

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

August 2024

DISTRICT MINISTER TEAM NOTES

On Saturday, June 22nd and Sunday, June 23rd, the Western PA District pastors gathered for a 6-hour ethics training, as required by the Church of the Brethren Ministry Office. This ethics training is one component of the pastors ordination review conducted every 5 years. Saturday's class was hosted by the Somerset Church of the Brethren and Sunday's class was hosted by the Uniontown Church of the Brethren. Pastor Del Keeney from Mechanicsburg presented the training.

I mention this training, as ethics are an important component of leadership. Ethics are important for each of us as we live our daily lives. God emphasized the importance of ethics when he conveyed to Moses the Ten Commandments in Exodus 19. The Ten Commandments are the foundation of Godly living. God's Ten Commandments for ethical living are found throughout many of our state and federal buildings and serve as the underpinnings of our laws today.

In Matthew 5 we read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and The Beatitudes, again outlining the tenants of who are blessed in God's eyes, providing an additional directive for Godly living. I invite you to take a moment to reread Exodus 19 and Matthew 5 for we are all flawed and we all stray from God at times.

Ethics can be applied to various aspects of our daily lives, at home with our families, at work, in social settings, and our interaction with strangers we encounter daily. The Church of the Brethren in 1992 at the Annual Conference adopted a document titled, Ethics for Congregations. The paper was revised in 1996 and 2008 and renamed, Ethics in Ministry Relations.

In 2009 at the Western PA District Conference, a query was approved to be submitted to the Annual Conference seeking a uniform denominational process by which districts might deal with a congregation that engages in questionable ethical activity. At the 2010 Annual Conference, the Standing Committee approved the W. PA District's query and sent it to a committee for review. The committee reviewed the query and reported back to the Annual Conference in 2014 with their recommendations for revisions to the 2006 Ethics in Ministry Paper. The committee proposed a new document titled, Congregational Ethics Polity, it was adopted by the Annual Conference delegates, at the 2014 Annual Conference. The QR Code or the link below will take you to the Congregational Ethics Paper.

The paper covers scriptural visions of the church, the church and its relationships, practices of awareness, assessment and accountability, the code of ethics, and recommendations for implementation of congregational ethics polity. Ethics are not just applicable to pastors, but to each of us who make up the church. I invite you to review the Congregational Ethics Polity, as it is founded in scripture, that can serve to strengthen our faith communities.

Blessings ,

Chris Forry
WPA District Minister
Team



<https://www.brethren.org/ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/09/2014-guidelines-for-implementation-of-congregational-ethics-paper.pdf>

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the **September 2024** issue is

August 10, 2023

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

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

The 2024 District Directory was sent out in January. Please be sure to send me any updates and/or corrections as soon as possible so I can list them in the Highlights.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2024 District Directory, please contact me at tlehman@brethren.org or 814-479-2181.

Thank you!
Tina

REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

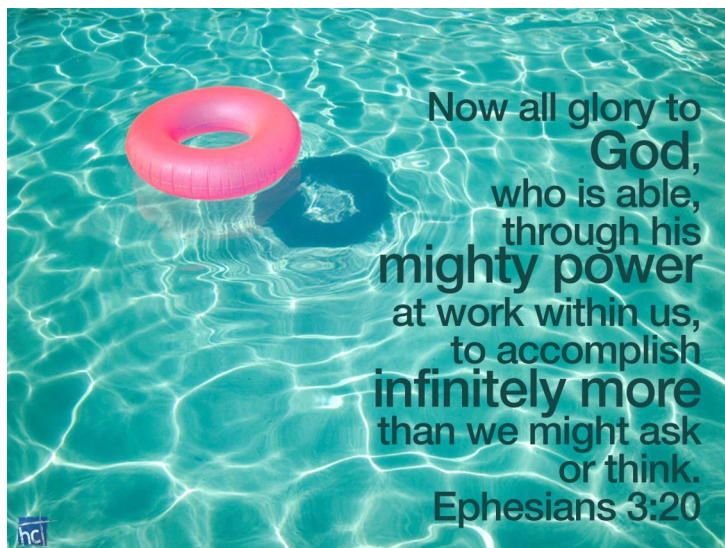
It is very helpful to the District Office staff to have updated information from all the churches we serve.

If your congregation will be making a new directory for **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

County Line - Tracy Shipley, Brian Shipley,
Amy Snyder, Brian Williams, Rachel Williams

Meyersdale —Roberta Lindeman, Jeremiah Shroyer,
Robin Shroyer

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

Please keep **Pastor David Stanton's** son Caleb in your prayers as he is recovering after an accident.

