

District Highlights

June 2017 Vol. 17 No. 5

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday ~ Friday
8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

Please send **all**
Highlights information
to the District Office by
the **10th**.

In a recent prayer time,
I heard the LORD say to me:
"Don't be so afraid; live out
of the victory I have given
you in Jesus."

Those words really struck
me because they helped me
realize how much I live out
of fear and an "Oh no!"
mindset. Also, they helped
me to understand in a
powerful way the absolute
victory that we have in Christ over all things.

The verse quoted above from I Corinthians is in the context of Christ giving us victory over death. There is a sense of liberty in the passage, one of complete joy and exultation that in Christ even death has no victory over God's people.

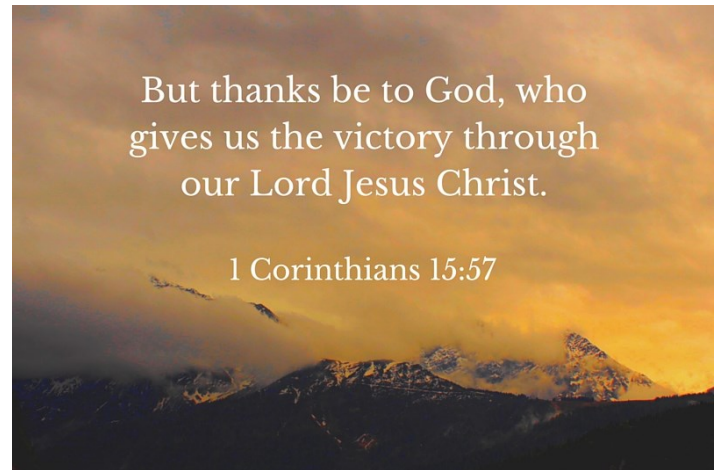
What would it mean for all the members of the Western PA District Churches to live out of the total victory that we have in Christ? There would be a new boldness, a new sense of hope, a new sense that with Jesus we can address all the issues of our congregational life with joy.

As we would consider new ways of being in mission to our community and to the world, we would move forward with confidence rather than retreat in despair. We would imagine in our mind's eye how the overcoming power of Jesus' victory would equip us to surge forth in ministry in the Kingdom of God.

Where has your congregation been saying "We're afraid!" or "Oh no – we can't handle this!" Have you been looking at your congregational life and saying "We are stuck, we are stymied!"? I encourage you to begin to say and believe that "We have the victory in Jesus. We can do things to see our church thrive. We can live out of the victory that Jesus has won for us!"

May our District churches grow in faith and number as we trust in Christ's victory over all things. May new Christians be born, inactive members restored, new ministries begun, and the healings of bodies and relationships occur. In Christ is it not "Oh no!" but "It can be! It can happen! Praise Jesus!"

God bless you!
Bill Wenger, Interim District Executive



District Office News

SYMPATHY

To the family of **Pastor Henry Landis** as his wife Audrey passed away on May 15, 2017.

2017 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2017 District Directory is available and has been sent via email and postal mail.

If you would like a PDF or a paper copy, please contact the District Office at 814-479-2181 or email Tina Lehman at lehman@brethren.org.

NEW MEMBERS

Scalp Level Congregation

- Marilyn Hadix
- Jacob Morack
- Ryan Muscatello
- John Woodley
- Luke Woodley
- Evelyn Hassell

Sipesville Congregation

- Mae Jean Kimmel
- John & Alice Mangus
- Neil & Linda McVicker
- Carol Fisher

NEED YOUR HELP

If your congregation will produce a new directory in **2017**, please drop off or send a copy to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935.

It is very helpful to the District Office staff to have updated information from all the churches we serve.
Thank you!

July/August 2017

Highlights Deadline

June 10, 2017

(this is a Double Issue)

Please send all Highlights information to the District Office for this next issue.

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY
HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS
OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.
PROVERBS 22:6 | NKJV

Happy
Father's Day!

Books and CD's! Free to a Good Home!



Stop in the District Office and check out this interesting collection of books generously donated by Elva Jean Westlake and the family of Terry Gindlesperger.

A list of books is available, contact us for more information.

AbbsTract June 2017



As a kid growing up, I looked forward to Pentecost Sunday (and not just because it often coincided with the end of school).

Pentecost meant that our church sanctuary would be awash in various shades of red – from the banners on the walls to the shirts, ties and dresses of the people. The choir would sing “Come, Holy Spirit,” a song which talks about the move of God’s Spirit through the ages. And sometimes, especially if I’d had a recent growth spurt, I got to go shopping for a new “something red” to wear.

We never did quite get around to doing my best Pentecost idea, though: a barbeque after worship. What better way to demonstrate tongues of fire than with meat on a grill?

As an adult in the Church of the Brethren, I look at Pentecost a little differently – to be honest, it kind of makes me sad. It seems that this one Sunday is all the time we dedicate to acknowledging the Holy Spirit. In fact, I often hear people refer to God’s Spirit as “it.” Like He is some kind of unknown spectral phenomenon, instead of the third Person of the Holy Trinity. Granted, He always comes last in the list, but that’s no reason to relegate Him to the one-Sunday-per-year heap.

My theory for this behavior on the part of the Church is this: we’re scared of the Holy Spirit. Not in the way that we’re terrified of “ghosts” while walking through an old house after dark, but scared of Him in the way that we are of anyone we can’t predict or control. For the most part, people like predictability and people like to have (at least an illusion of) control. We like to know what to expect with others, especially when it comes to stability in our life of faith.

Let’s be honest: new ideas are met with wariness and resistance in the Church. If someone shares a new idea, we are sometimes taken aback, and we question their motives. We want to know every possible contingency and result before we are willing to start into something new. What will it cost? How long will it take? How will it work? What’s my guarantee? What’s in it for us? Why shouldn’t we just keep things the same? That’s how we tend to operate. But the Holy Spirit doesn’t owe us answers, and we don’t like that.

The Spirit’s arrival in Jerusalem that day caused more than a stir. Scripture says that everyone was astonished, astounded, perplexed. The disciples were thought to be drunk. Nobody knew what to make of it! But even that was small potatoes compared to the unpredictable thing that happened next. After Peter shared the Gospel message with power and boldness, about three thousand people gave their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ. Three thousand! In a matter of moments, the first mega-church was born. And that was just the beginning (Acts 2). Brothers and sisters, we need to stop trying to “figure out” the Holy Spirit, and simply submit to His authority in our lives. We need to be filled with the Spirit, that He might teach us and guide us and comfort us. The Greek name given to the Holy Spirit is “Paráklētos,” or “person called in to help.” And boy, do we need help. We need help to live this life for Jesus. We need help to grow His Church out of her death-spiral. We need help to choose another way of living in this dark and dying world. Instead of fearing what the Holy Spirit might ask us to do, we should be throwing open the doors of our lives and our churches to His leading. Caution has its place, but not when it comes to doing God’s work in God’s way. Sometimes we need to take those sacred risks.

