

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

March 2026

## DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES

### Submission

In our society today, it seems that people want what they want regardless of how their decisions might affect others. Humans generally desire varying degrees of power or authority over their personal lives, and some seek power to affect the lives of others.

To my point, the following was stated in Psychology Today in an article titled, Motivation for Power: Why Do People Want to Be in Charge?

<sup>(1)</sup>*According to Cislak, Cichocka, Wojcik, and Frankowska (2018), individuals seek power and leadership positions for two reasons. On one hand, they may be motivated to obtain control over others, especially to influence their behavior. On the other hand, they might be motivated by personal control instead, particularly to increase their own self-determination and autonomy.*

Ok, so why does this matter? As Christians, we are approaching the season of Lent. Lent is the observance of the 40 days of temptation Jesus faced following his baptism by John the Baptist. During Jesus 40 days in the wilderness and temptation by Satan, Jesus continually refused Satan's offers of comfort and power. Jesus demonstrates his unending devotion and faith in God the Father. Jesus remains strong in his faith, submitting only to God the Father. Throughout Jesus ministry, we witness his submission to God.

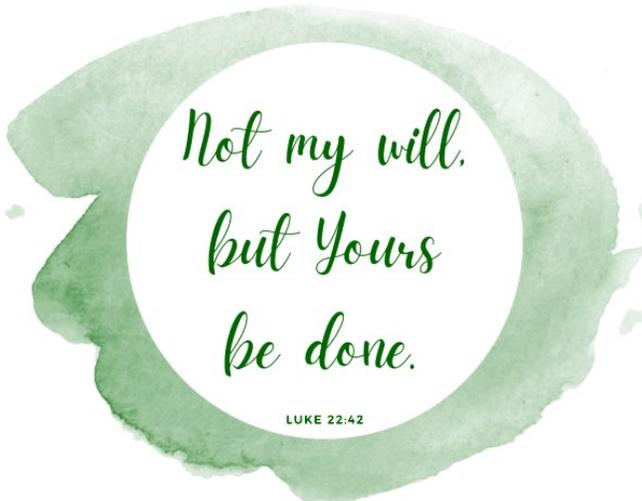


Examples of submission to God, recognizing God's ultimate power and authority, are found throughout the scriptures.

- David and King Saul: David served under King Saul, respecting his authority even when Saul sought to harm him. David's refusal to kill Saul, despite having the opportunity, illustrates his submission to God's anointed leader (1 Samuel 24:6).
- Moses: Moses submitted to God's authority by leading the Israelites out of Egypt, despite his initial reluctance. He obeyed God's commands, demonstrating submission to divine authority even when it meant confronting Pharaoh.
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, exemplified submission when she accepted the angel Gabriel's message to bear the Son of God. Her response, "I am the Lord's servant," (Luke 1:38)

# FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

## DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES



These are just a few of the examples, yet the greatest is found as we traverse Lent and Easter. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus offers the ultimate example of submission: He prayed, "Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). This moment highlights His willingness to submit to God's plan, even in the face of immense suffering. In this act of submission, via his crucifixion and shed blood, salvation and restoration are offered to each of us.

Christianity is all about submitting to God and serving him, honoring his power and authority. When we recite the Lord's prayer, we state, "Your will be done."

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, **your will be done**, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

Think about that for a moment, it is not our will but God's will we are praying will be done. Too often, we recite the Lord's Prayer without considering what we are saying or the submission required to truly mean what we pray for.

Years ago, as I was beginning my call to ministry. Pastor Gerald Deffenbaugh told me more than once, Chris, it is about submitting to God. I concur, and for all of us, including me, it remains challenging.

As we observe the season of Lent, I challenge each of us to consider our need to submit to God and his will. This is a real test of our faith, as we too often choose our own benefit, comfort, power, and authority. Church is not about individual control and power, but just the opposite, submission and service to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Chris Forry WPA Dist. DM

<sup>(1)</sup><https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/persuasion-bias-and-choice/202112/motivation-for-power-why-do-people-want-to-be-in-charge?msocid=38fdc7a6fc886aeb3769d0a6fde26b4a>

# FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the  
**April 2026**  
issue is

**March 10, 2026**

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 - Thursday\*\*

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

\*\*Closed every Friday

### Financial Clerk is in

Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

## CONTACT US:

115 Spring Road  
Hollsopple, PA 15935  
814-479-2181  
Website: [www.westernpacob.org](http://www.westernpacob.org)

## 2026 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2026 District Directory is now available. If you have any updates or changes, please send them to me asap so that I can publish them here in the Highlights.

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

Western PA District Office  
115 Spring Road,  
Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

## IRS MILEAGE RATE

The IRS mileage rate for 2026 is 72.5 cents per mile. Please share this info with your pastors and available speakers.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Page 5:

Remove Ron Beachley as Standing Committee delegate

\_\_\_\_\_

Page 22:

Somerset COB, change Pastor Ron Barto's phone number to 814-521-2159

## DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

The District Office will be open Monday through Thursday each week from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm and will be closed every Friday.

