

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

April 2026

DISTRICT MINISTER NOTES

Moving Day!



What an adventure or is it a nightmare? Remember that first move from home with your suitcase, or a box or two of essentials and the future stretching out ahead of you. Then there may have been other moves with a spouse or children for relocation or new challenges. Each time it seems the number of boxes, and essentials multiply. At first it fits in the trunk, then the entire car is packed solid, then an U-Haul, to a truck or a moving company vehicle.

Then as grow older you move to a smaller place and everything just can't come with you and you wonder where did all this stuff come from? Picture albums of family and friends and you must decide who will want to look at these once you aren't here. High school yearbooks from ages ago, and no one looks like that anymore. Children's picture, grandchildren's pictures, crafts from decades, if not the last century, and you must decide, "What do I keep?"

How did we get so much stuff? What to do with those things that meant so much at one time and now it is difficult to remember who gave it to us or why it was even given. Another thought is, where has it been hiding these last twenty five years or more. Who put it on the truck the last time and why!

Churches are also guilty of saving, keeping, storing those items that at one time in the "good old days" were special. If it has a plaque on it at least we have an idea for whom it came, but without the plaques we hold on to the item as if it were precious gold.

Sometimes holding on to the past traditions, or "this is the way we always do it." Needs to be left go, and we need to move on. For instance, that red Brethren hymnal that only has hymns or songs published before 1950, wonderful music but much has been written in the last 75 years and we need to add to, the favorite familiar old stuff. The world is changing and we adjust in so many ways but closing the doors on what is happening now, and staying with the old stuff just isn't wise. We need to reach those living Now!

We need to "MOVE" saving the valuables that are useful, leaving behind the old useless stuff, and as difficult as it sounds, find what will work now, in sharing the Word of God and the Grace of Christ in this century.

The "Word of God" stays the same but how we present it is important. The Spirit is alive and refreshes, it does not need bottled and saved. Leave the stuff behind that isn't needed and be ALIVE with the Grace of Christ.

Some things from the past are special and need to be shared, but some stuff needs to be removed. Let us stop dragging it along or placing it in the dark storage, Step into the LIGHT and the Present.

NOW is the time to LIVE in Christ. Get with it, Move on!

Pete Kaltenbaugh, District Minister Team

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the

May 2026 issue is

April 10, 2026

Please send your information to lehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

District Minister Team

Pete Kaltenbaugh

mdalepastorpete@comcast.net

Ruby Mader

redhatvicar@yahoo.com

Chris Forry

exit10dunkard@hotmail.com

Financial Clerk: Amy Bowman

wpacob@atlanticbb.net

District Secretary: Tina Lehman

lehman@brethren.org

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday**

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Closed every Friday

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

2026 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2026 District Directory is now available. If you have any updates or changes, please send them to me asap so that I can publish them here in the Highlights.

Any questions, please contact me at

lehman@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 **2026** please send one to:

Western PA District Office
115 Spring Road,
Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

Easter Joy

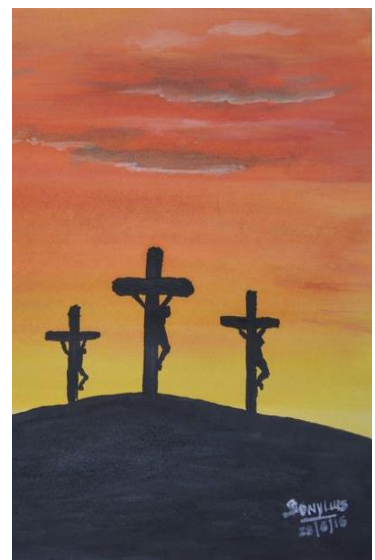
by Joanna Fuchs

Jesus came to earth.
To show us how to live.
How to put others first.
How to love and how to give.

He could have saved Himself.
Calling angels from above.
But He chose to pay our price for sin.
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday.
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

So we live our lives for Jesus.
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior. Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Hooversville – Galen Blough, Eric Burk, Erin Burk, Tracy Dill, Kim Kalina, Chuckie Mahon, Mark Monroe

WITH SYMPATHY

For Pastor Chuck Mahon and his family as his wife Karen passed away on March 14th.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

Arbutus COB - <https://arbutuscob.org/>

Freedom Church (Indiana COB) - Freedom Church on Facebook and @FreedomChurch-cd9xj on YouTube

Geiger COB - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633>

Hostetler COB - <https://www.facebook.com/HostetlerCOBMeyersdalePa>

Meyersdale COB - https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDIoJ_v6FfXuzfhRJn8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0

Rummel COB - <https://rummelchurch.com/sermons/>

Salisbury COB -

<https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-Brethren-211422968870314>

Walnut Grove COB - <https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob>



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

EVENTS AT GEIGER COB

Searching for Eggs as We Celebrate His Life Gift

Kids from ages 1 - 12 are welcome to join in the fun! It all begins at **9:30 am on Saturday, April 4**. To register, please contact Sandy Weigle at 814-279-6279 by March 20 via phone or text.

