



First Signs of Spring

an original photo by Rev. Dr. Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, member of Oakton COB

**MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
EVENTS**

April 2026

Easter Party &

Egg Hunt

FREE
Fun For
Kids Ages
12 & Under!

Over 600
filled eggs!

Story
Time

Egg
Hunt
for
two
age
groups



Games

Easy
Crafts

Cup-
cakes

Saturday, April 4th

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Rain or shine; event will be indoors if it rains

Location: Welty Church of the Brethren
13465 Greensburg Rd., Smithsburg, MD

See Facebook event or call 301-824-3941 for more info.

The children's Easter party & egg hunt where Jesus is the reason.



EASTER
SONrise
SERVICE

APRIL 5, 2026 - 7:30AM

AT CAMP MARDELA

Fellowship Breakfast after service - 8am

301 DEEP SHORE ROAD, DENTON, MD



Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

**Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner
Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 6 p.m.
At Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821 Green Valley Road (Rt. 75) Monrovia, MD**

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship,
and auction of specialty food items co-hosted by
Union Bridge Church of the Brethren
Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

Tickets are \$35 per person

**Contact Jeff McKee before April 4, 2026 at
443-547-5958 or jeffmckee26@gmail.com**

Menu: Sara's Egg and Lettuce Salad, Ham Loaf,
Fried Shrimp, Vegetarian Pasta Casserole,
Candied Carrots, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Bean
Casserole, Pineapple Bread Casserole, Rolls &
Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or
abhuck1@gmail.com to provide specialty foods
(cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) to auction at
the Dinner

45th Annual
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response

Auction

www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction

Handmade
Quilts &
Comforters



Baked
Goods
Food & Gifts



Handcrafts,
Artwork &
Antiques



Plants, Tools,
Furniture
& more

May 2, 2026

Carroll County Agricultural Center - Shipley Arena
Westminster, Maryland

Sponsored by the Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District



APRIL 18 2026

301 DEEP SHORE RD
DENTON, MD 21629

8am-9am - Breakfast & Browse

9am-11am - Silent Auction

9am-1pm - Live Auction

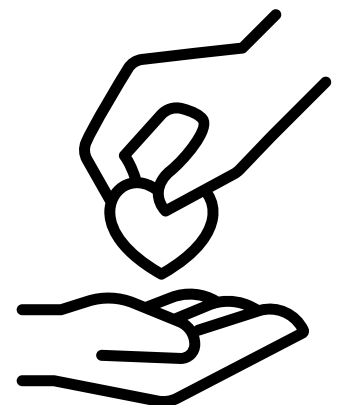
CAMP MARDELA BENEFIT AUCTION

FOOD STAND, BAKE
SALE, LIVE & SILENT
AUCTION

Support camp - shop for a cause!

Go to the link below for more info:

www.campmardela.org/camp-auction



CAMP AUCTION ADS & SPONSORSHIPS

AUCTION - APRIL 18, 2026 8AM-1PM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE - MARCH 26, 2026

PRINT & WEB AD BUNDLE: color b&w

1/4 page (2.5"x4" - (240x140px))	\$50	\$40
1/2 page (5.25"x4" - 485x285px)	\$100	\$80
Full page (5.25"x8.25" - 975x575px)	\$150	\$125

Pay online at
www.campmardela.org/camp-auction
or mail payment to the address listed:

SPONSORSHIPS:

Booster	\$1
Happy Hiker	\$5
Camper	\$10
CIT	\$50
Counselor	\$100
Lifeguard	\$250
Director	\$500
Campfire Storyteller	\$1,000

Ad/Sponsor Information:

Name/Business Name: _____

Ad/Sponsor Type: _____

Please ensure ad images (JPEG, PNG) are sent to campmardela@gmail.com

CAMP MARDELA	410-479-2861
www.campmardela.org	301 Deep Shore Road Denton, MD 21629

GENERAL DONATION INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

Purpose of Donation: _____

Donations to Camp Mardela, Inc. are tax deductible as a 501(c)3 non-profit under the Mid-Atlantic Church of the Brethren.

