



## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

### Scriptural Message

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*  
Joshua 1:9

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?*  
Psalm 56:3-4

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*  
James 1:5

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## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

SEPTEMBER 2024

Ministry through  
Faith, Vision, and Action

Greetings from Pastor Chris

Starting something new or change is not something we enjoy or look forward to. Change sometimes can be good, and also rewarding. But in the moment, it is scary. Like for many of the children going back to school. The first day of school can be overwhelming and scary for many of the students. But it is nice to be able to see old friends and be able to learn new things. With change so many times we can look in the past and be afraid of failing or not being good enough. A new beginning awaits anyone who is willing and wanting to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life. **2 Corinthians 5:17** **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come the old has gone, the new is here!"** Here in the church, we are all in a different season. Seasons can be scary and exciting. There is a time for everything.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-5** **"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them."** **Ecclesiastes 3:14** **"I know that everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him"**. We as a church need to be trusting that God has a plan for each one of us. Even if we can't see it at the time, God is in control. In **Matthew Chapter 28** in the Great Commission Jesus promised his disciples **"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** No matter where we are in life Jesus' promise will remain. Do we trust him to take care of all of our needs. no matter what season we are in. The verse for September, is **Proverbs 3:5** **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."** Where is are trust at today?

## Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024

Sunday School – 19  
Worship Service – 78  
Online Views - 33

### Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: ***Faye Brubaker, Gloria Keppley, Glenn and Lois Hassinger, Dixie Gasper, Eleanor Brubaker, Grace Ziegler, Ken Gross, Jean Barnhart and Lois Sheetz.***

### Gift Cards

The gift card order is always processed ***the first Sunday of the month.*** Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. How many cards do you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself. You can buy your groceries or gas for your vehicles.

**MCoB email list** - join by sending your name and email address to [info@myerstowncob.org](mailto:info@myerstowncob.org)

### Disaster Relief Auction

September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> is the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction at the Lebanon Expo Grounds. The expenses of food are on the rise and we want to raise as much as we can for those who have experienced natural disasters. We are asking for donations to help defer these expenses & allow a greater portion of the income from food to go to the relief auction. We appreciate any monetary donation that you can give to this project. Please make checks payable to: Brethren Disaster Relief Auction with food in the memo line. Send checks to Evie Dehmey and she will add that to the food committee department. Evie Dehmey, 164 Vinegar Ferry Rd., Marietta, PA 17545. We also are looking for people to serve on our committee. We meet 3 times a year and then help with the food at the auction. If you have any interest in serving on our committee, please contact Lois Roop at 717-954-2278 or email [clroop@verizon.net](mailto:clroop@verizon.net)

### **Pumpkin Roll**

Women's Fellowship will be starting the baking of pumpkin rolls on September 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Janet Dubble or Dottie Nagle. Look for the pumpkin roll order forms in your mailbox.

### **Choirs to Resume**

Senior Choir will resume Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Bell choir's first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7 pm. If you have any questions, would like to join bell choir, or be a substitute, please contact Jen Zimmerman at 717-503-8960 or [jzimmerman615@yahoo.com](mailto:jzimmerman615@yahoo.com).

### **COBY'S Bike & Hike**

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is COBY'S Bike & Hike at Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 West Orange St., Lititz. For more details or to register or donate online, visit [cobys.org/bike-and-hike](http://cobys.org/bike-and-hike). If you have any questions, contact Steve Nichols at [steven@cobys.org](mailto:steven@cobys.org)

### **September Wedding Anniversaries**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Jason & Carey Krall
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jay & Brenda Lentz
17 <sup>th</sup>	LaMar & Joanne Fahnestock Dale & JoAnn Houtz
19 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Kathryn Gibble
21 <sup>st</sup>	George & Dottie Nagle

### **Holiday Bazaar**

It's that time of year when you are probably cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual bazaar is November 23<sup>rd</sup>, but we are already accepting donations for the "white elephant" tables. The items can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area.

### **Love Feast and Communion**

Fall Love Feast and Communion will be held Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. If anyone would be willing to babysit during the Communion service, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see any of the deacons with questions.