The Financial Clerk will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays. The District Administrative Assistant will be in the office Monday through Thursday.



## PRAYER FOR LENT

Dear Jesus,

During this season of Lent, let me remember all that you have done for me.

Help me to reflect upon the ultimate sacrifice and pain that you went through for us. As I make a few of my own sacrifices, help me to stay strong and committed to this Lenten journey and use my efforts as an opportunity to deepen my relationship with you. In moments where I struggle, remind me of the incomparable sacrifice and struggles that you endured. Guide my heart and mind to stay focused on your love and glory.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

[pinterest.com/faithfilledyou](https://pinterest.com/faithfilledyou)

### VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

**Freedom Church (Indiana COB)** services are on Facebook (Freedom Church Facebook page) and on YouTube (@FreedomChurch-cd9xj)

**Geiger COB** Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633>

**Hostetler COB** Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am <https://www.facebook.com/HostetlerCOBMeyersdalePa>

**Meyersdale COB** Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am [https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ\\_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69\\_LKf8aq-ZM8IDloOJ\\_v6FfXuzfhRjN8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py\\_c&paipv=0](https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDloOJ_v6FfXuzfhRjN8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0)

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

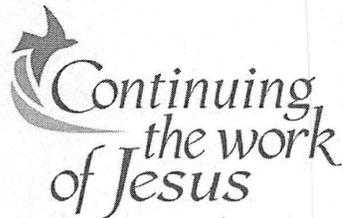
**Salisbury COB** Sunday Services are on Facebook at 10:30 am <https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-Brethren-211422968870314>

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



# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

---



Peacefully. Simply. Together.

January 21, 2026

Hello-

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process. We are writing to let you know about a GriefShare grief support group for people dealing with the death of a family member or friend.

At GriefShare you'll watch a weekly video with counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories—followed by a time of sharing and support. Session topics include what's normal in grief; how to handle difficult emotions; and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries.

There is no cost to join the group and materials will be provided.

Please join us on Wednesday, 3/4/25 @ 3:00pm. Folks are welcome to come in person or join us online. You are welcome to join any session within the time frame. Our address is 7269 Franklin Rd, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066. Our meeting information and registration may be found at:

<https://find.griefshare.org/groups/288117/registrations/new>

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

Blessings to you!

*Addie Lucatorto, Pastor*

*Good Samaritan Church of the Brethren*

*7269 Franklin Rd, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-412.715.5098 cell-724.776.5508 church*

**GriefShare®**  
**SUPPORT GROUP**



## **FREE Church “Common Sense” Security and Safety Seminar**

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9:00AM – 11:00AM

Berlin Brethren Church  
620 Main Street, Berlin, PA

### **“A Look at Church Security Issues and Awareness of the Dangers”**

- 1) A basic overview of your Church safety and security needs (common sense approach).
- 2) Open discussion using scenarios of Church incidents.
- 3) Handouts to be used as a guide to building a security team. This includes a checklist of how to make Church property safer.
- 4) Overall question and answer period.

### **Our presenter: Timothy Sprowls**

Retired PA State Police Officer and current Berlin School District Police Officer

- 35 year veteran of Law Enforcement
  - 26 years as a PA State Police Officer, Mounted Unit, and Critical Issues Supervisor for the Members Assistant Program.
- Current School Police Officer, Berlin Brothersvalley School District
  - Involved in every day security of the school property and oversee all emergency operations plans.
- Serves as Church Safety and Security Team Leader for his church.

# SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

## DISTRICT SHOE PROJECT UPDATE

Dear Friends in the Western District,

After much discussion and prayerful consideration, the Shoe Project committee has regrettably decided to discontinue the project. Even though our district churches have continued to make generous donations to the project that earned over \$24,000 for the work of the former Church of the Brethren Home and the El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel Orphanage, the number of committee members needed to deliver, package, and store the shoes has declined. We especially miss the dedicated work of our friend and committee member, April Mackell, who passed away recently.

The committee would like to extend it's thanks to the district churches. Your donations throughout the years have truly helped us work together for the common good. Thanks to the District Office for serving as a drop off point for donations, the District Office staff, the Westmont church for the use of their facility as a storage place, and the especially the workers who came to load the trucks in every kind of weather. Your efforts have been appreciated!

Blessings,  
District Shoe Committee

## 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.

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

We would like to take this time to thank the congregations in the Western PA District for their generous donations of school, hygiene, and clean up bucket kits over many years. Church World Service continues to serve communities here and abroad by delivering these kits where they are needed.

