

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

November 2024

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE RECAP

The delegates of the Western PA District gathered at Camp Harmony on October 19, 2024 on a lovely autumn day for the 158th Annual District Conference. The Conference Moderator Jeffery Fackler chose the theme I Chose You as the theme for this year's District Conference.

Conference was condensed into a morning business session which included a delicious brunch served by Camp Harmony. There was also a brief presentation by Nancy McCrickard from the COB Ministry and Mission Board, Ryan Braught from Part-time Pastor/Full-time Church, and a short video presentation from Eder Financial.

The Licensed Ministers of the District were consecrated by Pastor Irvin Ernst representing the District Pastor & Parish Ministry Team and certificates were presented by Donna Rhodes from Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC). There was also a presentation from the District to Donna Rhodes for her retirement and all the work she has done in our district.

Amelia Derr from the Locust Grove COB was installed as Moderator for 2025. Others affirmed on the slate include: Moderator Designate, Abby Shaffer (Rummel); District Clerk, Ruby Mader (Rummel); Program & Arrangements, Leah Hileman (Robinson); Camp Harmony Board, Dan Shaffer, Nick Berkey, Mike Swick, and Melissa Hostetler; District Board Chair, Stephen Parfitt (Greensburg); District Leadership Team: Outreach & Service Team, Oyango Burney (Penn Run); Pastor & Parish Ministry Team, Ron Barto (Somerset); Stewards and Finance Team, Kirt Anderson (Freedom Church—Indiana).

Moderator Jeffery Fackler shared an official acknowledgement of the congregations that have left the Western PA District in 2024.

A budget of \$137,588.00 for 2024 was approved. The total reflects a \$72.00 decrease.

There were officially 93 attendees (73 delegates, 20 Non-delegates, and District Leadership and Staff) and 30 congregations were represented. Thank you for all the hygiene kits, school kits, and clean up buckets that were given for Church World Service.

A very special THANK YOU to Austin Musser, Phil Regetta, and all the folks at Camp Harmony, Moderator Jeff Fackler, 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 2024/January 2025** issue is

**November 10, 2024**

Please send your information to [tlehman@brethren.org](mailto:tlehman@brethren.org).

## DISTRICT STAFF:

### District Minister Team

Pete Kaltenbaugh

[mdalepastorpete@comcast.net](mailto:mdalepastorpete@comcast.net)

Ruby Mader

[redhatvicar@yahoo.com](mailto:redhatvicar@yahoo.com)

Chris Forry

[exit10dunkard@hotmail.com](mailto:exit10dunkard@hotmail.com)

**Financial Clerk:** Amy Bowman

[wpacob@atlanticbb.net](mailto:wpacob@atlanticbb.net)

**District Secretary:** Tina Lehman

[tlehman@brethren.org](mailto: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](http://www.westernpacob.org)

## 2025 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2025 District Directory will be completed by December 31, 2024. Please be sure to send any updates and changes to the District Office by December 15, 2024.

The directory will be sent out in the beginning of January 2025.

Thank you!

## 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 **2025** 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** - Jeremy Withrow, Vicki Hensel

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Pastor Charlie Whipple** would like to say a sincere thank you for all the prayers for his surgery and during his recovery. He would like to share that he is so thankful to be able to serve here in the Western PA District of the Church of the Brethren.

## ARBUTUS PET FOOD PANTRY

The pet pantry is growing by leaps and bounds. In Oct. 2023 the pantry served 50 families. This past Oct. 2024 we served 110 families. Each month the pantry has been adding about 15 new families to the list of individuals who use our service. We offer food to both cats and dogs. The food is distributed in 1 gallon bags. We also offer, when available, wet canned food and treats. The pantry relies on monetary and food donations from the community as well as support from the Arbutus Church. This is one of our missions in helping those in need in the community. Since the beginning of 2024 the pantry has received 35 monetary and food donations from individuals and organizations. We are very thankful for the support that we have experienced. During inflationary times it is difficult for people to purchase food for their pets and themselves. By using the pantry their money can now be stretched to feed themselves. We have served up to 39 towns through this program. In addition to the food provided there is always a free table for clients to choose items from. Donations of pet items such as bowls, collars, leashes etc. plus household items are available to them. In November, we will offer new and slightly used blankets. Should you have any that you would like to donate they can be dropped off at the Arbutus Church. →→→→

