

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

November 2023

DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECAP

The delegates of the Western PA District gathered at Camp Harmony on October 21, 2023 on a cool autumn day for the 157th Annual District Conference. The Conference Moderator Ron Beachley chose the theme Bind Us Together as the theme for this year's District Conference.

Conference was condensed into a morning business session followed by a delicious lunch served by Camp Harmony. There was also a brief presentation by Traci Rabenstein from the COB Ministry and Mission Board and a few short video presentations from the Church for the Brethren.

The Licensed Ministers of the District were consecrated by Pastor Irvin Ernst representing the District Pastor & Parish Ministry Team.

Jeffery Fackler from the Penn Run COB was installed as Moderator for 2024. Others affirmed on the slate include: Moderator Designate, Amelia Derr (Pleasant Hill) Program & Arrangements, Tammy Hoover (Salisbury); Camp Harmony Board, Todd Shaffer, Jim Rose, and Kelsey Duray; Gifts Discernment Team, Wayne Bowman (Hostetler); District Treasurer, Patti Shaulis (Meyersdale); Assistant District Treasurer, Gerald Smith (Pleasant Hill); District Leadership Team: Outreach & Service Team, Marsha Smith (Pleasant Hill), Teresa Wolf (Pleasant Hill); Pastor & Parish Ministry Team, Glenna Bloom (Greenville); Spiritual Formation Team, Kaitlyn Coughenour (Hostetler); Addie Lucatorto (Good Samaritan); Stewards and Finance Team, Donna Smith (Pleasant Hill).

Moderator Ron Beachley shared an official acknowledgement of the congregations that have left the Western PA District in 2022 and 2023.

Pastor Abby Shaffer shared a report from the District Search Committee, sharing all the work the committee has been doing over the last year. She then shared the recommendation from the committee regarding the proposed 3-person District Ministry Team.



The business item of changing the District Minister position from 1 person to a 3-person team in the District Constitution was approved by the delegates.

A budget of \$137,660.00 for 2024 was approved. The total reflects a \$4,102.00 decrease.

There were officially 100 attendees (80 delegates, 20 Non-delegates, and District Leadership and Staff) and 30 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 Ron Beachley, Interim District Minister Pete Kaltenbaugh, the Program & Arrangements Committee, Abby & Dan Shaffer for their audio and visual expertise, Ruby Mader for serving as District Clerk, and everyone else who helped to make this year's conference a success!

Tina Lehman,
District Administrative Assistant

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **December 2023/ January 2024** issue is

November 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

District Ministerial Team:

Pete Kaltenbaugh, Ruby Mader, and 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

Make a note!

If your information appears in the District Directory, please be sure to send me any updates by **November 30, 2023.**

I plan to finalize the 2024 District Directory by December 31, 2023 in order to send out the new directory early in January 2024.

I need your help to keep the information current and appreciate it greatly.
Thanks!

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

Congregation

Somerset —Alexander McCoy

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-ZM8IDIo0J_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>

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

County Line COB will be having a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner on November 4, 2023 from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm.
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Cost is \$13.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 5-12

Menu: Chicken & Biscuits (gravy), mashed potatoes, cole slaw, applesauce, cake & a drink.

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 724 - 593 - 2680

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 is currently accepting donations for any pet item that is no longer needed by your family. Suggestions for donations are: pet collars, beds, bowls, leashes, etc. These items will be offered free to the clients. 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 pet pantry would gladly accept donations of cat and dog food. The church is blessed to be able to offer this program to the community. For additional information call Cheryl Edmiston at 814-410-3151.



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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 5, 2023
4:00 pm—7:00 pm

Annual Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, November 11, 2023
9:00 am—2:00 pm

Call 724-463-0420 for event info.