The New Windsor Center is no longer collecting kits, but there is a new Mission Central location in Mechanicsburg PA (near Harrisburg) that will be the location where kits can be delivered. Please see the info in the below.

### **Mission Central**

5 Pleasant View Drive  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

**HOURS:** Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
*(Closed on weekends and holidays)*

Please plan to arrive by **2:30 p.m.** so their team has time to assist you before closing. If your delivery fills more than an SUV, please call **717-766-1533** in advance. Mission Central is closed on holidays. If you have a specific question, please call prior to delivering kits.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our District is going to ask that for this year and for the 2026 District Conference, please try to have your individual congregations deliver their own kits or work with other COB churches to collect and deliver kits to this new location in Mechanicsburg, PA. If that does not work for you, contact the District Office and we will other make arrangements.

# AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

---

## 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)

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

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

**KABLER, ERIC**—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-242-0920 / [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)

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

**SIMONSICK, ROBERT**—111 Apple Jack Lane, Greensburg, 15601 / 419-934-1794 / [bprabsimon@aol.com](mailto:bprabsimon@aol.com)

**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)

**WHITED, JAMES**—14 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brookville 15825 / 814-592-5714 / [jrwhitedsr@gmail.com](mailto:jrwhitedsr@gmail.com)

# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

---

## Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center invites you to **SAVE THESE DATES**

### **Please note SVMC Students:**

SVMC will be increasing the cost of ACTS courses starting in the 2026-2027 academic year. As we continue to enhance our use of technology and virtual education, this increase in tuition is necessary to help cover the costs of equipment and technological support. The new cost for each course in the ACTS program will rise by \$15.00, bringing the total to \$285.00.

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center will offer several enriching Continuing Education Zoom sessions in 2026 led by Julie Guistwite (bio below). Registration is currently open for the session on January 22. Registration for the other sessions will be available soon. For now, please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information on these and other events in 2026.

*Julie A. Guistwite, PhD, LSW, FT, CSWM Ripple of Light Bereavement Resource Center, LLC Dr. Julie A. Guistwite, LSW is the owner of Ripple of Light Bereavement Resource Center, LLC. She is an Advanced Certified Thanatologist and Certified Social Work Manager with 15 years of practice experience in healthcare settings including palliative care, hospice, and funeral home. Dr. Guistwite holds over 10 years of palliative and end-of-life care educator expertise in academic, continuing education, and community settings. She authored a Master's Level Social Work Certificate in Holistic Bereavement Care and undergraduate level palliative care course. Dr. Guistwite has worked with Penn State's Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Project ECHO. She teaches undergraduate courses in palliative care, end-of-life issues, older adults, and health policy. She developed the first scale to evaluate and refine social workers' expertise in death, dying, and bereavement care. Areas of expertise include spirituality, thanatology, older adults, healthcare equity, and palliative care. She is passionate about improving the well-being of individuals/families through advancing providers' excellence in serious illness, end-of-life, and grief care delivery.*

---

**Identifying and Responding to Suicide Risk (Register Here)**  
January 22, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

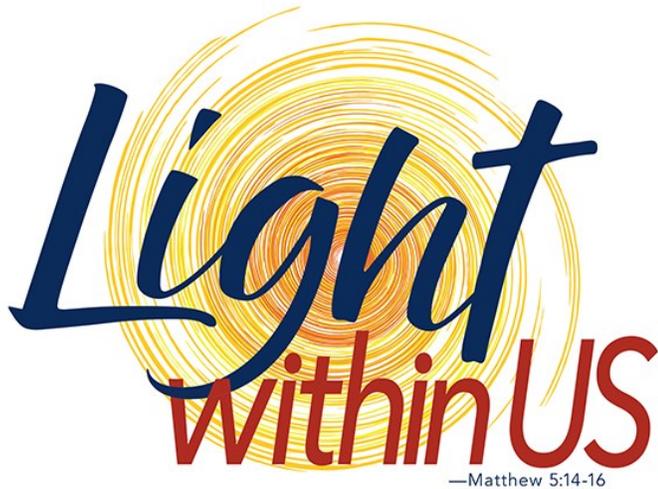
**Registration will be open SOON for the following:**

**Spiritual Well-Being: Strengthening & Refining:**  
February 17, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

**Congregational Ministry to Members Navigating Divorce Experiences:**  
June 3, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

**Caring for Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions:**  
October 6, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

**Supporting Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions (this session is designed for laity):**  
October 29, 2026 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Zoom)



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

### **National Youth Conference (NYC)**

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

### **Who is eligible to attend?**

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

### **What is the theme?**

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

### **What is the cost?**

Early registration fee (registering in January and February) is \$625 per person. Regular registration (during March and April) is \$650. Late registration (during May and June) is \$675. All registration fees will cover lodging, food, and programming while at NYC. Registration will open January 5th, 2026!

