

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

October 2025

DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES

Pastor Appreciation

One of the joys of serving as a member of the District Minister Team is the opportunity to visit other congregations in our District. On August 24, 2025 my husband Jay and I were at County Line. The Sunday School lesson was from Hebrews 13:9–21. The lesson emphasized offering a sacrifice of praise through our lips and the importance of living a life of good works full of sacrificial sharing with others. Yet there was a verse in this scripture selection that may have been skimmed over in some congregations: “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17 NIV

As an ordained minister who served as pastor to one congregation for over eighteen years, I can assure you that pastoral work is often a great joy! Oh, the thrill of leading a soul to salvation in Jesus! Oh, the delight of welcoming new members into the church, as they bring their faith and gifts to enhance the body of Christ! Oh, the joy of seeing a believer’s faith and in turn their commitment to the Church increase! Oh, the hope that springs forth as prayers are answered and miraculous healings of body, mind and spirit unfold!

However, I can also assure you that pastoral work is often a great burden. Oh, the heartsick awareness of souls unsaved and lost for eternity! Oh, the pain of grief and loss for many when a loved one passes away!

Oh, the annoyance of interrupting phone calls from members for information they could easily find in their weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter! Oh, the frustration caused by members who fail to keep their commitments to serve Christ’s Church.

The Message translation interprets Hebrews 13:17 this way: “Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. **Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?**”

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Please take time to send a card or a kind note to your pastor. Show appreciation, in a real way, for the care he/she gives to you and your congregation. **Contribute to the joy of their leadership!** It’s always time to celebrate, acknowledge and appreciate our pastors who work in love and grace to make God’s world a better place!

Ruby Mader, District Minister Team

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FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the
November 2025
issue is

October 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

Somerset — Marlene Braeseker, Josiah Yost



HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

The Penn Run COB will be hosting a Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, November 8, 2025

There will be a Soup Sale, Silent/Basket Auction, and Church Bake Sale



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>



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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.



SOME GOOD NEWS!!

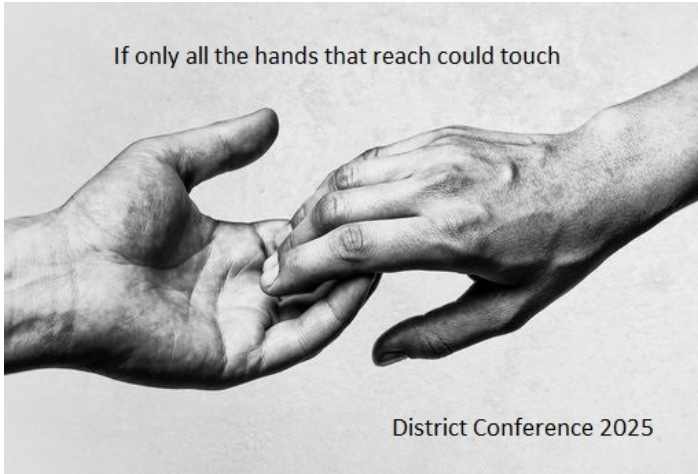
The Rummel COB again hosted our annual Clothing Giveaway in August - this year was the biggest one yet! Many people were happy to donate clothing, shoes, and bags - knowing that they would be given, not sold. We estimate that between 300-400 people came to our church to shop - it was a great day, and many families were able to get items for their kids at the start of a new school year.

All the leftovers were divided between two year-round ministries, one in Johnstown and one in Hollidaysburg. It takes a tremendous amount of work, but God increases the yield from our efforts more and more each year!

If you're interested in holding an event like this, feel free to reach out to me for ideas and encouragement. Abby Shaffer, abramash10408@gmail.com



DISTRICT CONFERENCE



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District Conference
will be held on

October 18, 2025 at 9:00 am
at the

Somerset Church of the Brethren
606 Berlin Plank Road
Somerset, PA 15501

Registration deadline is
October 1, 2025

Please contact the District Office
at 814-479-2181 if you have any questions.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

Church world service kits will not be collected this year at District Conference. Since the conference will be held at the Somerset COB, there is no place for them to store the kits until they can be delivered.

If your congregation is collecting kits, they can be delivered to the District Office during office hours please call the D.O. at 814-479-2181 to schedule a time to drop them off. Thank you!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE THEME SONG

An email was sent to all the congregations on May 22nd that contained the District Conference Theme song for 2025. There was a link to the song sheet, PowerPoint with words and music, and a song file that can be played in your church. Please share this with your congregations as we will be singing this song at District Conference this year. If you did not get a copy of these files, please contact Tina at the District Office at tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE BOOKLETS

District Conference Booklets are ready to be picked up at the District Office. Please call 814-479-2181 to make sure someone will be in office for you to pick them up.

If you are not able to get to the District Office, please call us as well and we will make sure to get them to you. Thank you!

