

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

September 2023

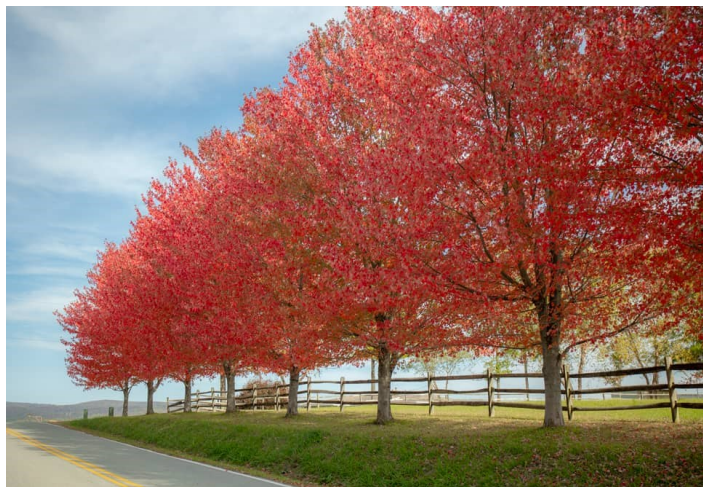
HOW ARE YOU DOING?

By the time we read the September Newsletter, most children are back at school, football season has already broken a few hearts and many have wandered back into worship after taking the summer off.

Annual Conference is in the books and District Conference looms on the horizon. For those who did not attend the Annual Conference in Cincinnati; I report that very little was accomplished and nothing changes us from continuing to serve Jesus Christ in the neighborhood and beyond.

Here at home we have congregations busy inviting and encouraging those who have been absent to come back to worship. Bible studies will soon renew and choirs might start practice again. Plans for Fall Festivals might be underway and teachers are gearing up for Sunday School. Some will struggle with looking at budgets and expenses and even a few with their congregation wanting to stand alone without denominational ties. As someone said "We want to decide who we are!" I am always confused by those expressions, for we in the Church of the Brethren are congregational in structure and function.

Each congregation deciding what statements, type of service, missions they will support and ways they will work for Jesus in sharing His Love. Look around if you're truly interested; each congregation is different from each other COB congregation. Pastors dress differently, develop and deliver Sunday messages differently, service formats are varied, Love Feasts differ and even our beloved communion bread differs from congregation to congregation. Then someone points out that a congregation some where did something different and people get upset. Really? We are followers and believers in Jesus Christ! We individually and also collectively, walk with Him and serve Him!



How will you, following Christ in the community you have chosen with others, serve and live with that community of faith? What do you do in your community? How do people identify you and your church in the community? The dying church, the giving church, the welcoming church or the church that cares? Ask around and you might be surprised. Some may say; "Oh, I thought they closed years ago. Don't go there, they are judgmental. They really care about children. They reach out all the time to the community. I don't know anything about them. They think their better than others. Really nice people you will want to go there. They pray and follow up with love".

Just what does your community think about you? Do not grade yourselves! Ask around and discover if the community outside your church walls think you are serving Jesus Christ. Getting a passing grade? Not just a grade for attendance but how are YOU and the CONGREGATION doing? Final grades are not in yet. Are you looking forward to the day when you stand before the Lord? Don't you want to hear from Jesus: "Welcome Home, Good and faithful servant!"? How are you doing?

Pete Kaltenbaugh, Interim District Minister

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **October 2023** issue is

September 10, 2023

Please send your information to tlehman@brethren.org.

DISTRICT STAFF:

Peter Kaltenbaugh, Interim District Minister

Amy Bowman, Financial Clerk

Tina Lehman, District Secretary and Highlights Editor

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

866-279-2181 toll free

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 will be making a new directory for **2024** please send one to the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935
Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please keep the District Office Staff and the Interim District Minister as well as District Leadership Team in your prayers as they continue to work in the district during this time of transition.

Please also be in prayer for the District Search Committee in their search for a permanent District Minister.

2023 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2023 District Directory has been sent out via email and postal mail.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2023 District Directory, please contact, tlehman@brethren.org or 814-479-2181

Thank you!

THE GRASS
wither
THE FLOWER
FADES, BUT THE
WORD OF OUR
GOD WILL
STAND FOREVER

ISAIAH 40:8

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Hi Everyone!

This is just a few items of information regarding District Conference this year.

**District Conference will be held on
Saturday, October 21, 2023
at 9:00 am at Camp Harmony**

The registration deadline is
Sunday, October 1, 2023.

****There will be NO on-site registrations this year so
please be sure to register BEFORE October 1st.****

Registration forms are available
on the District website at

<http://www.westernpacob.org/conference.html>

District Conference Booklets will be finished by
August 31, 2023 and will be ready for pick-up
at the District Office. If you cannot pick-up your
congregation's booklets in-person, please contact
me the District Office at 814-479-2181 to make
other arrangements. I'm also going to try this year
to send the booklet in PDF form via email to my
contacts.