## 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-ZM8IDlo0J\\_v6FfXuzfhRjN8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py\\_c&paipv=0](https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDlo0J_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>

The first set of doors of the church are open 24/7 so you can drop them off at your convenience. November 2, 2024 from 12-2 pet photos with Santa will be held at the church. Cost is \$10. Thanks to all who help this project become so successful. Any questions feel free to call: Cheryl at 814-410-3151.

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

### 2024 Schedule

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.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Keep our nation in prayer this election day



## EL HOGAR DE NIÑOS ENMANUEL SHOE PROJECT



### THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR A GREAT SHOE DRIVE!

On September 18, 2024 a great group of volunteers gathered at the Westmont church to load a shipment of shoes for our **funds2orgs** fundraiser. In just a few minutes, they were able to load **3,775** pairs of shoes onto the truck and start them on their trip to the processing plant in Florida.

We received word last week that the shipment netted a profit of **\$1,558.40** to be used to benefit the El Hogar De Ninos Enmanuel Home. The Home has recently added a culinary post-secondary curriculum to their campus, and our funds will be used to purchase commercial grade equipment needed to outfit the kitchen.

It takes many people working together to make this drive possible. Sincere thanks to the congregations and individuals across the district who collect and donate shoes to the drive; the Westmont church that generously allows us to store the shoes in their building until pick up; the volunteers who inspect, band, and bag the shoes; the packers who tag, carry and toss heavy bags of shoes onto the truck; and the district office staff for accepting donations on our behalf and storing them until they can be processed, along with handling the profit checks.

To this date, we have been able to donate a total of more than **\$8,000** to the work of the Home, and have already begun collecting shoes for the next shipment. For details on becoming part of the shoe project, contact the Shoe Committee:

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

# ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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**NOVEMBER 3, 2024 at 6:00p.m.:**

The Women's Fellowship of Walnut Grove COB is excited to announce that they have invited the author of "It's Just the Way I Like It" to an evening of fellowship. Come listen to Gail (McCoy) Diamond discuss her book. Refreshments will follow. Gail will be available to sign copies after her presentation and she will have copies of her book for you to purchase. Gail has been active in The Western Pennsylvania District through Camp Harmony and the District Youth Choir. So please, come and learn how this Christian lady was able to learn to laugh at life's challenges from a Christian perspective!!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



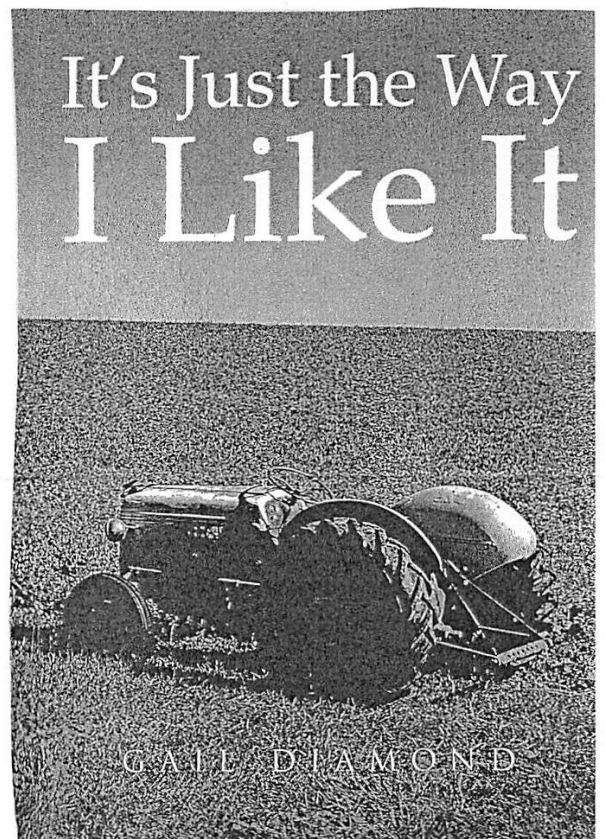
Gail Diamond grew up in farm country and swore she would never marry a farmer. Well, she did! Gail lives on a dairy farm with her husband, Louie, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. If you ask her, she will tell you that she is a terrible farm-

