

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

August/September 2025

DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES

Faith Working Through Love

Pete Kaltenbaugh, District Minister Team

Annual Conference has always been a highlight of my ministerial year and this one held in Greensboro, North Carolina in 2025 was no disappointment. The theme for our 238th recorded conference had its highlights of excellent worship services, with outstanding music. The business meetings that allows any registered attendee to go to the microphones and share their feelings and opinions were very well guided by our Moderator Pastor Dava Hensley.

In addition to engaging with denominational agencies and programs for the regular reports, conversations, CODE meetings, there was the opportunity to sit-in two Standing Committee sessions dealing with the New Business items. They were considering queries coming to Annual Conference: (Standing Committee) from two different Districts. It was a wonderful time of seeing and meeting with old friends and making new family members.

Both of the nominees for Moderator Elect this year were friends and even though I did not cast a vote I would have been pleased no matter how it turned out. Pastor Dennis Becker from Columbia City Church of the Brethren, Northern Indiana District was called.

Attendance was 409 delegates and 916 non-delegates and 50 virtual individuals. These numbers continue to shrink and with the smaller numbers, smaller venues are ahead for us in the future. 2026 will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana June 28 through July 2, a Sunday through Thursday (something a little different).

Most Reports were submitted and passed with little or few comments raised from delegates.

The two Queries, considered new business, were the two items that created most of the discussion and took the most time on Friday July 4th. Approximately five hours was spent in discussion, amendments and heartfelt sharing.

After so much investment in time, New Business item: Concerns about Current Practices Related to Matters of Sexuality, was passed and sent on to the Review and Evaluation Committee. The New Business item: Reducing Harm: Interim Steps to Address Sufferings, used the largest amount of time and overwhelmingly was heard but the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality continues to be our guide in a 300 to 37 vote.

Scripture still is our guide and we must continue to live in love and respect with each other, even with our differences.

We still stand in love, hearing the differences and living by the word of God and the Bible as our guide. Yes there are some who interpret things differently but our nature has been and hopefully always will be “No Force in Religion”.

Once again I observed the body of believers wrestling with differences but also discovering ways to live together. No one sin is more important than another and we strive together to live in Love and share Christ.

The **Annual Conference Wrap-Up** will share more about the 238th Annual Conference.

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FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the
October 2025
issue is

September 10, 2025

Please send your information
to tlehman@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
tlehman@brethren.org

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday**

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Closed every other 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

