

Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

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

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

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FEB / MARCH 2025

"Cherish the Moment"

As we enter a new year with its challenges, possibilities, and hopes, this piece by Robert J. Hastings entitled "The Station" is a reminder that life is meant to be lived TODAY—not tomorrow or some distant time in the future, but right now! Here's Mr. Hastings' article, followed by some thoughts of my own:

TUCKED AWAY IN OUR SUBCONSCIOUS MINDS is an idyllic vision in which we see ourselves on a long journey spanning an entire continent. We're traveling by train, and from the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of cars on nearby highways, children waving at crossings, cattle grazing in distant pastures, smoke pouring from factories, row upon row of cotton and corn and wheat, mountains and valleys, city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our conscious minds is our final destination—that time when on at a certain hour and on a given day, our train will finally pull into the station with bells ringing, flags waving, and bands playing. For the believer, once that day comes—the beginning of eternity with the Lord—many wonderful dreams will come true. Restlessly, we pace the aisles and count the miles, peering ahead, waiting and for the station.

But in the meantime, there's a "station" we look forward to here on earth. "Yes, when we reach the station, that will be it!" we promise ourselves. "When we're 18 . . . when we win that promotion . . . put the last kid through college . . . buy that Mercedes-Benz . . . paid off the mortgage . . . have a nest egg for retirement." We like to imagine that from that day on, we will all live happily ever after.

Sooner or later, however, we must realize there IS no station in this life--no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all. The joy is in the journey. The station is an illusion—it constantly out-distances us. Yesterday is a memory, tomorrow is a dream. Yesterday belongs to history, tomorrow belongs to God. Yesterday is a fading sunset, tomorrow is a faint sunrise. Only today is there light enough to love and live.

So gently close the door on yesterday and throw the key away. It isn't the burdens of today that drive people mad, as much as regret over yesterday and fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today. "Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, swim more rivers, climb more mountains, kiss more babies, count more stars. Laugh more. Go barefoot more often. Eat more ice cream. Ride more merry-go-rounds. Watch more sunsets. Life must be lived as we go along. So cherish the journey! The station will come soon enough.

Continued on Pg. 2

"Cherish the Moment" Continued

Years ago when all of our children were still at home, one of the songs our family sang together at various services and programs was "Cherish the Moment." The theme was that children grow up quickly, and we need to make the most of our time with them while we have the opportunity.

How true that song is! I have found myself thinking recently how nice it would be to be able to go back and re-live certain "slices" of life--brief moments of time such as when I would walk into the house, and our youngest child at the time would come toddling up to me for a hug. Or being awakened from my Sunday afternoon nap by a 5-year-old pulling a little table up to the couch and arranging a puzzle for us to do together. Or one of the concerts in which our now "Doctor of Musical Arts" daughter received thunderous applause for her flute solo part in a piece. Thankfully, we can at least re-live those kinds of moments in our memory.

But I have to ask myself – what am I doing with the moments and opportunities I have right now? Am I content to live just in the memories of the past, or am I fully present in the moments that make up life today? Do I often find myself wishing away the hours and days till I get past whatever obstacle or responsibility I happen to be dealing with? While it's not wrong to have goals--to look ahead to some "station" we're aiming for--we miss out on so much by failing to be present in the moment.

No doubt we all have some regrets over missed opportunities, or sadness because some of "the ways things used to be" are not that way anymore. But what about appreciating and making the most of whatever blessings we have NOW? "Cherishing the moment" is something I have often failed to put into practice. I'm always thinking of that "thing I need to do next" after I finish whatever I happen to be working on or involved in now. But as Mr. Hastings reminds us, "The joy is in the journey" . . . "life must be lived as we go along" . . . "only today is there light enough to love and live."

As we embark upon a new year, how thankful we can be to the Lord for His faithfulness and His blessings bestowed upon us up to this point. And thanks be to God for whatever He has in store for us not only this YEAR, but this MOMENT, TODAY! THIS is the day the Lord has made! May we pray the prayer of Moses found in Psalm 90 - "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

-God's Blessings

Pastor Fred Keener
Greencastle COB



Planning Begins on 2025 SOPA District Conference

Planning has begun for the 2025 District Conference at Hanover Church of the Brethren, September 19 & 20, 2025. Our theme this year will be “Prayer Changes...” We will look at some important aspects of how prayer is vital to our lives individually, as local churches, a District and our Denomination. Our theme scripture passage is Hebrews 4:14-16: *“14. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Some of you may have been fans of the original Star Trek television program and movies, the ones starring William Shatner as Captain Kirk. If you remember the introduction to the show, the following words were part of that introduction: “Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds; to seek out new life and new civilizations; to boldly go where no man has gone before!” I doubt that the words from Hebrews were an inspiration for these words but we are invited to boldly come before the throne of grace, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. I think that prayer is the primary way in which we do this.

I think that many of us want to see the activity of God in ways that we have not seen before. Let’s come boldly before the Lord in prayer leading up to District Conference and ask God to do something in our midst in our time of need.