If you are avoiding or ignoring the Holy Spirit today, I invite you to take some time, right now, to pray and ask God to soften your heart. Admit your fear and hesitation, and ask Him to give you peace. Open your Bible and ask God to teach you about the Holy Spirit – who He is, how He works, and what He wants to do in your life. Let us join together as a District to pray with boldness for the massive, regional revival that only God’s Spirit can bring, and let us be ready to fearlessly embrace it when it comes!



Local Church/District News

Special District Conference Recap:

A Special Session of the Western PA District Conference was held at the Maple Spring Church of the Brethren on Saturday, April 20, 2017. The purpose of the session was to discuss the current financial situation at the Brethren Home in Windber PA. There were 92 delegates and 35 non-delegates representing 51 churches in the District, as well as leadership from the Brethren Home, Camp Harmony, and the District Leadership Team.

After the session was called to order and instructions were given to the delegates in attendance, District Leadership Team Chair Ed Houghton began with an explanation of the current financial situation at the Brethren Home. He stated that " Over the past three years, the Brethren Home has sustained heavy financial losses and is deeply in debt. The Core Team of the District Leadership Team voted on April 18th to approve a loan from First Commonwealth Bank of \$600,000 to help the Home pay its vendors and creditors. This sum will not meet all of the accounts payable but will at least give the Home the chance to continue its operations. We feel that this situation is one that the Core Team can no longer address by itself without the knowledge and guidance of the District Conference. We are looking to this Conference to begin a discussion on the Brethren Home's future financial stability, administration, and viability as a ministry of our District."

The motion was then brought before the District Conference:

The Core Team of the Western PA District Church of the Brethren are requesting of the emergency District Conference, its ratification of the \$600,000 loan by the First Commonwealth Bank to the Church of the Brethren home.

(The loan has already been approved and paid out to the Home, the Core Team was seeking ratification from the District Conference)

After a lengthy discussion regarding the loan and the financial situation of the Home, a vote took place.

The vote was as follows: 69 YES votes to approve the ratification and 16 NO votes, the ratification passes.

After the vote, Donna Smith, Chair of the District Stewards and Finance Team discussed the Home's current financial situation and how it can affect the District. There was a time of questions and discussion with Brethren Home CEO Tom Reckner, members of the Home Board, District Conference delegates and non-delegates, and District Leadership all sharing opinions and sharing information.

District Leadership Team Chair presented alternative actions for the Home. **Option #1** is affiliation where a new or existing entity would be given authority to actively take over and manage the administration of the Home. **Option #2** Sale of the Home to a new or existing entity at a fair market value. **Option #3** Continue as is, the bank has given the Home and the District some big hurdles to jump through as part of the \$600,000 loan, 22 total in total. After those options were presented, the following motion was made:

To have the Core Team and whoever else is responsible look into researching the sale of the Home and bring it back to the District Conference. It was seconded and another vote was taken: 70 YES votes to approve researching the sale of the Home, 12 NO votes, and 1 Abstained.

Special District Conference Recap continued:

The Western PA District is now also responsible for assisting in the repayment of the \$600,000. To that end, First Commonwealth Bank has mandated a "minimum effort" for fundraising. From the First Commonwealth Loan Proposal: "Minimum best effort of the Western PA District Church of the Brethren to conduct a fundraising effort to support operations of the borrower; 50% of these proceeds will go to the maintenance reserve account and the remaining 50% would go to the pay off this time note."

All funds that are raised for the loan repayment effort must be made out to the Western PA District and sent to the District Office. Please mark on the memo line of all checks: \$600,000 debt reduction. At the end of each month, when the allocation go out, the funds brought in for the debt reduction will be taken directly to First Commonwealth Bank and deposited and credited to the loan repayment.

At that point in the Conference, a special offering was taken. Those in attendance that day raised \$3,475.00 toward repayment of the \$600,000 loan. To date another \$1,700.00 has been given bringing the total to \$5,175.00.

The Special Session of the Western PA District Conference was closed with a prayer led by District Leadership Team Chair Ed Houghton and the meeting was adjourned.

In the weeks since the Special District Conference, Brethren Home Sale Committee has been selected and will begin the process of doing research into the sale of the Brethren Home and also how to pay down the loan from First Commonwealth Bank. The BHSC is as follows:

Committee Chair

Peter Kaltenbaugh, District Moderator Designate

Gerald Smith, Home Board Representative

Robert Grafe, Brethren Home Charitable Trust Board Representative
(Circle Drive Resident)

Terry Lyons, Leadership Team Representative

Mark Berkey, Churches Representative

Sherry Berkey, Churches Representative

Martha Beach, Churches Representative

Ex Officio Members

Jeff Berkey, Western PA District's Attorney

Thomas Reckner, Brethren Home CEO

There will be information sent to all the churches in the District regarding the fundraising efforts and how everyone can help out. Right now the entire Western PA District is encouraged to pray daily for the situation at the Home, for the new formed Brethren Home Sale Committee, District Leadership Team, and all the leadership at the Home, the Home staff, the Home Auxiliary, and all the residents and their families.

Local Church/District News



Giant Yard Sales at Roxbury Church Grove

Saturday June 10, 2017
Saturday July 8, 2017
Saturday August 5, 2017
From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Vendors Needed!! Refreshments Available
Come see what great bargains you can find!

Rental Space: 20" x 20"
\$10.00 a space (bring your own tables)

Reservations can be made by calling the church
at 814-536-6716; lots of vendor spaces are
available if you are unable to make a
reservation.

Roxbury Church of the Brethren Grove
along Somerset Pike—Route 985

Roxbury Church of the Brethren Recreation Area

Are you looking for a nice
level area to have a family
reunion, birthday party,
graduation party,
anniversary party, etc.??



The Roxbury Church of the Brethren Grove is
located along Route 985 (Somerset Pike), 9
miles north of Jennerstown, 8 miles south of the
Roxbury section of Johnstown.

We offer facilities which include a pavilion, full
kitchen, indoor restrooms, softball field,
volleyball area, horseshoe pits, charcoal pits,
and swings. The grounds sit beside a small
stream where children at picnics often like to
entertain themselves.

Each year the reservations are taken for
individuals outside the church family as of
March 1st on a first-come, first-served basis.

