

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

April 2024

WE ARE CHOSEN

Way back in October I introduced the theme for this years District Conference. I chose you. Which comes from John 15: 16. Jesus is speaking and this is the bit that I would like us to focus on. "You did not choose me but I choose you." There is more but for now lets just think about this bit. Jesus lets us know that we were chosen before we could choose him. I like that and as I told the story of when I went forward to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior that was not my intended destination.. I had planned to go to the restroom. So, I have been chosen like it or not. And this is true for all of us we have all been chosen by Jesus to be his brother or sister.

Sometimes I wonder just what I have been chosen for. When there are things that I have been called to do that I feel not security in doing I remind Jesus that he chose me. And when I don't do as best as I should I remind him that he chose me. Isn't it astounding that we are chosen to carry on the work that He started so many years ago. Isn't it astounding that He has more confidence in us that we have in ourselves at times.

A question that I think we need to wrestle with is what can I do to fulfill the continued work of Jesus.. Or maybe this way, what can we do as a district or congregation can we do to continue the work of Jesus as a chosen people. For we have been chosen for a mission that needs to be carried out.

I challenged us to get a bushel basket and place some kind of fruit made out of paper in the basket with labels of the times that we have bore fruit as ones chosen by Jesus. We at Penn Run have taken a bushel basket and topped it off with a sheet of Styrofoam, but some shredded green paper on top and are affixing paper apple cut outs to dowel rods that have had the name of some one that we have helped, the name of a banquet that we have done when we served as Jesus would serve. Think about it what have you and your congregation been doing to bear fruit? I think that when we put the basket in a place were we will see it quite often we will be amazed at what we have done in Jesus name. I also think that the sight of that basket of fruit will inspire us to seek out others ways that we can serve as chosen people. And this year at district conference we will bring out baskets of fruit and be amazed or maybe astounded at just what Jesus is doing in the Western Pennsylvanian District of the Church of the Brethren.



A final thought if you listen to Christian radio maybe you have heard this song, Crazy about you, sung by Tauren Wells. This song just might be getting to the point. If you listen to the lyrics carefully you just might hear this line, "You are the one He chose..." Look it up on the internet. Sing along with the video. Its ok no one is listening. Learn the song for I'm really hoping to sing it as District Conference as a people that indeed have been chosen by Christ!

Keep pressing on.

Jeff Fackler, 2024 District Moderator

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **May 2024** issue is

April 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

District Minister Team

Pete Kaltenbaugh, Ruby Mader, Chris Forry

Financial Clerk: Amy Bowman

wpacob@atlanticbb.net

District Secretary: Tina Lehman

tlehman@brethren.org

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Financial Clerk is in

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

CONTACT US:

115 Spring Road

Hollsopple, PA 15935

814-479-2181

Website: www.westernpacob.org

2024 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2024 District Directory was sent out in January. Please be sure to send me any updates and/or corrections as soon as possible so I can list them in the Highlights.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 District Directory, please contact me at

tlehman@brethren.org

or 814-479-2181.

Thank you!

Tina

REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

It is very helpful to the District Office staff to have updated information from all the churches we serve.

If your congregation will be making a new directory for

2024 please send one

to the District Office,

115 Spring Road,

Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

TO ALL MINISTERS

Reminder to be sure to update your clearances if you haven't done it already. Once you receive your updated info, please send a copy to the District Office, thanks!

Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

Behold, I make *all* things new.

Revelation 21:5 KJV



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

County Line —Randy Pechart, Shelly Pechart

VIRTUAL SERVICES

Arbutus COB Sunday Services are streamed at 9:00 am
<https://arbutuscob.org/>

Geiger COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633>

Hostetler COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/HostetlerCOBMeyersdalePa>

Meyersdale COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am
https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDIoJ_v6FfXuzfhRJn8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0

Rummel COB You can listen to podcasts of services on their church website at
<https://rummelchurch.com/sermons/>

Salisbury COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-Brethren-211422968870314>

Walnut Grove COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:00 am
<https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob>

ETHICS TRAINING

ATTENTION ALL PASTORS!

