

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

July 2024

A SOBER CALL TO THOSE WHO SERVE THE CHURCH

By Abby Shaffer, Co-Pastor at Rummel COB

Ministry is not something you dream of doing with your life. Ministry doesn't fit with the dreams other people have for your life, either. Oh sure, your family might brag about your piety, but they won't be able to spend the winters at your villa in Palm Beach. Don't quit your day-job.

Ministry isn't glamorous – in fact, if I see a pastor with that dazzling star-quality, I turn around and go in the opposite direction. A high-end, magazine cover kind of pastor just can't be trusted.

Ministry isn't for the weak of heart. Just as the crowds shouted "Hosanna!" one day, and "Crucify!" the next – so you'll encounter those people who will turn on you, simply because you didn't meet their unreasonable expectations.

Ministry isn't rainbows and butterflies. It's sitting down with people on their very worst days and entering into their pain. It's weeping with them, crying out to God with them, waiting with them until the ambulance and squad cars have left.

Ministry doesn't bolster your mental health, blossom your self-esteem, or burgeon your IRA. You won't win any medals for your late nights and early mornings. You won't get a Pulitzer Prize for your newsletter articles. Your church might give you a gift card in October, and you'll be happy with that.

Ministry is *not* the dream for your life --- unless you've been called.

If God has called you, then that changes everything. God called Abram to go – and he went. He had no idea where he was going, but he went. And God went with him on the journey, blessing his faith by blessing the world with his descendants.



God called Moses to preach truth to power – something he very much did not want to do – but, he did! And God used those messages to set hundreds of thousands of people free from their bitter slavery.

God called Joshua to an impossible task – one that would require great strength and courage – and with God's help, through many trials, he led the children of Israel into the Land of God's Promise.

God called Deborah as a prophet, and later, He called her to be a judge and a leader over the people. She led them to victory over God's enemies, and the land had peace for forty years.

God called David to be Israel's great king! He was the least of all his brothers, the shrimp with the sheep. Because of God's anointing on his life, he expanded Israel's territory, secured their borders, and returned the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place in Zion.

God called Mary to be a mother – she was way too young and inexperienced. Yet, she lived into her calling as the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Her humble devotion to her ministry changed the world. I could go on and on.

When you answer God's call and receive His anointing for ministry, it cannot be to fulfill your own dreams, but to live into God's dreams and purposes for the life He's given you. You must promise to work with courage, obedience, and faith – and to trust God for the power, direction, and wisdom you'll need to serve Him in this world.

A life dedicated to ministry is seldom easy, but it is always worth it. *May God bless you abundantly as you answer His call.*

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **August 2024** issue is

July 10, 2023

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

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

2024 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2024 District Directory was sent out in January. Please be sure to send me any updates and/or corrections as soon as possible so I can list them in the Highlights.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 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 **2024** please send one to the 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, thanks.

Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Somerset—Tracey McDonald

Uniontown —Brett Bowers

LEADERSHIP

Dan Becker, Ordained



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

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Mark your calendars!

**District Conference
October 19, 2024
Camp Harmony**

****Registration forms and info.
are listed on pages 5—12
of this issue of the Highlights****

Registration deadline is October 1, 2024

The Program and Arrangements Committee
and Camp Harmony have been meeting
and working on making this year's District
Conference enjoyable and informative
for everyone in attendance.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

