When you preach a sermon or teach a Sunday School lesson you have a desired outcome. But once the words leave your mouth, you have no control over what a person hears or what the Holy Spirit is trying to say to the congregation and class. It is amazing what people will say they “heard” when they give you feedback afterwards.

Case in point: I preached at Newville to give Pastor John a break. The sermon was titled “That Lovin’ Feeling” and was based on Revelation 2:1-7. My intention was to remind us all that over the years, in our busy-ness and our business, we may have lost that first love for Christ and the excitement when we gave our lives to the Lord. Like most sermons we preach as pastors, it was not only a challenge but a confessional. I need frequently to be reminded of that first love. How about you?

Anyway, after the service, Brother Jay came up to me and said that what the sermon brought to mind to him was that after this Covid-19 is all said and done and after our congregations begin resuming a sense of normality, it will be something like the early church. They had to figure out how to maneuver through this newfound faith in the world.

Not what I intended with my words but Oh so insightful!

As I drove home, I reflected on this comment. I am not sure just what worship, service and fellowship will look like post Covid-19. My fear is that too many of us want to rush back in to doing everything just like we used to do. Maybe this is a good time to ask what is essential to maintain a vibrant faith and a powerful witness to the world around us.

Many of us have sung the song “Heart of Worship” in our services. It begins by saying “When the music fades, when all is stripped away…” Covid-19 and CDC and governmental guidance has truly stripped away from us our usual worship, education, and service normality. Has it caused us to think about starting over and building a new “church?” Will we drop the virtual for and simply go back to in person only? I have heard pastors tell me that they have experienced people who do not darken the doors of the church tune in to their live feeds and YouTube worship. Like the early church, we are expanding our influence. I read with interest the Newsline article about the Chambersburg congregation’s Virtual VBS.

I believe that this is our time for new ideas, a new breath of the Spirit in our lives, our congregations, and our church.
continued from page 1

So many pastors and church leaders have been so creative in how to worship together (physically and virtually), how to do Bible study, and how to do pastoral care. It would be a shame if we just go back to doing everything the way we always done it before. Also, it may be dangerous to our physical health to rush back to assembling together with carefully preparing and planning.

I believe that this is our time for new ideas, a new breath of the Spirit in our lives, our congregations, and our church.

What new ways have you considered for the future? I would love to hear what God is saying to you and your congregations.

If your congregation is trying to figure out how to safely gather and wonder about how to prepare your physical space safely, John Dentler has offered to meet with church leaders, janitorial staff, and others. He serves in the Baltimore County Fire Department and is their Covid-19 point man. He has a lot of info and experience to share on this subject. If you are interested in this contact me and I will put you in touch with him.

Bill

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Note: phone# changes, we are working from home.

Rev. Dr. William A. Waugh
District Executive
724-875-0958
bwaugh@brethren.org

Carolyn Jones
Office Manager
717-585-9286
SOPADistrict@brethren.org

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Update on Re-opening the District Office

In early April, the SO PA District Office was required to close its physical location due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District Executive and office manager have been working from their homes since that time.

Please pray for the SO PA District Board and office staff as they work toward re-opening the District Office. The current office space is located in a medical facility and may require relocation before re-opening.

If you know of available office space in the York / Hanover / New Oxford area, please contact any of the following people:

- H. Roger Miller Jr., rkmiller499@gmail.com, 717-851-4063
- Bill Waugh, bwaugh@brethren.org, 724-875-0958
- The District Office, SOPADistrict@brethren.org, 717-585-9286

Thank you for joining us in prayer for guidance and discernment at this time of likely transition.
"I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6a, NIV, 2011) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8, NIV, 2011)

Our Lord never changes, but plans for this year’s District Conference continue to shift! Your District Board and your District Leadership have made some decisions regarding this year’s Conference. At this point in time, we are planning for a one-day Conference on Saturday, September 19th. We will be at Buffalo Valley and we will be simulcasting to three other satellite churches around the District (details to be determined). We are asking that only delegates and those Pastors who aren’t already delegates register for the church closest to you. Delegates will be able to ask questions and vote at all four locations. Everyone will need to bring their own lunch. Unfortunately, there will be no insight sessions or ministers/spouses luncheon or evening worship service. We are making some difficult choices, but these are difficult times.

More details will be coming soon, so please continue to be patient and flexible. And keep praying for all our District Leaders. We worship the one, true God who never changes, but our plans for District Conference will surely keep changing as we move forward.

John F. Hess
District Moderator

See next page for the latest District Conference update. District Conference Brochure is on Page 36.
Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren
2020 District Conference
September 19 - Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren

As with many things this year, the 2020 SO PA District Conference will look a little different.

District conference will be held on Saturday, September 19th only. Beginning with registration at 9:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10:00.

Conference will be held at Buffalo Valley COB (for Northern Zone churches) with 3 virtual satellite locations:
- Newville COB for Central Zone churches,
- New Fairview COB for Eastern Zone churches,
- Chambersburg COB for Western Zone churches.

We ask that delegates and SO PA District pastors who are not delegates attend district conference at the location within their church’s zone. Please consult page 6 of the SO PA District Directory for your church’s zone.

Each location will participate in a Zoom video conference (live broadcast of the proceedings displayed on a large screen). Delegates will have the opportunity to vote and speak to items at each location. This may be a little cumbersome but we are confident that with patience we will have a successful conference.

Modified schedules and district conference booklets will be emailed to each congregation, who are responsible to see that their delegates receive either a printed or digital copy. These documents will also be posted on the SO PA District website (www.cob-net.org/church/sopa/).

We ask that only delegates and SO PA District pastors who are not delegates attend district conference this year. There will be no non-delegates and only limited volunteers in attendance.

There will be no food or beverages served at any location, each delegate is encouraged to bring their own lunch, snacks and drinks. Social distancing and masks are strongly encouraged. Please respect the policies and direction of the hosting church.

Please note: These plans may be modified at the last minute, depending on current conditions, state and local mandates, etc.

We appreciate your prayers, patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Cover art created by: Zac Ocker
NEWS FROM AROUND THE SO PA DISTRICT

The Faith Community Greetings, sisters and brothers. I want to share how The Faith Community has been functioning during these months of pandemic infringement. The Pastoral Care team was directed to work from home in early April; and as I write this there is hope that we will be permitted to return to the office on July 13 (dependent on the PA Department of Health ever-changing regulations). During our months of isolation we have remained in touch with church members and friends through phone calls, card ministry, weekly bulletins with informational inserts, multi-page mailings to the deacon body and to the members of our Executive Committee, and multi-page informational and inspirational mailings to our church members and friends each week. Also, there have been opportunities to utilize FaceTime and Skype. The many writings have proven to be a monumental task, but also a very rewarding one. Initially, our worship service consisted of replaying a recorded church service from last year, broadcasting it on our in-house television channel for viewing by the CKV community. However, for the past month I have been permitted to be in our recording studio for weekly taping of the Sunday (and Wednesday) worship services. This has permitted us to offer current lectionary readings and sermon topics. Based on feedback, this has been very well-received. However, The Faith Community has members who do not reside in the CKV community and therefore are unable to connect with our in-house TV channel. These folks are able to access other worship services of our denomination, thanks to your creative measures! On Friday, July 10 I was advised that The Faith Community worship service is now available on the CKV website! Go to our home page at www.crosskeys village.org and click on the Faith button which takes you to the “Faith page.” (The Faith button is halfway down the page.) There you will find the current week’s service; and in the weeks to come as we “collect” services, they will stay on the faith page for several weeks, rotating off as we add the current worship service. Also, on July 19 we plan to offer our first live service (in addition to our recorded service being available on our in-house TV channel and on our website), with limited seating capacity, in a meeting room at Harmony Ridge. I do not know when we will be permitted to gather for worship in the Nicarry. The Meetinghouse is “off limits” at this time because it is connected to our Mission Point Health Care and Personal Care areas. Because of our unique situation in reference to the population most vulnerable for the COVID-19 virus, we will be proceeding with caution and vigilance!

