

# ANE Today



## ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 56 Issue 5

September/October 2022

### District Conference, A Learning Opportunity



Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls, who became widely known for his television series *Man vs. Wild*, once said this about his adventures: "To me adventure has always been the connections and bonds you create with people when you're there. And you can have that anywhere." Yes, we can have connections and bonds being created and strengthen anywhere. How about District Conference? Our life together as a District is to be a God-led adventure. Apart

of that Adventure is the coming together for District Conference.

Our experience of District Conference is partially dependent on how well it is put together, but it isn't just dependent on those who plan and carry out the Conference. It is very much dependent, as well, on our preparation and approach. An approach that is helpful to make Conference a positive experience is to come with an inquisitive attitude. Conference will provide a number of learning opportunities. The reports from the District Board, District Leadership, other ministries, insight sessions, and listening to one another in business discussion have learning as a key ingredient.

Much of Saturday afternoon is focused on reports from ministries and programs connected to our District and the Denomination. COBYS, Camp Swatara, the Mission and Ministry, Bethany, Eder Financial, and Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center are all ministries that, through their report, will provide a learning opportunity with the hope of strengthening the bond. Listening with attentiveness and alertness to these compelling reports provides for us an opportunity to be moved from merely knowing about the ministry to strengthening the bond by us becoming emotionally invested in the ministry.



The lunch time provides learning opportunities. Two insight sessions are being offered. One is designed to bring clarity between pastor and congregation relationship, thus strengthening that bond. The title of this insight session is: "All you need to know about the New CoB Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement." During this Workshop, members of the denomination's Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee will demonstrate the new Integrated

Annual Ministry Agreement. The purpose of this new approach is to encourage congregations to have a positive discussion about the relationship between pastor and congregation. It is designed to help congregations maintain a healthy relationship with their pastor.

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John Hostetter  
Moderator



# ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE • OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2022

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The second insight session has to do with social media. Over the past decade or more social media has increasingly impacted the way we relate to one another. The Pandemic accelerated the influence of social media. In light of this current cultural climate, one of the insight sessions will be a Panel Discussion entitled: "Building and Nurturing Community in a Social Media Age." This insight session is designed so we can learn from one another as we work to build and strengthen the sense of community in our congregations, district and denomination.

To prepare for this time together for discernment, learning and strengthening our bond, congregations were encouraged to have their delegates registered by July 31. If your congregation hasn't registered your delegate, please do so as soon as possible. It is my hope that District Conference will be one of those aspects of District life in which the bond between churches of our district are built and strengthen. Then in our working together we will build up in love the body of the Atlantic Northeast District (Eph.4:15-16). May we pray to this end. See you at District Conference, October 7 and 8.



2022 ANE District Conference  
**Worship Service**  
Friday, October 7, 7:00pm

In Person @Ephrata CoB,  
or streamed on ANE YouTube

SPEAKER:  
David Steele  
General Secretary  
Church of the Brethren



Recognizing  
John David Bowman  
as a 50 year minister



OPEN  
TO ALL



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2022 ANE District Conference  
**Bible Study**  
Thursday, October 6, 7:00pm

Join us ONLINE!

SPEAKER:  
Lexi Aligarbes  
Co-Pastor,  
Harrisburg First



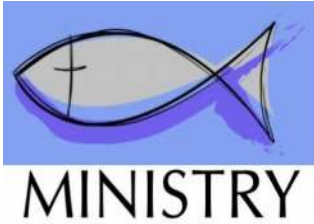
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Alpha & Omega Community Center will receive the offering this year taken at both the Worship Service and Business Session. We also are collecting food staples and used computers/ipads for their Ministry. Please see the Conference website for more information.



## Placement News

**Brooklyn First:** Beginning search process. Kay Weaver serves as Interim.  
**Coventry:** Searching for an Associate Pastor.  
**Elizabethtown:** Naomi Kraenbring serves as Interim.  
**Green Tree:** Interviewing. Kim Ream serves as Interim.  
**Mechanic Grove:** Called Kevin Richardson effective 10/1/22  
**Mohler:** Search Committee formed. Carl Brubaker retiring 9/30/22  
**Myerstown:** Negotiating. Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.  
**Paxton:** Janet Myers resigning September 3, 2022  
**Pottstown:** Searching. Dawn Lare serves as Interim.  
**Skippack:** Larry O'Neil resigning summer of 2022  
**Wilmington:** Search Committee formed.

## Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

**Tom Strubel's** (Ephrata) ordination service was on June 26 and performed by Pete Kontra.



## DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR



- September 4:** South Eastern District, and newly appointed DE, Andy Hamilton.
- September 11:** The Witness & Outreach Commission as they visit Germantown CoB and learn of their ministries.
- September 18:** Disaster Relief Auction to be held September 23 & 24.
- September 25:** Southern Plains District, and the Interim Leadership Team
- October 2:** District Conference Moderator, John Hostetter as he prepares to lead our Conference.
- October 9:** District Delegates as they prepare to share what they learned at Conference with their congregation.
- October 16:** ANE Youth and Youth Leaders as they meet at Camp Swatara.
- October 23:** ANE Older Adults as they gather together for an event.
- October 30:** ANE District Board as they prepare to meet, reorganize and do the needed work of the church body.





## Outreach Update: Lititz Church of the Brethren

On a hot sunny afternoon June 17, the Community Volunteer Service Fair hosted 15 community organizations that provided information on their volunteer opportunities and activities/games for children and families.

In addition to the organizations represented, we had Andrew Imhoff who volunteered his time to make balloon objects for children and present a magic show. The youth provided face painting and children enjoyed choosing their face art. Food trucks and snacks like cotton candy and ices added to the fair-like atmosphere. There was a regular flow of attendees and the children appeared to be having a lot of fun.



Organizational vendors reported they enjoyed the event and some reported getting some volunteers and asked to come again. The end of a great event was the movie. It was wonderful seeing children and adults on blankets and lawn chairs sprawled across the lawn enjoying a summer evening.

As reported in the Lititz COB Weekly Observer

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
WITH THEIR ADVISORS

## YOUTH DAY @ CAMP SWATARA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022  
9AM - 4PM

Please join us for a day full of fun and activity at Camp Swatara! The purpose of the event is to build relationships between district youth and also between district advisors. There will be adventure games, a time for worship, lunch, a camp fire with s'mores, and free time to enjoy Camp.



**Speaker:** Jason Haldeman  
"Building on the Foundation"

Join us, men from 9th grade on up, for the first FORGED Conference, designed by men, for men. Join us, as Rev Dr Peter C. Myers



explores what it means to be meek and lowly in heart, like Jesus. What exactly is Biblical Manhood? Starting at 8am with a continental breakfast, our time of worship begins at 9am and the day is filled with testimony, reflection, worship learning, food and fun. We finish up at 3pm and send you on your way, ready to take on the world!. Registration is \$25. See event on Facebook or tickets are available here: <https://ecob.church/events/forged-conference/>



## Prime Time Older Adult Ministry at Ephrata CoB

By Sam Frankhouser

### Our Mission Statement

The mission is to appreciate our position in life's journey, and to faithfully accept it as a blessing from God which provides us with wondrous gifts and talents to still be joyful, active, and relevant servants of our Lord, not only in our home church, but also in the wider community.

Every church knows that attracting and engaging young adults, especially those with families, is a top priority as congregations look for ways to bolster attendance and faithfully grow God's Kingdom.

Church growth is of paramount importance! Young folks bring new ideas, an openness to change, and a sense of renewal. Hallelujah!

However, what can happen, and does happen, is that the "emphasis on youth" can sometimes over-shadow other ministries which need attention and support. Older Adult Ministry is an excellent example of this! With "youth centered" initiatives pointing the way forward, it is easy for church leadership to forget about the special ministry needs of the older adults in the congregation.

With this in mind, a small group of retired adults at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren started talking about the essential components of an older adults ministry program. With the support and help of Pastor Brian Messler, these discussions culminated in a decision to create of a formal Older Adults Ministry Committee. Pastor Brian insightfully discerned the need for this special ministry committee and encouraged its formation!

