

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

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Western PA District Church of the Brethren

June 2024

## DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES

By Pastor Pete Kaltenbaugh, District Minister Team

First, a few notes from the District:

As your District Minister Team visits throughout our district here in Western PA, we can see that the Spirit of the Lord is exciting and bringing new life to the people (the church).

One congregation has almost doubled in attendance this year.

Another has many new families... and the kids, wow!

In another the new pastor, with help from a deacon, is out visiting every week, discovering and learning about the congregation.

In yet another congregation, has a new music and worship team and the pews are filling each week with visitors and individuals who are choosing to worship there permanently.

Pastors from the sections of our district are coming together and having meals and time together and rekindling that Spirit that shares the love of Jesus.

Small congregations are discovering they are not alone; they are part of a family that cares.

There is always more work to do and challenges to overcome but we are working together in Christ.



Way to often Pastors as well as congregations feel like the old frog image! Not hot at first, but gradually the heat, (struggles), continue to rise and you cook to death and don't realize what is happening.

The Spirit of the Lord has come down upon the church, we are together as congregations: like-minded about God, accepting all the Scripture as the word from God, and striving to follow the scripture and not change it to fit society. We will welcome all those seeking to break the chains of sin and strive to live with each other as we walk filled with the Spirit of the Lord. Before the heat of society and sin can destroy, we will rise up and make a difference.

Time to: wake up, get up and get out to the people. Inviting them to come in, sharing Jesus with them, right where they are and let all of us be filled with the Spirit of the Lord.

The congregations in Western Pennsylvania are being filled with the Spirit of the Lord! Share the Love of Jesus!

# FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

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

**June 10, 2023**

Please send your information to [tlehman@brethren.org](mailto:tlehman@brethren.org).

## DISTRICT STAFF:

### District Minister Team

Pete Kaltenbaugh

[mdalepastorpete@comcast.net](mailto:mdalepastorpete@comcast.net)

Ruby Mader

[redhatvicar@yahoo.com](mailto:redhatvicar@yahoo.com)

Chris Forry

[exit10dunkard@hotmail.com](mailto:exit10dunkard@hotmail.com)

**Financial Clerk:** Amy Bowman

[wpacob@atlanticbb.net](mailto:wpacob@atlanticbb.net)

**District Secretary:** Tina Lehman

[tlehman@brethren.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

**Freedom Church (Indiana)** —Shawn Miller, Corrine Miller, Bill Shaffer, Deb Shaffer, Darlene Bracken, Tim Stitt, Linda Stitt

## LEADERSHIP

Katlyn Coughenour, Ordained

## WITH SYMPATHY

To family of **Pastor John Manges** as he passed away on May 2nd.

## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

Please keep **Pastor Farrel Abraham's** daughter Robin Thoming in your prayers as she is having some medical issues.

## ETHICS TRAINING

### ATTENTION ALL PASTORS!

**The Western PA District will be offering two Ethics Training opportunities ahead of the 2025 Ordination Review.**

**June 22, 2024**

Somerset COB  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

**June 23, 2024**

Uniontown COB  
2:30 pm—8:30 pm

Pastor Del Keeney will be the presenter

The Middle PA District will offer two sessions on June 1, 2024 and June 15, 2024 (location to be determined) for those who would not be able to make it to the sessions in our district.

