

ANE Today



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 51 Issue 3

May/June 2020



Greetings Sisters and Brothers.

I pray that you are living in the peace of Christ and the strength of His steadfast love. We are in uncharted territory as we face the challenges of COVID-19 where nothing seems certain. And we praise God that He is unchanging and will lead us through as we work together as the Body of Christ.

Pete Kontra

In this newsletter we share some updates on how and what we are doing as the Church. We continue to extend an invitation for you to contact me or any of the District staff with questions or ideas. We will regularly be sending updates.

Of course, pray without ceasing. For everyone. For the peace of Christ. For the strength and hope He gives. For healing and wholeness. For renewed commitment to our relationships, with God and one another. For the church to shine where there is darkness. All we can do is be faithful where we are today. That's all we can control, knowing God has complete control. Your work is never in vain. Our gifts we offer to God in faith will bring forth blessing. New life. That's how God works. That's what we just celebrated in our Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. Whether or not we are able to physically be together, He is still alive and well and powerfully moving in our midst.

~Pete



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"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." -1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



COVID-19 and the Church of the Brethren Worldwide



Food distribution at the Gisenyi congregation of Rwanda Church of the Brethren

“Suely and I decided to have more time pastoring in the social media. We do have countless people, both in WhatsApp and Facebook. We are asked to post videos with messages, and Suely, yesterday wrote to the people: ‘I prefer to pastor individually.... Shepherding is listening to them without judgment, it is crying together, it is also smiling with them, it is praying with them, it is strengthening them when their knees are shaky, it is helping them to feel loved and care for them. I am tired of seeing and hearing Christians fighting for political parties, defending, or attacking each other. There are many sick people who need to be accompanied and helped to act with the values of the Kingdom of God. I am striving not to fall into the commonplace. Count on me if you need to, but don't expect sermons, I prefer prayers.’ Marcos Inhauser and Suely are leaders in Igreja da Irmandade-Brasil (the Church of the Brethren in Brazil).

Newsline

*The Church of the Brethren
email news service
April 11, 2020*

Ron Lubungo, a leader in the Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reported on the use of an Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grant from the Church of the Brethren for COVID-19 relief. A grant of \$12,000 to the Brethren in the DRC was given to provide emergency food to 550 households from five congregations and the communities around them. “We have the funds, we started already to distribute the relief to the people,” Lubungo wrote.

Santos Terrero of Iglesia de los Hermanos “Una Luz en las Naciones” (the Church of the Brethren in Spain) wrote from Gijón on April 3 to report on their situation. At the time, Spain had the second-highest number of deaths related to coronavirus and more than 10,000 people had died, second only to Italy among European countries in terms of fatalities caused by the virus.

On April 3, he wrote, “Authorities believe the virus is now peaking and say they expect to see a drop in figures in the days ahead.

“Spain’s streets have turned eerily empty since the government declared the state of emergency and imposed a nationwide lockdown for two weeks--aiming to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the country. Additionally, all educative centers, non-essential shops, bars, cafes, restaurants, stadiums, cinemas, and museums have been closed since March 14 but supermarkets, pharmacies, newsstands, and hairdressers are among the businesses that are allowed to remain open.”



Hand washing station in Nigeria



To go on line, or not on line.

As COVID-19 has swept through the world, churches have had to quickly figure out and decide what is best for their congregants in order to provide the support that is needed. The Stay-at-Home orders have made it difficult for many to meet and to provide services especially through Holy Week. We have truly proven that the church is much more than the building.

Mark Myers, of Little Swatara CoB, who has been assisting several congregations transitioning to online services, sums up what many of the ANE congregations are doing:

While some churches have been posting services, or portions, on line for some time, for others navigating the move is a new and challenging experience. The wide range of possibilities, from multiple possible live streams platforms for worship services, to Zoom and Microsoft Teams meetings, and more, can be confusing.