Much of what I have provided concerning our connectivity within the Church has also been successful in our “working off-site” ministry to our residents and villagers at CKV-TBHC. Of course, we are very eager to be permitted to resume visits with our folks and to offer devotions, Bible studies, and other ministries, knowing that we will not be able to do things the way we have done them previously! God will provide!

--Pastor Linda Titzell

West Shore Fellowship like many congregations, celebrates the spring and fall Love Feast and also celebrates a bread and cup communion between each. The July communion was celebrated (socially distanced) with individual bread and cup units that people picked up on their way into the sanctuary and disposed of on their way out, but we hope to have the homemade communion bread for Fall Love Feast October 4th following worship in the fellowship hall where we can socially distance. We are continuing to Facebook Live record our sermons and post them and other posts on the WSCOB Facebook page, which has been drawing a significant number of engagements. We have a bowl (easy to sanitize) at the entrance for tithes and offerings and during that portion of worship, congregants offer thanks to God for things for which they are grateful. Keith and Beth Nonemaker, ministers, held a private anointing for healing service with a person who felt safe and appreciated the prayer and who reported it was like a weight was lifted and replaced with peace. We plan to celebrate three baptisms Sunday, July 26th in a creek at a local Brethren farmer’s meadow, where people can bring lawn chairs to be socially distanced. In August, the church is doing a toilet paper drive for Bethesda Mission, Harrisburg. We are continuing to dream of how to do things and with what to experiment.
Hanover Church of the Brethren: Nathan Murray, new part-time Youth Director

Nathan lives in Dillsburg with his wife, Jenn, and two children, Liam and Ceci. He graduated from Messiah College with a BA in Philosophy. During his Senior year he was put in charge of a church youth group in Mount Holly Springs, only to step down to allow his wife to join the Air Force. He has been involved in youth ministry for 6 years. When not giving in to the demands of his daughter, Nathan enjoys video games, reading, hitting the gym, playing/watching sports, and being outdoors.

Hanover Church of the Brethren has resumed holding services as of June 21. We have live streaming to our fellowship hall for those who want to be around less people. Our service is then posted to the website for viewing.

We cancelled our Vacation Bible School for this year but held a “fun day” for the church family with activities and water games for the children on July 19.

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren gets record attendance at virtual VBS

“It went really well” was an understatement from Jamie Rhodes, director of Christian Education and Youth at Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. In fact, the congregation’s virtual vacation Bible school (VBS) was a smash hit, connecting with close to double the children and families than in a usual year. “We were tickled pink,” she said.

Because of the pandemic, the church decided to take its annual VBS online rather than holding it in-person. The theme was “Rocky Railway” focused on how Jesus’ power “pulls us through difficult things in our lives,” said Rhodes. She and the others involved in planning and leading the VBS--Nicholas Wingert, Ali Toms, and Kathie Nogle--used a published curriculum that included pre-recorded video elements, but also did their own recordings of themselves leading various portions of each of the five days of online sessions.

To publicize the VBS, they got the word out through all sorts of means: information shared with church members, fliers and letters sent to previous VBS attendees, a mailing to nearby churches, an effort to reach out to organizations that serve the community with free meals and food distributions, handing out fliers at food distributions, phone calls to people who had registered in previous years, and Facebook posts advertising the event. Rhodes noted how effective and inexpensive it was to “boost” those Facebook posts.

The online sessions and videos were made available on Facebook and the church’s website. In addition, the church distributed take-home bags with activities for children to do at home. To receive take-home bags, families had to register online.

The results were amazing, Rhodes said. The VBS logged an average of 150 Facebook views each day, and some days had more than 200. They distributed 94 take-home bags, most during a drive-through pick-up time at the church but also mailing a good to families outside of the area including in four different states. More than 60 percent of the families receiving take-home bags were new to the church.

Compared to the congregation’s usual Bible school attendance of 50-some children, the virtual VBS was a huge success.

However, it wasn’t easy. With the COVID-19 restrictions in place, Rhodes said the committee “really struggled” with how to do a summer Bible school. They worried that some people would be afraid to try an online event. They were thankful, however, for encouragement from the Christian Education Commission and the permission given by the church board to try something new.

“We really trusted in God,” Rhodes said. “To reach 94 kids, that’s awesome. I’m hoping that this brought families together.”

Originally appeared in July 3, 2020 Church of the Brethren Newsline, reprinted with permission.
The District Board, in our January 12, 2019 meeting, approved a Withdrawal Policy for the Southern PA District.

It is available on our District Website for your viewing. (https://www.cob-net.org/church/sopa/board.htm) Each congregation received a copy of this policy. While we would hope that this will not be needed, we were counseled by denominational leadership to have a policy in hand.

Congregational Leadership Updates

These congregations are currently in the pastoral (or additional staff) search process:
- Bermudian COB, Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adults
- Carlisle COB
- Codorus COB
- Gettysburg COB
- Greencastle COB
- Knobsville COB
- Mechanicsburg COB, Coordinator of Music Ministry
- Shippensburg COB
- Tuscarora Fellowship

Attn: Congregational Disaster Relief Coordinators

Leonard Stoner is ready to accept your requests for Brethren Disaster Relief trips in 2021. Call him at 717-515-0355 or email lstoner@crosskeys village.net

Locations are Bayboro NC and Dayton OH

After your trip date is confirmed contact the SO PA District Office for a Disaster Relief Trip Grant Reimbursement Application.

The Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren is actively seeking a Choir Director to assist in its music ministries. This part-time position of 8-10 hours per week will include directing the Chancel Choir as well as collaborating with the pastor and other musicians of the congregation to support meaningful worship. The congregation uses the Church of the Brethren Hymnal: a Worship Book and the Hymnal Supplement in its worship. A music degree or equivalent is preferred but not required. Experience with choir music and conducting is important. This is a good opportunity for a student of music! Interested persons are asked to please call Margie Fultz 717 329 1479 or email Pastor Del Keeney at mcob-pastor@verizon.net. The job description is under revision, but should be available from Pastor Del Keeney upon request.

GUITARIST NEEDED

West York Church of the Brethren is looking for a guitar player to play along with their Praise Team on Sunday mornings during the worship service. If you are interested, please contact Beth Marshall at (717)465-0974.
Meat Canning Information

I normally share the previous year’s distribution of Chicken during lunch at CAM. Due to COVID19 that could not happen this year so I would like to share that with you now. These are distributions from 2019.

From Kurvin Fox – CAM {We left 3 skids of Chicken, 3600 cans, with Cam}.

The chicken that you gave to us went to Liberia. It got shipped in September (2019), in our “Food For Orphan” program. That food box got Pinto beans, vegetable soup mix, vegetable barley soup mix, rice, flour, oil, and sugar, along with the canned chicken.

From Roy Winter – New Windsor Feb. 3, 2020. (We sent 4 skids, 4800 cans, to New Windsor).

It has taken much longer than expected, but the 4 pallets of chicken from 2019 will be picked up tomorrow (Feb. 4, 2020) for relief work in the Bahamas. Feed the Children is working with their partners to get the meat shipped. They are managing all the details and costs. Thanks to you and the canning committee for making this possible.

We have a meat Canning Meeting scheduled for Nov. 10, 2020 to plan next year’s Canning Project. The committee’s response when we had to cancel this year was the possibility that we could can for 8 days in 2021. Financially it is probably doable as we have $58,330.15 as of July 7 & we need approximately $93,000 for 8 days. We had 180 Volunteers committed for 2020, if we do 8 days we would need an additional 60 persons (240 total). Please start encouraging folks to consider volunteering in 2021 as the need will be great. That being said this is all subject to change depending on COVID19. We will hopefully know more so we can make a decision on Nov. 10, 2020. Please keep the meat canning project on your prayer list going forward.

Rich Shaffer, Meat Canning Chair

Hurricane Dorian response in the Bahamas

As previously reported, three Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants totaling $30,000 were used by partner agencies working on Grand Bahama and Great Abaco Islands in the Bahamas to provide emergency and long-term planning response to the massive destruction of Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. BDM continues to work with partners to determine how to support them as the response transitions from relief to long-term recovery.

In February 2020, four pallets of canned chicken were shipped from the Brethren Service Center to BDM partner Feed the Children to help their partners on the ground in the affected areas of the Bahamas. The chicken was canned by Brethren from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania districts.

