teachings and beliefs of the Church of the Brethren and



has had open communication with churches, campers, parents, volunteers, camp staff, and the board. Throughout the Middle PA District, Brian has provided pulpit supply, served as District Moderator, and has served as moderator to several churches. This past year, Brian navigated Camp through the difficult challenge of Covid and virtual summer camp. Brian has a genuine love for the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond and desires to lead Camp to new successes and experiences. He has an extensive knowledge of the operation of Camp Blue Diamond, and we are confident that he will embrace the position of Executive Director with excitement and commitment.

It is our prayer and desire that you will encourage and support Brian as he begins this new chapter in his life and the future of Camp Blue Diamond. Please continue to pray for the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond during this time of transition.



## CBD PROGRAM DIRECTOR OPENING

Camp Blue Diamond is seeking a gifted individual with a passion for outdoor ministry to serve as the next Program Director. CBD is a 238-acre retreat facility, summer camp, and family campground nestled within the Rothrock State Forest near Petersburg, PA. It is affiliated with the 55 congregations of the Middle PA District Church of the Brethren. The mission of Camp Blue Diamond is to encourage discipleship of Jesus Christ and to facilitate growth and healing in each person's relationship with God, others, themselves, and the created world.

The main role of the Program Director is to oversee all aspects of programming, working to assure that each is Christ-centered, allowing campers and staff to experience growth and healing in their relationship with God, others, themselves and the created world. The duties of the Program Director include but are not limited to managing and supervising summer staff, organizing retreats, helping to coordinate rental groups, assisting with kitchen and housekeeping duties during Outdoor School, and participation in Camp Board meetings, church visits and the American Camp Association. Outdoor ministry at Camp Blue Diamond requires flexibility and teamwork. In this spirit the Program Director may be called upon to provide help in other areas of camp as needed. The Program Director is accountable to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

Qualifications for this position include strong inter-personal skills as well as leadership, organization, and communication, along with a basic knowledge of program development, computer skills, and marketing. A Bachelor's Degree is required, along with camp leadership experience. The applicant must be a Christian and should be a member of the Church of the Brethren or have an appreciation and understanding of Brethren beliefs and values.

This full-time, salaried position includes health benefits, pension, a generous PTO/holiday package, and on-site housing and utilities. Review of applicants will begin on October 1, 2021. It is expected that an appointment will be made in November with an anticipated start date in January 2022. For a full description, and information on how to apply visit [campbluediamond.org](http://campbluediamond.org). You may also contact Jerri Heiser- Wenger, Executive Co-Director, at 814-667-2355 or [campbluediamond@verizon.net](mailto:campbluediamond@verizon.net).

# Brethren Open - Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to the ninety-four golfers who came out and enjoyed the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Brethren Open Golf Tournament at Iron Masters in Roaring Spring on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The rains came early during registration, but the rest of the day was dry, warm and windy, with occasional distant thunder. Thanks to the volunteers who helped, and to the sponsors who helped Camp and the District net about \$12,500 for the event!

**Tournament Sponsor:**

The Huntsman Family Foundation - \$2000  
Dr. Ramon Burket - \$1000

**\$20,000 Hole-In-One Sponsor: (\$650)**

Banazaks/Berts/Flumerfelts/Glennys/Helfrichs/Shunks/Wengers

**Course Sponsors (\$500):**

Ameriprise - Hinish & Associates	Bolger Brothers Inc.
C.G. Angle Inc. Contractor	Cordell Construction
Cove Flooring & Design	Cove Lumber
Juniata College	Mingle Contracting
Kim & Greg Stoudnour	

**Hole Sponsors (\$250):**

Altoona 1 <sup>st</sup> Saving Bank	Blair Mill Carpet Outlet
Bolger Funeral Home	Brethren Mutual Aid
Brumbaugh Transmission	DBB – Technology Solutions
Everett Marble & Granite Works	Lock Mountain Strawberries
Overhead Door of Blair Co	Paterson Insurance Agency
Janet Sell	Small Town Pizza
Stuckey Automotive	

**Prize Sponsor (\$100) & Food Sponsors:**

Frederick's Meat Market – meal	The Teeter Group - snacks
Heller's Gas & Fireplace	Spring Cove Container



**Cordell sinks the putt!**



**Heritage Fair Diamond Dash 5k** Join the Diamond Dash walk/run on Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 7 a.m. at CBD's Heritage Fair. Meet in front of the Camp Directors' House. Registration is open until the event but register by Sept. 7 and get a "Diamond Dash" t-shirt! Fee: \$30. This event is sponsored by Albright Church of the Brethren. Contact Tammy Frye-Carter at 814-931-9367 or fryetammy@hotmail.com for details.

