



### ONLINE WORSHIP

Convenient for some and an impediment for others.

The past two years have weighed on us in different ways, and it will certainly not be forgotten. The pandemic has added another layer of division to our world. These divisions have affected governments, schools, churches, and families. This pandemic has also made our society reevaluate what we consider as vital. We renamed jobs as essential and non-essential. All jobs are vital regardless of whatever occupation because it is how we support our family and community. We have had to adjust every aspect of our lives and factor in changes in which most of us weren't ready. One of those factors is our means of congregating with our fellow Brethren. We have had to seek alternatives methods and sitting back with our hands crossed was not an option. We currently have so much technology at our disposal that not streaming can be considered mismanagement of materials.

Like many other aspects in our lives, we went "cyber". Our children's schools either went online completely or offered hybrid. Churches, just like our schools, have had to also go hybrid. There are those in our community that say Zoom church is not church. This brings the question is attending church through Zoom or another platform not church? When your intent is to replace the traditional church with a virtual church, then I can agree. There is no replacement or substitutions for the connection we make when we shake hands or hug each other. That tap on your shoulder from your fellow brother or sister as an empathetic gesture goes a long way when we are in need. Streaming technology is not a replacement, it is used as a support to maintain and grow your congregation. It is a way to preach just like

a preacher stands on a street corner with a microphone and speaker. Each one of us evangelizes in a specific way. Is streaming technology a convenience or impediment? It can be both. "It is easier for me to connect via Zoom". "I don't have to wake up earlier on Sunday mornings". Having that frame of thought will lead to it being an impediment. On the other hand, if someone gets out of work late or can't be physically there, they can attend through Zoom, and they are not missing out on their pastor's sermon. Just like everything that we have in our lives, streaming has advantages and disadvantages. It is up to us as responsible individuals to use it accordingly.

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#### Isaiah 28:16 KJV

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."



(Continued from pg. 1)

I have been blessed to be able to visit a few churches in the Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren. What I have seen is that each one is doing what they can with the resources they have to be able to stream the message of God. Do we need to shift from a traditional to modern way of evangelism? No, because there is no other form of evangelism than what is in scripture. As we use social media as a platform, social media also looks to congregations to grow their platform. These platforms are integrating virtual reality and augmented reality in our lives, and it is growing more every day. Our foundation guides us in a way that nothing can blur our vision of a true reality. Building congregations on online platforms should not be the only goal. That itself is counterproductive. I prefer seeing people in the pews than in a little square on a monitor but giving the current circumstances, seeing my brother on screen is better than not seeing them at all. Let's not continue to grow the division of whether streaming is good or not. It is at our hands for us to use. There are millions using it for every negative point you can think of. We as followers of Christ should use it to spread the Word of God and the Love of Jesus Christ.

Growing the church with the message of God is what we are doing. Take control of the present to bring a future that will grow our faith.



**David Vasquez**  
Church Video Streaming  
Specialist

## 2022 ANE District Board

**Chair:** Jim Grossnickle-Batterton (2024)1

**Vice Chair:** Sandy Miller (2023)1

**\*Treasurer:** Ray Flagg (2022)2

**\*Assistant Treasurer:** Carroll Kreider (2022)7

**\*District Conference Moderator:** John Hostetter (2022)

**\*District Conference Moderator-Elect:** David Nichols (2023)

### COMMISSIONS

#### Church Development

Arlyn Morales	(2022)2
Scott Haldeman	(2023)2
Ryan Braught	(2023)1
Tim Fleener	(2024)2
Jazmin Quijano	(2024)1

#### Ministry

Brian Messler	(2022)1
Enten Eller	(2022)1
Marvin Foster	(2023)2
Liz Bidgood Enders	(2023)2
Ann Bach	(2024)2

#### Nurture

Ryan Arndt	(2022)2
Jamie Nace	(2023)1
Pat Leiter	(2023)1
Karen Hackett	(2024)1
Brandy Liepelt	(2024)1

#### Stewardship

Paul Pintarch	(2022)2
Brian Rice	(2023)1
Todd Stoltzfus	(2023)1
Scott Moyer	(2024)1
Barb Coffman	(2024)1

