

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

December 2025/January 2026

DISTRICT MINISTER NOTES

How many times have you left a church event or a family gathering over the holidays and said “Oh man! We should have gotten a picture of them!” Even though most of us carry a camera in our pockets these days (via our cell phones) we still often forget to capture memorable moments.

Well, Sister Katie Coughenour did not forget! District Conference was a ‘memorable moment’ this year! (Katie took pictures!) Many persons there were blessed by the Spirit through the songs, the scriptural meditations, the Christian fellowship and unity in doing the necessary business.



District Leadership Team: Pete Kaltenbaugh, Chris Forry, and Ruby Mader



District Leadership Team Vice Chair Travis Shaulis installed Pastor Abby Shaffer as Moderator and Pastor Bob Stein as Moderator Designate for 2026.



As we look forward to another year of serving as a District Minister Team we thank the Lord for His redemptive work in the hearts and minds of His people. We thank Him for this calling and opportunity to serve you in His name. We thank Him for the blessings and the work He has given to each believer in every congregation in the community they’re part of. We ask Him for His continued grace, guidance, strength and Spirit.

As we celebrate the coming of the Lord this holiday season, let us all:

- mirror His life,
- demonstrate His love,
- rejoice in His promise,
- and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus!

*Pete Kaltenbaugh, Chris Forry, Ruby Mader
District Minister Team*

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FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the
February 2026
issue is

January 10, 2026

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 - 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 will be available in January 2026. I am currently gathering updates for the new directory.

If you have any updates, please send them to me by December 15, 2025.

Any questions, 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 **2026** please send one to:

Western PA 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,

Western PA District COB
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

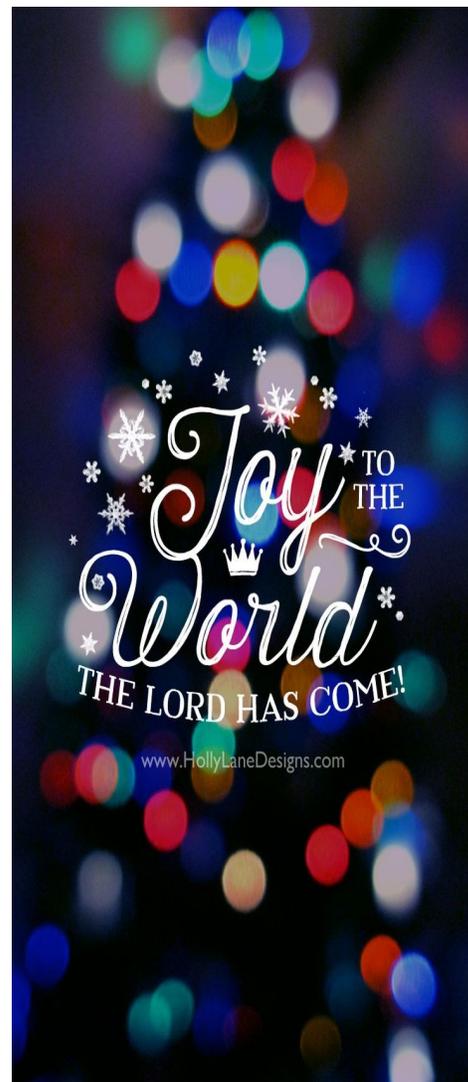
CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

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



FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

NEW DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

The District Leadership Team, District Financial Clerk, and the District Administrative Assistant have decided to change the business hours of the District Office.

Starting January 1, 2026, the District Office will be open Monday through Thursday each week from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm and will be closed every Friday.

Members of the District Minister Team will continue to keep in-office hours Tuesdays and/or Thursdays each week. The Financial Clerk will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays. The District Administrative Assistant will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

As always, Tina will send out a message if that schedule would change for a particular week. Please note that this will also be listed in the District Calendar each month in the Highlights.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to serving the Lord and our District in the new year.

WELCOME!



The District Ministry Team, District Leadership and the District Conference would like to welcome back the Middlecreek congregation to our district.

Their membership is excited to return and be a part of the work of the Western PA District of the Church of the Brethren.

You will find their contact information listed in the 2026 District Directory.

GREETINGS TO ALL CHURCHES, CHURCH TREASURERS, AND INDIVIDUAL GIVERS!

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

*Any funds that you would like to go into the "2025" fiscal year, need to be in this office by December 22nd. To insure that your donation is received on a timely basis, you might want to make sure that the envelope is postmarked by Friday, December 12th. The mail delivery is very slow during this time of the year.

**For those of you needing a letter stating your "2025" amount of contribution for tax purposes, simply call the office with your name, dollar figure and address and a statement will be provided. I am in the District office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"May the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of this Christmas Season be with you always."