As a result, an official Prime Time Older Adults Committee was finally established, and its members started meeting to compose a mission statement and establish specific goals and objectives. The names of the older adults in the congregation were tentatively identified and the committee set out to engage ECoB's "Prime Timers" in meaningful ways highlighted to the right.

In his book, "Aging – Growing Old in Church," Will Willimon states, "We know how very important friends, social contacts, and others are for the last quarter of our lives. Yet it is the conviction of the church that of even greater import is our relationship with our most challenging Friend, the One who created us and continues to work with us and to summon us to service in our old age."

Questions or more information? Contact Sam Frankhouser, Original Chairperson of the Prime-Time Older Adult Committee – [safh@ptd.net](mailto:safh@ptd.net) or 717 669 5720.

*ECoB's Prime Time Older Adult Ministry's meaningful ways of connection:*

**Classes/seminars on issues important to older adults...**One example – "Avoiding Phone and Computer Scams" (Attendance – 30 to 40)

**Socialization opportunities...**

Examples -- quarterly luncheons at the church and monthly breakfasts at a local restaurant (Attendance – 65 to 70 at luncheons and 24 to 30 at breakfasts)

**Special entertainment** (usually music) ...Examples - traditional American folk music and oldies music from the 50's and 60's (Attendance – 65 to 70)

**Consultation with church leadership** on issues and decisions that may affect older adults...Example – church renovation and building projects.

**Opportunities for outreach ministries** that go beyond church walls...One example – Power Packs, a local food ministry providing meals to local families with school aged children (Attendance -- Prime Timers volunteered as needed)

**Events which bridge the generation gap...** One example – a cooperative effort of young and old which raised money for a charity. Both young and old celebrated their success by sharing a meal together.

This list is just a brief indication of what the Prime-Time Committee has accomplished since its inception. The Covid 19 pandemic idled the work for well over 2 years, but with prayer and God's guidance, more events, activities, and programs will start again this fall!



## Welcome to our newly appointed Peace and Justice Volunteer Coordinator

The ANE District Witness and Outreach Commission recently met with and heartily welcomed our newly appointed Peace and Justice Volunteer Coordinator, Gerald W. Rhoades. Gerald is a member of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren where he served as the Director of Community Ministries from 1983 until 2013. He has been involved for many years with the Agape-Satyagraha Conflict Resolution Training Program. The mission of this program is to help youth (grades 6-12) learn to resolve conflicts without the use of violence. He is also currently involved with the Harrisburg Heeding God's Call, which is faith-based movement to end gun violence.

In his role as Peace and Justice Coordinator, Gerald will promote and encourage the work of the Church of the Brethren for peace and justice for all people. From time to time he will communicate to congregations within the ANE district denominational statements and letters pertaining to issues of peace and justice. He will also promote opportunities for learning and engagement relating to issues of peace and justice. We are excited to have Gerald serving in this role with the ANE District.

### From Our new Peace and Justice coordinator:

#### *Crossroads and Connections Workshop – Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence*

The purpose of the workshop is to encourage participants to take leading roles toward ending the current unfortunate absence of the American faith community from the movement to end gun violence. It will educate participants briefly about the problem of gun violence as it affects neighborhoods, towns and cities. The workshop will discuss means to energize and mobilize people and institutions of faith to take leadership roles in pursuit of changes in culture and law about guns. We will learn about programs and activities intended to appeal specifically to people and institutions of faith.

Bryan Miller is Executive Director of *Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (Heeding)*, the PA statewide faith-based and grassroots movement. He left a career in international business after his brother was killed in a 1994 massacre by a lone gunman wielding a concealed assault pistol. Bryan successfully led Ceasefire NJ, for fifteen years, which was marked by major changes in gun culture and law and the achievement of among the lowest *per capita* rates of gun death in the country. He co-founded *Heeding* in 2009, whose faithful public pressure forced federal authorities to shutter Philadelphia's most notorious gun shop. *Heeding* uses various activities to mobilize people of all faiths to pursue ending gun violence.