*Pray without ceasing.*  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

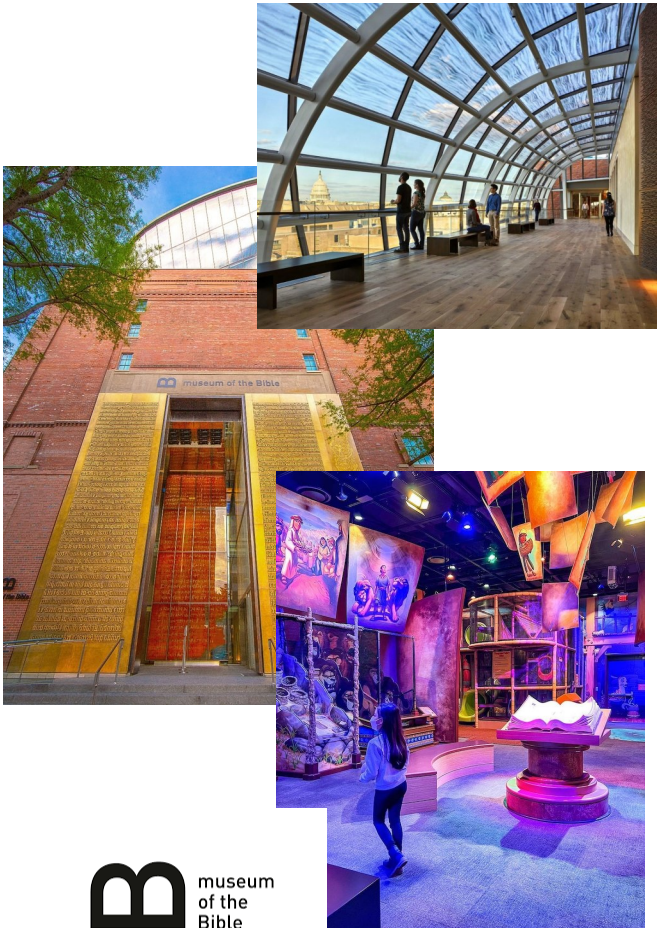
## MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

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.



## SIGHT AND SOUND TRIP

The Hostetler Church is planning a bus trip to Sight & Sound to see “Daniel” on Saturday, June 8, 2024. The bus will be leaving from the Somerset COB parking lot.

Cost is \$250.00 at this time which includes everything with a meal on the way home. If we have over 30 people signed up and fill the bus, the price will decrease.

If you are interested in going, contact Doug Brown at (814) 233-2024 or Amy Bowman at (814) 279-8843.

## EVENTS AT SALISBURY COB FAITH FACTORY

**Stanley Praitnath**  
**Saturday, June 8, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

Stanley is a survivor of the World Trade Center attack on 9/11, will be sharing his amazing story and testimony.

**SALISBURY COB FAITH FACTORY**  
**153 UNION STREET**  
**SALISBURY, PA 15558**

## EVENTS AT THE PENN RUN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

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

**Indoor Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2024**  
**8:00 am—2:00 pm**

Individual Yard Sale spaces are available for \$15 each  
Food Trucks—still being finalized and a Bake Sale  
**Call 724-463-0420 for event info.**



# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE



**Mark your calendars!**

**District Conference**

**October 19, 2024**

**Camp Harmony**

More info to follow in upcoming issues of the Highlights.

## BLESSING OF THE TRACTORS

The **Geiger COB** is planning to honor local heroes of their community.

"We are all so blessed by the beautiful farming country that surrounds us. The planting season is well underway and so much is being accomplished by the silent heroes in our midst. Our farmers help provide for our very existence and they do so with not nearly enough recognition. We at Geiger Church plan to change that. These dedicated men and women need our prayerful support as we wish them safety and success in their endeavors. On **June 19, 2024 at 7:00 P M** we will meet at the Zehner Farm for a "**Blessing of the Tractors**". Remind your friends and neighbors to join us as we pray over the tractors and the people that operate them. If bringing their actual tractors isn't a possibility they can bring pictures of their tractors. We want these folks to know how very important they are. Our date will be available soon!!

We thank John and Winona Zehner for providing a venue for this event and ask you to pray for God's blessing upon it. They are located in "Zehnerville" 152 Zehner Road, Somerset, Pa. 15501

This event is open to the public and all are invited to attend. You can receive directions by emailing Pastors John and Linda Stoner at [pastorsjandl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsjandl@gmail.com).

