



PO Box 548
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769

Camp Newsletter

Winter 2026 Camp Update

Winter Retreat OVCA Style

Get in the ring! This was the challenge we laid out to our high school and middle school students at the Winter Retreat Jan 30th through February 1st. The theme was based on Matthew 16:24-25 which says...

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

Jesus is challenging his disciples (and us) to not just merely observe what He did, but to “get into the ring” and join Him. He isn’t looking for people to sit in the crowd and spectate, but rather people who would be willing to get in the ring, likely take some hits, and keep moving forward in faith.

The weekend was a fantastic experience from top to bottom. Our friends from the Oasis worship team led worship all weekend long. Josh Mason, youth minister at the Brownstown Christian Church in Indiana (married

to OVCA Alum Cara Lawless - Mason) preached on the life of Elijah. We were also blessed to have several breakout sessions led by Cara with Maggie Hoover, Jacob Welch, and Zack Waite.

Speaking of my pal Zack, I wanted to give him and his wife Tracy a huge shoutout for coming and cooking for us all weekend long. The food was top notch! Also, a major note of appreciation to Fifth Street Church of Christ for purchasing all the food for the retreat. This incredible blessing allowed us to keep the cost of the retreat at a low \$50 to make sure that nobody missed out on the opportunity to come.

I’ve heard so much incredibly positive feedback since the retreat that I know God was in every last detail. This was probably most evident by one of our young adults making the decision to get immersed into Christ after the retreat. I had the privilege of baptizing her into Christ that Sunday after the retreat. With all the good things happening at OVCA I really cannot wait to see what summer brings!

Blessings,

-Dodger

Winter Retreat Memories



HUGE NEWS INCOMING...



Boy do we have some exciting news for you! Our next Camp Reconnect will be Sunday afternoon March 29th. We will be hosted by Bradford Church of Christ in Pomeroy. As if that wasn't exciting enough we will be joined by Safekept band who will be leading worship. This is their last stop on the road before playing at Ohio Teens for Christ the very next weekend!

SafeKept is a fully independent, touring rock band from central Ohio. Since 2014, the band has performed over 400 concerts and events all over the mid-west and east coast. SafeKept has released two EP's; Remarkable (2015) and Modern Mortals (2018). In June 2024

Since 2014, SafeKept has also shared stages with/served as opening support for numerous nationally recognized artists such as Danny Gokey, Mandisa, Cory Asbury, Crowder, Jordan Feliz, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Disciple, Lecrae, Passion Worship, Sidewalk Prophets, Unspoken, Family Force 5, House Of Heroes, Five Iron Frenzy, Project 86, Seventh Day Slumber, Trip Lee, Spoken, Plumb, Anthem Lights, JJ Weeks, Hawk Nelson, Mike Mains & The Branches, Wolves At The Gate, and many more.

Camp Reconnect events are designed to encourage, equip, and enhance the student ministries of our local churches. These events are offered at no cost to our supporting churches to help reach the next generation with the Gospel and to help students maintain meaningful connections with their friends

from camp throughout the year. We know these events are making a difference as we are seeing our camp grow each season!

So here is what we need you to do... if you are a youth leader, parent, or just someone who knows students, grab as many as you can, stuff them in your church van or vehicle and get them to Bradford Church of Christ on March 29th to rock out with Safekept and fellowship with other students from camp. We will have food, games, and much more in store.

