

The Highlights

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

August 2026

DISTRICT MINISTER NOTES

IMAGINE WAS THE THEME FOR THE 239TH recorded Annual Conference using Acts 2:17-18. The challenges from all the excellent speakers made minds IMAGINE a new spirit blowing in the Church that would reach people for Jesus Christ. Each service of worship was filled with music, dramas and exciting spirit filled messages. This year's conference was on the lighter side for business items and A Morning of Sparking, Stirring and Serving replace a tradition worship service. Many ways to be hands on, great teaching and exciting small groups.

As for business (shared by Newsline) Eder Financial reported on transition of services to Everence: Eder Financial had big news for the delegates this year as they described the background of the decision and the process for moving employee retirement and organizational investing services to Everence Financial. The move will take some time, over the course of the next months. It will leave Eder with only some ancillary insurance services and benevolence programs.

'Walking Together' resolution on care for immigrants is adopted: The delegates voted with a very strong majority to adopt the resolution brought by the Mission and Ministry Board titled "Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting our Neighbors." It reiterates that "care for immigrants and refugees is an essential part of the Christian and Church of the Brethren ethic of service and peacemaking."



A landing page of resources to help individuals, small groups, and congregations study and use the resolution is at www.brethren.org/walking-together.

Resolution on weapons transfer is adopted by the 2026 Annual Conference: The delegate body adopted a "Resolution on Weapons Transfer" with a solid majority vote. The paper cites Matthew 5:44b-45, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...", to call the Church of the Brethren to "examine and respond to the impacts of the arms industry." The resolution reaffirms "the Church of the Brethren's commitment to peace as God's will and the call of Christ" and states the church's "opposition to the US manufacturing and sale of weapons and urges the US government to halt the sale of arms to other countries."

Adjustments to ministerial leadership polity are approved: Two adjustments to the 2014 Ministry Leadership paper that governs credentialing of ministerial leaders in the Church of the Brethren were approved by the delegate body. One adjustment defines licensing as a "provisional credential." The other adjustment simplifies the process for a commissioned minister to seek ordination. This is a change to Polity and required a 2/3 vote which it received. This will make very little difference in our District.

DISTRICT MINISTER NOTES continued

Amy Gall Ritchie to serve as Annual Conference moderator-elect, among other election results: Amy Gall Ritchie of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., South Central Indiana District, has been elected to the position of moderator-elect of Annual Conference. She will serve as moderator in 2028.

Review and Evaluation Committee brings an interim report: For some time, the Church of the Brethren has undertaken a periodic review every decade to evaluate the denomination's organizational structures and procedures, with a committee assigned to bring recommendations to Annual Conference for possible changes. This decade's Review and Evaluation Committee, elected in 2025, presented its first interim report to the 2026 Conference. If you are interested you may read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/review-and-evaluation-committee

Mission and Ministry Board adopts two statements on Supreme Court decisions and approves budget parameter for 2027.

The Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board in its pre-Conference meeting on Sunday, June 28,

adopted two statements on Supreme Court decisions:

"A Statement of Concern on Voting Rights Protections" laments the Supreme Court's April 29 decision weakening key protections of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"Our Faith Calls Us to Stand beside Those Who Suffer" responds to the June 25 ruling allowing the federal government to remove temporary protected status (TPS) from Haitians, Syrians, and others who have been in the US legally and had been protected from deportation.

Among other actions, the board also approved a 2027 budget parameter for the Church of the Brethren's Core Ministries. Annual Conference 2026 had 389 delegates and 1,117 non-delegates. 50,788.29 was given to ministries and others at the Worship services along with many other gifts to the home city of Fort Wayne. Once again, thank you for sending me as your District Delegate on CODE, Council Of District Executives.

Annual Conference for 2027 will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, July 28-August 1 a change but hopefully something to look forward to as our Theme "Growing Faith>" from 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

Peter Kaltenbaugh, District Minister Team

[17] And it shall come to pass in the last days,
saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:
And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions, And your
old men shall dream dreams:
Acts 2:17 KJV



From the District Office

The Highlights deadline for the

September 2026 issue is

August 10, 2026

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 - Thursday**

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Closed every Friday

Financial Clerk is in

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

CONTACT US:

115 Spring Road

Hollsopple, PA 15935

814-479-2181

Website: www.westernpacob.org

2026 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2026 District Directory is now available. If you have any updates or changes, please send them to me asap so that I can publish them here in the Highlights.

