# THE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Western PA District Church of the Brethren

#### November 2021

#### DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECAP

The delegates of the Western PA District gathered at Camp Harmony on October 16, 2021 on a rainy autumn day for the 155th Annual District Conference. The Conference Moderator Cheryl Marszalek used Jonah 2:2

as the theme for this year. She reflected on this theme in her Moderator's Challenge.

There were a lot of changes to the format of District Conference this year. The Insight Sessions consisted of a few of short video presentations from the COB Mission and Ministry Board, Brethren Bene-

fit Trust and Bethany Seminary. In the absence of an agency display area, all conference attendees were given an info bag. This bag contained flyers and info from several District and denominational agencies, including Brethren Press and District Disaster Ministries.

The Licensed Ministers of the District were consecrated by Pastor Irvin Ernst representing the District Pastor & Parish Ministry Team. Stanley Pisarski received a certificate from SVMC for work he has completed.

Robert Rummel from the Way of Hope Christian Fellowship was installed as Moderator for 2022. Others affirmed on the slate include: Moderator Designate, Ronald Beachley (Nanty Glo); Program & Arrangements, Abby Shaffer (Rummel); Camp Harmony Board, Nick Berkey (Windber CBC), Dan Shaffer (Morrellville), Robert Wolf (Pleasant Hill); Discipleship & Reconciliation Committee, Horace Derr (Nanty Glo); District Leadership Team Chair, Peter Kaltenbaugh (Meyersdale); District Treasurer, Carol Walker (Somerset); Assistant District Treasurer, Mike Seganos (Maple Spring); District Leadership Team: Outreach & Service Team, Melody Pletzer (Pike Run); Pastor & Parish Ministry Team, Daniel Rhodes (Moxham); Stewards & Finance Team, Eric Longwell (Plumcreek).



The official Dissolution of the Church of the Brethren Home was approved by the delegates. The Congregational Withdrawal Guidelines document was passed after a 68—yes, 16—no, 2—abstain vote. Changes and updates to the Western PA District Constitution were approved with the change of keeping the Pastor & Parish Ministry Team at 5 members instead of reducing the Team to 3 members by a vote of

74—yes, 9—no. 3 delegates did not vote on this business item.

A budget of \$140,047.00 for 2022 was approved. The total reflects a \$32,892.00 decrease. There were officially 94 attendees (86 delegates and 8 District Leadership and Staff) and 36 congregations were represented. The District Van was

filled with hygiene kits, school kits, and clean up buckets for Church World Service. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously!

A very special THANK YOU to Jen Vickroy and all the folks at Camp Harmony, Moderator Cheryl Marszalek, the Program & Arrangements Committee, Abby & Dan Shaffer for their audio and visual expertise, Bob Stein for serving as timekeeper, Lisa Wirfel for serving as Interim Clerk, Nancy Myers for serving as a greeter, and everyone else who helped to make this year's conference a success!

Tina Lehman, District Administrative Assistant

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# FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **December 2021/** January 2002 issue is

#### November 10, 2021

Please send your information to <u>tlehman@brethren.org</u>.

#### DISTRICT STAFF:

Amy Bowman, Financial Clerk

Tina Lehman, District Secretary and Highlights Editor

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

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 3:15 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 <u>updated</u> information from all the churches we serve.

If your congregation will be making a new directory for **2022** please send one to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!

#### **PRAYER REQUEST**

Please keep the District Office Staff and the District Core Leadership Team in your prayers as the search continues for an Interim District Minister.

Please also be in prayer for our District as a search committee is being formed to search for a permanent District Minister.

# A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

DEAR FATHER WE HUMBLY COME BEFORE YOU WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS PRAISING YOU WITH ALL OUR BEING, FOR WE KNOW THAT EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTCOMES FROM YOU THE ONE WHO NEVER CHANGES WE RECOGNIZE THOSE GOOD THINGS BOTH LARGE AND SMALL, WITH WHICH YOU'VE BLESSED US. BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR FORGETFULNESSIN GIVING THANKS EACH AND EVERY DAY FORGIVE US IN OUR HUMANITY, LORD MAY WE LEARN TO THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD; AND MAY WE TRUST THE EVIL TO BE MADE GOOD BY YOU. FOR YOU ALONE ARE WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.