EVENTS AT INDIANA COB [FREEDOM CHURCH]

Life Rocks Festival

Saturday August 3, 2024

12:00 pm —4:00 pm

All churches and Christians are invited to participate. There will be live worship music from various worship teams, local pastors from different churches will speak on the biblical basis for life. There will be craft vendors, food trucks, raffles, games for children and youth. All proceeds go to Life Way Pregnancy Center!

Divine Martyr and Messenger Concert

Saturday September 21, 2024

Tickets are \$10. Discounts for youth groups of 10 or more.

For more details call Freedom Church at 724-463-3280

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Mark your calendars!

**District Conference
October 19, 2024
Camp Harmony**

Registration deadline is October 1, 2024

The Program and Arrangements Committee and Camp Harmony have been meeting and working on making this year's District Conference enjoyable and informative for everyone in attendance.



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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_ZM8IDIoOJ_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>



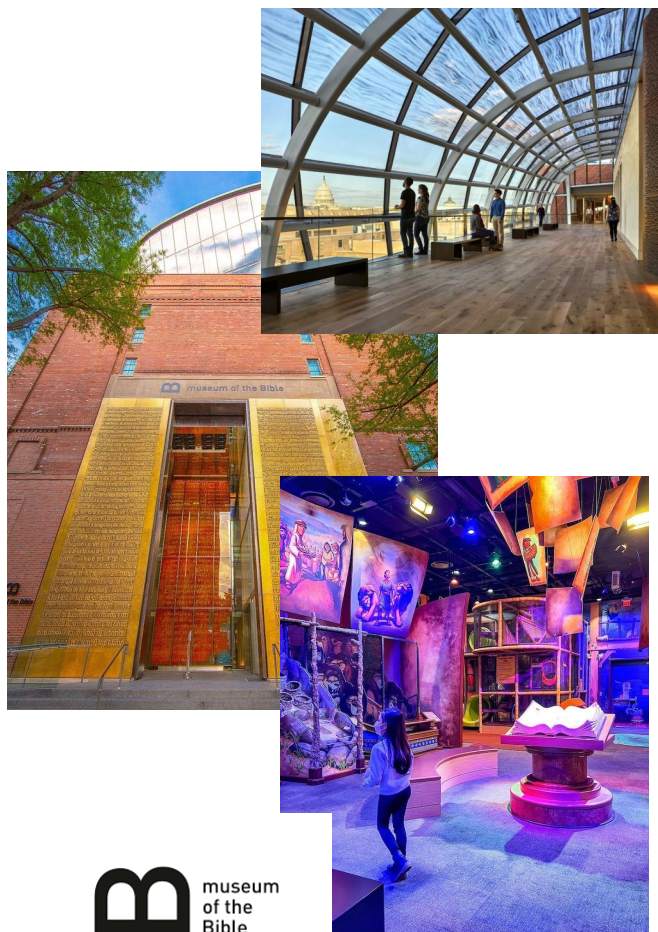
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

The District Outreach and Service Team is planning another bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. on **August 17, 2024**.

The bus will be leaving from the District Office, 115 Spring Road, Hollsopple, 15935 at 6:00 am on August 17th and will be returning approximately 6:00 pm that same day.

Cost is \$65 per person

Please call the District Office at 814-479-2181 to make a reservation.



SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

DISTRICT DISASTER MINISTERIES

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

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

2024 Schedule

September 15—21, 2024	TBA	OPEN
November 3—9, 2024	TBA	w A.N.E
December 8—14, 2024	TBA	OPEN

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.

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

THANK YOU!!

Thanks to each church that has continued to remember the shoe project this summer. With your support, we have surpassed the minimum number of 2,500 pairs of shoes necessary for free shipping! To insure a large donation for the orphanage, we will be continuing to collect shoes for a month or two, and hope to ship in early October.

Please continue to think of the shoe project as you prepare for back to school in your home or in your churches. Your donations are deeply appreciated by the shoe committee and the El Nino Home!

As always, shoes may be dropped off at the District Office during business hours; by calling the Westmont Church to schedule a drop off; or by calling any committee member. Please help us to continue this witness to our friends in Honduras!

Shoe Committee:

Marie Camut – 814-266-3010

April Mackell – 814-536-1589

Karen Nagyvathy - 814-244-6977.

PET FOOD PANTRY

The pet pantry had its one-year anniversary in May. The pantry currently serves about 97 clients monthly, up from 4 per month when it opened May 2023. The community and the church have been very supportive of the program by providing donations both monetary and pet food, volunteers to help at the pantry, and spreading the word that the pet pantry is there to help those in need. Thanks to everyone who has helped in some way to make this new program a success. The clients are very thankful for the help in receiving pet food so they can keep their pets with them. Any questions, call Cheryl at 814-410-3151.