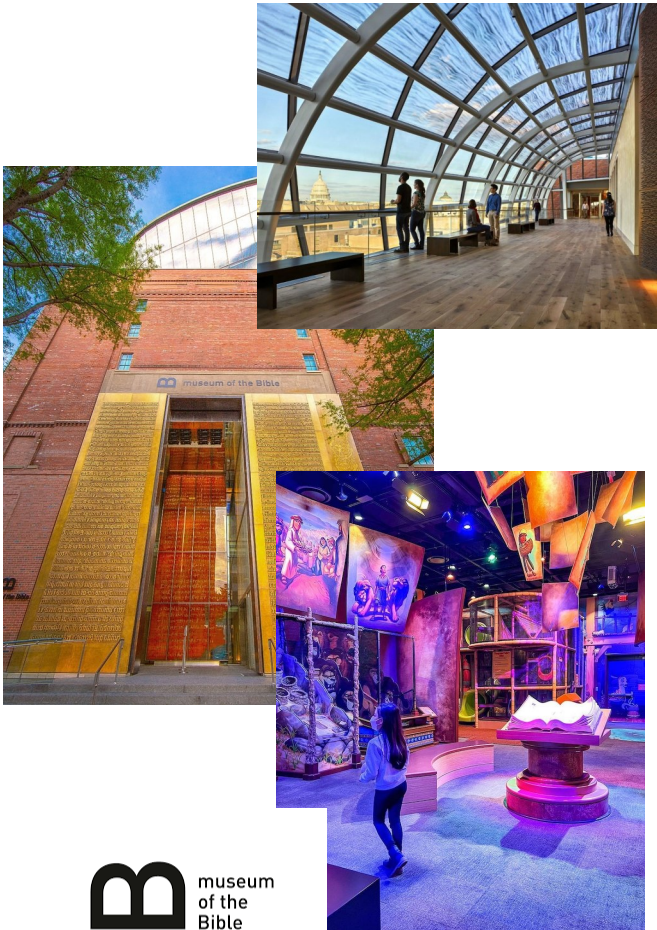
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

The District Outreach and Service Team is planning another bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. on **August 17, 2024**.

The bus will be leaving from the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935 at 6:00 am on August 17th and will be returning approximately 6:00 pm that same day.

Cost is \$65 per person

Please call the District Office at 814-479-2181 to make a reservation.



HAPPENINGS AT HOSTETLER COB

July 7, 2024 at 10:30 am

South Penn Crossing will be performing during the regular worship service.

July 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Annual Community Hot Dog Roast, live music and free food. You may bring a covered dish. If you want to share music, call Doug: 814-233-2024

Hostetler Church of the Brethren

2344 Sand Spring Road
Meyersdale, PA 15552

For more info: 814-279-8843

CHICKEN BARBEQUE

Shade Creek/Ridge COB

1623 Ridge Road Hooversville

Chicken Barbecue

Drive-thru Takeout

July 20 2024

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$12.00

Meal includes: 1/2 chicken, baked potato, and dinner roll

Call 814 754-5593 for tickets.

Deadline to order tickets is July 14 2024.

The Shade Creek/Ridge Church of the Brethren will also be celebrating 150 years in August!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Western Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, Pennsylvania 15935-7412

814 479-7058 814 479-2181



Church of the Brethren

MEMO

TO: Western PA District Churches
FROM: Program and Arrangements Committee
DATE: Summer 2024
RE: 2024 District Conference Information

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Western PA District Annual District Conference will be held at **Camp Harmony, 1414 Plank Road, Hooversville, PA 15936**, on **Saturday, October 19, 2024**. The Program and Arrangements Committee is working hard to insure a productive and uplifting experience for all those in attendance. We are also pleased to announce that we will be serving brunch during the business meeting instead lunch at the end of the session. We appreciate your prayers and patience as we go forward during this time. Thank you!

There will be NO on-site registrations this year. Please Pre-Register by completing the included form and send to the District Office by OCTOBER 1, 2024.

Due to increasing costs, the registration fee for the conference is \$30.00 per person, which includes brunch, conference booklet materials, and facility fee.

Enclosed you will find the following form and information regarding District Conference:

- **REGISTRATION FORM:** Please send **ONE** check and **ONE** registration form for your church
- **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE RECOVERY AND SUPPORT KIT INFORMATION:** kits and/or buckets

Please share this information with your delegates and non-delegates of your congregations. REMEMBER, ALL registrations must be done BEFORE District Conference.