As a follow-up to the previous grant, an additional $25,000 EDF grant was sent to Church World Service to support their long-term recovery program focused on supporting the vulnerable migrant population impacted by the storm. Other organizations are focused on Bahamian residents, leaving these migrants with limited assistance. The CWS response will include advocacy for the rights of migrants, humanitarian and housing assistance and other recovery activities.
While we are sad that we will not be offering traditional overnight summer camp because of Covid-19, we are open to families renting space this summer and getting to spend time on our beautiful property. We will be offering free canoeing and rock climbing for families who come to stay!

Contact Camp to rent a cabin or camping space on the hill near Miller Meeting House: 717-642-8256 campeder@campeder.org

Please join us at Camp Eder on Wed. Aug 19 for our special day with the milkman... We call it senior day but all are welcome. Remember when our milk was delivered and put on our porch? Hear all about it.

Just a very brief note to let you all know that we WILL be having our Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will be having our usual events and some new ones. Items for the auction may be brought to camp week days from 9:00 - 3:00. Please put the date on your calendar and we'll see you then - rain or shine. FYI - bus drops you off at Geigley.

Thanks to all for the contributions and prayers that are much needed and appreciated.

Staff and Board
Africa Great Lakes Update

Just as we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic here in the USA, our sisters and brothers in Africa face challenges. With lockdowns and church/business closures, many have difficulty procuring basic items. Brethren Disaster Ministries recently funded food distribution in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. For churches to reopen, the government is requiring facemasks and temperature checks. In Rwanda, unfortunately, the facemasks cannot be homemade. Brethren World Mission and Southern PA District are partnering to secure masks and thermometers. A hearty thank you to all who are generously supporting the Africa Great Lakes Church of the Brethren!

Continue to pray for the developing Church of the Brethren in the Great Lakes region of Africa. As we seek God’s will in discerning the best means of support – finances, teaching missions, work camps – it is prayer that is needed most. There are hindrances to followers of Christ in every culture and context, so the African churches are not unique in that regard. But being aware of the special challenges they face can help us pray more specifically.

The poverty of many families is very debilitating. Those among us who have been unemployed might feel great empathy for them. Parents unable to feed, clothe and educate their children are especially vulnerable to discouragement. A very large majority of women have been sexually traumatized. Many more have witnessed or experienced extreme violence.

Pray for the leadership as they develop trauma healing seminars, sewing programs, small business micro-loans, and so forth. Support can be channeled through the Global Food Crisis Fund and Global Mission and Service of the Church of the Brethren.

If your congregation or organization would be interested in a presentation of the trip to the Great Lakes Africa churches, call or email Chris Elliott (717-262-3154 or cwelliott56@gmail.com).

The Lebanon Expo 2-Day Auction Event scheduled in late September is canceled over pandemic concerns!

This year’s Lebanon Expo Brethren Disaster Relief Auction that has been a tradition since 1977 has been canceled because of the coronavirus crisis. The BDRA association determined the health concerns due to COVID-19 complicated the ongoing planning and volunteer coordination for the two-day event set to begin Sept. 25.

Even if current restrictions were lifted for opening of the Auction, it would be extremely difficult to have complete assurance that all volunteers, vendors and supporters would attend.

While the entire Board of Directors was heartbroken to make the decision, they feel it is a safer and more conscientious decision to take this year to continue fund raising efforts with the Church of the Brethren (COB) organizations in central Pennsylvania. While this is sad news for the COB denomination and the Brethren Disaster Relief Ministry (the recipient of the Auction proceeds to rebuild disaster damaged areas), the Board of Directors look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

BDRA Board of Directors
# 2020 Giving Report

**THANK YOU!**

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## June 2020

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Pinchot Overnight Parenting

Over the 4th of July weekend, as Chaplain of Pinchot Park, I experienced a moving moment when I was told the story of how a young 11 year old boy fell from his bike and was taken from the campground by way of ambulance to York Hospital. While grandma escorted him, campers who were first on the scene immediately volunteered to keep the remaining 4 children with them over night. When Grandma returned the next day, the kids did not wish to leave the luxury camper where they were graciously pampered, just to return to their sleeping quarters in their tent on the rocky dirt.

In a day where it seems like most people are self-centered and “it’s all about me,” here there is an example not only of hospitality shared, but trust as well. In an unpredictable instant, where grandma was the only supervision on the scene, she made a decision which involved trust. These ladies made an unselfish decision to give up part of their holiday weekend to care for a family in distress and the kids cooperated to make the most of the situation and apparently were willing to “cooperate” for the rest of the holiday weekend with their new found comfort of air conditioning, bunk beds and in-house refrigerator loaded with goodies and sodas.

These two ladies are such a God-glorying example of what Jesus was referring to when He answered this question with His parable found in Matthew 25: : When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? His reply was, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Chaplain Jim from Gifford Pinchot State Park
Cross Keys Village Benefits from COB Grant

A relatively small Christian denomination with fewer than 200,000 members in the US, the Church of the Brethren has had a distinguished history of serving older adults, and a significant influence in the field of senior living. The twenty-one retirement communities belonging to the Fellowship of Brethren Homes are scattered all over the map, with almost half of them concentrated in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The church affiliation shows in those village’s mission statements and core values. However, during this pandemic season, it will show on their bottom line as well. All member communities of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes benefitted from a large grant of $500,000 given by the Church of the Brethren’s Health Education and Research Fund. The grant was awarded to defray considerable expenses associated with the pandemic. Leadership in the Fellowship of Brethren Homes reported that the costs for personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff have risen significantly, in some cases upwards of 1,000 percent. As one of the larger Brethren villages, Cross Keys Village gratefully received $72,000 to help with the cost of PPE. Cross Keys Village couldn’t be more thankful for this grant, and we know it is true of our sister communities as well. The support we have received through the pandemic proves just how important our work and ministry to serve our residents truly is.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the 60th Annual Chicken BBQ, Car Show and Auction, scheduled on August 8 at Cross Keys Village, has been canceled to reduce the risk of bringing illness to our campus. Cross Keys Village leadership and the Friends of Cross Keys Village considered several options to modify the popular family event, but no option was found that would guarantee a risk-free day for the family and a successful fundraiser for the Friends. We thank all the volunteers that had started planning, and we look forward to the best Chicken BBQ ever in 2021.
Summer 2020

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Did you notice our new letterhead? That's right - this year Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. is celebrating 35 years of sharing Christ with truckers and travelers! We praise God that He has sustained and provided for us over all these years. What a gracious God we serve! Our God is also a sovereign God. He was not surprised by the COVID-19 pandemic or the civil unrest that the world is now experiencing. It is all part of His plan, He is in control, and He will receive glory from it.

The recent events have changed the way the Ministry is 'doing business.' On March 17th we 'closed our doors' at the trailer and put our chaplains on 'on-call' status. We also suspended our Sunday worship services. The chaplains have received numerous calls and emails from truckers, travelers and truck stop employees for assistance including requests for food, fuel, prayer, counsel and lodging. In most cases, we were able to help 'remotely,' but in some situations, on a person to person basis using newly established protocols. On May 26th, we re-opened the offices and chapel and our chaplains are re-establishing a presence. The drivers really appreciate having the chaplains back and the facilities open. We even had a visitor at the chapel the first night it was opened!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring fundraising dinner concert which significantly reduces our overall income for the year. Many of you have received a 'stimulus' check from the government. Would you prayerfully consider donating part of it to the Ministry to help make up the deficit. Or maybe you would like to donate the amount you would have given for the offering at the spring dinner concert. We continue to seek God's help to be good stewards of what He supplies. To quote Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), founder of the China Inland Mission, "Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

At this point, we still plan to have our fall fundraising dinner concert on October 3, 2020 at New Fairview Church of the Brethren in York. We trust that the Lord will allow this to go on as scheduled. We have a full evening planned including our silent auction, dinner, ministry updates and concert. Please see the enclosed flier for all the details. Remember - the deadline for ticket purchase is September 19th. We look forward to seeing you there!