wife. She doesn't milk cows, she doesn't drive a tractor, and in fact, she rarely even goes to the barn. But she loves her family and all the challenges and excitement her country life brings.

Gail has been a music teacher in the public school system for more than thirty years. She has taught everything from elementary students to high school students, teaching both choirs and band.

She grew up in the Geiger Church of the Brethren and was encouraged to sing and to play the piano at a young age. After getting married, she moved away from home and became an active member of the Masontown Brethren Church where she plays the piano for worship every Sunday.

She and her husband, Louie, have three children—Rachel, Jesse, and Luke. Being a wife and mother is the best job she has ever had.



# **Class on Using Technology**

**Saturday November 2nd**

**9am -12pm**

**at the Western PA COB District Office**

**115 Spring Rd, Hollsopple, PA 15935**



**How to use:**

**\*Zoom /Mr. Owl**

**\*Facebook Live/YouTube**

**\* Power Point**

Pastors in attendance, will  
receive CEU'S

RSVP to  
Kaitie Coughenour, Spiritual  
Formation Chair  
(814) 521-4649

# CHRISTmas is Coming!



*Concert for Hurricane Recovery*

*All donations will go  
to Samaritan's Purse  
for hurricane relief.*

*Please consider what  
you can give to help  
those in need!*

Sunday, November 24  
@ 3:00 pm

Rummel Church  
3432 Graham Avenue,  
Windber, PA

*Featuring a variety of local  
artists and instruments, as  
well as an uplifting carol-  
sing for everyone!*

A decorative border with a brown outline, a dotted line, and stylized green leaves and branches on the left and right sides.

Join our community for a time of

# THANKSGIVING WORSHIP!

Monday, November 25 7:00 pm

@ BerKey Church in Windber

1038 CHURCH DRIVE - 814.467.8505

*Cookie social to follow - consider bringing cookies to share!*

SPONSORED BY OUR WINDBER MINISTERIUM

# AVAILABLE SPEAKERS

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## ORDAINED

**ABRAHAM, FARREL** – 4315 Seton Drive, Pittsburgh, 15227-1245 / 412-979-0067 / [sharingpearls@comcast.net](mailto:sharingpearls@comcast.net)

**BEACHLEY, LINDA**—PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / [lrbeac@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lrbeac@atlanticbb.net)

**BEACHLEY, RONALD** – PO Box 723, Davidsville, 15928-0723 / 814-479-4802 / [rondbeachley@gmail.com](mailto:rondbeachley@gmail.com)

**BROADWATER, KEVIN**—475 Keystone Street, Meyersdale, 15552-6943 / 814-442-5684 / [pastorbroadwater@verizon.net](mailto:pastorbroadwater@verizon.net)

**COUGHENOUR, KAITLYN**— 785 Red Dog Road, Salisbury, 15558 / 814-521-4649 / [shellywithattitude@gmail.com](mailto:shellywithattitude@gmail.com)

**DERR, AMELIA** – 1202 Roberts Street, Nanty Glo, 15943-1325 / 814-749-0262 / [iamameliaderr@yahoo.com](mailto:iamameliaderr@yahoo.com)

**KABLER, ERIC**—126 Clermont Street, Johnstown 15904-2132 / 814-266-2734 / [eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com](mailto:eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com)