God Bless, Eric Reamer, Moderator

SOPA District Office

Monday - Friday

Call for Hours

Office Phone: (717) 778-2264

Admin Assistant Email: sopadistrict@brethren.org

Georgia Markey, Interim District Executive

Email: gmarkeyfarmgirl114@gmail.com

Cell: (717) 887-3905

Office (717) 778-2254

Address: SOPA District COB

3375 Carlisle Rd, Suite A

Gardners, PA 17324

Website: <https://www.cob-net.org/church/sopa/>

District Search Processes

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

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

York Second—Interested Candidates, please reach out to the District Executive.

For the D.E. Position, contact—Sister Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, 847-429-4381, nsheishman@brethren.org

CONSIDER WHO YOUR NEIGHBOR IS AND REACH OUT TO THEM

As I have taken some quiet time to read some of our congregation's church newsletters, I applauded the numerous varying kinds of outreach happening. As we have just come through the Season of ADVENT, I noticed an air of excitement about the season the church celebrates and reminds us of the real meaning of the of Christmas. It is a season of excitement for the small ones and a time of bringing family and friends home together, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HARD TIMES in life's journey that crowds out the excitement of the season? If your spouse is still with you, are you thankful? If you have given God praise for that gift, think of those persons whose life partner is no longer beside them. There are many other situations where Christmas does not always carry all the joy and thanksgiving others are experiencing.

For many, Christmas is not "the most wonderful time of the year!" (The following was shared in the Mechanicsburg Newsletter regarding this special service)...."The idea behind the Blue Christmas Service is to create space for the acknowledgement of the heaviness often carried during this season, as well as offering the hope that Jesus gives. Our society has become one of masking emotions that are sometimes considered negative. The Bible clearly acknowledges, celebrates, and makes space for pain, struggle, hardship, and tears –and so should we....The Blue Christmas Service is a beautiful way to make space especially during the Advent season for those suffering any kind of loss—whether the loss of a person, a dream, finances, stability, health, or more."

Another special service I am aware that a couple of our congregations provide for their congregants and persons in the neighborhood is a special service many times held around "All Saint's Day". The Congregational leader invites congregants to attend and provide a photograph of their departed loved one. Also a computer- generated photo presentation of departed loved ones, can be utilized. As each photograph is acknowledged, a bell is chimed as the departed loved one's name is called out. A brief time of sharing about the purpose of our journey here on earth is shared which may be for some unchurched persons the first time they have had the opportunity to hear about God's desire for us during this earthly journey.

These two special services seem to be a helpful way to reach out to those who have lost a loved one or who carries the heavy news of a health concern, as well as letting someone who does not know God's Peace know, you, the neighborhood church family care.

(Feel Free to send the District Office outreach ministry which your congregation is doing to reach the unchurched as well as those in the congregation who are not as in tune to God's invitation to be a part of HIS family.)

--Your Interim DE Georgia



"It is just as important to like someone as it is to love that person."

"Holding one another's dignity in respect is imagining Jesus"

District Events / News

Congratulations to Joshua Tomes, Wolgamuth COB, becoming licensed on January 12, 2025.

Mt. Olivet COB gave out 122 bowls of chicken corn soup and dozens of homemade cookies in Newport, Saturday, November 2, as a community outreach. Mt. Olivet has been doing this for over 5 years now.
God Bless this outreach!



Meat Canning

is scheduled for

April 21—24, 2025

NEEDED: volunteers to help in the canning, provide snacks / lunch, or donate funds.

Please reach out to:

Kim Geisewite

District Witness & Outreach Commission Chair

kimgeisewite@gmail.com

570-295-9879

FUNDS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

In order to proceed forward, we also need congregations and individuals to provide monetary funds.

Cross Keys Village wanted to thank everyone who donated stamps. They were able to fund the purchase of a new clavivova (electric piano) for the adult day care building named, Life Spring. The group continues to collect stamps, making it possible to help others.

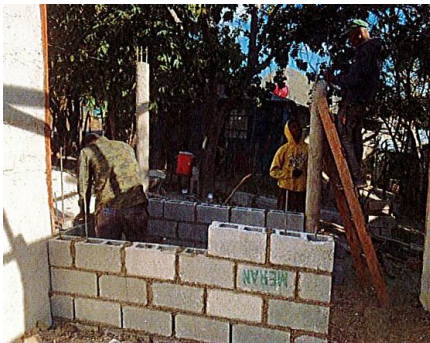
Reminder

2025 DFMA is \$93.00 /person

2025 Mileage Rate is 70 cents per mile

Ordained Persons: CEU's are due this year! Please forward CEU information to the District Office.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Update



A group of eight individuals from Greencastle, Newville, and Brooklyn First (N.Y) Church of the Brethren, will be helping to complete the construction of Chi Chi's home during the 3rd week of February 2025. Volunteers will help to plaster walls, paint, finish the roof, assist with electrical work, and install plumbing. The group will also help to build bathrooms onto the Mt. Horeb COB in Bastidas. The group will have the opportunity to attend Asamblea, the Dominican Republic's version of Annual Conference. General Secretary David Steele, along with Annual Conference Moderator Dava Hensley, will be present for the Asamblea. **Donations are still being accepted for this mission trip.** Donations can be directed to SOPA District Office. Please keep this trip and the volunteers in your prayers.