We ask you to join us in prayer regarding all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for those who are physically suffering, families who have lost loved ones, those who have lost their jobs, those dealing with schooling children at home, those who are on the 'front line' and our chaplains as they deal with some extreme situations.

Pray for us as a Board as we trust in the Lord to make wise and prudent decisions. C.H. Spurgeon, in his devotional on Proverbs 16:20, ("He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he") writes, "The true way to handle a matter wisely is to trust the Lord." "He who trusts in the Lord...happy is he now, and happier shall he be above.” Thanks for your prayers and continued financial support!

David D. Bell, Sec./Treas. - Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.
Continued from Page 14

Saturday,
October 3, 2020

New Fairview
Church of the Brethren
1873 New Fairview Rd
York, PA 17403

4:00-5:20 (only):
Silent auction

5:30:
Full-course dinner

Brothers In Grace
Ministry update
Doorprizes

Tickets are $15.00
and are available from the following
until September 19:
Cash & checks only.
No ticket sales at the door.

Paul Miller 717 243 9573
Dave Braithwaite 717 249 5140
Paul & Peg Garner 717 252 1814
Joann Van Scyoc 717 259 0936
Jim & Darlene Miller 717 259 9479
Barb Lehigh 717 292 4362
Deb Guiler 717 334 5066
Ministry office 717 385 7932
Harry & Joyce Cleaver 717 428 2673
Kurtis & LuAnn Brubaker 717 445 4812
Craig Shambaugh 717 448 7785
Marilyn Weaver 717 463 9259
Judy Guise 717 487 2670
Jay Herman 717 528 4551
John Kahley 717 609 6503
Terry & Linda Sipe 717 624 5342
Phyllis Fuhrman 717 633 9318
Joel Nogle 717 660 2918
Don & Vivian Hubbel 717 676 5924
Barb Shoff 717 764 4828
David & Kris Bell 717 776 7191
Jay Sensenig 717 814 7795
Glenn & Anna Miller 717 845 3066
Executive Directors Message

The “New Normal“
As we dwell in what is being called the green phase of this COVID19 pandemic, our world and our agency have entered a "New Normal". Business as usual is long gone. In a brief time period CAS has gone from our three physical sites in Franklin, Adams, and York counties being closed, to offering services of therapy, family advocacy, parent education and support groups via telehealth and holding weekly virtual team, leadership, and board meetings virtually over Zoom.

On June 1st we physically reopened all three of our facilities and programs to limited staff and clients. We are offering respite care again in our Crisis nursery in York as stress increases in home of children who are distance learning, not able to go to camp or daycare, and parents who are working from home. We are following new processes and procedures including routine temperature checks, mask wearing, gloving, hand washing, and sanitizing our hands, our toys, our surfaces, and our facilities on a routine basis. We have increased cost related to telehealth and PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) that was unbudgeted and unexpected.

We continue to pivot our service delivery and business models as we held our Franklin county golf tournament successful with over 25 teams implementing social distancing, served meals, and mask wearing in the clubhouse. Our 29th Annual Auction went virtual this year on June 30 and raised over $46,000 to support the programs of the organization and benefit the Lehman Center in York. Thanks to all the volunteers, staff and supporters who made this event so successful.

We as an organization continue to need your prayer and support as we continue to navigate these next few months and the unknown opportunities that will present themselves as we work to continue to provide our compassionate and professional serves to help children and their families build stronger healthier lives.

None us know what the “New Normal” will finally look like. I have faith in the words of Jeremiah 29:11
“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Blessings,

Eric M. Chase, MS
Executive Director/CEO
Cornerstone Youth Home hires Director!

Children's Aid Society is excited to announce that Sara Gray-Bradley has accepted the newly created position of Director of the Cornerstone Youth Home, a partner program of the Children's Aid Society. Sara has been serving York County’s youth for over 15 years and has developed a strong passion for helping children and families reach their greatest potential. Sara holds her undergraduate degree in education from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and completed her M.Ed. in 2013 at the Pennsylvania State University. Sara has served in all aspects of non profit education programming which includes direct service as well extensive work at both the county and state levels. In addition to serving as the Cornerstone Youth Home Director Sara continues teaching in the graduate department at Pennsylvania State University and consults for Pearson Education. Please welcome Sara to the CAS Team!

Save the Date for Mel Markey Memorial Golf!

4th Annual Mel Markey Memorial Golf Benefit
August 13th, 2020
Hanover Country Club
Hanover, PA

The MMM Tournament seeks to honor the memory of Mel, a longtime volunteer, who gave countless hours to help 'The Lehman Center' through various projects and maintenance at the center. This helps to memorialize Mel, while also raising much needed funds for CAS.

For more information, please visit www.cassd.org

CAS Annual Dinner 2020!

2020 Annual Dinner
November 14th, 2020
Shippensburg COB

Our annual dinner recognizes our donors, volunteers, staff, and community for helping us complete the mission of CAS. Local entertainment creates a festive atmosphere while dining on a delicious meal.

For more information, please visit www.cassd.org
2020 29th Annual CAS ‘Virtual’ Auction successful

On June 27th-30th, 2020, the Children’s Aid Society held the 29th Annual Auction benefitting the Lehman Center in a different way than the previous 28 years.

Approximately 250 bidders helped to contribute to helping to bring 29 years of the Auction including Artwork, Gift Certificates, Themed Baskets, and of course delicious food helped to raise over $46,000 for needed services provided by the Children’s Aid Society’s many programs. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to move the Auction to a more ‘Virtual’ environment, and built a great excitement around the experience.

The Children’s Aid Society would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this annual event such a great success including the sponsors, Auxiliary, Advisory Board, donors, and our wonderful volunteers and staff of The Lehman Center!

We are looking forward to next year’s Auction!

Children’s Aid Society

Children’s Aid Society 2020 Events

4th Annual Mel Markey Memorial Tournament
August 13, 2020
Hanover Country Club

2020 CAS Annual Banquet
November 14th, 2020
Shippensburg Church of the Brethren

Children’s Aid Society Board of Directors meeting schedule

- August 13, 2020
  Board Meeting
- September 2020
  No Meeting, District Conference
- October 15, 2020
  Board Meeting
- December 10, 2020
  Board Meeting

Board Meetings will be held at Cross Keys Village, Harmony Ridge @ 6:00 p.m. in the Presto Room

*Due to COVID-19, Board meetings have been shifted to a virtual setup. Please contact Eric Chase, Executive Director / CEO for more information at ehase@casid.org*
Individual Kit of Comfort (KOC) Project for Children Living through a Disaster

You can help by building the needed kits!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDS volunteers are not able to deploy and respond to the needs of children after a tornado, flood, hurricane, fire or other disaster damages their homes and disrupts the lives of their family. In response, the Individual Kit of Comfort was created to promote a sense of normalcy – an opportunity for the healing power of play. While CDS teams are not able to deploy to disaster sites, the KOC will be handed out to children where they shelter after the disaster by Red Cross staff from the local area.

- **Appraoch** - Our goal is to build 2,500 newly designed individual kit of Comfort (KOC).
- **Contents** - The contents of the kit are designed to have multiple uses and come with an activity guide for creative ideas to use the contents, along with resources for parents helping their children begin the healing process.
- **Packing** - Follow social distancing guidelines currently in effect for your geographic area.
- **Shipping** - The Mesh Pouch on Amazon comes in quantities of 24. Please note: each kit includes all of the listed items.

**Funds** - The more packs we can produce in the next few months, the more children we can provide packs for – this is a great way to show our community and working together!
- Larger quantities ordered of supplies will provide more cost savings
- Church groups, Sunday school groups, families are encouraged to participate
- CDS has some grant funds set aside for the KOC project
- Matching funds initiative in place with current funds available as needed
- With the current material list, the price per packet is approximately $17

**Monetary Donations**
- Donations can be made online at [https://churchofthebrethren.org/cds](https://churchofthebrethren.org/cds) with KOC in comments.
- Information on shipping: [https://churchofthebrethren.org/cds](https://churchofthebrethren.org/cds) for information on shipping.