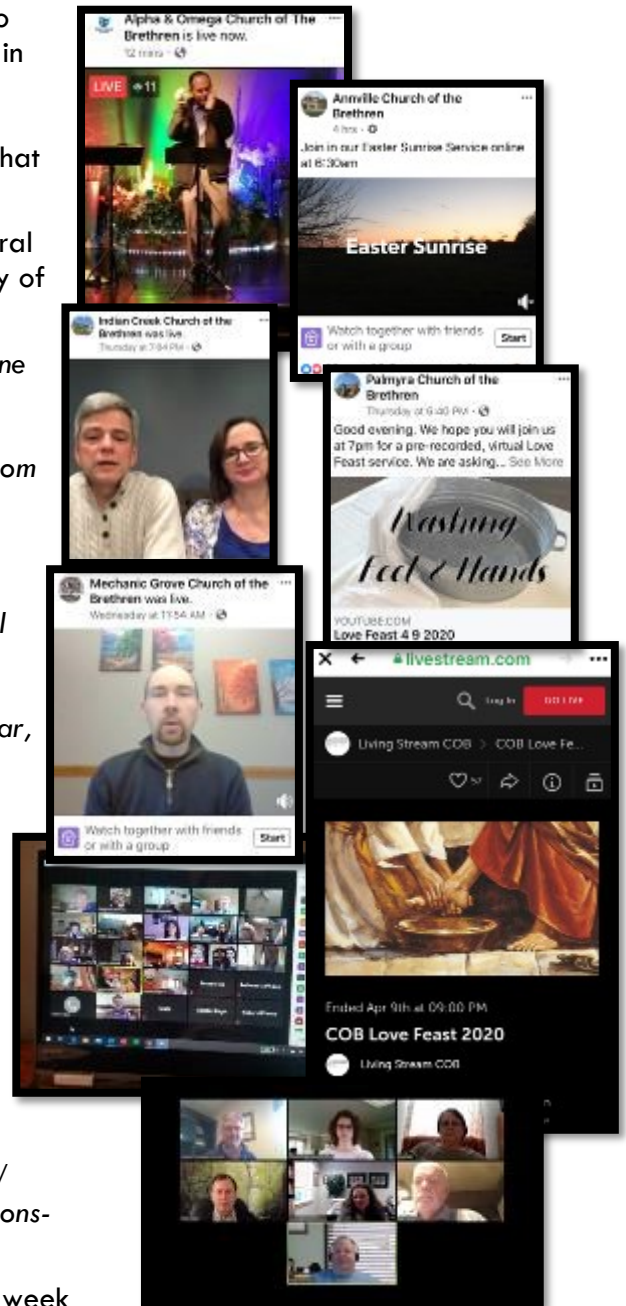
The Lancaster Church of the Brethren decided to present a service recorded Saturday morning. The Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren recently overhauled their video system, and presents a full service live, partnering with the Lititz COB, utilizing three cameras, and their entire ministerial and musical staff. The Little Swatara congregation has been live streaming for more than a year, and started with a single cell phone, but now uses two cameras, while Mohrsville and others post a recording of the Sunday sermon only. Nearly all congregations have moved ministry team, Sunday school, prayer sessions and more on line.

The Ambler congregation chose Zoom as a platform. Although a less polished presentation, it allows the congregation to view and interact with each other in real time. Pastor Enten Eller, however, is very familiar with both styles, as he is one of the primary ministers for the Living Stream COB – the denomination's only 'Web only' congregation, which uses a combination of live and recorded content for their Sunday evening services.

A listing of denominational on line services can be found at <http://www.brethren.org/news/2020/church-of-the-brethren-congregations-worship-online.html>

Some other things Pastors are doing to keep connected are mid week devotions, before or after live chats, online youth connections with games. For those not on the internet, sermons, announcements, scripture have been emailed or by USPS. The telephone has been another way to keep connected with many members. Parker Ford CoB has connected their most at risk families with another within the congregation so that they can make sure all their various needs are met— equipping the body to be empowered, and serving. Palmyra has a team formed for those who need grocery shopping done for them.

Congregations have also been reaching out to their communities— one member of Hanoverdale prepared and froze 100 meals for those in need, Annville established a free food table outside, many are making masks, and sharing resources for kids. This just touches a few outreaches, that our congregations are doing. Let us all keep being the body of Christ through this pandemic.





ANE District Continues to Serve and Operate During Stay at Home Order

As many have been navigating the how-tos of working from home, so has the District Office. The transition from office to home was easily made since all of the staff members already had the capability of logging into work from home. The District's phone service directs calls to our staff's email for you to leave a message, or staff can be reached by email.



Since March, the District Board has met via Zoom, and many of the District's Commissions and Committees have met online as well. Pete Kontra, District Executive, meets with pastors on a weekly basis, online, and also meets with our Hispanic and Latino pastors. The Way Forward Group, and Transition Team continue to do their work. Youth leaders have met together to discuss ways to minister to youth during this time through Zoom. The search process for pastoral placements continues, and the District Ministry Commission continues to have interviews for Licensing and Ordination. The Barnabas Team continues to carry on their application process. Any grant applications the District receives will be reviewed as normal.