NURTURING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

DISTRICT NURTURE COMMISSION



God created Adam and Eve to reveal that He desires a personal relationship with each individual. God designed the family to spread His will and His ways to others within their sphere of influence.

Nurture Commission fosters education and spiritual growth in the life of our congregations throughout the Southern PA District. We're here to help individuals, families and congregations grow healthy relationships with God and others, and to grow in spiritual health.

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Colossians 3:17

Mark Your Calendars!

Women's Spring Tea /
Luncheon—Huntsdale COB
Sat., April 26, 2025

District Men's Outdoorsman
Day
Camp Eder
Sat., May 3, 2025

District Women's Retreat
Camp Eder
Monday & Tuesday,
June 2-3, 2025

Chaplain in the Park
Codus & Gifford Pinchot
State Parks
Sundays -
Memorial Day to Labor Day:

Take your Youth Group or
Sunday School Class to lead
Children's Sunday School at
Codus one Sunday, during
Worship In The Park and take a
picnic to enjoy in the park for
afterwards.

Questions or Information Contact:
Beth Nonemaker, Nurture Chair
717-761-3047

HOLD IN PRAYER

Please keep H. Roger Miller Jr. and his family in your prayers. Roger formerly served as the SOPA District Board Treasurer. He is battling cancer. Cards may be sent to Roger at, 499 Indian Rock Dam Road, York, PA 17403.



Wanda Smith's mother, Althea Smith, fell and broke her hip. She had surgery and it went very well. Plans are being made for rehab and future care. Please keep Pastor Terry Smith and Wanda, Free Spring COB in your prayers. Terry and Wanda's address is 31244 Rt. 35 N., McAlisterville, PA 17409

Donna Rhoads, SVMC, father, Stanley McKee, experienced a brain bleed in his cerebellum on December 27. He is recovering but there are lasting effects from the bleed. As the hospital did tests for the brain bleed, they also discovered metastatic cancer in the bones, lungs, and brain. He has been moved to a care facility. Please keep Donna and Stanley in your prayers.

Update on Harold Yeager

He is recovering at home. LaVerne said Harold is around 80% and they continue to trudge on! Herald wanted to pass along these words to everyone:

"Thank you to the many persons from across our Southern Pennsylvania District who have visited, prayed for, sent cards, and in other ways expressed concern for me during my recent hospitalizations. Your outreach touched my heart. May God be praised!" Harold

Church of the Brethren Denominational News

New & Renew Conference from May 14-16, 2025. This event will be held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Illinois. Registration opens on February 10, 2025. The conference theme, "God is Doing a New Thing," is inspired by Isaiah 43:19.

The conference will be available in a hybrid format, allowing you to attend in-person or online. For more information and to register (beginning February 10), please visit www.brethren.org/newandrenew

Service Sunday 2025

Suggested date: February 2

Congregations and leaders are invited to recognize those who serve, or have served, during Sunday worship. This is a special opportunity to celebrate service in your community and around the world.

Find worship resources at www.brethren.org/servicesunday .

UP-COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2025

Saturday, February 1, 2025 Clergy Tax Seminar, Webinar, 11:00 AM—4:00 PM

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 Central Zone Pastor's Meeting, Carlisle COB, 9:00 AM

Thursday, February 6, 2025 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting, York First COB, 12:00 PM

Thursday, February 6, 2025 Witness Commission Meeting, ZOOM, 1:30 PM

Thursday, February 6, 2025 SVMC Meeting, (Search Committee) 5:00 PM

Saturday, February 8, 2025 Risk Management / Mandatory Reporting Session, led by Eric Chase, (CAS) (open to Pastors, Ministers, and persons working with children/youth) CEU credit available, Hanover COB, 9:30—3:00 ***Please RSVP via phone or email to the SOPA District Office to ensure we have enough materials.***

Mon—Thurs, February 10-13, 2025 2025 Denominational Clergywomen's Retreat, San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, Winter Park, FL

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Stewards Commission Meeting, ZOOM, 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 13, 2025 Nominating & Personnel Meeting, ZOOM, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 PA Council of Churches, Chaplain in the Park Meeting, HBG

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 Nurture Commission Meeting, ZOOM, 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 27, 2025 Ministry Commission Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

MARCH 2025

Monday, March 3, 2025 Program & Arrangements Meeting, Hanover COB, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 Central Zone Pastor's Meeting, Carlisle COB, 9:00 AM

Thursday, March 6, 2025 Eastern Zone Pastors Meeting, location TBD, 12:00 PM

Thursday, March 13, 2025 District Executive Committee Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 22, 2025 District Board Meeting, West Shore COB, 8:30 AM Danish/Beverage, 9:00 AM meeting begins, 6921 Wertzville Road, Enola

Thursday March 27, 2025 Ministry Commission Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 29, 2025 Stewards Commission Work Day—Lower Cumberland Cemetery

UP-COMING EVENTS CONTINUED

APRIL 2025

Thursday, April 3, 2025 SVMC Meeting—Leffler Chapel

Thursday, April 3, 2025 Witness Commission Meeting, ZOOM, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Stewards Commission Meeting, ZOOM, 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 10, 2025 District Executive Committee Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Friday, April 18, 2025 Good Friday, District Office Closed

Sunday, April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

Mon –Thur, April 21-24, 2025 Meat Canning Project

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 Nurture Commission Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 24, 2025 Ministry Commission Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 26, 2025 Women's Spring Tea/Luncheon, Huntsdale COB, details forthcoming

May 2025

Saturday, May 3, 2025 Men's Outdoorsman's Day, Camp Eder

Saturday, May 17, 2025 District Board Meeting, Waynesboro COB, 8:30 AM Danish/Beverage, 9:00 AM meeting begins, 117 S. Church St., Waynesboro

Thursday, May 22, 2025 Ministry Commission Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 PM

Newville COB

Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Food available for purchase to benefit
future mission projects.

