

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

May 2024

GOD WITH US

1 Kings 8:56-58 NIV

Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees, and laws he gave our ancestors.

If you take a blank piece of white paper and place a ¼" red dot in the center of the paper, then show the piece of paper to a group of people and ask them what they see, they will respond a red dot. They are correct a red dot is centered on the piece of paper and their eyes are drawn to it. However, generally, no one will mention the white background that surrounds the red dot. This illustration is a reflection of how we live our lives. We focus on the topics before us (the red dot) and often fail to recognize that God (the white background) is present all around us.

As we live our daily lives and we pray to God we often pray for God to be with us, for his wisdom, guidance, peace, and forgiveness. We seek God's presence and blessing. We have all witnessed an athlete or sporting team praying for God's support and strength, so they may be victorious. After a victory again some athletes will look skyward or point to the heavens and praise God for their success.

Seeking God's presence is evident throughout the bible. The Israelites sought God's presence multiple times. The scripture passage 1 Kings 8:56-58 provides a good example of Israel seeking God's presence. The scripture passage is taken from King Solomon's Prayer of Dedication for the new Temple which he has constructed for God to reside and for the Israelites to focus upon. An expanded reading of 1 Kings chapter 8 reveals Solomon's petition to God to remain with the Israelites even when they stray from God, to forgive them, and to rescue them when they are defeated by their enemies.

Solomon knew the people would sin and stray from God, as all people are sinners. In verse 58 Solomon prays that God will turn the Israelites' hearts to focus on God and be obedient to Him.

During the height of the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln was encouraged to pray that God would be on the Union's side. Lincoln responded, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right," he offers a thought-provoking perspective that transcends the question of divine favoritism. This statement encapsulates Lincoln's deep understanding of faith and moral righteousness, highlighting the paramount importance of aligning ourselves with the principles of goodness and justice rather than seeking validation from a higher authority. At its core, Lincoln's quote urges individuals to prioritize personal alignment with God's moral truth and righteousness, rather than assuming an assurance of God's favor, based solely on their agendas. In essence, it encourages self-examination and a critical evaluation of one's actions, intentions, and values in relation to the timeless principles conveyed by God.

The red dot, Lincoln's response, and King Solomon's verse 58 plea, all denote that the real question is not if God is with us, but is rather if we are with God. The Israelites experienced great prosperity and success when they were focused on God, however, when they lost their focus on God they suffered.

God is always present with us, he wants the best for us, he loves us so much that he sent his only son Jesus Christ to save us via the blood he shed upon the cross, yet we stray, just as the Israelites and every generation of people since. Being with God, and seeking to serve God, is why we exist, is paramount and God should be the focus of our lives always, yet we become distracted. By focusing on being on God's side, we embark on a transformative journey, striving for moral excellence and living a life of compassionate service to others.

Might we as individuals, and corporately as the church, focus on being on God's side, serving God, and seeking to please God. In doing so we will exemplify God's love for his children and the world.

Chris Forry, District Minister Team

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

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

May 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

District Minister Team

Pete Kaltenbaugh, Ruby Mader, Chris Forry

Financial Clerk: Amy Bowman

wpacob@atlanticbb.net

District Secretary: Tina Lehman

tlehman@brethren.org

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Financial Clerk is in

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

CONTACT US:

115 Spring Road

Hollsopple, PA 15935

814-479-2181

Website: www.westernpacob.org

2024 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

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

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 District Directory, please contact me at

tlehman@brethren.org

or 814-479-2181.

Thank you!

Tina

REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

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

If your congregation will be making a new directory for

2024 please send one

to the District Office,

115 Spring Road,

Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

TO ALL MINISTERS

Reminder to be sure to update your clearances if you haven't done it already. Once you receive your updated info, please send a copy to the District Office, thanks.