## Verse of the Month

Trust in the LORD with all your  
heart and lean not on your  
own understanding

Proverbs 3:5

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: August 20, 2024**

**Meeting was called to order: @ 7:40 pm**

**by Chairperson: David Dubble**

**Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.**

**Prayer by: Grace Ziegler**

**Present were: Pastor Chris Dubble**

**Secretary’s Report of June 18, 2024**

**Approved as presented by aye vote**

**Treasurer’s Report of July 31, 2024**

**Approved as presented by aye vote**

**Commission Reports & Members Present**

**Ministry & Evangelism Commission:** Chairperson – Grace Ziegler, Mark Landis, Sr., Pastor Chris Earl Liskey, David Dubble, Linda Zimmerman

Earl Liskey opened the meeting with prayer.

Worship Leaders are in place

August 25 – Rally Day - Pastor Chris

Sept. 1 – Kim Wenger

Sept. 8 – Kevin Wenrich

Sept. 15 – Kim Horn

Sept. 22 – Katrina Wagner

Sept. 29 – Evelina Krall

We discussed the upcoming Gospel Concert on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. As of now we have 10 groups and/or individuals that have been committed and everything seems to be coming together. The offering will go towards the Sharing Cupboard.

In the absence of Church Secretary Toni Noll, Janet Dubble will be helping out.

Janet Dubble, the alternate delegate for District Conference will be taking Joyce Wagner’s place as our delegate.

We discussed a possible community outreach of having a “Light the Night” to be held on Myerstown Trick or Treat Night.

Pastor Dennis Garrison has agreed to be our moderator and we will need board approval.

Effective January 1, 2025, Dennis Garrison was approved to be our new Church Moderator by a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> and aye vote. We now will take this vote to council meeting for approval.

**Missions & Fellowship Commission:** Chairperson – Janet Dubble, Kim Horn  
Sharon Seldomridge

Kim opened with prayer.

1. Update: Myerstown Night at the Reading Phils
  - a. 44 tickets were sold
2. Fellowship Meal for August 25 Rally Day
  - a. This Commission will provide hot dogs, meatball sandwiches, and drinks
  - b. Congregation will provide sides, salads, and desserts
  - c. Setup on Sat. Aug 24 @ 9:00 AM
  - d. Kim Wenger will coordinate the kitchen.
3. Collection items for Sharing Cupboard for Sept: small and large cans of soup (like Chunky soup), and cereal
4. Volunteers for District Conference
  - a. Saturday, October 12
  - b. 8 volunteers needed - Full day - 6:45 AM - 4:00 PM - light breakfast and buffet lunch included
  - c. Tasks include: Parking Guides, Greeters, assistance with collection of Slates for counting, assistance with counting offering, and the assurance guests pick up hymnals upon reentering after lunch.
  - d. If possible, we could use 3-4 people to greet, collect offering on the way out, and to assist those needing translation equipment at the Friday evening worship service at Mountville.
  - e. The names of people volunteering are needed by September 26.
5. Mission of the Month Update
  - a. To date collections (through July): \$6401.50
  - b. Sept: Jubilee Ministries; Oct: Operation Christmas Child; Nov: Sharing Cupboard; Dec: Sock Collection for ELCO families
6. LV Basket for Auction - ideas
  - a. Donations of homemade items from Ladies Aide
  - b. Other ideas are requested
7. Women's Fellowship Activities
  - Pumpkin Roll Sale
    - Baking from Sept. 16 - October 7 (4 weeks); October 14 if needed
    - Order deadline - October 6
    - Price - \$15.00
  - Holiday Bazaar
    - November 23, 2024
    - Volunteers will be needed.
  - Women's Post Holiday Luncheon
    - Saturday, February 8, 2025
    - Catered meal in MCoB Fellowship Hall

**Christian Education Commission:** - Brenda Lentz,  
Walter Sattazahn, Cindy Sattazahn

Brenda and Jay Lentz took 2 youth to Lake Tobias on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of August.  
We are looking at taking the youth to district events.  
We are looking at selling t-shirts that the Women's Fellowship may provide.  
We are also looking at items to sell at the bazaar.  
The Sunday School material was ordered and picked up.  
Olivia Dubble and Kendalynn Fetzer will be presented with Bibles during the church service. Also, "This Way Up" will be here on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> to put on a program and Kids Club will be after the meal on Sunday with games and fun.  
Right Now Media is paid for the year \$879.89.  
Children's Church will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September and it will be every week.