**For More Information:**
- **Children’s Disaster Services**
- [Children’s Disaster Services](https://churchofthebrethren.org/cds)
- Call 410-635-8784

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**Individual Kit of Comfort by Picture**

- 3.5 square beam bags (2 per pack)
- 2 oz Duct - Amy Brand (1)
- Wooden track cars (2 per pack)
- Watercolor paint set with brush (1)
- White paper plates 6 inch (12 per pack)
- Wash Tape (3 rolls per pack)
- Small Plush Dog - no longer than 5 inches
- 1 small beach ball (5 inch)
- 12 paper plates (6 inch plain white)
- 2 animal finger puppets
- 2 simple small wooden cars
- 2 small bean bags (3.5 inch)
- 3 rolls of wash colored tape (1/2 inch (10mm) wide)
- 1 child-sized jump rope
- 1 watercolor paint set (8 colors with brush)
- 1 small S/A notebook
- 1 colored gel ink pen
- 2 washable markers
- 1 stuffed animal dog (not larger than 4 inch)
- Activity/Trama ideas guide (supplied by CDS)

- 12 inch rulers (2 per pack)
- mini-deck of cards (1)
- Children’s jump rope (1)
- Inkary Gel Penc (3)
- Clay cutter (1)
- 3 x 5 notebook (1)

**Kits need to meet these specifications so that children can all receive an equal play kit. Please do not add or substitute items.**
TRAIL THOUGHTS
TREKKING TOWARD GOD’S ADVENTUROUS FUTURE
A QUARTERLY PASTORAL LETTER FROM PAUL MUNDEY, MODERATOR, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
SUMMER 2020

GOSPEL
GREETINGS IN THE STRONG NAME OF JESUS!

It’s no secret; the Church is often conflicted and polarized. But why? In part, it’s because we differ in our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For some, the Gospel is primarily Good News concerning life after death; for others, it is primarily Good News concerning life after birth. The Gospel, however, is both, as Jesus prays: “Thy Kingdom come [O God] on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10 RSV; emphasis added).

The Gospel’s archenemy is sin, for sin sabotages the prospect of life—either life after death or birth. Thus, adjacent to Jesus’ call to Kingdom life today/tomorrow is a summons to address ungodly thought/action—sin. Forgive us our debts and trespasses (Matthew 6:12). We need to reckon with sin, acknowledging its severity, for any thought/behavior rebellious to God (e.g., sin) is deadly, poisoning every system of life. John Piper itemizes the atrocity. Sin is: “The glory of God not honored. The holiness of God not reverenced. The greatness of God not admired. The power of God not praised. The truth of God not sought. The wisdom of God not esteemed. The beauty of God not treasured. The goodness of God not savoried. The faithfulness of God not trusted. The promises of God not believed. The commandments of God not obeyed. The justice of God not respected. The wrath of God not feared. The grace of God not cherished. The presence of God not prized. The person of God not loved.”

But here’s the rub: sin is not only individual but systemic, not only personal but societal. Thus, as we “preach the Gospel,” the Gospel is not only Good News for sinners, but those “sinned against,” specifically, those sinned against by principalities and powers foreign to God. Systemic expressions of inequity such as racism loom large, blighting individuals and networks, sinning against vast numbers of persons and, in turn, the holiness, greatness, power, truth, wisdom, beauty, goodness, faithfulness, promises, commandments, justice, and person of God.

For some, connecting the Gospel to systemic sin is problematic, equal to affirming the social gospel movement of the early 20th century. That brings concern, for, as Elise Daniel points out, the social gospel movement inferred that “...God’s Kingdom is built by us.” But as Daniel goes on to note: “It’s not. Every part of the Kingdom, from its establishment to its construction and eventual consummation, is carried out by Christ. [Yes, Christ uses] us...in this endeavor...[but] we aren’t building the Kingdom. God is building it and using us.” It’s a subtle distinction.

Central to the Gospel’s advancement, then, is costly participation in Christ. Imperative to such bonding is dying to anything that captivates us other than the Savior. Paul portrays such surrender graphically: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20 NIV). Michael Gorman clarifies Paul’s intent: as we’re crucified with Christ, we meld with Christ, receiving “...God’s gracious act of [deliverance] from the power of Sin and [restoration] to right covenant relationship with himself, the righteous/just God, through the Messiah’s faithful, loving death and resurrection, giving [us] new life...”

As Gorman infers, restoration of relationship is central to the Gospel. Restoration to God is paramount, but
biblically, restoration is also to occur with self, significant others, and all of Creation. For the goal of the Gospel, as made vivid in Revelation, is the restoration of all of life—New Creation. "I saw Heaven and earth new-created...Look! I'm making everything new" (Revelation 21:1,5 MSG). "Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb...The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River...The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed...His servants will offer God service—worshipping...their foreheads mirroring God. Never again will there be any night...The shining of God...is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule with him age after age after age" (Revelation 22:1-5 MSG).

It is God's vision of everything new—the healing of self, relationships, church, nations, creation, flowing from God and the Lamb (Jesus)—that we're to anticipate, contribute to, and preach. Such a synergy of health is the Gospel of Jesus, in all its fulness, destined to transform all of life.

In The Brothers Karamazov, Alyosha notes the attraction of persons to an elder in the monastery Alyosha is frequenting. Alyosha did not "...wonder why they loved him so, why they fell down before him and wept with emotion merely at seeing his face. Oh! he understood that for the humble soul of the Russian peasant worn out by grief and toil, and still more by the everlasting injustice and everlasting sin, his own and the world’s, it was the greatest need and comfort to find some one or something holy to fall down before and worship. 'Among us [Alyosha reflects] there is sin, injustice, and temptation, but yet, somewhere on earth, there is someone holy and exalted. He has the truth; he knows the truth; so it is not dead upon the earth; so it will come one day to us, too, and rule over all the earth according to the promise...' [And so, Alyosha concludes, the elder] 'carries in his heart the secret of renewal for all: that power which will, at last, establish truth on the earth, and all men will be holy and love one another, and there will be no more rich nor poor, no exalted nor humbled, but all will be as the children of God, the true Kingdom of Christ will come.' That was the dream in Alyosha's heart" as well.

I pray that dream is in our heart also. For Alyosha's dream is the Savior's dream, the very heart of Jesus—and in turn, the heart of the Gospel—that we're to proclaim, boldly, in Jesus' holy name!

With expectation,

Paul Mundey, Moderator, Church of the Brethren

Discussion Starters / Questions

1. Moderator Paul affirms the Gospel is Good News for both life after death and life after birth. Give examples of how that is true, citing Scripture passages to document your conviction.

2. Reflect on John Piper’s listing of the results of sin. Discuss how you’ve seen sin poison life both personally and socially; connect your thoughts to Piper’s itemization of how sin is a grievous violation of God.

3. Reflect on ways we can avoid the mistake(s) of the social gospel movement in our quest to preach the whole Gospel of Jesus.

4. Describe your experience of being crucified with Christ. Talk about the difficulty of sacrificing/surrendering cherished but unrighteous parts of life in your quest to participate more fully with Jesus.

5. In the end, as Revelation points out, God does not create a new world but recreates our current world. How does such an emphasis on “New Creation/all things new” bring hope amid our current sense of crisis and disorder?

To Dig Deeper


Brian Hurst and Jeff Maguire. “Whiteboard Whole Church Whole Gospel Whole World.” https://youtu.be/Z_4u8TRorUw

Christopher J.H. Wright. “Whole Gospel, Whole Church, Whole World.” https://www.lausanne.org/content/whole-gospel-whole-church-whole-world

1 https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-is-sin-the-essence-and-root-of-all-sinning
2 This pithy phrase was first coined by Raymond Fung, former staff for evangelism for the World Council of Churches.
3 https://wfp.org/three-fallacies-of-the-social-gospel/
What does the Lord require? A statement from David Steele, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren

June 4, 2020

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” —Micah 6:8

Our hearts break for the loss of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others who have lost their lives due to the color of their skin. Each death represents injustices disproportionately affecting the Black community.

Many across our country have protested in the wake of George Floyd’s death because of the way authorities delayed arresting and charging the police officers involved, but most importantly because his killing is a perpetuation of the injustice, violence, and racism that have devalued and harmed Black Americans for centuries.