Western PA District COB, 115 Spring Road

Hollsopple, PA 15935



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Monroeville—Ricardo Carter, Ainka Davis

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Gary Mosorjak—Interim, Roxbury

WITH SYMPATHY

To **Pastor Jeff Yeckley** and his family as his father Arthur Yeckley passed away on April 10th.

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.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

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

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

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-ZM8IDIoJ_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>

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

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

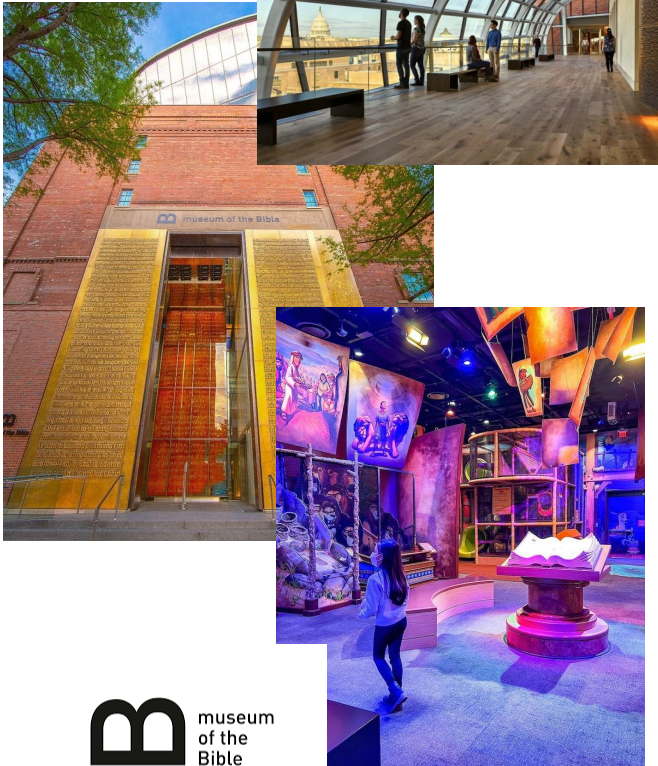
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

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.



CONCERT AT HOSTETLER COB

ROD HORNER CONCERT

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm , Rod Horner will be having a congregational hymn sing at the Hostetler Church of the Brethren located at 2344 Spring Road, Meyersdale, near Pocahtonas. If you haven't heard of Rod Horner by now, here are some of his accomplishments:

- *Worship Leader and Accompanist for the Brooklyn Tabernacle and Bill Gaither's Homecoming series.
- **Pianist for White House and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- ***Vocalist at both Sight-and-Sound Theaters and Kennedy Center's Premier Ensemble.

We are overjoyed to be able to invite you to another wonderful evening of praising the Lord! For more information, contact Reverend Kaitlyn Coughenour at (814) 521-4649.

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.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT



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

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Mark your calendars!

District Conference

October 19, 2024

Camp Harmony

More info to follow in upcoming issues of the Highlights.

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
Bake Sale

Call 724-463-0420 for event info.

RUMMAGE SALE

Walnut Grove COB

1068 Bedford Street, Johnstown

Saturday, May 4, 2024

from 9:00am-1:00pm, rain or shine

Multiple vendor tables
Concessions available

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

REVIVAL SERVICES

Shade Creek/Ridge COB
will be having revival services
May 13, 14 and 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm

The speakers will be as follows:
Monday 13: Kaitlyn Coughenour
Tuesday 14: Travis Shaulis
Wednesday 15: Chris Garretson

There will be light refreshments served
on the final night afterwards on the 15th.

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.

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

KIDS KLUB AT MEYERSDALE COB

The Kids Klub Program at the Meyersdale Church of the Brethren has been a beacon of light for young hearts and minds since its inception in 1996, witnessing over a thousand kids drawing closer to God. This cherished program, now in its 27th year, continues to thrive, offering a nurturing environment for children from kindergarten to 5th grade.

