

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

August 2023

DISTRICT MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

I begin with a question asked in the article I wrote in the February Highlights; "What will or can give us a spirit of 'unity among ourselves, and our faith communities, as we follow Christ Jesus?'" How did you answer that question then and how do you answer if you are reading this in the Highlights? Are we as faith communities and sisters and brothers in Christ "Bound Together By Prayer?" Then my question becomes, how is that lived out in our daily lives? I believe within the Western PA District we are bound together in our commitment to serve the Lord and share the good news of Jesus love with others.

This does not automatically bring unity but it is a beginning and a start as we seek to serve the Lord in our daily lives. It begins with a positive attitude and a strong relationship with the Lord. That relationship grows and is strengthened by our prayer life, our study of scripture, and our involvement in the faith community. Unity or harmony does not happen because we make interesting statements about it and wish for it to appear, or because we think about it now and again. I believe it happens when we start praying individually and corporately to seek God's spirit for direction and discernment.

In the scripture chosen to support the theme "Bound Together By Prayer," Romans 15:5-6, Paul wrote, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." We are to seek unity, "WHY," so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unity within our individual lives and in the faith community allows us to glorify God. Is that not what you and I should be about in our faith journey? Unity or harmony in the faith community is like we are singing a song, No matter if we are singing in harmony or not, we are making a joyful sound to the Lord.

If as an individual we are not in unity with the Lord, how can we glorify God our heavenly Father?" Also, as a faith community if we are not in unity as sisters and brothers how can we glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? My prayer and desire as a disciple of Christ is that we seek to be in harmony with our brothers and sisters in the Western PA District.

I'm writing this article a few days before we leave for Annual Conference (AC). My prayer is that unity can be achieved as delegates and others in attendance seek God's will and direction for our denomination. I have prayed and continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to challenge and encourage each of us, as decisions are made at AC, that we are listening too and seeking unity with the Lord and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Unity will not be achieved if we sit on our hands and hope others will see issues and concerns just like I do. No, unity will happen when we pray together, dialogue with others, and seek God's will together. Unity is not something easily achieved.



Who would know that better than most; Paul, one who faced numerous challenges throughout his ministry? He could write and challenge us with the verses written in Romans 15:5, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." Unity happens when we pray, seek God's will, and work together to bring glory to God our heavenly Father.

Again, I want to encourage us as individuals, and faith communities to be praying for District Conference. Praying that unity will be something we can achieve and together "with one heart and mouth," bring glory to God. Harmony can be achieved when we work for it to happen and trust the Holy Spirit to guide the process. My prayer is that we as a district and individual will be "Bound Together By Prayer," as we meet in October for District Conference. Please join me as we pray for unity that we might be faithful witnesses for the Lord in our daily lives.

Moderator Ronald Beachley

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **September 2023** issue is

August 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

Peter Kaltenbaugh, Interim District Minister

Amy Bowman, Financial Clerk

Tina Lehman, District Secretary and Highlights Editor

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

866-279-2181 toll free

www.westernpacob.org

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 **2023** please send one to the District Office,
115 Spring Road,
Hollsopple, 15935
Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please keep the District Office Staff and the Interim District Minister as well as District Leadership Team in your prayers as they continue to work in the district during this time of transition.

Please also be in prayer for the District Search Committee in their search for a permanent District Minister.

2023 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2023 District Directory has been sent out via email and postal mail.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2023 District Directory, please contact, tlehman@brethren.org or 814-479-2181

Thank you!

DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your information appears in the District Directory, please be sure to send me any updates that may happen (when they happen) during this year.

I plan to finalize the 2024 District Directory by December 31, 2023 in order to send out the new directory early in January 2024.

I need your help to keep the information current and appreciate it greatly. Thanks!

Tina

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Good Samaritan—Robin Swank

WITH SYMPATHY

To the family of **Pastor Gieta Gresh** and her family as her husband Ken Gresh passed away on June 25th.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

The following congregations looking for part-time pastors:

Plumcreek, Robinson, and Pike Run

Interested pastors please contact the District Office at 814-479-2181.

