## THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Western PA District Church of the Brethren

May 2025

#### **DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES**

#### THE SEASON

Pete Kaltenbaugh, District Minister Team

"April showers bring May flowers", have you heard that one before? Well with four Grandchildren and two children I am reminded that May brings "Proms" as well as flowers. Yeah, that event that individuals will talk about basically forever; whether you went or not. There is the nerves involved in asking or answering the ask. Then the big decision, "What do I wear, what color and so forth and so forth!"

#### FOR A DANCE!

Every Spring, congregations prepare for the Baptisms of those making a choice to respond to the asking from Jesus to, "COME AND BE MINE!". Asked by Jesus, and accepted by the individuals, who then offer a similar ask to Jesus, come and live in my heart forever! Into their heart and it will hopefully not just be a one-time event on a Sunday morning or down by the creek on an afternoon but an event that you talk about and remember forever. A Dance that will last a lifetime, through joyful times and times of sadness. In times when we are tested to the point, where we aren't sure we can survive and the times where life is so exciting and special we cry from the pure joy and excitement of the new life offered over and over again.

Prom seems to be a rite of passage, sometimes painful, sometimes dull and sometimes enjoyable but always memorable.

In this season of Newness and Life do you remember your Baptism, that event where your vows to Jesus and the powerful indwelling of the Holy Spirit made life forever different? Have you been sharing that with others, living out every day the excitement and refreshing event that you were invited to be part of, where you accepted the invitation and offered one of your own to invite Jesus to be yours forever?

Jesus is asking you! Come and be His forever, will you ask Him into your heart and be Baptized and live out that event everyday as His? Already Baptized, then Live out the vows you promised, everyday!



Someday we look forward to: swing, dance, jump, sway into the arms of Jesus forever and be home. Let the music play!

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#### FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **June 2025** issue is

May 10, 2025

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

#### **DISTRICT STAFF:**

#### **District Minister Team**

Pete Kaltenbaugh mdalepastorpete@comcast.net

Ruby Mader

redhatvicar@yahoo.com

**Chris Forry** 

exit10dunkard@hotmail.com

Financial Clerk: Amy Bowman wpacob@atlanticbb.net

**District Secretary:** Tina Lehman

tlehman@brethren.org

#### **DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday\*\*

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

\*\*Closed every other 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

#### **2025 DISTRICT DIRECTORY**

The 2025 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 2025 District Directory, please contact me at tlehman@brethren.org or 814-479-2181.

Thank you!

#### **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Tina

Add to Ordained Ministers:

Robert Simonsick 1131 Apple Jack Lane

Greensburg, PA 15601 Phone: 814-493-1795

Email: bprabsimon@aol.com

#### **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,

Western PA District COB 115 Spring Road Hollsopple, PA 15935

#### REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

It is very helpful to the District Office staff to have <u>updated</u> information from all the churches we serve. If your congregation will be making a new directory for **2025** please send one to the District Office,

115 Spring Road,

Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

#### **HELP WANTED**

Volunteer Backup to Financial Clerk Position—requires a 6—12 hour per week depending on the incoming mail and month end obligations. The current schedule is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or to 3:00 pm if needed. Volunteer may set their own schedule.

#### **Position Duties:**

Process incoming checks make bank deposits.

Pay incoming invoices and payroll. Prepare month end financial reports. Type up thank you letters and other written correspondences.

Occasionally, prepare excel reports on spending.

Report to the Stewards & Finance Team and District Treasurer. Work with Honduras Orphanage as

work with Honduras Orphanage as needed.

Work with Action Accounting Knowledge of Microsoft Excel and other accounting software.

The Financial Clerk will train the volunteer.

Please call the District Office if you are interested, 814-479-2181.

#### ACROSS THE DISTRICT

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

**Greensburg**— Austin Aultman, Ryan Moore,
Damian Puccio, Chase Smith, Madison Smith

Shade Creek/Ridge—Michelle Yeckley,
Renea Moore, Earl Spangler

Uniontown—Richard and Renee Rohm,
Kenneth and Kelly Umbel, Bill and Cindy
Dean, Richard and Karen Lemro.



#### **HELP WANTED**

The District Leadership Team is in need of an individual to serve on the Outreach and Service Team.

The District Leadership Team meets 4 times a year—in person and/or via Zoom. The Outreach and Service Team helps to direct congregations in sharing the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is wide open for new and renewed ideas that nurture and nourish the congregations we have here in Western PA.