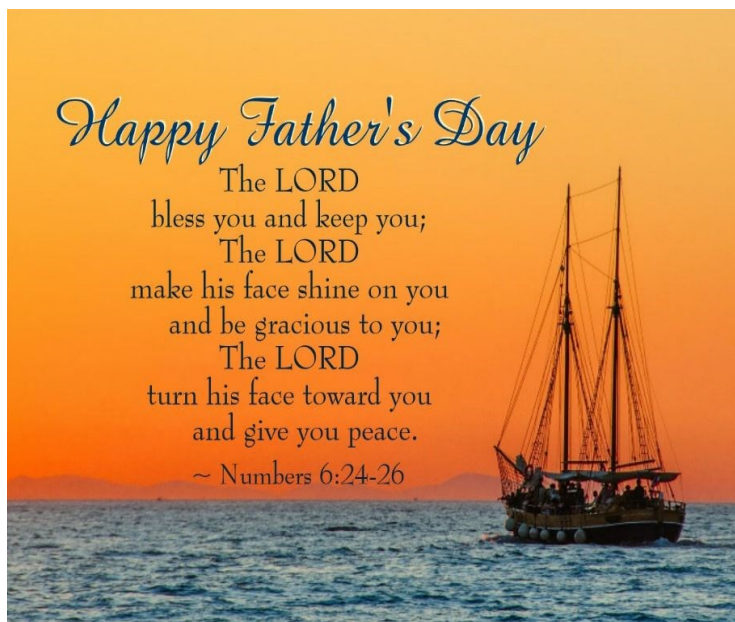
## FAMILY FUN DAY

The **Freedom Church (Indiana COB)** will be sponsoring a Family Day at IRMC Park on **Saturday June 1, 2024** from 10:00 am—3:00 pm.

There will be food trucks, sound by 3BG Sound Company, and games for the kids.

## Happy Father's Day

The LORD  
bless you and keep you;  
The LORD  
make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
The LORD  
turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.  
~ Numbers 6:24-26



# 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](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 [hjewald@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 this spring. We are half way to our minimum goal of 2,500 pairs of shoes, and it's only April! Please continue to think of the shoe project as you spring clean or 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

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## ORDAINED

**ABRAHAM, FARREL** – 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / [sharingpearls@comcast.net](mailto:sharingpearls@comcast.net)

**BEACHLEY, LINDA**—PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / [lrbeac@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lrbeac@atlanticbb.net)

**BEACHLEY, RONALD** – PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / [rondbeachley@gmail.com](mailto:rondbeachley@gmail.com)

**BROADWATER, KEVIN**—475 Keystone Street, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 / 814-442-5684 / [pastorbroadwater@verizon.net](mailto:pastorbroadwater@verizon.net)

**DERR, AMELIA** – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / [iamameliaderr@yahoo.com](mailto:iamameliaderr@yahoo.com)

**DERR, HORACE** - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / [pastorbutch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbutch@gmail.com)

**HOUGHTON, SALLY** - 124 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-3019 / 814-243-6448 / [smh124@atlanticbb.net](mailto:smh124@atlanticbb.net)

**KABLER, ERIC**—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-266-2734 / [eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com](mailto:eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com)

**LONGWELL, ERIC**— 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / [kb3ttx@gmail.com](mailto:kb3ttx@gmail.com)

**MOSORJAK, GARY** – 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / [wendel05@aol.com](mailto:wendel05@aol.com)

**PISARSKI, STANLEY** – 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / [spisarski1017@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:crid@verizon.net)

**SWICK, MICHAEL** - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / [preachmike101@comcast.net](mailto:preachmike101@comcast.net)

**WALKER, JUDY**—425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette 15644 / 724-522-5260 / [larryewalker1@gmail.com](mailto:larryewalker1@gmail.com)

**WHITED, JAMES**—881 Treasure Lake, DuBois 15801 / 814-592-5714 / [jrwhitedsr@gmail.com](mailto:jrwhitedsr@gmail.com)

## LICENSED

**BURNEY, OYANGO**—137 N. 9th Street, Indiana, 15701/ 724-541-6850 / [livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com](mailto:livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com)

**COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN**— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / [shellywithattitude@gmail.com](mailto:shellywithattitude@gmail.com)

**SHAULIS, TRAVIS**—608 Second Street, Meyersdale, 15552 / 814-442-8626 / [tanbadaner@gmail.com](mailto:tanbadaner@gmail.com)

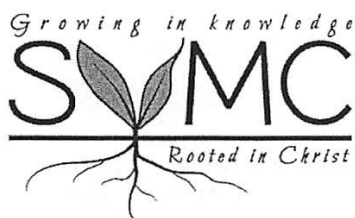
## LAY SPEAKER

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



# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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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](mailto: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 CEUs.