**LONGWELL, ERIC**— 240 Plumcreek Road, Shelocta, 15774-3144 / 724-599-8690 / [kb3ttx@gmail.com](mailto:kb3ttx@gmail.com)

**MOSORJAK, GARY** – 1337 Roxbury Avenue, Johnstown, 15905-1224 / 814-659-5853 / [wendel05@aol.com](mailto:wendel05@aol.com)

**PISARSKI, STANLEY** – 511 Thrasher Street, Johnstown, 15909 / 814-410-3685 / [spisarski1017@gmail.com](mailto:spisarski1017@gmail.com)

**STEIN, ROBERT** - PO Box 375, Chalk Hill, 15421-0375 / 724-438-2226 / [crid@verizon.net](mailto:crid@verizon.net)

**SWICK, MICHAEL** - 4127 Greenville Road, Meyersdale 15552-8518 / 814-634-8158 / [preachmike101@comcast.net](mailto:preachmike101@comcast.net)

**WHITED, JAMES**—881 Treasure Lake, DuBois 15801 / 814-592-5714 / [jrwhitedsr@gmail.com](mailto:jrwhitedsr@gmail.com)

## LICENSED

**BURNEY, OYANGO**—137 N. 9th Street, Indiana, 15701/ 724-541-6850 / [livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com](mailto:livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com)

**SHAULIS, TRAVIS**—608 Second Street, Meyersdale, 15552 / 814-442-8626 / [tanbadaner@gmail.com](mailto:tanbadaner@gmail.com)



# CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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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:

- Click on the title of each event and follow links to register. (Can only register for one event at a time).
- Visit [www.ETOWN.EDU/svmc](http://www.ETOWN.EDU/svmc) and follow links for "Continuing Education"
- Email [KARENHODGES@SVMCCOB.ORG](mailto:KARENHODGES@SVMCCOB.ORG), OR Call SVMC at 717-361-1450

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## THE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP: WHY IT MATTERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE OR ZOOM

**Leader: Jeff Carter**

**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); \$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.*

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## IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO SUICIDE RISK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • ZOOM ONLY

**Leader: Julie Guistwite**

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

*Individuals considering harming themselves often seek guidance from spiritual care professionals over mental health providers. This interactive and engaging workshop discusses suicide risk factors and warning signs across generations and provides clergy guidance in responding. Engaging with an individual considering suicide forms the basis of a small group role-play activity. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills relevant across settings.*

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TWO DURNBAUGH EVENTS ARE BEING SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG CENTER AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE. PLEASE NOTE THAT SVMC IS ONLY PROVIDING CEUS; **REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENTS (WHICH IS NOT YET OPEN) WILL BE THROUGH THE YOUNG CENTER [YOUNGCTR@ETOWN.EDU](mailto:YOUNGCTR@ETOWN.EDU)**. FOR NOW, MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND CONTACT SVMC ONLY TO REQUEST CEUS.

Leader: John D. Roth serves as Project Director for Anabaptism at 500, an initiative of MennoMedia, and is coordinating the development of the Anabaptist Community Bible. He is professor of history emeritus at Goshen (IN) College, where he also served as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism, and as editor of Mennonite Quarterly Review. John has published widely on topics related to Anabaptist-Mennonite history and church life and has been a key participant in ecumenical dialogue with Lutheran and Catholic church leaders.

1. Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 7:00 PM • Susquehanna Room, Elizabethtown College  
Topic: "The Bible as a Source of Renewal in Anabaptism and Pietism" (.175 CEUs, \$10 to SVMC)
  2. Friday, March 21, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon • Location on Etown College Campus TBD  
Topic: *Introducing (and Reading!) the Anabaptist Community Bible: An Interactive Seminar* (.25 CEUs, \$10 to SVMC)
- If requesting CEUs for both Thursday and Friday events, cost will be a total of \$10 (not \$20).

# DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren



## 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.



## Junior High Sunday

**November 3, 2024**

“Walk with me and work with me”

Matthew 11:29 & 30



## Nominations for the 2025 AC Ballot Requested

The deadline for nominations for the Annual Conference ballot is **December 4**. The denomination depends on leaders elected at Conference from nominees proposed by the wider church. There are deliberate, purposeful steps to the process of discernment which leads to the Nominating Committee engaging in prayerful discussion of the nominees when it meets in January. The list is narrowed to four names per office which is then sent to the full Standing Committee which votes to further narrow the list to two names per office in order to create the Annual Conference ballot. It should be noted that the Review and Evaluation Committee consists of five members, therefore the Annual Conference ballot will need to consist of ten nominees. The delegates of Annual Conference elect those who will finally serve.

We are grateful for the excellent nominations already submitted, but additional names are needed! The offices that are open for 2025 are the following: **Moderator Elect, Program & Arrangements Committee, Mission & Ministry Board from Area 1 (ANE, Mid-Atlantic, MPA, SPA, WPA), Mission & Ministry Board from Area 4 (MO/ARK, NPL, SPL, WPL), Pastoral Benefits and Compensation Advisory Committee-Laity, and Review and Evaluation Committee.** Detailed information regarding these positions is available at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations>.

**Pray over these open positions** and let the Spirit lift in your heart names of people you know who might fill these roles. You can nominate them using the simple form on the nominations webpage. Be sure to contact the person you have nominated and let them know why you think their gifts qualify them for the role and encourage them to agree to take the next step in filling out the nominee information form on the Annual Conference website.

**If you have been nominated and have not yet accepted,** we encourage you to prayerfully discern your possible call and willingness to serve the church in this way. Then fill out the nominee information form and return it so you will be included in the pool of candidates who will be considered for the ballot in 2025. That form indicates your acceptance to be considered.

**Have you had interest and a sense of call to serve** in one of the roles that are open? Talk to someone who knows you and test that sense. If affirmed, ask that person or another to nominate you!

As we seek a range of candidates who represent the whole church, we pay particular attention to the Call for Accountability in order to include our diversity in terms of age, race/ethnicity, gender, and theology.

Thank you so much for participating in this important process! The Annual Conference office is receiving nominations until **December 4, 2024**.

Tim Hollenberg-Duffey  
Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is calling on all of us to make nominations for the Annual Conference ballot in 2025. Please review the open positions, discern qualified candidates, and go to [brethren.org/ac/nominations](http://brethren.org/ac/nominations) to make your nominations or find more information (or use the QR code).

### Moderator Elect

One person, 3-year term

*Ineligible (past 4 Moderators): Paul Munday, David Sollenberger, Tim McElwee, Madalyn Metzger*

### Program and Arrangements Committee

One person, 3-year term

*Ineligible (member completing a term in 2025): Jacob Crouse*

### Mission and Ministry Board

Representative from Area 1: Atlantic Northeast, Southern PA, Middle PA, Western PA, Mid-Atlantic  
One person, 5-year term

Representative from Area 4: Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Western Plains  
One person, 5-year term