A complete set of guidelines may be obtained
and any questions answered through the church
office at 814-536-6716.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

**The Roxbury COB congregation is
considering sharing their church grove
with another church.**

The agreement would be for both churches to
maintain the Recreation Area, as well as
benefit from the income from its rental.

If your congregation would be interested in
making this type of commitment or would like
more information, please contact Ruben
Montoya at 814-241-6966 or the church office
at 814-536-6716.

District Women's Ministries:

Calendar of Events 2017:

June 8 Camp Day at Camp Harmony

*Mark your calendars,
more information to follow!*



FLEA MARKET

Shade Creek Ridge
Church of the Brethren
1623 Ridge Road Hooversville

July 8, 2017 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Local Church/District News

Please read and share!

There are many ways to volunteer in the District, whether in be through Camp Harmony or the Brethren Home Community Windber; at events such as the District Auction; or even happenings in your own congregation.

The **Outreach and Service Team** of the District Leadership Team is still looking for volunteers to be the Western PA District Brethren Heritage and Peace Representative. As the Heritage and Peace Representative you would be asked to do the following:

1. Help promote peace education by interacting with individuals, pastors, and congregations.
2. Share peace education materials and instruction with the youth in our District by meeting with youth groups, camp groups at Camp Harmony, and other group settings arranged by the District Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator.
3. Work with the District Outreach and Service Team in any way that the Team can help the representative with the above responsibilities.
4. Report annually to the District Outreach and Service Team as to the work that has been accomplished in a given year.

Please contact Marsha Smith at 814-535-2213 or charmar467@atlanticbb.net if you are interested in serving.



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

Brethren Disaster Ministries needs your help. If you are interested in being a part of future mission trips please contact Herb Ewald for more information at 814-539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net

Other than the day trips to New Windsor all weeklong trips will be announced as the information becomes available.

2017 Schedule

THANK YOU

<u>Day Trips</u>	<u>Week Trips</u>
Thursday, June 8 Tuesday, June 27	July 9 - 15 South Carolina with Beaver Creek, Mid - Atlantic
Thursday, August 10 Tuesday, August 29	September 3 - 9 Project #2 with Brownsville, Mid - Atlantic
Thursday, October 12 Tuesday, October 24	October 1 - 7 South Carolina with (open)
Thursday, Dec. 7 Tuesday, Dec. 19	

Please be in
prayer for:

**Summer
Camps**



Local Church/District News

Events at the Penn Run Christian Outreach Center

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

Annual Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3, 2017—8:00 am to 2:00 pm

10' x 10' spaces are available to rent for \$10
Contact Lori Fackler at 724-349-2929 for more
information.

Annual Home & Craft Show

Saturday, November 11, 2017
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Many vendors and home party consultants will
be there as well as a silent auction, a pie
auction and lots of good food!

**PA Dutch Buffets will resume in October -
Saturdays from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Inspiration 2017

Generations

NOAC Psalm 145:4

National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
September 4—8, 2017

Transportation to NOAC

Camp Harmony is organizing transportation
for anyone who is planning to attend NOAC
this year. The cost for the trip is \$225
which includes 2 breakfasts
and 2 meals for the roundtrip.

Please call Camp office at 814-798-5885 if you
are interested and for more information.



151st Annual Western PA District Conference

October 21, 2017—9:00 am

Camp Harmony
1414 Plank Road, Hooversville

Reports: If you are responsible for submitting a
report for the District Conference booklet, you
will be contacted in June. The deadline to
submit reports will be **July 15, 2017**.

Displays: Groups that would like to have
displays in the exhibit area will be sent
registration forms in mid-July. Please be sure
to send the completed form back as soon as
possible so a table can be set up for you.

Registration: District Conference Registration
Packets will be sent out by the first week of
August.

If you have any questions, please call the
District Office.



Denominational News

go to www.brethren.org for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

BBT FITNESS CHALLENGE

5K RUN / WALK
Saturday, July 1, 2017 – 7:00 am
Grand Rapids, Michigan

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

It is preferred that participants register prior to Annual Conference by completing the registration form and mailing it to the address indicated. Go to <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/documents/activities/AC2017-bbt-fitness-challenge.pdf> for the form. The early-bird fee is \$20 for individuals until May 26 (\$25 after May 26), and \$60 for families of four or more. The check should be made payable to Brethren Benefit Trust. Please mail registration forms and payment to BBT by May 26 for the early-bird race fee. If you are unable to register by May 26, please stop by the BBT booth in the Exhibit Hall before 10 p.m. on June 30. The booth will be open when worship is not in session. You may also register at the race location on July 1 from 6:00 – 6:30 am.



RACE PACKET AND LOCATION OF THE RACE

Pick up your race packet at the BBT booth prior to the race or at the race location. This packet will include a T-shirt and bib

number. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Diane Parrott at 800-746-1505, ext. 361, or dparrott@cobb.org.

The event will be held at The Meadows at Millennium Park as an out and back, starting and finishing in the same place. This park is approximately six miles from the conference center and about a 10-minute drive. You will be responsible to secure your own transportation.



Annual Conference 2017

June 28 – July 2

Grand Rapids, Michigan

DeVos Convention Center

Register by June 5, 2017

If you have any questions please contact the Annual Conference Office

at 800-323-8039

Fax: 847-742-1618

annualconference@brethren.org

ARE YOU A DR, NURSE PRACTITIONER, RN, LPN, OR EMT?



The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids is looking for DR.'s, RN's, LPN's and EMT's who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Dr. Rosalie McBride of Northern Indiana District is coordinating the First Aid Office this summer in Grand Rapids and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: rosalie.l.mcbride@gmail.com

Job Openings: If you are interested in job opportunities through the Church of the Brethren, open positions can be found at <http://www.brethren.org/about/employment.html>



For more information, please visit
<http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/>



Please continue to pray for the situation in Nigeria.
 Remember them daily as we all pray for peace to come to that devastated region.

Visit www.brethren.org for more information.

Denominational News

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EYN confirms release of 82 Chibok schoolgirls in prisoner swap

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1).

President Joel S. Billi of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) has confirmed news reports of the release of 82 of the Chibok schoolgirls who were abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014. Media are reporting that the girls were released to the Nigerian government by Boko Haram on Saturday, in exchange for five Boko Haram suspects.



Photo credit — ICRC Africa

"Yes, it is true that 82 more Chibok girls have been released," said Billi in an e-mail to Jay Wittmeyer, executive director of Global Mission and Service for the Church of the Brethren. "I will keep you informed about every detail in due course," he added. In a follow up e-mail, he confirmed media reports that the freed girls have been taken to Abuja, Nigeria's capital city.