The District Office has maintained a line of communication with church leadership regarding state and national information surrounding COVID-19 recommendations. Should you have questions, or need further support in any way, please let us know. We are here for you.

Life in the Body: Love Feast

Last week I was going to go shopping for groceries for myself and also to get a few things for someone else. I placed a bag by the door so that I could put my clothes in it when I got home. I had the cleanser ready next to it and planned to remove my shoes when I returned home. I planned to take a shower as soon as I got home. I thought I was ready and I was on my way out the door when I got an email and text, both, from Pastor Eric to please call him before I went out. I hesitated for a moment, because I really wanted to get to the store early. But I called.

He urged me not to go out, to let him do my shopping. I argued that it is as dangerous for him as for me, and he countered that I am in the most vulnerable age group. "Let me be your servant," he said. I

wanted to help myself, but after some more back and forth, and tears (mine), I let myself be persuaded to send him the list so that he could get the groceries and deliver them to me.

As I made a salad for supper that evening, and as I poured kefir on my cereal and added some blueberries for breakfast in the morning I thought this is truly a Love Feast, brought home to me by a brother in Christ who loves Jesus and cares for his people.

Our pastors are working very hard to care for us in circumstances that require new ways of ministering. I know that all of us are doing things, calling people on the phone, checking in to say hello, giving help as best we can, meeting together on zoom and signing into worship services on the computer or other devices. I



Stock Photo

am praying more and being more intentional in reaching out. I am memorizing scripture and I am sure that all of us are finding creative ways to put our love and faith into words and actions even while we have to maintain physical distance.

Love Feast is more than the symbolic reenactment of John 13 that many of our churches have two times a year, meaningful as those times are. But more than that, every time we love and serve others and every time we allow others to love and serve us we are living Love Feast.

~ Lisa Krieg, Lititz CoB



District Conference 2020

Brothers and Sisters, I pray that each of you are doing well and staying safe during these very unsettled times. As I write this article we are in the midst of the two week peak period for many areas of the COVID-19 virus. The numbers of those infected with the virus continues to rise, as does those who have lost their lives. We have not had Church Services for over a month and have found new ways to “do Church” and stay in touch with each other. Our meetings are now conducted by Zoom and we are reaching out to each other with emails, texts, phone calls and cards. Life is very different as we are confined to our homes. It is a very stressful time and I am sure many of us are wondering when this will end and what will the new “normal” will look for us. We miss our kids, our grandchildren, our friends and our Church Families.

The one constant we have in all of this is Jesus Christ. He is with each of us every step of the way during this time. He has not abandoned or forsaken us, His constant love and support surround us each day. His strength is what we can rely on – He carries us when we struggle and we are struggling. Take comfort in Him.

We continue to plan for our District Conference to be held on October 2 and 3, 2020 at the Leffler Chapel. On Friday evening, Eric Landram from the Lititz Church of the Brethren will bring the message. Our service project and offering will go to bcmPEACE, a faith-based organization in Harrisburg’s South Allison Hill neighborhood which is comprised of the largest concentration of low-income families between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.



Karen Hackett,
Moderator

During the day on Saturday there will be times of Worship among the business that we will conduct. The Program and Arrangements Committee is working hard to bring you an inspiring, meaningful Conference. I am very grateful to be working with a great Committee and Kelly Bernstein in the District Office.

Our theme for Conference this year is “Be Still and Know” from Psalm 46: verse 10. When I selected this theme my thought was that we are all so busy in our daily activities that we need to step back and take time to be with God. Little did I know that we now have a great deal of time to “Be Still and Know”. When we think about the ministry of our Lord, he was constantly surrounded by huge crowds of people and he traveled to many, many places to preach and teach and heal the sick. In his ministry when He was surrounded by the many demands that were being placed upon Him, He walked away – to spend time alone. How often do

we do that? Just take the time to “be still and know”. It is very difficult but is something we need to be intentional about. God is found in the silence of our lives when we retreat from the noise and the activities of our lives. “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in time of trouble... Be Still and Know that I am God.” Psalm 46: 1, 10; NIV)

I continue to pray for our District as we navigate these uncertain times in the midst of COVID-19. May God continue to bless each of you.