Amy Bowman – Financial Clerk

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Freedom Church (Indiana COB) - Bill and Judy Greene, William McKee, Delores Leonard, Tim Davis, Lonnie and Deanna Kirkland, Michael and Alayna White, Lilian Packer, Nevaeh Eminhizer, Kelly Taylor, Olivia Augustine, Taysia Garland

Geiger — Aubrey Tipton, Chelsea Berkey, Damyn Berkey, Maci, Burgos, Kyler Burgos

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

Please keep **Pastor Stephen Parfitt's** wife Cathy in your prayers as she had a bad fall and is recovering from surgery.



ARBUTUS COB PET FOOD PANTRY

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. Feel free to call: 814-410-3151 if you have any questions about the pantry.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

Freedom Church (Indiana COB) services are on Facebook (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>

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

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>





Meyersdale Community Church Tour



Saturday, December 6th



Scan the QR Code below to read more on each church



Tour Rotation Schedule

Catholic Church	11:00 - 11:45
Zion Lutheran	11:45 - 12:30
Amity U.C.C.	12:30 - 1:15
Cornerstone Apostolic Church	1:15 - 2:00
Main Street Brethren Church	2:00 - 2:45
Grace Brethren Church	2:45 - 3:30
Meyersdale Church of the Brethren	3:30 - 4:15

We're excited to spend the day together visiting each church! Every stop will last 45 minutes, with about 15 minutes built in for travel and 30 minutes for fun. During their time, each church will offer a short presentation or entertainment along with a tasty snack to share. To make the journey easy, the Meyersdale Church of the Brethren will provide their church van/bus to take us from place to place. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, food, and faith together—so come ready to laugh, learn, and be filled with joy at every stop!

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES

**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 hjewald@atlanticbb.net or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2025 Schedule

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



With Grateful Hearts

The shoe committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone throughout the district who has taken the time and effort to support our project! On October 9, after many months of collecting and storing shoes, a group of volunteers met at the Westmont church to meet the funds2orgs truck. Most of us wouldn't have been considered young, but with a great group effort, we were able to load 4,225 pairs of shoes onto the truck in about 30 minutes. Just a week later, we received confirmation from funds2orgs office in Florida that our shipment earned \$2,146.50. This is our highest shipment total to date!

We are thrilled to be able to support the work of the El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel, and are thankful for the support of the district churches and individuals who gather, assemble, and deliver shoes. Special thanks to the Westmont church for storing the shoes, and the district office staff for coordinating deliveries.

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.

"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Matthew 5:42 NIV

DISTRICT SHOE PROJECT—HELP WANTED

What is the Shoe Project?

The Shoe project was begun as a fund raiser by the Church of the Brethren Home Auxiliary. Funds2Orgs was chosen as a fundraising partner for the Auxiliary because, it was included in the National PTA list of approved fundraising groups, there was no monetary component of the collection process, and no deadline for our organization to meet. The entire project was collecting gently worn shoes, and selling them by the pound to Funds2Orgs.

When the Home was sold and the Auxiliary dissolved, the project continued with the El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel as the beneficiary. Profit checks are delivered directly to the District Financial Clerk, who forwards the money to El Hogar.

What is Funds2Orgs?

We're a social impact company and a trusted leader in shoe drive fundraising. More than 24,000 schools, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and others have partnered with us to host shoe drive fundraisers that raise revenue with no costs.

Funds2Orgs is focused on 3 key goals:

- Making a local fundraising impact in communities across North America with an engaging community-driven fundraiser.

- Redirecting shoes out of landfills and into the reuse economy through shoe drives.

- Supporting more than 4,000 micro-businesses in developing nations.



Through shoe drive fundraisers, our partners have helped us keep over 37 million pairs of gently worn, used, and new shoes out of landfills.



How the shoe project works:

The shoe project committee, which currently includes Karen Nagavathy, Marie Camut, and April Mackell, begins the process. Contact is

made with Tina at the District Office to begin advertising the project in the monthly District Highlights. Churches are asked to collect gently worn shoes, and if possible rubber band the pairs together. Churches may deliver the shoes to the District Office, committee members, or directly to the Westmont COB by scheduling a drop off through the church secretary, Bonnie Snyder (the Westmont COB generously allows the storage of shoes in their educational wing).

When the total number of pairs approaches 2,500 pairs, the minimum shipment, contact is made with funds2orgs. Our coach, Donna Kobol, sends a start up kit that includes REQUIRED packing bags and rubber bands. The committee packs the shoes in the required bags, 25 pairs per bag, at the Westmont church. When the current collection goal is met, funds2orgs is notified and a contract to sell is completed by a committee member. A date is set for shoe pickup. Volunteers are contacted by the committee to help load the shoes on the assigned date. The driver signs a receipt of the number of bags collected. The bags are delivered to the funds2orgs site in Orlando, FL The bags are weighed, and our profit total is computed. The profit check is sent to the District Office where the District Financial Clerk distributes the funds to the El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel account.

