



# Mountain-Valley News

## We are in a war.

Someone on Christian radio quoted a movie he recently watched, "Of course you're losing the war, you don't even know you're in a war."

Do you know that you are in a war? This is a war for the eternal souls of our children. Irwin Lutzer in his book, No Reason to Hide said the following:

*After a lovely dinner with some friends in Colorado, whose deck overlooks a mountain range, the wife said to us, "I like to sit here in my rocking chair every morning, enjoying the mountains while rocking back and forth." Then she added, "And when I'm done, I look at my phone and it tells me I have walked three miles!" Many of us wish we could sit back in a rocking chair and make progress on our journey toward a better future for our children and grandchildren. But life in today's world doesn't work that way; we have to leave our comforts and join in the fray to protect our children from those who would exploit them.*

Are you willing to join in the fray?

Jesus said in Luke 6:39-40 "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." This is a warning for every parent, grandparent, aunt, and

uncle. You and I need to actively pursue teaching the children the truth of Scripture because Satan is actively teaching them his lies. He is a sly enemy who is patient and watchful. He is luring families away from church or leading them to churches that "tickle the ear" instead of teaching what God's Word commands.

As believers we know that God has already won the victory, but that should not be an excuse to stay out of the fray. It should be a motivation to join in! You and I have the best news EVER~ There is salvation, there is true freedom, there is joy in the journey.

At a camp this year a young foster mom stopped by to see me. Her two foster daughters were attending camp. This mom attended camp about 16 years ago. During our conversation, I asked where she was going to church~ she wasn't. I said to her, "(Joy) you know you need to be in church." I introduced her to the pastor (who was a camp volunteer), and his wife. This young mom has been attending church and is speaking to the pastor about becoming a member of the church. Pray for (Joy) as she seeks to walk with God. Pray for her boyfriend, and her daughters as they, too, are disciplined with the Word of God.

SEPTEMBER 2023

### Contact information

**101 High Road  
PO Box 486  
Minersville PA 17954  
Phone—570-544-8042  
E-mail—  
office@cefschuylkill.com  
Website:  
www.cefschuylkill.com  
"Like" us on Facebook  
(CEF of Schuylkill County)**

**Director  
Mrs. Shelley Hikes**

**Field Workers  
Mrs. Linda McCarthy  
Mr. Dillon Wertman**

**Committee  
Erik Gottfried, Chairman  
Vice-chair John Racilla  
Linda Fetherolf, Secretary  
Cathy Nagle, Treasurer  
Members:  
Gale Hurst  
Tom Tilden**

**Inside this issue:**  
\*Memorial/Honor of  
\*Another Goodbye  
\*Weekly Time of Prayer  
\*Summer Stats  
\*Volunteer Notes  
\*Help Needed  
\*Volunteer Training  
Class  
\*Tel-A-Story  
\*Mailbox Club  
\*Budget Corner  
\*..Most Wonderful...  
\*Prayer Calendar

## Gifts were given to CEF between May 18 to August 21, 2023

### In Memory of...



**Bill Houtz**

*By: Joan Mengel*

**Robert Lemke II**

*By: Robert and Sharon Lemke*

**Ryan Lemke**

*By: Robert and Sharon Lemke*

**Charles and Florence Walton**

*By: Glen and Diane Ebert*

**Kenneth Wingle~ July 17 Birthday**

*By: Martha Scott*



### In Honor of:

**Connie and Will Wright**

*By: Joan Mengel*

**Prayer Group of Bethesda E. C. Church**

*By: Joan Mengel*

## Another Goodbye.

As some of you may know Elizabeth and Kevin Garcia welcomed Alara Margaret on May 16. It was an exciting time here in the office as we awaited word of the baby's arrival. Our hearts rejoiced and we lifted praises to God for His protection and care during the delivery. Elizabeth (Eb) is enjoying motherhood and has turned in her resignation as of August 31.

Jerusha McCarthy has decided to finish her schooling at Ethos360 Bible Institute in Wisconsin. Her last day with us was August 10.

Both girls have worked with CEF as summer missionaries then part-time permanent staff. I have grown to love these young women and will miss them more than I can say. Pray for Elizabeth and Jerusha as they take the next step in their walk with God.

### Weekly Time of Prayer

We will be resuming our weekly prayer time starting September 6.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Stay for the whole hour, come for 15 minutes, 30 minutes~ whatever fits in your schedule.

Let's join together in praying for the children in Schuylkill County.

