

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

December 2022/January 2023

REMEMBER THE REASON

In Zechariah Chapter 7, the people were asking about fasting and mourning that they had been doing while in captivity. Is it still necessary, and the Lord through Zechariah asked; for whom had they been mourning and fasting? They had been doing these things for an outward display of religion!

God was not, nor is He looking for displays. God is looking for the people to live by faith before Him and to live with love for those around them.

People claim they have changed! Changed Denominations, changed from follow the world and Satan, to following Christ and changed from living in sin and now are saved, turning over a new leaf.

Wonderful words and the displays people present are quite outlandish and expensive. But after the initial outlay of money or/and wordy expressions; does it last? Is it real?

It is like the Christmas displays we see all around us. Big, showy, over the top! Wow, those people must really love Jesus! Really; or do they just love being noticed?

Jesus shares an image when He calls attention to the one who made a show of His giving and the One who quietly gave her small but faithful gift. Who receives the blessing? Not the showy, loud One, but the faithful, loving one, who gave with her heart!



Christmas, a holiday of extravagance and showy displays to impress and awe those around us. Just maybe, instead of the glitz; we feed the hungry, help someone with a heating bill or provide a coat to a child that might be cold.

No matter what Name your congregation has out front, no matter what Sin your currently slamming, or what position your pushing this season; do as God says to the Israelites in Zechariah 8:16, "These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgement in your courts; 17 do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the Lord."

So we all have are work before us; as we celebrate Christmas, live out our Faith and serve the ONE whom we claim to love. Take a look, and ask yourself, your faith community, your family: How are we doing? Faithful or going through the motions, just so we can be seen? What will YOU be doing in the name of Jesus?

Pete Kaltenbaugh, Interim District Minister

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

THANK YOU!

At this time, I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for their continued support to the Western PA District Church of the Brethren.

****With the way the calendar is falling this year, any funds that are received in the District Office by Tuesday, December 22nd, will be processed in this current year of "2022". To insure that your donation is received on a timely basis, consider having it post-marked, Wednesday, December 16th.**

****If you are in need of a letter, for tax purposes, stating your "2022" contribution amount, please contact the District Office and a statement will be provided to you.**

As you are reading this, I hope you will celebrate with joy, the wonder of Jesus' birth. May the Peace, Love and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.

Amy Bowman, Financial Secretary

HOLIDAY HOURS

I wanted to take a minute to let you know what the hours will be for the District Office over the holidays.

The District Office will be closed from Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd. The office will be open Tuesday, January 3rd at 8:30 am.

If you need to reach me during that time, you can email me at tlehman@brethren.org.

I also wanted to say thank you to you all for your continued patience and support during this period of transition here at the District Office.

I appreciate you all more than you know and I hope you have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas and a hopeful New Year!

Tina Lehman, District Administrative Assistant

Merry Christmas
& A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

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

January 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 is in progress in the hopes it will be ready for publication in January 2023.

There are still many changes and updates to be made in this edition of the directory. Please let me know if you have any changes or updates as soon as possible so I can add them in.

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

Thank you!



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>

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>

**If your congregation is sharing services online, please contact Tina to add to the Highlights.

CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

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

Milestone birthdays, milestone anniversaries, academic achievements, etc.
I look forward to sharing more good news from the District!

tlehman@brethren.org



Christmas Reading Plan

- December 1st - Luke 1
- December 2nd - Luke 2
- December 3rd - Luke 3
- December 4th - Luke 4
- December 5th - Luke 5
- December 6th - Luke 6
- December 7th - Luke 7
- December 8th - Luke 8
- December 9th - Luke 9
- December 10th - Luke 10
- December 11th - Luke 11
- December 12th - Luke 12
- December 13th - Luke 13
- December 14th - Luke 14
- December 15th - Luke 15
- December 16th - Luke 16
- December 17th - Luke 17
- December 18th - Luke 18
- December 19th - Luke 19
- December 20th - Luke 20
- December 21st - Luke 21
- December 22nd - Luke 22
- December 23rd - Luke 23
- December 24th - Luke 24



www.sunshinevalleywv.com

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Arbutus—Cheryl Edmiston, Jay Marsden, Lynda Marsden, Todd Showron

WITH SYMPATHY

To family of **Pastor Keith Simmons** as he passed away in October. Pastor Keith was the former pastor of the Plumcreek COB and had served in the district off and on for many years.