## ACROSS THE DISTRICT

#### A FEW WORDS...

By Abby Shaffer, Associate Pastor, Rummel COB

It started with the figs. We noticed our fig trees weren't budding like they should. There were no blossoms, no new sprouts, and the serious fig-tenders were concerned. They had cause to be. Soon, we heard from others who reported that their vines were not producing. Melons became scarce that year, as well as berries and grapes. Without grapes, how would we make wine? How would we celebrate the Passover, or any festival, for that matter? We wondered and waited.

Then, the olive crop failed. Never in my life had I seen those trees look so haggard. An olive tree is scraggly-looking in the best of times, but ours were struck with barren branches. We began to conserve the oil we had. It wasn't easy! Olive oil is life – we use it on our skin, in our food, to lubricate and to soothe. It becomes our firelight, both at home and in the sacred lampstands at the Temple.

And speaking of the Temple, olive oil is also sacred – we use it for holy anointing. As the work of the olive presses began to slow, so our hopes faded.

Our worst fears were realized when we lost most of the wheat and barley fields. Nobody knew why, but nothing would grow. Farmers stood on their land and wept. Children cried, too, from the hunger that pained their small bodies. When we'd had hard times before, at least we knew we could count on the comfort and savory fullness of bread. But that year was seasoned only with the salt from our tears. Finally, we turned to the livestock. We knew that without a way to feed them, they would soon be worthless. And we were so hungry. Many fires were lit; the ground was soaked with their blood. We filled our bellies one last time with the sheep and cattle we had tenderly raised.



Yes, through all of this – through sickness and fear and economic turmoil and a shortage of absolutely everything – we gave thanks to God!

When we had to drive around to three stores just to find paper towels, we gave thanks! When we looked for used cars to buy and turned up nothing, we gave thanks! When we had to spend extra on wing night with friends, we gave thanks! Semiconductors were nowhere to be found, YET, we decided to triumph in YHWH! Container ships came into port with no one to unload them, YET we rejoiced in the God of our salvation! Shopping for lumber was disappointing, YET we remembered that the LORD God of Hosts is our strength!

As a prophet, I know that the God I serve is good. Even when our people were surrounded by calamity and threats from every direction; even though many of our people had abandoned YHWH to live out their own selfish desires; even when the ground beneath our feet was crying out in grief – I held firmly to my faith and I chose to rejoice and trust in my God.

#### Will you?

Thanks, Habakkuk, for that stirring reminder of how we can give thanks in all circumstances!

And we gave thanks to God.

# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

#### **Congregation**

Montgomery— Lisa Johnson Geiger—Holly Shroyer Shade Creek/Ridge—Taylor Vebel, Ryan Yost

#### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS**

For **Pastor Mike Swick** as he recovers from surgery.

#### **DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The next **District Leadership Team** meeting will be held on **November 13, 2021** at the Somerset COB

#### NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The event will be held July 23-28, 2022. The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programing, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado Online registration will open in early 2022 on www.brethren.org

#### **VIRTUAL SERVICES**

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

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

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

**Tire Hill** Sunday Services on Facebook at 10:30 am <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tire%20Hill%</u> <u>20Brethren/1002178363177827/</u>

\*\*If your congregation is sharing services online, please contact the District Office and Tina will list the information in upcoming Highlights.

#### **ADVENT BEGINS**

The first Sunday of Advent is **November 28th** May we all be blessed as we celebrate

this Christmas Season!



# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The Greensburg COB has a job opening for a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries. This position could grow into full-time in the future. This is a newly created position and they are seeking a capable, energetic, passionate, servant-hearted, individual to take the lead in developing, implementing, and evaluating ministries, programs, and activities that encourage all children to grow in faith as Christian disciples. Specific responsibilities include organization, recruitment, implementation, and evaluation of a Sunday morning program, vacation Bible school, and children's programming and outreach. If you would like to be considered for this position, or need more information, please contact Pastor Stephen Parfitt at pastorstephengbgcob@gmail.com or 724-834-2130.

#### ATTENTION QUILTERS AND WEAVERS

#### **Must Sell:**

Quilting frame and weavers loom with accessories

Asking \$500.00 with 20% of that to be donated to Camp Harmony. Interested parties please contact: Charles or Linda Whipple 724-600-6332 No reasonable offer refused



#### EVENTS AT THE PENN RUN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

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

Pasta Buffet Saturday, November 6, 2021

Annual Craft Show Saturday, November 13, 2021

#### Call 724-463-0420 for event info.

#### QUARTET

Maple Spring COB will be hosting the Fellowship Quartet on Sunday evening, November 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come hear this wonderful quartet share their message through their music. Contact Rebecca Lichvar at <u>starteachbl@yahoo.com</u> for more information.

