

ANE Today



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 56 Issue 2

March/April 2022

A Note for You ...

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

On April 17 we celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the true, transformed, abundant life He has given to us. Of course, it's everyday, not just one Sunday, as we are called to live in Him and use this gift of life to be His hands and feet in the world.

What I love to explore is how Jesus' disciples grew deeper in their walk with Him—from their call, to the confusion of Jesus' death, to finally the culmination of the Resurrection and empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Jesus called them and created the space for them to learn and live into that call, in all their questions, mistakes, and accomplishments by His grace. They were human beings just like you and me, and how grateful I am that they stepped out in faith to lead the early church, women and men alike.

We have the example of our Master to follow, and so I ask, how are we doing as the church to encourage those within the Body to listen for and accept God's call to serve as our future ministers? What are ways you can create a culture of calling within your congregation? One step is for each of us to pay attention to the gifts we see in others, as unrefined and perhaps even unaware they may be. As Jesus taught and loved and shaped His disciples, so too we are to sharpen one another and allow the space for our future ministers to take their first steps on that journey.

When I was in high school, my pastor wrote me a letter encouraging me to enter into the ministry, naming the gifts he saw in me to do that. That letter was a kind of culmination of my years growing up in the church, taught and shaped and given the grace to explore what being a follower of Christ really is. I am so grateful for it all.

What are ways you can create a culture of calling within your congregation? How are you nurturing and encouraging the gifts you see in others? I encourage all of us to start that conversation today as we stay open to how God will lead us into tomorrow.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. -Luke 5:10-11

Blessings.



Pete Kontra,
District Executive

Inside this issue:

A NOTE FROM PETE KONTRA	1
DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2022	2
LICENSINGS, ORDINATIONS, AND INSTALLATIONS	3
PLACEMENT NEWS	3
NEW MEMBERS IN ANE	3
DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR	3
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	4
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY	4
OUTREACH UPDATE: LITTLE SWATARA	4
SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM	5
ALIVE TO THRIVE	5
YOUNG CENTER EVENTS	6
KAIROS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING	6
BARNABAS FUND	7
SEEDS OF FAITH FUND	7
FACILITIES ASSISTANCE FUND	7
ANE TODAY GOES ONLINE	8



ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE • OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2022

To receive a wedding invitation brings a moment a choice. When we receive it, in a relatively short period of time, we will make a decision of whether or not we will attend. When we decide to attend, we send the RSVP card back, mark the date on our calendar, and then go about our daily routines without giving too much thought until the date of the ceremony draws near.

It seems that outlook might be one of the vulnerabilities we face when it comes to District Conference. Our respective churches elect us as delegates; we make sure that we have the date on the calendar. Then, we give little thought to the conference until close to the date. For those who aren't delegates, maybe we give little thought until after the conference when the delegates representing our churches give their reports.

District Conference, however, is not designed to be an isolated event with no connection to District ministries and discussions that have occurred throughout the year. One of the most helpful ways a person can prepare is to keep oneself informed, keep up with information coming to the churches about the District and District Conference.

When thinking about the theme for this year's conference, a theme was chosen not just for the weekend of conference, but for us as a District to live into throughout the year. The theme is: **"Ignited to be church under unrelenting pressure."** It is based on Ephesians 4:15-16. We are called to speak the truth in love and so do life together that the body, the church, builds itself up in love.

The word "Ignited" speaks to the work of the Holy Spirit who ignites the fire in the gathered body to be like Jesus. The phrase "under unrelenting pressure" speaks to the current cultural context. The cultural narrative that we experience on how to relate to those who think differently when it comes to political and social agendas



John Hostetter,
Moderator

appears to be invading the church.

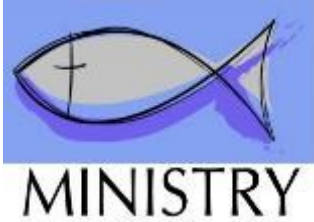
David French in an article, "Lost Friendships Break Hearts and Nations" coined a word that has challenged me, "factional friendships." He uses that phrase to describe a trend in which our friendships are only

or primarily made up of those who view things the same as I do. The attitude behind this trend is "You're either with us or you're against us." If the trend becomes pervasive in the church, we will be unable to live into our calling of building the body up in love. We will be unable to give our full attention when listening. Our strong feelings about something will take over and we will fail to speak respectfully, truthfully, clearly and timely in love. Our witness as churches will lack credibility.

A key District ministry focus this year is "The Way Forward" (which you will continue to hear about). If we, as District churches are going to live into this calling we will need to resist the cultural narrative of "factional friendships" and live into our calling of building one another up in love. I invite you to reflect on your relationships. Are they primarily factional, or are your friendships made up of individuals with diverse views on the social and political issues of our day? Let's venture together to grow-up into our head, Jesus Christ, so we as the body may build ourselves up in love.

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

~Ephesians 4:15-16



MINISTRY

Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

Eric Ramirez's (Ebenezer) ordination service was on December 19 and performed by Pete Kontra.