One of the highlights of this year's Kids Klub was the generous donation from our very own Western PA district, which ensured that each child received their very own Bible. This gift not only provides them with a foundational spiritual resource but also serves as a tangible symbol of the community's support and encouragement in their faith journey.

The program, which meets once a week, offers a rich blend of activities designed to engage and enrich young hearts. From the warm fellowship shared over meals to the engaging classes that deepen their understanding of God's word, every moment is thoughtfully crafted to nurture their spiritual growth. Additionally, the hands-on crafts allow them to express their creativity while reinforcing the lesson of the day.

One of the most anticipated events of the year is the end-of-year program, where the children proudly showcase what they have learned throughout the year. This event not only highlights their academic achievements but also celebrates their growth in faith and character.

As the Kids Klub Program at the Meyersdale Church of the Brethren continues to flourish, it stands as a testament to the power of community, faith, and love in shaping the lives of our youngest members.

If your kids are interested in this fellowship opportunity, registration opens August 2024 and you can reach out to Eric Shaulis, Senior Pastor for more information. We hope to continue enriching young minds for years to come.

SOME GOOD NEWS!!

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.”

“At a date to be announced in your June District Newsletter 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.

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.

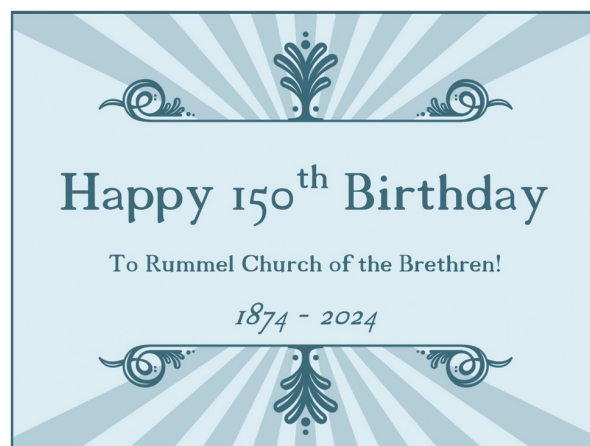
CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

We can all use some good news now and again right?

Stories of serving in the community, milestone birthdays and anniversaries, academic achievements, etc.

I look forward to sharing more good news from the District!

tlehman@brethren.org



RETIREMENT PARTY

Deb Bambling is retiring on May 31st after 25+ years of service at Camp Harmony.



Please join us to celebrate Deb with a retirement party on **May 27, 2024** from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at Camp Harmony.

Email Jen Vickroy at jen@campharmony.org if you are planning to attend.

If you would like to send Deb a card or words of congratulations, please send them to:

Camp Harmony, PO Box 158,
Hooversville, PA 15936-0158

Or email your messages to Jen Vickroy. Camp staff is also planning to open up their time capsule if enough Camp alumni and staff will be there!

Congratulations Deb!!

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES

**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 or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2024 Schedule

May 5—11, 2024	Dawson Springs w OPEN
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 Food Pantry is open the **SECOND** Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to Noon at the **Arbutus COB**. The pet pantry would gladly accept donations of cat and dog food and also pet collars, beds, bowls, leashes, etc.

The items can be dropped off at the church through the first set of glass doors into the entrance to the church. These doors are always open. The church is blessed to be able to offer this program to the community. For additional information call Cheryl Edmiston at 814-410-3151.

AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

ORDAINED

ABRAHAM, FARREL – 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / sharingpearls@comcast.net

BEACHLEY, LINDA—PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / lrbeac@atlanticbb.net

BEACHLEY, RONALD – PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / rondbeachley@gmail.com

BROADWATER, KEVIN—475 Keystone Street, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 / 814-442-5684 / pastorbroadwater@verizon.net

DERR, AMELIA – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / iamameliaderr@yahoo.com

DERR, HORACE - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / pastorbutch@gmail.com

HOUGHTON, SALLY - 124 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-3019 / 814-243-6448 / smh124@atlanticbb.net

