

Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

Trusting God When You're Trapped in Uncertainty

Recently, the Nurture Commission held a meeting with the major portion of the evening's business focused on the beginnings of the budgeting process for 2025. If you have ever taken part in budget creation, you know this is a task that is very rarely an easy one. This year, I felt even more uncertain about submitting a budget with the uncertainty surrounding the district - its membership and its leadership, specifically the District Executive role being up in the air. For this meeting, I was scheduled to lead the devotion. As I thought and prayed about a devotion that would be relevant and impactful, my mind kept returning to that feeling of uncertainty. Shortly thereafter, God provided the perfect devotion for myself, and the other members of that commission on that very topic: uncertainty. In true God fashion, this devotion was very impactful to the persons on the Nurture Commission and we felt it needed to be shared with each of you. The devotion is titled "Trusting God When You're Trapped in Uncertainty" and was written by Daniel Henderson. May God bless you as you read.

I used to say that we live in uncertain times. While I still believe this is true, I am starting to conclude that we all live uncertain lives. While God's truth and our eternal destiny in Christ are certain, many other factors in our lives are a bit unpredictable and unclear at times. It is the nature of the journey.

I suppose today as you read this you face some measure of uncertainty. You may face major questions about your health, your job, your finances, your children, your grandchildren, your church, or someone in your circle of friends. Clearly, we cannot avoid uncertainty in this life, but we can respond to it in a Christ-honoring and soul-profiting fashion.

Recently I read a profound interchange documented in a book by the renowned ethicist John Kavanaugh. He tells of a time in his life when he went to Calcutta to work for three months at "The House of the Dying". This experience was part of his heartfelt search for direction about his future. The first morning there, he met Mother Teresa. She asked, "And what can I do for you?" Kavanaugh asked her to pray for him.

"What do you want me to pray for?" she asked. He responded by explaining that he had come thousands of miles from the U.S. to find direction: "Pray that I have clarity."

She said firmly, "No, I will not do that." When asked why, she said, "Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of." Kavanaugh commented that she always seemed to have the clarity he longed for. She laughed and said, "I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God."

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Vision Statement:
Working together to
empower disciples for
ministry & mission through:
Leadership Development,
Mission & Service Opportunities,
& Creative Resourcing

SO PA Dist. Mission: Create New Testament communities committed to personal transformation thru Jesus Christ

Trusting God When You're Trapped in Uncertainty, continued

There is something in all of us that always wants clarity. It is part of our sinful ego and a common expression of our insecurities. Clarity can become an idol that replaces authentic trust in God. In many ways, we would rather understand the details of the road ahead than rest in deep intimacy with the God who has promised to direct our steps. He has never promised to show us a detailed 10-year plan. Clarity can actually become spiritually counterproductive as it shortchanges trust, a life of faith, and moment-by-moment dependence on God.

Scripture tells us, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8). Yes, we must pour out our hearts and all they contain – praise, gratitude, worry, fear, doubt, and, yes, uncertainty. God is our in-the-moment refuge, but not always a divine GPS system, spouting the details of every turn we might encounter one year down the road. Thus, we must trust Him at ALL times. We should never assume a life of trust or take God's refuge for granted.

Nicolas Wingert, District Nurture Commission

GOD'S WISDOM as given to us in His WORD

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. I Corinthians 1:10

Paul, surely must have misunderstood what God wanted in regard to the above comment he made in I Corinthians! As I have time to read some of our District Pastor's comments to their congregations, there are certainly some articles which bear repeating and the following is one of those. It comes from The Faith Community of The Brethren Home congregation Pastor, Linda Titzell:

A story is told of Tonto and the Lone Ranger riding through a canyon one afternoon. All of a sudden, they were surrounded by American Indian Warriors on horses, dressed for battle and shouting loudly. The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and asked, "What are we going to do?" Tonto replied, "What do you mean "we" Kemosabe?"

It's amazing how when times get tough and we encounter adversity, one of the first things to be sacrificed is UNITY. And when we think about the challenges facing Christians today, many of these things are sadly dividing brothers and sisters in Christ, when we need to be united more than ever. Christian unity in the face of adversity is not some unattainable concept. In fact, when we as believers in Christ maintain our commitment to the truth of Scripture and to the fellowship of the Spirit, unity just seems to happen. When challenges come, we as the body of Christ, **must fact them together.**

So stay committed to biblical truth. **Reaffirm your devotion to one another in the Spirit** When you make those things your priorities, adversity will bring you together instead of tearing you apart! Pray, asking God to help YOU stay committed to biblical truth and fellowship of the Spirit, so you stay unified with the body of Christ.

In Christian love,
Georgia



District Executive Search Committee Update

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - grace and peace upon you, the Southern District of Pennsylvania (SOPA) members of the Church of the Brethren.

We are writing to provide an initial update on the Search Committee tasked with finding the next SOPA District Executive(s) and share specific ways you can continue to support this critical work.

First, we are grateful for the support and encouragement from the District as we undertake this critical responsibility. Your prayers, wisdom, and patience have been invaluable, and we are deeply thankful for your continued partnership during this process.

In April, the Search Committee met for the first time to take care of some initial business, including selecting a Chairperson and Scribe, setting meeting dates, and meeting with the Director of the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, Nancy Heishman. Sister Nancy explained the search process, provided materials, and answered many of the Search Committee's questions. Additionally, members of the District Executive Search Committee have been finalized from the SOPA Executive Committee members and additional at-large members of the District. The individual members, including applicable roles, are:

Ian Irvin, chair	Eric Reamer, scribe
Cindy Barclay	Mary Hahn
John Hess	Wynne Hoffacker
Ray Lehman	Keith Nonemaker
Jeff Rider	John Shelly
Harold Yeager	Leon Yoder
Traci Rabenstein, consultant	

While we are at the beginning of this vital process, we recognize that finding the right candidate is a process that requires careful consideration and discernment. As such, if you are or know of anyone interested, please get in touch with Sister Nancy, officeofministry@brethren.org. Additionally, general questions, updates, or comments to the District Executive Search Committee can come to me at ian.irvin@yahoo.com. Finally, we ask for your continued prayers as we move forward in the following ways:

- **Discernment:** Please pray that God will grant us the wisdom and clarity of discernment as we evaluate candidates and discern His will for this District.
- **Unity:** Please pray that the members of the Search Committee remain united in purpose and vision, seeking to make God's Kingdom more known to the world.
- **Open Hearts:** Please pray that the Search Committee and candidates approach this process with open hearts, receptive to God's leading and direction.
- **God's Timing:** Please pray that we all will trust and rely on God's perfect timing, knowing that He has already chosen the individual or individuals who will best serve this District.
- **Provision:** Please pray that God would provide for the needs of the District and each congregation during this interim period.

We remain confident that God is faithful and will lead us and our future District Executive(s) to one another.

Thank you once again for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement. We trust that, together, we will discern God's will and move forward in faith and unity.

In Christ's love,
Ian Irvin, Chair, District Executive Search Committee

SOPA District Office

Mondays - Friday

Call for Hours

Office Phone: (717) 778-2264

Email: sopadistrict@brethren.org

Georgia Markey, Interim District Executive

Email: gmarkey@brethren.org

Cell: (717) 887-3905

Office (717) 778-2254

Address: SOPA District COB

3375 Carlisle Rd, Suite A

Gardners, PA 17324

Website: cob-net.org



These congregations are currently looking for pastoral or additional staff

Search Process

Gettysburg COB - Sr. Pastor (currently Utilizing Pulpit Fill)

Mechanicsburg COB - Sr. Pastor (currently being served by Interim Pastor, James Benedict)

York Second COB—Pastor (currently being served by Lay Minister)

SOPA District Office—District Executive (currently held by Interim DE, Georgia Markey)

Pastoral Placement within Southern PA District

Waynesboro COB— called Interim Pastor, Andrew Paterno, as settled Pastor

A SPECIAL WELCOME to Pastor Andrew Paterno!