~Karen Hackett, Moderator



SAVE THE DATE!
ANNE DISTRICT CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2-3, 2020

ELIZABETHTOWN
COLLEGE

**REGISTRATION
OPENS**

July 1, 2020



Walk the Walk

**bcmPEACE needs you
now more than
ever!**



This is not advertising hype – we really do need your assistance to help bcmPEACE continue the good work in pursuing the things that make for peace! This includes helping kids and families on Allison Hill (Harrisburg, PA) have a fighting chance to succeed in a struggling community in so much need of God's Shalom.

Walk the walk! It is time to highlight our work in creating a healthy community. Although recent events surrounding COVID-19 means we will not be able to all walk together physically, but we can still walk where we are! We walk to bring attention to all the good work being done in the community as well as the work that still needs to be done.

Join us in creating a healthy community! Walk with us on May 16 or anytime that week and send us pictures and videos so we can share #whywewalk.

Register and/or Donate Online:

- On the bcmPEACE website, <http://www.bcm-pa.org> follow the link to register and/or donate directly on our page making sure to put "Highmark Walk" in the note
- or directly on the Highmark site, <http://hcf.convio.net/bcmpeace> - click on the big "Register" or "Donate" buttons at the top of the Highmark page, then follow the links.

Send a check to: Brethren Community Ministries
c/o Alyssa Parker, Operations Manager
219 Hummel Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Please note in your memo line: Highmark Walk

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40

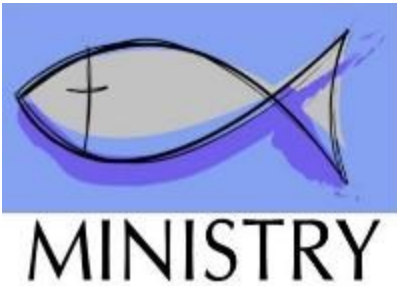


ANE District Prayer Requests:

As we all navigate through this tumultuous time, please remember the following in your continued prayers:

- All those suffering with the coronavirus and dealing with loss.
- Our pastors as they care for congregations.
- Chaplains as they care for our retirement communities.
- Prayers for the leaders of youth and children's ministries as they work to find new ways to minister to our young people.
- For congregations as they explore what it means to be the Church and in community beyond our four walls each Sunday.
- For our members who are alone and without technology.
- For guidance and wisdom for all our leaders.
- Prayers for our children and youth as they are living in a world without school and social events.

Ken Kreider is again offering transportation and room reservations for Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Leaving from Ephrata, Brethren Village, Elizabethtown, York First COB, and Carlisle on June 30, we will return home on July 6, 2020. For information and reservations please call Ken at 717-367-7622, email jkkreider@gmail.com, or write to him at 1300 Bear Creek Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.



Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations:

Naomi Kraenbring's (Elizabethtown) Ordination service was held on March 8. Kay Weaver, ANE Director of Stewardship, performed the service.



COVID-19 Resources and Links

Please check out our website (www.ane-cob.org) for links regarding the following topics, and to read email correspondence from the District.

This is not an all-inclusive list and we encourage you to speak with an accountant who specializes in church taxes for the best options to help your congregation's financial loss due to COVID-19.

[Paycheck Protection Plan Application](#)
[Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability](#)
[Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers](#)
[Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements](#)
[Crisis Hotlines](#)

Placement News

East Fairview: Bob Kettering serves as Interim. Search Committee formed.

Geiger Memorial: Open

Lebanon: Erv Huston will serve as Interim. Search Committee formed.

Lititz: Searching for Director of Youth Ministries

Mountville: Becky Fuchs retiring effective October 31. Search committee formed.

Mount Wilson: Donna Lefever-Hoover serves as Interim Pastor; Interviewing.

Myerstown: Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.

Paxton: Mary Etta Reinhart serves as Interim Pastor; search committee formed.

Swatara Hill: In negotiations.

Schuylkill: Search Committee forming.

Wilmington: Ruby Bean resigned effective May 31.

The 2020 Ordination Review is now underway. Letters and forms have been mailed out to ordained and retired ministers and their congregations for completion. Completed forms are due back to the District Office by July 15, 2020.

REMINDER

ANE DISTRICT—NEW MEMBERS

Little Swatara — *Baptism:* Cody Haag.



ANE New Church Start

In spite of COVID-19 the CCD&E along with ANE District Board continues forging ahead in its Planting of New Starts.