**Trustee and Property Commission:** – Chairperson – George Nagle  
Bill Kline, Mark Landis, Jr., Dale Houtz

Wentling's put new seats in old kitchen spigots. They also cleaned the grease trap in the new kitchen.  
I replaced batteries in the kitchen and gym thermostats.  
Replaced light in walk-in freezer.  
Fix and reglued carpet at middle window in the gym.  
Installed new flapper in ladies room gym commode.  
Sealed conduit in foyer area and replaced ceiling tile.  
We moved plate and quilt shelves in hallway and moved one on the brick wall and took down coat rack near old water cooler.  
We are going to see Eberly's Tree Service to get maple tree in back of church trimmed.  
We received \$5,000 grant from ANE CoB District towards the parking lot.  
Had Wentling's repair 1 furnace that was not working and cleaned both furnaces.

**Finance and Stewardship Commission:** – Chairperson – Bob Noll  
Jay Lentz

The Mission of the month for Women's Shelter was \$864.00.  
In the next few weeks, will be distributing worksheets out for the proposed budget for 2025. The budget will need to be approved at October Board Meeting.  
We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

## **Pastor's Report**

Things I have done since our last meeting.

- Prepared and helped plan weekly worship services.
- Finish preaching through the book of Jonah. Started a new sermon series going through the book of Hebrews.
- Met with pastor mentor.
- Met with a group of Brethren pastors.
- Attended annual conference, in Grand Rapids MI.
- Attended webinar, for preaching and studying the scriptures.
- Assisted with Myerstown CoB Bible school.
- Visited several members in the hospital.
- Called and visited with several people from the congregation and community.
- Met with board chair, to discuss upcoming board meeting.
- Met with reach Christian School Principal and faculty, to see how us as a church could be helping them with the upcoming school year. They stated that they are very excited about upcoming school year, and very appreciative of all the support from Myerstown Church.

Thank you once again to everyone's continued prayer and help throughout this summer. It has been amazing to see everyone stepping up and helping the church to grow.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

Approved to eliminate the parking lot paving fund was given by a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> and aye vote.

## **Interests & Concerns**

None

## **Adjournment**

At 8:25 pm with prayer by Pastor Chris.



## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY	<b>3</b> Bell Choir 6:00 pm Music Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> Ladies Aide 9:00 am Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>9</b> Praise Team 6:00 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>13</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>16</b> Praise Team 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg 7:00 pm Board Mtg 7:30 pm	<b>18</b> Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>23</b> Praise Team 6:00 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ladies Aide 9:00 am Londonderry Village Service 7:00 pm	<b>26</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6 Disaster Relief Auction	<b>28</b> Disaster Relief Auction
<b>29</b> Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>30</b> Praise Team 6:00 pm					

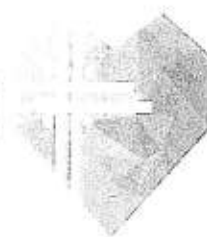
## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Dean Wagner	5	6 Janet Dubble Nancy Liskey	7
8	9 Walter Sattazahn, Jr.	10 William Wenrich Isabella Reppert	11	12	13	14 Ella Heisey Alicia Yoh
15	16	17	18	19	20 Jane Spangler	21
22	23 Aaron Krall Evan Krall	24	25 Rachel McClure	26	27 Edna Yoh	28
29 Chelsea Reppert	30 Susan Dundore					

### September Wedding Anniversaries

- 4<sup>th</sup> Jason & Carey Krall
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# WrapUp



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

## WELCOME+ WORTHY

2024 CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Elections and appointments

*Annual Conference moderator-elect:*

**Don Fitzkee** of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren

*Program and Arrangements Committee:*

**Laura Sellers**, Happy Comer Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio

*Pastoral Compensation and Benefits*

*Advisory Committee, affirmed:* **Andrew Hamilton**, Southeastern District executive