Any questions, please contact me at

tlehman@brethren.org

or 814-479-2181.

Thank you!

Tina

REQUEST FOR DIRECTORIES

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

If your congregation will be making a new directory for **2026** please send one to:

Western PA District Office
115 Spring Road,
Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!



Across the district

NEW MEMBERS

Hooversville- Mark Madeley,
Audrey Madeley

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please be in prayer for the Program and Arrangements Committee and District Leadership as they prepare for District Conference on September 19th.



VIRTUAL SERVICES

Arbutus COB - <https://arbutuscob.org/>

Freedom Church (Indiana COB) - Freedom Church on Facebook and @FreedomChurch-cd9xj on YouTube

Geiger COB - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709517105945633>

Hostetler COB - <https://www.facebook.com/HostetlerCOBMeyersdalePa>

Meyersdale COB - https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDR0BT2145UoR6btO6zS69_LKf8aq-ZM8IDlo0J_v6FfXuzfhRJn8YR1Nqs9g&ref=py_c&paipv=0

Rummel COB - <https://rummelchurch.com/sermons/>

Salisbury COB -

<https://www.facebook.com/Salisbury-Church-of-the-Brethren-211422968870314>

Walnut Grove COB - <https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob>

Across the district

We invite you to:



All the Fun of Vacation Bible School but all in one day.

Saturday August 15, 2016

9am-3pm

Hostetler Church of the Brethren
2344 Sand Spring Rd Meyersdale PA

☆RSVP to Kaitie 814-521-4649 by August 8

♡ Please bring a plain white t-shirt. we will
be painting a design on it.

Across the district



District Conference
will be held on

September 19, 2026 at 9:00 am
at the

County Line Church of the Brethren
1411 County Line Road
Champion, PA 15622

Registration deadline is
September 1, 2026

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

September 12, 2026
Shade Creek/Ridge COB
1623 Ridge Road Hooversville
\$10.00 per meal
1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Eat in or Take out.
Includes : DelGrosso Spaghetti, Meatball,
Sauce, Bread stick, salad,
and a piece of cake.
Call (814)754-5593 for tickets.
Deadline to order tickets is
September 6th.

CALL FOR CHOIRS OR ENSEMBLES

Calling all church choirs, ensembles, quartets, etc. The Program and Arrangements Committee is looking for a group to share the song "Go Ye into All the World" at this year's District Conference.

The Committee would like to open the conference with the singing of this song as our 2026 District Conference theme is Preach the Gospel! The whole conference would then sing the song again before adjournment that day. Music will be provided.

If your group would be interested in singing, please contact District Moderator Abby Shaffer at abramash10408@gmail.com or call Tina at the District Office at 814-479-2181.



Serving in the District and Beyond

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

For a few months now we have been telling you all about the new Mission Central location in Mechanicsburg PA (near Harrisburg) where service kits can be delivered. Here is their contact information:

CWS Mission Central

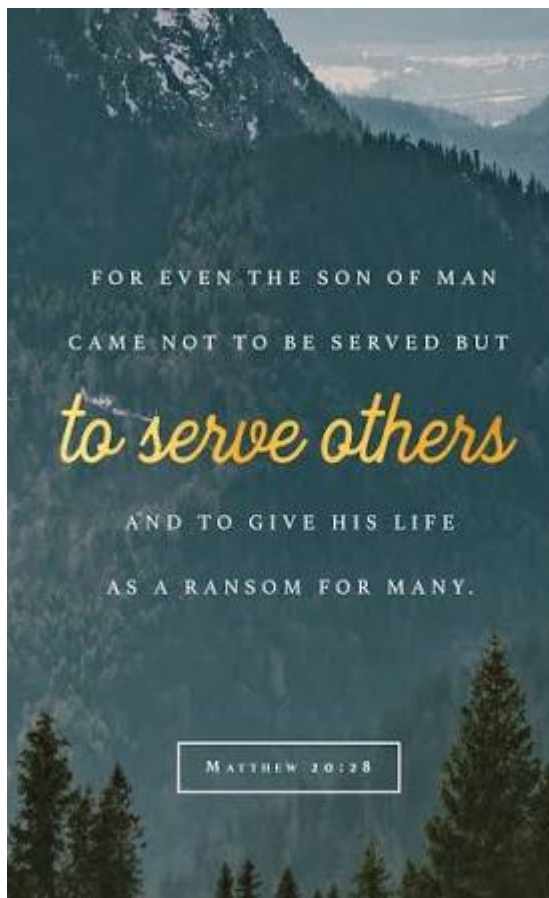
5 Pleasant View Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

HOURS:—Friday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
(Closed on weekends and holidays)

Please plan to arrive by **2:30 pm** so their team has time to assist you before closing. If your delivery fills more than an SUV, please call **717-766-1533** advance. Mission Central is closed on holidays. If you have a specific question, please call prior to delivering kits.

We will now begin to collect kits at the District Office again. The District Disaster Team will be delivering kits collected to the center in Mechanicsburg. They are also looking for volunteers to ride along and help in the distribution center. This will be a coordinated effort, so if you have kits to deliver, please contact Herb Ewald at 814-691-5718 to arrange drop-off at the District Office.

Thank you!



FOOD PANTRIES

Walnut Grove Food Pantry

<https://www.facebook.com/Walnutgrovecob/>

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/>

Please consider donating food to these or any other groups in our area.

Available Speakers

ORDAINED MINISTERS

FARREL ABRAHAM

4315 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, 15227-1245
412-979-0067
sharingpearls@comcast.net

LINDA BEACHLEY

PO Box 723
Davidsville, 15928-0723
814-479-4802
lrbeac@atlanticbb.net

RONALD BEACHLEY

PO Box 723
Davidsville, 15928-0723
814-479-4802
rondbeachley@gmail.com

KEVIN BROADWATER

475 Keystone Street
Meyersdale, 15552-6943
814-442-5684
pastorbroadwater@verizon.net

KAITLYN COUGHENOUR

785 Red Dog Roa
Salisbury, 15558
814-521-4649
shellywithattitude@gmail.com

AMELIA DERR

1202 Roberts Street
Nanty Glo, 15943-1325
814-749-0262
iamameliaderr@yahoo.com

ERIC KABLER

126 Clermont Street
Johnstown 15904-2132
814-242-0920
eric.kabler@kablerthomas.com

ERIC LONGWELL

240 Plumcreek Road
Shelocta, 15774-3144
724-599-8690
kb3ttx@gmail.com

GARY MOSORJAK

1337 Roxbury Avenue
Johnstown, 15905-1224
814-659-5853
wendel05@aol.com

TRAVIS SHAULIS

608 Second Street
Meyersdale, 15552
814-442-8626
tanbadaner@gmail.com

ROBERT SIMONSICK

111 Apple Jack Lane
Greensburg, 15601
419-934-1794
bprabsimon@aol.com

MICHAEL SWICK

4127 Greenville Road
Meyersdale 15552-8518
814-634-8158
preachmike101@comcast.net

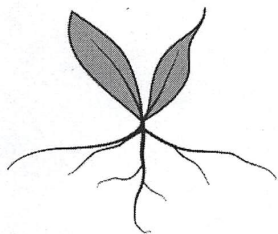
JAMES WHITED

14 Pennsylvania Avenue
Brookville 15825
814-592-5714
jrwhitedsr@gmail.com

Continuing education opportunities

Continuing Education Offerings from Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

For more
information and
to register, please
click on the title of
the event, or
contact SVMC.