SOME GOOD NEWS!!

100th BIRTHDAY!!!

This is Annie Lehman from the Rummel COB , and she turned 100 on June 6, 2024. She is pictured here with Meredith Miller, one of our youngest at church.

They are buddies!

Annie still attends worship and fellowship events faithfully, and she has served in our church for many decades.

(She still manages to live in her own home, as well, cooking and baking. Anyone who visits will be offered some sort of snack!)



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Peace Scholarship committee of the Uniontown COB is very happy to announce that they awarded three \$500 Peace Scholarships this year.

These scholarships are awarded to local high school seniors committed to peace and social justice and were made possible by the generosity of Mabel Boger, who was an educator for over forty years.

The awardees are:

Mara Larew, Albert Gallatin High School
Rozlyn Cramer, Fayette County Career and Tech Institute
Jaedyn Kohlmeyer, Uniontown Area High School

Many thanks to the Peace Scholarship committee for their time and commitment to continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together.



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

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

DERR, HORACE - 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / pastorbutch@gmail.com

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

MOSORJAK, GARY – 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / wendel05@aol.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

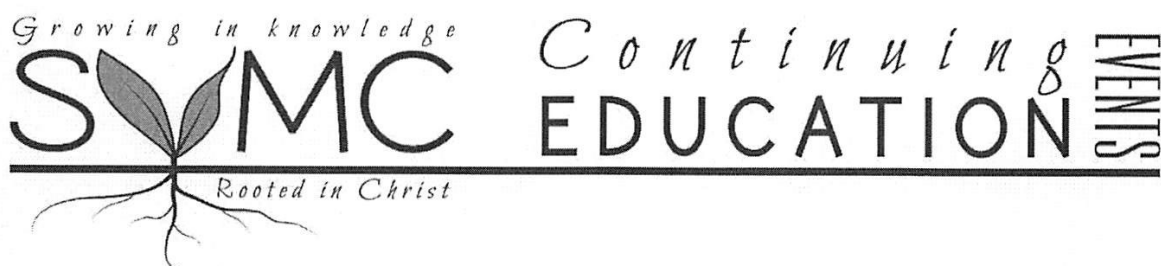
WHITED, JAMES—881 Treasure Lake, DuBois 15801 / 814-592-5714 / jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

LICENSED

BURNEY, OYANGO—137 N. 9th Street, Indiana, 15701/ 724-541-6850 / livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

SHAULIS, TRAVIS—608 Second Street, Meyersdale, 15552 / 814-442-8626 / tanbadaner@gmail.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Below are **Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's** current continuing education events that are open to everyone. For more information and to register, please do one of the following:

- Scan the QR code and follow links for "Continuing Education"
- Visit www.etown.edu/svmc and follow links for "Continuing Education"
- Email KARENHODGES@SVMCCOB.ORG
- Call SVMC at 717-361-1450



How to be a Good Neighbor with Your Polar Opposite

Dr. Amr Abdalla and Dr. Joe Bock, Leaders
Thursday, September 12, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, PA or Zoom

This event is a partnership between The Baker Peace Institute of Juniata College, and the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center. SVMC is deeply grateful to The Baker Peace Institute for underwriting much of the cost of this event.

Fee: Please note the fee for attending this event is the same whether attending in person or via Zoom. Lunch is included for in-person participants.
\$35.00 for .5 CEUs; \$25.00 for no CEUs

This workshop aims to equip you with the essential skills related to effective conflict resolution and prevention strategies and communication techniques tailored to diverse personalities and perspectives. Through interactive activities, role-plays, and discussions, you'll gain insights into understanding, empathizing, and collaborating with those with contrasting viewpoints, values, beliefs, and life philosophies. Join us to bridge the gap and cultivate meaningful connections with your neighbors.

Autism and the Church

David Crumrine, Stan Dueck, Lisa Kruse, Tim Miller, Leaders
Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)
Fee: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs (In-person, includes lunch); \$55.00 for no CEUs (In-person, includes lunch)
\$45.00 for .5 CEUs (Zoom); or \$35.00 for no CEUs (Zoom)

The church is a place where people should feel welcome no matter what challenges they may have. Families with an autistic member need to feel the welcome and acceptance of a church who cares for their special circumstance. This Continuing Education event will provide information to pastors and other church leaders regarding autism, how to support families with an autistic member, and how to make the church a safe and welcoming place for families.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Grief Literacy

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Zoom Only

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

Society's grief-avoiding mentality and limited community-based support initiatives affect the well-being of bereaved persons. This interactive case-based workshop examines the grief literacy movement in connection with Christ-Centered Ministry Leadership. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills applicable to enhancing the welfare of grieving congregational members and persons in their community.