Many protests have remained peaceful; violence has erupted in some. What is clear is that the nation, and especially our sisters and brothers from various racial backgrounds are hurting and in mourning.

In Matthew 3:8 we find John the Baptist’s call: “Bear fruit worthy of repentance.” Bearing the fruit of repentance, we stand in solidarity with all who suffer from injustice, violence, and racism.

Brethren have long recognized the inherent worth of all human beings while also recognizing that our church, and we ourselves, are not free from racism. Our denomination has recognized that we have participated in and benefited from racism, whether we have been aware of it or not. The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in 1991 issued a report on “Brethren and Black Americans” (www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1991blackamericans.html) that said, in part:

“Members of the Church of the Brethren face the subtle temptation of thinking that because there are not many black Americans in the denomination, or because many of us do not live in physical proximity to black people, that the problem of racism is not our concern. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many of us benefit from racist practices, without being direct participants, because of decisions and policies already in place in our religious, economic, and political institutions.”

Jesus spoke strongly to those who choose willful ignorance for their own benefit, saying in Matthew 23:23: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.” And we find this in James 4:17: “If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

As a denomination we must reaffirm that racism is sin, and that there is good we ought to be doing to combat it. Racism is indeed our concern as we strive to truly love both God and neighbor. When we are not concerned and do nothing, we sin.

We must repent for ways we have participated in the racism that has caused so many deaths. We must repent for the ways we have not spoken or taken action against systemic racism’s structures and institutions. We must repent for the times we have witnessed overt racism yet remained silent.

The 1991 report recommends that congregations “stand in solidarity with black Americans and other victims of racial hate by speaking out against overt expressions of racially motivated violence and offering assistance to victims.” In doing so, we identify ourselves as disciples of Christ, who said: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18).

Let us commit ourselves to be a part of the healing of the nation. Let us pray, and let us act to undo racism in these times.
Registration is now open for a free webinar from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership:

**Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality:**
Exploring the special rewards and challenges of pastoral ministry in a multivocational context

**Thursday, August 13 at 7 pm - 8 pm (Eastern)**

**Presenter: Sandra Jenkins,** pastor of Constance Church of the Brethren, full-time public school music teacher, and regular instructor for the Brethren Academy

**Register here:** [https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy](https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy)

0.1 CEU available to participating clergy
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

**Spiritual Practices for Ministry**

**SEPTMBER 9 – NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

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**Course Description and Objectives**

**Course description**

In the midst of hectic lives, it’s not easy to “be still and know that I am God.”—Psalm 46:10 Spiritual practices help ministers and congregations learn how to stop and notice God in everything they do.

During this course, students will explore the following: what it means to pray without ceasing, ways to creatively honor the Sabbath, what the Bible says about spiritual practices, spiritual practices for different learning styles, how we get in the way of our relationship with God, and how spiritual practices can help congregations thrive. As they examine the theological basis for spiritual practices, students will develop the tools and experience needed to encourage spiritual growth within their ministry context.

During this course, students will also:

- Analyze healthy and unhealthy spiritual practices.
- Experiment with a variety of spiritual practices to expand their inner strength and leadership skills.
- Select, lead, and evaluate spiritual practices for their ministry setting.
- Summarize the strengths and spiritual practices of different learning styles.
- Develop a theology of spirituality.

**Instructor: Reba Herder**

Reba Herder is ordained to the ministry of prayer and peacemaking in the Church of the Brethren. She holds a degree in Religion, a California teaching credential, Training in Ministry (TRIM) Certificate, and is a certified Enneagram instructor.

She is the founder and director of Conversation Strategies, teaching the Nine Arts of Healthy Conversation™ for those times when you want better results and need better choices. As an experienced conversation facilitator, educator, author, coach and mother of two adult daughters, Reba engages in spiritual practices on a daily basis. She’s passionate about working together to help each of us and all of us thrive faithfully at home, at work, and in the world. She and her husband live in California.

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This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students—fulfills 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

Registration deadline:
August 4, 2020
### Required Texts


### Additional Reading Selection:

A list of additional books will be provided on the syllabus, which you will receive within a few days after the registration deadline. Please select one book from the list to be your 3rd book to read.

### Expectations

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per week in course-related work.

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 class. These capabilities include:

- Modem: Minimum 56 kbps speed is slow but adequate. A speed of 100 kbps (300 recommended) is needed for podcasts and 300 kbps (500 recommended) for videos
- An email account
- An up-to-date web browser; such as Firefox, Internet Explorer or Google Chrome

---


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

Name: ___________________________ ___________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

Best contact 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: August 4, 2020
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures

OCTOBER 14 – DECEMBER 8, 2020

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

REGISTER ONLINE

Course Description and Objectives

While the Church of the Brethren has long held the New Testament as its focus, the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible is the basis of much of the New Testament’s faith. In this course, we will work through the various books of the Hebrew Bible and look at their ancient context. We will attempt to better understand how these books interact and how they influence the New Testament texts. We will also look at a number of modern theories about these texts and how these theories influence how these books are read today.

Students will:

- Critically analyze the text of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- Identify and describe elements of the surrounding culture(s) informing the text of the Hebrew Bible.
- Interpret Hebrew Bible passages using the biblical text, scholarly commentaries, academic articles, and other external sources.
- Use this meaning from the text to a modern ministry-related application.

Instructor: Matt Boersma

Matthew Boersma is a PhD candidate in Hebrew Bible and its Interpretation at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is nearly finished with his dissertation on how the early Jewish and Christian communities read the Bible within the wider Roman culture. Matt focuses on how both the Rabbis and the Christians treated gender and sexuality in their reading and application of biblical texts. Prior to Hebrew Union College, Matt graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary with an MA in 2011. Matt lives in Greensburg, Indiana, with his spouse Nykki and three children: Miriam (13), Malachi (9), and Salome (5).
Equipping Ministers * Deepening Faith * Enriching Lives

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
615 National Road W
Richmond, IN 47374
800-287-8822 x1824
765-903-1824
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 Academy

To earn CEU credit
Participant will
- Meet the attendance requirement
- Complete the assigned reading
- Engage in the course through participation

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

Reading List


Other readings distributed in class.

Expectations

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per week in course-related work.

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 class. These capabilities include:

- Modem: Minimum 56 kbps speed is slow but adequate. A speed of 100 kbps (300 recommended) is needed for podcasts and 300 kbps (500 recommended) for videos
- An email account
- An up-to-date web browser; such as Firefox, Internet Explorer or Google Chrome

Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, OCTOBER 14 – DECEMBER 8, 2020
Register online or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:
Brethren Academy * 615 National Road West * Richmond, IN * 47374

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Best contact 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: September 9, 2020
Course Description and Objectives

At a time in the church and broader culture when many are confessing that they are more “spiritual than religious,” there is a welcome turning from theo-logics to theopoetics. Since the scriptures are filled with poems, songs, prayers, stories and confessions of faith, theopoets ask why so much modern theology is heavy with doctrines, systems, and thick and theoretical arguments. Theopoetics invites the poem to engage the proposition, the art to inform the ethics, the story to nuance the statute, and the metaphor to speak more expansively than theologies that read too much like precise mathematical formulas. This class will study poetry, but will also examine how narratives, confessions, music, art and other creative expressions of faith and life help us name ourselves and render God’s name in history.

Instructor: Scott Holland

Scott Holland is the Warren A. Slabaugh Professor of Theology & Culture and the director of the Baker Peace Studies Program at Bethany Theological Seminary. Along with Professor Ben Brazil at Earlham School of Religion, he also co-directs the new graduate program in Theopoetics and Writing. Scott is a senior contributing editor for CrossCurrents Journal in New York and publishes in the areas of narrative theology, theopoetics and peace studies.

Participants

As an attendee of this event, you may be included in still photos, videotaped footage, news articles, informational brochures or other media used to interpret the mission and purpose of Bethany Theological Seminary, the Church of the Brethren, and the Brethren Academy.

7/20/20
Required Texts to be Read Prior to Course

Gibble, Ken. *A Poetry of the Soul*. Brethren Press, 2018


In addition to these four texts, the professor will distribute selected poems, essays and articles related to Theopoetics and Religion and the Arts.

