

To the Pastors and People of Mid-Atlantic District ...

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Merry is a word we don't hear or use much except at Christmastime. Merry – *cheerful, bright, high-spirited, lively*. Yes, I wish those things for you, but just lively enough – I like a Christmas nap, and I wish you a nap too. And a Happy New Year ... Happy – *showing pleasure, contentment*. Yes, I hope your new year will be happy. I could say “just enough challenge to keep it interesting,” but no, I'll just wish you happy, which is no small thing.

At this Christmastime as I reflect on the gifts I have received, two are especially bright, and for which I am particularly thankful: Your continued trust, support, and prayers – which I never take for granted, and your decision at District Conference to employ a half-time Manager of District Operations (MDO). The MDO is one of the best kinds of gifts because it's a gift which can benefit others. That's what I believe this added position will provide and what I want to see – more support and encouragement for the pastors, congregational leaders, and congregations of Mid-Atlantic District.

Speaking of words, my favorite Christmas word, from Matthew's account of Jesus' nativity, is *Emmanuel* (Mt 1:23), which Matthew tells us means, *God is with us*.

Emmanuel – God is with us, and that makes all the difference at Christmastime, and all the time. My Christmas prayer for you: May you feel the presence of Emmanuel, experience the love, peace, hope, and joy Emmanuel brings, at this Christmastime, and all through the year to come.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Remember Emmanuel,

Gene Hagenberger

District Executive Minister



Seeing the light of Christ reflected in the world, by you, throughout the year, is a blessing. I wish you, your family and friends a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jo Ann Landon

District Administrative Assistant

Congregational Survey (District Spirituality & Congregational Life Ministry Team)



Early this past summer, we invited input from each congregation so that our team could learn what is most needed and/or meaningful. **Thank you!** to all those who took time to respond.

For the three main topics surveyed, the interest level was as follows:

Deacon Training	65%
Day of Worship & Prayer	95%
Seminars on Spiritual Topics	78.94%

We currently are assisting the Compelling Vision Process Team in scheduling conversations in our District. As we conclude that effort, we will begin planning the Day(s) of Worship & Prayer – look for something in 2019. However, we also will keep the other two topics in mind for the future, along with possible needs in youth ministry, young adult ministry, and elder ministry.

Reminders:

- There is one remaining **Compelling Vision Session** on Saturday, January 12, 10 am to noon Pleasant Ridge Church of the Brethren in Needmore, PA.
- If your congregation hasn't already completed the **Church of the Brethren 2019 Self-allocation Form**, please complete and return it to the District Office.

Thank you



Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2019 Disaster Response Auction

The 39th Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on May 4, 2019 at 9 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland.

Information on booklet patron ads, page ads, and special items has been distributed to District churches.

Ask your coordinator for details.

FREE

- Hagerstown Church of the Brethren has used **choir robes** that are still in good shape that they would like to pass on to a new home. If you are interested in them, please be in touch with Pastor Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, 301-733-3565 or audreynhd@gmail.com.
- Two **wood communion cup holders** (each holds 48 disposable plastic cups) and one box of 1,000 disposable plastic cups. Please contact the District Office, 443-960-3052 or aamad@brethren.org

Brethren Disaster Ministries and Pacific Southwest District respond to California's Camp Fire

Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Pacific Southwest (PSW) district of the Church of the Brethren are working closely together to respond to this disaster. Children's Disaster Services (CDS) was requested by the State of California Emergency Services to serve the Camp Fire survivors in a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Chico. Eight volunteers were deployed on November 16 to provide childcare for families who visit the DRC in search of assistance to begin their process of recovery. The American Red Cross is providing some support to CDS on this deployment. Brethren Disaster Ministries is communicating with PSW District Executive Russ Matteson and with partner agencies on the ground to determine how it might respond in other ways. A long-term response, including rebuilding, will be needed.

Donations to support the Children's Disaster Services response and Brethren Disaster Ministries' long-term recovery response in Paradise, CA, and other areas in northern California impacted by the Camp Fire, can be sent to:

Emergency Disaster Fund
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120



The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Office is excited to release the 2019 workcamp dates and locations! A total of 18 different workcamps will be offered for junior high, senior high, and young adults.

To view the full schedule, which includes the dates, locations, cost, and description of each workcamp, visit www.brethren.org/workcamps/ schedule. Registration will open on January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm (central time). Please encourage the youth and young adults of your congregation to attend a workcamp this summer. If you have any questions or would like a 2019 workcamp brochure mailed to you, contact the Workcamp Office at cobworkcamps@brethren.org.



CANNED CHICKEN

2019 Canning Dates

April 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30 and May 1

See the EVENTS email for details.

Mid-Atlantic District CORE Ministry Team Mini-Grants

The CORE Ministry Team is tasked with Church Outreach, Renewal, and Evangelism (CORE). We recognize that many congregations may have ideas, but could utilize seed money in order to make those ideas reality. Thus, the CORE Mini-Grants were established to help facilitate projects related to congregational renewal, revitalization, and community outreach.

We generally ask that fund requests be capped at \$500 in order to spread our funds further (\$3,000 total to give out). However, we will consider fund requests up to \$1,000 if there is a detailed and engaging proposal.

Congregations are encouraged to think outside the box! What are some examples?

- Church outreach events (fun-focused, spiritual-focused, need-based, etc.)
- Website development
- Advertising or signage
- Communal spaces (gardens, play areas), and more.

Only complete applications will be considered. Apply online here:

https://umbc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74LJHCJTG5vEYYJ

Directory Changes

- Moler Ave. Church of the Brethren
church@moleravenue.com
- Charles (Butch) and Beth Reinhold
bbreinhold279@gmail.com

NOAC
September 2-6, 2019
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Reaching
across generations
beyond differences
through conflict
into joy

NOAC is an event for folks over fifty who want to worship, learn, reflect, pray, serve, rest, and fellowship in a beautiful setting. Registration opens in early 2019.

Go to
www.brethren.org/NOAC
for more information in December

Follow us on Facebook at
Church of the Brethren NOAC

Church of the Brethren

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Compelling Vision 10 am Easton COB
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Area One District Executives, District Office, 10am-noon			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Gene Hagenberger Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Vacation	District Office Closed through January 1, 2019	Office closed Merry Christmas	Office closed	Office closed	Office closed	Office closed
30	31	January 1, 2019				
Office closed	Office closed	Office closed				

LT - Leadership Team

CCMT - Calling & Credentialing Team

MITT - Ministry Interview Task Team

CETT - Continuing Education Task Team

CORE - Church Outreach, Renewal and
Evangelism Team

F & P - Finance and Property Team

O R & S - Outreach and Service Team

S & C L - Spirituality and Congregational
Life Team

LCT - Leadership Calling Team

P & A - Program and Arrangements

2019 Leadership Team Meeting Dates

January 26 (Snow Date February 9), April 13,
August 3, November 16



Is a picture of your church in the Church Directory section of the Mid-Atlantic District website? If not, please send a picture to the office, either as an email attachment or by mail.

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Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

19 Bond Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
443-960-3052
9 am to 1 pm Mon. - Fri.

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<http://www.madcob.com>