Eric Ramirez



Rachel Johnson

Rachel Johnson's (Mechanic Grove) licensing service was on January 2 and performed by Pete Kontra.

Shawn O'Brien's (West Green Tree) ordination service was on January 9 and Pete Kontra performed the service.



Shawn O'Brien

Mark Pickens' (Harrisburg First) ordination service was on February 6 and Pete Kontra performed the service.



Mark Pickens

Placement News

Brooklyn First:

Beginning search process. Kay Weaver serves as Interim.

Green Tree:

Interviewing. Kim Ream serves as Interim.

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.

ANE DISTRICT—NEW MEMBERS

Harrisburg First — Baptism: Chloe Oustich, Lydia Pebly; **Reaffirmation:** Lexi Aligarbes, Samson Arnold, Ade Senaike



March 6: ANE District Board: Executive Committee
March 13: South Central Indiana District and Interim Co-DEs Anna Lisa Gross & Kay Gaier
March 20: ANE District Board as it meets for the first time in 2022
March 27: Michigan District and DE Frances Townsend
April 3: For DE, Pete Kontra as he travels to Elgin, and for all DEs as they meet for CODE this week.
April 10: Mid-Atlantic District and DE Gene Hagenberger
April 17: ANE Way Forward Shepherding Team
April 24: Missouri & Arkansas District and DE Cindy Sanders



Lenten Bible Study Offered

The ANE Nurture Commission is pleased to offer a seven-week Lenten Bible Study. This study will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom beginning on March 2 and ending on April 13. This will be a time to reflect and study scripture in community with others from across our district as we prepare ourselves for the resurrected Savior. A variety of teachers from throughout the district will take turns leading each week. At the beginning of each session, a special space will be made for a children's activity that adults will enjoy, too! You can register for the Bible Study on ANE's website.



Women's Fellowship

Women's Spring Fellowship 2022
Connecting Through Our Stories

Our speaker is Liz Bidgood Enders from the Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren. Liz will be sharing her storytelling talent with us, as well as helping us identify the many ways we connect to God, the stories, and each other as we journey through life.

You will have the opportunity to watch the presentation from Liz, enjoy a special selection of violin music from teen-aged sisters from the Ephrata Church of the Brethren and select a small-group session to participate in. **Registered participants will receive a link to the main presentation, to be watched at their convenience prior to attending a small-group session.**

Register online on the District website under Events.

55 Plus Fellowship Luncheon Save the Date!

May 11, 12:00pm

Yoder's Family Restaurant, New Holland

Outreach

Update:

Little Swatara FEED THEM Ministry

"Feed them."

What a great command from our Lord and Savior. For those of us who use food as their love language it's an easy one. We have done three Feed Them events over the past months with each one feeding more families. We started with hot dogs, meatballs and then vegetable soup and cornbread. The families are just grateful beyond words. The thanks from our families in attendance is overwhelming and humbling.

The first two months we fed around 220, having planned for 240. So, for November we planned the same for soup to feed 240. But God had other plans. We reached out to the council of churches,



our fellow believers, and our home church and the soup came through in abundance! I was planning for 60 quarts of soup minimum and we had 124! I kept saying "Lord what will we do with all this soup?" Ha, ha, ha, oh ye of little faith. I your Father already know how much you will need. Cornbread was also in abundance with 314 pieces cut and wrapped.

But the need was great. We handed out ALL of the cornbread running short for the last few families and gave all but 12 quarts of soup away. GOD Is Good, Amen.

We appreciate all help and food donations. We look forward to seeing what God has planned for the future events.

~Matt Christ, Pastor & ANE Board Member





Living Simply in a Complex World

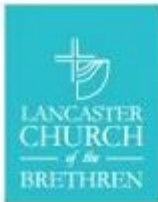
March 26 & 27, 2022



Shane Claiborne, Keynote Speaker

The Fourth
*Seeking First
the Kingdom*

presented by the
Spiritual Renewal Committee
of the
Lancaster Church of the Brethren



1601 Sunset Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Lancob.org
717.397.4751

Keynote Speaker:

Shane Claiborne

Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author who worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He leads Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living "as if Jesus meant the things he said." Shane is a champion for grace, which has led him to jail advocating for the homeless and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence. His books include *Jesus for President*, *Red Letter Revolution*, *The Irresistible Revolution*, and *Beating Guns*, among others.

Shane's presentation topics are:

Saturday Morning: "What If Jesus Meant the Stuff He Said?"

Saturday Afternoon: "Maladjusted People"

Sunday School: "Economics of Rebirth"

Sunday Sermon: "Another Way of Doing Life"



Seeking Sessions Leaders:



Steven M. Nolt
Senior Scholar
Young Center
Elizabethtown College



Joel Peña
Ordained Minister
Alpha & Omega COB



David Radcliff
Director
New Community Project



Pam Reist
Ordained Minister
Elizabethtown COB



Barry D. Stoner
Clinical Social Worker
Wellspan Philhaven

For more information go to : <https://lancob.org/events/>

THE CHURCH



ANE Urban Ministries Initiative
Presents:

ALIVE TO THRIVE

May 14, 2022

Ephrata Church of the Brethren

See you there!