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**Diamond Dash—Camp Blue Diamond—Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – 7 a.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: YS  YM  YL  S  M  L  XL  XXL

Mail this Registration for with your fee to:  
Tammy Frye-Carter, 327 E. Main St., Roaring Spring, PA 16673

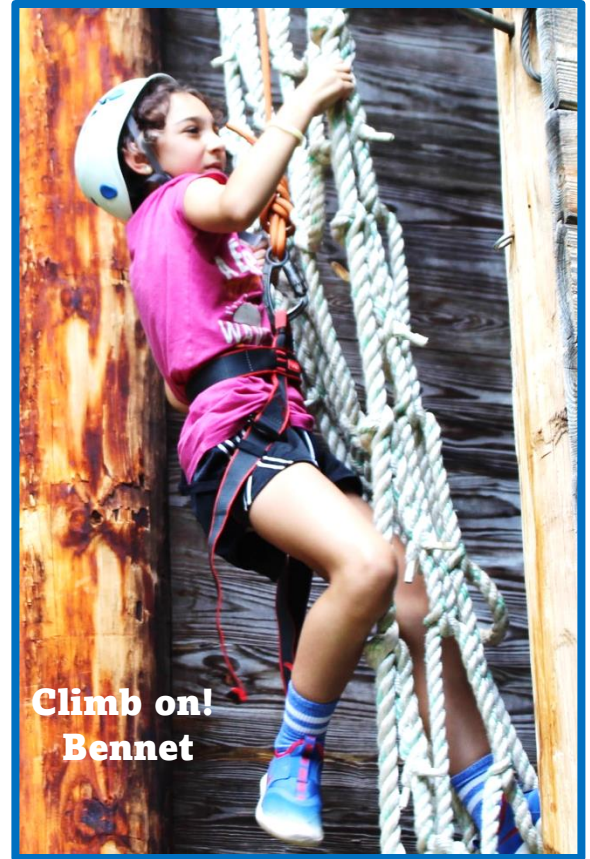




## Summer Camp 2022 Schedule & Registration:

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](http://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](http://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



**Climb on!  
Bennet**

## Thanks Maintenance Volunteers & Gifts!

Alisha Banks, Huntingdon M.S.	Snacks for Summer Camp
Brethren Brass	Memorial Bench
Dean Brubaker, John Knepp, Homer Hoover, Don Snively	Work on New Campground Washhouse
District Board	Memorial Tree
District Disaster Relief	Van for Youth Camp & Yough Adventure
Wayne & Lyn Guyer	Ritchey's Ice Cream
John Heichel	Mowing & Work on Washhouse
Brett Hockenberry	Event Tent Discount
Marks Brothers	Hauling Discount
Louise McCoy	Peanut Butter
Ken Ott	Install Skid Strips, Power Washing
Bill Showalter	Install Sewage Lines in Campground
US Silica	Sand for Beach
Karl West	Tractor, Diesel

Holidaysburg Youth FaithX Workcamp Day: Rake Sand, Clean Beach,  
Collect Mulch, Clean Canoes, Split Wood, Clean Out Ditches

UBBC Youth FaithX Workcamp Day: Spread Mulch, Dig Holes,  
Stain Wood Shed, Cut Autumn Olive, Rake

Youth Camp Work Projects: Clean Out Ditches, Stain, Dig Holes, Trim Branches, Move Rocks, Build Rock Wall, Spread Mulch

Annual Dinner Kitchen Volunteers and Waiters/Waitresses: Troy Barnhart, Alyssa & Brian Bert, Dylan Butler, Mike Campbell, Scott Criswell, Tyson Daniels, Babs Detwiler, Tim Dunmire, Lauren Duvall, Rick Esh, Emma Goodyear, Amanda Helfrich, Joe & Renee Keith, Heather & Tess Koontz, Lois Lynn, David Meadows, Travis Mills, Paul Moser, Jacey Myers, Matt & Meghan Myers, Ken Ott, Thekla & Rod Park, Eric Poteat, Duane Rhodes, Milt Sellers, Addie Shaffer, Brian Stern, Paul Witkovsky, George & Derek Wright, Leah Yingling, Rich & Abby Zeek

## Summer Camp Volunteers:

**Nurses:** Marcia Benson, Stacey Bowser, Annette Chadwick, Angela Ebersole, Desiree Engler, Marcia Graham, Tiffany Tomlinson, Jeannie Strunk, Jill Stull  
**CITs:** Ebbie Berry, Dylan Butler, Greg Dreyer, Noelle Ebersole, Hannah Glunt, Kayla Gonzalez, Tess Koontz, Nina Meadows  
**Counselors:** Mark Dowdy, Amber Rettburg, Nathan Stull, Kylie Wakefield, Elena Yoder  
**Chaplains:** Debbie Eisenbise, Tammy Frye-Carter, Chris Fretz, Beckie Zeek  
**Program Help:** Babs Detwiler, Anita Heichel, Joe Hinish, Kenny Ott



**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*



## **Capital Campaign Update:**

The Camp Blue Diamond capital campaign is progressing nicely, with fundraising done and remaining pledges being collected through the end of 2022. Over \$694,000 was pledged for building projects, and an additional \$52,500 pledged to the Reserve for Replacement Fund.

About one third of the total, nearly \$250,000, was pledged by forty congregations. The projects of the current campaign include replacing the RV Campground water and electric lines, and adding new sewage sites (2018), renovating the Camp Office (2019 & 2020), building a new RV Campground Bathhouse (2020 & 2021), and building a new Multi-purpose/Recreation Building (date to be determined). Congregational support of the campaign through budgeted gifts, fundraisers and special offerings helped Camp Blue Diamond meet and exceed its goal of \$650,000, so the needed projects will all get done.



Due to the current, pandemic related, high cost of building materials, the Camp Board decided to postpone the building of the Multi-purpose/Recreation Building for a year or two. Currently over \$350,000 is safely invested for this last project.

## **A Gift to Camp Blue Diamond!**

Two beautiful chairs and table were gifted to Camp Blue Diamond and can be enjoyed on the porch of the Rising Sun Cabin. The Kimmel family donated the porch furniture in memory of David Kimmel who passed away in March 2021. David would enjoy sitting on the porch in the quiet of the early mornings reading his Bible and enjoying the lakeside scenery.