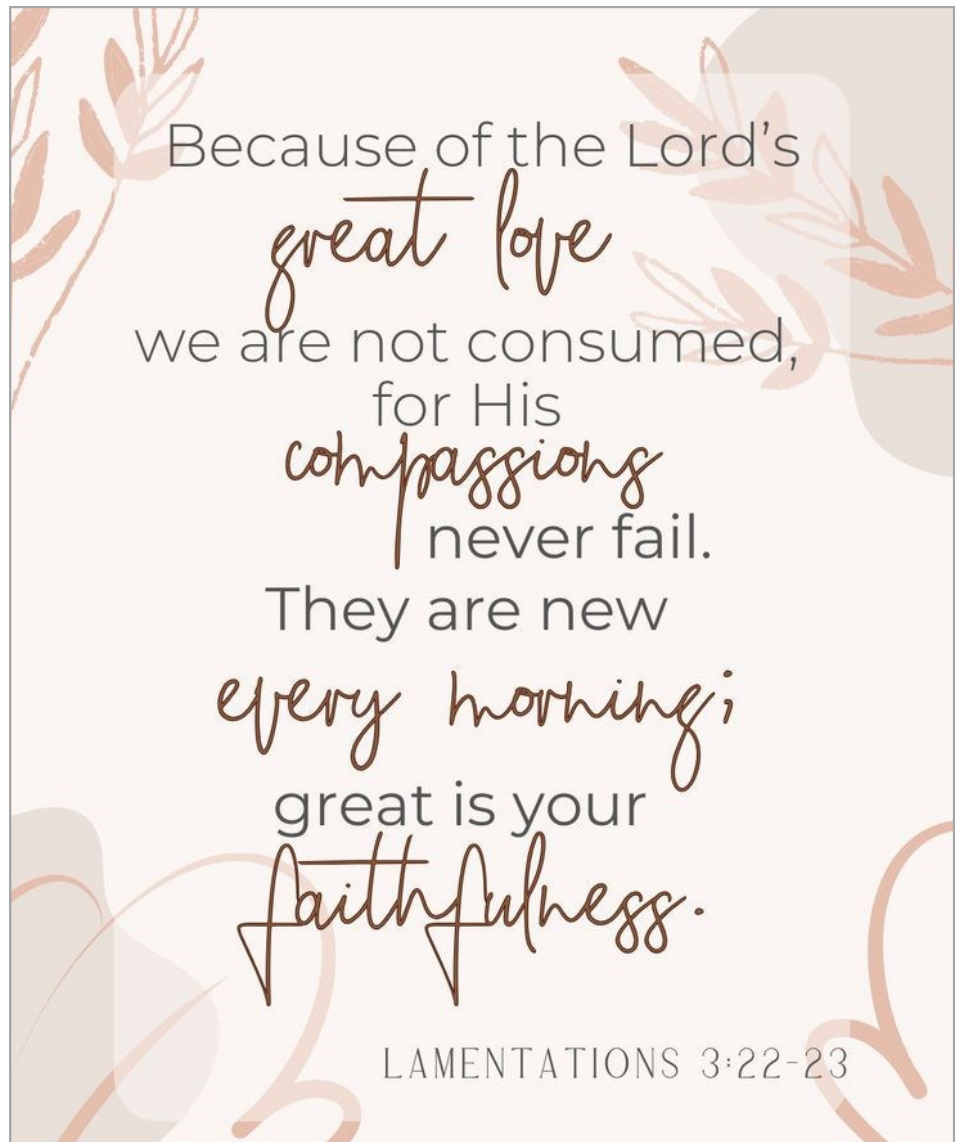
2025 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

If you would like a paper copy
of the 2025 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 **2025** please send
one to the District Office,
115 Spring Road,
Hollsopple, 15935
Thank you!



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

County Line—Kellie Harrold, Sharon Vargo,
Chris Vargo, Peggy Noel

Somerset — Mitchell Hoffman, Josie Smith

GOSPEL MUSIC SING

County Line Church will hold an outdoor
Gospel Music Sing

on **September 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm.**

There will be groups and individual singers, as well
as the County Line choir and the Greensburg COB
choir. This event will be held outside in the church
parking lot, so please bring a lawn chair.
If it rains the event will be held indoors.
Refreshments will be provided.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

The Penn Run COB will be hosting a Holiday Craft
Show on Saturday, November 8, 2025

There will be a Soup Sale, Silent/Basket Auction,
and Church Bake Sale



VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

Freedom Church (Indiana COB) services are on Face-
book (Freedom Church Facebook page) and on YouTube
(@FreedomChurch-cd9xj)

Geiger COB Sunday Services are on Facebook
at 10:30 am [https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1709517105945633](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-
ZM8IDloOJ_v6FfXuzfhRjN8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0](https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDloOJ_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](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>



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Shade Creek Ridge COB
1623 Ridge Road Hooversville PA

Saturday August 2, 2025
1:00 pm –5:00 pm
Eat in or Take out
\$10

Call 814 754-5593 for tickets
Benefits the Church Building Fund

ARBUTUS COB PET FOOD PANTRY

The pet pantry celebrated its second year of operation in May 2025. The pantry is open the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. To become a new client the only credential needed is proof of your address. This can be any type of ID such as driver's license or a piece of mail with your name and address.

We collect donations of cat and dog food. If you have an open bag of food that is not needed it can be donated to the pantry. The volunteers repackage the food for the clients. These donations can be dropped off at the Arbutus Church of the Brethren 1201 Erickson Drive in Richland. The first set of doors of the church are open 24/7.

