

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

November 2025

DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECAP

The delegates of the Western PA District gathered at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on October 18, 2025 on a lovely autumn day for the 159th Annual District Conference. The Conference Moderator Amelia Derr chose the theme “If only all the hands that reach could touch” as the theme for this year’s District Conference.

Conference was condensed into a morning business session which included a delicious brunch served by the Somerset COB. There was also a brief presentation by Tracy Rabenstein from the COB Ministry and Mission Board, Doug Macias from Bethany Theological Seminary, and Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey from the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center.

The Licensed Ministers of the District were consecrated by Pastor Irvin Ernst representing the District Pastor & Parish Ministry Team and certificates were presented by Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey from SVMC, who was also welcomed as the new Director of SVMC.

Abby Shaffer from the Rummel COB was installed as Moderator for 2026. Others affirmed on the slate include: Moderator Designate, Robert Stein (Uniontown); District Clerk, Ruby Mader (Rummel); Program & Arrangements, Dan Becker (Morrellville); Gifts Discernment Team, Robert Stein (Uniontown), Irvin Ernst (Ligonier), James Whited (Greenville), Eric Shaulis (Meyersdale); Camp Harmony Board, Todd Dolan, Lacey Yinkey, Jacob Rosenbaum; District Leadership Team: Outreach & Service Team, Vinnette Showell (Salisbury); Pastor & Parish Ministry Team, Rob Rummel (Way of Hope).

District Minister Team member Pete Kaltenbaugh shared an official acknowledgement of the congregations that have left the Western PA District in 2025.

A budget of \$141,308.00 for 2026 was approved. The total reflects a \$3,720.00 increase.

There were officially 90 attendees (75 delegates, 15 Non-delegates, and District Leadership and Staff) and 26 congregations were represented.



A very special THANK YOU to Julie Stanton, Pastor Ron Barto and all the folks at the Somerset COB, Moderator Amelia Derr, District Minister Team—Pete Kaltenbaugh, Ruby Mader, and Chris Forry, 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

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FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **December 2025/January 2026** issue is

November 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

2026 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2026 District Directory will be available in January 2026. I am currently gathering updates for the new directory.

If you have any updates, please send them to me by December 15, 2025.

Any questions, 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 **2026** please send one to:

Western PA 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,

Western PA District COB
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

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



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Meyersdale — Robert Walker, Kennady Walker, Amanda Reckhart, Heather Zimmerman, Kelly Mowry, Matthew Gyorko, Tammy Warhul

ARBUTUS COB PET FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is open the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. To become a new client the only credential needed is proof of your address. This can be any type of ID such as driver's license or a piece of mail with your name and address.

We collect donations of cat and dog food. If you have an open bag of food that is not needed it can be donated to the pantry. The volunteers repackage the food for the clients. These donations can be dropped off at the Arbutus Church of the Brethren 1201 Erickson Drive in Richland. The first set of doors of the church are open 24/7.

The pantry serves approximately 110 clients per month. Items placed on a free table are offered to the clients. Anything that fits on a table can be donated. We also have pet beds and climbers for cats which go quickly. In November the free table is offers blankets to the clients. Our goal is to collect 100 blankets for this year's table. Feel free to call: 814-410-3151 if you have any questions about the pantry.



VIRTUAL SERVICES

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

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 <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-ZM8IDloOJ_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>





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Meyersdale Church of the Brethren
9 Beachley Street
Meyersdale, PA 15552*

**FEATURING HOMEMADE HAM & BEAN SOUP AND
VEGETABLE SOUP, ALONG WITH FRESH BAKED BREAD &
BAKED GOODS. COME SHOP FOR DECORATIVE HAND
TOWELS, DISH CLOTHS, BABY BIBS, ETC.**

SEE YOU THERE!



PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE WILL GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES.



Meyersdale Community Church Tour



Saturday, December 6th



Scan the QR Code below to read more on each church



Tour Rotation Schedule

Catholic Church	11:00 - 11:45
Zion Lutheran	11:45 - 12:30
Amity U.C.C.	12:30 - 1:15
Cornerstone Apostolic Church	1:15 - 2:00
Main Street Brethren Church	2:00 - 2:45
Grace Brethren Church	2:45 - 3:30
Meyersdale Church of the Brethren	3:30 - 4:15

We're excited to spend the day together visiting each church! Every stop will last 45 minutes, with about 15 minutes built in for travel and 30 minutes for fun. During their time, each church will offer a short presentation or entertainment along with a tasty snack to share. To make the journey easy, the Meyersdale Church of the Brethren will provide their church van/bus to take us from place to place. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, food, and faith together—so come ready to laugh, learn, and be filled with joy at every stop!

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security is hosting a Virtual Holiday Safety for Faith Communities Workshop

Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Morning session - 9 AM until NOON & Evening session - 6 PM to 9 PM.

*This is a Virtual event on via Microsoft Teams.

This event is to educate Pastors and Staff on seasonal safety strategies and protecting places of worship.

**Registration will be opening soon.



Save The Date...

Registrations Opening Soon!