2024 District Directory UPDATE

The District Directory is almost complete. The office and District Executive Committee added some key information to the Directory this year. We will have a new Directory to you this month! Thank you for patiently waiting as we've updated and diligently working on this project.. Thank you! ~ Georgia

Southern PA District Congregations

District **Women's Camp**, was held, June 3-4, 2024, Camp Eder, with Guest Speaker—Gretchen Sortzi. We had 55 women attend camp to hear Gretchen's message, "Finding the Light".

Pastors/Ministers are reminded to get any CEU's earned to the District Office for your records and for the Ministry Commission's review prior to December 1, 2024.

If you haven't registered delegates for Annual Conference, please do so before the June 10th deadline. If delegates are unable to register before June 10th, they can register onsite in Grand Rapids starting Tuesday, July 2, 3 PM in the Grand Gallery Concourse of the DeVos Place Convention Center until 7 PM. Registration opens at 8AM, Wednesday, July 3.

MEAT CANNING 2024 HATCHED OUT SUCCESSFULLY!

THE 2024 DISTRICT MEAT CANNING PROJECT, ACCOMPLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT TOOK PLACE APRIL 1-4, 2024, AT THE CHRISTIAN AID MINISTRY FACILITY IN EPHRATA, LANCASTER COUNTY. WITH APPROXIMATELY 139 VOLUNTEERS FROM BOTH MID-ATLANTIC AND SOPA DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS, APPROXIMATELY 17,920 LBS OF CHICKEN WAS CANNED, RESULTING IN OVER 9000 PLUS, TWENTY OZ CANS.

AS IN THE PAST 46 YEARS VOLUNTEERS FROM BOTH DISTRICTS HAVE ENJOYED COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER KNOWING THE TIME SPENT TOGETHER ON THIS MISSION PROJECT WOULD BE MUCH SIMILAR TO THE STATEMENT IN THE BIBLE ABOUT SHARING A CUP OF COLD WATER. THIS YEAR, AS IN PAST YEARS, THE CANNED MEAT HAS BEEN DIVIDED THREE WAYS. BOTH DISTRICTS RECEIVE 1/3 OF THE CANNED CHICKEN TO DISTRIBUTE WITHIN THEIR DISTRICTS TO AGENCIES AND TO INDIVIDUALS TO HELP WITH PUTTING FOOD ON THEIR TABLE. ALSO, THIS YEAR A THIRD OF THIS CANNED PROJECT WILL MAKE ITS WAY TO THE WEST COAST WHERE GILBERT ROMERO WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THOSE IN NEIGHBORING AREAS WHO, MANY TIMES, FIND THEMSELVES SCAVENGING FOR FOOD AT THE LOCAL DUMP. *THINGS WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED.*

DISTRIBUTION OF SOPA DISTRICT'S PORTION OF CANNED CHICKEN TOOK PLACE RECENTLY FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE. CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AND AGENCIES PICKED UP THEIR PORTION TO BE ABOUT MINISTRY IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

THANKS TO ALL THE CONGREGATIONS WHO GAVE BOTH FINANCIALLY AND AS VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS PROJECT HAPPEN. THANKS ALSO TO THE DISTRICT WITNESS COMMISSION AND ITS MEAT CANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO WITNESS IN THIS MANNER.

THE ROOSTER HAS CROWED IN A POSITIVE WAY THIS DAY! ~ GEORGIA



HOLD IN PRAYER



Sympathy is extended to the family of Benjamin Godfrey, former Codorus COB pastor. Ben was involved with the church since a boy. He was active with Camp ministry as well as serving his home congregation in various ways, including serving there as pastor prior to moving to the mid-west to be with family. Our condolences to his family.

Pastor Eric Ritenour's mother in law, Connie Barns, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Penn Run, PA (near Indiana). Services were held at Codorus COB on May 11th. Please keep Pastor Eric and wife Rhonda in your prayers. Our condolences to the family.

Please be in prayer for District Board member, Kim Geisewite who, again, had foot surgery on June 3, 2024. The Doctor needs to remove one of the heel anchors, which decided to move, and is causing Kim pain. Keep Kim and the doctors caring for her in prayer.

Continue to pray for Melinda Carlson, York First COB, who recently slipped while mowing, which resulted in injuries. She broke her shoulder and pelvic bone.

Harold Hopewell, who was a long time member of the Mid-Atlantic District, was called to his Eternal Home in late March, 2024. For years, he participated in the "Meat Canning Project" and always picked up the allotment of cans for 1st Church. He was the last of 1st Church's Old Guard, "The Men On The Move." They all served 1st Church and God as long as they were physically able. They maintained the building, supported the "Women Of Action," vacation bible school and did outreach to the Vets in the VA. Please be in prayer for the Hopewell family.

A memorial service for Belita Mitchell was held on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, at the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren. The service was also livestreamed. Sister Belita passed away on February 10, 2024. The first African-American woman to be ordained in the Church of the Brethren, Mitchell was called as the 2007 Annual Conference Moderator. She served as pastor to Church of the Brethren congregations at Imperial Heights (Calif.) and Harrisburg First (Pa.). Along with her husband, Don, she was recognized in 2017 by the denomination's Intercultural Ministries as a significant leader in efforts to make the Church of the Brethren an intercultural church, and in 2022 she was the preacher for the final worship service at Annual Conference in Omaha.

~Continue to uplift Pastor Bob Krouse (Hanover COB) in prayer as he continues his battle with cancer.
 ~Be in prayer for Pastor Mark Bowyer, Hanover COB, as he continues to go through cancer treatments for melanoma.



Happenings around Our District

Community Outreach within our District

- A discussion on **Tips for a Safer Community** was led by Silver Spring Township Police Officer Amel Hajdarevic at West Shore Church of the Brethren (WSCOB) in February for the church neighborhood. Tips for church consideration: 1. an automatic alarm system with cameras, 2. change of key lock for doors at the top of stairways, 3. push-button panic alarms upstairs and down, and 4. keeping Narcan on hand for opioid overdoses. General tips: 1. ring cameras for homes, 2. carrying pepper spray, 3. not leaving your purse in the car when shopping, and 4. disposing of unused drugs at the municipal building / police station, and 5. recycling batteries/ worn-out rechargeable batteries, where appropriately recycled. We handed out invitations to attendees for the weekly community Lenten Luncheons and our WSCOB Easter services.
- Mechanicsburg COB packs and sends **care boxes for their college students**. Boxes contain items like treats and sweet goodies. Recently, the church added computer bags to the boxes that included a special note to each student.
- Mechanicsburg COB hosts **Burgers & Dogs Community Cookouts**, last Saturday of the month, May—September, 12-2. Members of the congregation and the community are encouraged to attend.

Park Chaplaincy Program

This is to remind you that the Nurture Commission works with the Leisure Ministry and the Park Chaplaincy programs through the PA Council of Churches. This is a program that has been going on for over 60 years and is the only one of its kind in the country. The SOPA District supports a full time chaplain at the Gifford Pinchot and one at Codorus State Park from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Harry Davis is the Chaplain for Gifford Pinchot and Amber Ballou is at Codorus. They provide services through the week and conduct a worship service each Sunday morning. (Services at Gifford Pinchot begin at 10:00 am at the amphitheater) (Services at Codorus State Park begin at 9:30 am)

They are always looking for volunteers for music, children's activities, and other projects surrounding the ministry. This would be a great place to take a Sunday School class for a Sunday morning experience and picnic. You can contact Rose Mary Firestone who is the Chairman for Gifford Pinchot to find ways that you can support the Pinchot ministry. Her contact information is, 717-307-1822 or firestonefunfarm@gmail.com.