2026 Carroll County CROP Hunger
Walk

Sunday, April 19, at 1:45 pm

Union Bridge Church of the Brethren

Registration at 1:30 pm

CROP Hunger Walks are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to say NO to hunger, poverty, and injustice both locally AND around the world. Monies raised support Church World Service programs with 25% of the donations staying in Carroll County. Access Carroll, Shepherd's Staff and St James Lutheran Food Pantry were our 2025 local partners.

Last year the Carroll Country CROP Hunger Walk raised \$20,265 - our largest total in the last 20 years.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. "To do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone" is the guiding principle at the heart of CROP Hunger Walks.

Will you join us?

1. Everyone is invited to walk with us on April 19. We begin at the church, walk through the Union Bridge Town Park then return to the church for refreshment.
2. Walkers can seek sponsors to support their efforts to fight hunger. Materials from CWS will be available.
3. Your organization could consider donating to this community event. Checks payable to: CWS/CROP

Mail to: Brenda Palsgrove, Treasurer

2974 Union Square Road, New Windsor, MD 21776

Contact: Carroll County CROP Walk Planning Team members

Kaye Horr

410-635-28778 or khorr@verizon.net

Maryann Leckron

mleckron@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



CAMP MARDELA

CAMP BENEFIT AUCTION

APRIL 18TH, 8AM-1PM

Live & silent auction.
Bake sale & food stand.

Support by bidding,
donating items or with ads
or sponsorships.

campmardela.org/spring-camp-auctions

YARD SALE

MAY 16TH, 8AM-12PM

Shop for a cause! Find great
deals and support camp.

Shop on the day of, or reserve
your own 10' x 10' yard sale
space for \$15. There will be a
food stand open during the
whole event.

campmardela.org/yard-sale



CAMP APPRECIATION

JUNE 7TH, 5PM-8PM

Enjoy this FREE community
event and celebrate all of
the people who support
camp and make it possible.

A free meal will be served at
5pm, volunteer awards and
music will follow.

[campmardela.org/
appreciation-day](http://campmardela.org/appreciation-day)

301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton, MD 21629
campmardela@gmail.com | 410-479-2861
www.campmardela.org

Shepherd's Spring

REUNION AND VOLUNTEER DAY

Spreading the SS joy for future campers!

Come join us to catch up with old friends and help clean up Shepherd's Spring, which is still seeing the effects from COVID. Weeding, clearing brush, fixing the low ropes course, cleaning cabins and the pool house, clearing fire pits, working in the greenhouse, and more!



Saturday April 18, 2026

rain date: April 25, 2026

“Each one of us should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

Child care available!

Questions? Contact
Britnee Linton (301) 331-0635
or
Amanda Leiphart (240) 285-5529

Mountain View Church of the Brethren

Presents

A Training Workshop

**Deacon
Ministry**

in the

**Church
of the
Brethren**



Training provided by Rev. Jim Benedict

1997 Annual Conference Statement

April 25, 2026

10 AM—2 PM

Email pastormike@mtviewcob.com to register

Lunch will be provided

LEAD

LISTEN • EQUIP • ADAPT • DISCIPLE

CONFERENCE

May. 1-3, 2026

Ephrata Church of the Brethren
Ephrata, Pennsylvania

The Church of the Brethren L.E.A.D. Conference is a gathering space where congregational leaders, pastors, board members, deacons, Sunday School teachers, and others come together to Listen, Equip, Adapt, and Disciple as we learn side by side.

Rooted in our call to follow Jesus into our neighborhoods, this conference invites leaders to listen deeply to God, one another, and their communities; to be equipped with practical tools and fresh ideas; to adapt faithfully in a changing world; and to disciple others with courage and hope.

