

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

July 2022

JULY THOUGHTS

by Pete Kaltenbaugh, DE Representative

July is a month so filled with expectations. Camping season in full swing at Camp Harmony, Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska and the peak of summer before everyone starts to think about going back to school. During these summer months individuals tend to worship at different places than their home congregation: Camp ground services, maybe quiet scripture reading beside a stream or prayer overlooking a scenic sight on vacation. Different settings in different places, but still worship; a visit with God.

While it seems everyone loves to get away for a while, we must not leave our love for the Lord at home while we travel. Our belief in Jesus as our Lord and Savior cannot be removed like a coat or cap at a whim or at the end of the day. True belief is incorporated into every molecule of our being and it is all of Jesus or unfortunately none of Jesus. In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses an analogy about being connected to Him.

Connected we produce “fruit” disconnected we will be gathered, piled and burned! Harsh, yet explained rather clearly. Now is not the time to be playing at “believers or not”.

John 15:5-8

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me—and I in him—bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out like a branch, and dries up; and such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and are burned up. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you. My Father is honored by this, that you bear much fruit and show that you are my disciples.

Now is the time to be a believer, where ever you’re going and doing whatever you’re about. **Now** is the time to as Paul says to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:12

“12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us’. NKJV

Enjoy the summer but remain connected and witnessing to the **ONE** you love.

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **August 2022** issue is

July 10, 2022

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

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

814 479-2506 fax

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 **2022** please send one to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935
Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please keep the District Office Staff and the District Core Leadership Team in your prayers as the search continues for an Interim District Minister.

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



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

For **Pastor JoAnn Dermer** as she recovers from surgery.

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Meyersdale— Jim Colflesh

MILEAGE RATE

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:

The IRS Mileage rate has been increased to **62.5 cents** per mile for the remainder of 2022.

Updates will be shared as information becomes available.

HELP WANTED

The District is in need of a Treasurer.

Here is a brief description of the position:

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.

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.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Please remember the shoe project through the summer months and we have already started to collect shoes for the next shipment. Shoes may be dropped off at the District Office during office hours or by contacting the office at the Westmont Church of the Brethren, 814-255-2154, to schedule a drop off there.

We have appreciated your support of the orphanage and want to see it continue! Any questions should be directed to Marie Camut - 814-266-3010, April Mackell -814-536-1589, or Karen Nagavathy -814-244-6977.

Thank you for giving so generously to the orphanage through this project!



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

CHICKEN BBQ

July 16, 2022 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Shade Creek/ Ridge COB
1623 Ridge Road, Hooversville

\$10.00 a meal
Includes: 1/2 chicken, baked potato,
green beans & roll
Drive-thru/take out only

Tickets advised: 814-754-5593

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The **Geiger COB** will be hosting the fabulous Keystone Quartet on **Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 7:00 pm**, and would love for YOU to be in attendance!! They are planning all types of special musical treats for folks of ALL ages.

This fun event will take place in the church pavilion area located in the grove adjacent to the church. Following the concert all will participate in an Ice Cream Social. It's sure to be an evening filled with the joy we all need right now.

A free-will offering will be lifted to defray expenses.



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.**



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

The Brethren Disaster Ministries "Army" is nearly at a stand-still and I need your help to start this machine marching once again!

Several things have caused the dilemma we are now facing and the COVID pandemic is one of the biggest factors. Since all job sites were shut down including New Windsor, no volunteers were needed. And since we have laid idle for over two years, some volunteers are aging to the point they cannot perform the work as they used to. Sadly, some volunteers have also passed away and others, for whatever their reasons, have decided not to continue volunteering.

Having said this, it is becoming increasingly harder for me to get the 7 people needed per trip to make these trips financially feasible. Several trips have had to be cancelled and my call roster is at an all-time low.

How can you help? Job sites are beginning to open up again starting with Waverley TN, please contact your congregation's district disaster team coordinator. If you don't have one, please call me at 814- 539-8530 with any questions you might have, or to sign up for future trips. I promise you, you will not regret the time you spend and the feeling you will get serving to help brothers and sisters in need. Keep in mind, almost all on-site costs are covered including housing, transportation, and meals. Personal expenses, such as travel to and from the site, are not covered.

Many congregational coordinators are doing a great job, thank you! If you are a congregational coordinator and are struggling to get volunteers, please encourage your congregation to volunteer by advertising the trips within your church and sharing Brethren Disaster Ministries information from the pulpit.

I greatly appreciate your help in this very important step of securing much needed help on the various trips planned. Unfortunately, the facts show the volunteer base is shrinking while the work load does not as natural and economic disasters increase.

There are four one-week trips left this year:
**July 10, 2022, September 25, 2022,
October 30, 2022, December 11, 2022**

New Windsor is still down due to a lack of kits and hopefully will re-open very soon.

We were very fortunate to be able to purchase a 2019 Chevy Express van to replace the 2003 van that had 250,000 + miles. Although mechanically sound, the rust on the old van had taken its toll on the frame and would have been very costly to repair in order to have it inspected.

I would like to thank all of those who have donated to the van fund. Because of your donations, we were able to replace a much needed piece of equipment. If we did not have this vehicle it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to carry out our mission!