Individuals attending the conference should report to Registration by **8:30 am** on **October 19th** in order for the conference to begin on time. If you have any questions regarding District Conference, please feel free to contact the District Office at 814 479-2181 or toll free at 1-866 279-2181.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



2024 WESTERN PA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 19, 2024 – 9:00 am

CAMP HARMONY - 1414 Plank Rd, Hooversville, PA 15936

**Participants recommended arrival time is 8:30*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

CHURCH _____

Number of **DELEGATES** _____ **NON-DELEGATES** _____ @ _____ each

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE \$30.00

[\$25.00 registration covers registration materials, meal and beverages, facility fee]

**There will be NO on site registrations this year. Please complete this form
and send to the District Office by OCTOBER 1, 2024.**

Make ONE check for ALL participants payable to:

Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple PA 15935-7412

Before mailing to the District Office, please copy this form for your records.

**WE ARE EXCITED TO BE MEETING AGAIN IN PERSON THIS YEAR! THE PROGRAM AND
ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE IS WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE IN
ATTENDANCE WILL BE COMFORTABLE AND SAFE.
PLEASE BE CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.**

Each Church may have **NO MORE THAN 4 DELEGATES** represented.

◆ **Delegate Representation (Choose 4 individuals from the list below)**

- Elected Delegates for 2024
- Pastor
- Board or Church Leadership Team Chair
- Commission or Team Chairs
(Ministry, Nurture, Stewards, and Witness **OR** an authorized/appointed representative of those commissions)
- Youth Representative

◆ **Non-delegate Representation (Each congregation is allowed 2)**

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

NON- DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

NON- DELEGATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brunch will be served at 10:30 am.

Food Allergies: _____

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Church World Service Kits

CWS Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and Emergency Clean-up Buckets are projects your church group can complete to make a difference for hurting people in the United States and around the world. These basic supplies are so common in the US, but so vital if you have lost everything in a disaster or live in poverty.

Cash donations in lieu of assembled Kits or Buckets also help provide much-needed supplies.

If you have questions, please call CWS at 1-800-297-1516.

Wrap your love and prayers in every Kit or Bucket you put together. But, please, include only the items listed.

Do not include personal notes, money, or any additional items in or with the Kits. And, please, do not include or decorate your Kits with religious symbols, as the Kits are shared with people based only on need, regardless of religion. Thank you for helping CWS be ready to respond!

Don't forget to send a check for \$2 per Kit or \$3 per Bucket to help cover the shipping costs.

Kits should be **securely boxed and taped**. Boxes should be packed with only one type of Kit (Hygiene, School, or Baby) inside each box. The boxes should be labeled, noting the type of Kit, number of Kits, congregation/group, contact person, address, and number of boxes.

Please DO NOT put the \$2 inside the kit.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

Fill out and attach this form to the box with the kits or the buckets,
and send a check for \$2.00 per Kit or \$3.00 per Bucket to help cover shipping costs.

Make check payable to and send to **Western PA District COB.**

Congregation/Group

Contact Person

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Indicate amount enclosed:

Number of Kits x \$2 =	\$
Number of Buckets x \$3 =	\$

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

SCHOOL KITS LIST

Starting a new school year is exciting...but for children who don't have school supplies, it can also be terrifying. That's where these kits—and your compassion—come in! Plus, the fabric bag you pack each kit in is a great keepsake that kids can carry all year long. Please remember to send \$2/kit to CWS to cover the costs of processing.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ One pair of blunt scissors (Rounded tip only. Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- ☐ One 30-centimeter, 12" ruler
- ☐ One hand-held pencil sharpener (Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ One large eraser (No pencil cap erasers.)
- ☐ Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (Remove from packaging and use a rubber band to hold the pencils together.)
- ☐ Crayons - 24 pack
- ☐ One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles (Solid color or kid-friendly fabric. No logos, reusable shopping bags or backpacks. Download sew pattern at cwskits.org)

My Shop Angel has affordable CWS Kit bags for bulk purchases. Call **800-495-4176** to place an order.

"I love this school bag so much. Thank you!"
— ASHLEY



VALUE: \$15

PROCESSING FEE: \$2 per kit

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CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS



SCHOOL BAG PATTERN

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1/2 yd of sturdy "child-friendly" fabric 45" wide

Sewing machine and thread (or needle and thread if you prefer to sew by hand)

Sewing pins

Iron and ironing board

Carefully measure and cut the fabric so you have two pieces 13" x 17" and two strips 4" x 22".