More information coming soon.



**THE YOUNG CENTER
FOR ANABAPTIST AND
PIETIST STUDIES**
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

March & April 2022 Events

(All events will be held in person. Evening lectures will also be livestreamed.)

YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

Thursday, March 24 • 6:00 pm • Susquehanna Room

Cost is \$20 and reservations are required by March 10. Register online or by calling the Young Center at 717-361-1470.

DURNBAUGH LECTURE: "That I May Sing a Song": Early Anabaptist Hymnals

Thursday, March 24 • 7:00 pm • Susquehanna Room

Joe A. Springer, curator of the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College, shares recent scholarship on the earliest hymnals published by German-speaking Anabaptists in the 16th century, with special attention to the 1564 edition of the *Ausbund*.

DURNBAUGH SEMINAR: Early Anabaptist Hymnody: What Do We Want to Learn?

Friday, March 25 • 10:00 am–noon

Joe A. Springer provides input and invites discussion of aspects of Anabaptist hymnody that merit further exploration.

KREIDER LECTURE: The Unknown Story of Naming the Brethren in Christ

Tuesday, April 5 • 7:00 pm • Bucher Meetinghouse

Since the early 20th century, the Brethren in Christ—formerly known as the River Brethren—have claimed that they adopted their current denominational name during the American Civil War, but documentation of such action has not been found. Jonathan R. Stayer, retired state government archivist, unravels the true story.

For the Zoom links and more information, visit www.etown.edu/youngctr/events

A new Spiritual Direction Training cohort begins in March 2022

Kairos Spiritual Direction Training (SDT) is a contemplative program that teaches the art and practice of spiritual direction – deep listening, walking alongside others, and recognizing God in your own life and the lives around you. Students are encouraged to practice spiritual kinship with those on the margins who may not normally have the opportunity or means to participate in spiritual direction.

SDT is designed not only for spiritual directors, but for all those who offer spiritual care and companionship. Training in spiritual companionship provides effective tools for interpersonal relationships, especially when working with those different than yourself.



Develop your personal and professional skills of deep listening and learn to incorporate spirituality into your understanding of yourself and those around you. SDT is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus and informed by Ignatian spirituality and the wisdom tradition. Contemplative spirituality is compatible with a spectrum of denominational and theological positions including those who claim no tradition.

More information available at parishresourcecenter.org/kairos/sdt-2022/



2022 Barnabas Fund Application Deadlines

Could your church use a financial boost? Is your congregation actively involved in a community outreach ministry such as:

- Community food pantry
- Counseling services
- English as a second language classes
- Parenting workshops
- Tutoring or other kinds of children and teen programs



Do these guidelines fit your congregation?

- A verifiable active outreach ministry
- Located in and serving a community with a significant economically challenged population.
- Limited resources due to circumstances beyond their control
- Sizeable community needs that surpass the congregation's ability to respond.
- There must be a clear evidence of Gospel and Mission

The Barnabas Fund has been established to share the blessing of financial resources with those who express a ministry-driven need. The Fund seeks to encourage the ministry of congregations through a grant-based ministry investment strategy that seeks Kingdom-based ministry results through: shared resources, fiscal accountability, ministry planning, and economic partnering.

If these guidelines fit the kind of ministry efforts that you see in your congregation, this might be just the place to get that extra financial boost that will allow your ministry to be more effective!

Application deadlines this year are:
 Monday, April 18
 Monday, July 11
 Monday, October 17

Applicants will be contacted within 10 days **following** the scheduled meeting.

Please contact the District Office for an Application.

ANE Seeds of Faith Fund

The purpose of Seeds of Faith Fund is to be very intentional and effective with ANE resources to:



- Birth new ministries through church plantings throughout the Atlantic Northeast District.
- Re-birth/revitalize ANE congregations that are about to close.
- Encourage leadership growth.
- Support ANE congregations who have demonstrated that the growth or expansion of the congregation depends on an investment from the District.



ANE FACILITIES ASSISTANCE FUND

Facilities Assistance Fund

The purpose of the Facilities Assistance Fund is to share our blessing of financial resources with all ANE congregations needing to improve or expand their facilities to assist in the growth of congregation's ministry-driven vision.

Consideration will be given to:

- A Congregation located in and serving a community with a significant economically challenged population
- A Congregation that exhibits a **stable membership/attendance** which is unable to support the on-going ministry of the congregation without outside help.
- Congregational facilities that have incurred a loss due to a disaster. Grants will be given only toward repair costs not covered by insurance.
- All congregations planning a major building renovation or expansion. (Some restrictions apply)

For more information and an application for either of these funds, email Kay Weaver kweaver@ane-cob.org

**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



AtlanticNortheastDistrict



**Atlantic Northeast District Church of
the Brethren**

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 May/June issue of ANE Today is April 11.

kbernstein@ane-cob.org.

ANE TODAY Goes Completely Online

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

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. The newsletter is also available on our website under Communications.

If you have any questions, please reach out at 717.367.4730