The pantry serves approximately 110 clients per month. Items placed on a free table are offered to the clients. Anything that fits on a table can be donated. We also have pet beds and climbers for cats which go quickly. In November the free table is offers blankets to the clients. Our goal is to collect 100 blankets for this year's table. Feel free to call: 814-410-3151 if you have any questions about the pantry.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY



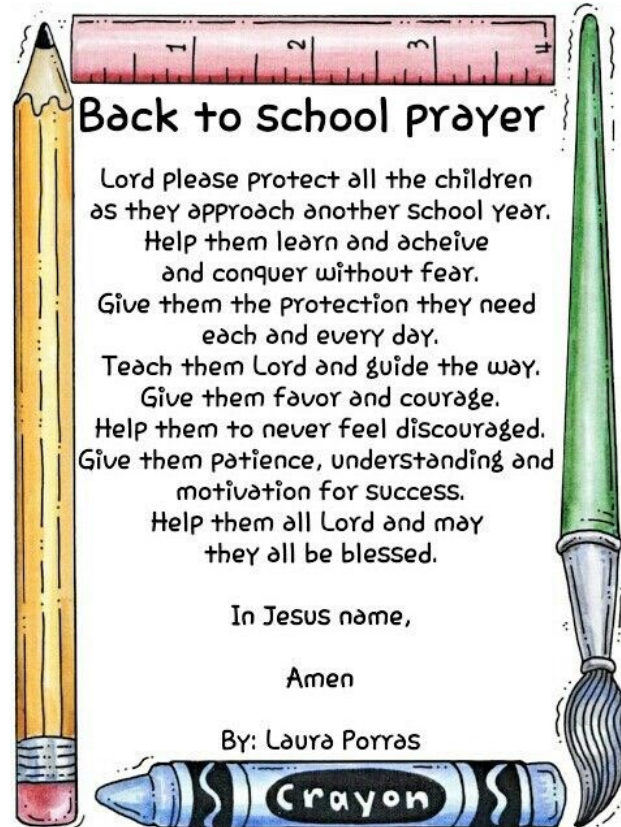
Monroeville COB

August 11—15, 2025

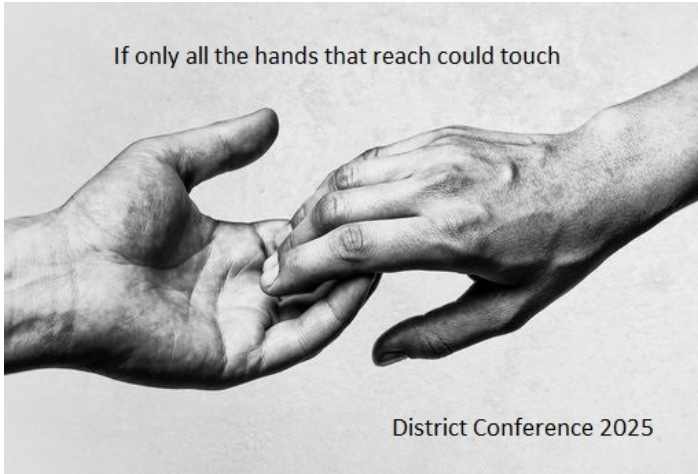
8:00 am to 2:30 pm

Cost: \$275 for the entire week

Visit the website above or contact the church
at 412-372-4165 for more
information.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

District Conference
will be held on
October 18, 2025 at 9:00 am
at the
Somerset Church of the Brethren
606 Berlin Plank Road
Somerset, PA 15501

Registration deadline is October 1, 2025

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

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

Church world service kits will not be collected this year at District Conference. Since the conference will be held at the Somerset COB, there is no place for them to store the kits until they can be delivered.

If your congregation is collecting kits, they can be delivered to the District Office during office hours please call the D.O. at 814-479-2181 to schedule a time to drop them off.

Thank you!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE THEME SONG

An email was sent to all the congregations on May 22nd that contained the District Conference Theme song for 2025. There was a link to the song sheet, PowerPoint with words and music, and a song file that can be played in your church.

Please share this with your congregations as we will be singing this song at District Conference this year.

If you did not get a copy of these files, please contact Tina at the District Office at tlehman@brethren.org.