PART-TIME POSITION

The Roxbury COB is looking for a part time custodian.
Rate: \$9.00 per hour—15 hours per month
Job duties include: some light landscaping: weed eating, trimming hedges, and mowing. Clearing walkways and handicap ramp and applying salt in winter. Indoor light housekeeping and removing trash in the fellowship Hall, offices, kitchen, and bathrooms. Set up / break down tables for events as needed. There will be an opportunity to job shadow the outgoing custodian to ensure quality work is performed. All equipment and supplies are located at the church. Knowledge of minor plumbing and electricity is a plus. If you are interested please contact Gary Mosholder at 814 341 8717

FREE HYMNALS

The County Line COB has some old
Church of the Brethren hymnals to give away.
They are red cover and published in 1968.
The front says, "The Brethren Hymnal."
We have over 100 plus copies.
If anyone is interested, contact
Pastor Barry Conn at 814-443-4656.

FREE ORGAN

Free Wurlitzer Organ
with Multi-Matic and Percussion
Please contact Sharon Liska from the Wooddale
Church of the Brethren at 724-322-9129



MOVIE SCREENING

Locust Grove will be showing "The Blind" movie on Friday October 27th @7pm

Set in the South in the 1960s, THE BLIND shares never-before-revealed elements of Phil Robertson's life as he seeks to conquer the shame of his past, addiction, and complicated family dynamics. Ultimately finding redemption in an unlikely place, as his son Willie Robertson says, "The transformation of Phil proves that anyone can change and that there is always hope." We will be showing, "The Blind: The story of the Roberston Family" movie on Friday, October 27th. This film is not available in all areas. Tickets are ordered online (link in calendar). \$11 for Adults & \$9 for kids 12 and under. If you or someone you know does not have access to do orders online, please contact the church and we will make arrangements.

For Tickets go to:
<https://brushfire.com/faithcontentnetwork/TheBlind/562825>

If you can't order online, please contact
Pastor Mike Kenney at Locust Grove COB,
814-539-6826 to purchase tickets.

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

From Herb Ewald, District Disaster Coordinator

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

Week-long Trips

12/10/23 to 12/16/23 ½ group needed, S. PA

FOOD PANTRIES

Walnut Grove Food Pantry

<https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob/>

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/>

Pet Food Pantry at Arbutus COB

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 to Noon

Contact Cheryl Edmiston at 814-410-3151

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

GOOD NEWS!

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make our current shoe project possible. By the end of September, we had collected over 3,700 pairs of shoes at the Westmont Church. We submitted photos of the shoes to funds2orgs and our project was approved!

We entered into an agreement for shipping the shoes, and will be scheduled for a pick up date in late October or early November. We are so thankful for the continued support of our churches, the great condition of the donated shoes, and the care with which they are packed.

It makes our job of filling the bags so easy!

We hope to be able to publish the total for this collection in the November District Highlights.

Donations continue to be accepted at the District Office during regular office hours; at the Westmont Church by calling 814-255-2154 to schedule a drop off appointment; or by contacting a committee member. Committee members include:

April Mackell – 814-536-1589
Karen Nagvathy – 814-244-6977
Marie Camut – 814-266-3010.

Thanks again for your support of this program! We hope to have a great profit to help the Home give the children an even better future.

Together we can help do great things!

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

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 / 814-659-5853 / 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

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—111 Hillcrest Drive, Indiana, PA 15701 / 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

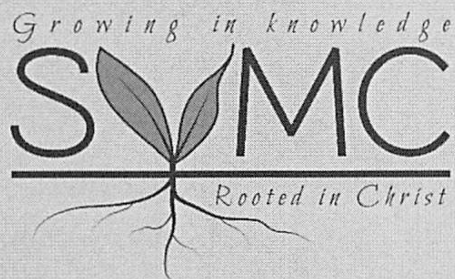
COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellywithattitude@gmail.com

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 Upcoming Continuing Education Events

Below are SVMC's current continuing education events that are open to everyone.

To register, click on the event title and follow the registration links for each event, or visit www.etown.edu/svmc and click on "Continuing Education".