KABLER, ERIC—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-266-2734 / eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com

LONGWELL, ERIC— 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / kb3ttx@gmail.com

MANGES, JOHN – 137 Catskill Lane, Johnstown, 15904-7523 / 814-539-3332 / manges@atlanticbb.net

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

PERUSO, RUSSELL – 151 Blackner Road, Johnstown, 15905 / 814-242-0549 / russperuso@gmail.com

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

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

STEIN, ROBERT - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 / 724-438-2226 / crid@verizon.net

SWICK, MICHAEL - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / preachmike101@comcast.net

WALKER, JUDY—425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette 15644 / 724-522-5260 / larryewalker1@gmail.com

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

LICENSED

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

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

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

LAY SPEAKER

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's 2024 Continuing Education Events

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

Worship Models from Genesis to Revelation

Leah Hileman, Leader

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Camp Harmony, Western PA District (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$45.00 for .3 CEUs; \$35.00 for no CEUs

Zoom: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs; \$25.00 for no CEUs

How did churches end up with a cantata, lectionaries, separate singing, call-and-response songs, house churches, and hymns? How did the way God's people worship morph through the generations, adapting to culture shifts and changing in style, format, liturgy, and theology? In this workshop, we will survey the past to see evidence that, while the Good News never changes, the ways and means by which we approach God in worship have undergone dramatic change. We'll explore the biblical basis for large and small assemblies; varying styles of art, music, and architecture; and the "personality" of worship in high- and low-church traditions.

Christian ID in an Age of AI

Russell Haitch, Leader

Saturday, April 27, 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 world is shifting, the foundations shaking, and old innovation seen before—not the printing press or automobile or Internet—will be able to rival the impending impact of Artificial Intelligence, combined with genetic engineering and other advanced technologies. This workshop is designed to help you develop or improve your Christian framework for thinking through all the new issues on the horizon. The world is going to look dramatically different, so too our churches and the lives of our children. We need to be ready to respond. The best, most faithful response will grow out of our identity in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down

Chris Bucher & Bob Neff, Leaders

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College (In-Person Only -- No Zoom Option for this event)

\$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

*This class will draw upon the 2023 book *Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down*, co-authored by Chris Bucher and Bob Neff. Chris and Bob will discuss Luke's theme of "turning the world upside down" through the gathering of Jesus' followers into communities that practice healing, inclusivity, and sharing. Presentations will assist in the understanding of these two books as a guide for Anabaptists and Radical Pietists and will incorporate visual art that offers new ways to see the Biblical texts.*

(More Events on Next Page)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

Grief Literacy

Julie Guistwite, Leader

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

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

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

The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters

Jeff Carter, Leader

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

Elizabethtown College - In-Person or Zoom

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

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

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

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.



Young Adult Conference May 24-26, 2024

[Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center](#)
near Sharpsburg, MD

Young Adult Conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults!

Registration is open! Register between 1/12 and 2/14 to get free [Nutter's Ice Cream](#) during YAC!

To Register go to:
<https://www.brethren.org/yva/yac/>



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

Registration is now open!

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

Annual Conference 2024 invites Church of the Brethren to gather in Grand Rapids

Church of the Brethren Newline
April 12, 2024

“We hope you will join us this summer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 3-7, 2024, for the 237th recorded Annual Conference,” said an invitation from the Conference office.

This summer’s annual meeting of the Church of the Brethren will gather around the theme “Welcome and Worthy” (Romans 16:2, CEB) with leadership from moderator Madalyn Metzger assisted by moderator-elect Dava Hensley and Conference secretary David Shumate. The Program and Arrangements Committee also includes Jacob Crouse, Nathan Hollenberg, and Gail Heisel, with Rhonda Pittman Gingrich as the Conference director.