MAKE THE BAG:

1. Place the 13" x 17" pieces with right sides together; pin and sew 1/2 inch seam on three sides, leaving one 13" side open to be the top of the bag.
2. Fold the top 1/2 inch of the open side down; pin and press with an iron.
3. Then fold down another 2" at the top edge to form a hem; pin and stitch near the pressed edge. This will hide the raw edge and give the bag a sturdy, neat top edge.
4. Turn the bag right side out with the seams on the inside.

MAKE THE HANDLES:

1. Fold one of the 4" X 22" strips in half lengthwise with right sides together. Pin and then stitch the long sides together with a 1/2" seam; then turn the strip right side out. OR turn under 1/2 inch on the long sides of one strip and press. Fold strip with right side out. Top stitch pressed edges together close to edge. Either way, you will have a finished 22" long strip that is 1 1/2" wide.
2. Repeat for the second handle. Press. Now you have two finished handles.

ATTACH THE HANDLES TO THE BAG

1. Turn the short raw ends of the handles inside themselves about 1/2 inch to hide the raw edges. Press.
2. Stitch the handles to the finished edge on the top of the bag about two inches from the side seam. Be sure the handles are not twisted. Attach one handle to one side of the bag and the other handle to the other side of the bag so the bag can be worn as a shoulder bag.

The finished bag will be approximately 12" X 14".

Place CWS School Kit items in bag. Loose school kit items may be placed in a large Ziploc type bag to keep them together. Remove the air from the Ziploc bag, seal the bag and place inside of the cotton/canvas bag.

Canvas tote bags can also be used and may be available at area craft and discount stores.

Canvas tote bags may also be purchased online at cwskits.org/bag.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

HYGIENE KITS LIST

When people are forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies, they may not have time to pack the things they use on a daily basis like toothbrushes or soap. But after a few days without these items, they definitely miss them. Your hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by. Please remember to send \$2/kit to CWS to cover the costs of processing.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
- ☐ One hand towel measuring 15"x28" to 16"x32" (No fingertip, bath, dish, or micro-fiber towels.)
- ☐ One washcloth
- ☐ One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Found at discount dealers like sallybeauty.com. Search for wide tooth pastel comb to see example)
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable
- ☐ One fingernail or toenail clipper (Either one is acceptable. Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- ☐ One toothbrush in the original package
- ☐ Ten standard size Band-Aids

All items must fit inside the Ziploc bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.



VALUE: \$15

PROCESSING FEE: \$2 per kit

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CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS



CLEANUP BUCKET LIST

Hurricanes, floods and other disasters are happening more frequently. When our neighbors around the world experience these unforeseen circumstances, you can make the road to recovery easier with CWS Cleanup Buckets. These buckets are full of essential home recovery supplies that are needed after a disaster strikes.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- ☐ One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener
- ☐ Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ Seven sponges, including one large
- ☐ One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- ☐ 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ One 32-64 oz or two 25 oz bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- ☐ One 16-34 oz bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- ☐ One 12-40 oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- ☐ One package of 36-50 clothespins
- ☐ One 50-100 ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- ☐ Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- ☐ Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- ☐ 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45-gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- ☐ One 6-9 oz bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes. Please send all monetary donations to: CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at cwskits.org/shipping.



VALUE: \$75

PROCESSING FEE: \$3 per bucket

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ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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-ZM8lDloOJ_v6FfXuzfhRJn8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0

Rummel COB You can listen to podcasts of services on their church website at <https://rummelchurch.com/sermons/>

Salisbury COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am <https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-Brethren-211422968870314>

Walnut Grove COB Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:00 am <https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob>



FOLDING MACHINE AVAILABLE

The Meyersdale COB has a folding machine available for free to anyone who would be in need of one.

Please call the church at 814-634-5650 if you are interested.



REFRIGERATOR NEEDED

Camp Harmony is looking for a used refrigerator/freezer for Heritage Lodge (staff house).