PA Office of Homeland Security

2025 Faith-Based Pre-Holiday Virtual Workshop

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Holiday Safety for Faith Communities

Free Virtual Workshop for Faith Leaders & Members

As the holiday season approaches, join us for a timely workshop focused on:

- ✓ Seasonal safety strategies
- ✓ Protecting your place of worship
- ✓ Supporting your congregation
- ✓ Leading with confidence and care

 **Two convenient sessions: Morning & Evening**

Cost: Free | **Format:** Virtual | **Who Should Attend:** Faith-based leaders, staff, volunteers, and concerned members

Let's work together to ensure a safe and peaceful holiday season.



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES

**B-D-M
NEEDS
Your Help!**

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 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 hjewald@atlanticbb.net or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2025 Schedule

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



With Grateful Hearts

The shoe committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone throughout the district who has taken the time and effort to support our project! On October 9, after many months of collecting and storing shoes, a group of volunteers met at the Westmont church to meet the funds2orgs truck. Most of us wouldn't have been considered young, but with a great group effort, we were able to load 4,225 pairs of shoes onto the truck in about 30 minutes. Just a week later, we received confirmation from funds2orgs office in Florida that our shipment earned \$2,146.50. This is our highest shipment total to date!

We are thrilled to be able to support the work of the El Hogar de Ninos Enmanuel, and are thankful for the support of the district churches and individuals who gather, assemble, and deliver shoes. Special thanks to the Westmont church for storing the shoes, and the district office staff for coordinating deliveries.

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.



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

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



CAREGIVERS CAFE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH.

RUMMEL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

3432 GRAHAM AVE. WINDBER, PA

1:00 PM | LIGHT LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

National Family Caregivers Month

Caregivers give tirelessly - often putting others first while their own needs go unseen. This November 8th, we invite you to join us in an afternoon of recognition, gratitude and connection as we raise awareness to the unique challenges caregivers in our churches and community, face daily. Together, we can foster a stronger network of support to ensure our caregivers know they're not alone, and not forgotten.

Care for a Caregiver !!!

- **Extend a personal invitation and accompany them**
- **Offer to care for their loved one so they can attend**
- **Cover their \$10 registration fee**

Everyday, Caregivers give their time, energy & love to care for others - often at the expense of their own health & well-being. By sponsoring a caregiver, you're giving them a moment of rest, recognition and an opportunity to connect and share with others.



Please register using the QR Code **OR** by contacting **Linda Goodwin** at **717-514-7825**

by **November 1st**

\$10/per person

Payable to Rummel COB

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is offering a series of relevant and engaging continuing education events for both clergy and interested laity. While credentialed clergy can earn continuing education units, these topics will also benefit lay participants. We encourage you to share these events with others, as everyone is welcome to register. To register, either: Click on the event title and follow the registration link, Scan the QR code, Email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or Call 717-361-1450.



The Shape of Ministry in a High-Tech World

Monday, September 15, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • Elizabethtown College & Zoom

Leader: Dan Podeski

Fee for In Person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs; \$55.00 for no CEUs.

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

From the barrage of social media platforms to website presence to electronic communications enabled by computers and smartphones to a 24/7 cultural expectation of availability, the shape and landscape of ministerial leadership have needed to shift to thoughtfully incorporate these tools into one's ministry practices. In this daylong workshop, we will address several key concepts and questions related to the use of tech tools in one's ministry.



Caring for Congregational Members at the End-of-Life – for Pastoral Leadership

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

Fee: \$35.00 for 3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs

Nearing death is a crucial 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. This session is designed for pastors; laypersons are encouraged to attend a similar session on October 28. See below.



Supporting Terminally-Ill Congregation Members – for Laypeople

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

Fee: \$20.00 per person for groups of 3 or more who are joining together as a group -- with one Zoom link, or \$25.00 per person if participating individually (not in a group)

Persons seek peace, hope, and meaningful personal/spiritual moments until death. Dedicated caregivers' supportive presence and ease in relating to congregational members at the end-of-life shapes the biopsychosocial-spiritual journey. Drawing on a trifold model of terminally-ill ministry and best practice methods in communication, this interactive workshop explores strategies for supporting and empowering adult members of the church community. This session is designed for laypeople. Pastors are encouraged to attend a similar session on October 7. See above.



Weakness Transformed in the Gospel of Matthew

Saturday, November 1, 2025 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • Stone Church of the Brethren & Zoom

Leader: Dan Ulrich

Fee for In Person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs; \$55.00 for no CEUs

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

Paul was the apostle who heard Christ say, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9); Paul was not alone, however, in teaching that God works through human weakness in powerful ways. In this continuing-education workshop, we will find inspiration from the Gospel of Matthew to minister faithfully in situations where we or our congregations feel weak. Visual and performative arts will help us engage imaginatively with selected scriptures to deepen and strengthen discipleship. Since the Revised Common Lectionary features Matthew in 2025-26, preachers may encounter ideas they can develop into sermons for the coming year.