The Western PA District will be offering **two** Ethics Training opportunities ahead of the 2025 Ordination Review.

June 22, 2024

Somerset COB
9:00 am—3:00 pm

June 23, 2024

Uniontown COB
2:30 pm—8:30 pm

Pastor Del Keeney will be the presenter.

The Middle PA District will offer two sessions on June 1, 2024 and June 15, 2024 (location to be determined) for those who would not be able to make it to the sessions in our district.

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

The **County Line COB** will host a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner on **April 27, 2024 from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm**

Chicken & gravy over biscuits, mash potatoes, coleslaw, applesauce, dessert and drink.

Cost: \$13.00 Adults, \$7.00 Children (5-12)
Children 4 & under are free.
Take out is available

Sponsored by the Spiritual Renewal Team

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

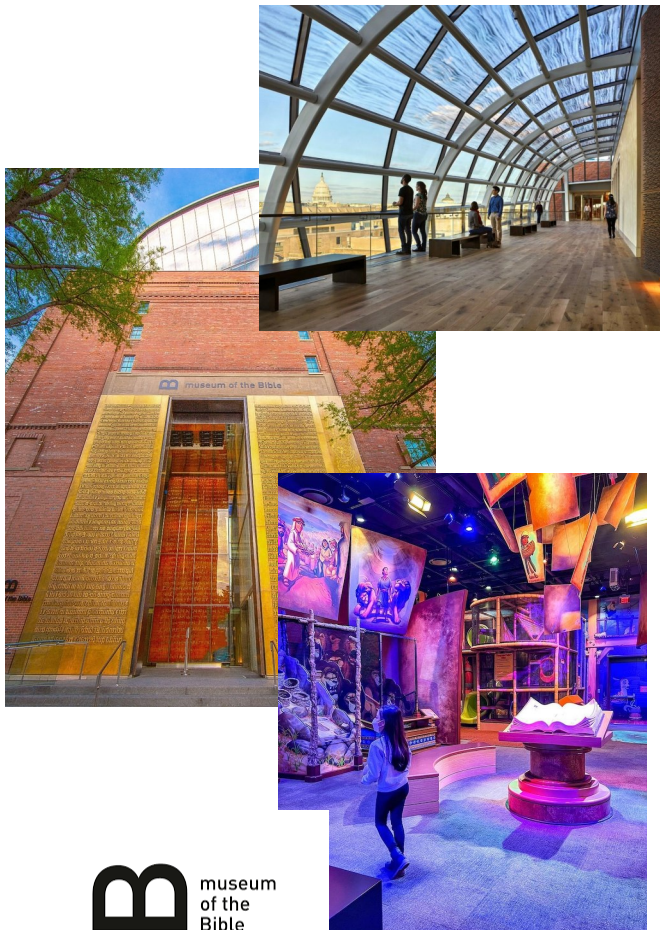
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

The District Outreach and Service Team is planning another bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. on **August 17, 2024**.

The bus will be leaving from the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935 at 6:00 am on August 17th and will be returning approximately 6:00 pm that same day.

Cost is \$65 per person

Please call the District Office at 814-479-2181 to make a reservation.



CEU SPOTLIGHT

Worship Models from Genesis to Revelation

Pastor Leah Hileman will be leading this workshop on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9:00 am to Noon at Camp Harmony (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$45.00 for .3 CEUs;
\$35.00 for no CEUs

Zoom: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs;
\$25.00 for no CEUs

How did churches end up with altar tables, tambourines, separate seating, call-and-response songs, house churches, and hymns?

How did the way God's people worship morph through the generations, adapting to culture shifts and changing in style, format, liturgy, and theology?