Tired of complaining that nothing ever happens that brings congregations together or builds the kingdom? Is the Holy Spirit pushing you to help? Then call the District Office at 814-479-2181, talk to one of the District Ministers, volunteer and become part of the change

#### VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

**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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633</a>

**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 LKf8aqZM8lDlo0J 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

# Hostetler COB Cookbooks available Cost: donation



Contact Kaitie Coughenour 814-521-4649 or Amy Bowman, at the District Office if interested.

#### **DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The next

District Leadership Team
meeting will be held on

May 17, 2025
at the
Rummel COB

#### **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!

#### **INDOOR YARD SALE**

Penn Run COB Event Center

Saturday, June 7, 2025

from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Individual Yard Sale spaces

are available for \$15 per space

There will also be a bake sale and food trucks.

#### **SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY**



#### Monroeville COB August 11—15, 2025

8:00 am to 2:30 pm
Cost: \$275 for the entire week
Visit the website above or contact the church at 412-372-4165 for more information.

#### SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

#### **DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES**

The ministry is great, still alive and well and with your help, we will be able to make it even greater. With all the severe weather events we have had, the need becomes greater each passing day. We need you to help with this ever increasing work

day. We need you to help with this ever increasing work load. We have a core of dedicated volunteers who give of their time and participate on just about every trip that is scheduled. For this we are very, very thankful. We are looking to have a full crew of volunteers each trip, which would be 14 people. Think about being a volunteer, where else can you go for an all-expenses paid trip where you work hard, but eat well, have great fellowship, and have tons of fun!Contact your church coordinator to volunteer and, if your church does not have one, please contact me at <a href="mailto:hjewald@atlanticbb.net">hjewald@atlanticbb.net</a> or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

#### 2025 Schedule

June 1—7, 2025 August 3 –9, 2025 October 5—11, 2025 December 7—13, 2025

There are no New Windsor day trips scheduled, the program may be discontinued. 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.

#### EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



#### WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

Thanks to everyone who has been donating to the Enmanuel Home Shoe Project this winter. We are currently well over 2,000 pairs of shoes packed and stored at the Westmont Church! Our minimum shipment number is 2,500 pairs, and we hope to reach that number by early summer. It is always helpful to make our shipments during good weather, our local volunteers and the drivers from Florida appreciate not having to consider snowy roads in their travel schedules. Please remember the project this spring, and help us help the Home!

To donate, simply place a rubber band around each pair of shoes and bring them to the District Office during regular business hours, or contact the office at the Westmont church to schedule a drop off appointment. The shoe committee members are also available to help arrange a pick up.

Committee members include: Marie Camut, 814-266-3010 April Mackell, 914-536-1589 Karen Nagavathy, 814-244-6977

#### **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.

#### ARBUTUS PET FOOD PANTRY

If you have any pet items and/or pet food that you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the church, 1201 Erickson Drive, Johnstown 15904. The first double doors of the church are open 24-hours a day. Monetary donations can be sent to the church designating the pet food pantry in the memo line. Any questions feel free to call: 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 / Irbeac@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 COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN — 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellywithattitude@gmail.com DERR, AMELIA – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / iamameliaderr@yahoo.com KABLER, ERIC—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-242-0920 / eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com LONGWELL, ERIC — 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / kb3ttx@gmail.com MOSORJAK, GARY - 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / wendel05@aol.com SIMONSICK, ROBERT—1131 Apple Jack Lane, Greensburg, 15601 / 814-493-1795 / bprabsimon@aol.com 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 WHITED, JAMES—14 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brookville 15825 / 814-592-5714 / jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

#### **LICENSED**

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

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES





Here are the current continuing education offerings from the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, open to everyone. More events are in the planning stages, so please stay tuned.

#### \*\*Important Notes\*\*

- The first two events, "Durnbaugh Events on March 20-21" and "Early Anabaptism in Global Perspectives on July 22-24," are sponsored by The Young Center. The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) ONLY provides Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for these events. To register for these YC events, please visit <a href="https://www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/events.aspx">https://www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/events.aspx</a>, or call The Young Center at 717-361-1470. To obtain CEUs for these events, pick up a CEU request form at the registration table, or email <a href="mailto:KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org">KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org</a>.
- The last two events, "Supporting Congregational Members Following Divorce" and "Caring for Congregational Members at the End of Life," are sponsored by SVMC, and registration payments are processed through SVMC. To register, either 1) click on the event title (only one event at a time); 2) visit www.etown.edu/svmc and select "Continuing Education"; 3) email <a href="mailto:KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org">KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org</a>; or 4) call 717-361-1450.