The Conference offers a full schedule of worship, equipping sessions, meal events, age-group activities, concerts, tours, and more. The event is open to families and people of all ages, and childcare is offered. Registration and full details are at www.brethren.org/ac2024.

Catered meal events that inform and inspire

Do you wish you knew more about the ministries of the church? Would you like to learn about Brethren World Mission or the Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program? Are you an alumnus of one of the COB colleges or Bethany? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then one or more of these meals might be of interest to you. A wide variety of special meal events planned by agencies and higher education will be offered during the 2024 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, July 3-7. Go to www.brethren.org/ac2024 if you need to register for Annual Conference and to purchase a meal ticket.



Global Mission Prayer Guide

Haiti

Pray for peace in Haiti.

Read a [pastoral statement for l'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti](#) (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) from general secretary David Steele. To read a response to the pastoral statement from Romy Telfort, president of l'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti, to the pastoral statement, click on [Haiti church responds](#), then scroll to the headline "Following is the full text of the response from of L'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti, in English and Haitian Kreyol."

Learn more about the situation in Haiti and other possibilities for prayer in the March 29 Church of the Brethren Newline: [Haitian church seeks hope in the midst of a desperate situation](#). Just before Easter, Vildor Archang, coordinator of the Haiti Medical Project (HMP), shared that despite country-wide violence, HMP is continuing to drill wells and provide health care in communities where they can go, mainly those in the Central Plateau, North, and Northwest departments.

His specific prayer request is, "Please keep praying for peace in Haiti. Ask the Lord to send good leaders for the leadership of this nation."

Democratic Republic of Congo

"Greetings, dear ones.

"Keep praying for peace in the Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ask God to end the ongoing war between FARDC (the DRC army) and the terrorist group named M23."

~ Dieudonné Faraja, vice president, Eglise de Frères au Congo
(Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo)

Dominican Republic

"I want everyone to pray for the growth of the churches in the Dominican Republic, that the older churches can plant new churches, and that there can be a revival in our congregations."

~ Ariel Rosario, president of the Board of Directors,
Iglesia de Los Hermanos

Mexico

Pray for pastor Salvador Galax Soto, who is recovering at home following several weeks of hospitalization, that God may comfort him and his family and his health may be fully restored. He and his wife, pastor Maximina Roberta Domingues Rodriguez, are co-pastors of the Monte Horeb emerging Brethren church in Tijuana, Mexico



Global Mission Prayer Guide

Nigeria

At a time of growing insecurity in Nigeria, the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) asks for prayers that God will intervene and restore peace in the country and around the globe.

In March, EYN celebrated its 101st anniversary. Join them in their prayers of thanksgiving, and pray that God's guidance and wisdom will be evident in a successful April 16-19 EYN Majalisa where a new president, vice president, and general secretary will be elected. May those who travel to attend be safe, and may God's guidance and wisdom be manifested in all who are involved.

EYN is thankful for you who receive these concerns every month, for your dedication to praying for others, and "pray that God may uphold you as you faithfully carry out these important tasks."

~Maina Pindar, EYN liaison to Church of the Brethren in the United States

Venezuela

The 3rd Annual Conference of Venezuela Church of the Brethren on March 12-16 was a wonderful gathering. The event offered great training about Brethren identity, and the 120 leaders from Venezuela and Colombia who were present in Cucuta, Colombia, were inspired and motivated. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Venezuela.



Brazil

"A new phrase has emerged in our daily vocabulary: 'new normal.' It refers to abrupt climate change, rising average temperatures, torrential rains, and prolonged droughts. In Brazil, in the South and Southeast, we face problems of intense rains and floods with one repercussion being the ever-increasing cost of food. Many pastors do not address ecology from their pulpits, preferring motivational themes and minimal density. Let us pray for preaching and teaching more related to the dramas that our people are experiencing.

"The hiring of the new director of the Global Food Initiative must be accompanied by our prayers and actions so that the theme of ecology and food production enters the preaching agenda. Let us pray for the search for dignified solutions for our brothers and sisters based on sustainable projects.