In this workshop, we will survey the scripture to see evidence that, while the Good News never changes, the ways and means by which we approach God in worship have undergone dramatic change.

We'll explore the biblical basis for large and small assemblies; varying styles of art, music, and architecture; and the "personality" of worship in high- and lowchurch traditions.

To register: email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org or call 717-361-1450.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

REVIVAL



Spring Revival Services

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for Revival Services
at the Locust Grove COB**

**APRIL 14, 15, & 16, 2024
at 7:00 pm**

Speakers are as follows:

April 14, 2024— Jim Gay

April 15, 2024—Leah Hileman

April 16, 2024—Frank Young

There will also be special
music each evening.

**LOCUST GROVE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1421 CLAPBOARD RUN RD.
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15904**

EVENTS AT SALISBURY COB FAITH FACTORY

Chalk Artist Dwight Haynes

April 7, 8, & 9, 2024

7:00 pm

Special music by Mark & Linda Treasures
will begin at 6:30 pm

Stanley Praitnath

Saturday, June 8, 2024

7:00 pm

Stanley is a survivor of the World Trade Center
attack on 9/11, will be sharing his amazing story
and testimony.

SALISBURY COB FAITH FACTORY

153 UNION STREET

SALISBURY, PA 15558



SOME GOOD NEWS!!

FROM THE GREENSBURG COB

First of all, I want to thank God for all that He has done for us and we would never be able to do all we do without Him leading the way. When I started as full-time Pastor at Greensburg, the first thing God told me is outreach. We started a group called Disciples' Hands in 2020.

We started a feeding the hungry program where we provided food boxes and emergency food to people in need in our area. Our feeding the hungry program grew to a new level when a school contacted us in 2022 and asked if we could provide weekend meals for 150 students that are in need, of course even without thinking about it we said yes we could do that. The cost for feeding 150 students for 4 weeks total near \$1300.00 so in one school year it cost us roughly \$11,700.00. We buy a month's worth of food which consists of microwavable items, cereal, oatmeal, soup and snacks. We buy most of the food at Sam's Club and we set up a packing party and pack all 600 bags for a month.

Our Eagle Scout Hunter Muir completed a project and built a blessing box that was placed in front of the church. We fill it up with canned goods and other items, so people can drive up and get something to take home.

We also started a program called Joyful Celebration. In September of 2021. It is a program for those with mental disabilities. It is every Monday at 5pm and we provided a meal, music (they love to sing) prayer time, a short message and a craft. We tell everyone if you want to see Love just come to our Monday night program because it is fun for all and just to see the smile on their faces is amazing.

All the above outreach activities is completely funded by Disciples' Hands Group. Not one penny comes from the church. Don't take that wrong the church would help if needed but God has provided in many ways, plus He puts us to work too.

We get our funding by:

- Homemade Soup Sales—several kinds for soup are sold along with homemade bread, other baked Goods and hot sausage sandwiches.
- Spaghetti Dinners by our own Chef Lena
- Donations

We also have Operation Christmas Child Shoebox from Samaritans Purse. Shirley Baker is the coordinator and does a fantastic job of keeping everything in order. Just because this is a Christmas Program it is an all year-round project.

Disciples' Hands is a truly amazing group of people that will do whatever it takes to get it done. We all work together very well.

God Bless,
Pastor Stephen Parfitt

RETIREMENT PARTY

Deb Bambling is retiring on May 31st after 25+ years of service at Camp Harmony.



Please join us to celebrate Deb with a retirement party on **May 27, 2024** from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at Camp Harmony.

Email Jen Vickroy at jen@campharmony.org if you are planning to attend.

If you would like to send Deb a card or words of congratulations, please send them to:

Camp Harmony, PO Box 158,
Hooversville, PA 15936-0158

Or email your messages to Jen Vickroy. Camp staff is also planning to open up their time capsule if enough Camp alumni and staff will be there!

Congratulations Deb!!