THANK YOU!!

Herb Ewald, Volunteer Coordinator
335 Southmont Blvd.
Johnstown, Pa. 15905
(814) 539-8530
hjewald@atlanticbb.net

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Serve
One another in
love 
Galatians 5:13

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

Omaha, Nebraska • July 10-14, 2022



2022 Business Items

The following business items will be presented to the delegate body:

Unfinished Business

UB 1 Update to Polity Regarding Annual Conference Agencies

New Business

NB 1 Amendments to Ethics in Ministry Relations polity

NB 2 Standing with People of Color

NB 3 Breaking Down Barriers – Increasing Access to Denominational Events

NB 4 Revisions to the Bylaws of the Church of the Brethren, Inc.

NB 5 Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement and revised Guidelines for Pastors' Salaries and Benefits

NB 6 Revised Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors

NB 7 Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors

Table Talk: Doing Annual Conference Differently

2022 Ballot

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/business/ballot/>

Agency Reports

This year, the three Church of the Brethren Agencies (Bethany Theological Seminary, Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, and On Earth Peace) have prepared video reports. The reports are posted at [Business – Annual Conference](https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/business/ballot/) (brethren.org/ac2022). **Delegates are expected to view these reports before Annual Conference and to submit any questions to the agencies as instructed below.** During their live report at Annual Conference, agency leadership will offer updates to their video report and address any questions they received in advance.

Questions for **Bethany Theological Seminary** can be sent to: contactus@bethanyseminary.edu.

Questions for **Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust** can be sent to: lborgmann@cobbt.org.

Questions for **On Earth Peace** can be sent to: OEP@OnEarthPeace.org

Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust is now Eder Financial

Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, which has been serving Church of the Brethren employees and organizations for up to eight decades, is now known as Eder Financial.

On May 4, the State of Illinois officially changed the corporate name of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust Inc. to Eder Financial Inc., making the transition to accommodate one of BBT's strategic goals – to adopt new names to better serve its members and clients. At the same time, the names of its two affiliates were also changed – Brethren Foundation Inc. became Eder Deferred Gifts Inc., and Brethren Foundation Funds became Eder Organizational Investing Inc. These new identities reflect BBT's heritage and will resonate with Church of the Brethren members while being attractive to others outside the denomination who are of like mind and who want to use Eder's services.

The familiar services of BBT are not changing. Nor is the staff or the Board. The only thing that is changing is the name. Eder Financial will continue offering –

- Retirement solutions to employees of Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations.
- Employee-based insurances to employees of Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations.
- Deferred gifts management and long-term-care insurance to all Brethren members.
- Organizational investing opportunities for Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations.
- Benevolent grants for pastors and church and district employees who find themselves in severe financial difficulty.
- Educational workshops and opportunities.
- An investment platform that conforms to Eder Values Investing screens (formerly known as Brethren Values Investing) and promotes advocacy initiatives to encourage for-profit companies to be respectful of God's creation.

The difference is that Eder Financial will now begin serving members and clients of like mind that are outside the Church of the Brethren.

"With changing demographics and affinity within the Church of the Brethren, a move to serve Anabaptist organizations and others of like mind will allow Eder Financial to fulfill its commitments to its members for decades to come," said Nevin Dulabaum, president.



This logo treatment tells the Eder Financial story –

- **The cross**, which has served as BBT's logo for 15 years, represents the newly named organization's continued commitment to be a faith-based, not-for-profit service provider.
- **"Eder"** comes from the place where the Brethren movement began, in 1708 at the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany. This name honors the movement and the ideals that led to the creation of the ministry-focused company that serves people and organizations of like mind.

- **“Financial”** indicates that Eder is firmly rooted in products and services that help members and organizations become sound stewards of their own financial resources.
- **“Bold”** describes how Eder provides its values-based services, based on the teachings of Jesus, through helpful products, concierge customer service, and competitive fees. Our investment screens are based on Brethren values, and engagement in advocacy implores companies to weigh their strong business practices with being caretakers of God’s creation and people.
- **“Balanced”** is the manner in which Eder partners with those it serves to help members and clients achieve their objectives.
- **“Trusted”** signals that Eder looks out for the best interests of those it serves by being proactive and maintaining confidentiality.

Together the first initials of the words “Bold,” “Balanced,” and “Trusted” spell BBT, which is a bridge of the organization’s past to its future.

So what will be the distinctives of the Eder way? Great products, concierge service, competitive fees, values that come from being a faith-based organization, a proactive mindset to partner with our members and clients through their personal or organization’s journey, plenty of investment choices to meet their needs, strong investment returns, a firm moral compass, and a passion to serve.

The identity change is actually the last of Eder’s five strategic goals to be launched. The first was to change operations to be in a *growth* rather than *maintenance* mode. The second was to open up the firm’s marketing and promotional efforts in a new way. The third was to have the right positions, and the right people in those positions, a transition that began in January. The fourth was to become a permanent work-from-home organization, which now will allow Eder to hire staff from across the country.

