

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

November 2020

FROM THE DISTRICT MINISTER



In sermons on joy, the distinction is sometimes made between what it is to be happy and what it is to have joy. Happiness is tied to the pleasure and elation one feels from things or circumstances that are fleeting or variable. Joy is tied to the unchanging nature of our

God and of His Son Jesus. Joy is a feeling of elation that comes from knowing the LORD who is wonderful. And joy can be experienced no matter what our circumstances or the things we have access to, for our wondrous LORD is ever present to us. The love, hope, and peace that He gives to us never fades away.

If we think in terms of being happy, we could certainly say that the year 2020 has not brought us much to be happy about. Some have taken to calling this year by the Latin term “annus horribilis” – a horrible year – a distinctly horrible year.

There is truth in that. But to tell you the truth I have grown weary of hearing it. I have joked that I do not want anyone to mention the numbers “6” and “19” in my presence anymore (*referring to the “6” in 6 foot social distancing and the “19” in COVID-19*). I have grown tired of hearing about how horrible this year has been because focusing on that leads us to overlook all the wonders of God that still are present to us and that can give us great joy.

I will name a few:

- the love of God our Father
- the presence of Christ Jesus
- the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- a Bible to read
- the forgiveness of sins
- the fellowship of the Church
- the gifts of daily food and drink
- the beauty and stability of creation
- a hope for tomorrow and the hope of eternal life
- the LORD’s sovereign power and grace
- the renewing of our hearts and minds so that we become more like Jesus
- the joy of serving the Lord, the healing power of our God, the comfort of prayer the victory of God over evil

I could go on...

When we consider these things, we can have joy, a lasting elation in our spirits due to the wondrous nature of our God and the wonderful nature of all His kindnesses to us.

The Latin term for the opposite of an “annus horribilis” is an “annus mirabilis,” a wonderful year, a miraculous year. The truth is that even if 2020 has been a horrible year, it has also been a miraculous year, for God has remained ever-present to us, and His gifts of love and grace have not in any way been lessened or ended.

So we can have joy every day of what remains of 2020. Every one of those days will be a day made by the LORD. And here is the Word of the LORD to us: ***“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”***

Blessings to you!

Bill Wenger

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **DECEMBER 2020/ JANUARY 2021** issue is

November 10, 2020

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

William Wenger, District Executive

Amy Bowman, Financial Clerk

Tina Lehman, District Secretary and Highlights Editor

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 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

866-279-2181 toll free

814 479-2506 fax

www.westernpacob.org

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 has a new directory for **2021** please send one to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935
Thank you!

AVAILABLE SPEAKER

District Executive Bill Wenger is available to the District congregations to fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings, to meet with Church Boards for discussions about the mission of the congregation, and to provide teaching seminars on overviews of the Old Testament and/or the New Testament.

If your congregation is interested any of these things, please feel free to call Bill at the District Office,

814-479-2181.

Thank you.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE BOOKLETS

The 2020 Conference booklets are available at the District Office. Please contact us to pick up your congregation's copies or to make arrangements for delivery.

Even though the District didn't meet for Conference this year, it is still very important to be informed of all the things that are happening here in western PA and beyond. This booklet is a good way to stay in the know.

Thanks!

Give
Thanks
with a
grateful
heart

-1 THESSALONIANS 5:18-

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Montgomery— Naomi Freno,
Gary and Sue Henry

LEADERSHIP

Ordained

Jessica Webster—Pleasant Hill

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

For Jay Mader, husband of **Pastor Ruby Mader** and father of **Pastor Abby Shaffer** as he is recovering after a hospital stay.

For **Pastor Shelby McCoy** who is recovering after a stroke.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next **District Leadership Team** meeting will be held on
November 14, 2020

DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

November 16, 2020 meeting @ District Office

DISTRICT AUCTION

Just a reminder that the District Auction has been canceled this year. The work still continues though, so please work with your congregations to collect items, create crafts, and/or consider volunteering for next year.

EVENTS AT THE PENN RUN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

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

Drive-thru Pasta Meal **Saturday, November 6th** **from 4:00 pm— 6:00 pm**

Menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, stuffed shells, green beans, salad, roll and dessert for \$10. **To order your meal please call the church office at 724-463-0420 by Monday, November 1st.**

Craft show set-up and soup making **Friday, November 13th at 9:00 am**

Annual Craft show
Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 - 2:00
Featuring vendors, numerous silent auction baskets, and a soup sale all day.