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

FOOD PANTRIES

Walnut Grove Food Pantry

<https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob/>

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/>

Please consider donating food to these or any other groups in our area.

PET FOOD PANTRY

The Pet Food Pantry is open the **SECOND** Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to Noon at the **Arbutus COB**. The pet pantry is currently accepting donations for any pet item that is no longer needed by your family. Suggestions for donations are: pet collars, beds, bowls, leashes, etc. These items will be offered free to the clients. The items can be dropped off at the church through the first set of glass doors into the entrance to the church. These doors are always open. The pet pantry would gladly accept donations of cat and dog food. The church is blessed to be able to offer this program to the community. For additional information call Cheryl Edmiston at 814-410-3151.

CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

We can all use some good news now and again right?

Stories of serving in the community, milestone birthdays and anniversaries, academic achievements, etc.

I look forward to sharing more good news from the District!

tlehman@brethren.org

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



El Hogar De Ninos Enmanuel Shoe Project

THINKING OF SPRING CLEANING? REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR GENTLY WORN SHOES FOR THE EL NINOS SHOE PROJECT!

Spring is here and we're hoping that as you Spring clean, you'll remember to save your gently worn shoes for the District shoe project. All varieties of shoes, sandals, slippers, and boots are needed to earn funds to supports the children's home in Honduras.

To participate , just place a rubber band around each pair of shoes, and deliver them to either the District Office during regular business hours; the Westmont COB—by arranging a drop off date by calling 814-255-2154; or by contacting a member of the shoe committee.

We are hoping to help outfit the new culinary arts center at the home, and every pair of shoes helps!

For more information, please call:

Marie Camut – 814-266-3010

April Mackell – 814-536-1589

Karen Nagyvathy - 814-244-6977

Together, we can make a difference!

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES

Brethren Disaster Ministries is alive and I would like to say well but, unfortunately things are moving slowly at this point. Covid did not do us any favors, as a matter of fact, it nearly demolished this ministry. We have been on a few very successful trips in 2022-23 in spite of all that has been going on.

I was able to make up a work schedule for Western Pennsylvania District for 2024 consisting of six, week-long trips. Day trips to New Windsor have been discontinued.

Having a schedule is fine but we have to have volunteers to do the work at those job sites. This is where you come in. There are no qualifications to become a volunteer, so if you are one of those people who says "I don't know how to do anything" it doesn't matter. If you are between the ages of 15 and 100 you qualify!

We are searching for people who have never been on a trip, as well as the seasoned veteran. So if you are a first time volunteer who has had volunteering on your bucket list now would be the perfect time to step up to the challenge and sign on. Our last trip to Dawson Springs, Kentucky included two first time volunteers, who had such a fulfilling experience that they are signing up for future trips.

I guarantee you that you will not regret your decision and will probably say "when is the next trip?" If you are one of the seasoned veterans who has been on several trips, we need your expertise on doing the work and instructing those who say I don't know how to do anything.

Please review the schedule and volunteer for one or more trips in 2024. I think that you, as has many who have gone on before you, will be pleasantly surprised!

Questions or to register please call your congregational coordinator if you don't know or have one contact me at H-814 539-8530 or C-814-691-5718

Please note that the ministry has a need for a small closed in utility trailer to haul tools and/or the volunteers luggage. If you have one and would like to sell or donate it please contact me.

Herb Ewald, District Disaster Coordinator



It is becoming increasingly more difficult to secure a crew of eleven volunteers via telephone, so I will be using email to communicate with churches and individuals to line up enough people to make this program work.

This system, I hope, will streamline the process and eliminate missed calls and phone messages that sometimes go unanswered. Once you receive an email from me, please check the printed schedule and consider giving a day or a week out of your busy schedule toward this very rewarding, worthwhile ministry.