The Shoe Project Committee:

The role of the committee is to continue to advertise the program, collect shoes and deliver them to the Westmont COB, pack the shipping bags, stay in contact with the coach at funds2orgs, and organize volunteers for the shipping date. Due to illness, our committee has only two people currently able to participate in the program. **New committee members are wanted!** Please contact Marie Camut at 814-266-3010 or Tina at the District Office 814-479-2181 if you are interested.

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

Clergy Tax Seminar 2026

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Zoom Seminar

11:00am – 4:00pm (EST)

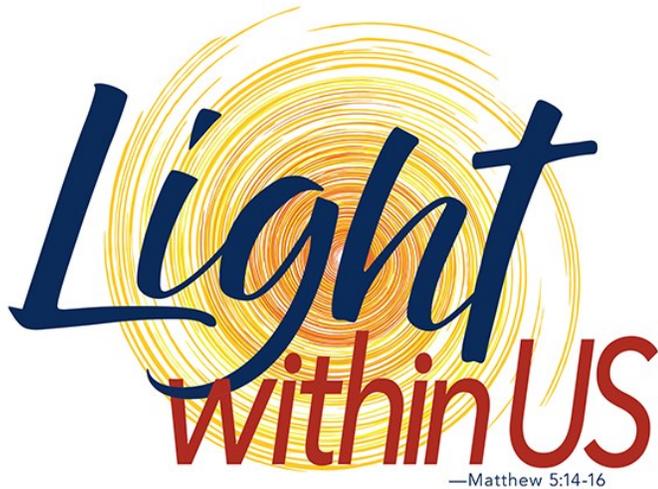
Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar.

- Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- **Earn 0.3 CEUs** – for the first 2 sessions only.

To Register: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Registration Deadline: January 23, 2026



July 18 – 23 at the [YMCA of the Rockies](#) in Estes Park, [Colorado](#)

National Youth Conference (NYC)

provides young people in high school and the first year of college (or are age equivalent) and their advisors the chance to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation and more!

Who is eligible to attend?

Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors are invited to attend. All youth must be accompanied by an adult advisor. Please send at least one advisor for every five youth. If sending female youth, please send a female advisor and if sending male youth, please send a male advisor. All adult advisors must be a minimum of 22 years of age.

What is the theme?

Light within Us, based on Matthew 5:14 – 16.

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 or 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/>



CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER

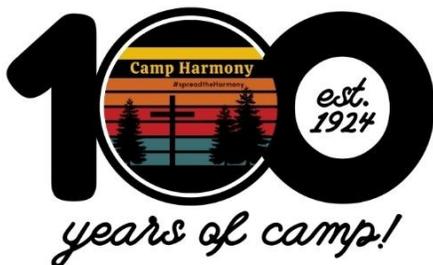
Order by  December 8 4 doz. cookies/platter
1 = \$25 or 2 = \$45

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



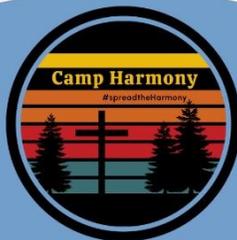
Cookie pick up at Camp on
December 18 & 19, 9-4 each day.