“The strategic steps Eder is implementing will demonstrate to Church of the Brethren members that we are committed to serving them well while building relationships that enable us to serve individuals beyond the denomination,” Dulabaum said. “Our desire is to be a partner to those who benefit from our services.”

The conversion from the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust identity to that of Eder Financial is going to be a soft and incremental process beginning in the upcoming weeks, with people witnessing the conversion to Eder Financial throughout the summer.

Eder Financial has a small suite of offices at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Illinois, although staff members are now operating in a work-from-home arrangement. The company employs 25 people of faith who are committed to serving others. It currently is seeking directors of Pension, Marketing, Communications, Sales, and Data.

Eder Financial is overseen by a 12-member Board of Directors. They may serve up to two four-year terms. Board members have organizational, financial, accounting, legal, HR, or ministry backgrounds and experience. The organization began in 1943 with the creation of Brethren Pension Plan. Brethren Insurance Services was added in the 1950s, and organizational investing and deferred gifts in 1990.

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For more information contact Nevin Dulabaum at ndulabaum@cobbt.org or at 847-622-3388.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

National Youth Conference 2022 July 23 – 28, 2022 Fort Collins, Colorado

National Youth Conference (NYC) provides high school aged students 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 cost?

The \$550 registration fee, for youth and advisors, includes lodging, food, and event programming.

When can I register?

NYC registration is open now! Register before April 1 to avoid a \$50 late fee.

How can I find out more?

Visit this page often! Connect on social media. Attend the insight session at Annual Conference this summer. Connect with a member of the National Youth Cabinet, the group planning this event.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, contact Erika Clary, 2022 National Youth Conference Coordinator, at eclary@brethren.org or 847-429-4376

This year, the National Youth Conference (NYC) 2022 Office has partnered with Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction in Pennsylvania to collect



certain school supplies to assemble Church World Service (CWS) school kits. We are trying to make at least 3,000 kits. The auction already has contributed \$20,000 to this project.

The school kits will be given to children who are going to school in difficult settings. We have asked NYC participants to commit to bringing school supplies for the kits, using an online signup sheet at www.slottr.com/sheets/18267897.

If you are not attending NYC but would like to support this offering, you can commit to purchasing supplies and then send them with youth from your congregation. If you are not attending NYC and there are no youth from your congregation attending, please contact me at eclary@brethren.org to find out how you can support this project.

To learn more about the school kits we are assembling, please visit <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits>.



National Youth Conference T-shirts are available on the NYC webpage.

The cost is \$25 each. Go to: <https://national-youth-conference-2022.square.site/> to order yours.

Sizes XS—4XL.

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
MYERS, GUY – 1271 Killiwhat Street, Johnstown, PA 15902-1224 / 814-536-2404 / pgmyers@atlanticbb.net
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

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA—102 Franklin Drive, Greensburg, 15601-1305 / 724 836-0594

CAMP HARMONY

2022 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

→ DAY CAMPS

Pre-K Camp #1	Ages 3-5, 9 am - noon	June 13-17
Day Camp #1	Grades K-8, 9 - 4:30	June 20-24
Day Camp #2	Grades K-8, 9 - 4:30	June 27-July 1
Day Camp #3	Grades K-8, 9 - 4:30	July 11-15
Day Camp #4	Grades K-8, 9 - 4:30	July 25-29
Pre-K Camp #2	Ages 3-5, 9 am - noon	Aug. 8-12

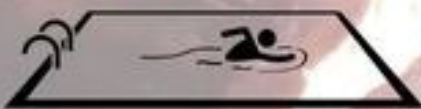
→ OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Jr. High #1	Grades 5-8, overnight	July 3-8
Youth Camp	Grades 7-12, overnight	July 3-8
Junior #1	Grades 2-5, overnight	July 17-22
Mission Camp	Grades 7-12, overnight	July 24-29
Junior #2	Grades 2-5, overnight	July 31-Aug. 5
Jr. High #2	Grades 5-8, overnight	July 31-Aug. 5
Youth Adventure	Grades 7-12, overnight	July 31-Aug. 5

**BRING A NEW FRIEND
& SAVE 50% FOR YOU
AND YOUR FRIEND!!!**



**SIBLING DISCOUNTS
& SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!**





CAMP HARMONY

LEND A HAND AS A TUESDAY 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 TUESDAY | 9 AM - 4 PM
1414 PLANK ROAD, HOOVERVILLE

As a thank you:

Coffee and pastries at 8:45 am; lunch at noon

Contact Kayla at 814.798.5885 or kayla@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!

JULY 2022

- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 10 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins, Omaha, NE
- 14 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends, Omaha, NE
- 21 - Core Leadership Team 6:00 pm, (District Conference Business)
- 23—28 - National Youth Conference, Fort Collins, CO
- 30 - District Leadership Team, 9 am, TBA (District Conference Business)

AUGUST 2022

- 13 - SVMC class
- 27 - SVMC class

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 5 - LABOR DAY
- 8 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 10 - SVMC class
- 17 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

OCTOBER 2022

- 2 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 15 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony

NOVEMBER 2022

- 3 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 6 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 12 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 24 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- 27 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

THE HIGHLIGHTS

July 2022