On March 17, the District Board formally approved a New Arabic Speaking Church Project located in Paramus, New Jersey. It's official name is **Light of the Gospel, New Jersey (LOGNJ)**. The Leaders are **Pastor Milad Samaan, Majed Hanna, and Brother Wael**.

I started connecting with Majed Hanna last fall regarding new church possibilities in ANE and the necessary Process for approval. After many conversations, emails and satisfactory completion of our New Church Processes Guide we agreed to meet at the District Office.



Our purpose was to have District Executive, Pete Kontra present, CCD&E members, Chair Andrew Hamilton, Tim Fleener, Scott Haldeman around the table. We physically wanted to relate to Brother's Wael, and Majed; also strengthening relationships, both sides asking questions of each that would help move this Project forward.

The CCD&E along with DE Pete Kontra agreed on February 19, 2020, that **LOGNJ** should be considered as a New Start in ANE.

Light of The Gospel New Jersey is a group of between 30-50 regular attendees and emanate from Syria, Jordan, Egypt and other parts of the Middle East. Arabic and English are the languages of choice.



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
& EVANGELISM

So Folks lets rejoice in this **Good News and welcome our Brothers and Sisters into the ANE family**.

~Don Mitchell, ANE Director of Church Development & Evangelism



Excellent continuing education events are being planned by the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center. Detailed information and registration forms are found 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).

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.



ANE Disaster Response and the COVID-19 Emergency



Due to the current COVID-19 emergency, all travel to Brethren Disaster Ministries work sites has been suspended until further notice. Groups who are committed to travel to BDM work sites later this year will hopefully be able to keep those commitments.

Brethren Disaster Ministries recently posted this information on their website:

The reopening date of the BDM Carolinas site has been suspended until May 3 and the Puerto Rico site to April 25. As was previously planned, the Tampa, Fla. site has closed and the location of Project 2 is officially scheduled to move to Dayton, Ohio for tornado recovery as soon as it is possible. However, the date of the new project opening will not happen until after May 2 or possibility later. That is due to all of the factors that are involved in the move from Florida to Ohio and setting up of a volunteer housing site that is delayed due to circumstances beyond our control around the coronavirus. All of the dates named

are, of course, subject to future change depending on CDC guidance, restrictions from local officials in the project site areas and other states, and the local BDM partners in those areas being willing to accept volunteers. We are in close contact with these partners

while monitoring when it will be acceptable to send volunteers without imposing any health concerns for our volunteers, the host community and most importantly the homeowners. If any further extension of these dates needs to be made in the coming weeks, it will be announced first with the groups and leaders on the schedule, and then publicly.



ANE Disaster Response—Tampa

I had the great opportunity to serve in Tampa this year with a great group of people from Springcreek COB. As I have been on a number of trips, each trip is special in different ways. One thing for sure, you will have a great time, make new friends and pick up new skills.

Please, if you have the opportunity to go on a Disaster Relief trip, no matter your skill level, God can use you in ways that will bless others.

Jim Heisey



Travel costs for ANE congregations who travel to BDM work sites under the coordination of our District Disaster Coordinator, Robert Eisemann, may be reimbursed by funds from the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction and the ANE District Helping Hands Benevolence Fund. For more information you may contact Robert Eisemann by phone at 717-733-7413 or email at rgeisemann@gmail.com or Mary Etta Reinhart, ANE District Director of Witness and Outreach by phone at 717-808-4306 or email at mreinhart@ane-cob.org.



HISTORICAL COMMITTEE



The Ephrata Cloister Connection to the Brethren

The historic Ephrata Cloister has ties to the Church of the Brethren. Conrad Beissel came to America from Germany in 1720 and lived among the Brethren in Germantown, prior to moving to Lancaster County to seek solitude and closeness to God. He was chosen by Peter Becker as pastor for the new Conestoga (Lancaster area) congregation in 1724, but he deviated theologically from his fellow Brethren. His belief in celibacy, asceticism, and the seventh day (Saturday) as the Sabbath caused Beissel to withdraw from the Brethren in 1728, with some members joining him to form what later became known as the Ephrata Cloister.

Thereafter, tension brewed within the Conestoga Congregation until, in 1734, a meeting was held in a barn on Rothsville Road. The legend, first written by Abraham Harley Cassel, is that a rail was laid on the dirt floor by Michael Frantz, giving members of the Conestoga congregation the choice of staying with the Brethren or going with Beissel.