#### Witness & Outreach

Matt Christ	(2022)2
Deb Krantz	(2023)1
Lisa Krieg	(2024)2
Donna Parcell	(2024)1
Vacant	(2022)

\*Ex Officio Members: Pete Kontra, District Executive; Don Mitchell, Director of Church Development; Mary Etta Reinhart, Director of Witness & Outreach and Interim Director of Nurture; Kay Weaver, Director of Stewardship. Annual Conference Standing Committee: Jennifer West (2022), Dave Stauffer (2023); Mission & Ministry Board Members: Joel Peña (2023), Josiah Ludwick (2025)

*Guided by scripture, heritage and the Holy Spirit, we are creating spiritually healthy New Testament congregations who covenant and network together to further the Kingdom of God.*



## Gifts Discernment Team to Begin Search for 2023 Slate Candidates

Do you feel called to serve at the District level? Please contact your congregational leadership or the District Office regarding open positions.

Nomina-  
tion/Application  
forms will be dis-  
tributed to  
congregations and  
available on our  
website in  
January.



### DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO USE YOUR GIFTS?

- Church Development
- Ministry
- Nurture
- Witness & Outreach
- Stewardship
- Program & Arrangements
- Moderator Elect
- Gifts Discernment

## ANE TODAY Goes Completely Online

2022 will be the last year the District's ANE Today publication is offered in a paper format.

Starting with our January 2023 edition, it will only be offered online. The District Office has published both an online and paper format for the last 5 years.

For those who receive a paper edition, in order to continue to receive the ANE Today, contact the office with your email to be placed on the mailing list. Another option to keep in touch is to follow us on Facebook (Atlantic Northeast District), the newsletter is published on our page. The newsletter is also available on our website under Communications.

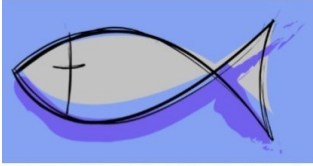
If you have any questions, please reach out at 717.367.4730



Merry Christmas from all of us at the ANE District!



Pete, Kay, Don, Mary Etta, David, Krista and Kelly



## MINISTRY

### Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

**Ruby Bean & Sandy Christophel's** (Conewago) installation service as co-pastors was on October 31 and performed by Pete Kontra.

**Lexi Aligarbes'** (Harrisburg First) installation service as co-pastor was on November 21, and performed by Pete Kontra.



**Ryan Clift's** (East Fairview) ordination service was on December 5, and Pete Kontra performed the service.

## Placement News

### Brooklyn First:

Beginning search process. Kay Weaver serves as Interim.

### Green Tree:

Interviewing. Considering Interim options.

### Lititz:

Searching for Pastor/Director of Faith Formation.

### Mechanic Grove:

Bob Kettering serves as Interim.

### Myerstown:

Beginning search process. Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.

### Nuevo Amanecer:

Interim Team established.

### Pottstown:

Dawn Lare serves as Interim.

### West Green Tree:

Interviewing.

### Wilmington:

Search Committee formed. Bob Wintsch serves as Interim.

### Pastors Caring for Pastors

Every month I look forward to an email from the district office that has the dates for next month's Zoom meetings with pastors and chaplains. District Executive, Pete Kontra, hosts these peer meetings.

We begin each time with no specific agenda other than to connect. We gain perspective and inspiration as we hear about one another's ministries. We share the exciting, the challenging, and the frustrating. We help one another carry the weight of being a pastor—especially during a pandemic. We also consider new possibilities.

I've noticed how we're different and how we're the same. Some of us pastor in larger, committee-involved congregations—perhaps with multiple staff. Others of us pastor in much smaller settings. Each of us is unique in how God has designed us as leaders. Our conversations are supportive and encouraging. As a solo pastor, this chance to connect with other pastors in our district is invaluable to me. We are pastors caring for pastors. And this is a very good thing!

~Janet Myers, Pastor at Paxton CoB

Zoom meetings are two Tuesdays each month. If you have not been receiving a link, please contact the office.





## Youth Leader Zoom Gathering



The energy is beginning to build for National Youth Conference which will take place next summer from July 23-28, on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. This is often a mountain top experience for many of the high school youth who attend. But for youth leaders who need to make all the arrangements for travel to and from the event, this can be a major challenge.