Join us for meaningful conversations, hands-on learning, and take-away resources you can put to work right away in your own ministry context as we grow into innovative, adaptable, and fearless disciples of Jesus.

Register NOW!

www.brethren.org/df/lead-conference

OPENING PREACHER

Michaela Alphonse is a member and pastor of Miami First Church of the Brethren in Miami, Florida. Throughout her life, she has worked with children and youth in the public school system. Michaela is currently serving as a member of Mission and Ministry Board, as the lead for the Atlantic Southeast District Program Team, and as a member of PACT Miami. She loves to sing, dance, read, and go exploring. Michaela is married to Ilexene Alphonse. They have one daughter.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tod Bolsinger, MDiv, PhD, the co-owner and principal of Sloan Leadership, Inc, an executive coaching and consulting firm that works with church, non-profit, and marketplace leaders in leading change. He is also the Executive Director of the De Pree Center Church Leadership Institute, a Senior Fellow of the De Pree Center for Leadership, and Associate Professor of Leadership Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary, was the founder of the Fuller Leadership Platform, an innovative approach to online formation and leadership development, and served as a Vice President of Fuller Seminary for six years. Prior to his educational career, he served as a pastor for 27 years. Tod is the author of five books, including the Outreach Magazine Resource of the Year in pastoral leadership, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, the Christian Book Award Finalist, *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*, and *The Practicing Change Series*



BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS



Audrey



Brian



Carl



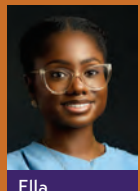
Cesia



Dave



Dean



Ella



Ever



Founa



Ilexene



James



Jeff



Laura



Lidia



Lupita



Nate



Nevin



Paul



Randall



Richard



Ryan



Tina



Vildor



Early registration through March 31 is \$99 per person/\$79 per person for 5 or more from the same congregation and \$49 for virtual attendees. After March 31st, registration increases \$140 in person and \$75 for virtual attendees.

Note: Virtual attendees will be able to attend the sermons, keynotes addresses, and breakout sessions that occur in the sanctuary, but will not be able to attend breakout sessions held in other rooms.

CEUs are available - \$10 fee required.



Church of the Brethren

Sponsored by Discipleship & Leadership Formation

For information email DLF@brethren.org

*Glade Valley Church of the Brethren
2 Chapel Place – PO Box 690
Walkersville, MD 21793
Telephone: 301-898-0886*



*Our mission is to serve, support,
and equip our community
to share Christ's love.*

Glade Valley Church of the Brethren will be at:

Walkersville Pop Up on Penn

34 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

Walkersville, MD 21793

(behind the train station)

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 10am – 3pm

Come see all the vendors and stop by to say hello!

**Parking is available on Mill Street, behind the Train
Museum.**

**GVCOB will be providing goodies for a Bake Sale
and clothes from our Community Pantry and
Clothes Closet**

*The Glade Valley Church of the Brethren seeks to:
Come together joyfully in Christ – Include all people – Provide spiritual refreshment – Equip one another
for God's service*

NEW DATE for Ventures Course “God’s Earth, Our Home”

The Ventures in Christian Discipleship course previously set for March 28, “God’s Earth, Our Home: Engaging Creation Care through Faith,” has been moved to **Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Central Time**. The course will be presented online by David Radcliff, director of New Community Project.

Course Description: Join a discussion about the place of creation care in Christian theology and action. The environmental crisis is real, and a threat not only to our own current health and well-being, but to the vitality of all of lifeforms, and to the viability of future generations. But does our faith have anything to say in this situation? It often seems that the church has found ways to avoid taking this crisis seriously for all manner of reasons that we will explore. We will look at pertinent biblical texts, including the teachings of Jesus, and reflect on Brethren history and current practice. We will also virtually visit parts of the world that are on the front lines of this crisis to see how it is impacting our neighbors and our neighborhood.