Worship was frequent at the Cloister, and Love Feasts were held regularly. The Saal, or Meetinghouse, was built in 1741 and stands today. It adjoins the Sister's House. As the congregation dwindled in the early 20th century, the site was eventually purchased by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1938. Today it is operated as an interpretive site for tourists to learn about this unique utopian experiment.

Those who remained with the Conestoga congregation in the schism of 1734 continued to be led by Peter Becker, who had served as their pastor after the departure of Beissel in 1728. In 1735 Michael Frantz was ordained minister, and led the congregation until his death in 1748. The Conestoga congregation gave birth to the Tulpehocken Church in 1841, and divided into the Ephrata, Conestoga and West Conestoga congregations in 1864.



Historical Committee seeks members

The District Historical Committee's mission is to preserve our history and stimulate interest in local COB history. As amateur historians, we meet twice a year to plan projects and activities. We are seeking new members who have an interest in ANE Brethren history. Please contact Dave Fuchs at defuchs@comcast.net or 717-413-1388.



Youth Update



“It’s Challenging – How Can We Help?” was the title of the retreat held on Feb 28 and 29 for District Youth leaders. In addition to some great reflection, worship, and informative speakers, the plan for the event was to begin connecting our youth ministries and our youth leaders in ANE.

The Youth Leader Network Retreat welcomed almost 40 youth leaders from 14 different congregations. We shared in refreshing worship (Friday evening – Ephrata worship leader and Saturday morning – Un Nuevo Renacer praise and worship band), focused on discipleship from our speakers, attended 2 of 4 insight sessions and invited attenders to meet, greet and get to know each other.

The retreat featured wisdom shared from scripture and experience beginning the day hearing from Brian Messler on Discipleship Modeling. Brian’s experience in youth ministry at the Happy Corner COB in Ohio taught him much about growing and nurturing youth. One of several points, was understanding churches have 7 years with youth (from 6th grade to 12th grade) to offer what is necessary for youth to become lifetime seekers of Christ. Within those years, Youth ministries are challenged with our limited interaction time in the lives of our youth. Calvin Park shared insight on Moralistic Therapeutic Deism which has been a trending term for understanding today’s youth faith perspective. He took questions from the group about the challenges our ministries face. Additional workshops included Jamie Nace and Ryan Burkholder sharing information about keeping our youth safe from abuse. Megan Lester and Ryan Burkholder also shared discussion about youth curriculum.

The event was the culmination of work over the past year. Several youth leaders and pastors have been meeting to organize the event. Instrumental in the work were Ryan Burkholder (Youth Pastor Ephrata COB), Linda Dows-Byers (Director of Youth Ministries Lancaster COB), Ed Haldeman (Leader for the Sr High Youth Cabinet), Megan Lester (current Pastor at Brethren Village) and Chris Reinford (Youth Pastor Akron COB). Additional leaders involved in attending the meetings and planning have been, Ryan Braught, Jeff Keller, Gwendolyn Gerena, Jason Haldeman, Tom Ludwig, Matt Ross, Donna Percell, and Donna Lefever-Hoover representing the District Nurture Commission.

Many of our congregations don’t employ fulltime youth pastor leadership. Within the district, the leadership of youth ministry may be shared by volunteers, parents, part time youth directors, part time youth pastors, or a full-time youth pastors. The job of ministry to youth covers a range of events and activities including – spiritual mentoring, Sunday School teaching, National Youth Conference and work camp organizers, seeking volunteer help, fund raising and more. For those in a full-time

youth pastor role, they may be called to preach regularly and work to relate to the entire congregation. So, our call is diverse, and the task is not small. We want to form a network of leaders to share events, ideas, prayer concerns, joys, activities, educational materials and to support one another.

The connecting began with a few leaders on Facebook messenger and grew from there after a first meeting in January of 2019. We hope to begin helping to equip each other for the work in youth ministry. We hope this new network helps volunteer and vocational ministers alike. Everyone working in youth ministry is welcome to join the meetings and share in fulfilling the vision. Many of the retreat evaluations encouraged the work of the Youth Leader Network to continue. – so we hope to see you next year!

**Please visit
www.ane-cob.org/youth/ for
 resources to assist you with
 connecting with your youth
 group online during the
 COVID-19.**



ANE District Women's Fellowship

On Saturday morning, March 7, 2020, over 200 women from the Atlantic Northeast District gathered for the Women's Spring Fellowship entitled "Forgiveness and Hope".