*Mission and Ministry Board – Area 4:* **Colby**

**Patton**, Wichita (Kan.) First Church of the Brethren; *Area 5:* **Erik Brummett**, Live Oak

(Calif.) Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:*

**Daniel Landon Butler**, Ivester Church of the Brethren, Grundy Center, Iowa; **Edward**

**Cesar-Fincher**, San Diego (Calif.) First Church of the Brethren; **Pete Kontra**, Atlan-

tic Northeast District executive (ex-officio)

*Bethany Seminary trustees – representing*

*colleges:* **David McFadden**, Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester,

Ind.; *affirmed:* **Patrick Chapman Starkey**, Cloverdale (Va.) Church of the Brethren

*Eder Financial Board, affirmed:* **Jerry Pat-**

**terson**, Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren; **Wayne Scott**, Mechanicsburg

(Pa.) Church of the Brethren; **Donna**

**Rhodes**, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

*On Earth Peace Board:* **Jennie L Waering**,

Roanoke (Va.) Central Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Priscilla A. Weddle**, Ches-

apeake, Va.; **Laura L. Hay**, Modesto (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; **Carol Young**

**Lundquist**, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Moderator Madalyn Metzger (center) at the head table of the 2024 Annual Conference, with moderator-elect Dava Hensley and secretary David Shumate. Shown here, the historic moment at the close of the business when, for the first time, a woman passed the moderator's gavel to another woman. Photo: Glenn Riegel

### Delegates handle numerous business items

The delegate body handled numerous business items during the 2024 Annual Conference. Moderator Madalyn Metzger presided over the Conference, assisted by moderator-elect Dava Hensley and secretary David Shumate.

**Review and Evaluation Committee:**

A mandate and an extension of term of service were approved for the next Review and Evaluation Committee. A new Review and Evaluation Committee is called in the fifth year of each decade to evaluate the organizational structure and procedures of the Church of the Brethren. The committee's term was extended from two years to up to four years at the recommendation of the Standing Committee of district delegates, which foresees that in this time in the life of the denomination such evaluation may require more time. The five-member committee, chosen from at-large members of the church, will be elected by Annual Conference in 2025 and will have until 2029 to bring back a report and recommendations.

**Query: A New Model of Denomina-**

**tional Structure:** The concern of this query, brought by Miami (Fla.) Haitian Church of the Brethren and Atlantic Southeast District, was referred to the Review and Evaluation Committee.

Among other things, it notes "serious conflict and division around issues of human sexuality and biblical authority" and asks how a new model of denominational structure may give hope to those who are contemplating separation from the Church of the Brethren. The query was characterized as speaking on behalf of the multicultural sector of the church. It sparked much discussion at the microphones including appreciation for the focus on "how" and for the Haitian Brethren bringing the query, and anticipation of an opportunity to work in a more structural way toward becoming a truly multicultural denomination. Questions about it included its assumption that inclusiveness with regard to sexuality and ability to be a multicultural church are opposing values. In pre-Conference meetings of Standing Committee, the moderator explained that potential outcomes of the query include districts shifting from being geographically based to being theologically aligned.

**Breaking Down Barriers—**

**Increasing Access to Denominational Events:** This study committee was granted another year to complete its work, including a feasibility study.

(continued on page 2)

For more: [www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2024](http://www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2024). Order the video Wrap-Up and Sermons at [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com). The Annual Conference Press Team included Jan Fischer Bachman, Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford, Russ Otto, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez, Virginia Rendler, Glenn Riegel, Laura Sellers, Frances Townsend, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford (editor).



Photos by Glenn Riegel





**Preachers (from left):** Moderator Madalyn Metzger, Greg Broyles, Brandon Grady, Leonard Dow, and Cindy Laprade Lattimer.

Photos by Glenn Riegel and Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford



(continued from page 1)

**Memorandum of Understanding with Bethany Seminary:** This interim measure was approved, updating the seminary's polity regarding its board of trustees pending approval of a new agency covenant that is being developed.

**Polity of On Earth Peace:** Approval was given to a temporary revision of the agency's internal polity as an interim measure until a new agency covenant is finalized. The revision updates bylaws to meet diversity commitments.