Nigeria Crisis Response staff Roxane Hill reported that "we don't know when and if the girls will be allowed to return to Chibok." (See "Nigeria Chibok girls: Parents learning if daughters among those freed," www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39846326 .)

Hill shared a list of the names of the 82 released girls, which was taken from an announcement by the office of the president of Nigeria and was sent to her by a leading EYN member who is active in efforts for education in Nigeria. However, the names have not yet been confirmed by EYN leadership. (See <http://alphaplusmag.com/see-names-of-82-rescued-chibok-girls> .)

Concerns remain for the hundreds of other children and adults who have been abducted by Boko Haram over recent years, and who continue as captives.

In response to queries about how to offer financial support to the released girls and their families, the Nigeria Crisis Fund will receive donations for that purpose. Brethren Disaster Ministries will work with EYN to oversee the use of the donations.

"We will work with EYN to provide resources and support to the girls," said Roy Winter, associate executive director of Global Mission and Service and Brethren Disaster Ministries associate.

Donations may be made to the Nigeria Crisis Fund, with a note that the gift is made to support the Chibok schoolgirls, and mailed to the Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

For more about the Nigeria Crisis Response go to www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis .

Denominational News

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Global Mission Updates

Global Mission Prayer Guide

Honduras

Pray for Global Mission workers [Kay and Alan Bennett](#) as they continue their service in the community of Belén Gualcho. Pray for the success of a water pipeline project that will provide drinking and crop-growing water to several communities who have been without a reliable water source. Alan and his colleagues from Proyecto Aldea Global work persistently in repairing and replacing the pipe's joints that are causing hundreds of leaks

Nigeria

Pray for Pam and Dave Reist of Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren as they travel to Nigeria, where they will volunteer for two months with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The Reists will assist with a variety of EYN ministries including Kulp Bible College, the peace program, the disaster response team, agricultural development, a workcamp, and women theologians. Pray for a time of mutual service and learning.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Give thanks and pray for the work of SHAMIRE (Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development), a ministry of the Congolese Brethren. The ministry engages in agricultural development with the Twa people, training these displaced hunter-gatherers to grow bananas, corn, cassava, and potatoes. Both this ministry and a similar outreach program of the Rwandan Brethren receive support from the [Global Food Initiative](#). Recent program evaluations by program evaluations by Eben-ezer University show that the projects in both countries have shown steady progress in the past four years.

A Twa woman displays recently-harvested cassava as part of SHAMIRE's agricultural project. Photo by Ron Lubungo.



Denominational News

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Global Mission Updates

Global Mission Prayer Guide



Syria

Ask God's comfort and solace for Syrians injured in body, mind, or soul. Pray for victims of chemical gas attacks, missile and bomb strikes, and the many other means of violence that ravage the country. Pray that leaders of Syria, the United States, Russia, and other countries stop their participation in this war. Pray fervently for peace.

Colombia

Pray for the community of Mocoa, which was struck by deadly landslides and flooding last week. At least 300 people lost their lives, with hundreds more missing or injured. Thousands of families lost their homes or possessions, and there is a severe shortage of safe drinking water. Pray for relief and recovery.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray for an end to the mass killing and violence. Recently, numerous mass graves containing the bodies of hundreds of civilians and military or militia members have been found in the central Kasai region. Victims included two United Nations humanitarian workers, one of whom was an American Mennonite. Pray for Congolese families whose lives have been torn apart by violence and for Congolese children who have never known peace. Pray for a just and stable government transition that may help alleviate some of the fighting between government forces and opposition militias.

Egypt

Pray for the victims of two suicide bombings that struck Coptic churches during Palm Sunday services in Alexandria and Tanta. Pray for those who grieve and those who were injured. Pray for those motivated by fear or hatred to carry out such attacks. Pray for the prevention of equally fear-based retaliations.

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS LIST - June 2017

ORDAINED

ABRAHAM, FARREL – 4315 Seton Dr, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 – 412-979-0067
BAKER, DAVID – 110 Windy Ridge Lane, Apt 3, Shelocta, 15774-7225 – 724-902-0830
BERKEBILE, WES J. – 4285 State Route 208, New Wilmington, 16142 – 724-901-7058
DEFFENBAUGH, BARRON K. - 207 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904 - 814 266-9758
DERCK, JOY E. - 3089 Dutch Run Rd, Shelocta, 15774-2224 - 724 354-3386
DERR, AMELIA – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 – 814-749-0262
DERR, HORACE - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 – 814-749-0262
EASH, JOHN E. - 131 Friendship Ln, Hollsopple, 15935-6732 - 814 629-0206
HOUGHTON, JAMES E. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 -814 255-2431
HOUGHTON, SALLY M. - 124 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, 15905-3019 -814 255-2431
KABLER, ERIC P. - 126 Clermont St, Johnstown 15904-2132 - 814 266-2734
KENSINGER, JAMES M. - 329 Spackman St, Seward, 15954-3117 - 814 446-1088
MANGES, JOHN W. – 137 Catskill Ln, Johnstown, 15904-7523 814-539-3332
MARSHALL, HOMER H. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown, 15461-1651 -724 583-7073
MARSHALL, PATRICIA M. - 369 W Church Ave, Masontown, 15461-1651 -724 583-7073
MARSZALEK, CHERYL A. - 409 Herman Ave, Wilmerding, 15148-1206 - 412 551-6422
PETERMAN, SANDRA M. -110 Windy Ridge Ln, Apt 3, Shelocta, 15774 - 724 354-6026
RUMMEL, DALE E. - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian, 15666-1959 732-809-9013 (seasonal)
RUPERT, JACK - 409 State St, Johnstown, 15905-2642 - 814 322-7786 New Day – 814 535-8202
SMITH, A. HARRISON -506 Sciandro Dr, Greensburg, 15601- 724837-4491
STEIN, ROBERT R. - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 - 724 438-2226
SWICK, MICHAEL R. - 4127 Greenville Rd, Meyersdale 15552-8518 -814 634-8158
WALKER, JUDY M. -425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WALKER, LARRY E. - 425 Morningside Ave, Jeannette 15644 - 724 522-5260
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN -436 Pony Farm Rd, Kittanning, 16201-4639-724 548-4901
WILLOUGHBY, CAROLYN S.-207 Churchill St, Johnstown, 15904-814 266-9758
YOUNG, FRANK P. – PO Box 251, Jerome, 15937 – 814-418-5930

LICENSED

DERMER, JOANN - 3062 Hyndman Rd, Hyndman, 15545 - 814 842-6489
HILER, GARY W. - 228 Baltzer Bridge Rd, Friedens, 15541-6320 - 814 267-6722
HORNER, TAMMY - 124 Whysong Lane, Johnstown, 15906 – 814-244-0958
SHAFFER, ABBY R. -(office) 115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, 15935-7412 - 814 479-2181
YOST, ERIC W. – 1009 First Street, Windber, PA 15963 – 814-241-7753

LAY SPEAKER

RAMER, DONNA L. -102 Franklin Dr, Greensburg, 15601-1305-724 836-0594



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center provides local ministry training to students seeking ministry credentialing and to interested lay persons. We offer courses on the certificate level for ACTS (Academy Certified Training System) and TRIM (Training in Ministry), and we host Bethany Theological Seminary graduate level courses. Below are the upcoming courses for 2017-18. Please see our website www.ETOWN.EDU/svmc or call SVMC at 717-361-1450 for more information.