Contact your church coordinator to volunteer and, if your church does not have one, please contact me at hjewald@atlanticbb.net or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2024 Schedule

February 18—24, 2024	Dawson Springs w S. Ohio
May 5—11, 2024	Dawson Springs w OPEN
July 7—13, 2024	TBA OPEN
September 15—21, 2024	TBA OPEN
November 3—9, 2024	TBA w A.N.E
December 8—14, 2024	TBA OPEN

Maximum of 7 Volunteers on each trip except if noted OPEN, then 15 Volunteers would be needed. Locations of all week long trips to be announced as info is available.

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

ORDAINED

ABRAHAM, FARREL – 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / sharingpearls@comcast.net

BEACHLEY, LINDA—PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / lrbeac@atlanticbb.net

BEACHLEY, RONALD – PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / rondbeachley@gmail.com

BROADWATER, KEVIN—475 Keystone Street, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 / 814-442-5684 / pastorbroadwater@verizon.net

DERR, AMELIA – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / iamameliaderr@yahoo.com

DERR, HORACE - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / pastorbutch@gmail.com

HOUGHTON, SALLY - 124 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-3019 / 814-243-6448 / smh124@atlanticbb.net

KABLER, ERIC—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-266-2734 / eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com

LONGWELL, ERIC— 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / kb3ttx@gmail.com

MANGES, JOHN – 137 Catskill Lane, Johnstown, 15904-7523 / 814-539-3332 / manges@atlanticbb.net

MOSORJAK, GARY – 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / wendel05@aol.com

PERUSO, RUSSELL – 151 Blackner Road, Johnstown, 15905 / 814-242-0549 / russperuso@gmail.com

PISARSKI, STANLEY – 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / spisarski1017@gmail.com

SMITH, A. HARRISON—506 Sciandro Drive, Greensburg, 15601 / 724-837-4491

STEIN, ROBERT - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 / 724-438-2226 / crid@verizon.net

SWICK, MICHAEL - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / preachmike101@comcast.net

WALKER, JUDY—425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette 15644 / 724-522-5260 / larryewalker1@gmail.com

WHITED, JAMES—881 Treasure Lake, DuBois 15801 / 814-592-5714 / jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

LICENSED

BURNEY, OYANGO—137 N. 9th Street, Indiana, 15701/ 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellywithattitude@gmail.com

SHAULIS, TRAVIS—608 Second Street, Meyersdale, 15552 / 814-442-8626 / tanbadaner@gmail.com

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA—102 Franklin Drive, Greensburg, 15601-1305 / 724 836-0594

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Growing in knowledge . . . Rooted in Christ



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown PA 17022

svmc@svmcob.org; 717.361.1450; www.etown.edu/svmc

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Centers offers class on:

Communication Skills for Pastoral Ministry

When: Saturdays, March 23 and April 20, 2024 -- 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Where: Bedford Church of the Brethren, 310 Donahue Rd., Bedford, PA 15522 (In person attendance is preferred, but a Zoom connection will be arranged for those who need it.)

Class Description:

You've been called to the ministry, but the job requires more skill in speaking, listening, and writing than you possess. Don't worry! We've got a class for you. This revamped course in *Communication Skills for Pastoral Ministry* from the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center will be geared, as much as possible, to the needs of individual students. Together, we will focus on the kinds of written and oral communication most often employed by pastors and other church leaders. We will use a variety of materials in print and online to address the need for concise, accurate language in church communications. Assignments will be in the form of short essays, letters, and reports. To complete the 15 hours required for the class, participants may be asked to join in an individual Zoom session or phone call.

Instructor Information:

Beckie Miller Zeek is a part-time minister at Bedford Church of the Brethren in Middle PA District. A graduate of the TRIM program, her first career was as a reading specialist in the public school system. She received her B.S. from Juniata College and her M.Ed. from Penn State University. She brings to the class 20 years' experience in ministry and 28 years' experience teaching reading and English to reluctant learners.