Drive-thru Chicken Meal
Saturday, December 5th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Menu includes: baked chicken, baked potato, corn, roll & dessert for \$10. **To order your meal please call the church office the Monday prior to the meal, November 30th.**

ACROSS THE DISTRICT



The Scalp Level Church of the Brethren has switched over to a different hymnal and are giving away their previous hymnals to anyone that could use them.

They also have a plaque from Windber Woods (formerly Church of the Brethren Home) but they don't have a spot where they can use it. It is a heavy (it could be bronze or possibly copper) sculpture of Jesus with lambs. They are also giving this away to anyone that could use it.

Please contact
Scalp Level COB if you are
interested in any of these
items.

814-467-8450 or
scalplevelcob@gmail.com



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT

WALNUT GROVE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry at Walnut Grove has been serving the Walnut Grove community since 1982. The Pantry began as a service project of the church deacons, and has been able to provide continuous service through flood, financial difficulties, and even COVID 19. Any patron from our section of the 15902 zip code area is eligible to receive a food order if they declare that their income



meets government guidelines. The pantry is open on the first and third Thursdays of the month, servicing approximately 60 - 80 households. We have been blessed to receive grants from the Department of Agriculture to fund the project, along with many donations of time, supplies and financial support from area churches. We were recently approved for grants for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and will continue to work with Food For Families and the United Way to provide delicious and nutritious food for our patrons.

We have also been blessed to have a dedicated, experienced staff of volunteers from our congregation and community. With deep regret, the pantry has accepted the resignation of our long-time director, Ken Reed, and his assistant, Arn Locher. Both men have given almost thirty years of dedicated service to our mission. We will miss their wealth of knowledge and dependable work on behalf of the Pantry. We also deeply miss our friend and dedicated pantry volunteer, Russ Grasser.

Sandi Wallace has been named the new Pantry director, Marie Camut will be her assistant. New members were added to the Pantry board, including Debbie Cuppett, Jim Ivory, and Bob Wallace. Volunteers are always welcome to visit or become part of the Pantry staff.

Contact Sandi Wallace at 814-244-5867, Pastor Brad Griesheimer at 814-242-4178, or Marie Camut at 814-691-5615, to make either food or monetary donations, or to become a volunteer.

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT FUNDRAISER



GREAT NEWS!

With an additional donation of nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes from friends in Virginia, the Salisbury Church shoe shipment to funds2orgs reached more than 3,500 pairs. The profit check for the shipment totaled \$1,606. Thanks to everyone involved! With the Jerome shipment, our total in donations to the orphanage is now: **\$2,690!!**

What a difference we can make by working together!

We have begun saving for the next shipment, and as of Monday, October 5, 2020, we have already processed 1,150 pairs of shoes, well on the way to our goal of 2,500 pairs.

Remember, it's easy to participate. Simply collect gently worn pairs of shoes, boots, slippers or sandals at your church and place a rubber band around each pair. Deliver the shoes to the ICA building at 1929 Penn Avenue, in Jerome on the next collection date:

Tuesday, December 8, 2020,

between 9:00 am and 11:00 am. If this date doesn't suit your schedule, shoes may also be dropped off at the district office during office hours.

For further information, please contact:

Marie Camut, 814-266-3010,
April Mackell, 814-536-1589, or
Karen Nagyvathy, 814-244-5977.

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

We Need Your Help!

If you are interested in being a part of BDM mission trips, please contact Herb Ewald for more information at 814-539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net

2020 Schedule

Day Trips

11/17/2020
12/3/2020

Week Trips

11/8—14/2020 full Project #2
12/13—19/2020 full Project #2

Note: Due to the current situation with COVID-19, BDM trips are being postponed and canceled. Please visit <http://www.brethren.org/bdm/> for more information.

please note

When collecting all of the school and health kits, please put them into boxes and **not** bags. This makes it so much easier for shipping.