TO ALL MINISTERS

Are your clearances up to date? Do you have clearances? Have you sent them into the District Office?

Ok, let us have a little chat, you need clearances, and they need to be sent into the District Office. So check to see if they are up to date and send a copy to Tina. Please do not make this a game of tag, where we have to chase you around and around to get the clearances. I understand it is the law, you must have them. Help us out in the District Office and get them in soon. I am not interested in publishing a list of "Here are the ones we need!" Be responsible and faithful and thank you for your help.

Peter Kaltenbaugh, District Executive Rep.

HELP WANTED

THE DISTRICT IS IN NEED OF A TREASURER

SUMMARY and ACCOUNTABILITY:
The Treasurer is the custodian of all the funds administered by the District Board and reports to the Stewards Commission and to the District Board. The Treasurer instructs the Financial Clerk on any necessary functions that need to be handled and will also have close contact with the Financial Clerk. There are no set hours for this position, only as needed. The treasurer will attend CORE Team meetings along with the Stewards & Finance Team Chair. The Treasurer will be an authorized signee on all banking and saving accounts.

If you are interested or feeling God calling you to this Treasurer's position, please contact Donna Smith at (814) 535-1102.

EVENTS AT THE PENN RUN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

(located directly across the street from the Penn Run Church of the Brethren)

PA Deutsch Buffet
Saturday, December 3, 2022
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Call 724-463-0420 for event info.

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

Do you have a bucket list which includes working with other volunteers to repair weather damaged homes, or are you just curious as to what goes on? Brethren Disaster Ministries has the perfect solution to help check that box.

There are currently two opportunities to serve the Lord and the victims of severe weather events which damaged or destroyed their homes. October 30, 2022 - November 5, 2022 and December 11 – 17, 2022, BDM will be traveling to Waverly, TN. Great people in a great little town!

The benefits are very large and the costs are very small because all transportation costs, food on site, and housing are provided. Your only expenses are personal items and food off the job site. The feeling you will get by helping people in need is indescribable and the fellowship you will experience is priceless.

If you have any questions or would like to give it a try please contact me. Everyone who makes the call has enjoyed their experience and did not regret making the decision to help. As a matter of fact many have signed up for subsequent trips!!

Questions or to register please contact:
Herb Ewald, Volunteer Disaster Coordinator
(H) 814-539-8530
(C) 814-691-5718

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 as well as possibly your time as you feel comfortable. Anything you can do would be appreciated.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



It's Time to Ship!

Thanks to all of the generous donations received from both individuals and churches, we have passed the required minimum shipping number of 2,500 pairs of shoes!

We have made contact with funds2orgs and will be scheduled for a pick up at the Westmont COB shortly before Christmas. Until the truck arrives, we will be continuing to collect shoes, as the weight of our shipment will determine how much we will raise for the orphanage.

Anyone who has shoes to add to the total should drop them at the district office during regular business hours, call the Westmont church to schedule a drop off, or contact any member of the shoe committee:
Marie Camut – 814-266-3010,
April Mackell – 814-536-1589,
Karen Nagyvathy – 814-244-6977.

Current projects at the orphanage that will be supported by our donations include construction of a chapel, which will also be the site of post-secondary education programs. Culinary arts will be one of the featured areas of study.

Thanks again to everyone who supports both the orphanage and our shoe project!

We are so pleased to think our used shoes are helping fund such an outreach.

Thank you for being involved!