ACTS courses offered in Western PA District			
Course	Location	Instructor	Dates
Introduction to New Testament	WPA District Office	Dale Leverknight	Sat: Aug 12, 26, September 9, 2017
Introduction to Theology	Pleasant Hill CoB	Rob Wolf	Sat: Oct. 7, 28, Nov 11, 2017
Preaching	Rummel CoB	Ruby Mader	Sat: Feb 17, Mar 3, 16, 2018
Worship	WPA District Office	Ron St. Clair	Sat: Apr 7, 21, May 5, 2018
All Districts: Communication Skills for Pastoral Ministry	Carlisle CoB	Ken Gibble	Sat: Feb 24, Mar 24, 2018
<i>You may register for these courses by calling SVMC. ACTS tuition is \$225.00 for credit, \$75.00 for audit, and \$85 for audit with continuing education documentation. ACTS courses meet minimal requirements for ordination for ministry students and provide deeper information for lay persons seeking to increase their knowledge.</i>			

TRIM			
Course	Location	Instructor	Dates
Reading Women in the Bible	Online	Erika Fitz	Aug 23 – Oct 8, 2017
<i>You may register for this course by calling SVMC. Tuition for TRIM courses is \$285.00, and the courses are open to TRIM and ACTS students and persons seeking continuing education.</i>			

GRADUATE			
Course	Location	Instructor	Dates
Theological Understanding of Jesus	Juniata College	Nate Inglis	Sept 29-30, Oct 20-21, Nov 3-4, 2017 Fri: 2PM-10PM; Sat: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Youth and Mission	Elizabethtown College	Russell Haitch	TBD
<i>All students are required to apply for admission and enroll before taking a graduate-level class. This can be completed through Bethany's website (www.bethanyseminary.edu) from the prospective students' page. Auditors should contact the admissions team at admissions@bethanyseminary.edu</i>			

WPA DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRY

CAMP DAY

JUNE 8, 2017 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Registration Begins @ 9:15 am

A Continental Breakfast will be provided



"IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK!!!"

REV. LISA FIKE

Pastor, Greensburg COB

Worship, Country Store, Craft & Fellowship

We are encouraging all ladies to bring items to the Country

Store which will be available at lunchtime

Registration due by May 31st \$12.00 EA

Name: _____

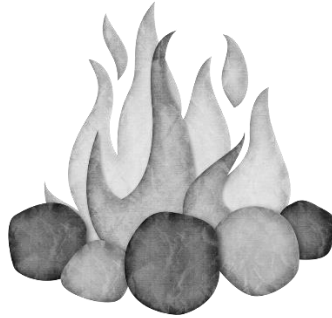
Congregation: _____

No. attending: _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send to: Judy Walker 245 Morningside Avenue Jeannette, PA 15644-5260

Phone: 724 522-195 Email: larryewalker1@gmail.com

**16TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY
FOOD AND FUN BY THE FIRESIDE**



SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

MUSIC STARTING AT 5:00 pm UNTIL ?

HOSTETLER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

(SANDS SPRING ROAD NEAR POCAHONTAS)

**Everyone is welcome to attend. Everything is Free!
You may bring a covered dish or dessert if you wish.**

Musical entertainment provided by:

DOGWOOD

GARY BAER

MOUNTAIN SOUNDS

TIM YODER

AND OTHERS

**ENTERTAINMENT THE WHOLE EVENING. . . PLUS FREE FOOD,
FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!**

BRETHREN HOME COMMUNITY

WINDBER

JUNE, 2017



FINANCIAL REPORT: Members of the Home administration met with a special session of the Western PA District Conference on April 29 at the Maple Spring COB. The purpose of the meeting was to inform all district churches of the Home's current financial situation, potential options for the future of the Home, and the District's role in that process. After lengthy discussion concerning the welfare of our residents, the mission of benevolent care, and fiscal responsibility, the District Conference voted to organize a committee composed of the District Core Leadership Team and Brethren Home Administrators to look into researching the sale of Home and bring it back to the District Conference. The Home has already instituted some measures to stabilize the Home's financial situation, however love donations from churches of any amount to reduce indebtedness would be welcome.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED: From March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017, volunteers shared over 5,000 hours of time, talent, and treasure with the Home. The average Home volunteer spent over 40 hours at the Home during that time. To honor their dedication and generosity, a banquet was held at the Scalp Level church social room on May 2. Home dietary director Shawn Boast and his staff provided a delicious dinner and the Evergreens, a musical group from Johnstown provided the entertainment. Home Board vice chairman Gerald Smith, Chaplain Cecil Lohr, and Home Administrator Bob Thompson addressed the group.



Interim District Secretary Bill Wenger and Home Chaplain Cecil Lohr presided over the Home Communion service on Good Friday.



Four generations of the Blough family volunteered at the annual Auxiliary Spring Tea on April 23, along with family friend, Emma Thomas (r-1, left.)

MAY AUXILIARY MEETING: The Home Auxiliary met in the Home Chapel on May 4. Theresa Wolf, wife of Pastor Rob Wolf of the Pleasant Hill congregation, presented

inspiring devotions on pleasing others and pleasing God. During the business meeting, the following purchases were approved:

Bark mulch for the maintenance department -	\$125
CPR teaching module for the nursing department -	\$165
Somerset Daily American subscription for the activities department -	\$40
Warming cart heating element for the dietary department -	\$450
Loop slings for the nursing department -	\$804
Clip slings for the nursing department -	\$268
Chair alarms for the nursing department -	\$280
Leg weight set for the therapy department -	\$155
24" wheelchair for the therapy department-	\$550
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</i>	<i>\$2,827</i>

HELP WANTED: The nursing department is now hiring Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Certified Nursing Assistants. All employees receive a competitive wage and benefit package. Interested persons should contact the Home at 814.467.5505, or at www.cbrethren.com.