There have been some questions about the kits for
CWS. We are asking that your delegates bring any
kits from your church to District Conference to be
placed into the District van. This is to ensure that
the kits will get distributed in a timely manner.

Please also be in prayer for District Conference,
District Leadership, Camp Staff, Delegates and
Non-delegates, and everyone else involved in
planning this event as well as our congregations.
Thank you.

Tina Lehman, District Administrative Assistant

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

PHONE CALLS TO THE OFFICE

If you need to contact Pastor Pete, Amy, or Tina,
please contact the District Office at 814-479-2181.
There is a voicemail system where you can leave a
message for Tina, Amy, or a general message for the
staff or Pastor Pete. Please only contact District
staff on their cell phones if there is an emergency.

We also ask that if you need to contact the staff via
their cell phone, please call before 9:00 pm unless it
is an urgent emergency.

Messages are checked every day and we will return
calls as promptly as possible. Thank you for all of
your support over these last few challenging years
and we appreciate all your prayers and kind words.

Blessings to you,

The District Office Staff

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NEW MEMBERS

Congregation

Meyersdale—Kyle Petroski, Georgia Walker,
Charlene Fike

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The next **District Leadership Team**
meeting will be held on
September 16, 2022 at the Penn Run COB

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

The following congregations looking for
part-time pastors: **Plumcreek and Pike Run**
Interested pastors please contact the District Office
at 814-479-2181.

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

FREE HYMNALS

The County Line Church 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.



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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-ZM8lDloOJ_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>



AN INVITATION

New to the Monroeville or Pittsburgh area?

The Monroeville Church of the Brethren
invites you to worship with them!

481 Center Road,
Monroeville, PA 15146
412-372-4165

Worship and Fellowship
on Sundays 11:00 am
You can also like us on Facebook

PET FOOD PANTRY

The Arbutus COB supports the Walnut Grove COB's food pantry with donations and food items on a regular basis. The need was felt that there should be a way to offer the clients at Walnut Grove the opportunity to shop for free at a Pet Food Pantry at the Arbutus church. Walnut Grove was delighted to offer this program to their shoppers.

The Pet Food Pantry is open the **second** Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to Noon at the Arbutus COB.

They have been open since May 2023. It is a slow process to start a new program but so far they have been able to serve 7 families that have cats and dogs helping to redirect their finances from purchasing pet food to using the money saved for other essentials in their lives.

If you would like to make a donation, or for more information ,contact Cheryl Edmiston at 814-410-3151

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

New Windsor Trips

No Trips Scheduled

Week-long Trips

10/1/23 to 10/7/23	½ group needed, A.N.E.
10/29/23 to 11/0/23	½ group needed, location TBA
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/>

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

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!!

Sincere thanks to everyone who has been collecting shoes for our next shipment. With your help, we have surpassed the 2,500 pairs of shoes needed for a minimum shipment. Each additional pair donated adds to the weight of our shipment and increases our profit for the Enmanuel Children's Home.

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 for pick up so easy! Our final collection day for this shipment is scheduled for :

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
WESTMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
2301 SUNSHINE AVENUE
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

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 fulfill the wish list recently received from the Home. It includes the purchase of a transformer, generator, bakery equipment, and construction of staff housing.

Together we can help do great things!

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

A Time for Revival at Geiger COB
with the Keystone Quartet



In preparation for their World Wide Communion and Love Feast the folks at Geiger CoB have invited their friends from the Keystone Quartet to join them for a time of revival on Saturday evening, September 23, 2023.

This joyful program will begin at 7:00 pm. Please invite your friends and family to experience this beautiful, inspirational service. A free-will offering will be lifted.

Questions? Simply email: pastorsjandl@gmail.com.



We Welcome You
to attend
Hostetler Church's

Annual Chicken BBQ

**Saturday September 2nd,
starting at 4:00pm**



Hostetler Church of the Brethren
2344 Sand Spring Rd
Meyersdale PA 15552

LORD

Bless this new school year.
Let it be a year filled with
your grace, favor, and
goodness.

In the name of Jesus' amen.



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

MADER, RUBY—2101 Cambria Avenue, Windber, 15963 / 814-467-5265 / redhatvicar@yahoo.com (June, July and August only)

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

LICENSED

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

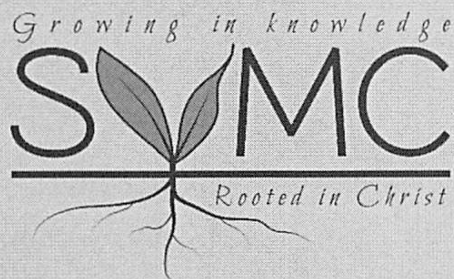
COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / shellywithattitude@gmail.com

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.etonw.edu/svmc and click on "Continuing Education".