**Standing with People of Color:** This committee is two thirds of the way through its three-year mandate to collaborate and develop materials for congregational, district, and denominational use. It was formed in response to a 2022 query from Southern Ohio and Kentucky District. Annual Conference directed the response to be a collaboration of the district with On Earth Peace and staff of the Church of the Brethren including the director of Intercultural Ministries.

**Calling Denominational Leadership:** This study committee presented an interim report, shared some of its findings, and received comments and input during the Conference. Issues around the calling of leadership are many and it has become increasingly difficult to get enough nominees for the Conference ballot.

**Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee recommendations:** Two recommendations were approved by the delegates including the annual cost of living adjustment to the minimum cash salary table for pastors, which was set at 3.3

percent for 2025, and revisions to the pastor's Housing Equity Fund. The latter shifts the fund from a mutual fund account to a qualified church retirement account held by Eder Financial. The savings fund enables pastors living in parsonages to purchase their own homes after leaving the parsonage.

**Special Response Process:** The Standing Committee, which is tasked with reviewing the Special Response Process intended to help the denomination work through strongly controversial issues, asked the Conference officers to bring names for a task team to carry out the review.

**Anniversaries:** Anniversary celebrations included the 300th anniversary of Germantown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren as the oldest Brethren congregation in the Americas; the 80th anniversary of Heifer International, which got its start as the Church of the Brethren's Heifer Project; and the 45th anniversary of the Death Row Support Project.



**Receiving the Revelation 7:9 Award from Intercultural Ministries (from right):** Michaela Alphonse, Joshua Brockway, Duane Grady, Matt Guynn, Gilbert Romero, Joe Vecchio (in absentia), with Intercultural Ministries director Founa Augustin Badet.  
Photo: Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford

## By the numbers

**7 churches were welcomed:**

- **1 congregation**—Southern Ohio/Kentucky District: East Dayton (Ohio) Fellowship
- **1 fellowship**—Atlantic Southeast District: Jesus Lounge Ministry, Delray Beach, Fla.
- **5 projects**—Atlantic Northeast District: Arbor Park Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pa.; Pacific Southwest District: Iglesia del Salvador Viviente, McFarland, Calif.; Virginia District: Monte De Dios, Eden, N.C., Monte de Hermon, Bassett, Va., The Way, Roanoke, Va.

**1,450 people registered** including 410 delegates and 1,040 nondelegates (45 virtual).

**\$47,065.36 total received in offerings:** \$16,994.42 for Core Ministries of the Church of the Brethren with a focus on Global Mission and Discipleship and Leadership Formation, \$8,134.35 for the Conference operating budget and \$6,681.35 for programming for children and youth, \$15,255.24 for the Witness to the Host City to Kids' Food Basket and Sleep in Heavenly Peace—and volunteers also built **30 beds.**

**\$10,375 in a Silent Auction** for Conference translation and interpretation expenses and operating budget.

**\$8,328 in donations:** \$1,198 for Conference operations, \$7,130 for Core Ministries.

**\$8,200 raised by the Quilt Auction** for hunger relief. AACB announced this was their last quilt auction at Annual Conference.

**121 units collected** by the Blood Drive.

**200 or so people** were at the vigil sponsored by the Gun Violence Prevention Action Team.



**Right: Senior high service project** at Camp Brethren Heights.  
Photo: Frank Ramirez

**Left: Third to fifth grade** tied 103 blankets for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.  
Photo: Laura Setlers



Photos above by Donna Parcel

## General secretary signs global Christian letter

**General secretary David Steele** was one of more than 200 Christian leaders from around the world who signed a public letter in advance of the address to Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on July 24.

“As global Christian leaders committed to peace and justice and the recognition of the image of God in all humanity, we abhor the ongoing violence that has now continued for more than nine months between Hamas and the Israeli military,” the opening paragraph said, in part. “More than 1,100 people were killed by the Hamas

attacks on October 7th, and mass killings by the Israeli military in Gaza have taken more than 39,000 lives. More than two-thirds of Gaza ... have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. Not only the livelihoods but even the wherewithal to maintain the most basic subsistence of two million people has been erased. Children are dying of malnutrition, credible reports indicate prisoners are being tortured, and efforts to release the hostages are not being prioritized. These atrocities stain the conscience of all humanity, and in this, we include ourselves as Christian leaders and the global church.”