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTRIES

**B-D-M
NEEDS
Your Help!**

The ministry is great, still alive and well and with your help, we will be able to make it even greater. With all the severe weather events we have had, the need becomes greater each passing day. We need you to help with this ever increasing work load. We have a core of dedicated volunteers who give of their time and participate on just about every trip that is scheduled. For this we are very, very thankful. We are looking to have a full crew of volunteers each trip, which would be 14 people. Think about being a volunteer, where else can you go for an all-expenses paid trip where you work hard, but eat well, have great fellowship, and have tons of fun! Contact your church coordinator to volunteer and, if your church does not have one, please contact me at [hjeward@atlanticbb.net](mailto:hjewald@atlanticbb.net) or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2025 Schedule

August 3 –9, 2025
October 5—11, 2025
December 7—13, 2025

There are no New Windsor day trips scheduled, the program may be discontinued. 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.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

Thanks to everyone who has been donating to the Enmanuel Home Shoe Project. It is always helpful to make our shipments during good weather, our local volunteers and the drivers from Florida appreciate not having to consider snowy roads in their travel schedules. Please remember the project and help us help the Home!

To donate, simply place a rubber band around each pair of shoes and bring them to the District Office during regular business hours, or contact the office at the Westmont church to schedule a drop off appointment. The shoe committee members are also available to help arrange a pick up.

Committee members include:
Marie Camut, 814-266-3010
April Mackell, 914-536-1589
Karen Nagavathy, 814-244-6977

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.

We Serve
God By
Serving
Others.

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

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

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

KABLER, ERIC—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-242-0920 / eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com

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

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

SIMONSICK, ROBERT—1131 Apple Jack Lane, Greensburg, 15601 / 814-493-1795 / bprabsimon@aol.com

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

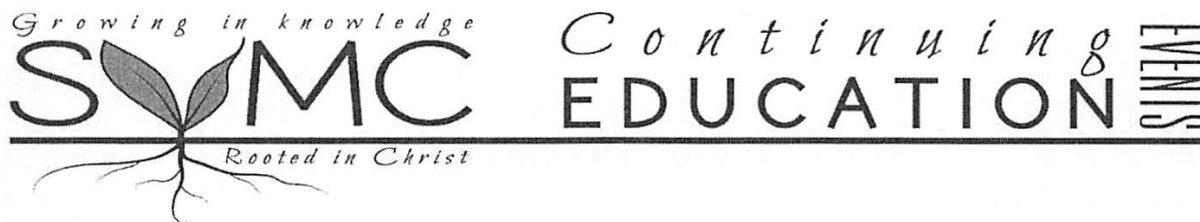
SWICK, MICHAEL - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / preachmike101@comcast.net

WHITED, JAMES—14 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brookville 15825 / 814-592-5714 / jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

LICENSED

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Continuing Education Offerings

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center has curated a series of timely and engaging continuing education events for clergy and interested laity on themes ranging from caring for congregants going through difficult times to faithful use of technology to ministering out of our weaknesses. While credentialed clergy can receive continuing education units, laity will also benefit from these topics, so please share these events with others, as everyone is invited to register. To register, you may either: 1) click on the event title and follow the registration link; 2) visit www.etown.edu/svmc and select "Continuing Education"; 3) email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org; or 4) call 717-361-1450.

Supporting Congregational Members Following Divorce

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

Divorce is a life-altering loss experience that a rising number of congregational members confront. The encounter profoundly affects their biosychosocial/spiritual well-being and often leads to disenfranchised grief. This interactive workshop examines three types of spiritual struggles that often occur in connection with three spiritual coping methods that can facilitate healthy adjustment. Attendees will gain skills in applying the methods to supporting congregational members navigating loss and grief using a case study.

The Shape of Ministry in a High-Tech World

Monday, September 15, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • Elizabethtown College & Zoom

Leader: Dan Poole

Fee for In Person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs; \$55.00 for no CEUs

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

From the barrage of social media platforms to website presence to electronic communications enabled by computers and smartphones to a 24/7 cultural expectation of availability, the shape and landscape of ministerial leadership have needed to shift to thoughtfully incorporate these tools into one's ministry practices. In this daylong workshop, we will address several key concepts and questions related to the use of tech tools in one's ministry. For instance, in this new digital age, how can one ensure that the practices of ministry remain grounded in the core principles of pastoral care and discipleship? How does the ministerial leader carefully live into a high-touch ministry that utilizes high-tech gadgets? What is the role of the ministerial leader in reminding communities of faith about healthy boundaries in the building of community that furthers the life of discipleship through electronic platforms and social media? How does the ministerial leader maintain healthy Sabbath practices in a 24/7 connected world? Addressing these and other participant-generated questions, we will focus on appropriate and theologically grounded responses as we examine the responsible engagement of digital tools in the work of serving God's people as ministers of the Gospel.

