

THE HIGHLIGHTS

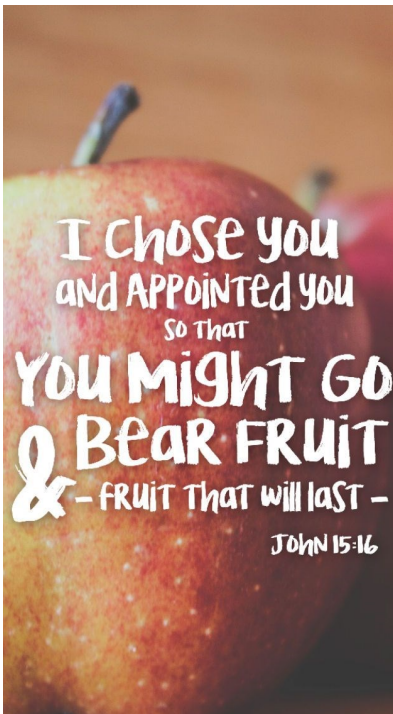
Western PA District Church of the Brethren

September 2024

FROM THE DISTRICT MODERATOR

District Conference will be here before we know it. I look forward on this day in August that I am typing a way, to the cool of October. I also am looking forward to seeing you as we gather to gather in the presence of the God head for our 157th gathering. The Program and Arrangements Committee have been planning for our day together along with the officers of this years conference. I look forward to having a brunch with all of you. It might just be a foretaste of what is to happen when we are all call up yonder. Think of it as practice. So use your napkin and be polite.

A couple of times a year we gather together in our congregations to examine the state of our faithfulness, wash feet, eat a simple meal and recommit ourselves through the bread and the juice. Traditionally John 15:12-17 is read at the time of our simple meal. If I have ever been asked what my favorite scripture is, I seem to always go to this 16th verse of the 15th chapter of John. I have liked it that Jesus has chosen me. I like it that I was known before I even grew to know myself. I like that ,even beyond my comprehension, Jesus has a full confidence in me. Does he really know me?! With all that I like about this verse I all so have to grapple with the fact that because Jesus has chosen me. I now, out of love, feel like I owe him so much. And that out of this love I long to grow some fruit that will last. That because I have been choose I am



Jesus asks that we bear fruit. At last years district conference I asked that you take a bushel basket and put some fruit that has been labeled with all those times that your congregation has bore fruit. At

Penn Run we have the times that we have helped someone out or the times that we have been the presence of Jesus in our corner of the vineyard. It's a good time to look back and double check that all the fruitful moments in time are in these baskets. Now, I ask you to bring the baskets to district conference. So, that we can see all together the impact the congregations of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren has had. I am so looking forward to see this! Until we gather together, remember this. You, your congregation, has been chosen by Christ to be a part of his Church and as individuals, chosen to follow after him. You! Yep You and Me have been chosen by Jesus! See you at District Conference!

Jeff

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

October 19, 2024
Camp Harmony

Registration deadline is
October 1, 2024

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

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

September 10, 2024

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 **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

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

Please keep **Pastor Charlie Whipple** in your prayers for his recovery from surgery.

PRAISE FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS

Praise the Lord!

For **Pastor David Stanton's** son Caleb as he has come home after a long recovery from an accident

For **District Minister Pete Kaltenbaugh** as he is in remission following treatment for cancer

God is good all the time!

EVENTS AT INDIANA COB [FREEDOM CHURCH]

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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

In just a few short weeks we will be joining with believers all over the world in celebration of World Wide Communion. It's so important that we enter into that celebration with hearts and minds that are prepared.

The folks at **Geiger Church of the Brethren** will be welcoming **Rev. Leah Hileman** on Saturday evening, September 28 at 7:00 P M. Leah will be delivering an inspiring message and wowing us with her exceptional musical talent.

All are invited to attend this time of worship and fellowship.

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

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>



DISTRICT LIBRARY

Did you know the District Office has a Library and Resource Room?

Have you ever checked out the District Library and Resource Rooms? They are packed full of useful information.

The district resource room can be a place to look for small group bible studies, teaching books for helping kids make friends or facing fears and helping to grow in their faith in the Lord. There is also a curriculum books for teaching kids and adults with developmental disabilities.

A short walk down the hall you walk into our district library. Are you in charge of teaching the youth and need some creative bible studies ideas. Do you need some literature on how to recruit some help? Books are available for you to read. You teenagers that have to do book reports maybe you can find an interesting book here.