#### Events Sponsored by The Young Center (CEUs from SVMC):

Early Anabaptism in Global Perspective -- Past, Present, and Future at 500 Years July 22-24, 2025

This conference marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Anabaptist movement will revisit early Anabaptism and give special attention to the global context in which it emerged and spread. Speakers will also consider how Anabaptist history has been received by churches and academics in more recent times and in varying contexts around the world. With more than three dozen plenary sessions, papers, seminars, and roundtables by presenters from ten countries, the conference will examine such varied themes as migration, diplomacy, the arts, colonialism, peacemaking, and theological identity. Explorations of the connections between Anabaptism and Baptist, Hutterite, Liberation Theology, Quaker, Mennonite, and Radical Pietist traditions are also on the program. Roundtable sessions and seminars include a discussion of approaches to teaching early Anabaptism and a workshop on reading early Anabaptist sources in community. Optional pre- and post-conference field trips will visit area libraries and archives and the 1719 Museum.

#### **Events Sponsored by SVMC**

Supporting Congregational Members Following Divorce Tuesday, June 3, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite, Fee: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs

Divorce is a life-altering loss experience that a rising number of congregational members confront. The encounter profoundly affects their biopsychosocial-spiritual well-being and often leads to disenfranchised grief. This interactive workshop examines three types of spiritual struggles that often occur in connection with three spiritual coping methods that can facilitate healthy adjustment. Attendees will gain skills in applying the methods to supporting congregational members navigating loss and grief using a case study.

Caring for Congregational Members at the End-of-Life
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite, Fee: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs

Nearing death is as much a part of life as living. Drawing on a trifold model of terminally-ill ministry, this interactive workshop explores strategies for empowering adult congregational members at the end-of-life. Consideration of best practices in managing core ethical dilemmas persons navigate during this final lifespan stage will interweave across the discussion. A small group role-play activity provides the opportunity to apply the methods to assisting dying persons from the home to healthcare setting.

More events are in the planning stages.

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



To: COUNCIL OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVES and administrative staff

From: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Director, Office of Ministry

Re: Ministerial Ethics Training, Advanced level, offered at Annual Conference 2025

Presenter: Del Keeney, retired Brethren pastor from Mechnicsburg, PA.

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC From 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (Room location, TBD)

Cost for the Event: Cost per person is determined by your district, payable to your district office.

Registration – Please gather the names of ministers in your district who wish to register, collect any fees from each, and then turn in the names to Mishael Nouveau by June 10<sup>th</sup>. Booklets will be provided at the training.

#### Time frame for the Session

**Presentation (minimum 5 hours)** using the materials entitled "Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister" authored by James Benedict published by the Office of Ministry along with new addemdum compiled by additional Brethren authors.

Instruction, Bible study, and small group activities will focus on the skills of ethical analysis and practice applying these to both biblical narratives and contemporary "cases" and identifying factors that contribute to ethical vulnerability and ethical resilience. The Addendum explores the themes of artificial intelligence, use of social media, and intercultural competency related to ministerial ethics.

Meal on their own (1 1/2 hours)

Presentation (minimum 1 hour) of the 2008 Annual Conference document, Ethics in Ministry Relations; to be led by a district executive.

Resource booklet: Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister, with Addendum

CEUs will be granted free of charge by the Brethren Academy based on the 5-hour instructional time expected, resulting in .5 CEUs.

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

#### DENOMINATIONAL NEWS



#### **Annual Conference 2025**

Greensboro, North Carolina July 2-6, 2025 Koury Convention Center

Registration is now open!

https://www.brethren.org/ac2025/registration/



May 14-16, 2025 Elgin, IL

#### Registration is now open at:

https://www.brethren.org/dlf/newandrenew/

Early bird pricing: \$129/person until April 20 for

both on-site and virtual.

Regular pricing: \$179/person starts Monday, April

21 for both on-site and virtual.

CEU's will include both live sessions and recordings

New & Renew is a vibrant hybrid gathering focused on church planting and church renewal that is rooted in worship and prayer that equips, nurtures, and stimulates creative, practical ministry.

#### National Youth Cabinet plans for National Youth Sunday 2025 and National Youth Conference 2026

The Church of the Brethren's National Youth Cabinet met March 21-23 to discern the theme for **National Youth Sunday 2025, scheduled for May 4**, and for next year's National Youth Conference (NYC) 2026, scheduled for July 18-23, 2026, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo.