With that thought in mind, the ANE District Nurture Commission hosted a virtual gathering on Tuesday evening November 9 for youth leaders who wanted to talk about and share ideas with one another as they make plans for next summer.

Jason Haldeman of the Elizabethtown congregation who is currently serving as an adult advisor for National Youth Cabinet who are planning this event spent some time sharing a general overview of what to expect next summer. Attendees then were able to respond by sharing advice and ideas based on previous experiences in travelling with youth in previous years. There was a lot of lively discussion and good ideas shared among all who gathered.

Stay tuned for the next virtual gathering of our ANE District church youth advisors in a few months as we gather to share ideas about fund raising and other needed details that will be helpful as preparations are made to travel to this very important gathering next summer!



## Congregational Prayer Calendars

For the third year in a row, the ANE District is providing all congregations with a twelve month calendar that enables them to pray for other congregations throughout the year.

Each week, a congregation is assigned another to pray over. And, at the same time, another congregation is praying over that congregation. This project was implemented when Pete Kontra, District Executive came on board to the ANE District.

Pete says, "As Paul encourages the believers in Ephesians 6:18, so I encourage all of us, "Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." As Brothers and Sisters in Christ, out of our love for one another lift each other up in prayer. Each week, reach out to the congregation you are praying for to hear their joys and needs that we all may be strengthened. There is power in prayer!"



## A Way Forward Ministry



A video put together by the Way Forward Shepherdling Team was introduced at the 2022 District Conference to help communicate the vision and mission of the Way Forward Ministry. A Spanish translated version will be available soon.

This video is now available to view on the District's website: [www.ane-cob.org/wayforward/](http://www.ane-cob.org/wayforward/)



## Afghanistan Arrivals: How to Help

Called to care for the outsider, Brethren have long supported the refugees in our communities. With many thousands of Afghan arrivals coming to the US, churches are challenged to welcome these strangers that flee persecution in their homeland.



Brethren Disaster Ministries has a website with ideas and contact information for congregations wishing to help with Afghan Refugee Resettlement. Here is the link to that website:

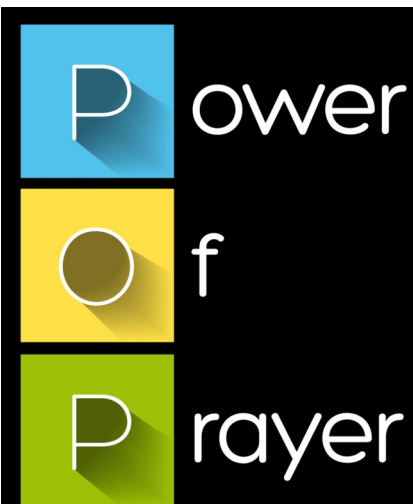
<https://www.brethren.org/bdm/afghanistan-2021/>

## ANE District Board Update

The Atlantic Northeast District Board met virtually on Saturday, November 6, 2021. This meeting included all current Board members and staff, as well as incoming Board members, who were approved at District Conference. Among many items of discussion, action and reporting, a few highlights from the November 6 meeting are shared below.

- Board Chair Jeff Glisson recognized outgoing Board members with appreciation.
- The District Board Member Leadership Manual was adopted, which outlines the values and practices board members commit to as they do their work together.
- Belita Mitchell, chair of the Way Forward Shepherding Team, reported on the ongoing work of the Team. The Way Forward Shepherding Team meets monthly, looking at ways to help the Board engage with the District in the Way Forward mission and discussing ways to invite congregations to also engage with the Way Forward Mission.
- The Board affirmed the formation of a District Shalom Team and approved guidelines for the new team.
- The Board processed approvals for five ordination candidates, which represents the highest number of ordination candidates in one meeting in recent years. Each candidate came recommended by the District Ministry Commission.
- Incoming Board Chair Jim Grossnickle-Batterton led a time of consecration for the continuing and incoming Board members for their work and ministry on behalf of the Atlantic Northeast District.

The Board's next meeting is Tuesday, March 22, 2022.