DISTRICT STEWARDS PRESENT PUPPET SHOW: The district Stewards and Finance Team made their annual visit to the Home on Sunday, May 7. The residents appreciated the worship service, presented in the form of a puppet show, and then enjoyed delicious ice cream sundaes. As always, we thank the team for their service to, and interest in, the Home.

SHOE PROJECT: The 2017 Auxiliary shoe project will continue through June 30. We have currently collected over 1,800 pairs of the 2,500 pairs of shoes we will need to participate in the program. This successful fundraising program has helped the Auxiliary to raise over \$4,500 in the past three years. To participate, churches need only collect used shoes of any type, and deliver them to the Activities department at the Home. Thanks to all who have been able to participate, let's work together to meet our 2,500 pair goal!





CAMP HARMONY

A ministry of the Church of the Brethren

1414 Plank Road, P O Box 158

Hooversville, PA 15936-0158

E-mail: harmony@campharmony.org

<http://www.campharmony.org>

(814) 798-5885 FAX: (814) 798-2225

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

"The Church of the Brethren should be absolutely fearless, absurdly happy, and always getting into trouble for Jesus." Quote from Dan West . . .

* * * * *

NEWS UPDATE

"After nine years and thousands of dollars dealing with all the problems of our Sand Mounds, one was opened last year under the direction of our township and DEP supervisors and they mandated that the biggest mound be fixed. This direction will keep Camp open and functioning while we also work with connecting Brougher retreat center to the system. Please don't hesitate to come and see the progress. Donations are being accepted for this ongoing Clean Water Project. God has been sending us the proper individuals to keep your ministry going. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask." **Printed in last month's**

Highlights....and the story continues.... Last week (May 4) we went to connect the corrected mounds back to our 4 buried septic tanks. After getting them pumped out - one was full of dirt and rocks, resulting in the discovery that one tank was collapsed and the other 3 tanks had cracks in them, meaning they had to be replaced. We called in our insurance company, but they have termed it "wear and tear over time" and no help is being offered. On Monday – Wednesday (May 9 – 11) 4 tanks were installed to the expense of \$30,000+. In the meantime we had to postpone the Women's Ministries Retreat from the District. For that we are very sorry. Camp was literally closed and porta-johns were brought in.

Four tanks have been installed and we are close to attaching on to the system. Our group of 60 coming in this weekend (May 13) is arriving. This morning (May 13), our engineer, a representative from DEP, and two Camp Board members were present to look at the complete picture. They are coming to the initial conclusion that the improvements that are presently happening may be enough to cover the needs of Camp for the next 15 – 30 years pending that all these repairs result in a working system. This would save Camp \$300,000+ for a possible future treatment plant.

When we started the Clean Water Project, we had enough donations – private and from 2 congregations totaling \$30,000 . However the domino effect has hit and now you know the rest of the story. Please pray for your Camp Harmony ministry and if you or your congregation feel led to donate towards this past week's extra outlay for finances – all would be appreciated so the work of the Lord continues. As I finish this easy to understand description of a very complex dilemma, our first people are arriving from all over the US. Thank you for reading and understanding. For more details, please contact Camp and we will pass you on to the proper people. Janice Kaltenbaugh, Executive Director



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*"Inviting all people to experience the wonder of
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with one another"*

2017 "52 GOD BLESS YOU TEAM"

As more and more families are blessed they contribute \$1.00 a week or \$52.00 to Camp so that the ministry can bless others. The original premise was that if all the families in the District contributed \$52, the mortgage could be eliminated. The 2017 "52 GOD BLESS YOU TEAM" now has 35 families including some congregations for a total of \$2,000. Thank you so much for your donations and prayers.

* * * * *

SUMMER STAFF DEDICATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

2:00 PM

**EVERYONE WELCOME
COME SUPPORT YOUR MINISTRY**

**Refreshments Following
Come enjoy an Ice Cream Sundae on Saturday**

4:00 PM - Registration for Performing Arts Camp

* * * * *

Looking Ahead

Westmont Hilltop Elementary Field Trip – May 23

Christian Center Church Work Camp – May 26 – 28

Church of the Brethren Young Adult Conference – May 26- 29

First United Church of Christ Youth – June 3

Kaufman Mennonite Day Camp – June 7

Leaders in Training – June 11 – 22

*****Be on the lookout for all the information for the Harmony Fest on September 23,**



CAMP HARMONY



Harmony Fest

Bringing People Together in Harmony!



September 23-24, 2017

Kids Activities

Vendors

Food

**FREE
Admission!**

**Campfire &
Movie Under
the Stars**

**&
Music**



There's something for everyone!

www.campharmony.org

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936

814-798-5885 harmony@campharmony.org



Camp Harmony

PO Box 158
1414 Plank Road
Hooversville, PA 15936

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2017 HARMONY FEST — VENDOR INFORMATION

We are already getting excited for our First Annual **Harmony Fest** at beautiful Camp Harmony! If you are interested in taking part in our festival, here are some things you need to know:

- All vendors and churches who want a booth **MUST** complete the registration form and submit the appropriate fee to Camp Harmony **by September 1st** in order to secure their spot. Please read carefully and select the vendor options that are right for you!
- We are going to do our best to have everyone **indoors or under-roof** who wants to be.
- This is a **brand-new event**, so even if your group had a favorite spot at the Heritage Festival in years past, we make no guarantees.
- All **food vendors** must sell food that was prepared in a state-licensed kitchen. Please send a copy of your license with your registration form. If you want to prepare food in Camp's kitchen, please call ahead to schedule.
- In case of **duplicate** direct-sales booths, (like two vendors selling Tupperware), we will accept the vendor whose registration/payment we received first.
- Camp Harmony also reserves the right to decline space to any vendor whose goods or services do not align with our **family-friendly** atmosphere.
- Upon receipt of registration, payment and acceptance, you will receive a confirmation letter.
- The festival will provide parking, shuttle service, indoor restrooms and brochures.
- Two-day vendors have the option of renting one of our **spacious new cabins**; for \$150, you can both stay in and sell from a cabin. If this sounds good to you, reserve yours soon!
- All **licenses, taxes and permits** are the sole responsibility of each vendor.
- After September 1st, all registration fees are non-refundable. If you need to **cancel**, please call us.
- **Basic Harmony Fest schedule:**
 - Vendor set-up is on Friday, September 22 from noon to 8:00pm. We'll provide you with a list of local eateries for meals on Friday.
 - Saturday morning – we hope to have a church serving breakfast. Saturday festival times: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. At 3:00 pm on Saturday we'll have a small benefit auction – we're asking each vendor to donate an item for that, if possible. Saturday evening – Camp will provide supper, a campfire and an outdoor movie night with snacks!
 - Sunday morning – our festival kicks off with a Christian worship service at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome. Sunday festival times: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tear-down to follow.
 - Both days will feature a free children's area from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Camp will also have some adventure options available, like our climbing tower and zip-line!