TO ALL MINISTERS

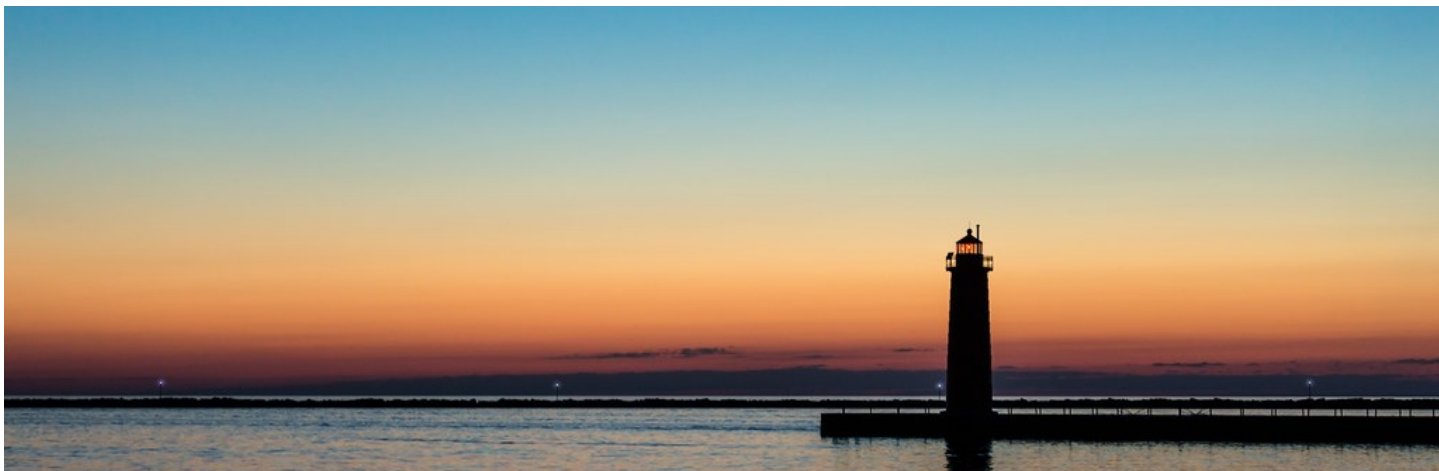
Reminder to be sure to update your clearances if you haven't done it already. Once you receive your updated info, please send a copy to the District Office, thanks!

Western PA District COB
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

FREE HYMNALS

The County Line Church has some old Church of the Brethren hymnals to give away. They are red cover and published in 1968.

The front says, "The Brethren Hymnal."
We have over 100 plus copies.
If anyone is interested, contact
Pastor Barry Conn at 814-443-4656.



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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-ZM8lDloOJ_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>



AN INVITATION

New to the Monroeville or Pittsburgh area?

The Monroeville Church of the Brethren
invites you to worship with them!

481 Center Road,
Monroeville, PA 15146
412-372-4165

Worship and Fellowship
on Sundays 11:00 am
You can also like us on Facebook

*"But blessed are those who
trust in the Lord and have
made the Lord their hope
and confidence.
Jeremiah 17:7*

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

From 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

New Windsor Trips

No Trips Scheduled Yet

Week-long Trips

7/9/23 to 7/15/23	½ group needed, S. Ohio/KY
10/1/23 to 10/7/23	½ group needed, A.N.E.
10/29/23 to 11/0/23	½ group needed, location TBA
12/10/23 to 12/16/23	½ group needed, S. PA

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.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



El Hogar De Ninos Enmanuel Shoe Project

Sincere thanks to everyone who has been collecting shoes for our next shipment!

With your help, we are within 200 pairs of the 2,500 pairs of needed for a minimum shipment, and this was accomplished in just over four months. We are so thankful for the continued support of our churches, the great condition of the donated shoes and the care with which they are packed. It makes our job of filling the bags for pick up so easy!

Our next collection day is scheduled for :

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
AT THE
WESTMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
2301 SUNSHINE AVENUE
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

Donations will still be accepted at the District Office during regular office hours; the Westmont Church by calling 814-255-2154 to schedule a drop off appointment; or by contacting a committee member. Committee members include:
April Mackell – 814-536-1589
Karen Nagvathy – 814-244-6977
Marie Camut – 814-266-3010.