Course requirements: Active class participation is expected. There will be no quizzes or exams. Each student will write a creative or constructive paper/project of about 12 pages, due 2-3 weeks after the completion of our class time together.

Schedule

Location – Online via ZOOM: link will be provided to registered students prior to the class. This course does not use Moodle.

Schedule

Pre-class Zoom sessions (2 hours) on **November 6** from 7:00-9:00 pm EST.

- Friday, Nov. 20: 4:30-8:30pm (with breaks)
- Saturday, Nov. 21: 9:00am-8:00pm (with breaks)
- Sunday, Nov. 22: 9:00am-3:00pm (with breaks)

Post-class Zoom session (2 hours), on **December 4** from 7:00 – 9:00 pm EST.

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Introduction to Theopoetics, November 20-22, 2020

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

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Best contact 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: October 16, 2020
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

A Note from Donna Rhodes, Executive Director

To say that our world finds itself in uncharted territory during the pandemic of COVID-19 does not feel like an adequate statement. Each of us experience unexpected changes in our daily pattern as we practice social distancing, scrub our hands, carefully plot simple trips to the grocery store or post office, and join our beloved families of faith virtually. We are learning anew how important relationships are and the need to be mindful of family and neighbors who may be alone and in need of care during this time.

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is also adapting to the unexpected changes in our carefully planned courses and continuing education events. Our spring ACTS course for four of our five districts is Introduction to Pastoral Care. If there ever was a time to be creative in how pastoral care is provided, the time is now. Our students are learning quickly that while face-to-face pastoral care may be preferred, pandemic precautions call for creativity. The courses in Introduction to Pastoral Care are being taught via Zoom and the instructors are helping students hone skills for pastoral care in all circumstances including the pandemic in which we find ourselves.

SVMC acted quickly to rearrange schedules and plans for 1 graduate course, 6 ACTS courses, 3 continuing education events, and multiple meetings. Most courses and meetings are utilizing Zoom, and our continuing education events are postponed with new dates already established or will be soon.

Our office on the Elizabethtown College campus is closed due to the closing of the college. However, Karen Hodges, SVMC Program Coordinator, is working from home as is my usual practice. Our phone messages and mail are forwarded by the college. Through all these changes, we continue to provide the same attention and care to SVMC, and its students and instructors, as we have always done.

Your prayers and financial support for SVMC continue to be deeply appreciated as we fulfill our mission and ministry in these new circumstances. We know that COVID-19 has caused economic ramifications which affect individuals, congregations, and districts. SVMC will be affected by the economic ramifications, and we hope you will remember SVMC’s ministry as you consider your charitable giving. Your support enables SVMC to carry out our work of ministry training in our geographic area.

Continued to Page 31
May this excerpt of Psalm 109 from Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill provide inspiration on this challenging journey:

For You are kind and merciful, ever searching for ready hearts, and comforting those who cry out to You! Implant your gifts within my spirit, that I might offer them out to those in need! For, I long to do Your will, to co-create in joy, to become a beneficent presence in the world! Become like a garment wrapped around me, clothe me in the raiment of your love! Then I will be strong to face my fears with a love that is firm and sure. For You, O Heart of all hearts, are the Thread that connects each one of us, that defines the interconnectedness of all being! Though I am weak and yet have miles to go, your steadfast love will lead me Home. Fear yields itself to Love and cannot withstand the Light; just as one lit candle dispels the darkness, each ray of love eases the pangs of fear. O, Giver of the Journey, companion me along the way; then I will recognize your Face in each one I meet.

Continuing Education Events 2020-21

Click here for more info on CE Events

Excellent continuing education events are being planned by the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center. Detailed information and registration forms are found by clicking on above link, or on SVMC’s website: www.etown.edu/svmc under “Continuing Education”. (Due to COVID-19, several events have been rescheduled. The schedule below reflects all changes -- to date).

- **Binocular Vision: Seeing Through Eyes of Faith and Science**, .55 CEUs
  Junlata College, .55 CEUs
  Leader: Russell Hatcher
  Postponed: TBD (Originally scheduled for March 19, 2020)
- **Pastoral Care & Crisis Intervention, Part III**, .5 CEUs
  Leader: Dale Leaverknight
  Originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020 at Newville Church of the Brethren
  New Date and Location: Saturday, October 24, 2020, Huntsdale Church of the Brethren
- **Neurocognitive Disorders: Supporting Parishioners through the Journey**, .5 CEUs
  Leaders: Jenn Holcomb and Kimberly Korge
  Originally scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020, Cross Keys Village
  Postponed to May 10, 2021, same location.
  Leaders: Christine Bucher and Bob Neff
  Monday, October 5, 2020, Elizabethtown College
- **Pastoral Care & Crisis Intervention, Part IV**, .5 CEUs
  Leader: Dale Leaverknight
  Originally scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2020, Huntsdale Church of the Brethren
  Postponed: Date and Location TBD (Note that Part III will be held October 24)
- **Kingdom Building in Worship**, .55 CEUs
  Leaders: Cindy Latimer, co-pastor; Marty Keeney and Loren Rhodes, musicians
  Saturday, October 31, 2020, Stone Church of the Brethren
- **Science Fiction and Theology: Connections with Culture**, .55 CEUs
  Leader: Steve Schweitzer
  Wednesday, November 11, 2020, Elizabethtown College

2020-21 Class Schedule

The ACTS (Academy Certified Training System) and TRIM (Training In Ministry) courses of SVMC are available not only to students in ministry training, but also to lay persons seeking development of their understanding of scripture and ministry skills. In addition,
courses are available for CEUs (Continuing Education Units). The cost is: Credit=$240; Audit=$80; CEUs=$90; TRIM=$300.

To register for the ACTS or TRIM courses listed below, please contact Karen Hodges by email: hodges@etown.edu, or phone: 717-361-1450.

To register for the Graduate courses hosted by SVMC, please contact the Admission’s Team at Bethany Theological Seminary at 800-287-7722, or email admission@bethanyseminary.edu.

Please share this information with persons who may be interested in registering for our courses.

### SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER COURSES 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>DATES &amp; TIMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Northeast District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of the Brethren History</td>
<td>Elmwood College Young Center</td>
<td>Jeff Bach</td>
<td>Thurs: Jan 7, 14, 28 Feb 11, 25, 2021 (make-up Mar 4), 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</td>
<td>ANE District Office</td>
<td>Joe Dietrick</td>
<td>Thurs: Mar 25, Apr 8, 22, May 6, 20, 2021 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>Mid-Atlantic District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Old Testament</td>
<td>TBO</td>
<td>Jeff Davidson</td>
<td>Sat: TBD 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of the Brethren History</td>
<td>Westminster Coll</td>
<td>Jim Benedict</td>
<td>Sat: Jan 30, Feb 13, 2021 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</td>
<td>Westminster Coll</td>
<td>Charlotte Bear</td>
<td>Sat: Mar 27, Apr 17, May 15, 2021 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Middle PA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Old Testament</td>
<td>MPA District Office</td>
<td>Craig Gandy</td>
<td>Tues: Sept 8, 22, Oct 6, 20, Nov 10, 2020 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>Church of the Brethren History</td>
<td>MPA District Office</td>
<td>Craig Gandy</td>
<td>Tues: Jan 5, 25, Feb 16, Mar 2, 2021 (make-up Mar 23) 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</td>
<td>MPA District Office</td>
<td>Mark Liller</td>
<td>Tues: Mar 23, Apr 6, 20, May 4, 18, 2021 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
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<td>Southern PA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of the Brethren History</td>
<td>GOPA District Office</td>
<td>Bill Weagaf</td>
<td>Tues: Jan 12, Feb 2, 16, Mar 2, 16, 2021 (make-up Mar 23) 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</td>
<td>Carlisle Coll</td>
<td>Onita Knier</td>
<td>Sat: March 20, April 10, May 1, 2021 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Western PA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Theology</td>
<td>WPA District Office</td>
<td>Rob Wolf</td>
<td>Sat: Aug 10, Nov 14, 2020 9 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preaching</td>
<td>Rummel Coll</td>
<td>Ruby Mader &amp; Abby Shaffer</td>
<td>Sat: Feb 13, 27, Mar 13, 2021 9 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>WPA District Office</td>
<td>Ron St. Clair</td>
<td>Sat: Apr 17, May 1, 22, 2021 9 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>All Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills for Pastoral Ministry</td>
<td>Carlisle Coll</td>
<td>Ken Glabbe</td>
<td>Sat: Feb 20, March 20, 2021 9 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRIM</td>
<td>ANE District Office</td>
<td>Randy Yoder</td>
<td>Oct 23-24 and Nov 13-14, 2020 9 AM – 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRADUATE</td>
<td>Stone Coll</td>
<td>Steve Schwartz</td>
<td>Aug 28-29, Oct 11-12, Nov 13-14, 2020</td>
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Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
www.etown.edu/svmc
717-361-1450

SVMC’s mission is to equip leaders for ministry in a regionally based, Christ centered, culturally relevant context in ways that bear witness to the beliefs, heritages and practices of the Church of the Brethren. SVMC is a Church of the Brethren ministry partner with Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and five Church of the Brethren districts: Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA and Western PA.