*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 role-play 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.*

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## 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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*Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is a Church of the Brethren ministry partnership that includes the districts of Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA, in addition to Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Bethany Theological Seminary. SVMC's mission is to equip leaders for ministry in a regionally based, Christ centered, culturally relevant context in ways that bear witness to the beliefs, heritages and practices of the Church of the Brethren.*

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# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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## 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](mailto: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.*

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### 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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# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

## Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 3-7, 2024

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



### Friends with the Weather Concert Saturday, July 6 – 8:30 pm

Friends with the Weather is a project from the trio of singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalists Seth Hendricks, Chris Good, and David Hupp. Friends with the Weather's unique sound blends dynamic musicianship, 3-part vocal stylings, and rich lyrical content exploring how we can learn and grow in the midst of challenging times, striving to be sources of love, hope, passion and vision.



Many within the Church of the Brethren community will also recognize the trio as former members of the band, Mutual Kumquat, who performed their finale concert in 2018 after almost 2 decades of music making and performing, including at many denominational events, churches, and colleges.

Praise for Friend with the Weather's self-titled, debut album from Local Spins: "Friends With the Weather has crafted the kind of album that submerges its listener in the depths of its musical and lyrical waters, and allows one to get lost in the beautiful space between opening and closing tracks...As expected with a collective of seasoned songwriters and musicians, the album exemplifies a level of excellence; it takes every musical turn you hope it will, but then veers into a direction even more perfect and fitting than what you thought possible."

[www.friendswiththeweather.com](http://www.friendswiththeweather.com)



### Fireworks over downtown Grand Rapids Saturday, July 6 – 10:30 pm

Take in the splendor of fireworks over the river on Saturday night. The city puts on a spectacular show launching fireworks from a barge on the river located right behind the Amway Grand Hotel.

### Witness to the Host City

#### YOU can make a difference in Grand Rapids!

This year we are supporting two local organizations with our Witness to the Host City project: **Kids' Food Basket** and **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**.

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/activities/host-city-witness/>



## Global Mission Prayer Guide

### Dominican Republic and Haiti

Pray for the many people who have fled Haiti and taken refuge in the Dominican Republic. Refugees are crossing the border into the DR because of the increased violence at home in Haiti. We request prayer especially for those who are grieving the deaths of family members at the hands of the armed gangs in Haiti. Prayers of thanks are requested for the Brethren Disaster Ministries grant to the DR church, which enabled churches in the southern part of the island to provide three days of food for more than a thousand Haitian people who are sheltering in that area (photo). Pray for peace in Haiti and for the Haitian brothers and sisters both in Haiti and in the DR. Pray for the spiritual life of all the leaders and members of Iglesia de los Hermanos Republica Dominicana (the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic) and of Comunidad de Fe (Community of Faith), the sector of the Church of the Brethren in the DR that is made up of Kreyol-speaking congregations of people of Haitian heritage.



### Nigeria

On April 14, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), saw the [10th anniversary of the Boko Haram kidnapping](#) of 276 girls from a school in Chibok, the majority of whom were from EYN families. Eighty-two (82) of them have not yet returned, and some who have come back have struggled to recover and resume normal daily life. The kidnapping of children, women, and men for ransom has continued over the decade and has been increasing, including hundreds of people taken from various locations in early April. We praise God for the successful conclusion of the EYN Majalisa on April 19, and for the election of

new leaders at that gathering. Let's continue to pray for God to increase their grace and wisdom as they carry out the work of the church. The newly elected leaders are Rev. Dr. Daniel Y.C. Mbaya as president, Rev. Nuhu Mutah Abba as vice president. Rev. James K. Musa as general secretary, Rev. Luka Timta Musa as administrative secretary, and Bitrus Y. Duwara was appointed as the new director of Disaster Relief Management. We rejoice in the freedom regained by Mr. Hamman Bassi, who was kidnapped by Boko Haram in December 2023. Glory to God! Your prayers for his release are deeply appreciated.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray that the construction of the headquarters building of l'Eglise des Frères au Congo (the Church of the Brethren in DR Congo) continues without setbacks and will result in a usable building soon. There has been flooding (pictured, above) due to the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, causing much property damage and the subsequent displacement of people from their homes. Pray the waters will recede, buildings will be repaired, and people will return to their homes and communities. Pray, too, for the restoration of peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.