8:00 AM



Mechanicsburg COB—Spring Fling

Rummage Sale

Friday & Saturday

April 4th & 5th, 2025



CAMP EDER EVENTS

SENIOR DAYS

Camp Eder Senior Days are held throughout the year for anyone who is 50 years of age or older. The day starts at 9:30 am with a light breakfast, followed by a fantastic act, then the day ends after a delicious lunch. Senior Day is a great day of fellowship and fun!

ONLY \$20 To register call (717) 642-8256

April 9th - Craig Caltagirone (singer of oldies)

Craig Caltagirone brings his one-man song and dance program to entertain "seniors". Audience members enjoy "senior-friendly" musical selections ranging from the 1920s through the 1970's including Classic Broadway tunes and standards from the Great American Songbook

September 3rd - Michael Peluso Glass art

Mr. Peluso brings 27 years of glass experience and education. Engage in an interactive demonstration. Ask questions and understand the how and why of glass blowing. From the basic materials to how, why, and where glass blowing started. All while enjoying a live demonstration.

November 5th - Monte Leister

Monte is excited to share his love of Jesus and storytelling (through song), as well as giving folks a taste of the kinetic music that he shares with the campers during the Summer at Camp Eder. As a lifelong musician, family man, country boy, lover of Jesus, and storyteller, Monte delights in entertaining an audience; whether its crooning Swing and Jazz standards with The Leister Quartet, singing songwriter stories with Steel String Storytellers, making Christmas music rock and swing with Bob Cratchit and the Bookkeepers, entertaining kids and families or leading people into an atmosphere of authentic worship. Monte feels right at home behind a microphone with his guitar.



CAMP EDER EVENTS

EVENTS

May 3rd Men's Outdoorsman Day

Join us on May 3rd for a day filled with adventure! Together, we'll delve into the world of clay shooting, mastering gun safety protocols and honing our skills to become proficient clay target shooters. Secure your spot by registering on the Camp Eder website or by contacting the camp office via phone.

May 21st Golf Tournament

Grab your golf bag and join us for a relaxing afternoon of golf and fellowship. This year's Camp Eder Golf Outing will be held at Carroll Valley Golf Course at Liberty Mountain. After the play has concluded, players and family members are invited to a delicious meal at Camp Eder. All proceeds go to furthering the summer camp program at Camp Eder.

October 18th Fall Festival

Fall Festival is a Harvest & Heritage celebration designed for the whole family. Attractions include a benefit auction, food & craft vendors, music, games, and many other activities. An authentic Pit-Roasted Pork lunch is offered as the highlight of the day and will leave folks sharing memories for months and years to follow. Many other pioneer-style demonstrations are also featured.

October 24th-26th - Young Adults Backpack Adventure

Join us for a weekend hiking trip on the Appalachian Trail for young adults! Immerse yourself in God's word while surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of His creation. Throughout the weekend, we'll take in the stunning views, share uplifting conversations, and strengthen our bonds with one another. This is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, adventure, and community connection. Don't miss a chance to recharge your spirit and enjoy the great outdoors with friends!

December 12th and 13th Christmas Tree Festival

Join us in celebrating the Christmas season from 5pm-9pm. Come see Eder's woods decorated with thousands of lights, take a wagon ride with your family, and get in the Christmas spirit. A turkey dinner will be served along with other delicious food. There will be live music, holiday games, and crafts to enjoy.

Camp Clean Up Days May 10th and September 27th

Come and help us get ready for our busy seasons at Camp Eder. Just before Summer Camp and our Fall Festival we need your help to get camp in tip top shape. This will include splitting wood, cleaning up leaves, and other jobs that will make our grounds look great! There will be lunch provided!



Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges Through Intercultural Competence

ONSITE AT BETHANY
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RICHMOND, IN WITH ZOOM
SESSIONS BEFORE & AFTER

MARCH 17-19, 2025

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 10, 2025
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Course Instructor:
Darla Kay Deardorff

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students-fulfills:
 - ✓ 1 MS Unit
 - ✓ BTS experience
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

Registration deadline:
February 10, 2025

Course Description:

Within our local communities, we can often find those from "every tribe and tongue," which means we are called to serve those who increasingly reflect a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. How can local churches welcome different people, moving toward achieving the multicultural vision found in Revelation 7:9 of those from every tribe and tongue worshipping God together? This short course explores what it means to be interculturally competent today. It equips pastors and leaders with the skills, knowledge, and insights needed to engage with and minister to our diverse neighbors. Through assigned readings, class discussions and activities, and some online work, we will delve into how to build relationships across differences as Christ calls us to be "one body." As part of this course, students will develop an action plan applying key concepts around intercultural competence within their contexts. No background in intercultural studies is required, though an openness to learning and a commitment to fostering inclusivity are essential.