- February 17, 2026: Spiritual Well Being: Strengthening & Refining. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. **COMPLETED**
- March 13, 2026: Love Feast: Past, Present, and Future. An in-person session at Cross Keys Village with Denise Kettering-Lane. **COMPLETED**
- April 18, 2026: Better with Less Workshop. A Zoom session with G. Jeffery MacDonald (Sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District). **COMPLETED**
- June 3, 2026: Congregational Ministry to Members Navigating Divorce Experiences. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open). **COMPLETED**
- October 6, 2026: Caring for Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions: A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open).
- October 29, 2026: Supporting Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions. A Zoom session with Julie Guistwite. (Registration not yet open).

www.etown.edu/svmc

SVMC@SvmcCob.org

717-361-1450

Camp Harmony



Scrapbook Retreat

Nov. 6, 4 PM - Nov. 7, 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** - \$110 Fri and Sat w/ lodging
- **#2** - \$85 Fri and Sat commute

General Information:

Registration Deadline is Oct. 30 (must be paid in advance)

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone

No refunds for cancellations after Nov. 3 or no-shows

\$30 fee for returned checks

Bring an extension cord if you plan on using electric

Lodging will be at Harmony Lodge - please bring your own bedding (full and/or twin) and towels



Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook

Name: _____ Package Choice: 1 2 (circle one)
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Seat/Room me with: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Send checks and registration to:

Dorothy Gindlesperger
330 Miller Run Road
Hooversville, PA 15936



Questions about the retreat?

Liz Holbrook
814-701-1681

MrsLizHolbrook@gmail.com

Register online at www.campharmony.org/scrapbook



www.campharmony.org

FUNDRAISING FOR CHAIR-ITY

Our current chairs are 30+ years old and show signs of use from serving thousands of campers & guests per year.

As we continue to upgrade our facilities, we want to provide comfortable, long-lasting chairs to those who come to Camp Harmony seeking rest, relaxation and restoration.

Help provide a seat for guests to meet, eat, and get off their feet!



**The MityLite
FlexOne CS is
extremely durable
& stands up to
the rigors of
commercial use.**



STRONG & DURABLE STEEL FRAME

WIDER THAN STANDARD FOLDING CHAIRS

LIGHTWEIGHT, EASY TO CLEAN & STORE

VENTILATED, BREATHABLE SEAT & BACK

CAN HOLD UP TO 1,000 LBS



REVIEW THE NEXT PAGE TO SEE HOW YOUR
DONATIONS CAN HELP!

CHAIR-ITY GIVING TIERS:

Back Stage Pass - \$500
(6+ CHAIRS)

Front Row - \$250
(3+ CHAIRS)

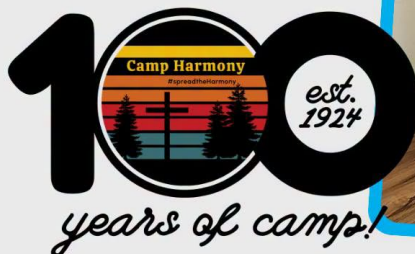
Lower Bowl - \$150
(TWO CHAIRS)

Balcony - \$75
(ONE CHAIR)

General Admission - Any

Our goal is \$20,000 to purchase 300 chairs

Donations can be given with a cash, check,
or online at www.campharmony.org



Donate online!



Camp Harmony

WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUR NEXT **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!**

PROVIDING ADVENTURE AND FUN WITH AN ETERNAL PURPOSE!



CAMP HARMONY IS SEEKING A MISSION-DRIVEN
LEADER TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL AND OPERATIONAL
LEADERSHIP, ENSURING A SAFE, FUN, CHRIST-
CENTERED EXPERIENCE FOR ALL GUESTS.

Full details at www.campharmony.org/about

WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR August 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					District Office Closed	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 SVMC
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 SVMC
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					Page 14

2026 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 2026

8—SVMC Class

22— SVMC Class

SEPTEMBER 2026

5—SVMC Class

10 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

19 - District Conference, County Line COB

26—SVMC Class

OCTOBER 2026

10—SVMC Class at the District Office

24—SVMC Class

NOVEMBER 2026

5 - Core Leadership Team, 6:00 pm, Zoom

14 - District Leadership Team, 9:00 am, TBA

DECEMBER 2026

No meetings or events scheduled

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

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August 2026