- January 2:** Pray for the ANE District Urban Ministries Initiative planning team as they meet via ZOOM to plan an event scheduled for May 14, 2022.
- January 9:** Atlantic Southeast District and its Interim DE, Victoria Ehret.
- January 16:** Those discerning a call to District Leadership.
- January 23:** Pray for the ANE District Nurture Commission meeting on January 25.
- January 30:** Idaho & Western Montana District, and its DE, Bruce Holderreed.
- February 6:** Discernment in Pastoral placement.
- February 13:** Illinois & Wisconsin District, and its DE, Walt Wiltschek.
- February 20:** District Ministry Commission
- February 27:** Northern Indiana District and its DE, Torin Eikler.



### Intergenerational Advent Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study is off to an excellent start! On Tuesday evening, November 30, we welcomed 35 participants from across our district into the class on Zoom. Included in that count were three children who attended the time especially designed for them at the beginning of the session. They were such a delight! The topic this week was Hope. We discussed Luke 1:26-38 and the hope that Mary experienced and also the hope we find in Jesus and how we can share that hope with others. One of the topics covered was Peace.

## Women's Fellowship

### Women's Spring Fellowship 2022 Connecting Through Our Stories

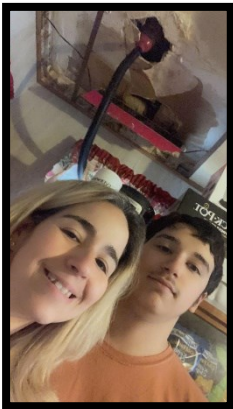
Hello to the Ladies of the ANE District! **SAVE the DATE** for the Women's Spring Fellowship to be held on **Saturday, March 19, 2022**. Our event this year will be held at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren, 201 Crescent Avenue, Ephrata, PA.

Everyone has a story to share and enjoys listening to a story. The Bible is a story for us to read continually and to learn from. We will gather at Spring Fellowship to hear different stories and to learn from each other. More information will be forthcoming regarding our time, cost and registration.

Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

-The ANE District Women's Cabinet

## Helping Hands Benevolence Fund to the Rescue!



The Oasis of Hope Fellowship (Iglesia Berith, Oasis De Esperanza) located in Lebanon, PA was recently able to make a difference in the life of a family in their church. This family found themselves in a difficult situation this summer. The roof of their home was damaged and water would come through the roof whenever there was rain. The ceiling inside the house was falling from the humidity. In addition, the entire family was suffering from asthma and other health issues so the strong smell of humidity in the home was danger for them. The family was at a loss because they did not have the financial means to repair the roof. They had reached out their homeowner's insurance company who declined to help them with this serious situation.

Pastor Arlyn Morales reached out to the ANE District to request help from the Helping Hands Benevolence Fund. She explained that the church was eager to help this family but that there were very limited funds available. The ANE District Witness and Outreach Commission approved a grant of \$5,000 to be used toward the needed repairs to this roof.

The work has now been completed and the family is doing well. They are happy and thankful with all the help that they received from the ANE District Helping Hands Benevolence Fund!

Helping Hands



**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
500 East Cedar Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**AUTOMATION**

**U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Elizabethtown, PA  
Permit No. 53**



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**STAFF**

Pete Kontra, **District Executive**

Don Mitchell, **Director of Church Development**

Mary Etta Reinhart, **Director of Witness & Outreach & Interim  
Director of Nurture**

Kay M. Weaver, **Director of Stewardship**

David Vasquez, **Church Video Streaming Specialist**

Krista Dickson, **Office Administrator**

Kelly Bernstein, **Communications Manager &  
District Conference Coordinator**

**Phone Number:** 717- 367- 4730



**FAX Number:** 717- 367- 8737

**Website:** [www.ane-cob.org](http://www.ane-cob.org)

**Our Vision:**

*Guided by scripture, heritage and the  
Holy Spirit, we are creating spiritually  
healthy New Testament congregations  
who covenant and network  
together to further the Kingdom of God.*

Deadline for the March/April issue of  
ANE Today is February 14.  
[kbernstein@ane-cob.org](mailto:kbernstein@ane-cob.org).

 **AtlanticNortheastDistrict**  
 **Atlantic Northeast District Church of  
the Brethren**