We are looking to find interested individuals that are willing to serve on a committee to help Amber at Codorus State Park. Amber's telephone number is 717 698-9341 or contact Ellen Yoder, leonellenyoder@gmail.com, District Nurture Committee Chair, for more information on how to help, . Be praying how you might come along side this wonderful outreach.

Ellen Yoder, Nurture Committee Chair

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry

For the last 12-15 years, Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry has relied on your giving at our banquets to provide approximately one-third of our annual operating budget. Over those years, and in particular post COVID, we have experienced a consistent decrease in attendance at the banquets resulting in decreased offerings. Holding a banquet requires a significant amount of time and funds, and we rely heavily on our sponsors for funding much of the costs involved. Although we certainly enjoy these banquet times together, it just doesn't make sense to continue them just to financially break even. As such, the Board of Directors has made the very difficult decision to suspend these fundraising banquets. However, we still need your continued financial support. We hope that you will consider giving at least as much as you would give at the banquets. For those of you who have IRAs, please discuss with your tax consultant about giving directly to the Ministry through Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs). This is a great way to make contributions to non-profit organizations without having to pay any tax on the funds withdrawn from your IRA. You can also donate online anytime at: www.carlisletruckstopministry.org.

We want to thank you for your very generous support of the Ministry, not only financially, but with your prayers. Our chaplains are on the 'front line' of so many different situations every day. Pray for them to have Godly wisdom and discernment, and physical health and safety. David D. Bell, Secretary/Treasurer

Women's Spring Luncheon—2024



Kirsten Keys was the key note speaker of the 2024 Women's Spring Luncheon hosted by the West Shore Church of the Brethren, co-pastored by Beth Nonemaker (pictured, left) and her husband Keith. Seventy-five ladies were refreshed by an inspirational interactive pondering of Deuteronomy 6, "teach your children to love God", and Matthew 11, "come to Me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest".

District Nurture Commission Chair, Ellen Yoder provided behind the scenes planning. A delicious ham dinner followed, thanks to Mary Hahn (District Nurture Commission) and her kitchen crew, which included her son Morgan Hahn Jr. (District Stewards Commission), Keith Nonemaker (District Ministry Commission), Earl Lego (member West Shore COB), Leon Yoder (District Board Chair), and John Shelly (District Ministry Commission), all stepped up to help when the caterers were unable to make it.

It was a wonderful event! Thank you to all who attended! Beth Nonemaker



Earl Lego



Morgan Hahn, Leon Yoder, John Shelly



Leon Yoder

District Men's Outdoorsman Day 2024 **(Formerly Man2Man)**

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, Camp Eder and the SOPA Nurture Commission co-sponsored a new men's ministry event, "Men's Outdoorsman Day" at Camp Eder. Based on very positive conversations among the participants, there is strong interest in making this an annual event. For the past number of years, the SOPA Nurture Commission has sponsored an annual men's ministry event called Man2Man. Each year it was graciously hosted by the Mechanicsburg COB and always featured a delicious hot breakfast and several inspirational sessions led by guest speakers on topics of interest to men. For many years it was well attended, but in recent years participation began to dwindle. The Nurture Commission decided to change the venue in an effort to spark some new interest.

When the SOPA Nurture Commission approached Camp Eder to explore co-sponsoring a Men's Outdoorsman Day the idea was met with enthusiasm from Mike Kovacs and Denny Turner. Planning began on an event that featured devotional inspiration, morning coffee & snacks, a clay pigeon shoot, a delicious hot lunch and fishing at Camp Eder's lake. Camp staff led the way, engaging two great friends of Camp Eder, Nevin Funk and Matthew Ilko, to be our firearms experts to provide gun safety training and to guide the clay pigeon shoot. Nevin and Matthew, both seasoned firearms instructors, donated their services, greatly reducing the cost of the event. One individual purchased and donated a clay pigeon launcher to Camp Eder and others provided gift cards for door prizes. Camp Eder purchased clay pigeons and ammunition while the Nurture Commission provided for honorariums for the firearms instructors. Thanks to these generous donations, we were able to keep the registration costs to \$40 per person to cover the cost of the food and ammunition. (The cost to participate in a clay pigeon shoot, would normally cost much more than this.)

To start the day, a frequent volunteer at Camp Eder, known to campers as Coach K, shared an inspiring devotional time featuring "Putting on the Whole Armor of God" from Ephesians 6. The spirit of the day was filled with enthusiasm, good fellowship, and relationship building. Just so you know, no live pigeons were harmed and all the fish caught were gently released back into the lake.

Blessings,
Leon Yoder, District Board Chair, attendee, on behalf of SOPA Nurture Commission

.....and Christ went off to a solitary place..... Mark 1:35, Luke 5; 15-16 ; Mark 1:45

Scripture tells us that in order to grow in our Faith, we need to be in contact with our maker we need to be in His Word....we need to be in prayerful conversation with Him.

As you will see the attached flyer, page 12, the Church Development & Revitalization Commission has been hosting quarterly Prayer and Praise times held at the Carlisle Church of the Brethren. As the CDR Commission developed these prayer and praise gatherings, they started out with a good number of persons attending. However, in recent times, the attendance has dwindled. Consider this opportunity to pull away from the things and happenings around you on June 9th at 6:00 PM. and join sisters and brothers together as we focus for the evening time of prayer and praise. We will focus on **The Lord's Prayer.**

ALSO put on your schedule, the date of September 8th for the Prayer and Praise event where the focus will be on the subject of: **"BRANDED for JESUS"**. What brand do you wear? There is a western program where all the workers are branded. There is also a song out that makes the statement: **"I ride for the man with the Brand of the nail-scarred hands"**. Join this gathering of sisters and brothers to evaluate what brand do you wear? Then, also, to sing praises for God and His desire for us to live like we are BRANDED for Jesus! ~ Georgia

UP-COMING EVENTS

JUNE

Sunday, June 9, 2024 District Prayer & Praise Gathering, 6:00 PM, Carlisle COB (pg. 12)

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 District Nurture Commission, Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 District Witness Commission, Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Thursday, June 20, 2024 District Executive Committee Meeting, Carlisle COB 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Summer Concert Series, Carlisle COB, 7:00 PM (pg. 14)

Thursday, June 27, 2024 District Ministry Commission, TBD, 6:30 PM

JULY

Wednesday/Sunday July 3-7, 2024 Annual Conference, DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Thursday, July 4-7, 2024 Forth of July, District Office Closed

Saturday, July 20, 2024 District Board Meeting, Gathering 8:30 AM, Danish/Beverage, 9:00 AM Meeting begins, Codorus COB, 1129 Dunkard Valley Road, Dallastown, PA17313

Monday/Friday, July 22-26, 2024 Brethren Bible Institute—E-town College
(see attached brochure, pg. 19-20)

Thursday, July 25, 2024 District Ministry Commission Meeting, TBD, 6:30 PM

Friday/Saturday, July 26-27, 2024 Brethren Bible Institute, E-Town College
(see attached brochure, pg. 21-22)

Saturday, July 27, 2024 Summer Concert Series, Carlisle COB, 7:00 PM (pg. 14)

AUGUST

Thursday, August 1, 2024 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting, TBD

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 Stewards Commission, Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 15, 2024 District Executive Committee Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Thursday, August 22, 2024 Ministry Commission, TBD, 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 31, 2024 Summer Concert Series, Carlisle COB, 7:00 PM (pg. 14)

UP COMING EVENTS CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 Central Zone Pastors Meeting, Carlisle COB

Thursday, September 5, 2024 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting TBD

Sunday, September 8, 2024 District Prayer & Praise Gathering, 6:00 PM, Carlisle COB, Examining whose brand do we wear.