A Time for Revival with the Keystone State Quartet!

The beloved Keystone State Quartet will be joining us on **Saturday, April 11 at 7:00 pm** for a time of revival and renewal. All are welcome!! Light refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow. A free will offering will be accepted.

Questions: E-mail
Pastorsjandl@gmail.com.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



District Conference
will be held on

September 19, 2026 at 9:00 am
at the

County Line Church of the Brethren
1411 County Line Road
Champion, PA 15622

Registration deadline is
September 1, 2026

Please contact the District Office
at 814-479-2181 if you have any questions.

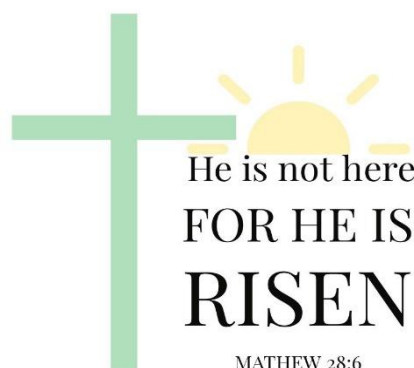
CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

**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



MATHEW 28:6

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

We would like to take this time to thank the congregations in the Western PA District for their generous donations of school, hygiene, and clean up bucket kits over many years. Church World Service continues to serve communities here and abroad by delivering these kits where they are needed. There is a new Mission Central location in Mechanicsburg PA (near Harrisburg) that will be the location where kits can be delivered. Please see the info in the below.

CWS Mission Central
5 Pleasant View Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

HOURS:—Friday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
(Closed on weekends and holidays)

Please plan to arrive by **2:30 pm** so their team has time to assist you before closing. If your delivery fills more than an SUV, please call **717-766-1533** advance. Mission Central is closed on holidays. If you have a specific question, please call prior to delivering kits.

Our District is going to ask that for this year and for the 2026 District Conference, please try to have your individual congregations deliver their own kits or work with other COB churches to collect and deliver kits to this new location in Mechanicsburg, PA. If that does not work for you, contact the District Office and we will other make arrangements.

And do not
forget to do
good and to
share with
others, for with
such sacrifices
God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16

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.

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

ORDAINED MINISTERS

FARREL ABRAHAM

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

LINDA BEACHLEY

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

RONALD BEACHLEY

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

KEVIN BROADWATER

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

KAITLYN COUGHENOUR

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

AMELIA DERR

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

ERIC KABLER

126 Clermont Street
Johnstown 15904-2132
814-242-0920
eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com

ERIC LONGWELL

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

GARY MOSORJAK

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

TRAVIS SHAULIS

608 Second Street
Meyersdale, 15552
814-442-8626
tanbadaner@gmail.com

ROBERT SIMONSICK

111 Apple Jack Lane
Greensburg, 15601
419-934-1794
bprabsimon@aol.com

ROBERT STEIN

PO Box 375
Chalk Hill, 15421-0375
724-438-2226
crld@verizon.net

MICHAEL SWICK

4127 Greenville Road
Meyersdale 15552-8518
814-634-8158
preachmike101@comcast.net

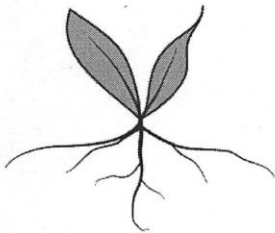
JAMES WHITED

14 Pennsylvania Avenue
Brookville 15825
814-592-5714
jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing Education Offerings from Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

For more information and to register, please click on the title of the event, or contact SVMC.



- February 17, 2026: Spiritual Well-Being: Strengthening & Refining. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. **COMPLETED**
- March 13, 2026: Love Feast: Past, Present, and Future. An in-person session at Cross Keys Village with Denise Kettering-Lane. **COMPLETED**
- April 18, 2026: Better with Less Workshop. A Zoom session with G. Jeffery MacDonald (Sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District). **COMPLETED**
- June 3, 2026: Congregational Ministry to Members Navigating Divorce Experiences. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open).
- October 6, 2026: Caring for Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions: A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open).
- October 29, 2026: Supporting Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open).

www.etown.edu/svmc

SVMC@SvmcCob.org

717-361-1450

go to www.brethren.org for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren



Annual Conference 2026 Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 2 Fort Wayne, Indiana Grand Wayne Convention Center

Registration now open at
<https://www.brethren.org/ac2026/registration/>



What is the cost?