David Radcliff is Director of the New Community Project (NCP), a small organization with a big goal: to change the world. NCP focuses on human justice, care for creation, and experiential learning. David has served in various roles in the Church of the Brethren over the years, including as a pastor, as Director of Brethren Witness for 15 years, and occasionally as a writer for study guides. He and others launched NCP in 2003. David is a graduate of Bridgewater College and Bethany Theological Seminary, where he earned Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry (peace studies) degrees. He lives in Blue Ridge, Virginia, where he is a member of the Blue Ridge Church of the Brethren, and travels mostly by bicycle.

Continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. During the registration process, you will have the opportunity to pay for CEUs and give an optional donation to the Ventures program.

To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit www.mcpherson.edu/ventures.

CAMP MARDELA 2026



AGE RANGES - WINTER:
CURRENT GRADE

WINTER RETREATS

STANDARD
CAMP
FEE

EARLY BIRD
(BEFORE
JAN. 1)*

FEB. 6-8

Jr. High Retreat - 6th-8th Grade

\$110

\$95

FEB. 21

Mini Day Retreat - 2nd-3rd Grade

\$40

\$35

MAR. 6-8

Twix Retreat - 4th-5th Grade

\$110

\$95



AGE RANGES - SUMMER:
GRADE COMPLETED JUNE 2026

SUMMER CAMPS

STANDARD
CAMP
FEE

EARLY BIRD
(BEFORE
MAY 1)*

JUN. 28-JUL. 3

Jr. High Camp - 7th-9th Grade

\$400

\$340

JUL. 5-7

Mini Camp - 1st-2nd Grade
Overnight
Day Only

\$250

\$215

\$125

\$107.50

JUL. 10-11

Me & You Camp - K-1st + 1 Adult

\$200

\$170

JUL. 12-16

Twix Camp - 3rd-4th Grade

\$350

\$300

JUL. 19-24

The Wild - 5th-7th Grade

\$400

\$340

JUL. 26-31

Creative Arts - 4th-6th Grade
Youth Trip Camp - 8th-12th Grade

\$400

\$340

\$500

\$425

JUL. 27-31

Day Camp - 2nd-4th Grade

\$250

\$215



MINIMUM REGISTRATION: DAY CAMPS/RETREATS - 8 CAMPERS | OVERNIGHT CAMPS - 10 CAMPERS
CAMP REGISTRATION CLOSES 14 DAYS BEFORE START OF CAMP.

Register online at www.campmardela.org/camp-programs

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center invites you to SAVE THESE DATES



The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center will offer several enriching Continuing Education Zoom sessions in 2026 led by Julie Guistwite (bio below). Registration is currently open for the session on January 22. Registration for the other sessions will be available soon. For now, please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information on these and other events in 2026.

Julie A. Guistwite, PhD, LSW, FT, CSWM Ripple of Light Bereavement Resource Center, LLC Dr. Julie A. Guistwite, LSW is the owner of Ripple of Light Bereavement Resource Center, LLC. She is an Advanced Certified Thanatologist and Certified Social Work Manager with 15 years of practice experience in healthcare settings including palliative care, hospice, and funeral home. Dr. Guistwite holds over 10 years of palliative and end-of-life care educator expertise in academic, continuing education, and community settings. She authored a Master's Level Social Work Certificate in Holistic Bereavement Care and undergraduate level palliative care course. Dr. Guistwite has worked with Penn State's Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Project ECHO. She teaches undergraduate courses in palliative care, end-of-life issues, older adults, and health policy. She developed the first scale to evaluate and refine social workers' expertise in death, dying, and bereavement care. Areas of expertise include spirituality, thanatology, older adults, healthcare equity, and palliative care. She is passionate about improving the well-being of individuals/families through advancing providers' excellence in serious illness, end-of-life, and grief care delivery.