Priesthood of all Believers

Denise Kettering-Lane, Leader

3-part Zoom series – Mondays: September 11, 18 & 25, 2023, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Have you ever heard the phrase "priesthood of all believers" or seen the phrase "Ministers: All members of the congregation" in a bulletin and wondered what it meant? We will spend three sessions unpacking the theological, historical, and practical implications of the priesthood of all believers and discuss its relevance for participants' current ministry settings.

Registration is free but required. Donations welcome. CEUs (.15) are available for \$10.00 per session.

Neurocognitive Disorders: Supporting Parishioners

Kimberly Korge, Leader

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 9 AM – 3 PM, Cross Keys Village

Understand what dementia is and how it differs from Alzheimer's disease; discuss tips to manage difficult situations and conversations with parishioners; describe the significance of trauma and how it might present in those living with a neurocognitive disorder; identify strategies to support parishioners impacted by trauma.

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

Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message for Today

Steve Schweitzer, Leader

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 9 AM – 3:30 PM, Juniata College

The book of Deuteronomy is a central text containing key themes that shape the Old Testament and its relationship to the New. In this study, we will explore the historical, literary, and theological contexts for understanding the message and content of Deuteronomy.

\$60.00 for .55 CEUs; \$50.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom option: \$40.00 for .55 CEUs or \$30.00 for no CEUs.

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



PART-TIME PASTOR FULL-TIME CHURCH

NEWS



"Let's refill"

Those are the words that are the beginning of short videos created by Erin Matteson, now called A Resting Place.

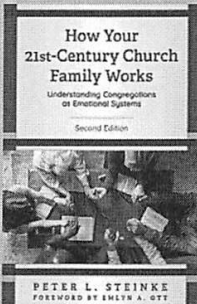
These are quick videos intended to give everyone, but especially part-time pastors, an intentional couple minutes to have sacred time to rest and renew. Currently, Erin has three videos that can be found on Instagram, Facebook, and Vimeo. A Resting Place will feature other pastors and spiritual leaders to offer a variety of perspectives and insights. The next video will feature Rachel Witkovsky from Palmyra, Pennsylvania. Please follow our pages and share these meaningful videos with someone today!



@ptpftcbrethren

Beginning on July 11, Circuit Rider John Fillmore began facilitating a 10-week discussion on Peter Steinke's book, *How Your 21st Century Church Family Works*. Using the insightful perspectives of Family Systems Theory, Peter Steinke offers a helpful road map to navigate some of the complex actions and reactions that occur in a congregational system. His book explores the landscape of emotional relationships within the church. Open to pastors, book studies offered by the program share resources and link pastors with one another. CEUs are available, and the Part-Time Pastor/Full-Time Church Program will provide participants a copy of the text.

Look for John's next book study featuring "Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World" by Gil Rendle, beginning October 3rd with registration information in early September.



Join us on Monday September 18 at 7 PM EST/6 PM CST for a one hour webinar entitled **Positively Irritating**. The webinar will feature Jon Ritner, author of the book, *Positively Irritating*.

The Western church finds itself in the midst of a seismic cultural shift, as secular paradigms threaten to remove any spiritual explanation for life, and Christianity is often viewed with skepticism and cynicism. Rather than perceiving these ongoing challenges as irritants to expel, it's time to see them as opportunities to embrace, so that we might effectively serve the world around us and form a more robust and Christlike church. Jon Ritner invites you on his journey across two continents, as he moves away from a discipling strategy relying on property, programs, and professionals to one that empowers all the people of God to join his mission and make disciples in the everyday spaces of life.

Registration opens soon!

WHAT CAN PTPFTC DO FOR YOU ?

Part -Time Pastor Full-Time Church offer grants and assistance for the following:
District pastoral events
CEU credit courses and programs
Self care opportunities
 Email officeofministry@brethren.org for questions and more information

Camp Harmony

(Non-Profit Organization)



ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 18, 2023
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

.....

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS***
 - **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
At every Boscov's store
-

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

Purchase Shopping Passes from:

Deb/Camp Harmony – 814-798-5885 or Ginny/Pleasant Hill COB – 814-243-4540

For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](https://www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)

*Exclusions Apply

CAMP HARMONY

Sunday, October 22, 2023 – All Day Fundraiser Hoss's in Johnstown



Dear Friend of Camp Harmony:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location listed below on 10/22/23 to aid us in raising money to benefit Camp Harmony.

Print this email and present it on 10/22/2023 at Hoss's in Richland Township, Johnstown and Hoss's will donate 20%* or 25% of your total check paid to Camp Harmony.**

*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

**To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION!

Thank you for your cooperation!

Group #127993

Please print and present this paper when ordering or take a picture and show it to the hostess in order for camp to get credit for your purchase.



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!

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 4 - LABOR DAY
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 9 - SVMC Class
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, Penn Run COB

OCTOBER 2023

- 1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 14 - SVMC Class
- 21 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony
- 28 - SVMC Class

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

THE HIGHLIGHTS

September 2023