### **How can I find out more?**

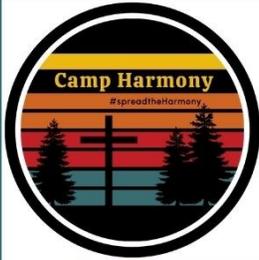
Visit this page regularly! Connect on social media. Contact Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth/Young Adult Ministries, at [bullomnaugle@brethren.org](mailto:bullomnaugle@brethren.org) or 847-429-4385 with questions.



Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 year. BVS encourages applicants of all ages (18-plus) to put your faith into action and apply for a year of service.

Before embarking on a service year, volunteers first attend an orientation. There are two volunteer orientations planned for next year, both in the Midwest.

For more information, go to:  
<https://www.brethren.org/bvs/>



# SUMMER CAMP 2026

PROVIDING ADVENTURE & FUN WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE.

**DAY CAMPS \$110**  
GRADES K-6, 9AM-4:30PM  
Day Camp 1: June 15-19  
Day Camp 2: July 6-10  
Day Camp 3: July 13-17  
Day Camp 4: July 27-31



**PRE-K CAMPS \$65**  
AGES 3-5, 9AM-12PM  
Pre-K Camp 1: June 8-12  
Pre-K Camp 2: July 13-17

**OVERNIGHT CAMPS \$390**

<b>OVERNIGHT 1</b> GRADES 2-12 June 28 - July 3	<b>OVERNIGHT 2</b> GRADES 2-12 July 19-24	<b>YOUTH ADVENTURE</b> GRADES 7-12 July 26-31
---	---	---



**WILDERNESS CAMPS \$390**  
Wilderness 1: June 21-26  
Grades 2-8  
Wilderness 2: July 5-10  
Grades 7-12



**SIBLING DISCOUNTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

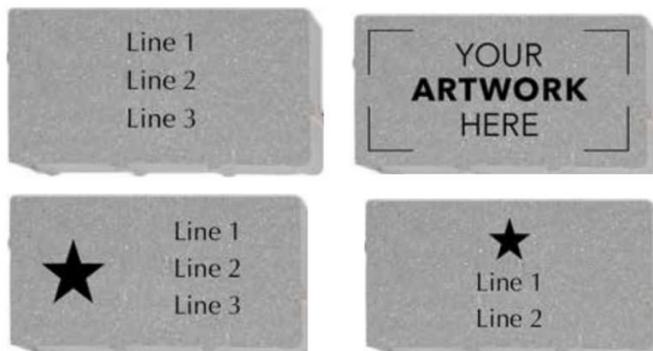
**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST!**  
**WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG**



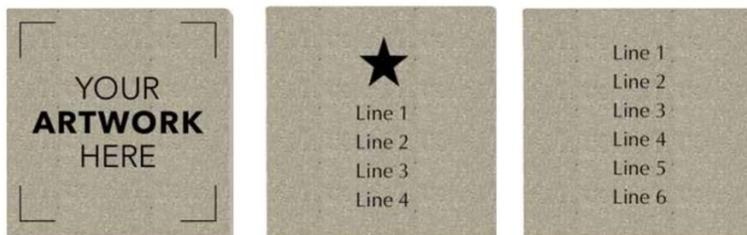
## Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

Camp Harmony is seeking your support in fundraising to continue the pool restoration project. Bricks given through this campaign will create a pathway to the pool and the funds will go to our Camper Scholarship fund.

### Brick Options include 4x8 engraved.



### Brick Options include 8x8 engraved.



You may individualize a brick for you, your family, your business, your church/organization, honor a loved one, or make a memorial. The bricks are engraved using state of the art laser technology. Every brick engraving is guaranteed for life!

**Order Online at [www.campharmony.org](http://www.campharmony.org)**  
**Or email [Phil@campharmony.org](mailto:Phil@campharmony.org) for more info!**

# WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lent	2	3	4	5	6 District Office Closed	7
8 Lent	9	10	11	12	13	14 SVMC at Rummel
15 Lent	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Lent	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				

# 2026 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

---

If your congregation, committee, or group would like to have information listed on the District Calendar, please send it in to the District Office by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## **MARCH 2026**

7 - SVMC Class

## **APRIL 2026**

11 - SVMC Class

25 - SVMC Class

## **MAY 2026**

9 - SVMC Class

14 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

23 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

## **JUNE 2026**

28 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins,  
Fort Wayne, IN

## **JULY 2026**

2 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE ends,  
Fort Wayne, IN

18—National Youth Conference begins

23— National Youth Conference ends

## **AUGUST 2026**

No meetings or events scheduled

## **SEPTEMBER 2026**

10 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

19 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

## **OCTOBER 2026**

## **NOVEMBER 2026**

5 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

14 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

## **DECEMBER 2026**

No meetings or events scheduled

**\*\*\* District Conference date TBA**

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

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

## March 2026