Identifying and Responding to Suicide Risk ([Register Here](#))
January 22, 2026, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

Registration will be open SOON for the following:

Spiritual Well-Being; Strengthening & Refining:
February 17, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

Congregational Ministry to Members Navigating Divorce Experiences:
June 3, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

Caring for Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions:
October 6, 2026 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (Zoom)

Supporting Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions (this session is designed for laity):
October 29, 2026 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Zoom)

2026 FaithX

SERVICE TRIPS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

Serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, learn and live in community, build relationships, experience a new place, and explore your faith!

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH

(6th grade-age 19)

June 9-14: University Park, MD

June 14-19: Winston-Salem, NC

June 21-26: Keezletown, VA
(Camp Brethren Heights)

July 5-10: Hershey, PA

ADULT

(ages 18+)

June 14-22: Northern Ireland

WE ARE ABLE

July 13-16: Sturgis, MI

CUSTOM

Contact us to discuss:
faithx@brethren.org



Registration closes April 1 - Sign up now!

Details & Registration
at www.brethren.org/faithx

A Ministry of the Church of the Brethren

SONG AND STORY FEST LEADERS!

July 5 - 11, 2026

Inspiration Hills Camp
Burbank, Ohio

STORYTELLERS

- Susan Boyer
- Anna Lisa Gross
- Jim Lehman
- Doe Hoyer
- Deanna Brown
- Kathy Guisewite
- Jonathan Hunter

MUSICIANS

- Rhonda & Greg Baker
- Louise Brodie
- Friends with the Weather
- Tim & Byron Joseph & Marlene Wood
- Erin & Cody Flory Robertson
- Hannah Button-Harrison
- Mike Stern

Song and Story Fest registration is now open. You can access all the info about this coming year's Song and Story Fest at:

[On Earth Peace Event Page for Song and Story Fest](#) (all the info is here, but you can also access things individually:

- [Brochure](#)
- [Registration Form](#)
- [Poster with all the leaders' names](#)

Please note: We've added more detail to the online registration form about which meals and nights you'll be present for. We always need to know that information so we can work out finances with the host camp, but having it on the form will reduce the time we spend figuring all of that out.

A request: If any members of your family will have slightly different arrival and departure times - therefore different numbers of meals and/or nights at the camp - *please have those individuals register separately*. It will help us a lot. Thank you!

National Youth Conference

Light within US

—Matthew 5:14-16



July 18 - 23, 2026



YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO



Registration opens January 5, 2026



www.brethren.org/nyc

National Youth Conference (NYC) provides young people in high school and the first year of college (or are age equivalent) and their advisors the chance to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation, and more!



National Youth Conference 2026

Registration (which includes fun & faith-centered activities from 7 a.m. to midnight for 5 days – all in the heart of the Rocky Mountains!) opens January 5 and closes June 30, 2026.

Registration Fees

Early Bird (January and February): \$625

Regular (March & April): \$650

Late (May & June): \$675

Non-Refundable Deposit (due within 2 weeks of registering): \$325

Intercultural scholarships available

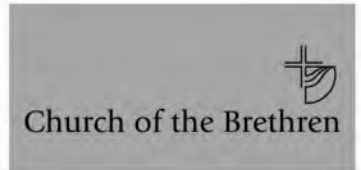


Photo Credits: Glenn Riegel & Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford

Congregations, please note:

All youth must be accompanied by an adult advisor, age 22 or older. Please send at least one advisor; the advisor to youth ratio for your group should be one advisor per four youth. Due to housing supervision, please send female and male advisors if your group includes female and male youth. NYC cannot accommodate children of participants, advisors, and staff who are not eligible to attend as participants.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE MEALS

The Mid-Atlantic District will be partnering with some of the SO PA District congregations who are willing to prepare a meal for approximately 30 people for lunch with a light snack.

Please contact your district office if your congregation is willing to provide a meal or funds.

The Meat Canning Committee is very grateful to the congregations that provide the meals and funds.

Disclaimer: All info is as of the date of publication; times, needs, restrictions, etc. may change between now and April. Please volunteer and know that we will contact you with updates if necessary. Thanks!