"Let us pray for the many people left homeless by the rains in Brazil and other countries and also for those suffering from the prolonged drought. Pray that the increases in food prices will be reversed and pray, too, for the end to the famine that plagues many of the nations that have Brethren churches.

"For Haiti and an end to the political chaos and violence, let us pray."

~Dr. Marcos Inhauser, Secretary, Igreja de Irmandade



Be encouraged in Christ, and His Word. Enjoy worshiping our God and fellowship with other women. Feel free to commute, but also feel free to stay the night. Invite your friends!

We can't wait to unpack God's word with you!

\$45 with lodging

\$30 commuter

\$15 Kids Camp

Women's Retreat Kids Camp includes staffing provided by Camp Harmony for boys and girls ages 2-12 on Friday from 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

Saturday lunch is included! **Go to <https://www.campharmony.org/> to register.**



NEW DATE MAY 18

3D ARCHERY SHOOT

REGISTRATION & WARM UP AREA OPEN 7:00AM
FIRST ARROWS FLY AT 8:00AM

For both novice and Advanced shooters

BENEFITS CAMP HARMONY SUMMER CAMPS

20 targets, of varying yardage and difficulty.

1 Iron Target Shot Competition.

1 Long Range Shot Competition.

Meal, speaker, and awards to follow event!

Shoot as a team, or as an individual!

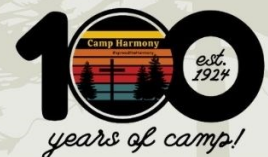
- 2-4 members per team - scores averaged for total, per target.
- Individuals: Best shot score per target.
- Prizes for individuals, and teams!
- Compound, Traditional, and Rangefinder permitted!

\$45 for individuals
Teams of 4: \$125

Prizes for:

- Best overall individual Compound shooter
- Best overall individual Traditional shooter.
- Best overall Team.
- Long Shot Competition.
- Iron Target Competition.

www.campharmony.org



📞 814-798-5885

✉️ Austin@campharmony.org

📍 1414 plank Rd. Hooversville, Pa 15936



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

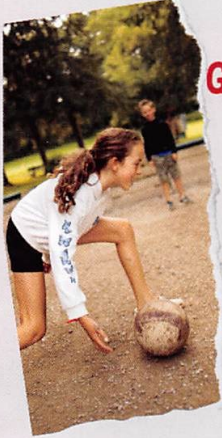
DAY CAMP #2: JUNE 17-21

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-HAMRONY-FRIEND!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST
WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG

CAMP HARMONY

DAY- CAMPS

Day camps are filled with friends and adventures and are designed to build strong disciples who will impact their world for Christ. We'll explore everything camp has to offer including games, nature, swimming, worship and Bible lessons. Day camps are a great introduction to overnight camps.

Register Today! www.campharmony.org



CAMP HARMONY

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Experience the Unforgettable! Overnight camps are designed to create disciples who will make an impact for Christ in their world. Epic games, campfires, adventure activities, small groups, fantastic food, worship, swimming and Bible lessons are included in these camps to help equip campers of all ages to represent Christ in all they do.

Register Today! www.campharmony.org



CAMP HARMONY

CAMP HARMONY

PRE-K CAMPS

Pre-K camps are filled with friends and adventures and are designed to build strong disciples who will impact their world for Christ. We'll explore everything camp has to offer including games, nature, swimming, worship and Bible lessons. Pre-K half days ages 3-5

Register Today! www.campharmony.org

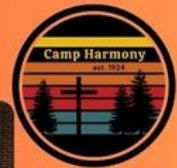


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Register Today! www.campharmony.org



2024 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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

MAY 2024

- 2 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
- 5 - NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 9 - ASCENSION DAY
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 12 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 19 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH! (Pentecost Sunday)
- 27 - MEMORIAL DAY

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

2024 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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

May 2024