Course Objectives:

- **Understanding Cultural Dynamics:** Explore foundational concepts of culture and intercultural communication, including how cultural values, beliefs, and practices shape experiences and interactions.
- **Building Cultural Awareness:** Develop an awareness of one's own cultural lens and perspectives while learning to recognize and appreciate the cultural dimensions of others within the community.
- **Developing Intercultural Competence Strategies:** Gain practical skills in intercultural competence to foster meaningful and respectful dialogue, manage conflicts, and build inclusive environments within the church and beyond.

Travel Grant:

The Brethren Academy will provide a travel stipend of up to \$300 for 8 pastors or church leaders who register for this course. The stipend is to offset travel costs, reimbursement upon submission of travel receipts. To qualify for a travel grant, individuals must be currently and actively serving a congregation. Those who wish to apply for a travel grant may email the Brethren Academy at academy@bethanyseminary.edu for an application.

(continued)

Equipping Ministers

Deepening Faith

Enriching lives

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

615 National Road W
Richmond, IN 47374
800-287-8822 x1824
765-983-1824
academy@
bethanyseminary.edu

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Course Withdrawal Refund Policy

- 100% of course fee prior to registration deadline
- 50% from the registration deadline to the first day of class
- No refunds will be given once the class has begun
- Exceptions require the approval of the Director of the Brethren

To earn CEU credit

Participant will

- Meet the attendance requirement
- Complete the assigned reading
- Engage in the course through participation

A CEU or PE student is **not** required to complete any assigned papers or exams.

Required Texts

- *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming our Ethnic Journey* by Sarah Shin (InterVarsity, 2017).
- More books will be included in the syllabus

Participants

During a Brethren Academy course or event, you may be included in photographs or sound /video recording. Such photos and recordings, including quotes from you, may be included and identified in news articles, informational brochures, or social media on behalf of the Brethren Academy and/or Bethany Theological Seminary. If you wish to be excluded from such publications, please contact the Brethren Academy in writing by the start date of the course or event.

Travel & Lodging

Transportation, lodging and meals are the participant's responsibility. The Brethren Academy office will be glad to provide contact information for area lodging.

Meet the Instructor: Darla Kay Deardorff

Darla Kay Deardorff received her B.A. in History and Political Science from Bridgewater College and her master's and doctorate in education from North Carolina State University. She is the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, as well as Founding President of the global nonprofit World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence. She served as Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators for 19 years. She is also a Research Scholar at Duke University and holds faculty appointments at universities in South Africa, China, Japan, and Canada. She has taught at Harvard University's Global Education Think Tank and is an advisor for UNESCO, the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, among other global organizations. She is author/editor of fourteen books and over eighty book chapters and articles and is an internationally known speaker, giving invited talks and workshops in over fifty countries. She and her husband, Duane, have two young adult children, Kaylee, and Shaun, and they are members of the Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren in Durham, NC.

Ministering Across Cultures, March 17 – 19, 2025

[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:
Brethren Academy * 615 National Road West * Richmond, IN * 47374

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I will be taking this course for: ____TRIM credit ____EFSM credit ____CEUs (2) ____Personal Enrichment

Course Fee: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy

Registration Deadline: February 10, 2025

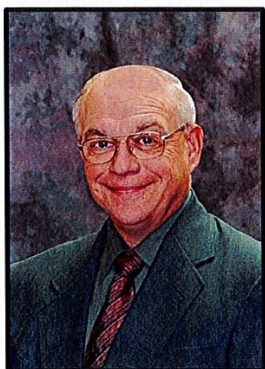
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center offers TRIM Course:

Effective Leadership for Times Such as These

April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3, 2025 (ZOOM INTENSIVE - 2 weekends)

Ways to register:

- Online at www.etown.edu/programs/svmc/trims.aspx, or
- Complete the form on the back of this brochure



Randy Yoder

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students- fulfill one MS Unit
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00 (plus processing fee for online payments)

Registration deadline:
March 4, 2025

Questions:
717-361-1450
Email: KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org

Course Description

This course will focus on transformational and servant leadership. When the Body of Christ is struggling for effective life and mission in a world needing Good News, it calls for creative thinking that is outside the box of the usual. Change is difficult for any system and requires special insights and skills to prepare an organization for another way of living and practicing mission. The leader must be transformed as well as the church system. Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch in *ReJesus* invite their readers to understand transformational leaders as focusing on Christology that will inform the character of ecclesiology and then clarify missiology.