Walter Brueggemann's prophetic imagination: Reviewed, Recovered, and Restored

Conrad Kanagy, Leader

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Elizabethtown College

In this seminar, we'll begin by addressing current challenges facing the church, its leaders, and its mission. We will then review the theological contributions of Walter Brueggemann to these challenges over the past five decades. We will consider how the recovery of these contributions may lead to a church that finds itself newly restored and reoriented.

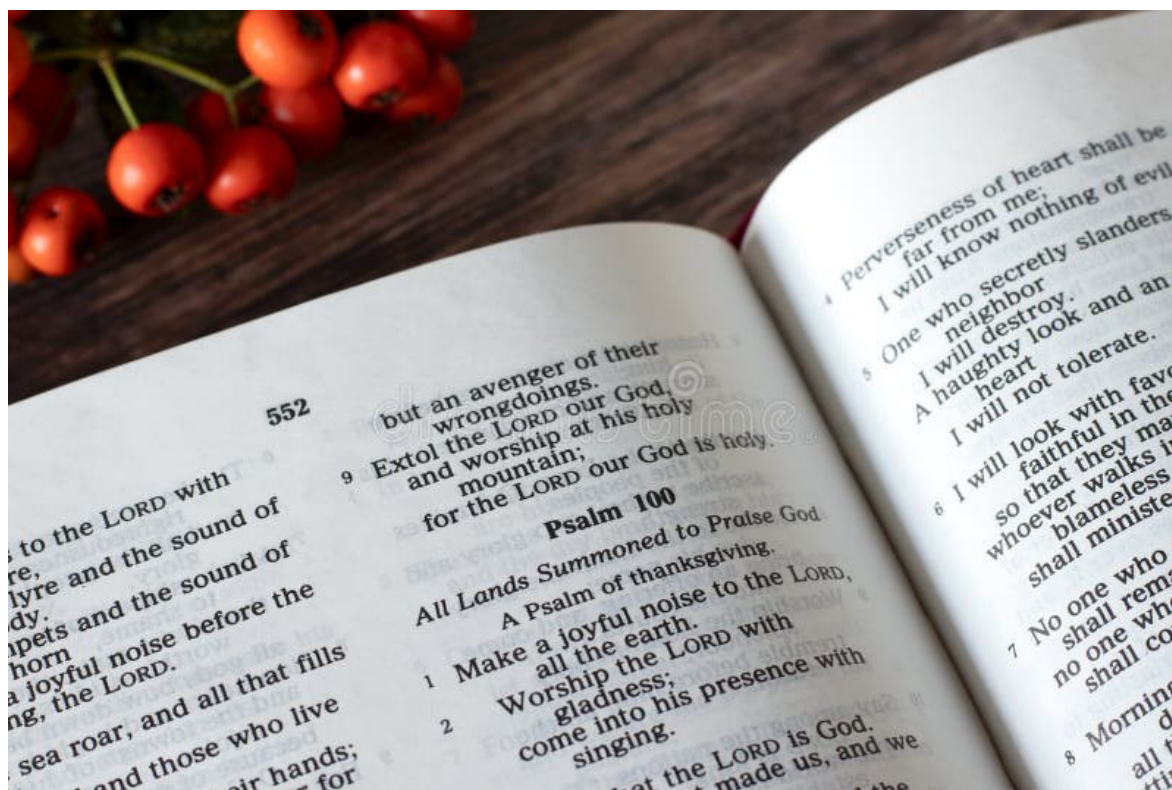
\$60.00 for .5 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch. (No Zoom option for this event)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Email: SVMC@SvmcCob.org

Phone: 717-361-1450

Updated June 21, 2023



Your invited to:

QPR for Suicide Prevention Presentation

By: Camette Standley, Certified QPR Facilitator;
Linda Goodwin, Certified QPR Facilitator.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer.