This course may be:

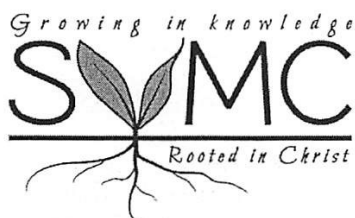
- counted as a "Ministry Skills" course in the ACTS program (cost = \$270.00)
- audited by anyone for increased communication skills (cost = \$90.00)
- audited and earn CEUs (cost = \$100.00)

TO REGISTER:

Contact Karen Hodges at KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org or 717-361-1450. Upon registration, an invoice and further information will be sent to you.

SVMC is a Church of the Brethren ministry education partner with Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and the Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle Pennsylvania, Southern Pennsylvania, and Western Pennsylvania Districts.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's

2024

Continuing Education Events

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is offering a robust schedule of Continuing Education for clergy and interested laity in 2024. Ranging from Christian ID in the Age of AI, Worship Models, Grief Literacy, Suicide and your Congregation, Luke and ACTS, Autism and the Church, and Why Leadership Matters, everyone will find a topic of interest. While credentialed clergy can receive Continuing Education units which are needed for ordination renewal in 2025, laity will also benefit from these topics. Please be sure that deacons and other interested folks receive information on these topics as everyone is invited to register. The ordination renewal for ordained clergy is coming quickly in 2025, so be sure to register for these excellent sessions and bring other interested persons from your congregation. *To register, click on the event Title for each event and follow the registration links, or email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or call 717-361-1450.*

Worship Models from Genesis to Revelation

Leah Hileman, Leader

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Camp Harmony, Western PA District (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$45.00 for .3 CEUs; \$35.00 for no CEUs

Zoom: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs; \$25.00 for no CEUs

How did churches end up with altar tables, tambourines, separate seating, call-and-response songs, house churches, and hymns? How did the way God's people worship morph through the generations, adapting to culture shifts and changing in style, format, liturgy, and theology? In this workshop, we will survey the scripture to see evidence that, while the Good News never changes, the ways and means by which we approach God in worship have undergone dramatic change. We'll explore the biblical basis for large and small assemblies; varying styles of art, music, and architecture; and the "personality" of worship in high- and low-church traditions.

Christian ID in an Age of AI

Russell Haight, Leader

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

The world is shifting, the foundations shaking, and no innovation seen before—not the printing press or automobile or Internet—will be able to rival the impending impact of Artificial Intelligence, combined with genetic engineering and other advanced technologies. This workshop is designed to help you develop or improve a Christian framework for thinking through all the new issues on the horizon. The world is going to look dramatically different, so too our churches and the lives of our children. We need to be ready to respond. The best, most faithful response will grow out of our identity in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down

Chris Bucher & Bob Neff, Leaders

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College (In-Person Only -- No Zoom Option for this event)

\$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

This class will draw upon the 2023 book Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down, co-authored by Chris Bucher and Bob Neff. Chris and Bob will discuss Luke's theme of "turning the world upside down" through the gathering of Jesus' followers into communities that practice healing, inclusivity, and sharing. Presentations will assist in the understanding of these two books as a guide for Anabaptists and Radical Pietists and will incorporate visual art that offers new ways to see the Biblical texts.

(More Events on Next Page)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Suicide and Your Congregation

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Zoom Only

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs.

Suicide is a rising public health concern and faith-based organizations hold a vital role in ministering to survivors. This interactive workshop examines the dual role of clergy in postvention care. Best practices in caring for survivors, the congregation, and oneself forms the basis of a small group role-play focusing on a faith community's response to a member's violent death. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills relevant to engaging suicide issues across congregational settings.

Autism and the Church

Lisa Kruse, Tim Miller, David Crumrine, Stan Dueck, Leaders

Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

The church is a place where people should feel welcome no matter what challenges they may have. Families with an autistic member need to feel the welcome and acceptance of a church who cares for their special circumstance. This Continuing Education event will provide information to pastors and other church leaders regarding autism, how to support families with an autistic member, and how to make the church a safe and welcoming place for families.