Early registration fee (registering in January and February) is \$625 per person. Regular registration (during March and April) is \$650. Late registration (during May and June) is \$675. All registration fees will cover lodging, food, and programming while at NYC. Registration will open January 5th, 2026!

How can I find out more?

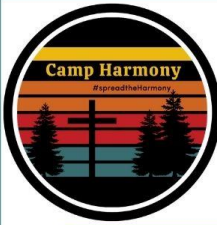
Visit this page regularly! Connect on social media. Contact Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth/Young Adult Ministries, at bullomnaugle@brethren.org 847-429-4385 with questions.

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 year. BVS encourages applicants of all ages (18-plus) to put your faith into action and apply for a year of service.

Before embarking on a service year, volunteers first attend an orientation. There are two volunteer orientations planned for next year, both in the Midwest.

For more information, go to:
<https://www.brethren.org/bvs/>





SUMMER CAMP 2026

PROVIDING ADVENTURE & FUN WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE.

DAY CAMPS \$110

GRADES K-6, 9AM-4:30PM

Day Camp 1: June 15-19

Day Camp 2: July 6-10

Day Camp 3: July 13-17

Day Camp 4: July 27-31



PRE-K CAMPS \$65

AGES 3-5, 9AM-12PM

Pre-K Camp 1: June 8-12

Pre-K Camp 2: July 13-17

OVERNIGHT CAMPS \$390

OVERNIGHT 1

GRADES 2-12

June 28 - July 3

OVERNIGHT 2

GRADES 2-12

July 19-24

YOUTH ADVENTURE

GRADES 7-12

July 26-31



WILDERNESS CAMPS \$390

Wilderness 1: June 21-26

Grades 2-8

Wilderness 2: July 5-10

Grades 7-12



SIBLING DISCOUNTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST!

WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG

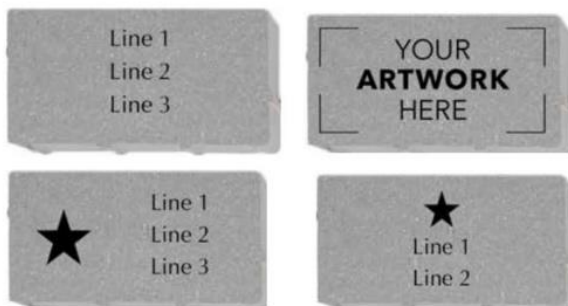
CAMP HARMONY



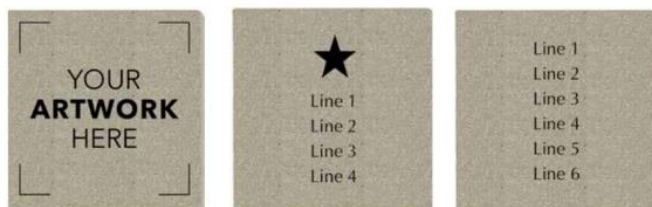
Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

Camp Harmony is seeking your support in fundraising to continue the pool restoration project. Bricks given through this campaign will create a pathway to the pool and the funds will go to our Camper Scholarship fund.

Brick Options include 4x8 engraved.



Brick Options include 8x8 engraved.



You may individualize a brick for you, your family, your business, your church/organization, honor a loved one, or make a memorial. The bricks are engraved using state of the art laser technology. Every brick engraving is guaranteed for life!

**Order Online at www.campharmony.org
Or email Phil@campharmony.org for more info!**

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR April 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2	3 Good Friday District Office Closed	4 SVMC
5 He is Risen! Happy Easter!	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 SVMC
26	27	28	29	30		



2026 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 2026

11 - SVMC Class
25 - SVMC Class

MAY 2026

9 - SVMC Class
14 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
23 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

JUNE 2026

28 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins,
Fort Wayne, IN

JULY 2026

2 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends,
Fort Wayne, IN
18—National Youth Conference begins
23— National Youth Conference ends

AUGUST 2026

8—SVMC Class
22— SVMC Class at the District Office

SEPTEMBER 2026

5—SVMC Class
10 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
19 - District Conference, County Line COB
26—SVMC Class

OCTOBER 2026

10—SVMC Class at the District Office
24—SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2026

5 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
14 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

DECEMBER 2026

No meetings or events scheduled

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

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