***According to Josh McDowell, "CEF has become one of the most critical organizations in America . . . . It used to be that if we didn't reach kids by high school it was too late. Then junior high and now elementary. If we don't reach these kids at 5, 6, 7, and 8 years old – we will lose an entire generation!"***

# 2023

## SUMMER STATS



<u>Camp Training</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
June 5	Valley View	10
June 6	Friedensburg	18
June 8	Tamaqua	19
<b>3 Trainings</b>		<b>47</b>

<u>Camp Location</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Professions</u>	<u>Expressed Previous Profession at a CEF Ministry</u>	<u>Unchurched</u>
Tamaqua	103	15	7	22
Valley View	72	2	6	3
Rock	100	6	4	11
Auburn	85	4	1	6
Ashland	26	1	0	10
<b>5 Camps</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52</b>

<u>5-Day Club<sup>®</sup> Location</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Professions</u>
Pottsville	12	0
Klingerstown	5	0
Primrose (CEF office)	8	0
<b>3 Clubs</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>

**2023 Summer totals: 411 children reached with the Gospel and 18 professions of faith!**

### **Message of Thankfulness**

The following is from a first time camp volunteer:  
*“I want to thank you for the opportunity to volunteer at Good News Day Camp... I was amazed on how they learned the Bible verses, new songs, and worked as a team when playing the fun games. I want to thank your staff for being so helpful to me as I navigated the many responsibilities of being a team leader. They were all so kind and understanding. I know I looked dazed and confused many times. I want to especially acknowledge Christopher (Hautle)...he was so helpful in guiding me through the schedule and where everything was located. Thank you for making that possible.*”

### **An Encouraging Note!**

The following is from an email we recently received:

*“Just want to thank you for the children’s thank you notes to the camp sponsors, I look forward to them every year. I so enjoyed getting the postcards every week to pray for the individual children. Although I am almost a member of the “silent generation” and take life in the slow lane when I can, I am blessed to be a part of the CEF ministries as a prayer warrior. I appreciate the daily prayer requests as it gives me insight to the specific needs of the ministry. In a small way, I feel part of something big!”*”

The Seed of the Gospel was planted many years ago in the heart of a child,  
 God kept that Seed safe until just the right time when He determined it was time for it to grow.  
 Joining in the fray will produce fruit~ fruit that will last.

I ask you again, are you willing to join in the fray? There are over 16,500 elementary age children in Schuylkill County, help us to reach them with the Truth found only in God's Word~ the Bible.

*Shelley*

### **Your help is needed!**

Good News Clubs begin the week of October 1. We are in need of help at the following afterschool Good News Clubs:

**Blue Mountain Elementary East ~ Wednesdays 3:00-4:30**  
**Pine Grove ~ Thursdays 3:30-4:45**  
**Schuylkill Haven ~ Tuesdays 3:00-4:15**  
**Shenandoah ~ 3:00-4:30**  
**West Penn ~ 3:15-4:30**

We are unable to seek to start clubs in the following schools due to a lack of volunteers:

**Mahanoy Area**  
**Minersville Area**  
**North Schuylkill**  
**St. Clair Elementary School**

**Contact the CEF office 570-544-8042 if you are willing to join in the fray.**

### **Volunteer Training Class**

Tuesday, September 19

10:00-12 noon

6:30-8:30 p.m.

RSVP: September 11

570-544-8042 or email: [office@cefschuylkill.com](mailto:office@cefschuylkill.com)

The evening class is a repeat of the morning class.

This training is open to anyone who teaches children: junior church, Sunday school, AWANA Club ~ All children's workers are welcome to attend. This training will include a video by *Answers in Genesis: Creation vs. Evolution*. We will also be sharing teaching helps and have a lending library full of materials we are happy to lend out.



**Tel-A-Story®**

**1-888-878-8660**

Hear a new Biblical truth story every day.  
Listen online at

**www.18888788660.**

**Budget Corner**

2023 Budget  
\$160,721.00  
Monthly budget  
\$13,393.

YTD  
Income \$83,160.  
Expenses \$92,985.  
[-9,826.]

Online donations are accepted through  
Tithely.com



**Stats  
May 2023**

- \*Lessons graded: 62
- \*New students: 0
- \*Certificates earned: 5
- \*Professions of faith: 0

**July 2023**

- \*Lessons graded: 42
- \*New students: 5
- \*Certificates earned: 5
- \*Professions of faith: 0

**Pray for more children to sign up for the lessons.**

**It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!**

Christmas Party Club season is just around the corner and we are again asking for people to open their home or church for a Christmas Party Club. Last year we held a Christmas Party Club at the CEF office. We began at 10:00 a.m. with games, then held the "club" which included: the Christmas story, Scripture memory, songs, and a review game, after this the children decorated cookies (Jerusha, Ellie, and I baked earlier in the week), we served hot dogs, chips, and fruit for lunch, then we played a game, watched the Focus on the Family Christmas movie, and we ended our day with the kids eating the cookies they decorated and drinking hot chocolate~ the time flew by~ it was 2:00 p.m. and we sent home 16 very happy children.



Four of the children who attended the party club do not have a church home, but we were able to begin a relationship with them. This summer the three oldest children attended Good News Day Camp, and the 5-Day Club® held at the office. We are praying for an opportunity to help them find a church home. One of the moms mentioned that she used the free time to volunteer at another ministry!

Would you be interested in hosting and teaching a Christmas Party Club? We give you everything you need (except the food), including the lesson, handouts, and game ideas that are easy to play. Praying for you as you consider whether to join in the fray.

Contact CEF at  
570-544-8042  
Email:  
office@cefschuyllkill.com

Materials for the party club will be given during the Volunteer Training Class or arrangements can be made for you to pick up the materials at your convenience.