## Global Mission Prayer Guide

### Uganda

Join the Church of the Brethren in Uganda as they offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving for: Two acres of land recently purchased and the ongoing construction of semi-permanent buildings so that the Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School can begin operating soon.

Vocational training led by Marla Abe at the national church headquarters in Kampala and the Calvary Life Church of the Brethren in Hima in early April. The participants grew in their understanding of sustainable

agriculture and carpentry production practices, skills which are vital for their increasing self-dependence and financial stability. Pray for the Uganda church, that: Church leadership will always be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of ministry. An evangelistic spirit will continue to pervade the church members and they will continue to see clearly and respond to opportunities to build relationships and share the message of Jesus. The projects of the church, including agriculture, chicken-keeping, bee-keeping, and grain milling, will flourish. Managers who are entrusted with the oversight of these projects will be faithful and fulfill all business obligations in a timely way. Special needs of the church will be met, especially in land purchases, buildings, and vehicles. Pray that a taxi and/or motorcycles will be obtained for pastors whose churches are far from their homes. Weather across Uganda will return to a normal state and stabilize, resulting in just enough rain and sun to enable crops to grow well. Pray that bad weather will not damage or destroy infrastructure.



### Brazil

Many of the members and friends of Igreja da Irmandade (the Church of the Brethren in Brazil) are experiencing illness, and even with adequate treatments face health difficulties that require attention. Pray for the health of the church members. Brazil continues to face a severe pandemic of dengue, zika, and chikungunya infections. More than two million people have been infected. There are not enough vaccines available for everyone, and there are more than 1,500 deaths predicted during the current outbreak. Pray for this health crisis to be brought under control. In March, the southern part of Brazil experienced severe storms as a result of continuing climate change. Thousands of people have had to abandon their homes because of flooding and landslides. Pray for them, that they may find safe and stable housing, and that the weather conditions may improve. Marcos Inhauser, secretary of the national church, has non-metastasizing nose cancer. He will begin receiving radiation therapy in the next few days. Prayers for his healing are requested. The church continues renovation of its recently purchased property. The work is proceeding according to plan, but no date has yet been set for the dedication. Pray for a safe completion of the work.

### Kenya and Tanzania (*Churches planted by the Church of the Brethren in Burundi*)

Pray for Pastor Richard and family and Pastor Anthony and his wife, Miriam, who provide servant leadership in two congregations near the city of Thika, Kenya, about an hour north of the capital city Nairobi. They have begun several prayer cells that serve as development points to identify potential locations for new churches. Pray that the Lord provides these pastors and families with their daily needs.

Pray for the Kisii Church of the Brethren in Kenya, especially for the children whose parents alone do not have sufficient resources to feed, house, and nurture them. Because of the faith community's mission of helping children grow and thrive in whatever ways they can, these families receive support. Celebrate the first baptism service held by the church in Tanzania, on April 8. Seven believers went into the waters of Lake Victoria for triune immersion by Pastor Rhobinson Saleh, praise be to God. Pray for the pastors and new churches in the several growing and new churches in Africa, that the pastoral training their leaders need and want may become available to educate and support them.





# 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

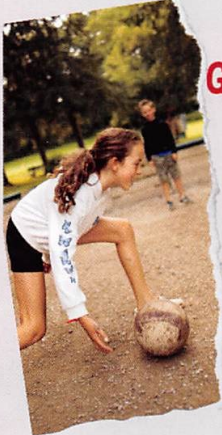
DAY CAMP #2: JUNE 17-21

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](http://WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG)

# CAMP HARMONY

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**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](http://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

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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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## **JUNE 2024**

16 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

## **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

## June 2024