### Review and Evaluation Committee

Five Persons, 2-4 year term


### Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee-Laity

One person, 5-year term



# HURRICANE RESPONSE

go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren



**Brethren Disaster Ministries**  
a day ago · 🌐

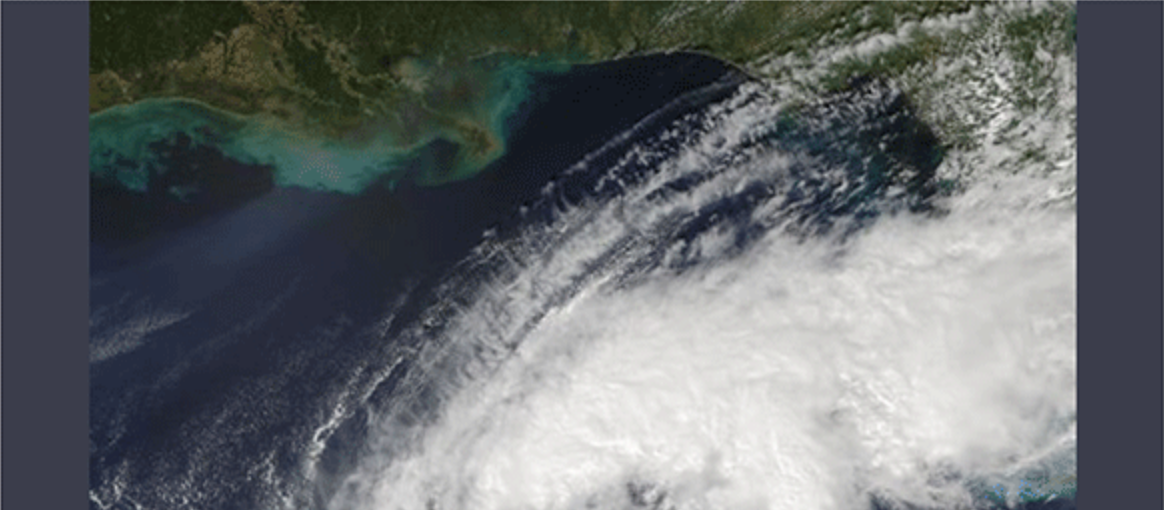
Please keep those in the path of Hurricane Milton in your prayers, including our sisters and brothers in Church of the Brethren churches and their communities.

BDM has been in contact with the leadership of the [Atlantic Southeast District Church of the Brethren](#) and has offered support both before and after the storm hits.

We are also continuing to support those affected by Hurricane Helene, partnering with the Southeastern District and the Virlina District.

Thank you for your support for hurricane response which enables us to respond quickly to our neighbors. [www.brethren.org/givehurricanerresponse](http://www.brethren.org/givehurricanerresponse) or EDF/ Hurricane Response, Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120

Photo courtesy of [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)



## HURRICANE RESPONSE UPDATES

Brethren Disaster Ministries, Children’s Disaster Services (CDS), and several Church of the Brethren districts are offering aid and collecting relief materials and donations for survivors of Hurricane Helene--even as concern is shared and prayers are raised for those affected by Hurricane Milton.

**Churches of the Brethren in Florida have not experienced serious damage from Hurricane Milton**, reports Beth Sollenberger, director of administration for Atlantic Southeast District. “We’ve now heard from all the ASE congregations and all are doing well,” she said. “No building damage reported although there are some downed trees and many are without power. We are feeling blessed and pray for those in Milton’s path who did not fare so well.”

# HURRICANE RESPONSE

go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) for the most complete and up to date news from the Church of the Brethren

## Children's Disaster Services places two teams of volunteers in North Carolina

CDS has two teams of volunteers serving in North Carolina. The four volunteers in "Team Fletcher" have been serving children and families at a shelter in Fletcher, N.C., since Thursday, Oct. 3. "Team Asheville" is in Asheville, N.C., responding at a shelter since Monday, Oct. 7. Read more at: [www.brethren.org/news/2024/cds-places-two-teams-in-n-c](http://www.brethren.org/news/2024/cds-places-two-teams-in-n-c)



## Districts respond with aid to hurricane survivors, collections of relief goods and monetary donations

Several Church of the Brethren districts have issued calls or started service projects in response to Hurricane Helene and now Hurricane Milton. In addition, reports Brethren Disaster Ministries, "individuals and congregations have been calling and emailing all week asking how they can help in the effort."

Here are some of the ways districts and congregations across the Church of the Brethren are helping out, as of Oct. 10. Read more at [www.brethren.org/news/2024/districts-respond-to-hurricanes](http://www.brethren.org/news/2024/districts-respond-to-hurricanes)



*Above: Southern Ohio and Kentucky District held a gathering to assemble CWS Clean-Up Buckets. (Photo courtesy of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District)*

## Brethren Disaster Ministries works to help coordinate response with districts

Staff of Brethren Disaster Ministries continue to work with district leaders to help coordinate response efforts including the collection and distribution of relief materials and donations for emergency funding especially for the hardest-hit areas in Southeastern District.