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTRIES

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 [hjeward@atlanticbb.net](mailto:hjewald@atlanticbb.net) or (814) 539-8530, (C) 814-691-5718

2025 Schedule

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. 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 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.



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

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 Podde

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 • 9:30 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. 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.

CAMP CRAZE

OCTOBER 13
9AM-2PM



GAMES,
Fun, *Friends,*
& FREE

GRADES 5-9

REGISTER ONLINE



www.campharmony.org





CAMP HARMONY

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

DUMPLINGS: 2=\$8 OR 6=\$20

ORDERS DUE:
OCTOBER 28

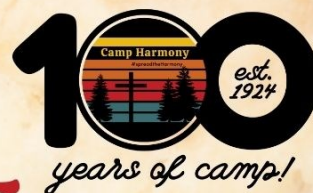
PICKUP NOVEMBER 6&7 9-4 EACH DAY



TO ORDER:

814-798-5885

Austin@campharmony.org





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

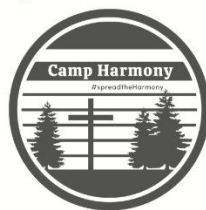
MAKE ROOM

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	Snickers 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

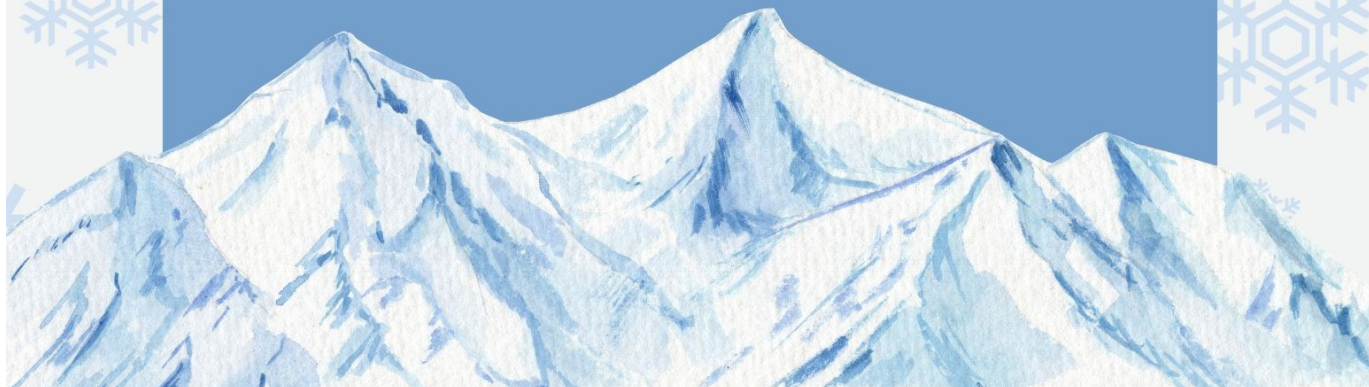
Grades K-6

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







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. Hooversville Pa. 15936 [www. Campharmony.org](http://www.Campharmony.org)

Youth Winter Retreat

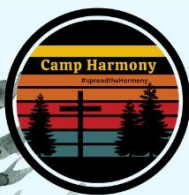
Grades 6-12

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

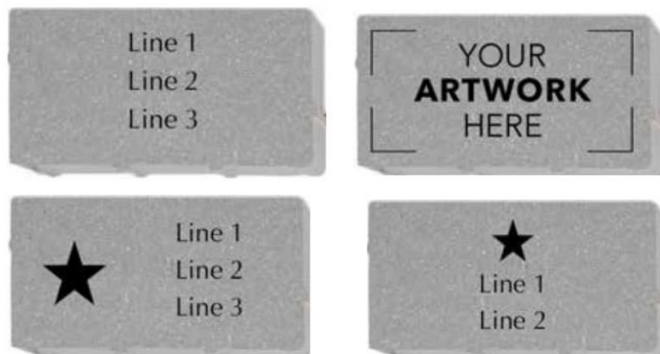




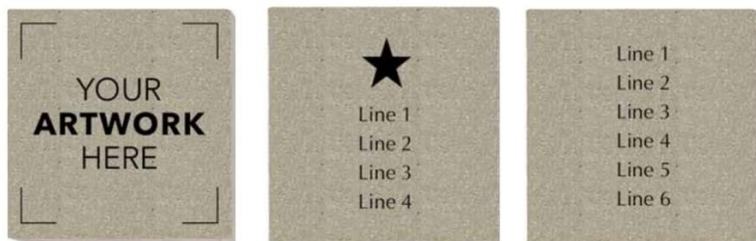
Leave your mark at Camp Harmony!

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 memoriam. 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 OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Office Closed	11 SVMC
12	13 Office Closed	14	15	16	17	18 District Conference Somerset COB 9:00 am
19	20	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 SVMC
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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!

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

October 2025