**Session 1 - Thursday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.**

Registration Link –

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400817785787>

**Session 2 - Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Registration Link –

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400948687317>

**Session 3 - Monday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Registration Link –

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/401238092937>

**Session 4 - Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.**

Registration Link –

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/401249306477>

## Discipleship Ministries recognizes Ebenezer as a Fellowship at Annual Conference



Leonor Ochoa and Eric Ramirez, ministers at Ebenezer, pictured with Don Mitchell, ANE Director of Church Development, and Stan Dueck, Director of Organizational Leadership and Co-Coordinator of Discipleship.

## Harvest Home Service Sunday, September 25 Quakertown CoB

Pastor Mark will be preaching at the 10:00am service, followed by a Fellowship Meal. Our guest speaker at the 1:00 pm service, Pastor Dave Weiss from the Springfield Church of the Brethren, will be speaking and drawing on the "Three Talents". Brother Dave is known for his artwork in his ministry. Check Quakertown's website for directions to the church.





# Alpha & Omega

## Community Center

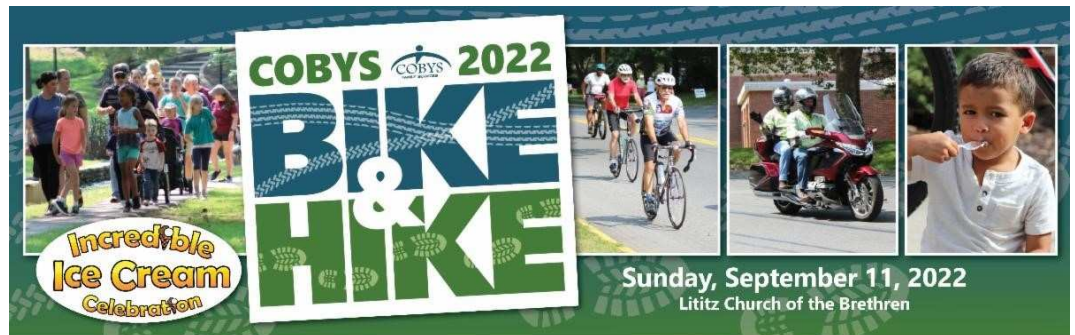
### AOCC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Set for September 10

The Alpha & Omega Community Center invites you to a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Saturday, September 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 W. Orange St., Lititz. The evening will include an inspiring program followed by a delicious meal. The RSVP deadline is August 26. The invitation can be found here: <https://files.constantcontact.com/0524495d501/cd86548a-1d60-4343-be20-41495481962a.pdf>

The program will include music by the Alpha & Omega COB Worship Band, updates on the Center's many ministries from AOCC Executive Director Joel Peña, along with some "God stories" by Danny Gingrich, the Center's English teacher and coordinator of the Computers for Refugees program.

Following the program, we will receive a free-will offering and dinner will be served. (Due to Covid concerns, a take-out option is available for those who are hesitant to eat with large groups of people.) The suggested minimum donation is \$20 per person, but we hope you'll be inspired to give much more. Those unable to attend can support AOCC ministries with a donation designated for the banquet. Give by mail or online at <https://alphayomega.us/>. For more information, contact board member Carolyn Fitzkee at [dcfitzkee@gmail.com](mailto:dcfitzkee@gmail.com) or 717-682-1762.

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Bike & Hike, hosted by COBYS Family Services (COBYS), is returning on Sunday afternoon, September 11, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 West Orange Street, Lititz, PA 17543. The signature components of the gathering continue, with this



year's festivities featuring a bigger and better Incredible Ice Cream Celebration! Register at [www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike](http://www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike) for this event that has raised more than two million dollars in its history. These funds provide critical care for children and families receiving services through the COBYS foster care, adoption, counseling and family life education ministries.

As part of Bike & Hike, COBYS has launched its Kickstart Fund again this year. The goal is to raise \$25,000 before September 11, helping to sustain the organization throughout the year. Just like it takes the right ingredients to make the best ice cream, we believe COBYS staff are the right people to create the perfect recipe of great care with dignity, compassion and hope. Check out COBYS on Facebook and Instagram to follow along with preparations for Bike & Hike and the Kickstart.