Friday/Saturday, September 20-21, 2024 District Conference, Newville Church of the Brethren

Friday/Saturday, September 27-28, 2024 Disaster Relief Auction, Lebanon County Fair Grounds

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 Central Zone Pastors Meeting, Carlisle COB, 9:00 AM

Thursday, October 3, 2024 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting, TBD

Saturday, October 5, 2024 Risk Management/Mandatory Reporting Session (open to Pastors Ministers, and persons working with children/youth) CEU credit available, \$10.00, time and location TBD

Saturday, October 12, 2024 Ethics Training Session for District Ordained Ministers, Mt. Olivet COB, 9:30-3:30

Saturday, October 26, 2024 Board Reorganization/Retreat/Meeting, Gathering 8:30 AM, Danish/Beverage, 9:00 AM Meeting begins, Greencastle COB

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Central Zone Pastors Meeting, Carlisle COB, 9:00 AM

Thursday, November 7, 2024 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting, TBD

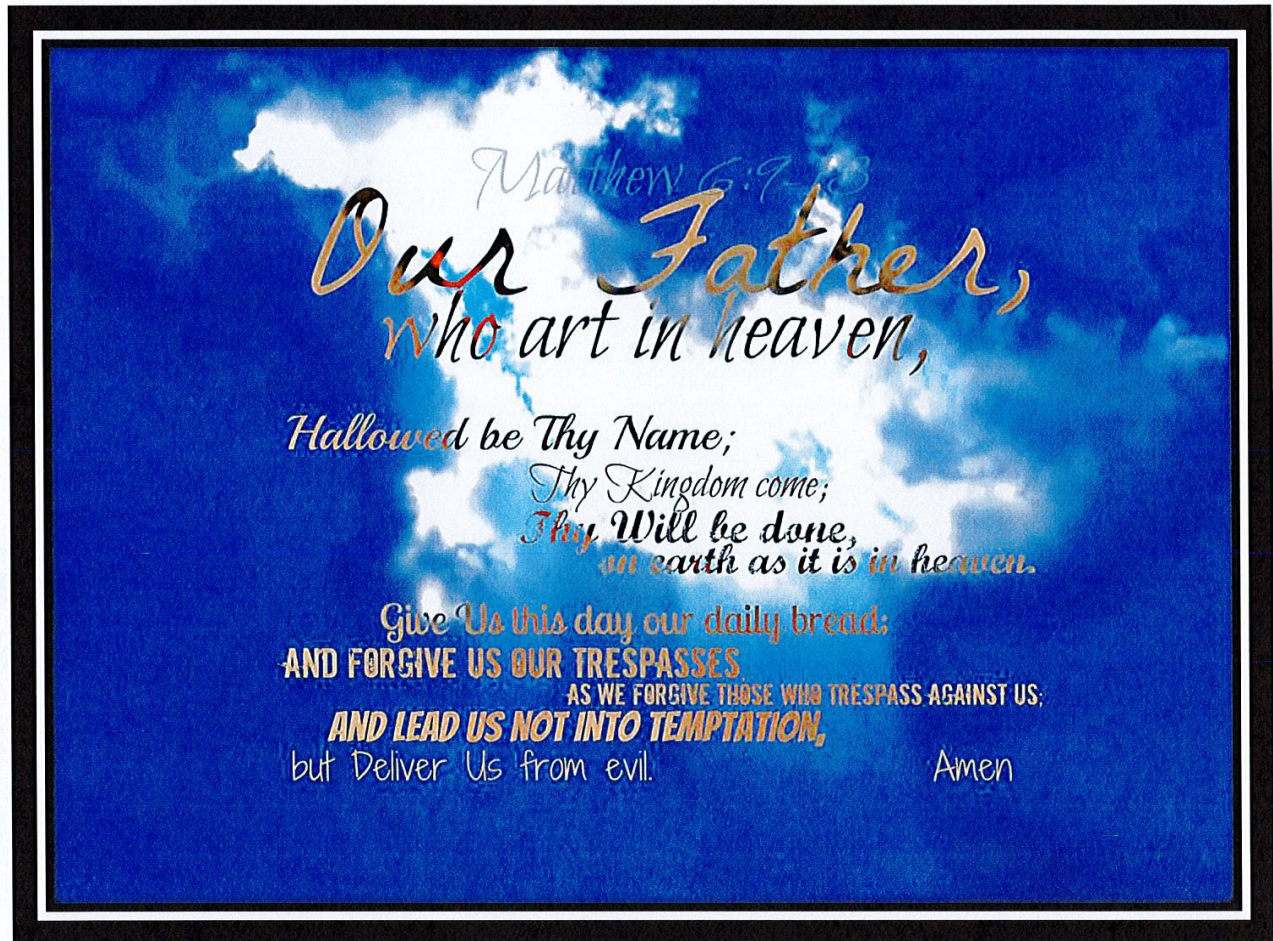
Saturday, November 9, 2024 Ethics Training Session for District Ordained Ministers, Greencastle COB, 9:30-3:30

Saturday, November 13, 2024 Ethics Training Session for District Ordained Ministers, West York COB, 9:30-3:30

Monday/Wednesday, November 15-17 2024 COB LEAD Conference, Ephrata COB
(see attached flyer—pg 16)

DECEMBER

Friday, December 6, 2024, Pastors/Ministers Christmas Gathering, Mechanicsburg COB, 6:30 PM
(invitation and registration details will follow)



DISTRICT-WIDE PRAYER

Ask and keep on asking and it will be given.

SUNDAY-JUNE 9, 2024 6:00 PM

CARLISLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

1340 Forge Road Carlisle PA 17013

Questions - 717-778-2264



First Church of the Brethren

1340 Forge Road
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013
717-243-4984

A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God

Dear Friends and Community Partners:

We wanted to alert you to an upcoming series of musical events taking place at the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren during this summer season. Three diverse groups are scheduled to play as a means of gathering our community together and to introduce community members to the vast array of music present in the local area. The first of the three events will take place on June 22nd at 7:00 pm. Panhandle Dan Cronin, a long-time member of the Back Porch String Band, will share his folkly tunes and warm sense of "Back Porch Humor."

A \$10 donation is requested. All monies collected will offset the cost of musicians, with the balance going to various local charities. The balance of the June event will be designated to Camp Eder, a local church camp located just south of Gettysburg, PA.

We would appreciate it if you would post the enclosed flyer announcing this first event. Brief announcements at both formal and informal settings of your group's meetings would also be appreciated. Come enjoy this unique time to enjoy music and get to know friends and members of the community better.

Thank you for your time,

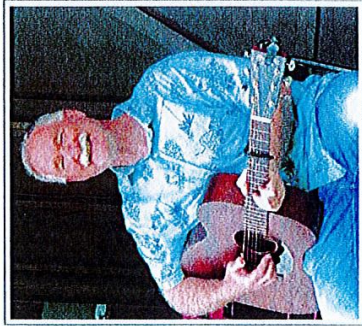
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burr Beard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Burr" and last name "Beard" clearly distinguishable.