Course Objectives

- Clarification about leadership and congregational transformation from a movement perspective and why each is important.
- Gaining insights about servant and transformational leadership styles that speak to effectiveness for this time.
- Gaining a renewed commitment and important insights to make Christ the focus and the body of Christ the emphasis for practicing vital and effective mission in the neighborhoods of our unique congregations (emphasis and practice of the life and teaching of Jesus with the spirit of the living Christ guiding our journey to faithful missional practices).
- Addressing why pietism and anabaptism practices are relevant to growing the Kingdom of God with today's generational challenges.
- Learning three key elements of an effective body of Christ.
- Expand and practice learned understandings of how to read a congregation's life-cycle.
- Developing learning skills to be Christ in the neighborhood.
- Learning practices for reading congregational and community culture and how to work at creating a missional culture.
- Envisioning evangelism from the perspective of growing the Kingdom of God.
- Learning to manage conflict that arises in a transformational process.

Instructor: Randy Yoder

Randy Yoder has served as a pastor, District Executive in Middle PA, and church coach. He also has served on the General Board (prior to it being known as the Ministry and Mission Board) and was an independent staff person for Brethren Benefit Trust as a specialist in long-term care insurance. He has served as Interim District Executive for Atlantic Northeast and Western Plains Districts, and Interim Pastor at Oakton Church of the Brethren in Mid-Atlantic District. He has taught classes for TRIM and seminary-level students in the areas of leadership and polity and practice. He earned a D.Min. from McCormick Seminary in the area of not-for-profit organization and development.

(continued)

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center offers TRIM Course:

Effective Leadership for Times Such as These

April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3, 2025 (ZOOM INTENSIVE - 2 weekends)

Ways to register:

- Online at www.etown.edu/programs/svmc/trims.aspx, or
- Complete the form below

Course Withdrawal Refund Policy

- 100% of course fee prior to the registration deadline
- 50% from the registration deadline to the first day of class
- No refunds will be given once the class has begun
- Exceptions require the approval of the Director of SVMC

To earn CEU credit, participants will:

- Meet the attendance requirement
- Complete the assigned reading
- Engage in the course through participation
- Complete reduced assignments as outlined in the syllabus

Required Texts

- The Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Rendle, Gilbert R. *Quietly Courageous: Leading a Church in a Changing World*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019. ISBN: 9781538112905 (Paperback)
- Woodward, JR and Dan White, *The Church as Movement: Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities*. IVP Books, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8308-4133-2.

Schedule

The course will be held on April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3, 2025. Classes run from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. each Friday, and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. each Saturday, EST.

Expectations

Distance learning, especially during intensives, requires students to be disciplined in their time management. Students are expected to do all preparatory work and assignments as listed in the syllabus. **The syllabus will be emailed to students upon registration.**

For online learning, students will need basic computer skills and access to the internet. If your computer is four years old or less, you should have the capabilities for this course. Zoom is required for this course.

Effective Leadership for Times Such as These - a TRIM Course April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3, 2025 (Zoom Course)

Register at www.etown.edu/programs/svmc/trims.aspx, or fill out the following information and return, along with payment to:

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown PA 17022

Name: _____

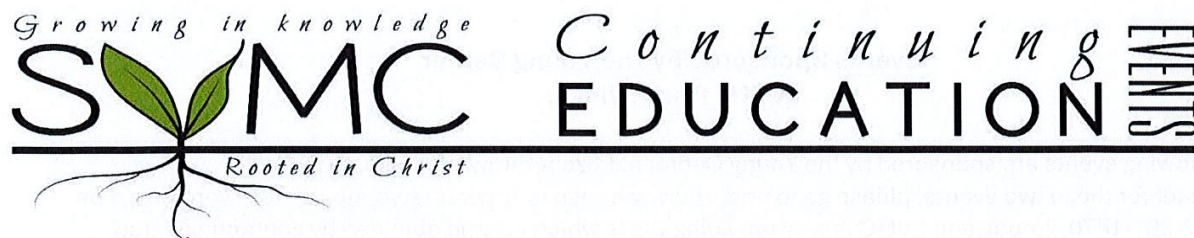
Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I will be taking this course for: (TRIM credit _____) (EFSM credit _____) (2 CEUs _____) or (Personal Enrichment _____)

Course Fee: \$300.00 payable to *Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center*

Registration deadline: March 4, 2025



Below are **Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's** current continuing education events open to everyone. For more information and to register, please do one of the following:

- Click on the title of each event and follow the links to register. (You can only register for one event at a time).
- Visit www.etoyn.edu/svmc and follow links for "Continuing Education"
- Email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or call SVMC at 717-361-1450

Identifying and Responding to Suicide Risk

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

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

Supporting Congregational Members Following Divorce

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

Divorce is a life-altering loss experience that a rising number of congregational members confront. The encounter profoundly affects their biopsychosocial-spiritual well-being and often leads to disenfranchised grief. This interactive workshop examines three types of spiritual struggles that often occur in connection with three spiritual coping methods that can facilitate healthy adjustment. Attendees will gain skills in applying the methods to supporting congregational members navigating loss and grief using a case study.

Caring for Congregational Members at the End-of-Life

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Zoom Only

Leader: Julie Guistwite

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

Nearing death is as much a part of life as living. Drawing on a trifold model of terminally-ill ministry, this interactive workshop explores strategies for empowering adult congregational members at the end-of-life. Consideration of best practices in managing core ethical dilemmas persons navigate during this final lifespan stage will interweave across the discussion. A small group role-play activity provides the opportunity to apply the methods to assisting dying persons from the home to healthcare setting.