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

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 / 814-619-4238 / 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

WALKER, LARRY - 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

GEORGE, ROBERT—850 Pine Street, Indiana, 15701 / 724-762-0773 / rjghemlock@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

Global Mission Prayer Guide

Democratic Republic of Congo

We request prayers for DR Congo, especially North Kivu province after clashes between the M23 militia and Congo military in Bunagana. We also pray for the safety of our churches.

Haiti

Haitian gangs have blocked a major port, leading to fuel shortages. Clean water is also lacking, and there have been outbreaks of cholera. The United States and United Nations are considering armed intervention to support the national police. We praise God that construction continues, including a new church, as Haitian Brethren rebuild the community hit by an earthquake in 2020.



Temporary headquarters in Haiti under construction. Photo by Vildor Archange



Temporary church in Saut Mathurine. Photo by Ilexene Alphonse

They are also building a temporary headquarters for the church and Haiti Medical Project in a safer town outside of the capital. Pray that they may [raise the needed \\$15,000 each](#) to complete the Saut Mathurine church and St. Raphael headquarters.

Nigeria

Violence and kidnappings continue. The US embassy has issued an alert indicating the possibility of terrorist attacks in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria and a region that had previously been relatively peaceful. We pray that the general situation may improve and for the upcoming centennial of the Church of the Brethren mission that established the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

Brethren Global Communion

Leaders of global Church of the Brethren groups will meet in the Dominican Republic Nov. 12-14. Pray that all the leaders can get the needed visas in time and can travel safely to join together to praise God and discuss the work of the global Church of the Brethren.

Ruoxia Li

Co-executive director Ruoxia Li, wife of co-executive director Eric Miller, has resigned for health reasons after a medical leave of absence. Please pray for her continued healing.

Harmony Light Fest

Theme: Christmas at the Zoo!

A drive-through celebration of Christmas

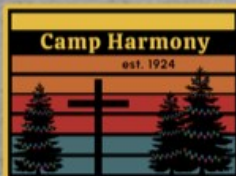
December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

6pm-8:30pm

\$10/car, \$20/bus

1414 Plank Rd. Hooversville

Drive-up concessions available!




814.798.5885

www.campharmony.org

This fundraiser benefits
the ministry of Camp Harmony.

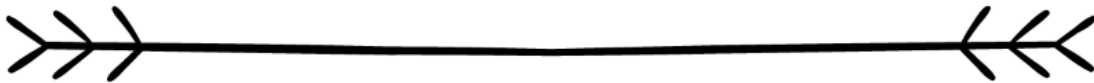


CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER

Order by  December 12 4 doz. cookies/platter
1 = \$25 or 2 = \$45

Each platter will contain a mixture
of the following cookies:

Chocolate Chip Snicker Doodle
M&M Peanut Butter Meltaways
Sugar Peanut Butter Blossom
Oatmeal Thumbprint



Cookie pick up at Camp on
December 21 & 22, 9-4 each day.