Burr Beard, Summer Concert Series Coordinator

Ministers: every member

Carlisle First Church of the Brethren 2024

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

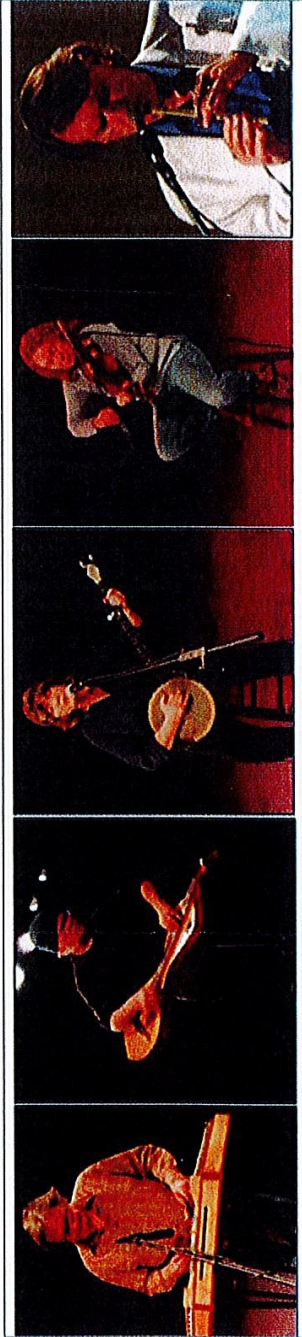


1340 Forge Rd, Carlisle, PA
17013
\$10 Donation
7:00pm
Refreshments



Panhandle Dan Cronin, Saturday, June 22nd

Vintage Brass, Saturday, July 27th



Devilish Merry, Saturday, August 31st

Church of the Brethren Denominational News

Volunteers Needed at Annual Conference Annual Conference is in need of ushers during worship services. Ushers will be collecting offerings and counting attendance. This would require very little of your time and not take away from being in the worship service. You can sign up when registering for Annual Conference and at the usher table when you arrive and check in for the conference. If you would like to assist as an usher, please reach out to Kevin Ramer, Usher Coordinator, ramerk32@gmail.com or 574-361-4024. Please use "AC Usher" in the subject line when responding by email. He especially needs help at the Wednesday worship service.

Attention Church Leaders: The number of Annual Conference Delegates allowed by congregations is determined by the total number of members as reported in the statistics section of the 2023 Church of the Brethren Yearbook. The allocations are as follows:

1 to 200 members	1 delegate	601 to 800 members	4 delegates
201 to 400 members	2 delegates	800 or more members	5 delegates
401 to 600 members	3 delegates		

Nancy Miner will retire as Office Manager of the General Secretary's office for the Church of the Brethren, effective October 31, 2024. The Western Plains District Church of the Brethren has called Nancy and her husband Blaine, to serve as Co-District Executive Ministers in a half-time role. While they will begin familiarizing themselves on a limited basis with the work of the district during June and July, their formal starting date will be August 5 following the Western Plains district conference.

The Office of Ministry gratefully acknowledges the service of **John Jantzi** as District Executive Minister of the Shenandoah District over the past 12 years. He began in the position on August 1, 2012, and concluded his ministry on March 1, 2025. During these past years, John has given leadership to District Ministries during seasons of significant change while faithfully guiding District staff and leaders in their work.

The Atlantic Southeast (ASE) District Board of the Church of the Brethren has called **Larry O'Neill** to serve as the Director of English Ministries, a role he began on March 23, 2024.

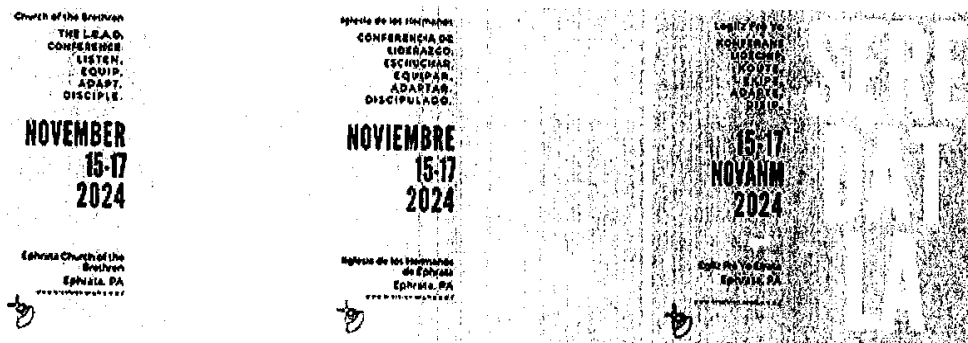
The Atlantic Southeast District Church of the Brethren has called **Beth Sollenberger** to serve as Interim District Director of Administration, a quarter-time position, which began on April 1, 2024.

The Leadership Team of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren has called **Douglas Veal** to serve as District Executive Minister beginning on June 25, 2024.



Church of the Brethren Denominational News, Continued

Southern PA Districts Cross Keys Village/The Brethren Home has announced the retirement of **Jeff Evans**, President and Chief Executive Officer for Cross Keys Village and the Brethren Home Foundation, effective September 6, 2024, after 12 years of service. The Board of Directors has established a succession plan with a Search Committee and the engagement of an Executive Search Firm. An announcement of the next CEO of Cross Keys Village is expected later this year.

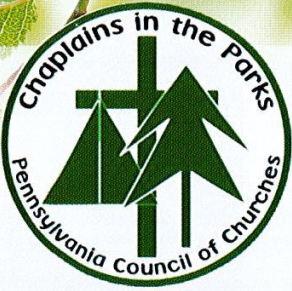


11) Save the date for a new L.E.A.D. Conference this fall

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.

This will be a leadership development conference for congregational leaders such as pastors and church board members.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/save-the-date-lead-conference



Campground Ministry Newsletter

Issue No 2-24

CHAPLAINS IN THE PARK IS A MINISTRY OF THE PA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. OPERATING UNDER A SPECIAL USE AGREEMENT FROM THE DCNR.

The Campground Ministry is 100% donor funded. All funds received stay in the Campground Ministry Program.

If you are getting this newsletter by mail, consider sending us your email to get an interactive newsletter directly to your email: production@postal-discounters.com

PRAYER NEEDS

- Local committees to sponsor chaplains
- Financial Support to continue the program
- Courage and boldness to proclaim the Good News

NEW MINISTRIES IN 2024

- Chaplain Tammy Davis will serve at Hickory Run State Park in White Haven
- Chaplain Gavin Boring will serve at Ohiopyle State Park in Ohiopyle
- Chaplain Hannah Britcher will serve at Little Buffalo and Fowler's Hollow
- Chaplain Louis Powers will serve at Tuttle Point at Pymatuning State Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Chaplain Training: May 14-15, 2024 at Camp Blue Diamond**
- **Season Kick off - May 26 (Memorial Day)**



Hickory Run State Park

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know in the 2023 season, 1,800 people on average were witnessed to by your chaplain each week?

SPOTLIGHTS

NEW MINISTRIES TO VISIT IN 2024



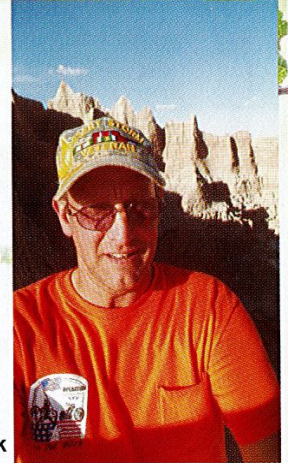
The Lord has blessed us with the opportunity to start a few new ministry points. God called on willing workers and they answered the call. We are excited for the 2024 season and these new chaplains serving. Please encourage them with your attendance and prayers.