If you have one you would like to donate, please email or call the camp office at 814-798-5885



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTRIES

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

It is becoming increasingly more difficult to secure a crew of eleven volunteers via telephone, so I will be using email to communicate with churches and individuals to line up enough people to make this program work.

This system, I hope, will streamline the process and eliminate missed calls and phone messages that sometimes go unanswered. Once you receive an email from me, please check the printed schedule and consider giving a day or a week out of your busy schedule toward this very rewarding, worthwhile ministry.

Contact your church coordinator to volunteer and, if your church does not have one, please contact me at [hjeward@atlanticbb.net](mailto:hjewald@atlanticbb.net) or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2024 Schedule

July 7—13, 2024	TBA	OPEN
September 15—21, 2024	TBA	OPEN
November 3—9, 2024	TBA w A.N.E	
December 8—14, 2024	TBA	OPEN

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.

FOOD PANTRIES

Walnut Grove Food Pantry
<https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob/>

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/>

Please consider donating food to these or any other groups in our area.

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



El Hogar De Ninos Enmanuel Shoe Project

Thanks to everyone who has continued to remember the shoe project and please continue to think of the shoe project as you hold rummage sales at your home or in your churches. Your donations are deeply appreciated by the shoe committee and the El Nino Home. Their last newsletter featured pictures of the new culinary school they are developing on the Home grounds. Our last donation will be used to help purchase professional grade equipment for the kitchens there. As always, shoes may be dropped off at the District Office during business hours, by calling the Westmont Church to schedule a drop off, or by calling any committee member.

Please help us to continue this witness to our friends in Honduras!
For more information, please call:
Marie Camut – 814-266-3010
April Mackell – 814-536-1589
Karen Nagyvathy - 814-244-6977
Together, we can make a difference!

PET FOOD PANTRY

The pet pantry is approaching its one year anniversary, May 2024. The pantry currently serves about 97 clients monthly, up from 4 per month when it opened May 2023. The community and the church have been very supportive of the program by providing donations both monetary and pet food, volunteers to help at the pantry, and spreading the word that the pet pantry is there to help those in need. Thanks to everyone who has helped in some way to make this new program a success. The clients are very thankful for the help in receiving pet food so they can keep their pets with them. Any questions, call Cheryl at 814-410-3151.

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

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

PISARSKI, STANLEY – 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / spisarski1017@gmail.com

SMITH, A. HARRISON—506 Sciandro Drive, Greensburg, 15601 / 724-837-4491

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

WHITED, JAMES—881 Treasure Lake, DuBois 15801 / 814-592-5714 / jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

LICENSED

BURNEY, OYANGO—137 N. 9th Street, Indiana, 15701/ 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

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

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

LAY SPEAKER

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's

2024

Continuing Education Events

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is offering a robust schedule of Continuing Education for clergy and interested laity in 2024. Ranging from Christian ID in the Age of AI, Worship Models, Grief Literacy, Suicide and your Congregation, Luke and ACTS, Autism and the Church, and Why Leadership Matters, everyone will find a topic of interest. While credentialed clergy can receive Continuing Education units which are needed for ordination renewal in 2025, laity will also benefit from these topics. Please be sure that deacons and other interested folks receive information on these topics as everyone is invited to register. The ordination renewal for ordained clergy is coming quickly in 2025, so be sure to register for these excellent sessions and bring other interested persons from your congregation. *To register, click on the event Title for each event and follow the registration links, or email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or call 717-361-1450.*

Suicide and Your Congregation

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Zoom Only

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEU.

Suicide is a rising public health concern and faith-based organizations hold a vital role in ministering to survivors. This interactive workshop examines the dual role of clergy in postvention care. Best practices in caring for survivors, the congregation, and oneself forms the basis of a small group discussion focusing on a faith community's response to a member's violent death. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills relevant to engaging suicide issues across congregational settings.