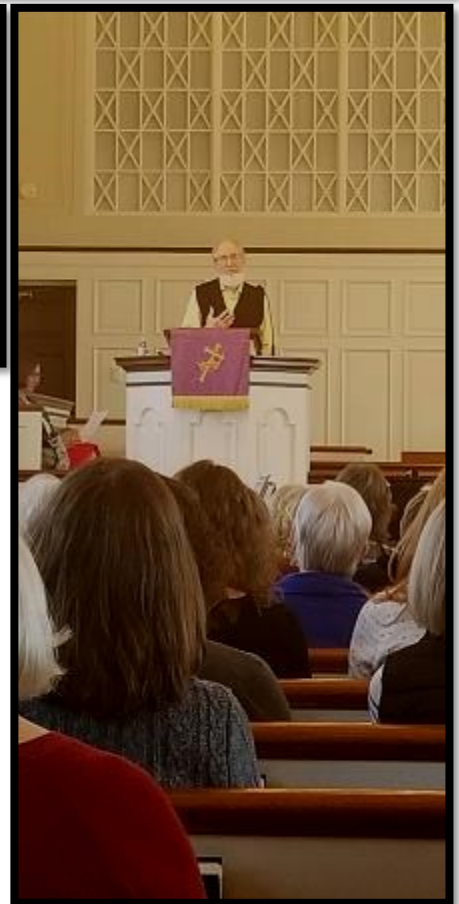
The event was hosted by the Mountville Church of the Brethren and the Speakers were Marie Monville and Donald Kraybill.

Marie Monville is an author and speaker and shared with us her story of forgiveness, healing, and the restoration that God has done in her life after her then-husband made the decision to hold an Amish School House hostage on the morning of August 2, 2006 in Nickel Mines, PA. She shared with us that there are days in our lives that do not always go as planned or envisioned. She said that God is good and faithful; he meets us where we are and walks with us every step of the way no matter what happens. Her story was one of unspeakable pain and brokenness and how God did not forsake or abandon her, her children or her family. Her message to us was one of grace, love, compassion mercy and forgiveness.

Donald Kraybill is an author and educator of Anabaptist faith and living. He is widely recognized for his studies on Anabaptist groups and considered the living expert on the Old Order Amish. He shared with us the reaction of the Amish to the events which took place at the School House. He stated that the Amish were able to offer forgiveness to Charles Roberts and show grace, compassion and love to his family. As the world watched what the Amish did, Don explained that their reaction of extending grace and forgiveness is who they are and who they have always been. He also shared that offering forgiveness is sometimes not an easy thing to do and is hard work that never ends and is easier said than done. He said that Jesus talks about forgiveness as a habit and we shouldn't count how many times we forgive, we should just do it. He said forgiveness matters because: it improves our mental health, we feel better and healthier and we are able to move on with our lives.

Our day together was very inspiring and meaningful. Many thanks to the Mountville Church of the Brethren, Pastor Fuchs, and on-site Coordinator, Nancy Hess for a warm welcome and delicious lunch. We are very grateful for each of you and the enormous amount of work you did to make the event so successful.

If you would like to read more of Marie Monville's story, her book is entitled "One Light Still Shines". Donald Kraybill's book, "Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy" which shares more about the Amish reaction to the tragedy and about forgiveness, pardon and reconciliation.





COBYS Family Services Celebrates 40 Years of Service to Children, Adults and Families



COBYS Family Services (COBYS), based in Lancaster County, hosted a 40th anniversary celebration banquet on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren, Lititz. Combined, more than 550 people attended two seatings of the event. The celebratory look at the evolution of COBYS included an emphasis on a continued commitment to provide transformative care to all people the organization assists through foster care, adoption, counseling and family life education programs throughout the region.

At the banquet, COBYS honored the service of Glen Faus, Chiques Church of the Brethren, who served as the first Executive Director of COBYS from 1980 – 2001. Additionally, Dennis and Ann Saylor, of West Green Tree Church of the Brethren, were honored for more than 32 years of service as Resource Parents to 116 foster children. They will be concluding their ministry in May.

COBYS' ministries have been delivered with compassion, dignity and hope to all they serve, no matter the circumstance. Recently, the organization has provided care to increasing numbers of children in foster care, many due to the opioid epidemic, provided kinship resources to extended family members raising grandchildren or other relatives. There has also been increased mental health services conducted with a focus on trauma-informed care and counseling.

