

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Western PA District Church of the Brethren

October 2026

DISTRICT CONFERENCE NOTES

The delegates of the Western PA District gathered at the County Line Church of the Brethren on September 19, 2026 on a lovely autumn day for the 160th Annual District Conference. The Conference Moderator Abby Shaffer chose the theme “Preach the Gospel” as the theme for this year’s District Conference.

Conference was condensed into a morning business session which included a delicious brunch served by the County Line COB. There was also a brief presentation by Riley Rowan from Eder Financial, Lynette Morales from Everence, and a message from Church of the Brethren General Secretary, David Steele.

The Licensed Ministers of the District were consecrated by Pastor Rob Rummel representing the District Pastor & Parish Ministry Team and a certificate was presented to Pastor Addy Lucatorto by DM Ruby Mader representing SVMC.

Pastor Bob Stein from the Uniontown COB was installed as Moderator for 2027. Others affirmed on the slate include: Moderator Designate, Kaitie Coughenour (Hostetler); Program & Arrangements, Dan Shaffer (Rummel); Discipleship & Reconciliation Committee, Oyango Burney (Penn Run), Horace Derr (Locust Grove). District Leadership Team: Outreach & Service Team, Paul Hamilton (Westmont); Pastor & Parish Ministry Team, Irvin Ernst (Ligonier); Spiritual Formation Team, Addie Lucatorto (Good Samaritan); Stewards & Finance Team, Donna Smith (Westmont), Dick Jones (Ligonier).



District Minister Team member Chris Forry shared a brief report of the District Minister Team activities in 2026. There was also an acknowledgement that no churches closed or left the denomination in 2026.

A budget of \$140,942.00 for 2027 was approved. The total reflects a \$366.00 decrease.

There were officially 76 attendees (62 delegates, 14 Non-delegates including and District Leadership and Staff) and 26 congregations were represented.

A very special THANK YOU to Pastor Barry Conn and all the folks at the County Line COB, Moderator Abby Shaffer, 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

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

The Highlights deadline for the

November 2026 issue is

October 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

2027 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

I will be starting to work on the 2027 District Directory. Please send me any updates you may have starting in September. The 2027 Directory will be completed by December 15, 2026.

Any questions, please contact me at

tlehman@brethren.org

or 814-479-2181.

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 **2027** please send one to:

Western PA District Office
115 Spring Road,
Hollsopple, 15935

Thank you!



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

WITH SYMPATHY

To Pastor David Herring and his family as his sister Susan passed away on September 9th.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The District Leadership Team meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 14, 2026** at the District Office



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/HostetlerCOBMeversdalePa>

Meyersdale COB - https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyersdale-Church-Of-The-Brethren/100064412810727/?eav=AfZ_hZTDROBT2145UoR6btO6zS69_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

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Westmont Church of the Brethren Celebrates 130 Years!

This year, Westmont Church of the Brethren joyfully celebrates 130 years of gathering in faith, serving in community, and witnessing to the great faithfulness of God. As we reflect on more than a century of ministry, we are grateful for the generations who have gone before us and for the ways God continues to work through our congregation today.

The roots of Westmont Church of the Brethren reach back even further than its official founding. Before 1896, believers gathered for worship in barns, homes, and a local school. In 1896, the congregation—then known as the Yoder Hill Church of the German Baptist Brethren—built its first meetinghouse with approximately 50 charter members. Westmont became a separate congregation in 1917, and as the church continued to grow, a new church home was built at the corner of Sunshine Avenue and St. Clair Road in 1958, where generations have continued to worship, grow, and serve together.

Westmont Church will commemorate its 130th anniversary with a special celebration service on **Sunday, October 11 at 9:45 am**, with music, baptisms, and dedications, followed by a covered-dish meal. As we celebrate this milestone, we do so with gratitude for all God has done, joy for what He is doing among us today, and hope for the generations yet to come.

The words shared at Westmont's 100th anniversary remain a fitting prayer as we celebrate 130 years: **"May those who come behind us find us faithful!"**



SOME GOOD NEWS!

CLOTHING DRIVE

Rummel COB had another successful clothing giveaway on August 01. We received lots of nice items, and over 200 people came to shop!

One mother with four boys couldn't make it to the event, so she emailed and asked us to shop for her, but there wasn't much there in the sizes she asked for.

One of our members heard about this, and she went on Monday to some local thrift stores to buy school clothes, shoes, and backpacks for the boys! Another member washed the clothes and cleaned the shoes. They met the mother and she was overjoyed! One more family was blessed. "Don't worry about what you can't do; focus on what you CAN do!"

COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

Rummel Church will experience the Colors of Christmas this advent season!

Each week, we will add a color to the sanctuary and explore what it represents in the Christmas story.

Green for life

Purple for royalty

Red for sacrifice

Blue for eternity,

White for purity

Gold for riches

We hope you all have a vibrant and beautiful celebration season ahead!



CALL FOR GOOD NEWS

We call all use some good news now and again right?

Stories of serving in the community, church events, milestone birthday and anniversaries, academic achievements, etc.

I look forward to sharing more good news from the District! tlehman@brethren.org

SERVING IN THE DISTRICT AND BEYOND

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

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 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.