Thanks from the District Disaster Team



Global Mission Prayer Guide

Venezuela

There has been flooding affecting 300 families in the El Limon River sector of Maracay City. **Please pray for the families affected by the flooding and the relief effort of the church.**

Spain

Iglesia de los Hermanos “Una Luz en las Naciones” (“A Light to the Nations”) temporarily closed most of their churches when many of the congregants at one congregation tested positive for the coronavirus. One of those hospitalized was Doña Hilaria Carrasco Pérez, mother of pastor Fausto Carrasco and Santos Terrero and a beloved matriarch of the church. She died on Sept. 30 and will be greatly missed by all. **Pray for the church as they deal with the outbreak and death of a beloved member.**

South Sudan

Due to the effects of COVID-19 and recent flooding, much of the work being done is in agriculture and food security. Guests from the Church of the Brethren who visited in early 2020 provided funds for a foot-powered water pump that allowed early planting of vegetables. Trees were planted in a new nursery near the elementary school. The agriculturalist working with the Peace Center is teaching children how to plant and graft and has allowed students to take a tree or two to their family compounds. Athanasus Ungang, mission worker in South Sudan, has returned after a brief furlough in the USA. **Pray for the Peace Center in Torit and the ongoing agricultural work.**



Democratic Republic of Congo

Please pray for Pastor Ron Lubungo and his wife Mwangaza, whose infant son died September 29. Pastor Ron is a founding pastor of the Church of the Brethren in the DRC.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Global Mission Prayer Guide

United States

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Fall Unit 327 is currently participating in a virtual orientation. **Pray for the BVSers of Unit 327 and the locations where they will be serving.**

Honduras

Viviendo en Amor y Fe (VAF) church reports that the COVID-19 grant from the Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) was extremely helpful in their work with people in need in Tegucigalpa. The church was able to help 36 families with food for a month. Through the church's efforts, evangelism also happened by presenting a living Christ to neighbors who received food or helped prepare and deliver the food bags. **Praise God for this work and continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19.**

Nigeria

The northeast area of Nigeria where Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) is mostly located continues to struggle with insecurity and attacks from the Boko Haram. A village near Lassa was totally destroyed a few weeks ago and all the villagers are displaced. Inflation has dramatically increased the cost of food items causing many to go hungry. Some areas are reporting a good harvest, which will help the hunger crisis. EYN's Disaster Relief Ministry continues to minister to the area with food distributions (above), home rebuilding, agricultural products, education assistance to orphans, and livelihood help for widows. **Keep Nigeria and the EYN church in your prayers as they struggle with many issues.**



AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

ORDAINED

ABRAHAM, FARREL – 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / sharingpearls@comcast.net
BEACHLEY, RONALD – PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / rondbeachley@gmail.com
BERKEBILE, WES – 4285 State Route 208, New Wilmington, 16142 / 724-901-7058 / wes2375@comcast.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
GREEN, GARY – 4589 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, 15935-8217 / 814-915-0227 / pamountainman42@aol.com
HOUGHTON, JAMES “Ed”- 124 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-3019 / 814-243-0534 / jeh_124@atlanticbb.net
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
KENSINGER, JAMES - 329 Spackman Street, Seward, 15954-3117 / 814-446-1088 / kensingertj@verizon.net
MANGES, JOHN – 137 Catskill Lane, Johnstown, 15904-7523 / 814-539-3332 / manges@atlanticbb.net
MARSHALL, HOMER - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.net
MARSHALL, PATRICIA - 369 W. Church Avenue, Masontown, 15461 / 724-583-7073 / hom.run2007@verizon.net
MOSORJAK, GARY – 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-619-4238 / wendel05@aol.com
MYERS, GUY – 1271 Killiwhat Street, Johnstown, PA 15902-1224 / 814-536-2404 / pgmyers@atlanticbb.net
PERUSO, RUSSELL – 151 Blackner Road, Johnstown, 15905 / 814-242-0549 / russperuso@gmail.com
RUMMEL, DALE - 6171 Greenville Pike, Grampian, 16838-9006 / 732-809-9013 / (seasonal)
RUPERT, JACK - 409 State St., Johnstown, 15905 / 814-322-7786 / New Day: 814-535-8202 / jrupert@new-day.org
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
WALKER, LARRY - 425 Morningside Avenue, Jeannette 15644 / 724-522-5260 / larryewalker1@gmail.com
WESTLAKE, ELVA JEAN -436 Pony Farm Road, Kittanning, 16201-4639 / 724 548-4901 / ejwestlake16@gmail.com
YOST, ERIC – 1009 First Street, Windber, PA 15963 / 814-241-7753 / ewy10099@gmail.com
YOUNG, FRANK – PO Box 251 Jerome, 15937 / 814-418-5930 / sfminc@hotmail.com

LICENSED

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

LAY SPEAKER

HIMES, PATRICK—219 Wild Cat Road, Windber, 15963 / 814-418-2352
RAMER, DONNA—102 Franklin Drive, Greensburg, 15601-1305 / 724 836-0594



CAMP HARMONY'S

THANKSGIVING TO GO!