Grief Literacy

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Zoom Only

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs.

Society's grief-avoiding mentality and limited community-based support initiatives affect the well-being of bereaved persons. This interactive case-based workshop examines the grief literacy movement in connection with Christ-Centered Ministry Leadership. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills applicable to enhancing the welfare of grieving congregational members and persons in their community.

The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters

Jeff Carter, Leader

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College - In-Person or Zoom

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. Furthermore, Brethren are naturally suspicious of leaders; called, elected, or self-proclaimed. Values, such as humility, consensus, and the priesthood of all believers, lead to a flat hierarchy and a communal pragmatism. We celebrate leaders such as Dan West, Sarah Major, M.R. Zigler, and Anna Mow, but in their day, they stirred controversy by the manner of their leading. So, what does it mean to lead in today's church and world? I believe leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is a Church of the Brethren ministry partnership that includes the districts of Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA, in addition to Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Bethany Theological Seminary. SVMC's mission is to equip leaders for ministry in a regionally based, Christ centered, culturally relevant context in ways that bear witness to the beliefs, heritages and practices of the Church of the Brethren.



Summer 2024

Join FaithX during Summer 2024 to serve, grow in faith, make friends, and experience something new! FaithX experiences are short-term service trips that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world so that we may learn to participate in God's vision of justice for all people. Participants will serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings, live and worship in community, make friendships, and explore a new place.

Registration for FaithX Summer 2024 opens on January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm (eastern time), and closes on April 1, 2024 www.brethren.org/faithx.

This coming year, FaithX participants will have the opportunity to serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings, live and worship in community, explore a new place, examine their values and beliefs, and have too much fun! A summary of the 2024 trip locations is below, but you can find the dates and more details at www.brethren.org/faithx/schedule.

Junior High – Roanoke, VA; Palmyra, PA

Junior/Senior High – Denton, MD (Camp Mardela);

South Bend, IN; Knoxville, TN; Winston-Salem, NC

Senior High – Cle Elum, WA (Camp Koinonia); North Fort Myers, FL

Adult – Ecuador; Eastern United States (Brethren Disaster Ministries)

Older Adult – Gotha, FL (Camp Ithiel)

Family – Petersburg, PA (Camp Blue Diamond)

We Are Able – Elgin, IL



Annual Conference 2024 DeVos Place Convention Center Grand Rapids, Michigan July 3-7, 2024

More info coming soon



Young Adult Conference May 24-26, 2024

[Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center](#)
near Sharpsburg, MD

Young Adult Conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults!

Registration is open! Register between 1/12 and 2/14 to get free [Nutter's Ice Cream](#) during YAC!

To Register go to:

<https://www.brethren.org/yva/yac/>



SUMMER CAMP 2024

PROVIDING ADVENTURE & FUN WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE!