FOOD PANTRIES

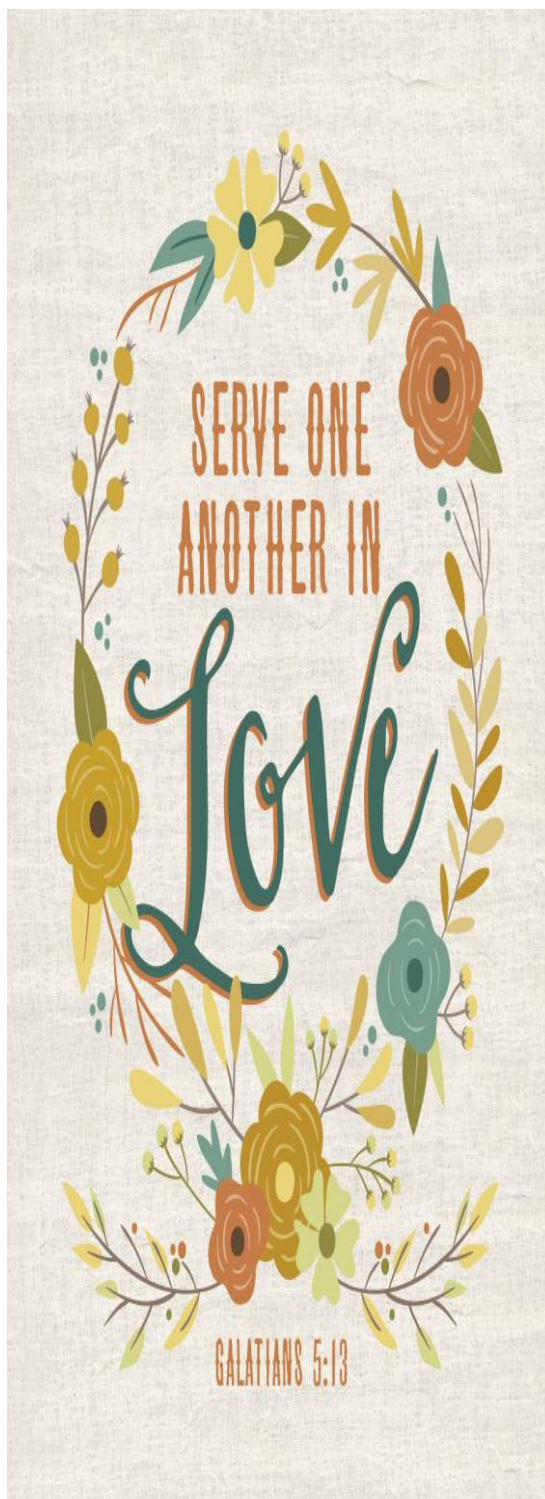
Walnut Grove Food Pantry

<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

OYANGO BURNEY

137 N. 9th Street
Indiana, PA 15701
724-541-6850
livingyourbestlifeinthepresent@gmail.com

KAITLYN COUGHENOUR

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

ERIC KABLER

126 Clermont Street
Johnstown 15904-2132
814-242-0920
eric.Kabler@christcenteredinvesting.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

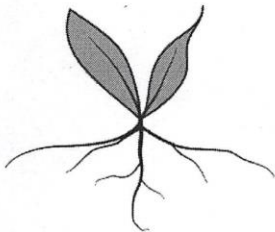
JAMES WHITED

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 Katterer-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

**1414 Plank Road
PO Box 158
Hooversville, PA 15936**



**814.798.5885
campharmony.org**

Providing Adventure & Fun with an Eternal Purpose!

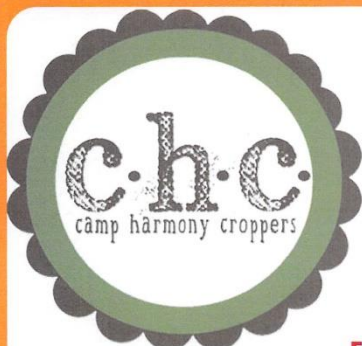
September 2026

Camp Harmony is excited to welcome Kenny Lane as their next Executive Director. Kenny recently moved onsite with his wife (Angela) and two daughters (Luella, 3, and Raylynne, 1). The whole family already feels welcomed by the staff and camp community and they are ready to help Spread the Harmony.

Kenny graduated from Huntington University (IN) with a double major in youth ministry and missions with an emphasis in camp ministry. Prior to Camp Harmony Kenny has worked in full-time camp ministry for twelve and a half years. Kenny has served in the area of guest services, program, operations, and filled in helping in housekeeping, maintenance, and food service. Camp Harmony is excited to welcome Kenny to the team and to have his gifts to help serve the Kingdom.



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

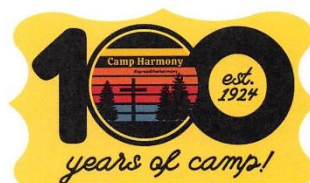
No refunds for cancellations after Nov. 3 or no-shows

\$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)

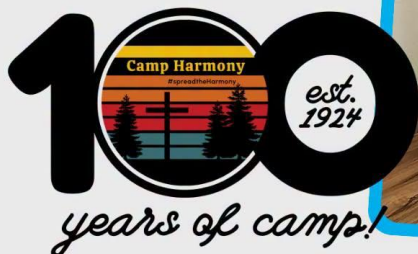
Lower Bowl - \$150
(TWO CHAIRS)

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!



WPA DISTRICT CALENDAR October 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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

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!

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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