We have books on ministers who were influential in the world like Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Billy Graham. If you want to know the history of Christianity or the history of our Church of the Brethren denomination. You can find that in our library too! There are also multiple pastoral resources available on these shelves as well.

I have only touched on the list of books and teaching resources available to borrow. Be sure to check our district resources!

Respectfully submitted by Katie Coughenour,
Western PA District Spiritual Formation Team
Member





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.

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:

- 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 and follow links for "Continuing Education"
- Email KARENHODGES@SVMCCOB.ORG, OR Call SVMC at 717-361-1450

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR WITH YOUR POLAR OPPOSITE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, HUNTINGDON, PA OR ZOOM

Leaders: Dr. Amr Abdalla and Dr. Joe Bock

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. 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.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHURCH? ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST PERSPECTIVES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 • 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM • BUCHER MEETINGHOUSE, ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE (NO ZOOM OPTION)

Please note: Registration for this event is free and not required. For more information please contact JEFF BACH at bachja58@gmail.com. Contact SVMC ONLY if CEUs are requested (.5 CEUs, \$10.00). Lunch is provided.

This event will provide a setting for members of various Brethren and Mennonite groups of Plain or mainline identity to discuss their concepts of church and the similarities or differences they notice among various groups. The symposium leaders—Tony Walsh, director of the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism at Maynooth University, Ireland, and the Young Center's 2018 Kreider Fellow; Sam Funkhouser, director of the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia; and Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center emeritus—will add comments about the contributions from the Anabaptist and Pietist movements in shaping past and present views on church.

AUTISM AND THE CHURCH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM • JUNIATA COLLEGE OR ZOOM

Leaders: David Crumrine, Jeanne Davies, Stan Dueck, Lisa Kruse, Tim Miller

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. (more events on next page)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

GRIEF LITERACY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 • 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM • ZOOM ONLY

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

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.

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.

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**. 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).

SPIRITUAL FORMATION BOOK STUDY

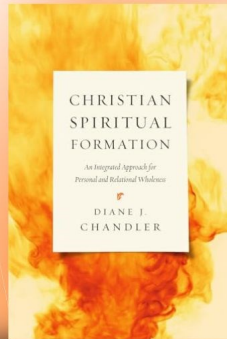
Regardless of the roles we occupy in the church, all followers of Jesus can benefit from more focused attention to the way the Spirit is transforming us into Christ-likeness.

Diane Chandler, professor of spiritual formation and leadership at the Regent University School of Divinity, offers an integrated approach to Christian spiritual formation that leaders can embrace for their own spiritual growth as well as providing a framework to guide their congregations into deeper relationship with God and each other.



Register Now

SESSIONS FACILITATED BY
CIRCUIT RIDER JOHN
FILLMORE AND BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 3, AND
CONTINUE FOR 12
SESSIONS
SESSIONS ARE HELD EVERY
TUESDAY FOR ONE HOUR,
BEGINNING AT 7:00 ET, 4:00
PACIFIC
CEUS ARE AVAILABLE



The Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program will offer a new book study on spiritual formation with Circuit Rider John Fillmore beginning early September.

Being formed into the likeness of Christ is a life-long pursuit, one shared by both church leaders and those they lead. Yet many congregational leaders find themselves busy and preoccupied; tending to the spiritual needs of their congregations leaves little time or energy for their own spiritual development. Regardless of the roles we occupy in the church, all followers of Jesus can benefit from more focused attention to the way the Spirit is transforming us into Christ-likeness. Diane Chandler, professor of spiritual formation and leadership at the Regent University School of Divinity, offers an integrated approach to Christian spiritual formation that leaders can embrace for their own spiritual growth as well as providing a framework to guide their congregations into deeper relationship with God and each other. Her book, *Christian Spiritual Formation: An Integrated Approach for Personal and Relational Wholeness*, is the focus of this book study.

The first session will be on September 3 and continue for 12 sessions. The group will gather weekly on Tuesdays via Zoom for one hour beginning at 7:00 ET, 4:00 Pacific. CEUs are available for those who request them at the end.

Register soon to guarantee your book will be delivered on time: <https://forms.gle/XPUCMu9RQRfeXooZ6>.

Email Tabitha Rudy with any questions: adminptpftc@brethren.org.



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.

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!

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

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Church of the Brethren
115 Spring Road
Hollsopple, PA 15935

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September 2024