Thanks again for your support of this program!

REVIVAL SERVICES

We invite you to:
Revival Services
August 3, 4, 5 at 7pm

Speaker:
Pastor Steve Parfitt
Pastor at the Greensburg
Church of the Brethren

Hostetter Church of the Brethren
2344 Sand Spring Rd Meyersdale PA 15552

A Time for Revival at Geiger COB
with the Keystone Quartet



In preparation for their World Wide Communion and Love Feast the folks at Geiger CoB have invited their friends from the Keystone Quartet to join them for a time of revival on Saturday evening, September 23, 2023.

This joyful program will begin at 7:00 pm. Please invite your friends and family to experience this beautiful, inspirational service. A free-will offering will be lifted.

Questions? Simply email: pastorsjandl@gmail.com.

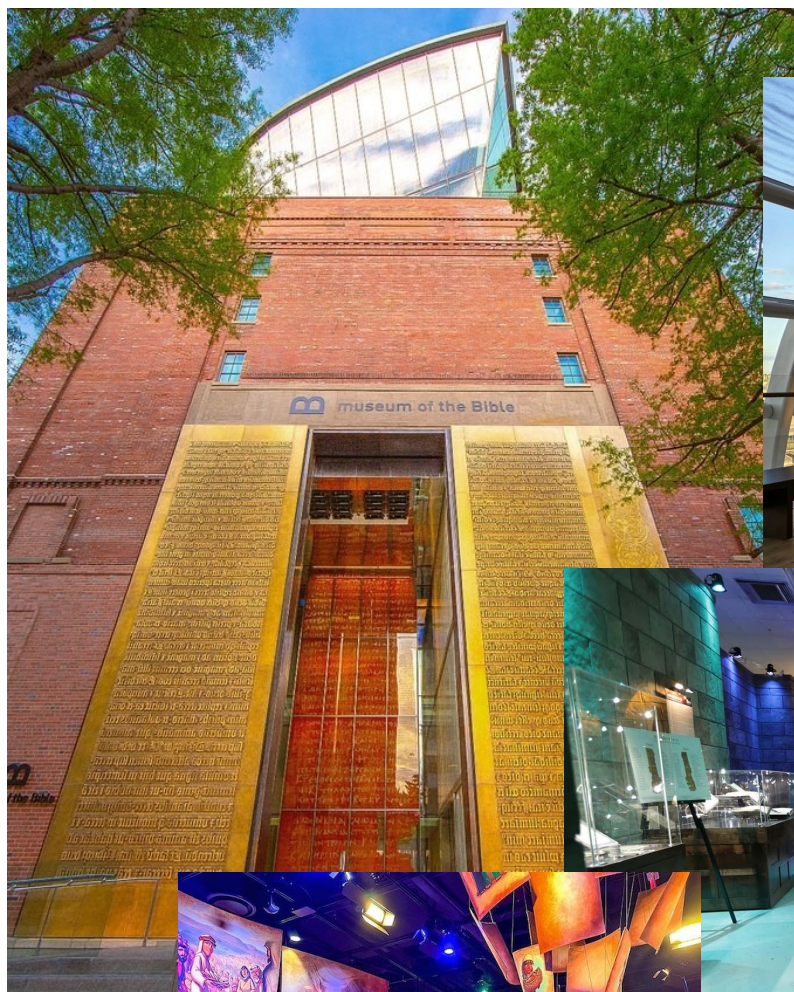
REVIVAL

Begins With us

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING AND INSPIRATIONAL ROAD TRIP?

The District Outreach and Service Team is planning a bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. on **August 19, 2023**. The bus will be leaving from the District Office at 6:00 am that morning. Return time to be announced as well as the cost per person. Please contact the District Office at 814-479-2181, if you are interested, **RSVP by August 4, 2023** as bus spots fill up quickly.