DAY CAMPS \$106

GRADES K-8, 9AM -4:30PM

DAY CAMP #1: JUNE 10-14

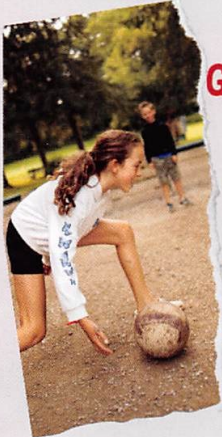
DAY CAMP #2: JUNE 17-21

DAY CAMP #3: JUNE 24-28

DAY CAMP #4: JULY 8-12

DAY CAMP #5: JULY 15-19

DAY CAMP #6: JULY 29-AUG 2



KICK OFF CAMPS \$50

GRADES K-6, 10AM -3PM

@ PORTAGE DAY CAMP: JUNE 17-21

@ ROCKWOOD DAY CAMP: JUNE 24-28

@ INDIANA DAY CAMP: JULY 15-19

@ MEYERSDALE DAY CAMP: JULY 29-AUG 2



OVERNIGHT CAMPS \$386

JUNIOR: GRADES 2-5

JUNIOR #1: JUNE 30-JULY 5

JUNIOR #2: JULY 21-26

JUNIOR #3: AUG 4-9

JUNIOR EXTREME: JUNE 16-21

JR HIGH: GRADES 5-8

JR. HI. #1: JUNE 30-JULY 5

JR. HI. #2: JULY 21-26

JR. HI. #3: AUG 4-9

JR. HI. EXTREME #1 JUNE 16-21

JR. HI. EXTREME #2: JULY 7-12

SIBLING DISCOUNTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

YOUTH: GRADE 7-12

YOUTH #1: JUNE 30- JULY 5

YOUTH #2: JULY 21-26

YOUTH #3: AUG 4-9

YOUTH EXTREME: JULY 7-12

YOUTH ADVENTURE: JULY 28-AUG 2



\$64

PRE-K CAMPS

AGES 3-5, 9AM -12PM

PRE-K CAMP #1: JUNE 3-7

PRE-K CAMP #2: JULY 22-26



SAVE 50% FOR YOU AND A FRIEND WHEN A RETURNING CAMPERS BRING A NEW-TO-CAMP-HARMONY-FRIEND!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST

WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG



3D ARCHERY SHOOT

APRIL 6TH
REGISTRATION & WARM UP AREA OPEN 7:00 AM
FIRST ARROWS FLY AT 8:15AM

For both novice and Advanced shooters

BENEFITS CAMP HARMONY SUMMER CAMPS

20 targets, of varying yardage and difficulty.

1 Iron Target Shot Competition.

1 Long Range Shot Competition.

Meal, speaker, and awards to follow event!

Shoot as a team, or as an individual!

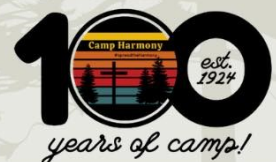
- 2-4 members per team - scores averaged for total, per target.
- Individuals: Best shot score per target.
- Prizes for individuals, and teams!
- Compound, Traditional, and Rangefinder permitted!

\$45 for individuals
Teams of 4: \$125

Prizes for:

- Best overall individual Compound shooter
- Best overall individual Traditional shooter.
- Best overall Team.
- Long Shot Competition.
- Iron Target Competition.

www.campharmony.org



📞 814-798-5885

✉️ Austin@campharmony.org

📍 1414 plank Rd. Hooversville, Pa 15936



100
Camp Harmony
est. 1924
years of camp!

Spring
**MEN'S
RETREAT**
April 19th-20th

"NO WORRIES"
Matthew 6:25-27

Register today:
www.Campharmony.org



100
Camp Harmony
est. 1924
years of camp!

Spring Women's
Retreat
May 10-11, 2024

Awake, Oh Sleeper!
Ephesians 5:14



2024 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

If your congregation, committee, or group would like to have information listed on the District Calendar, please send it in to the District Office by the 10th of each month. Thanks!

APRIL 2024

- 6 - SVMC Class
- 27 - SVMC Class

MAY 2024

- 2 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 5 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 9 - ASCENSION DAY
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 12 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 19 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost Sunday)
- 27 - MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 2024

- 16 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

JULY 2024

- 3 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins, Grand Rapids, MI
- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends, Grand Rapids, MI

AUGUST 2024

- 10 - SVMC class, District Office
- 17 - Bus Trip to Museum of the Bible (TBA)
- 24 - SVMC class, District Office

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 2 - LABOR DAY
- 12 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 14 - SVMC class, District Office
- 21 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

2024 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2024

- 6 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 12 - SVMC class
- 19 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony
- 26 - SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2024

- 3 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 19 - SVMC class
- 21 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

DECEMBER 2024

- 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 15 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 22 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
- 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Western PA District
Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

THE HIGHLIGHTS

April 2024