A highlight of the event was revealing the number of people COBYS has served in its 40-year history. For perspective, by 2000 when COBYS celebrated its 20th anniversary it had served approximately 14,654 people. At the 40-year milestone in 2020, they have impacted the lives of approximately 61,564 people with unique services for children, adults and families. The organization is committed to providing life-changing care across its continuum of care.

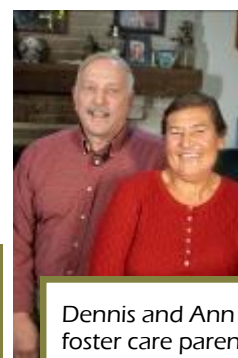
COBYS was founded by the Atlantic Northeast District in 1980 and maintains strong church and individual support from many across the area. The organization's motivation by Christian faith propels its mission to educate, support and empower children and adults to reach their full potential. According to Mark Cunningham, executive director, "Over forty years, our mission and guidance by Christian faith has remained the same, but it has been strengthened. Our level of care is the same, but renewed through deeper understanding and resources. Our focus has sharpened on treating each interaction, as if we are serving one child, one family."



COBYS staff members in 2019.



COBYS first executive director Glen Faus, (Photo Credit Mark Myers)



Dennis and Ann Saylor, foster care parents, were recognized for their extraordinary service to children in need, having fostered 116 children. (Photo credit Mark Myers)



COBYS Family Services revealed the number of unique points of services to children, adults and families provided over four decades – 61,564!



Church of the Brethren Youth Services (COBYS), staff photo in the early 1980s on the porch of their office building near Root's Market.



Alpha & Omega
Community Center

Invites you to:

**ANNUAL BANQUET
2020**

~~Saturday, April 25~~
Saturday, October 10

Doors open at 6:00pm

Join us for a delicious dinner
at the Florin COB

Come and hear how the Lord is
working in Lancaster through the
Alpha & Omega Community Center.

Guest Speaker: Joel Peña
(AOCC Executive Director)

Guest singers: Alpha & Omega
Worship Band from Lancaster

Attendance is free. All are welcome!
A love offering will be taken

Learn more about AOCC - Pray for this ministry - Support us - Be a blessing to others

FLORIN - Church of the Brethren - 815 Bruce Avenue, - Mount Joy, PA 17552

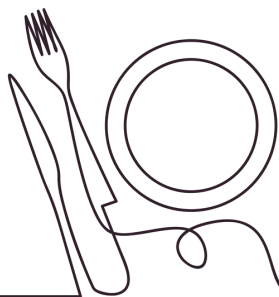
Phone: 717-394-3021 - Fax: 717-394-3021 - E-mail: joelpena25@gmail.com - www.alphayomega.us



FAITH & FINANCES

The District's Urban Ministries Initiative event on June 13 with Brethren Benefit Trust has been postponed to 2021.

We invited you to join us for a great event full of worship and learning. Until then, be safe, and we look forward to sharing this time together next year.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

55 PLUS FALL BANQUET

Yoder's Family Restaurant
New Holland, PA

OCTOBER 21, 2020



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 27
Monday, July 27
Monday, October 26

Applicants will be contacted within 10 days **following** the scheduled meeting. **Please contact the District Office for an Application.**



Global Leadership Network

Global Leadership Summit August 6 & 7, 2020

For the third year in a row, the ANE Nurture Commission is offering a group rate for the Global Leadership Summit of \$139, saving an individual up to \$80. Included with this rate is an ability to network with other CoB members on both days over lunch at the Manheim location, and up to 1.1 CEUs. For those attending not using the ANE Group rate, CEUs will be available for \$10.00. For those not close to Manheim PA, you can use this group rate at a location near you!

Faculty

The diverse Summit faculty* delivers a unique blend of vision, inspiration and practical skills you can immediately apply. (*Faculty lineup and topics subject to change—more faculty online.) **Craig Groeschel, Amy Edmondson, Kaka, T.D. Jakes, Beth Comstock, Marcus Buckingham, Nona Jones, Lysa Terkeurst.**



Craig Groeschel

To register using our group ticket rate, go to our website under Calendar/Events. To find out more about the Summit, go to <https://globalleadership.org/global-leadership-summit/>. Register Now! Hope to see you there!

**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 & Evangelism**

Donna Lefever-Hoover, **Volunteer Interim Director of Nurture**

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

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

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 July/August issue of ANE Today is June 15.
kbernstein@ane-cob.org