(more events continued)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Caring for Congregational Members at the End-of-Life

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

Nearing death is as much a part of life as living. Drawing on a trifold model of terminally-ill ministry, this interactive workshop explores strategies for empowering adult congregational members at the end-of-life. Consideration of best practices in managing core ethical dilemmas persons navigate during this final lifespan stage will interweave across the discussion. A small group role-play activity provides the opportunity to apply the methods to assisting dying persons from the home to healthcare setting.

Weakness Transformed in the Gospel of Matthew

Saturday, November 1, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • Stone Church of the Brethren & Zoom

Leader: Dan Ulrich

Fee for In Person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs; \$55.00 for no CEUs

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

Paul was the apostle who heard Christ say, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9); Paul was not alone, however, in teaching that God works through human weakness in powerful ways. In this continuing-education workshop, we will find inspiration from the Gospel of Matthew to minister faithfully in situations where we or our congregations feel weak. Visual and performative arts will help us engage imaginatively with selected scriptures to deepen and strengthen discipleship. Since the Revised Common Lectionary features Matthew in 2025-26, preachers may encounter ideas they can develop into sermons for the coming year.

Events Sponsored by Other Organizations

*SVMC will provide CEUs for the following events sponsored by organizations other than SVMC for \$10.00 per event. **Please note that registration for these events is NOT handled through SVMC.** To request CEUs please complete a separate form for each event ([click here for request form](#) or contact SVMC) and submit the form along with a payment of \$10.00 per event. Send to:*

*Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
One Alpha Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022*

Sponsored by the Young Center, Elizabethtown College

For registration information, please visit: [The Young Center](#) or call them at 717-361-1470.

- July 22-24, 2025: Early Anabaptism in Global Perspective -- Past, Present, and Future at 500 Years

Sponsored by Mt. Gretna Bible Festival

For registration information, please visit: [Mount Gretna Bible Festival - Events](#)

- Friday, June 20, 2025: Demonstrating Jesus' Kingdom in Friendship with Muslim People
- Friday, June 27, 2025: Putting on our Blue Jeans: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance



CENTER for RURAL MINISTRY
at Grove City College

CRM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LOCAL CHURCH ON MISSION SEPT 5-6, 2025

Looking for an affordable, informative, inspiring conference to attend this year?

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE CENTER FOR RURAL MINISTRY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT BEAUTIFUL GROVE CITY COLLEGE!

This is a Friday evening - Saturday event, and lunch on Saturday is included in the price.

IT'S ONLY \$30 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL
AND \$50 FOR A MARRIED COUPLE!

(lodging is on your own to secure)

THIS IS GEARED ESPECIALLY FOR MINISTRY LEADERS IN RURAL AREAS, AND LAST YEAR'S EVENT WAS GREAT!

Register today at: <https://ruralministry.org/conference>

CAMP HARMONY

A promotional poster for the 1st Annual Camp Harmony Golf Outing. The background is a photograph of a golf course with a driver and a golf ball in the foreground. The text is overlaid in various colors and fonts. A circular logo in the top left corner features a sunset scene and the text 'Camp Harmony'. The main title '1ST ANNUAL CAMP HARMONY GOLF OUTING' is prominently displayed in the center. A starburst graphic on the left indicates a '4 PLAYER SCRAMBLE'. Text on the left states the fundraiser benefits the Ministry of Camp Harmony. Pricing information is on the right. A central white box lists prizes for top teams. The date and start time are on the bottom left, and registration information is on the bottom right. The bottom of the poster is green with icons of a golf flag, a location pin, and crossed golf clubs.

1ST ANNUAL

CAMP HARMONY

GOLF OUTING

4 PLAYER SCRAMBLE

THIS FUNDRAISER
BENEFITS THE MINISTRY
OF CAMP HARMONY!