Photo by Karen Hodges
ELGIN, IL – Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Mundey has announced plans for another Moderator’s Town Hall on August 13th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The topic will be “Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Two.”

A special focus will be the current reality of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the reopening of churches.

Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, will once again be joining Annual Conference Moderator Paul Mundey to continue answering attendees’ questions and share the latest information about the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with a number of organizations during this pandemic. She is also a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, Oakton, Virginia, valuing her connection to faith and the Church of the Brethren.

To register for the town hall, please visit: tinyurl.com/modtownhallaug2020. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com. Questions related to COVID-19, etc., are to be submitted the night of the event.
Attention Pastors & Missionaries!
Do you have a few books just taking up space or collecting dust on your shelves? Are you retiring and thinking of selling some of your collection? Need to raise some quick cash and or maybe you are going to a new field of ministry and aren’t able to transport all of your books.

**Whatever your reason if you need to sell some of your books, then please contact me. I’ll buy your books!**

Send me an email to Matt Jury at books@lausdeobooks.com and we will beat the offers of many book buyers.

*We also offer a 5% “finders fee.”*

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**District On-Line Resource Project**

Have you enjoyed attending an insight session at the district conference? Have you wanted to hear more from others in the district about a particular topic? Have you searched online about ways to grow your church? I am excited to announce that the District Witness Commission is actively working towards building a library of online resources to strengthen churches but we NEED YOUR HELP! Each member/congregation has different areas of strength such as engaging new members, community outreach, missions trips, etc. We are looking for members to who are willing to share their experiences, spiritual gifts, and strengths via video to be posted online. Members may submit videos with original content for review to be shared. Additionally, if there are any topics that you would like to learn or hear more about, feel free to submit a request. All videos and requests can be submitted to me.ashley.beach@gmail.com.

We hope to hear from you soon and we will keep you posted on our new project!

---

**Laptops for Missions**

Did you recently upgrade to a new laptop computer? Do you have an unused one lying around with power supply? Dayton Unger of the Shippensburg congregation will refurbish and update older computers for use by missionaries, seminary students and pastors. Windows 7 or newer is preferred. You may contact him at 717 385 6271 (leave a message) or dcunger17257@gmail.com. Your old laptop may find a new life in Latin America or Africa!

---

**Daniel Lehigh’s Bookstore**

Barb Lehigh, from the Upper Conewago congregation, continues to operate a small Christian bookstore, Daniel Lehigh’s Bookstore.

She is offering discounts to churches and pastors and will special order the books or curriculum that you need.

The store also features boxed cards and children’s books. Stop by to check it out.

The store is located at her home, 3206 Lake Meade Road, East Berlin, PA 17316

She does not currently have set hours of operator but if she’s home (and it’s not Sunday) she’s open.

Please contact her at 717-292-4362 to place an order or schedule a visit.

It’s best to call ahead. Thank you!
MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

August 2020

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11........ District Stewards Commission, Conference Call, 7:30 p.m.
13........ CAS 4th Annual Mel Markey Memorial Tournament, Hanover Country Club
19........ Camp Eder Senior Day, 9 a.m.
27........ District Ministry Commission, Carlisle COB, 6:30 p.m.

September 2020

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07........ District Office Closed, Labor Day
10........ District Executive Committee Meeting, Carlisle COB, 6:30 p.m.
15........ District Newsletter Deadline
16........ Camp Eder Senior Day, 9 a.m.
19........ District Conference, Buffalo Valley COB
21........ District Office Closed, Staff Comp Day
24........ District Ministry Commission, Carlisle COB, 6:30 p.m.

October 2020

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03........ Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry Fall Dinner Concert, New Fairview COB
10........ District Board Retreat, Shippensburg, 8:30 a.m.
17........ Camp Eder Fall Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
22........ District Ministry Commission, Carlisle COB, 6:30 p.m.

Disclaimer: Info in this newsletter is accurate as of the date of publication, please check with the author of each item if events are continuing as listed.

Deadline for the next District Newsletter is September 15, 2020.
Please email items to SOPADistrict@brethren.org
2020 Southern PA District Conference

Seek Peace & Pursue It. Psalm 34:14 & 1 Peter 3:11

Will you please make District Conference a priority? Join us as we discern God’s leading for our next year.

Conference Officers:
John Hess, Moderator
Ray Lehman, Moderator-Elect

Conference Site:
Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
Elv. Mel. On-Site Coordinator

Satellite Locations:
Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
Lit. Thorpe On-Site Coordinator
Newville Church of the Brethren
Jay Faulenbinder Jr. On-Site Coordinator
New Fairview Church of the Brethren
Paul Bentzel On-Site Coordinator

Only Delegates and SOP PA District Pastors not serving as delegates may attend conference.
Please bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks.
Social distancing and masks are strongly encouraged.
Please respect each church’s policy.

Southern Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
2020 District Conference
September 19
Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren

Proposed Conference Schedule
Saturday, September 19, 2020

9:30 - 10:00 Registration
10:00 - 10:10 Welcome, Announcements, Introductions, Moderator remarks and Prayer
10:10 - 10:15 Dedication of Delegates
10:15 - 10:20 Approval of 2019 Minutes and Agenda
10:20 - 10:35 Business Item #1 - Presentation of District Conference Ballot
10:35 - 10:50 A Peace Story
10:50 - 11:00 BREAK
11:00 - 11:15 Business Item #2 - District 2019 Financial Report
11:15 - 11:30 Business Item #3 - District Auditor's Report
11:30 - 11:45 Business Item #4A & 4B - Review/Presentation of Proposed District Budget & District Financial Ministries Allocation (DFMA)
11:45 - 11:50 Announcements - Meal Prayer
11:50 - 12:00 LUNCH BREAK
12:20 - 12:45 District Executive's Verbal Report and Introduction of New Pastors
12:45 - 1:00 Conference Elections
1:00 - 1:15 Approval of District Budget & District Financial Ministries Allocation (DFMA)
1:15 - 1:30 The Brethren Home Board Meeting (TBH)
1:30 - 1:45 Children’s Aid Society Board Meeting (CAS)
1:45 - 2:00 BREAK
2:00 - 2:15 A Peace Story
2:15 - 2:45 District Board Verbal Report
2:45 - 3:00 Business Item #5 - District Conference Action on Church Withdrawals
3:00 - 3:15 Election Results & Time to Complete Ballot Nominee and Conference Evaluation Forms
3:15 - 3:30 Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
Consecration of Newly Elected/Called Persons
Conference Acknowledgements
Passing of the Gavel
Adjournment

Please attend the conference location based on the zone of your church.

(Northern Zone)
Buffalo Valley COB
46 Brethren Church Road
Mifflinburg, PA 17844
570.966.1183

(Western Zone)
Chambersburg COB
260 South Fourth Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717.264.6957

(Eastern Zone)
New Fairview COB
1879 New Fairview Church Road
York, PA 17403
717.741.2378

(Central Zone)
Newville COB
16 Carlisle Road
Newville, PA 17241
717.776.9456

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