Turkey or Ham, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable,
Stuffing Balls, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert

\$10/MEAL
ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 2 @ NOON
PICKUP NOV. 8 FROM 1-3 PM AT FAITH HALL

To order:
814-798-5885
harmony@campharmony.org
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!!!



Scrapbook Retreat

Nov. 13, 4 PM - Nov. 14, 9 PM

FAITH HALL & HARMONY LODGE, CAMP HARMONY - HOOVERVILLE, PA

Retreat includes:

- **Meals** -Friday night pasta party, Saturday brunch & supper, snacks
- **On-Site Shopping** -with your favorite stores & stamping companies
- **Lots of Fun!** -door prizes, games, goody bags, make & takes

What to bring:

- Cropping supplies
- Small desk lamp
- Spill proof cup/bottle
- sweater or light jacket

PROCEEDS FROM THIS
CROP ARE DONATED TO
CAMP HARMONY FOR
PROGRAM AND FACILITY
NEEDS. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF THIS CROP!

Pricing Packages:

- **#1** - \$95 Fri. and Sat. w/ lodging
- **#2** - \$70 Fri. and Sat. commute
- **#3** - \$30 Friday only
- **#4** - \$55 Saturday only

General Information:

Registration Deadline is Nov. 6, 2020 (must be paid in advance)

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone

No refunds for cancellations after November 6 or no-shows

\$30 fee for returned checks

Bring a small extension cord if you plan on using electric

Lodging will be at Harmony Lodge - please bring your own bedding (full and/or twin) and towels

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Crop

March 26-27, 2021

BRING A NEW FRIEND!

Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook

Name: _____ Package Choice: 1 2 3 4 (circle one)
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Seat/Room me with: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Send checks and registration to:

Dorothy Gindlesperger
330 Miller Run Road
Hooversville, PA 15936



Questions about the retreat?

Liz Holbrook
814-701-1681

MrsLizHolbrook@gmail.com

Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook



**Shoebox Collection Week
November 16-23**

Bring your shoeboxes and share the Gospel around the world! Collection is Mon.-Sat. 9 am to 4 pm, Sun. 1-4 pm and Mon. 9 am to Noon. Visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ for all the info including how to pack a shoebox!



CAMP HARMONY

NUT & APRICOT ROLL SALE

Put your orders in for a traditional and delicious treat that will also benefit Camp! The sale of each nut & apricot roll will directly go to support the ministry of Camp Harmony.

Each 1-foot roll is \$10
Deadline to order is December 14

You may pick them up at Camp on
December 21 & 22 from 9-4 each day.

Rolls can be delivered to churches December 21 & 22
(with prior arrangements), just in time for Christmas!

Name & Phone	# Nut Rolls	# Apricot Rolls	Pick-up/Delivery

814-798-5885
www.campharmony.org





CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Thumbprint
Chocolate Chip
Snickerdoodle
Snowball
Oatmeal

Order by
December 16

1 dozen = \$7

2 dozen = \$13

3 dozen = \$18

Peanut Butter Blossoms



Cookie pick up at Camp on
December 21 & 22, 9-4 each day.

Cookies can be delivered to churches with prior arrangements

SPREAD
THE
HARMONY

To order:
814-798-5885

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936

www.campharmony.org



2020 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2020

- 1 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 5 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 13 - Scrapbook Retreat, Camp Harmony, 4:00 pm →
- 14 - Scrapbook Retreat, Camp Harmony, → 9:00 pm
- 14 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, Pike Run COB
- 16 - District Women's Ministries meeting, 11:00 am, District Office
- 26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- 29 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2020

- 4 - Christmas Light Show, Camp Harmony
- 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 11 - Christmas Light Show, Camp Harmony
- 13 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 18 - Christmas Light Show, Camp Harmony
- 20 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
- 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

2021 Calendar Dates will be listed in the December/January Highlights.
If you have any events to add to the District Calendar, please contact the District Office by November 10, 2020.

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

THE HIGHLIGHTS

November 2020