Our team is looking forward to a successful event this September – thank you for your consideration and desire to partner with us for a great day that benefits the ministry at Camp Harmony. If you have any questions, please call the Camp office at 814.798.5885, and be sure to check out www.campharmony.org for more details.

Thanks!

The Harmony Fest Team



#spreadtheHarmony



Camp Harmony

PO Box 158
1414 Plank Road
Hooversville, PA 15936

Phone: (814) 798-5885
Fax: (814) 798-2225
www.campharmony.org

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

HARMONY FEST VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24, 2017

Please complete this application and return with registration fee by **September 1, 2017**. Thank you!

Individual / Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Vendor Options: (Please Check)

☐ Two-day with electricity - \$70.00

☐ Two-day without electricity - \$50.00

☐ Two-day with cabin lodging - \$150.00

☐ One-day with electricity - \$40.00

☐ One-day without electricity - \$30.00

Saturday or Sunday? _____

☐ (If you are a non-profit **-OR-** a one-day vendor, you have the option to waive the registration fee, with the promise that at least 50% of your festival earnings will go to Camp Harmony.)

Please tell us what you sell and let us know if you have any special requests: _____

Each registered vendor will be provided with an indoor or covered space (10x10), an 8' table and two folding chairs. We will also list everyone in our festival brochure/map. We do not provide extension cords.

I understand that this reservation reserves my space and I commit to attending Harmony Fest to provide the goods or services listed. I agree to abide by all terms and conditions (listed in the attached letter) set forth by the venue in regard to conduct, set-up, tear-down and payment. Camp Harmony is not responsible for any lost, broken, damaged or stolen items.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Please remember to include your registration fee!
Once we receive your registration we will send out a confirmation letter.

#spreadtheHarmony

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REPORTS

Thanks very much for keeping the reports coming in! The NEW **Form B** that comes from the Yearbook Office in Elgin and updates contact information about your congregation's board or leadership team chair, the treasurer, a deacon contact, and a number of other contacts has been sent to your congregations and contacts. Please be sure to review the material provided on Form B and make updates as they are needed. **Complete addresses and phone numbers are appreciated**, as well as email addresses, if they are available.

In addition, the **Congregational Outreach Form** for 2016/2017 had been sent from the COB Stewardship Office and was due by December 1, 2016. If you have a question, you will need to contact the Stewardship Office at 800-323-8039, ext. 361. A downloadable version of the form, as well as a new fillable option is also available at www.brethren.org/stewardship. Feel free to use that option in order to switch to paperless reporting.

The forms listed below were received in the *District Office* as of May 20. **ALL of these informational forms are important to both the district and the denomination.** The updated forms are sent to Elgin and they provide a copy for the District Office. If you have a question about a form, please don't hesitate to contact Tina at 814 479-2181 or toll free 1-866-279-2181. Your prompt attention to this task will be appreciated. Thanks!

Church Code	Church Name	Form A	Form B	2016 Statistical Report	Additional Officers	Self-Allocation
37-010	Arbutus		•	•	•	
37-015	Beachdale					
37-020	Bear Run		•	•		
37-030	Berkey					
37-050	Bethel		•	•	•	•
37-060	Brothersvalley		•	•	•	•
37-068	Canaan		•	•		
37-070	Center					•
37-080	Center Hill		•	•		
37-090	Conemaugh		•			•
37-100	Connellsville		•	•	•	•
37-110	County Line		•	•		•
37-130	Elbethel		•	•	•	•
37-140	Erie Community United		•		•	
37-150	Fairchance		•	•	•	
37-160	Fair View		•		•	
37-170	Farmington Bethel		•		•	
37-190	Geiger					
37-195	Good Samaritan					
37-200	Greensburg		•			•
37-210	Greenville		•	•		•
37-220	Hooversville		•	•		•
37-230	Hostetler		•	•	•	•
37-240	Hyndman		•	•		
37-250	Indiana			•	•	
37-310	Ligonier First		•	•	•	•
37-320	Locust Grove		•	•		•
37-340	Maple Glen					
37-350	Maple Grove					
37-360	Maple Spring			•	•	
37-380	Meyersdale		•			•
37-390	Middlecreek		•			
37-400	Monroeville		•	•		
37-410	Montgomery		•			

Church Code	Church Name	Form A	Form B	2016 Statistical Report	Additional Officers	Self-Allocation
37-260	Morrellville			•	•	
37-420	Mount Joy			•	•	
37-430	Mount Pleasant		•		•	
37-270	Moxham		•	•		•
37-440	Nanty Glo		•	•		•
37-450	Natrona Heights		•			
37-460	Oakdale		•		•	
37-470	Penn Run		•		•	•
37-475	Pike Run		•			
37-480	Pleasant Hill		•			
37-500	Plumcreek		•	•	•	•
37-505	Purchase Line					
37-508	Rayman					
37-510	Robinson					
37-520	Rockton					
37-530	Rockwood		•	•		•
37-280	Roxbury		•	•	•	•
37-540	Rummel		•			
37-550	Salisbury		•	•		•
37-560	Scalp Level		•	•	•	•
37-570	Shade Creek/Ridge		•	•		•
37-580	Sipesville		•	•	•	•
37-590	Somerset		•	•		•
37-620	Ten Mile					
37-630	Tire Hill		•	•	•	•
37-635	Union Chapel			•		
37-640	Uniontown		•	•		•
37-290	Walnut Grove		•			
37-645	Way of Hope					•
37-300	Westmont		•			
37-650	Windber				•	
37-660	Wooddale		•			•

2017 District Events and Meetings

This calendar will be updated as we receive dates from your groups, please send your important dates to the District Office ASAP to insure they will be on the District Calendar. Thank you.

EVENTS ARE CODED AS...

- District Events open for anyone in the District to attend - CAPS
- Meetings such as District Leadership Team, Camp Board, Home Trustees, and events beyond the District - small print
- Youth and Children's Activities - *ITALICS & CAPS*

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE...

- **KEEP FOR REFERENCE WHEN SETTING LOCAL CHURCH DATES.**
- Each month check this page in District HIGHLIGHTS for changes/additions.
- Keep *your* calendar updated.