- Chaplain Tammy Davis will serve at Hickory Run State Park, Services are at 9:30 am, in White Haven
- Chaplain Gavin Boring will serve at Ohiopyle State Park, Services are at 10:00 am, in Ohiopyle
- Chaplain Louis Powers will serve at Tuttle Point, Services are at 10:00 am, at Pymatuning State Park
- Chaplain Hannah Britcher will serve at Little Buffalo and Fowlers Hollow in Blain, Service times are available at our website

2024 MINISTRY POINTS

Bald Eagle: Vacant
Black Moshannon: Kevin Brady
Canoe Creek: Amy Webster
Chapman and Buckaloons: Dave Johnson
Codorus: Amber Ballou
Col Denning & Dogwood Acres: Ken Rummel
Cook Forest & Clear Creek: Vacant
Cowan's Gap & Burnt Cabins: Tim Bremmer
French Creek: Volunteers
Gifford Pinchot: Harry Davis
Hickory Run: Tammy Davis
Hillegass: Joy Blackburn
Keystone: Mike Duffalo
Locust Lake: Vacant
Little Buffalo & Fowlers Hollow: Hannah Britcher
Ohiopyle: Gavin Boring
Parker Dam: Tammy Meholic
Prince Gallitzin: Vacant
Poe Vally & Poe Paddy: Vacant
Pymatuning: Don Sitter
R.B. Winter: John Boes
Racoon Creek: Volunteers
Raystown Lake: Vacant
World's End & Ricketts Glen: Beccy Brown
Tionesta: Cindy Mealey
Tuttle Point: Louis Powers

Chaplain Timothy "Tim" Bremmer is continuing in the footsteps of the Chaplains who served before him as Chaplain of "Cowans Gap State Park". This is the birthplace of our ministry "Chaplains in the Park" since 1960. He serves there in the tradition of serving the Lord as the first chaplain did in 1960. Tim graduated high school from North Hagerstown High in 1982 while living in the north end of Hagerstown, Maryland. He grew up with his mom and dad, Nancy and Fred Bremmer, along with his two older brothers, Rick and Robin. He served U.S. Navy for the next 3 years. During his third year in the Navy Tim met his wife, Connie. In 1985, Tim served the U.S. Coast Guard and settled in Elizabeth City N.C. at USCG Air Station. He was an Engine Mechanic and C130 Loadmaster/Dropmaster. In 1989 on December 25th, Connie and Tim welcomed their daughter Laura Ann. In June of 1990 Tim, Connie, and Laura packed up and spent the next 2 years in Florida at USCG Air Station Clearwater. In 1992 they all left Florida with plus one "Tim Jr." Tim then served with the West Virginia Air National Guard for 3 more years. Tim and Connie returned to the church of Connie's youth. Trinity United Church of Christ. There Tim flourished as a member of Consistory (Deacon for a term and Elder for a lot of terms). Tim loved the outdoors, so Connie and Tim decided to volunteer for a week every year at Hartman Center. Tim has been a leader in Cub Scouts and Boy Scout and other community groups in the Mercersburg/ Hagerstown Area. Tim and Connie lost Tim Jr. in December 2015. His death had a divine impact on Tim and set him on the road to Lancaster Bible College. In 2020 Tim completed his Associate's Degree in Biblical Studies. Graduated in the top 1% of his class. If you ask him, he will tell you he did not do it alone. God, Connie, Laura, and various friends and church members helped. He looked to God and asked where he should spread the Word of the Gospel. God opened the door to Campground Ministries "Chaplains in the Park." Since 2021 Tim and Connie have served the Lord at Cowans Gap SP. They have a movie night on Fridays, Saturdays they have "Kids Corner with Chaplain Tim" in the morning and in the afternoon. Sunday they have Worship at Burnt Cabins Grist Mill Campground and Cowans Gap State Park.



Dreaming about
Tim's Chili

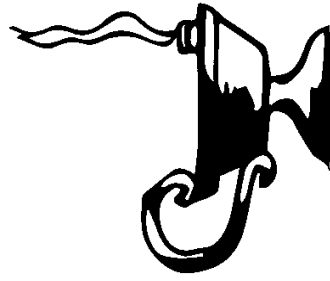


Do you want to be a part of Campground Ministry?

Email: CampgroundMinistry@pachurches.org

This program is not sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Chaplain in the Park is an employee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

51ST ANNUAL BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE



**SUMMER TERM
JULY 22-26, 2024
(ON THE CAMPUS OF
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE,
ELIZABETHTOWN, PA)**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” - ROMANS 10:17

**Sponsored by the
BRETHREN REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION - This course will look at basic principles and polity of leading the local church. We will examine the balance between upholding a spiritually focused organism of ministry and cultivating proper order for effective organization. Practical applications will be emphasized. This is a two-part class. Plan to take both parts.

THE BOOK OF HOSEA - While we may consider Hosea as one of the minor prophets, his message vividly illustrates the major doctrine in all Scriptures. The theme of God's unconditional love is magnified and extended beyond those deserving it. God expresses tender words towards his erring people inviting them to turn from sin to reconciliation with him.

Jehovah's Witnesses: AN AMERICAN CULT - Have you ever been visited by someone who said they wanted to study the Bible with you so that you might discover the truth together? Jehovah's Witnesses claim to have much in common with evangelical Christians, and they seem to be well versed in the scriptures. But what do they really believe and how can we effectively witness to those who have been ensnared by this false religion?

THE GREAT I AM'S OF CHRIST - A detailed study of Jesus Christ and His relationship to the "I Am" metaphors in John's gospel. Why did Jesus describe himself in these terms? How do they relate to each other? We will look at spiritual and practical applications to further our Christian growth.

STUDIES IN 1 AND 2 PETER - The goal of this class is to acquire a firm grasp of the teachings and themes of these two general epistles. Peter covers topics from salvation and suffering to spiritual deception and the return of Christ. These letters are packed with warnings and encouragements for Christian living.

THE APOCRYPHA - While Protestant translations of the Bible contain 66 books, the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches recognize additional canonical books as well. Where did these books, collectively known as the Apocrypha, come from and why aren't they part of our Bible? How reliable are they, and what value is there in studying them?

ONE FOUNDATION ...and that is Jesus Christ. This course is intended to lay down a measure in a world where truth is slippery and often subject to interpretation. Where "Christian Values" become a political slogan, and "good people" are our allies despite their faulty core beliefs. Where Facebook "friends" post memes about the power of God, despite a lifestyle that is anything but Godly. In the process we often fight among ourselves, doing Satan's work for him. The purpose of this course is to lay the measure of Jesus Christ against the cults, religions, and worship in our contemporary world.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - This class will provide a broad overview of general church history. We will then focus on the Anabaptist and Pietist movements, especially as they relate to the formation and development of the Brethren groups. This is a two-part class. Plan to take both parts.

STUDIES IN LUKE - Luke presents a warmly personal and historically accurate account of Jesus as the "Son of Man." This course will survey the third Gospel, with emphasis on the unique events, miracles, and parables of Jesus found in it.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL - Captivity...Dreams...Rulers...Fire...Lions... Prayers...Kingdoms. From a dedicated youth to a faithful sage, Daniel's life stands as an example to follow. Yet beyond his personal life, God gifted Daniel with a message of future events. Though difficult to grasp, these events would shape the world for the coming Messiah and the Second Coming of Christ as King.

() PLEASE SEND PACKET(S) OUTLINING MORE COMPLETELY THE 2024 SUMMER BIBLE INSTITUTE (APPLICATION FORMS INCLUDED) PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TO: THE BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE
155 Denver Road
Denver, PA 17517

Date _____

JULY 22-26, 2024
BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE
COURSES

BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE
 BBI is intended to provide systematic instruction in the Bible for any person 16 years of age or older. Students may take one, two, or three courses. The cost is the same regardless of how many courses are taken. It is expected that dorm students take at least three classes, unless special arrangements have been made with the principal prior to the opening of the institute.
 Students will meet for chapel each morning at 8:10 AM with classes to follow. Classes meet every day, Monday through Friday. Each class is 1 ½ hours in length.
 Total cost for dormitory students (including room/board/tuition) is \$300.00 for the week. The cost for commuting students is \$125.00.