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

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





Winter Day Camp

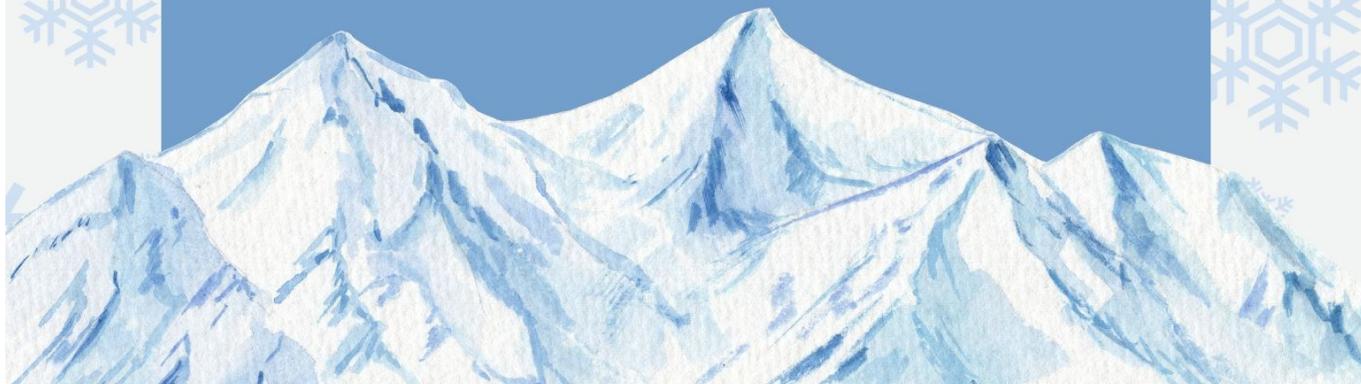
Grades K-6

December 13, 2025
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

We may be missing the sunshine,
but we miss our campers more!
Reunite with your camp friends
for an awesome day at camp!

\$20 per camper

Register now at
www.campharmony.org





YOU ARE INVITED TO

CAMP HARMONY'S
Christmas
DINNER

DECEMBER **18** AT 6:00 PM

1414 PLANK RD.

HOOVERVILLE PA. 15936

Worship, Teaching & Fellowship

\$35 INDIVIDUALS

Register today,
814-798-5885, Austin@campharmony.org



Camp Harmony
est. 1924

BREAKFAST
With Santa

DELICIOUS FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | PHOTO WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2025 | 8 AM-11 AM

Pre registration recommended , 814-798-5885 or
Austin@campharmony.org
Ages 3 under free
Ages 3-12 \$5. 12+ \$10.00
1414 plank rd. Hooverversvill Pa. 15936 [www. Campharmony.org](http://www.Campharmony.org)

Youth Winter Retreat

Grades 6-12

January 9-10, 2026

\$50 per camper

There's no better way to start a new year
than spending a weekend back at camp!
Join us for fun, fellowship, & friends!

Register now at www.campharmony.org

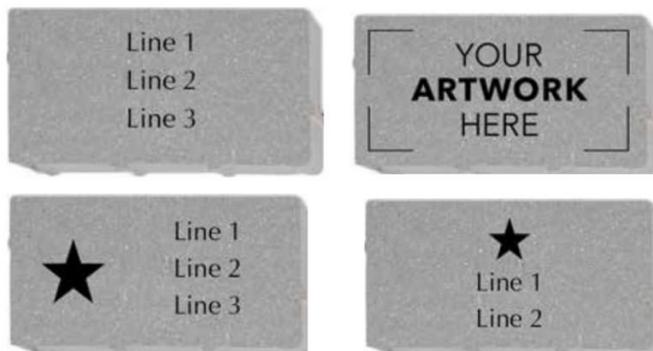




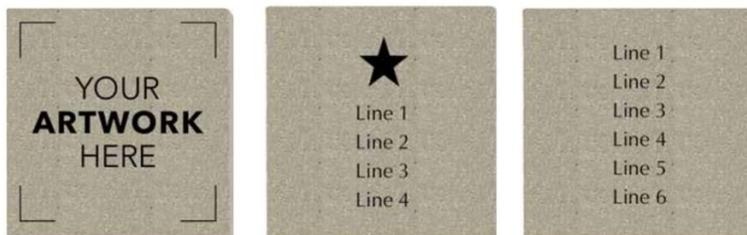
Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

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 DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent	8	9	10	11	12	13 Winter Day Camp Camp Harmon 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
14 Third Sunday of Advent	15	16	17	18 Christmas Dinner Camp Harmony 6:00 pm	19	20 Breakfast w/ Santa Camp Harmony 8:00 am to 11:00 am
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent	22 → → → → →	23 → → → → →	24 → → → → → District Office CLOSED Christmas Eve	25 → → → → → Merry Christmas!!	26 → → → → →	27
28	29 → → → → →	30 → → → → →	31 → → → → → District Office CLOSED New Year's Eve			

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! District Office Closed	2 District Office Closed	3
4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9 Youth Winter Retreat @ Camp Harmony	10 Youth Winter Retreat @ Camp Harmony
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day District Office Closed	20	21 <u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</u>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Clergy Tax Seminar Zoom

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!

DECEMBER 2025

18—Christmas Dinner at Camp Harmony

20—Breakfast with Santa at Camp Harmony

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!

JANUARY 2026

- 9 - Youth Winter Retreat begins,
Camp Harmony
- 10 - Youth Winter Retreat ends,
Camp Harmony
- 31 - Clergy Tax Seminar, Zoom

FEBRUARY 2026

- 7 - SVMC Class
- 12 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
- 21 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 21 - SVMC Class

MARCH 2026

- 7 - SVMC Class

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

No meetings or events scheduled

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 10 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
- 19 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

OCTOBER 2026

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

*** District Conference date TBA

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

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