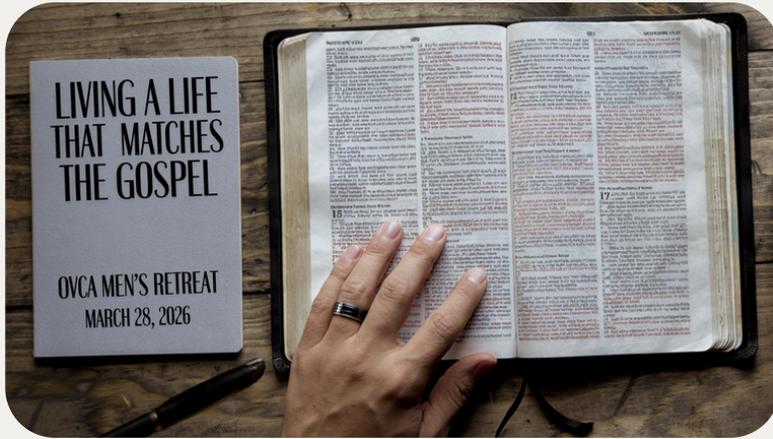


safekept

Please RSVP

Church / youth leaders, please RSVP to Dodger by March 15th with approximate numbers to help us plan for food, games, seating, etc.

OVCA Men's Retreat '26



Men's retreat speaker, Scott Shipman of Just Help One disaster response ministry.

Calling all men from 8 to 89 (and older). The OVCA Men's retreat is just around the corner. Saturday March 28th from 8:30am to 1pm we will join together in fellowship to encourage one another to "Live a life that matches the Gospel." Last year we were blessed to host over 100 men, and expect to see that number grow again this year.

Our speaker for the day will be Scott Shipman from Just Help One Disaster response ministry. Scott is a former youth and college minister. While serving as the Campus Minister for CCF (Christian Campus Fellowship) at Vincennes University in Indiana, he began responding to disasters with his students. This passion for missions eventually led him out of campus ministry and into full time missions work. Scott and his team have responded to disasters everywhere from Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, to Kentucky, and much more! In addition to being the leader of an incredible mission Scott is a very gifted preacher and communicator. He will be teaching three separate sessions throughout the day centered around our theme of "Living a life that matches the Gospel."

In addition to some incredibly powerful preaching we will join together for some great food (breakfast and prime rib lunch provided) and a time of discussion where we can talk about how we take what we've heard and apply it to our lives. We hope you will make plans to join us for this jam packed day. You can register online through the camp website or sign-up using the printed form mailed to the churches. Please RSVP by March 15th!

Pray for OVCA

- Praise for an amazing Jr / Sr High Retreat at camp
- Pray for the students who were impacted by the retreat including the young lady who was baptized into Christ, and for continued growth
- Pray for our Junior Faculty training and the students who will participate in it
- For God to provide for the ongoing financial needs of the camp
- For God to raise up additional volunteers to serve at OVCA this coming summer

JR FACULTY TRAINING

Each summer our Junior Faculty play an integral part of making camp happen. With this in mind we want to invest into the students before they arrive at camp. On Friday February 20th and Saturday the 21st we are holding a Jr Faculty training at OVCA . This will be an overnigher at the camp and is offered free of charge to any student wishing to serve at camp this summer.

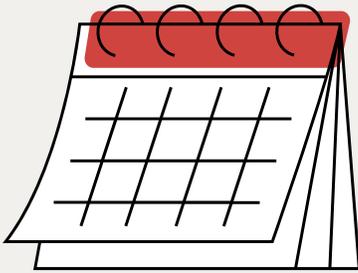
Students who would like to serve but who cannot attend must arrange to make up part of the training prior to their week of camp. Registration for this event is live on the website ovcacamp.org. Full schedule and details will be provided closer to the date. Reach out to us at ohiovalleychristian@yahoo.com with any questions.

Camp
Transportation
Needed



The camp is currently looking for a gently used golf cart, ATV or side by side to use for summer camp. This would help us provide transportation for people with mobility issues, respond to first aid issues, and transport people and equipment across the camp quickly.

If you, or someone you know has something that might fit our needs, and might be willing to donate it or part with it for a low price, please reach out to us and let us know.



Camp
DATES

Feb 20 & 21- Jr Faculty Training at camp
March 28th- Men's Retreat at OVCA
April 14th- Spring Camp Reps Meeting
May 2nd - Spring Camp Work Day

****Make sure to check ovcacamp.org for the full calendar and other information.***



Contact the camp
email: ohiovalleychristian@yahoo.com
Camp Website: ovcacamp.org
Reach the Director: (740) 591-1692