More SVMC events are in the planning stages for 2025. Stay tuned!

Events Sponsored by The Young Center (CEUs from SVMC):

The following events are sponsored by the Young Center at Elizabethtown College, NOT SVMC. To register for these two events, please go to <https://www.ETOWN.EDU/CENTERS/young-center/events.aspx> or call 717-361-1470. **Important: SVMC is only providing CEUs which may be obtained by contacting Karen Hodges at KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org or 717-361-1450.**

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- **Durnbaugh Events:** March 20 & 21, 2025 – Leader, John Roth
 1. *Durnbaugh Lecture: Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 7:00 PM • Susquehanna Room, Elizabethtown College*
Topic: “The Bible as a Source of Renewal (and Conflict) in Anabaptism and Pietism”
(.175 CEUs, \$10 payable to SVMC)
 2. *Durnbaugh Seminar: Friday, March 21, 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon • Susquehanna Room, Elizabethtown College.* Topic: *Introducing (and Reading!) the Anabaptist Community Bible: An Interactive Seminar*
(.25 CEUs, \$10 payable to SVMC)

If requesting CEUs for both Thursday and Friday events, the cost will be a total of \$10 (not \$20).

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- **Early Anabaptism in Global Perspective -- Past, Present, and Future at 500 Years**
July 22-24, 2025

This conference marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Anabaptist movement will revisit early Anabaptism and give special attention to the global context in which it emerged and spread. Speakers will also consider how Anabaptist history has been received by churches and academics in more recent times and in varying contexts around the world. With more than three dozen plenary sessions, papers, seminars, and roundtables by presenters from ten countries, the conference will examine such varied themes as migration, diplomacy, the arts, colonialism, peacemaking, and theological identity. Explorations of the connections between Anabaptism and Baptist, Hutterite, Liberation Theology, Quaker, Mennonite, and Radical Pietist traditions are also on the program. Roundtable sessions and seminars include a discussion of approaches to teaching early Anabaptism and a workshop on reading early Anabaptist sources in community. Optional pre- and post-conference field trips will visit area libraries and archives and the 1719 Museum.

children's AID SOCIETY
Southern PA District Church of the Brethren



News from Children's Aid Society



A prominent scripture about love for children is found in Mark 9:36-37, where Jesus takes a child into his arms and says, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.". This passage emphasizes the importance of cherishing and caring for children as a reflection of love for God himself.

This passage is a great summation of what the CAS team does to insure that some of the most vulnerable children in our community are safe and feel God's love. Whether it is welcoming an infant of a single parent into our respite crisis nursery, tutoring a school age child in our restorative youth home, bringing food to a home by our family advocates, providing a listening ear and time of support for a parent in crisis, strengthening parenting competencies and parent-child interactions, or empowering children to express themselves, process challenging experiences, and develop healthy coping strategies through creative art and play therapy.

We are a reflection of love for God himself because of our partnership in ministry with children with each congregation in the Southern PA District. Though your generous and on going support prayerfully, financially, emotionally, and with gift in kind donations, our team is able to be the reflection of God's love insuring all children are safe and feel loved. We humbled to walk alongside you in this ministry and are humbled to call you our partners in sharing the Love of God by welcoming one of these little ones in his name.

Blessings,

Eric M. Chase, M.S., M.Div.
President / CEO

Children's Aid Society welcomes new employees:



Sosan Najem – Cornerstone Youth Home - Operations Coordinator

Karen Kreis – Youth Court Alliance – Program Coordinator

Paulette De La Cruz Santos – Youth Court Alliance – Program Assistant

Veronica Gelman – Art Therapist – Lehman Center

Congratulations! Janelle Swartz on her promotion to Director of Residential Childcare Services.



CAS Family Advocate, Joanne Godfrey, select as PA Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance.

Each year PFSA honors individuals from across the Commonwealth who go above and beyond the call to #ProtectPAKids from abuse and neglect. These individuals are recognized as Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids for their exceptional contributions and efforts as we strive to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout Pennsylvania. Joanne Godfrey, Family advocate was nominated separately by Eric Chase, Daniel Roth, Janique Washington- Walker, Janelle Swartz and then selected by a panel of independent judges as one of only four 2025 Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids!

The Blue Ribbon Champions are recognized at the PFSA annual event in April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and will be held on April 2nd in Harrisburg, PA at the Capitol building for an awards ceremony. Join us in congratulating and celebrating Joanne!

CAS is the new home for the YCA of York County

Children's Aid Society has been selected through a competitive application process to host and administer the Youth Court Alliance of York County, the program previously under the

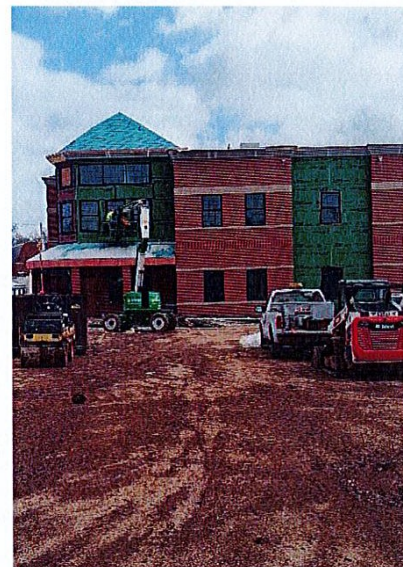
leadership of the United Way of York County. The goal of the Youth Court Alliance (YCA) is to empower students and their families to improve school attendance and offer an alternative to truancy citations. YCA recognizes that students miss school for a variety of reasons and is committed to providing resources and support to empower families to overcome these challenges in a restorative and supportive process. Through this alternative prevention program students will get back on track, build on their strengths, and envision a positive future through participation in the program, while avoiding entering the judicial system.