Autism and the Church

Lisa Kruse, Tim Miller, David Crumrine, Stan Dueck, Leaders

Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

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

The church is a place where people should feel welcome no matter what challenges they may have. Families with an autistic member need to feel the welcome and acceptance of a church who cares for their special circumstance. This Continuing Education event will provide information to pastors and other church leaders regarding autism, how to support families with an autistic member, and how to make the church a safe and welcoming place for families.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's 2024 Continuing Education Events

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is offering a robust schedule of Continuing Education for clergy and interested laity in 2024. Ranging from Christian ID in the Age of AI, Worship Models, Grief Literacy, Suicide and your Congregation, Luke and ACTS, Autism and the Church, and Why Leadership Matters, everyone will find a topic of interest. While credentialed clergy can receive Continuing Education units which are needed for ordination renewal in 2025, laity will also benefit from these topics. Please be sure that deacons and other interested folks receive information on these topics as everyone is invited to register. The ordination renewal for ordained clergy is coming quickly in 2025, so be sure to register for these excellent sessions and bring other interested persons from your congregation. **To register, click on the event Title for each event and follow the registration links, or email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or call 717-361-1450.**

Grief Literacy

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Zoom Only

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

Society's grief-avoiding mentality and limited community-based support initiatives affect the well-being of bereaved persons. This interactive case-based workshop examines the grief literacy movement in connection with Christ-Centered Ministry Leadership. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills applicable to enhancing the welfare of grieving congregational members and persons in their community.

The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters

Jeff Carter, Leader

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College - In-Person or Zoom

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

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

What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. Furthermore, Brethren are naturally suspicious of leaders; called, elected, or self-proclaimed. Values, such as humility, consensus, and the priesthood of all believers, lead to a flat hierarchy and a communal pragmatism. We celebrate leaders such as Dan West, Sarah Major, M.R. Zigler, and Anna Mow, but in their day, they stirred controversy by the manner of their leading. So, what does it mean to lead in today's church and world? I believe leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

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<https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/registration/>

Annual Conference 2024
DeVos Place Convention Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan
July 3-7, 2024



The L.E.A.D. Conference

A Church of the Brethren **L.E.A.D. (Listen – Equip – Adapt – Disciple) Conference** is planned for Nov. 15-17, 2024, sponsored by the denomination's Discipleship and Leadership Formation department. The event will be hosted at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on the scripture theme 2 Timothy 2:2. Leadership matters! Learning more about leading well can only help pastors and congregations. The Church of the Brethren LEAD Conference will encourage, inspire, and equip you and your congregation's leaders to further develop your ministry's effectiveness and earn CEU credit. Join us for powerful times of worship, in-depth keynote messages from Dr. Dennis Edwards, and practical breakout sessions taught by practitioners who are eager to share lessons they've learned that you can adapt and implement in your own ministry context. This will be a leadership development conference for congregational leaders such as pastors and church board members. The focus will be on raising the leadership skills of congregational leaders to help them be more effective in their local ministries. The event will be a mix of plenary and break-out sessions. Attendance will be capped at 250 participants.

CDS volunteers care for children during active tornado season

Church of the Brethren Newline
May 31, 2024
By Michael Scalzi



A child in the care of Children's Disaster Services at a center in Lakeview, Ohio, following tornadoes.
Photo by Pat Krabacher

During March through the end of May, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers provided care centers for children in what has become the most active tornado season in the United States since 2017.

Recent requests to provide volunteers have been for short-term deployments to resource centers, where families can seek relief and recovery assistance from multiple private, nonprofit, and government agencies. CDS volunteers are located throughout the US but for these types of short-term deployments, volunteers are first sought from areas local to the disaster.

Local volunteers can respond more rapidly, and have the opportunity to serve neighbors in their own vicinity while reducing the cost of the deployment. If local volunteers are not available, CDS will draw on volunteers from greater distances.

In March, CDS volunteers from Ohio deployed to Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC) in Lakeview and Russells Point, Ohio, following a series of tornadoes that included one category EF3 that killed three people. Following additional tornadoes in Iowa late in April, CDS was asked to provide volunteers for a MARC held on May 4-5 in Minden, Iowa. Volunteers from Ankeny, Iowa, less than a two-hour drive from Minden, were called to attend. CDS was delighted that one of those volunteers had recently taken a CDS training in Ankeny and subsequently received her new CDS volunteer certification.