**SPREAD
THE
HARMONY**

To order:
814-798-5885
harmony@campharmony.org

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936
www.campharmony.org



Winter Events

Young Adult Retreat

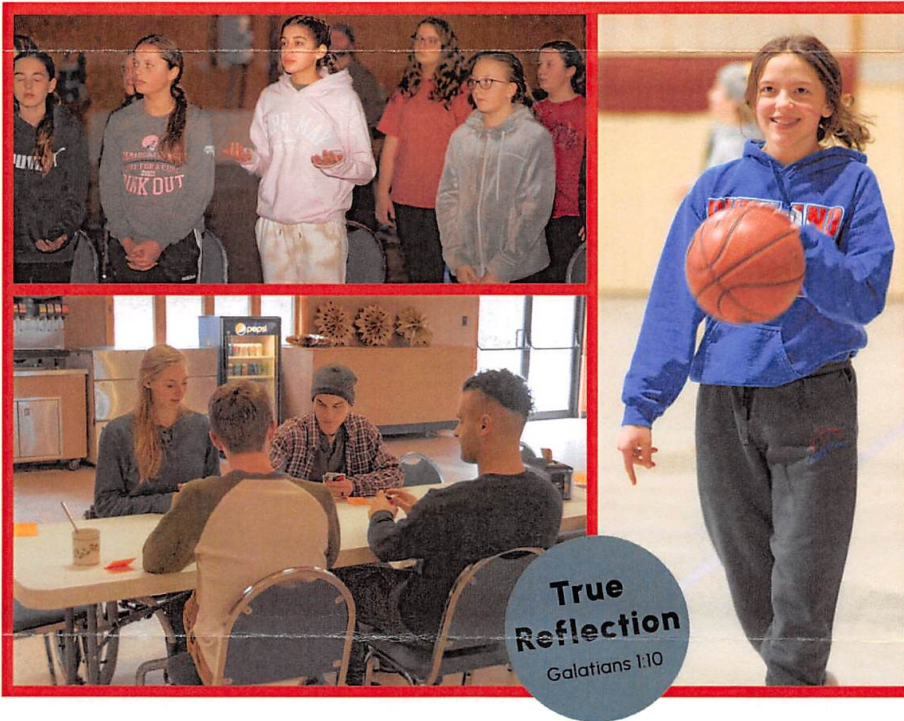
Jan 13-15, 2023
\$30
Ages 18-29

Jr./Sr. High Winter Camp

Jan 20-21, 2023
\$45
Grades 5-12

Elementary Mini Camp

Jan 28, 2023 (10a-4p)
\$15
Grades 1-4



NEW! Serv Camp Mini

Feb 24-26, 2023 \$65 Student Ministries (Grades 7-12)

An opportunity for students to serve in the Laurel Highlands & make meaningful connections with students in other churches.

Camp Harmony



Register at campharmony.org



CAMP HARMONY

LEND A HAND AS A THURSDAY VOLUNTEER

Help us make a difference by volunteering
to complete projects around Camp.



What we need:

carpentry, electrical,
plumbing, mechanical,
gardening, cleaning, etc.

(If you are willing to help,
we can find a place for you!)

Our Mission:

Inviting all people to
experience the wonder of
creation and find harmony
with God, with nature and
with one another.

EVERY THURSDAY | 9 AM - 4 PM
1414 PLANK ROAD, HOOVERVILLE

As a thank you:
Coffee and pastries at 8:45 am; lunch at noon

Contact us at 814.798.5885 or harmony@campharmony.org

www.campharmony.org
#spreadtheHarmony

2022 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!

DECEMBER 2022

- 4 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 11 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 18 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
- 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

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!

JANUARY 2023

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 6 - Epiphany
- 13—15 - Young Adult Retreat, Camp Harmony
- 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18 - 25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 20—21 - Jr./Sr. High Winter Camp, Camp Harmony
- 28 - Elementary Mini Camp, Camp Harmony

FEBRUARY 2023

- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, (TBA)
- 22 - ASH WEDNESDAY
- 25 - SVMC Class
- 26 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 2023

- 3 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
- 5 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 12 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Turn clocks AHEAD one hour)**
- 12 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
- 19 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
- 26 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 2023

- 1 - SVMC Class
- 2 - PALM SUNDAY
- 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 7 - GOOD FRIDAY
- 9 - ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
- 16 - Seder Dinner, Camp Harmony
- 22 - SVMC Class

2023 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MAY 2023

- 4 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 6 - SVMC Class
- 7 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
- 11 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 14 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
- 18 - ASCENSION DAY
- 20 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 22 - SVMC Class
- 28 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost Sunday)
- 29 - MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 2023

- 7 - Annual Conference Briefing, 3:00 pm, TBA
- 18 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

JULY 2023

- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 4 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins, Cincinnati, OH
- 8 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends, Cincinnati, OH

AUGUST 2023

Events TBA

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 4 - LABOR DAY
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

OCTOBER 2023

- 1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 21 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony

2023 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2023

- 5 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 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

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Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

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December 2022/January 2023