Brethren Disaster Ministries urges church members and others wanting to help out to contribute by sending disaster relief kits and monetary donations to the coordinated response of the districts and denomination. Read more at [www.brethren.org/news/2024/bdm-works-to-help-coordinate](http://www.brethren.org/news/2024/bdm-works-to-help-coordinate)

## Church World Service distributes thousands of disaster kits, offers support to survivors in wake of hurricanes

Church World Service (CWS) is sharing updated kit distribution numbers and information about relief efforts following on the recent hurricanes.

To date, CWS has coordinated the shipment of 4,372 Clean-Up Buckets, 8,720 Hygiene Kits, 5,890 blankets, 1,205 Menstrual Hygiene Kits, 590 School Kits, and 72 Welcome Backpacks to partners in Florida and North Carolina (a value of more than \$561,000) while working with various groups that are assembling kits and establishing temporary depots. Read more at [www.brethren.org/news/2024/cws-distributes-thousands-of-kits](http://www.brethren.org/news/2024/cws-distributes-thousands-of-kits)

## Global Mission Prayer Guide

### **Ekklesiiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria**

"Greetings, brethren. As always, we thank you and pray that God richly blesses you for your labor in intercessory prayer. Your prayers have truly invited God's intervention, and many can testify to feeling His presence in times of need.

"We give thanks to God for His intervention during the devastating flooding that occurred in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. We are grateful for the swift relief efforts, which provided materials and temporary shelter to those affected. We also thank God that the floodwaters have receded, and people are beginning to return to their homes.

"Let us lift up Ekklesiiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) and the bereaved families in prayer, asking God to comfort them during this time of grief after the death of their loved ones.

"We thank God for the EYN members who responded generously to the leadership's call for help. Their offerings and donations will go a long way in supporting the flood victims who have lost everything. Let us continue to pray for those who have not yet contributed, that they may be moved to see the importance of this fundraising effort and respond as the EYN president has requested.

"As the rains continue to fall heavily with predictions of further devastation, let us pray that God will mitigate the adverse effects and protect those who are vulnerable. May God continue to strengthen us all in prayer and guide our actions to support those in need." ~ Maina Pindar



*Walking together toward home as flood waters recede in Maiduguri, Nigeria.  
Source: EYN*

### **Église des Frères en Haïti, Church of the Brethren in Haiti**

Pray for security and good leadership in Haiti.

### **Iglesia Cristiana Viviendo en Amor y Fe, Church of the Brethren in Honduras**

Pray for safe travels for Global Food Initiative manager Jenn Hosler and Global Mission interim executive director Roy Winter as they travel next week to Honduras. Pray, too, for the Holy Spirit-led worship experiences and meetings with leaders and members of La Iglesia Cristiana Viviendo en Amor y Fe.

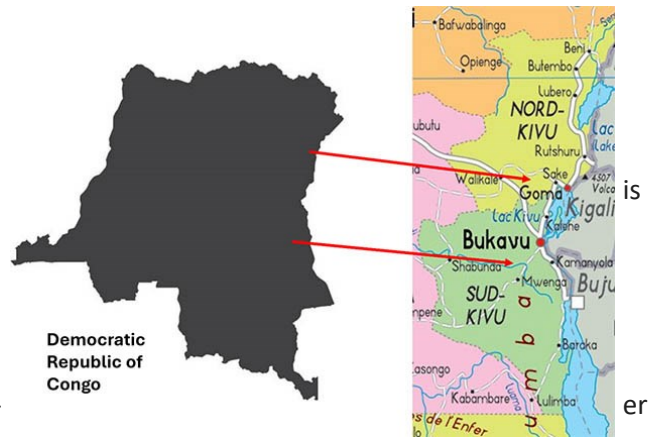
### **Iglesia de los Hermanos (IHRD), Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic**

Pray for the Global Church of the Brethern Communion, the international alliance of churches that have historical and theological connection with the Church of the Brethren in the United States and that preserve and teach Anabaptism/Pietism as essential for its identity. May God continue to bless and enable it in all aspects of its work to embody mutual support to further mutual support, education, and other aspects of its work.