8:50 - 10:20
 CHURCH LEADERSHIP PT. 1(Myers)
 THE BOOK OF HOSEA.....(Horst)
 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES(West)
 THE GREAT 'I AM'S' OF CHRIST(Minnich)
 10:30 - 12:00

SCHOLARSHIP AID
 Scholarship aid is available to students who cannot afford the tuition. To apply for the scholarship aid you should write a letter requesting the aid, and supply the name, address, and phone number of your pastor, elder, minister, or other church leader to whom you are accountable. Send requests to the BBI address.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP PT. 2(Myers)
 STUDIES IN 1 AND 2 PETER(Eric Brubaker)
 THE APOCRYPHA.....(West)
 ONE FOUNDATION.....(Hershey)
 1:30 - 3:00

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS
 A certificate of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered for ordained ministers at a rate of one tenth of a CEU for each hour spent in class. Therefore, each completed course will count as .75 CEU. Ministers should request the certificate when they register.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH PT. 1(Carl Brubaker)
 STUDIES IN LUKE(Myers)
 THE BOOK OF DANIEL(Horst)
 3:00 - 4:30

LICENSED MINISTER TRAINING
 The Church Leadership and Administration class and the History of the Christian Church class can be applied toward licensed ministers training for ordination within the Church of the Brethren. Both classes are double periods. Plan to attend both periods. Call Kenneth Leininger at 717-336-1287 for details.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH PT. 2(Carl Brubaker)
COST
 Dormitory Students.....\$300.00
 Commuting Students.....\$125.00

DISCLAIMER
 BBI is sponsored by the Brethren Revival Fellowship. Elizabethtown College is not affiliated with and does not necessarily endorse the opinions, beliefs, statements, writings, methods, or philosophies expressed by this conference/event or its individual participants.

TO REGISTER
 For application forms, write to:
Brethren Bible Institute
155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517
 Please send for an application form early.
Your application process must be completed by June 25, 2024.

INSTRUCTORS

Craig Alan Myers – Ordained minister...serving as pastor in the Blue River Covenant Brethren Church in Indiana...assistant editor of BRF WITNESS...BRF chairman...on the executive board of CBC...M. Div. from Ashland Theological Seminary.

Eric Brubaker – Ordained minister...serving in the Middle Creek Church...editor of BRF WITNESS... self-employed draftsman...M. Div. from Evangelical School of Theology.

Carl Brubaker – Ordained minister in the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren... BRF treasurer...BMF treasurer...evangelist for revival meetings.

Wilmer Horst – Ordained minister...member at Hade's Brethren Church...high school teacher at Maranatha Christian School.

Nathan West – Ordained minister...providing pulpit supply for various churches in Franklin County, PA ...foster parent... quality controller for Bri-Mar Manufacturing.

John Minnich – Post-High Sunday School teacher at White Oak Church...retreat leader and speaker...a technologist in the Cardiology Department at Lancaster General Hospital.

Steve Hershey – teacher, speaker, mentor, storyteller at White Oak Church...field services specialist for Lancaster DHIA...dairy farmer.

Principal/Coordinator
Kenneth Leininger – Ordained minister in the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren... antiquarian book dealer...BRF event coordinator.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in this registration form completely and return it with a non-refundable \$10.00 registration fee (which will be deducted from your total bill).

The balance is payable upon your arrival. Commuters do not need to send the \$10.00 fee, but still should register. Your registration must reach the Denver, PA address by June 25, 2024.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation: _____

List the name, age and sex of each family member registering on this form:

If you have a choice of roommate please indicate:

I / We plan to:

- Stay in the dormitory
- Commute

I / We would like a list of motels in the Elizabethtown area: Yes No

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

BRETHREN ALIVE 2024
155 Denver Road
Denver, PA 17517

BRETHREN ALIVE 2024



**JULY 26-27, 2024
(ON THE CAMPUS OF
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE,
ELIZABETHTOWN, PA)**

**Sponsored by the
BRETHREN REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP**

CHILDCARE

Childcare (for infant through 5th grade) will be provided during all worship services, workshop sessions, and the Saturday afternoon Panel Discussion and BRP General Meeting. Parents will be responsible for their own children the rest of the time. Each family is asked to bring a favorite toy or game along to share with the group. If your child has any medical needs please note that on the registration form.

LODGING

College dormitory rooms with two single beds in each room are available with bathroom facilities shared with others on the same hall. A few apartments are available for families, or families can share two dorm rooms next to each other. A list of motels in the Elizabethtown area can be mailed, upon request, to anyone who would rather stay in a motel.

COST

The Brethren Alive 2024 conference is sponsored and subsidized by the Brethren Revival Fellowship in order to keep your costs low. An offering will be lifted on Saturday night to help defray costs.

Total cost for adults staying in the campus dormitories (including registration, room, and meals) is \$40.00 for the entire weekend. Children ages 5-15 are \$20.00, and children under 5 are free.

The cost for commuters is free, although we ask that you please register so we can plan properly. If you want to purchase meals at the college, you will need to pay for each meal as you enter the dining hall.

DISCLAIMER

The Brethren Alive 2024 conference is sponsored by the Brethren Revival Fellowship. Elizabethtown College is not affiliated with and does not necessarily endorse the opinions, beliefs, statements, writings, methods, or philosophies expressed by this conference/event or its individual participants.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please write to Brethren Alive 2024, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517 or call Ken Leininger at (717) 336-1287.

Registration must be received at the address below by June 25, 2024

**Brethren Alive 2024
155 Denver Road Denver, PA 17517**

JULY 26-27, 2024

SPEAKERS**Nathan Zook**

Pastor at Hampden Mennonite Church in Baltimore, Maryland...Professor of Political Science at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland.

Joel Yeager

Family Physician and Founder of Heritage Family Health near Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania...attends Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Larry Rohrer

Teacher of Business and Personal Finance at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania...retired from Rohrer's Plumbing and Heating...attends White Oak Church in Penryn, Pennsylvania.

Jolene Shank

Housewife and Mother of eight children...serving as Deacon's Wife at Trinity Brethren Fellowship, near Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP LEADERS**9:45-10:45 AM****Joel Yeager**

Modern Medical Ethical Challenges

Larry Rohrer

Remaining True in the Workplace

11:00 -12:00 NOON**Nathan Zook**

Standing Firm in Your Babylon

Jolene Shank

Mother's Work as Ministry
(for women only)

SCHEDULE**FRIDAY**

4:30 – 7:30 PM Registration

7:30 PM

Worship Service
Sermon – Nathan Zook
Your Work is Your Ministry

9:15 PM

Ice Cream Social

SATURDAY

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Breakfast

8:30 AM

Worship Service
Sermon – Joel Yeager
Christian Living in Today's Society

9:45-10:45 AM

Workshops - Session 1

11:00 AM

-12:00 Noon
Workshops - Session 2

12:00 Noon

Lunch

1:30-3:00 PM

Panel Discussion

3:00-4:00 PM

BRF General Meeting
Chairman's Report

4:00-5:00 PM

Free Time

5:00-6:00

Supper

7:00 PM

Worship Service
Hymn Sing

8:45 PM

Youth Activities

THEME**“LORD OF ALL”**

The worship services, workshop sessions, and panel discussion will explore ways we can express our submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ through the variety of work we do. The Saturday evening hymn sing will celebrate our relationship with Jesus Christ the Lord of all.

THEME VERSE**Romans 12:1**

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to gather a national convention of Anabaptist-oriented evangelical Brethren to celebrate our life in Christ and encouraging one another to spiritual growth and faithfulness.

This event is planned with all ages and the entire family in mind. Activities for the children and youth will be planned, along with biblical instruction on a number of different subjects and in a variety of settings. The design of the weekend is to provide a wholesome, physically invigorating and spiritually enriching time together. Dress for the conference is casual, but we ask the principles of modesty be observed.