The letter continued with calls for a permanent ceasefire, return of hostages, release of Palestinian prisoners held without due process, immediate access for humanitarian response in Gaza, an end to arms flows into the conflict zone, and prevention of the spread of violence in the region, among other measures.

It also delineated the threat the conflict poses for continued existence of Christianity in the Holy Land, saying, in part: “We fear the existential threat to the Christian presence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories—the very place where our faith tradition began.”

## Mission and Ministry Board sets 2025 budget parameter

**The Mission and Ministry Board** set the 2025 budget parameter for the Church of the Brethren's Core Ministries during a pre-Annual Conference meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., on July 3. Chair Colin Scott led the meeting, assisted by chair-elect Kathy Mack and general secretary David Steele.

The 2025 budget parameter for the Core Ministries was approved at \$5.13 million in income and \$5.66 million in expense. This parameter was recommended by the Executive Committee, with a couple of changes to the original parameter proposed by staff. The revised parameter includes, among other things, an increase in the cost-of-living adjustment for employee salary and benefits from the proposed 1 percent to 2.5 percent, and changing the use of designated funds from \$481,000 to \$0. There is an anticipated 7 percent increase for employee medical insurance. In approving the revised parameter—which is based on 10-year giving trends as well as investment transfers—the board also approved a significant budget deficit of \$529,000, which is to be addressed by the Executive Committee between now and the fall board meeting.

### In other business:

The board received a financial update for current year 2024 from treasurer Ed Woolf.

The Strategic Planning Committee received approval for a recommendation intended to enhance the direct linkage between the four “pillars” of the strategic plan and denominational ministries, through infusing communications with the language of the strategic plan and encouraging more direct advocacy by board members and staff. The four pillars are “Pursue Christ's call to

discipleship,” “Embody the biblical command to love our neighbors,” “Seek God's racial justice,” and “Reclaim New Testament models of giving.” The board engaged in an hour of conversation around the goal “Seek God's racial justice.”

The board called a new Executive Committee for 2024-2025: Michaela Alphonse, Joel Gibbel, and Rosanna Eller McFadden, with chair Colin Scott and chair-elect Kathy Mack.

Lauren Seganos Cohen, Meghan Horne Mauldin, and J. Roger Schrock were recognized for completing their terms on the board.

The board also shared prayer concerns, recognized staff transitions, honored recipients of the Revelation 7:9 Award presented by Intercultural Ministries, and welcomed international guests.



Intercultural Ministries director Founa Badet (at left) with five of the six recipients of the Revelation 7:9 Award, which was presented during the Mission and Ministry Board meeting: (from left) Gilbert Romero, Matt Guynn, Duane Grady, Joshua Brockway, and Michaela Alphonse. Not pictured: Joe Vecchio.

## Bethany Seminary celebrates the class of 2024

### Bethany Theological Seminary celebrated commencement in

Richmond, Ind., on May 11, awarding 11 master's degrees and 17 postgraduate diplomas and certificates. The ceremony took place in Nicarry Chapel with speaker Micah McCreary, president of New Brunswick (N.J.) Theological Seminary.

This year, Bethany held its first-ever commencement in Nigeria, at the seminary's center in the city of Jos on May 21.

Receiving a master of divinity: Stephen Flores, Jason Haldeman, and Jason Harsh.

Receiving a master of arts: Elena Bohlander.

Receiving a master of arts in Theopoetics and Writing: Eric Bader, Kelley Hudlow, Shana Leck, Sarah Orrell, Alina Skujins, and Jaime Staehle.

Receiving a master of arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation: Clarke Staton.

Graduate certificates also were



awarded: Erin Dalrymple and Anitra Kraus received a certificate of achievement in Theological Studies; James Grossnickle-Batterton, Elena Bohlander, Michelle Grover, Patricia Halbeck, Betty Ann Miskowiec, and Sheila Pick received a certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination; Raymond Rischpater received a certificate in Inter-contextual Biblical Interpretation.