The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters

Jeff Carter, Leader

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College - In-Person or Zoom

Fee: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs (In-person, includes lunch); \$55.00 for no CEUs (In-person, includes lunch)

\$45.00 for .5 CEUs (Zoom); or \$35.00 for no CEUs (Zoom)

What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. Furthermore, Brethren are naturally suspicious of leaders; called, elected, or self-proclaimed. Values, such as humility, consensus, and the priesthood of all believers, lead to a flat hierarchy and a communal pragmatism. We celebrate leaders such as Dan West, Sarah Major, M.R. Zigler, and Anna Mow, but in their day, they stirred controversy by the manner of their leading. So, what does it mean to lead in today's church and world? I believe leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

Suicide Prevention

**(More information on this event will be available soon. For now, please mark your calendars.
Registration not yet open)**

Julie Guistwite, Leader

January 2025 (specific date and time TBD) - Zoom

Introducing (and Reading) the *Anabaptist Community Bible*:

An Interactive Seminar

**(More information on this event will be available soon. For now, please mark your calendars.
Registration not yet open)**

John D. Roth, Lecturer and Leader

Thursday, March 20, 2025: Durnbaugh Lecture – time TBD

Friday, March 21, 2025: 9:30 AM – Noon

The Young Center, Elizabethtown College (In person only)

John Roth, Coordinator and Editor of the Anabaptist Community Bible, will lead an interactive seminary in which participants will join in Q&A, discussion, and study using the new Anabaptist Community Bible.



The Annual Conference Wrap-up video for use by delegates and others wishing to report back to their congregations is available to order for \$29.95 in DVD format and as a digital download.

Also available are the 2024 Annual Conference Sermons in both DVD format and as a digital download. You can purchase these resources from Brethren Press at www.brethrenpress.com

The news coverage of the 2024 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren is at www.brethren.org/news/ac2024

Find photo albums at <https://churchofthebrethren.smugmug.com/AC2024>

#cobac2024



The L.E.A.D. Conference

A Church of the Brethren **L.E.A.D. (Listen – Equip – Adapt – Disciple) Conference** is planned for Nov. 15-17, 2024, sponsored by the denomination's Discipleship and Leadership Formation department. The event will be hosted at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on the scripture theme 2 Timothy 2:2. Leadership matters! Learning more about leading well can only help pastors and congregations. The Church of the Brethren LEAD Conference will encourage, inspire, and equip you and your congregation's leaders to further develop your ministry's effectiveness and earn CEU credit. Join us for powerful times of worship, in-depth keynote messages from Dr. Dennis Edwards, and practical breakout sessions taught by practitioners who are eager to share lessons they've learned that you can adapt and implement in your own ministry context. This will be a leadership development conference for congregational leaders such as pastors and church board members. The focus will be on raising the leadership skills of congregational leaders to help them be more effective in their local ministries. The event will be a mix of plenary and break-out sessions. Attendance will be capped at 250 participants.

Bethany Seminary honors 22 graduates at first commencement in Nigeria

In a joyful celebration, Bethany Theological Seminary held a historic commencement ceremony in Jos, Nigeria. The ceremony took place at the EYN Technology Centre of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) on May 21. Graduating students were those who had studied in the program from 2021 to 2024, including 21 who earned the Postgraduate Diploma in Biblical Peacemaking and one who earned a Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies.



CAMP HARMONY



Women's Retreat

BE

Still

EXODUS 14:14

Commuter \$30

Lodging \$45

Kids Camp \$15

AUGUST 16-17

REGISTER @ CAMPHARMONY.ORG

2024 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!

AUGUST 2024

- 10 - SVMC class, District Office
- 17 - Bus Trip to Museum of the Bible (TBA)
- 24 - SVMC class, District Office

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 2 - LABOR DAY
- 12 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, District Office
- 14 - SVMC class, District Office
- 21 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

OCTOBER 2024

- 5 - SVMC class
- 6 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 19 - District Conference, 9:00 am, Camp Harmony
- 26 - SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2024

- 3 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (Turn clocks BACK one hour)**
- 7 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 p.m., District Office
- 9 - SVMC class
- 16 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA
- 21 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

DECEMBER 2024

- 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 15 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- 22 - 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

August 2024