Werner Early Learning Childcare Center

Progress at the WELLC in York city is moving along beautifully! Interior walls are installed, and the exterior is being adorned with brickwork. We anticipate occupancy of the building in March.



Stay tuned for more details about our Ribbon cutting celebration scheduled for April of 2025!



CAS Upcoming Events

February 13, 2025 - Board of Directors meeting - 6pm

March 13, 2025 - Executive Committee meeting - 6pm

April 10, 2025 - Board of Directors meeting - 6pm

April 2, 2025 -PFSA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids

April 2025 - Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2025 - Ribbon Cutting At WELLC

April 29- Auction - New Fairview Church., 1873 New Fairview Church Rd., York PA

2025 FaithX

Short-term service trips for youth and adults.



Junior High (6th-8th grade)

- June 8-12 Richmond, VA
- July 8-12 University Park, MD

Junior and Senior High (6th grade-age 19)

- June 8-13 Keezletown, VA
(Brethren Woods Camp)
- June 24-29 South Bend, IN
- July 6-10 Winston-Salem, NC
- July 20-25 Boston, MA

Senior High (9th grade-age 19)

- June 15-21 Portland, OR
- July 13-19 Little Rock, AR
(Ferncliff Camp)

Adult (ages 18+)

- June 1-7 Cle Elum, WA
(Camp Koinonia)
- July 13-20 Uganda

Older Adult (ages 55+)

- March 2-7 Gotha, FL
(Camp Ithiel)

Family (all ages)

- July 25-27 Denton, MD
(Camp Mardela)

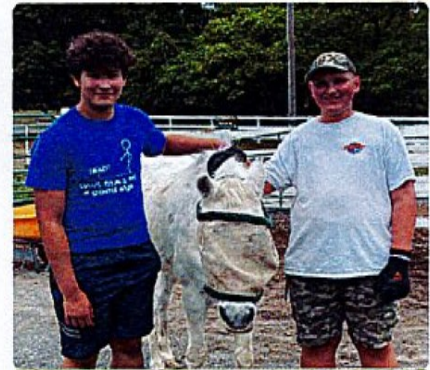
Custom

Contact us to discuss: faithx@brethren.org



**Registration opens on
January 8, 2025 - 7pm EST**

Details & Registration
at www.brethren.org/faithx



In the Shadow, Chris Elliott

Under God's care and provision in 2025

Greetings with prayers for the Lord to move in our midst during the coming year for a determination to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

The ongoing works of our great God continue to inspire me. Worship and awe are the natural responses. Also, it is with heartfelt gratitude that I offer thanks to all of you who have prayed for us and supported us in so many ways during 2024.

I encourage you to pray for missions and world evangelization. An excellent resource that I use as part of my daily devotional time is from Operation World. Every day a different country or aspect of missions is focused on, with lots of statistics and insights. The details shared allow for very specific and targeted prayer. You can use the link below, but I highly recommend that you download the app available at Google Play or App Store.

Grace returned to Rwanda in November serving under *Commission to Every Nation*. She is teaching English as Second Language (ESL) at several different venues, administrating a women's sewing program, as well as helping with a local church youth ministry. You may contact her at crazycountrygirl5976@gmail.com. Tax deductible donations may be sent to:

Commission to Every Nation PO Box 291307 Kerrville, TX 78029-1307 Please write Grace Elliott on the memo line. Or you may donate online using this link: <https://cten.com/Donate/?missionary=ELLIGRA>

I will be heading back to Rwanda toward the end of January. A new semester for the Great Lakes Bible School will open on the 27th. FAR Reach Ministries is my informal umbrella I use to cover and support the various activities I'm connected with. These include (but are not limited to) Great Lakes Bible School and Grace Academy (nursery school) in Rwanda, International Pastoral Institute and Brethren School (nursery school) in Burundi. You might notice the similar addresses of Commission to Every Nation and Commission Ministers Network. They are sister organizations, sharing many of the same resources. Donations to FAR Reach/Christian Elliott are tax deductible and may be sent to:

Commission Ministers Network PO Box 291002 Kerrville, TX 78029-1002. Please write Christian Elliott on the memo line. Or you may donate online using this link: <https://cmnetwork.denarionline.com/Donate/?missionary=ElliChri>

Deloris keeps the home fires burning. Quite literally, this time of year. She continues to help as part of the care team for her mother, who is 98 years old and she spends a few days a month caring for an elderly widow near our home in Fort Littleton.

You are welcome to connect with me anytime at cwelliott56@gmail.com. I also use WhatsApp: +1-717-262-3154. I will be happy to hear from you. Here's to a blessed 2025!