**\$100 PER INDIVIDUAL OR
\$350 FOR A TEAM OF 4**

**PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS, LONGEST
DRIVE, AND CLOSEST TO PIN!**

AUGUST 2
1:30PM SHOTGUN START

**REGISTRATION
OPENS APRIL 1**

 **OAKBROOK GOLF CLUB**
251 GOLF COURSE ROAD
STOYSTOWN, PA 15563

 **MEAL & AWARDS TO FOLLOW AT CAMP HARMONY**
SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

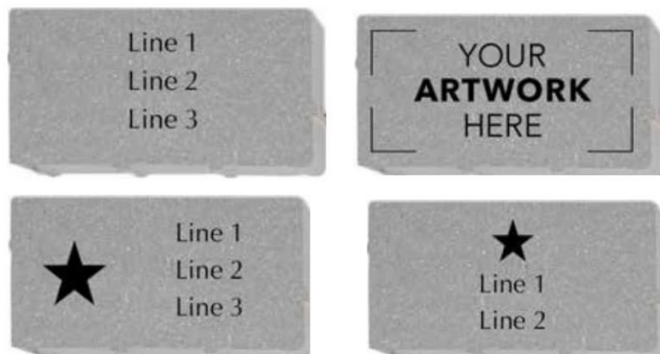




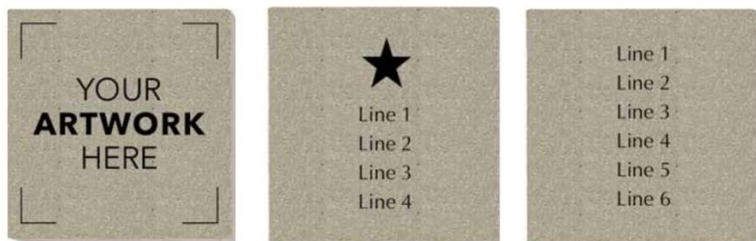
Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

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 memoriam. 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!



Scrapbook Retreat

Nov. 7, 4 PM - Nov. 8, 9 PM

FAITH HALL & HARMONY LODGE, CAMP HARMONY - HOOVERVILLE, PA

Retreat includes:

- **Meals** - Friday night pasta party, Saturday brunch & supper, snacks
- **On-Site Shopping** - with your favorite stores & stamping companies
- **Lots of Fun!** - door prizes, games, goody bags, make & takes

What to bring:

- Cropping supplies
- Small desk lamp
- Spill proof cup/bottle
- sweater or light jacket

PROCEEDS FROM THIS CROP ARE DONATED TO CAMP HARMONY FOR PROGRAM AND FACILITY NEEDS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS CROP!

Pricing Packages:

- **#1** - \$95 Fri. and Sat. w/ lodging
- **#2** - \$70 Fri. and Sat. commute

General Information:

Registration Deadline is Oct. 29, 2024 (must be paid in advance)

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone

No refunds for cancellations after Nov. 3 or no-shows

\$30 fee for returned checks

Bring an extension cord if you plan on using electric

Lodging will be at Harmony Lodge - please bring your own bedding (full and/or twin) and towels



Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook

Name: _____ Package Choice: 1 2 (circle one)
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Seat/Room me with: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Send checks and registration to:

Dorothy Gindlesperger
330 Miller Run Road
Hooversville, PA 15936



Questions about the retreat?

Liz Holbrook
814-701-1681

MrsLizHolbrook@gmail.com

Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Office Closed	9 SVMC
10	11 Office Closed	12 Office Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm	13 Office Closed	14 Office Open 9:00 to 2:00 pm	15 Office Closed	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 SVMC
24	25	26	27	28	29 Office Closed	30
	31					

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6 SVMC
7	8	9	10	11 Core Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom	12 Office Closed	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 District Leadership Team Meeting 9:00 am
21	22	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27 SVMC
28	29	30				

2025 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 2025

9—SVMC

23—SVMC

SEPTEMBER 2025

11 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

20 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

27—SVMC

OCTOBER 2025

11—SVMC

18 - District Conference, 9:00 am,
Somerset COB

25—SVMC

NOVEMBER 2025

6 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

15 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

DECEMBER 2025

No meetings or events scheduled

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

THE HIGHLIGHTS

August/September 2025