## Global Mission Prayer Guide

### Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Join in prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord because, by His grace, they have recently planted three additional congregations. One is based in Mugunga in Goma, Nord-Kivu province. Two more are located in the Sud-Kivu province, in Kilibula in Uvira, and in the Baraka municipality in Fisi Territory. May the Lord be praised! The Congo church leaders are praying with thanksgiving for a planned visit from Roy Winter, executive director of Brethren Disaster Ministries, and Jenn Hosler, manager of Global Food Initiative, in March 2025.



*New church plants in North Kivu and South Kivu, DR Congo. Source: Carole Davenport*



*Brethren Academy teachers and leaders - Grace, Dusabe, Patrice, Pastor Etienne, Stephanie, Ruth, Heritier. Source: Chris Elliott*

### Church of the Brethren in Rwanda

The recent government closure of churches in Rwanda is affecting many small church-related schools, including ours. The September reopening of school at the Brethren Academy was delayed but is finally back in session. Pray for the teachers and children at the nursery school, that much learning and joyful fellowship will fill the school term. Pray that the Church of the Brethren congregations in Rwanda will quickly be able to meet the exacting building standards imposed on them by the government and that they will be able to return to their places of worship very soon. Prayers of thanksgiving for their ingenuity and faith in finding alternate

worship places in their communities with some traveling as much as 2 hours one way to participate in worship in the church building in Gisenyi.

### South Sudan, a Church of the Brethren Mission Project

Pray for relief from the extreme impacts of climate change in South Sudan There have been unrelenting floods where once there was drought. The land can no longer absorb the rain water. More than 2,864 households have been destroyed and 18,178 people have been displaced by floods in Lafon County, Eastern Equatoria State, north of Torit. This is an area where one of the emerging congregations of the Church of the Brethren is located.

### Ecuador, a partner agency

Ecuador is a country where Church of the Brethren has ongoing agricultural projects, including through GFI partner Fundación Brethren y Unida (FBU). Beginning in mid-September the government implemented daily electrical outages and water rationing across multiple provinces in response to severe drought and an energy crisis. The crisis was triggered in response to impacts on the generation of hydroelectric power. Pray that these measures prove to be helpful in managing the crisis and that the people may remain peaceful and have confidence in their government during these difficult days.



# Scrapbook Retreat

**Nov. 1, 4 PM - Nov. 2, 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
- **#3** - \$30 Friday only
- **#4** - \$55 Saturday only

**General Information:**

Registration Deadline is Oct. 25, 2024 (must be paid in advance)

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone

No refunds for cancellations after Oct. 28 or no-shows

\$30 fee for returned checks

Bring a small 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](http://www.campharmony.org/scrapbook)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Package Choice: 1 2 3 4 (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](mailto:MrsLizHolbrook@gmail.com)

**Register online at [www.campharmony.org/scrapbook](http://www.campharmony.org/scrapbook)**



# CAMP CRAZE

NOVEMBER 11

9AM-2PM



GAMES,  
Fun, Friends,  
& FREE

**GRADES 5-9**

REGISTER ONLINE



[www.campharmony.org](http://www.campharmony.org)




SCAN ME



years of camp!



# CAMP HARMONY CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER

Order by  December 5 **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](mailto:harmony@campharmony.org)

1414 Plank Road Hooversville, PA 15936  
[www.campharmony.org](http://www.campharmony.org)



# 2024 DISTRICT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## **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
- 28 - 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

**The 2025 District Calendar will appear in the December/January issue of the Highlights.**

**Please be sure to send me dates as events get scheduled.**

**I am working on a new format, so stay tuned...**

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

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

## November 2024