#### **HELP WANTED**

The Roxbury COB is planning on hiring a custodian for their church. It could be a single individual or a couple to do both the indoor and outdoor tasks. The rate of pay is \$9.00 per hour. Indoor duties would be general cleaning and minor maintenance of the building. Outdoor duties would consist of grass cutting, trimming, shoveling snow, salting, etc.

If you are interesting or know of someone who might be, please contact Claire Montoya at (814) 536-0515 for further information.

# SOME GOOD NEWS!!

#### CONCERT

#### PASTOR ROD HORNER IN CONCERT

Have you ever driven down the road listening to a CD and you have to pull over because your car has just become a sanctuary? When you listen to Rod Horner, he will give you that type of concert. High Energy and Spirit Filled.

The Hostetler Church of the Brethren is pleased to announce that <u>Rod Horner</u> will be presenting an afternoon of music and praise on Sunday, November 7th at 3:00 p.m. Audience participation with singing old favorites and more modern praise songs.

Here are some of Rod's many musical credits:

\*Kennedy Center – Organist, Pianist, vocalist

- \*\*White House Pianist
- \*\*\*Worship Leader/Accompanist Brooklyn Tabernacle, Bill Gaither Homecoming, Washington D.C's Big Band and more
  \*\*\*\*Clinician/Vocalist/Pianist with Karen Knight who is a lead actress at Sight-and-Sound.

\*\*\*\*\*And more. . .

Treat yourself to an afternoon with Rod Horner who is one of the most passionate and professional musicians from the Bedford area. More info: Pastor Irvin Ernst – (814) 754-5079



#### **ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES**

We want to wish the following couples from the Shade/Creek Ridge COB a very Happy Anniversary this year!



William and Linda Murray ♥ 50 years ♥ Butch and Carol Oravec ♥ 65 years ♥ Rich and Sandy Guilbert ♥ 50 years ♥

#### **PASTORAL CHANGES**

Pastor Ruby Mader of the Rummel COB will be retiring at the end of this year. Blessings to her as she begins this new chapter! In another bit of good news, Ruby's daughter, Pastor Abby Shaffer and Abby's husband Pastor Dan Shaffer have been called to co-pastor at the Rummel COB beginning January 1, 2022! Keep them all in your prayers as they make this transition.

Congratulations!

#### **CALL FOR GOOD NEWS**

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

Keep sending me good news to share; milestone birthdays, milestone anniversaries, academic achievements, etc. I look forward to sharing more good news from the District! tlehman@brethren.org

# SERVING IN THE DISTRICT

#### EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT FUNDRAISER



#### HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Our last shoe shipment to funds2orgs netted over \$1,500 for the orphanage in Honduras! Thanks again to everyone who was able to participate in the program.

We have started collecting shoes, sandals, boots and slippers at the ICA building in Jerome in hopes of having enough gathered for a shipment again next spring. We are off to a good start, with over 500 pairs packed and ready, but we have a long way to go and need your help to reach our goal of 2.500 pairs of shoes.

It's so easy to participate! Just collect gently worn shoes and rubber band the pairs together. Bring the shoes to the district office during business hours, or on to collection day to the:

> ICA BUILDING 1929 PENN AVENUE JEROME, PA 15937

NOVEMBER 9, 2021 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

We're looking forward to the next shipment, and hope you are too!!

Contact Marie Camut – 814-266-3010; April Mackell - 814-526-1589, or Karen Nagavathy – 814-244-6977; for details.

#### **FOOD PANTRIES**

During this Thanksgiving season, remember those who might not have a warm meal. There are many ways you can help, here are a couple:

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 as well as possibly your time as you feel comfortable. Anything you can do would be appreciated.

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# DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

go to <u>www.brethren.org</u> for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren



Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2022 Annual Conference ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate? We encourage you to talk with the person you are planning to nominate, to gauge their interest, but more importantly to talk with them about the gifts and skills you see in them, to encourage them to prayerfully consider the call, and to encourage them to fill out the information following your nomination. The nomination isn't complete until they have responded.

Please make this <u>"Request for Nominations"</u> <u>document</u> (PDF) available to the leaders and members of your congregation and urge them to submit nominations. We need nominees from every part of the church. Submit all nominations by December 1, 2021. The earlier, the better!

#### Go to: <u>www.brethren.org/ac/</u>

<u>nominations</u> to make your nomination or for more information.

# NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY



# PLANNING RESOURCES ARE ONLINE!

National Junior High Sunday is scheduled for Nov. 7 as a time for congregations to celebrate junior high youth and invite them into leadership of Sunday morning worship services. Worship planning resources are online at <u>www.brethren.org/yya/jr-high-resources</u>.

# BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE INFORMATION COFFEE HOUR

Learn about opportunities to serve with BVS through light and casual conversation

#### EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN OCTOBER 8-NOVEMBER 19 10:30-11:30 AM CST

Register: tinyurl.com/BVSCoffeeHour

Job Openings: <u>http://www.brethren.org/</u> <u>about/employment.html</u>

#### 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 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, 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 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 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 YOUNG, FRANK – PO Box 251 Jerome, 15937 / 814-418-5930 / sfminc@hotmail.com

#### **LICENSED**

PISARSKI, STANLEY – 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / <u>spisarski1017@gmail.com</u> COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-662-2525 / <u>shellywithattitude@gmail.com</u>

#### LAY SPEAKER

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



Hello from Camp Harmony!

We are excited about the upcoming holiday season, and we have a great opportunity in which you can partner with us in creating a fun event for our surrounding community.

We are planning our second annual Harmony LightFest, a drive thru celebration Christmas. It will take place the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December. This is something families and friends can enjoy in our current distancing situation.

We are seeking organizations (ex. business, church, school partners) to adopt and decorate an area of camp. For only \$100, your organization can decorate an area and advertise and help bring joy to the community.

The best decorated cabin will win a weekend retreat for your organization at Camp Harmony for the year 2022. Weekend retreats can include meal service, lodging as well as adventure elements like the low & high ropes courses, climbing wall and teambuilding. Please visit our website at www.campharmony.org to view our facilities. Voting will take place on property as well as online (pictures will be set up on our Facebook page).

In 2021 we had almost 1,500 cars come from all over the area. This is a great opportunity to get your organization's name into the community as well as spread the joy of Christmas. Our property is situated central to the Somerset, Johnstown, Ligonier, and Bedford communities.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please register online at www.campharmony.org/lightfest.

We look forward to partnering with you for this fun community event!



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CAMP HARMONY



3/DUMPLIN OR 6 FOR \$15



ORDERS DUE: NOVEMBER 1 @ NOON

PICKUP NOV. 7 FROM 1-4 PM AT FAITH HAL

# TO ORDER: 814-798-5885 HARMONY@CAMPHARMONY.ORG

DON'T FORGET... THANKSGIVING TO GO FUNDRAISER ON SAME DAY - SEE SEPARATE FLYER

CAMP HARMONY'S

(hr)







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

# \$10/MEAL ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 1 @ NOON PICKUP NOV. 7 FROM 1-4 PM AT FAITH HALL

To order: 814-798-5885 harmony@campharmony.org

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!!!

DON'T FORGET... APPLE DUMPLING FUNDRAISER ON SAME DAY - SEE SEPARATE FLYER

\*

# CAMP STORE FUNDRAISER



<sup>#</sup>spreadtheharmony

# EMAIL KYLEE TO ORDER kylee@campharmony.org BY OCTOBER 31ST.







we can find a place for you!)

experience the wonder of creation and find harmony with God. with nature and with one another.

#### EVERY TUESDAY 9 AM - 4 PM **1414 PLANK ROAD, HOOVERSVILLE**

As a thank you: Coffee and pastries at 8:45 am; lunch at noon

Contact Kayla at 814.798.5885 or kayla@campharmony.org

www.campharmony.org #spreadtheHarmony



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!

#### NOVEMBER 2021

4	- Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
7	- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)
13	- District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, Somerset COB
20	- SVMC, District Office
25	- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
28	- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### DECEMBER 2021

5	- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12	- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
19	- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
24	- Christmas Eve
25	- MERRY CHIRSTMAS!!
31	- NEW YEAR'S EVE

/EMBER 2021	WED THU FRI SAT	4 5 6	r joy, peace, and love to fill our District Churches.	10 11 12 13	our pastors as the preach the Word and offer leadership to their churches.	17 18 19 20	Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to move us to share our faith with unbelievers.	24 25 26 27	Let us praise and thank God for the grace we have received in Jesus Christ!	29   30     Let us pray that during the Advent Season we will understand more about Christ's divine and human natures.	
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# PRAYER CALENDAR

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

# THE HIGHLIGHTS November 2021