* It's not counseling or treatment but to assist in recognizing the warning signs and suicidal communications of people in trouble and to gain the skills to prevent possible tragedy. *

Saturday November 4th. 2023
9 am to 11:30 am

Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren
856 Benshoff Hill Road,
Johnstown, PA 15906-3901

*CEU's will be given to Pastors for attending.

Please RSVP by October 28th

to Kaitlyn of the COB Western PA District
Spiritual Formation Team cell: 814-521-4649

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

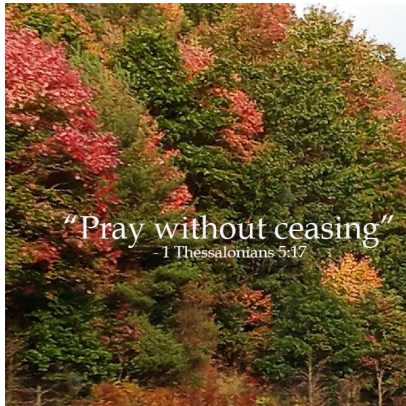
go to www.brethren.org for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

Church of the Brethren and the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy join ecumenical and interfaith calls for ceasefire in Israel and Palestine

The Church of the Brethren has joined more than 20 Christian churches and other faith-based and peace and justice groups in sending a letter to the US Congress, dated Oct. 12, mourning the loss of life in Israel and Palestine and calling for a ceasefire and the release of all hostages.

The denomination's Office of Peacebuilding and Policy signed an interfaith letter to the Biden administration and Congress, dated Oct. 16, also calling for a ceasefire. The interfaith statement was led by prominent Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Arab-American groups, and condemns all violence against civilians by Hamas and the Israeli military.

Read the full text of both statements at www.brethren.org/news/2023/church-of-the-brethren-signs-letter



Germantown church holds its official congregational anniversary celebration

Germantown Church of the Brethren in Philadelphia, Pa., held the official congregational celebration of its 300th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 8. The congregation is the first Brethren church established in the Americas. It has been celebrating its three centuries of ministry with several special occasions throughout 2023.

View an online photo album of the Oct. 8 day of Celebration at <https://churchofthebrethren.smugmug.com/Germantown-300th>

National Junior High Sunday

November 5, 2023

Theme: Worried and Distracted

Luke 10:40-42



<https://www.brethren.org/yja/jr-high-resources/>



Summer 2024

Join FaithX during Summer 2024 to serve, grow in faith, make friends, and experience something new! FaithX experiences are short-term service trips that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world so that we may learn to participate in God's vision of justice for all people. Participants will serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings, live and worship in community, make friendships, and explore a new place. **Registration for FaithX Summer 2024 opens on January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm (eastern time), and closes on April 1, 2024.**



HARMONY LIGHT FEST

New for 2023-walk thru on Fridays!

Sat. & Sun. drive-thru 6-8:30 pm

Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-23

**DRIVE UP CONCESSIONS
INCLUDING:**

**HOT CHOCOLATE
COOKIES
HOT APPLE CIDER**

**The Sweet
Life!**

**WAVE TO SANTA
JUDGE THE LIGHTS!**



**1414 PLANK ROAD HOOVERVILLE, PA 15936
814.798.5885
WWW.CAMPHARMONY.ORG**

**THIS FUNDRAISER BENEFITS THE
MINISTRY OF CAMP HARMONY!**



CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER

Order by
December 11



4 doz. cookies/platter
1 = \$25 or 2 = \$45

Each platter will contain a mixture
of the following cookies:

Chocolate Chip

Snicker Doodle

M&M

Peanut Butter Meltaways

Sugar

Peanut Butter Blossom

Oatmeal

Thumbprint



Cookie pick up at Camp on
December 20 & 21, 9-4 each day.



To order:
814-798-5885

harmony@campharmony.org

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936

www.campharmony.org



2023 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!

NOVEMBER 2023

- 5 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 9 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 11 - SVMC Class
- 18 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

DECEMBER 2023

- 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 24 - 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

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November 2023