The ceremony in Nigeria honored 21 students who earned the postgraduate diploma in Biblical Peacemaking and 1 who earned a certificate of

achievement in Theological Studies. Leaders from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) who participated in the ceremony included EYN president Daniel Y.C. Mbaya, who is an adjunct lecturer for Bethany. Representatives of EYN, the Anglican Church, and Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) all brought congratulatory messages. Attending from Bethany were president Jeff Carter, academic dean Steve Schweitzer, and executive director of Student Services Lori Current.

## Short-term disaster rebuilding project set for Kentucky

**Brethren Disaster Ministries** has finalized the location for a short-term rebuilding project this September through November, returning to the Dawson Springs, Ky., area. This is where a previous longterm rebuilding project helped with recovery following tornadoes that hit in 2021.

Housing will resume at the Habitat for Humanity Pennyryle Region Warehouse. The goal will be to complete the homes that Brethren Disaster Ministries started work on but could not complete by the middle of August, when the full project closed.



Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers work in Kentucky.

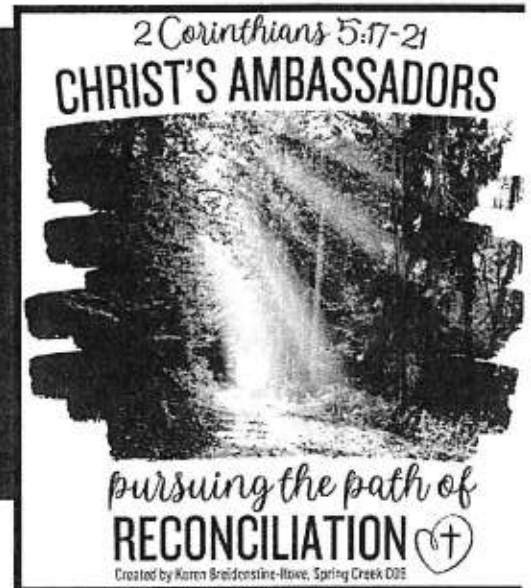


**Post this page** You are welcome to photocopy these news pages. For more Newsline stories, go to [www.brethren.org/news](http://www.brethren.org/news)

# ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Conference Website:  
<http://ane-cob.com/districtconference/>

SCAN ME



**The DELEGATE BRIEFING** will be held on Tuesday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m., online only. It is open to everyone, and no registration is needed. The Zoom link will be provided on the District Conference website and will be emailed to all who have registered for the business session. District leadership will provide background and review of the business items and provide time for delegates to ask questions regarding the business items.

**The BIBLE STUDY**, which will be online only (no registration required), will get District Conference started by focusing on the passage from 2 Corinthians for our theme, "Christ's Ambassadors: Pursuing the Path of Reconciliation." It will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Pastor Jeff Keller of Lebanon COB will facilitate the study. The Zoom link will be posted on the District Conference website and emailed to those who are registered for the business session.

**The WORSHIP SERVICE**, which will be in-person and live-streamed on Mountville's YouTube Channel, is scheduled for Friday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. No registration is required. It will be held at Mountville COB, and Pastor Angela Finet will bring us the message. In addition, Mountville's choir and the Praise Team from Harrisburg First Church will inspire us with their musical offerings. The link will be posted on the District Conference website and emailed to those registered for the business session.

Meeting for worship on Friday night helps to prepare our hearts for the work we will do on Saturday; it is a good place to begin as we prepare to serve our brothers and sisters of the district because it directs our thoughts to the holiness and greatness of God and our need to seek his will, not our own. As we humble ourselves before the Father, he can show us the way to humbly relate to one another as well. We encourage your participation in this time of mental and spiritual preparation.

**A special addition to our calendar this year is a workshop, "For My Neighbor's Good,"** led by Nate Polzin, Executive Director of Discipleship and Leadership, which will be held on Friday afternoon, October 11, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Mountville Church of the Brethren. Separate registration will be required and can be found on the District Conference website.