Youth members of the cabinet are

- Daniel Bowen from McPherson, Kan., and Western Plains District,
- Nissie Cadette from Coral Springs, Fla., and Atlantic Southeast District,
- **Kayleigh Chapman** from Hagerstown, Md., and Mid-Atlantic District,
- Zach Diamond from Eden, N.C., and Virlina District,
- Tyson Hall from Mount Sidney, Va., and Shenandoah District
- Katie Phipps from Bremen, Ind., and Northern Indiana District.

#### Adult advisors are

- Rod Matz of Asheville, Ohio, and Northern Ohio District, and
- Emily Van Pelt of Rocky Mount, Va., and Virlina District.



NYC coordinators **Anna Schweitzer** of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District, currently attending college in Bloomington, Ind., and **Rachel Johnson** of Atlantic Northeast District, currently serving in Brethren Volunteer Service in Elgin, Ill., also met with the cabinet. The National Youth Cabinet is accompanied by **Becky Ullom Naugle**, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Church of the Brethren. Congregations are invited to celebrate the leadership of their high school youth by participating in National Youth Sunday, with a suggested date of May 4. The cabinet selected Romans 12:4-8 as their focus scripture, with the theme "Embodying Our Gifts." Worship resources, written by the cabinet, will be available in early April at <a href="www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday">www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday</a>.



# DAY CAMPS \$110

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

**DAY CAMP #1: JUNE 16-20** 

**DAY CAMP #2: JUNE 23-27** 

**DAY CAMP #3: JULY 7-11** 

**DAY CAMP #4: JULY 14-18** 

**DAY CAMP #5: JULY 21-25** 

DAY CAMP #6: JULY 28-AUG. 1

## KICK-OFF CAMPS

GRADES K-6, 10AM -3PM

**MEYERSDALE: DATES TBD** 

BENSHOFF HILL: DATES TBD

PENN RUN/INDIANA: DATES TBD

PORTAGE: DATES TBD

**LOCATION #5: TBD** 

## OVERNIGHT CAMPS

**JUNIOR: GRADES 2-5** 

JUNIOR #1: JUNE 8-12 \s 315

**JUNIOR WILDERNESS: JUNE 15-20** 

**JUNIOR #2: JUNE 29-JULY 4** 



#### **JR HIGH: GRADES 5-8**

\$315 JR. HI. #1: JUNE 8-12

JR. HI. WILDERNESS #1 JUNE 15-20

JR. HI. #2: JUNE 29-JULY 4

JR. HI. WILDERNESS #2: JULY 20-25

#### **YOUTH: GRADE 7-12**

YOUTH #1: JUNE 8-12 \$315

YOUTH #2: JUNE 29-JULY 4

**YOUTH WILDERNESS: JULY 20-25** 

**YOUTH ADVENTURE: JULY 20-25** 





SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG



Our cabins offer the perfect retreat for families seeking a place to get away together. Located in the heart of the Laurel Highlands with adventure all around, it's the ideal spot for families to grow closer to one another and in their relationship with Jesus!

RETREAT & GROW - DISCOVER YOUR ADVENTURE - RELAX & UNWIND

Info and registration at campharmony.org/familyretreat



# WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR MAY 2025

Saturday	3 SVMC	10	17 District Leadership Team Meeting Rummel COB 9:00 am	24	31
Friday	2	9 Office Closed	16	23 Office Closed	30
Thursday	1	8 Core Leadership Team meeting via Zoom	15	22	29
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Tuesday		9	13	20	27
Monday		5	12	19	26 Memorial Day Office Closed
Sunday		4	11 Happy Mother's Day!	18	25

#### 2025 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!

#### **MAY 2025**

- 8 Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
- 10 SVMC Class
- 17 District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

#### **JUNE 2025**

No meetings or events scheduled

#### **JULY 2025**

2—6 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Greensboro NC

#### **AUGUST 2025**

- 9-SVMC
- 23—SVMC

#### **SEPTEMBER 2025**

- 11 Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
- 20 District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 27—SVMC

#### **OCTOBER 2025**

- 11—SVMC
- 18 District Conference, 9:00 am, Somerset COB
- 25-SVMC

#### **NOVEMBER 2025**

- 6 Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom
- 15 District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

#### **DECEMBER 2025**

No meetings or events scheduled

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

# THE HIGHLIGHTS May 2025