JUNE 2017

- 4 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost Sunday)
- 4 - Annual Conference Briefing, Geiger COB, 3:00 p.m.
- 8 - DWM, Camp Day, Camp Harmony
- 18 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
- 19 - District Women's Ministries, District Office, 1:00 p.m.
- 19 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
- 28 -ANNUAL CONFERENCE (begins), Grand Rapids, Michigan

JULY 2017

- 2 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE (concludes), Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 20 - Core Leadership Team 6 p.m., (District Conference Business)
- 24 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 - District Leadership Team, 6 p.m., Arbutus Church (District Conference Business)
- 31 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

AUGUST 2017

- 3 - Brethren Home Auxiliary, 1:00 p.m.
- 12 - ACTS Class, District Office
- 21 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - ACTS Class, District Office
- 28 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 4 - LABOR DAY
- 7 - Key Ladies Luncheon, BHCW
- 9 - ACTS Class, District Office
- 14 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
- 15-16 - DWM Retreat, Camp Harmony
- 18 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 - DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
- 23 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
- 23 - HARMONY FESTIVAL at Camp Harmony
- 25 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 2017

- 1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 5 - District Women's Fall Rally, Pettikoffer House
- 7 - ACTS Class, Pleasant Hill COB
- 21 - District Conference, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
- 23 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 - ACTS Class, Pleasant Hill COB
- 30 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

- 2 - Brethren Home Auxiliary, Bake, Soup & Craft Sale, 1:00 p.m.
- 4 - TWELVTH ANNUAL DISTRICT AUCTION, 9 a.m., Camp Harmony
- 5 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks *BACK* one hour)**
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6 p.m., District Office
- 11 - ACTS Class, Pleasant Hill COB
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9 a.m., TBA
- 20 - Brethren Home Trustees Executive Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- 26 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 27 - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 2017

- 3 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 9 - *CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY* – Camp Harmony – *more information to come*
- 10 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 17 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 18 - Brethren Home Community Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 - MERRY CHIRSTMAS!!
- ? - Camp Harmony Board of Directors – Committees, 6:30 p.m.; Board 7 p.m.
- 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

PLEASE NOTE

Dates will be added or changed as needed. If your District group, team, or committee has additions or changes to this calendar, please contact the District Office as soon as possible. Your help is much appreciated!

Western Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935-7412
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
2nd QUARTER 2017

U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Organization
Permit No. 122
Johnstown, PA



SP# _____ Ch.# _____
Name _____
Address _____

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL

San Pedro Sula, Honduras

A Christian Home for homeless, abused, and severely neglected children

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT HOGAR ENMANUEL.....



SCHOOL DAYS! SCHOOL DAYS!
Good old fashioned rule days

February marked the beginning of another school year for the children at Hogar Enmanuel. Although the Honduran school system offers only the basic primary education and simply doesn’t have the finances to provide education to many of the rural areas, the children at Hogar Enmanuel are blessed to have the opportunity to attend private institutions that have stepped in to help. The schools are chosen in areas that are safe and in close proximity to the home because we also must provide transportation to/from school each day. Academics as well as vocational training such as beauty school, cooking school, welding, hotel management, and business are offered to each of our students.



In addition there are tons of activities each month to create special learning experiences. Below are a few:

For instance, Lisby and Alvaro both grew up at Hogar Enmanuel and are now working and the parents of a beautiful baby girl. They both spent an afternoon sharing their experiences of life after leaving the hogar with our teenagers to encourage them to take every advantage of the opportunities afforded them here.

The Agricultural Engineer of **Cepudo** is teaching gardening skills. The children recently harvested their first crop of sugar cane.

Taking a tour of the **Agua Azul** plant taught them about the water purification process.

The younger children learned while they exploring through **Campisa**, a nature park in San Pedro Sula.

Our children visited the **Honduran Air Force**, in La Lima, Cortes

The **Department of Social Work** visited with the children several times with educational videos and workshops to help the children learn about several important topics such as children’s rights, self esteem, etc.



SPONSORSHIP COUPON

Please provide your name and address on the reverse side and mail this coupon with your donation

PROVIDING FOR
HOGAR de NINOS ENMANUEL
THROUGH
WESTERN PA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MISSION PROGRAM - HONDURAS
115 Spring Rd.
Hollsopple, PA 15935

If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically ONLY, please email that request to hogaremanuel@verizon.net
PayPal and/or sponsorship coupons are also available on the website at www.hogaremanuel.com

Partnering in the success, I pledge to keep the Enmanuel Children’s Home in my prayers as well as offer my financial support. Please use my donation for the following fund:

\$	General Fund—use where needed most
	Child Sponsorship—providing for the basic needs of the children. If you desire to be assigned to a specific child, contact Rona.
	Staff Sponsorship—providing for the on-site care of the children.
	Maintenance & Development—providing for the maintenance and improvement of the facilities
	Nursery Fund—providing for infant care.
	Gift Fund—providing for birthday/ Christmas gifts
	New Bridge Program—helping our adolescents prepare for independent living.
	Special fund _____ (specify)
\$	TOTAL ENCLOSED 2nd qtr 2017

Clip and mail with your donation

HOGAR DE NINOS ENMANUEL



Hogar de Niños ENMANUEL

CHECK US OUT!

www.hogarenmanuel.com

and



[Facebook.com/hogarenmanuel.hn](https://www.facebook.com/hogarenmanuel.hn)

You are joining to help us when you pray for us.
2 Corinthians 1:11



On site volunteer Stephanie Breen, BVS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Rona Hemminger, editor
Mobile: 540-649-3111
Email: hemminger@verizon.net

A group of volunteers led by Bill and Rona treated the children to a fun week full of “Back to School” activities.



Jardin de Enmanuel began another year of classes for the preschool and kindergarten children of our neighboring community.



Another group of volunteers from TOMS SHOES™ arrived to spend time having fun at el hogar before heading out with some of our youth to deliver school shoes to other deserving kids throughout Honduras.



Lucy with Sonia

Meet Sonephan

Sonia, as she is affectionately called at the Home, arrived in Honduras in December to serve at the Enmanuel Children’s Home. She comes to us from Laos through the Mennonite Community Council’s YAMEN program and is part of the Lao Evangelical Church which is one of only 3 legal Christian churches in Laos where her parents were pastors. Sonia will be with us helping as an instructor to the kids until the end of August. We are pleased to have her as part of our Hogar’s family this year.

Don’t wait!

WORK CAMP APPLICATIONS DUE NOW!!!!

We’d love to share the children at the Enmanuel Children’s Home with YOU! If you are interested in traveling with us to meet and spend time with them during the first week of February 2018 (exact dates to be determined), please contact Rona at hemminger@verizon.net or call 540-649-3111 for details and to receive your application now.
Registration is limited and a current passport is required, so don’t wait!
Cost is estimated at \$1400 for our 9-day trip. A \$100 non-refundable deposit due with your application will hold a spot for you. Looking forward to hearing from you!