HOTELS IN CAM AREA

Econolodge

2031 N Reading Rd,
Denver 717-336-7000

Comfort Inn

1 Denver Rd, Denver
717-336-7541

Hampton Inn & Suites

380 E Main St., Ephrata
717-733-0661

2026 Meat Canning Committee

Mid-Atlantic District

19 Bond St, Westminster, MD 21157 443-960-3052

aamad@brethren.org

Lou

Steve Horr

Brenda Thomasson

Doug Veal, DEM

Southern PA District

3375 Carlisle Road Suite A, Gardners, PA 17324

717-778-2254

Ralph Miller

Clarence Stouffer

Roger Turner

Kim Geisewite

Beth Nonemaker,

SOPA District Witness Commission Chair

Georgia R. Markey, *Interim DEM*

gmarkey@brethren.org

Directions to Christian Aid Ministries

2412 Division Highway, Ephrata, PA

717-354-2434

From Lancaster: Go north on Rt. 222 to Rt. 322. Go approximately 4 miles east on Rt. 322 to Christian Aid Ministries. Facility is on the left.



From York: Take Rt. 30 east to Rt. 222 North, then follow the above directions.

Meat Canning Project



4 Days

April 6 - 9

Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries

Sponsored by:
**Southern PA &
Mid-Atlantic Districts COB**

"I was hungry and
you gave Me food"

Matthew 25:35



This quote from Jesus' story about the last judgment is a reminder that we render service to God even as we respond to human need. The spirit of generous sharing, and the hunger that exists in many parts of the world comes together in our Meat Canning project.

For the 48th year, the Mid-Atlantic and SO PA Districts are co-sponsoring a Meat Canning project which previously has enjoyed a generous response and enthusiastic support. The project is scheduled for April 6 - 9, 2026 at the Christian Aid Ministries facility.



Starting funds are good, but we need to raise money if we intend to meet our goal; excess money is held for next year's event. Expenses include the cost of the chicken, use of CAM's facility, labels, boxes, miscellaneous supplies, as well as shipping costs, when applicable. Congregations are encouraged to take offerings during January, February, March and April for this ministry of sharing and to forward these funds to their respective District Office.

The Meat Canning Project is a great way for us to minister to those in need during these difficult economic and disaster-ridden times.

As in the past, a portion of the meat from this project will be provided to both Districts to be shared with local food banks and meal programs. The Meat Canning Committee has decided to wait until Spring 2026 to determine how a donation of meat or funds will be made to denominational ministries.

In order for the committee to provide adequate help for each shift, it is important that you inform your District Office ASAP when you will be available to volunteer.

- Mid-Atlantic District 443-960-3052
- Southern PA District 570-295-9879
717-778-2254

Shift assignments will be made by the District Offices on a first-come-basis. Once you have pledged volunteers, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING REPLACEMENTS**

if you are unable to fulfill your commitment.

No shows create schedule problems and an increase in inspector fees.



Daily Work Schedule & Responsibilities

Shift #1 - 7:15 a.m. to NOON

Assist in starting the day's process, participate in the cutting, canning and labeling. (15 volunteers needed)

Shift #2 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Participate in the total process of the program. (10 volunteers needed)

CAM Requirements

First and foremost, it is the desire of CAM to honor and glorify God. We appreciate all the people that are volunteering their time and effort at the Ephrata warehouse. We kindly request that the following guidelines be respected.

- Parents should share with CAM the responsibility for the safety of their youth.
- Proper use and respect for equipment and reasonable care for the building.

• **Girls/women must wear a dress or skirt at the knee. No low-cut tops. Skirts are provided if you wear pants, it can be worn over your pants.**

• **Men/boys must wear long pants and shirts with sleeves. No shorts or Tank Tops!**

Note: Room temperature is 55 degrees, dress accordingly.

- NO SMOKING or TOBACCO use.
- NO CHEWING GUM.
- NO use of foul language.