3rd Annual  
**ANE OLDER ADULT**  
*Coffee House*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

2 PM - 3:30 PM

Lancaster CoB

**FREE EVENT- No Registration Required**

*Savor some  
coffee, tea,  
and cookies,  
and enjoy a  
special  
presentation.*

**A Celebration of Music:  
Handbells**

Ron Bellamy began ringing handbells in 1979 and has been a performer and clinician for Handbell Exploration, the Handbell Musicians of America (HMA), and Solo/Ensemble Extravaganza (SEE). A former member of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, he is now their Artistic Director.



He is a solo handbell artist and was the solo ringing clinician at the 2024 HMA National Seminar in Hartford CT. Ron is the handbell director at the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and has directed the Bucknell University Rooke Chapel Ringers on several occasions in Dr. William Payn's absence. He has conducted several massed ringing festivals and was the conductor for the February 2024 Toms River Handbell Festival as well as for the April 2024 Virginia Bronze Ring in Spring Festival. A graduate of the University of Scranton and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, his full-time employment is in the field of accounting and finance.

The District Older Adults Committee has carefully organized this event and encourages you to share in the fun and fellowship of our 3rd annual Coffee House event! No cost for this event but a basket will be available for contributions to cover expenses for this gathering.





## CAMP SWATARA NEWS

As the summer is winding down, so are the activities at Camp Swatara. A few more fun things lay ahead through the end of the October.

### Upcoming Activities at Camp:

- **Aug 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>2024 Family Campground BENEFIT AUCTION!**  
Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30p-8:30p: Item Preview  
7p: Kids Auction  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 8a-9a: Item Preview  
9a: Regular Auction  
All proceeds benefit the Camp Swatara Family Campground!
- **Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Fall Festival 10am-3pm**  
Celebrate fall with food, fun and friends!
- **Oct 25-27 Closing Weekend**  
Join us to close the campground for the season and camp for free!
- **Visit [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org) for additional activities throughout the spring/summer months.**



**Eureka**  
Ella,  
Haley,  
Brayden,  
Emma,  
Charlette

**Maples**  
Oliva,  
William,  
Linnie

**Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA**

*The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.*

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$
Amazon \$100.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$25.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$50.00	1.7%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	7%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$50.00	8%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	7%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$100.00	10%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$25.00	10%		\$
Big Lots! \$25.00	4%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$25.00	10%		\$
Bosco's \$25.00	8%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	6%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Burger King \$25.00	6%		\$
Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$
Chewy \$25.00	5%		\$
Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	9%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	9%		\$
Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Dairy Queen \$25.00	6.5%		\$
Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
Disney \$100.00	3%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$
Dunkin' \$10.00	3.5%		\$
Dunkin' \$25.00	3.5%		\$
Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$
Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$
Express \$25.00	10%		\$
Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$
Firehouse Subs \$25.00	6%		\$
GameStop \$25.00	5%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Giant Food \$100.00	4%		\$
Giant Food \$25.00	4%		\$
Giant Food \$50.00	4%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
iTunes & App Store \$15.00	5%		\$
iTunes & App Store \$25.00	5%		\$
J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
Kohl's \$25.00	7%		\$
L.L. Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
McDonald's \$10.00	3%		\$
McDonald's \$25.00	3%		\$
Moe's Southwest Grill \$25.00	6%		\$
Nike \$25.00	11%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: **Myerstown Church of the Brethren**

Total Due All Columns:

\$

**Family Order Form**

Created: 3/19/2024 8:54:27 AM

**Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA**

*The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.*

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$100.00	1.25%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$25.00	1.25%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$				
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$				
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$				
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$				
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$				
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$				
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$				
Sheetz \$25.00	2.5%		\$				
Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$				
Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$				
Staples \$100.00	5%		\$				
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$				
Starbucks \$10.00	4.5%		\$				
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$				
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	4.5%		\$				
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$				
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$				
Target \$10.00	2.5%		\$				
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$				
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$				
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$				
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$				
TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$				
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$				
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$				
ULTA \$25.00	7%		\$				
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$				
Vera Bradley \$50.00	7%		\$				

Make Checks Payable To: *Myerstown Church of the Brethren*

Total Due All Columns: \$