Scrapbook Retreat

NOV. 7, 4 PM - NOV. 8, 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**

General Information:

Registration Deadline is Oct. 29, 2024 (must be paid in advance)

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone

No refunds for cancellations after Nov. 3 or no-shows

\$30 fee for returned checks

Bring an 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



Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook

Name: _____ Package Choice: 1 2 (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

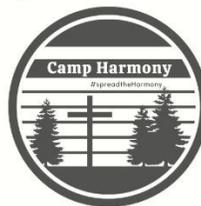
Camp Harmony | Still Waters '25

MAKE
ROOM
John 15:1-17

November 21-22, 2025

For women high school age & up

*Join us for a weekend of food, fellowship,
worship, and time in the Word. We will spend
the weekend discussing how we are called to
abide in Jesus, and to let the Lord prune us to
make room for all He has for us.*





CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER

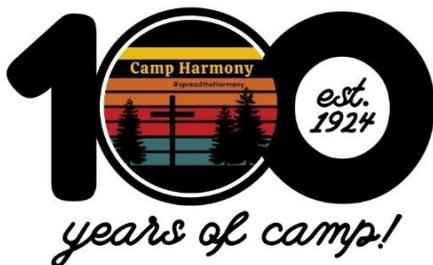
Order by  December 8 4 doz. cookies/platter
1 = \$25 or 2 = \$45

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 18 & 19, 9-4 each day.



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

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936
www.campharmony.org





Winter Day Camp

Grades K-6

December 13, 2025
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

We may be missing the sunshine,
but we miss our campers more!
Reunite with your camp friends
for an awesome day at camp!

\$20 per camper

Register now at
www.campharmony.org



YOU ARE INVITED TO

CAMP HARMONY'S

Christmas

DINNER

DECEMBER

18

AT 6:00 PM

1414 PLANK RD.

HOOVERVILLE PA. 15936

Worship, Teaching & Fellowship

\$35 INDIVIDUALS

Register today,

814-798-5885, Austin@campharmony.org



Camp Harmony
est. 1924

BREAKFAST
With Santa

DELICIOUS FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | PHOTO WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2025 | 8 AM-11 AM

Pre registration recommended , 814-798-5885 or
Austin@campharmony.org
Ages 3 under free
Ages 3-12 \$5. 12+ \$10.00
1414 plank rd. Hooversvill Pa. 15936 [www. Campharmony.org](http://www.Campharmony.org)

Youth Winter Retreat

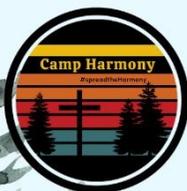
Grades 6-12

January 9-10, 2026

\$50 per camper

There's no better way to start a new year
than spending a weekend back at camp!
Join us for fun, fellowship, & friends!

Register now at www.campharmony.org

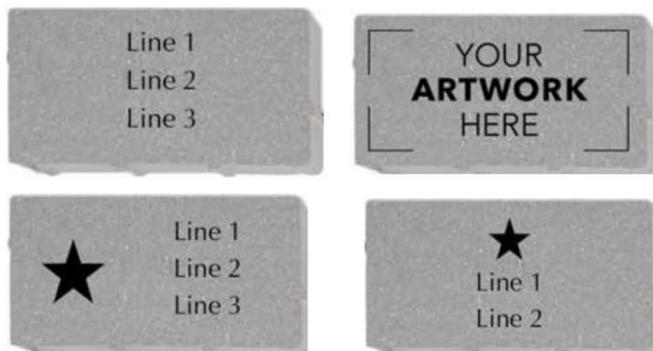




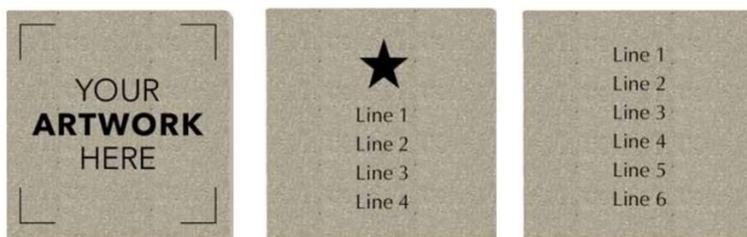
Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

Camp Harmony is seeking your support in fundraising to continue the pool restoration project. Bricks given through this campaign will create a pathway to the pool and the funds will go to our Camper Scholarship fund.

Brick Options include 4x8 engraved.



Brick Options include 8x8 engraved.



You may individualize a brick for you, your family, your business, your church/organization, honor a loved one, or make a memorial. The bricks are engraved using state of the art laser technology. Every brick engraving is guaranteed for life!

Order Online at www.campharmony.org
Or email Phil@campharmony.org for more info!

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Core Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom	Office Closed	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						District Leadership Team Meeting 9:00 am
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Office Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Advent 30	31			Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	Office Closed	

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 10th of each month. Thanks!

NOVEMBER 2025

6 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

15 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

DECEMBER 2025

18—Christmas Dinner at Camp Harmony

20—Breakfast with Santa at Camp Harmony

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

THE HIGHLIGHTS

November 2025