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

MADER, RUBY—2101 Cambria Avenue, Windber, 15963 / 814-467-5265 / redhatvicar@yahoo.com (June, July and August only)

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

MARSHALL, HOMER - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.net

MARSHALL, PATRICIA - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.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

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

LICENSED

BURNEY, OYANGO—111 Hillcrest Drive, Indiana, PA 15701 / 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

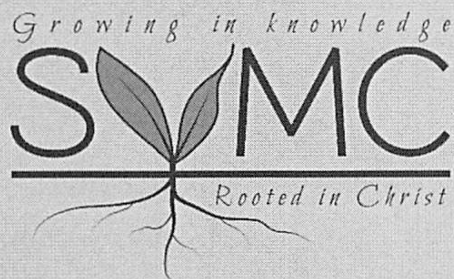
COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellywithattitude@gmail.com

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



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's Upcoming Continuing Education Events

Below are SVMC's current continuing education events that are open to everyone.

To register, click on the event title and follow the registration links for each event, or visit www.ETOWN.EDU/svmc and click on "Continuing Education".

Priesthood of all Believers

Denise Kettering-Lane, Leader

3-part Zoom series – Mondays: September 11, 18 & 25, 2023, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Have you ever heard the phrase "priesthood of all believers" or seen the phrase "Ministers: All members of the congregation" in a bulletin and wondered what it meant? We will spend three sessions unpacking the theological, historical, and practical implications of the priesthood of all believers and discuss its relevance for participants' current ministry settings.

Registration is free but required. Donations welcome. CEUs (.15) are available for \$10.00 per session.

Neurocognitive Disorders: Supporting Parishioners

Kimberly Korge, Leader

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 9 AM – 3 PM, Cross Keys Village

Understand what dementia is and how it differs from Alzheimer's disease; discuss tips to manage difficult situations and conversations with parishioners; describe the significance of trauma and how it might present in those living with a neurocognitive disorder; identify strategies to support parishioners impacted by trauma.

\$60.00 for .5 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. (No Zoom option for this event)

Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message for Today

Steve Schweitzer, Leader

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 9 AM – 3:30 PM, Juniata College

The book of Deuteronomy is a central text containing key themes that shape the Old Testament and its relationship to the New. In this study, we will explore the historical, literary, and theological contexts for understanding the message and content of Deuteronomy.

\$60.00 for .55 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom option: \$40.00 for .55 CEUs or \$30.00 for no CEUs.

Walter Brueggemann's prophetic imagination: Reviewed, Recovered, and Restored

Conrad Kanagy, Leader

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Elizabethtown College

In this seminar, we'll begin by addressing current challenges facing the church, its leaders, and its mission. We will then review the theological contributions of Walter Brueggemann to these challenges over the past five decades. We will consider how the recovery of these contributions may lead to a church that finds itself newly restored and reoriented.

\$60.00 for .5 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. (No Zoom option for this event)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Email: SVMC@SvmcCob.org

Phone: 717-361-1450

Updated June 21, 2023



FaithX Service trips

"Have you heard? FaithX registration opens on Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. (central time)!" said an invitation from FaithX staff Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred. "The FaithX Office invites you to join them this summer to put your faith into action!"

FaithX Summer 2023 registration is open! A total of 12 service trips are planned for junior high, senior high, adult, and we are able participants. Join a FaithX trip to put your faith into action, examine your beliefs, build friendships, and explore a new place! View the full schedule and complete your registration at www.brethren.org/faithx.

Spain is the destination for this year's international trip for the adult age group. The theme for FaithX 2023 is "Voices for Peace" (Romans 15:1-6, *The Message*). Find a theme statement at www.brethren.org/faithx/theme. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2023/faithx-summer-theme-and-service-trips



National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)

September 4-8, 2023
Lake Junaluska, NC

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

"God is Doing A New Thing"

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." —Isaiah 43:19

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st.
PAST PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL SOON WITH UPDATED INFORMATION.

2023 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!

AUGUST 2023

- 12 - SVMC Class
- 19 - Bus trip to Museum of the Bible
- 26 - SVMC Class

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 4 - LABOR DAY
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 9 - SVMC Class
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, Penn Run COB

OCTOBER 2023

- 1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 14 - SVMC Class
- 21 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony
- 28 - SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2023

- 5 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

DECEMBER 2023

- 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 24 - 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

August 2023