According to Mark Cunningham, executive director of COBYS, "Each year, we are amazed by all who participate in the Bike & Hike. We truly could not provide the kind of care, the COBYS Difference, in our services to children, adults and families, were it not for the funds raised at this event."



**Attention Survivors from Bucks, Montgomery, and York Counties**  
**Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP)**  
**Helping Individuals and Families Impacted**  
**by Tropical Storm IDA**



**Case Management** for Disaster Recovery – is a free service which partners an individual or household to work with a trained Disaster Case Manager (DCM) 1-on-1. The DCM will perform an assessment of your needs and help you to access eligible resources. A DCM will **advocate** on behalf of the individuals and families with FEMA, insurance companies, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and other disaster related services.

- o Comprehensive **assessment** of individual or family needs
- o Information and **referrals**
- o **Spanish-speaking** Disaster Case Managers

**For Support and Assistance**

**Call 1-833-4618IDA (1-833-461-8432)**



For more information or to schedule an appointment,  
 please contact St. Vincent De Paul Disaster Services at:  
 by email: [DR4618IDADCMP@svdpdisaster.org](mailto:DR4618IDADCMP@svdpdisaster.org)  
 or visit: [www.svdpdisaster.org](http://www.svdpdisaster.org)



**pennsylvania**  
 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES





ANE OLDER ADULT  
COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# Coffee House

Gathering at the Water Hole- Unique Biblical  
Storytelling by Liz Bidgood Enders

FREE Coffee, Tea, and Cookies

**October 27, 2022**

2 PM - 3:30 PM

Lancaster CoB

No Registration Required



## *Attention: Older Adult Brothers and Sisters of the ANE District*

Please mark you calendars for October 27<sup>th</sup>

Special Coffee House style event!

Lancaster Church of the Brethren  
2:00 to 3:30

Savor some coffee ,tea, and cookies, while  
enjoying "Gathering at the Water Hole," a  
unique Biblical story telling presentation by  
Liz Bidgood Enders.

Liz is an excellent story teller who loves to  
involve her audience in conversation and  
discussion!

The District Older Adults Committee has  
carefully organized this initial event and  
encourages you share in the fun and  
fellowship of our this, our first Coffee House  
event of the year!

**NO REGISTRATION NEEDED...SEE YOU ON  
THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF OCT.**

**Special Note:** Pastors, please be sure to  
share this information in multiple ways with  
your Congregation!

## Update on the Situation in Nigeria and CCEPI's Response

*Dr. Rebecca Dali of Nigeria, Speaking Tour*

**Friday, October 21, 2022:**

Elizabethtown Rotary Club, 12:00 noon

**Sunday, October 23, 2022:**

Hempfield CoB, 9:30 AM

**Monday, October 24, 2022:**

Lititz CoB, 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, October, 25, 2022:**

Landis Homes, 2:00 PM

**Wednesday, October, 26, 2022:**

Pleasant View Retirement Community, 2 PM

**Thursday, October 27, 2022:**

The Brethren Village, 2:00 PM

**Sunday, October 30, 2022:**

Lancaster CoB, 10:15 AM

**Sunday, October 30, 2022:**

Middle Creek Church, 1:00 PM



Rebecca Dali with  
the 2017  
Humanitarian  
Award from the  
Sergio Vieira de  
Mello Foundation  
at a ceremony at  
the United Nations  
in Geneva,  
Switzerland. Photo  
by Kristin Flory. Church of the  
Brethren Newsline, August 31,  
2017

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

**Non-Profit Organization  
AUTOMATION  
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Permit No. 53**



**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**STAFF**

Pete Kontra	<b>District Executive</b>
Don Mitchell	<b>Director of Church Development</b>
Mary Etta Reinhart	<b>Director of Witness &amp; Outreach &amp; Interim Director of Nurture</b>
Kay M. Weaver	<b>Director of Stewardship</b>
David Vasquez	<b>Church Video Streaming Specialist</b>
Krista Dickson	<b>Office Administrator</b>
Kelly Bernstein	<b>Communications Manager &amp; District Conference Coordinator</b>

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

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

**Website:** [www.ane-cob.org](http://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 November/December issue of ANE Today is October 17.  
[kbernstein@ane-cob.org](mailto: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