COST

DORMITORY PRICE
(includes registration, room, meals)
Adults - \$40.00 per person
Ages 5-15 - \$20.00 per person
Under 5 – Free

COMMUTER PRICE
(registration only)
Free will offering

Telephone: 717-652-2317 Fax: 717-671-9198 Email: contact@pacap.org Website : www.pacap.org

NEWSLETTER

PCAP Church Activities:

I like to talk about the Gospel when I am asked to do a sermon as a PCAP Speaker. I am drawn to think of drunken or drug-addled brains and bodies. I have seen drugs change a person in mighty bad ways.

I have seen drunk or drugged-up teenagers become like another creature. "This is not like my son, not my daughter. Something has gotten into them." say the parents.

I wonder if God is planning to use them someday to show us His Glory? How, you may wonder? Healing. God's Healing Love.

Want the rest of the story?

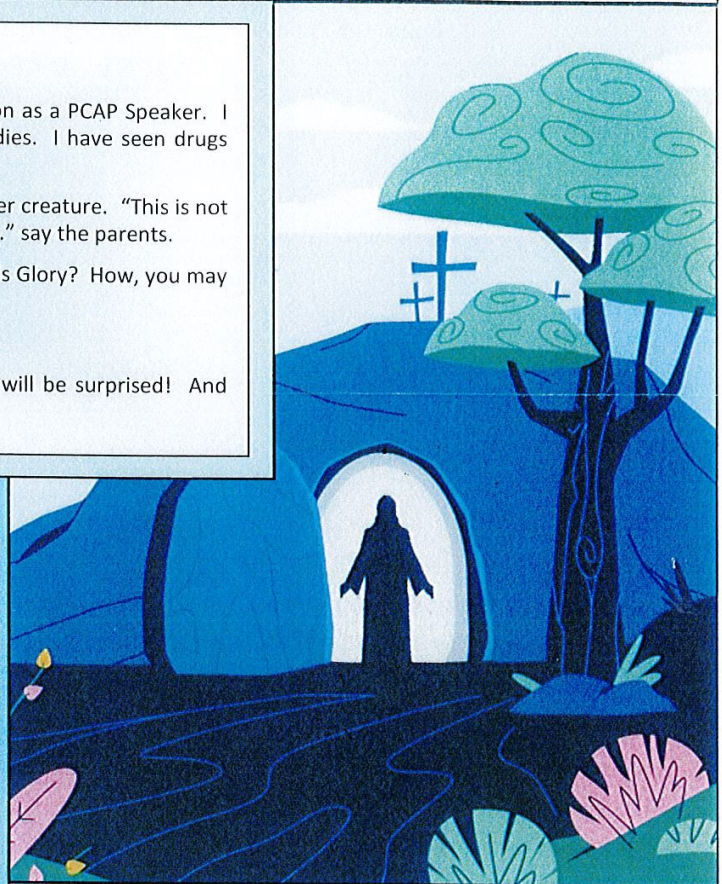
Invite us to your church to hear more of our message. You will be surprised! And inspired! We spoke at over 15 churches last year.

PCAP at Schools:

"I never win anything!" I realized that boy needed a little of God's Love that day. I had just proudly told the class there would be a McDonalds gift card for the winner of the upcoming quiz. I thought "we need to change things a little." Have you ever been in his shoes? Felt like the whole world was against you? He said "will you help me win this quiz?" I looked at the teacher and saw she was okay with it. I looked at the class and they were okay too. I said "bring your chair over and sit next to me." Guess what? He won! The whole class was rooting for him. He said "that's the first time he ever won anything!" Grace was in the room: the Grace of Jesus Christ seen as Mercy, Love and Compassion. I saw the look of joy on every face. It felt good! That is a story that keeps popping up in my memories of last year's classes. We got through to those kids in many ways. We don't just teach about substance abuse.

When we taught our first homeschool group I told a story about a poisonous snake, the threat of it biting you, and asked why would we want to mess with it. We compared it to when we mess with drugs like alcohol. We asked for their observations. A wise ten-year-old said "you know, snakes are snakes. They do what is natural. Poison is what they give when they bite. It goes into you because you messed with them. But you are the one that decides to put alcohol or any other drug into your body. That's on you."

We've been teaching at quite a few schools! We taught 265 classes and over 5,000 kids last year. Our goal is to do more in 2024.



Bible Moment:

As we head joyfully toward Easter, we are reminded of the great sacrifice Jesus Christ has made for all of us. He came here to live among us, to teach us love, give us hope and tie the human race together regardless of our tribes, nationality, race, ethnicity and lifestyles. He went so far as to head right into the place where the drunks, drug addicts, prostitutes and thieves were spending their time.

No one was too sinful for Him.

Jesus commanded "Let the little children come to Me (Jesus), and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Right before that Scripture says "People were bringing little children to Jesus to place His Healing Hands upon them."

You can be that person that brings the little ones together. Help PCAP to teach them about the truth and to help them along the way to the Healing awaiting them from Jesus.

Rejoice! Easter is here and the tomb is empty! He is Risen!

In the Shadow

The Wonder of It All

It is now late Spring in south-central Pennsylvania (in Burundi and Rwanda it seems to be always Spring). The grass here is green, the neighbors have finished up planting corn and beans, my sons and I are getting into hay-making and the slugs are eating most anything they can get their little chompers on. God's creative work is evident in it all, yet I so often take it for granted and play hookey from the everyday worship service I should be conducting (even if I am the only one in attendance).

Most of us church-goers have heard at one time or another the defensive remark, "I don't need to be in church, I can worship God while I'm _____ (fill in the blank)." This comment of course is ignoring the need for corporate worship, prayer and fellowship, as well as the simple fact that most of these folks are not actively worshipping when they're out and about. I'll not get into that today, rather to tackle another significant lack that the outdoorzees have, which is that a person simply cannot gain theological and doctrinal knowledge from deer hunting or star gazing.



The Bible says that God's "eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world." (*Romans 1:20 ESV*) But as much as nature exhibits the power, glory and majesty of the Divine, it will not expound to us the finer points of who God is. There is indeed a general revelation of God from the natural world and it is possible that while pondering some of nature's more brutal aspects (ie: earthquakes, volcanoes, weather extremes, varmints destroying farm and garden crops, cats terrorizing goldfinches) one might perceive the need for a Savior or some sort of redemptive activity that could only be carried out by someone outside of the human order. But sitting on a rocky outcropping watching

the sun rise or set can't explain the trinitarian existence of God or the blood atonement first revealed in Genesis and fully realized in Jesus Christ. C. S. Lewis wrote:

"Nature never taught me that there exists a God of glory and of infinite majesty. I had to learn that in other ways. But nature gave the word glory a meaning for me. I still do not know where else I could have found one. I do not see how "fear" of God could have ever meant to me anything but the lowest prudential efforts to be safe, if I had never seen certain ominous ravines and unapproachable crags. And if nature had never awakened certain longings in me, huge areas of what I can now mean by "love" of God would never, so far as I can see, have existed." C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*.

Nature is a fantastic teacher, in the realm of what it can teach. The study of the sciences point us dramatically to an omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient Creator (providing the student has his or her eyes, ears and heart open to it). But if we skip out on the church's biblical teachings, be it from worship, singing the great hymns, preaching, Bible study, etc, the universe just doesn't make a whole lot of sense, let alone our being able to have any significant understanding of who God is, to grasp any meaning for our existence, to point us to the cross or – to use another omni word – God's omnibenevolence.

By the same token, if we have no appreciation for the created order of the universe, we won't catch the glory of God. I am awed by what God accomplishes on a daily basis. The billions of stars that fill the heavens. The billions of people that inhabit the earth. The billions of microscopic organisms that inhabit the soil under my feet. Really, I should be removing my shoes. I'm standing on holy ground.

For the Master, Chris Elliott with the Great Lakes Bible School