Overnight between May 7 and 8, a series of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms with hail affected several areas of Iron County, Mo. A MARC was set up on May 29, to which CDS volunteers living in Missouri responded. The total number of children served during this spring tornado season, as of the end of May, has been 34, with 13 CDS volunteers attending.

The next CDS deployment will be to Greenfield, Iowa, on June 2-3, where CDS volunteers will participate at a MARC operated by the Red Cross.



SUMMER CAMP 2024

PROVIDING ADVENTURE & FUN WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE!

DAY CAMPS

\$106

GRADES K-8, 9AM -4:30PM

DAY CAMP #1: JUNE 10-14

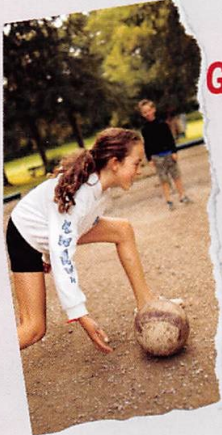
DAY CAMP #2: JUNE 17-21

DAY CAMP #3: JUNE 24-28

DAY CAMP #4: JULY 8-12

DAY CAMP #5: JULY 15-19

DAY CAMP #6: JULY 29-AUG 2



KICK OFF CAMPS

\$50

GRADES K-6, 10AM -3PM

@ PORTAGE DAY CAMP: JUNE 17-21

@ ROCKWOOD DAY CAMP: JUNE 24-28

@ INDIANA DAY CAMP: JULY 15-19

@ MEYERSDALE DAY CAMP: JULY 29-AUG 2



OVERNIGHT CAMPS

\$386

JUNIOR: GRADES 2-5

JUNIOR #1: JUNE 30-JULY 5

JUNIOR #2: JULY 21-26

JUNIOR #3: AUG 4-9

JUNIOR EXTREME: JUNE 16-21

JR HIGH: GRADES 5-8

JR. HI. #1: JUNE 30-JULY 5

JR. HI. #2: JULY 21-26

JR. HI. #3: AUG 4-9

JR. HI. EXTREME #1 JUNE 16-21

JR. HI. EXTREME #2: JULY 7-12

SIBLING DISCOUNTS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE !

YOUTH: GRADE 7-12

YOUTH #1: JUNE 30- JULY 5

YOUTH #2: JULY 21-26

YOUTH #3: AUG 4-9

YOUTH EXTREME: JULY 7-12

YOUTH ADVENTURE: JULY 28-AUG 2



\$64

PRE-K CAMPS

AGES 3-5, 9AM -12PM

PRE-K CAMP #1: JUNE 3-7

PRE-K CAMP #2: JULY 22-26



SAVE 50%

FOR YOU AND A FRIEND WHEN A
RETURNING CAMPERS BRING A
NEW-TO-CAMP-HARMONY-FRIEND!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST

WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG

CAMP HARMONY

Urgent Need! Our Kubota has died right before the start of the summer season. If you feel led, please give to the cause and donate at www.campharmony.org or consider a gift in kind. Camp loves both used and new!



We are also in need of the following equipment and craft supplies:

push mower
stove/oven
microwave
basketballs
volleyballs
wiffle balls
wiffle ball bats
soccer balls
bouncy balls
weedwacker
mini refrigerator

friendship bracelet string, permanent markers,
name tags, rags, bandanas

Please keep the camp staff in your prayers as we prepare for our summer camps.

But **Jesus** said, “Let the **children** come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these **children**.” Matthew 19:14



2024 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 2024

- 3 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins, Grand Rapids, MI
- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends, Grand Rapids, MI

AUGUST 2024

- 10 - SVMC class, District Office
- 17 - Bus Trip to Museum of the Bible (TBA)
- 24 - SVMC class, District Office

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 2 - LABOR DAY
- 12 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 14 - SVMC class, District Office
- 21 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

OCTOBER 2024

- 6 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 12 - SVMC class
- 19 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony
- 26 - SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2024

- 3 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 19 - SVMC class
- 21 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

DECEMBER 2024

- 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 15 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 22 - 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 2024