



"Carroll County Awakens"
Original Painting by William Weaver, Westminster Church of the Brethren

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
EVENTS

March 2026



WHAT A DEAL!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS
OUT ON THIS GREAT DEAL!

For a limited time and space, enjoy these wonderful discounted prices on your own retreat! Booking now for January through March, Mon-Wed retreats only. Must have a minimum headcount of 25.

Cozy home-style meals.
Beautiful, relaxing nature.



2 NIGHTS AND 5 MEALS

- Single Occupancy: \$150.00 per person
- Double Occupancy: \$130.00 per person
- Triple Occupancy: \$115.00 per person

BOOK NOW: RETREATS@SHEPHERDSSPRING.ORG

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2026 Disaster Response Auction



The 45th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026, beginning at 9:00 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. Your support will enable us to provide even more assistance to more disaster survivors this year.

In 2025, a record high of \$96,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2025 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts and more:

- California Wildfires
- Israel-Hamas War response in Gaza and West Bank
- Tennessee - Hurricane Helene Response – Rebuilding
- Hurricane Melissa Response in Cuba
- Summer 2022 Flooding Response in Kentucky
- Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda Churches
- Venezuela Flooding Response
- Deportation Defense Response
- South Sudan Church of the Brethren Mission
- Ecuador Humanitarian Relief
- Nigeria Crisis Response
- Child Life Disaster Relief
- Ukraine Response

Your local church is an important part of this effort!

Here are ways you can help make the auction a success.

- Create craft items
- Donate baked goods
- Donate plants, shrubs and trees
- Assemble gift baskets
- Attend the Auction Benefit Dinner Saturday, April 11, 6pm, Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
<http://www.madcob.com/event/auction-benefit-dinner-2/>
- Hold a fundraiser to support the auction
- Volunteer to help
- Publicize and attend the Auction!

Thank you for your continued support of our Disaster Response Auction!

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Receive support for the upcoming Lenten Season through two upcoming continuing education opportunities offered by the
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center:

Love Feast: Past, Present, Future

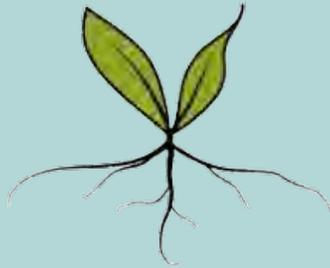
*March 13, 2026: 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Cross Keys Village
(New Oxford, PA - NO ZOOM)*

Get back to Love Feast basics with Dr. Denise Kettering-Lane, Associate Professor of Brethren Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary. As you prepare for Love Feast this year, root yourself in the historical practices of the Brethren, and explore what new and exciting ways Love Feast can be adapted or revitalized in your own congregation.

REGISTER HERE!

Visit our website at: www.ETOWN.EDU/svmc.

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)

Turkey, FRIED Oyster & Country Ham Dinner

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821A Green Valley Road, Monrovia, Maryland 21770
Rt. 75 Between Rt. 80 and Monrovia
301-865-3013



Saturday, March 28, 2026



12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Menu includes mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, cranberry sauce, dressing, cole slaw, rolls, butter, ice tea, hot tea and coffee. (in-house menu)

Adults - \$35 *

Cash or check only – no credit cards

Children 6 – 12 - \$12 Under 6 – Free

Carry-Out - \$31

Ticket sales begin @ 11 am.

***Subject to change depending upon market price of oysters**



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



APRIL 18 2026

301 DEEP SHORE RD
DENTON, MD 21629

8am-9am - Breakfast & Browse

9am-11am - Silent Auction

9am-1pm - Live Auction

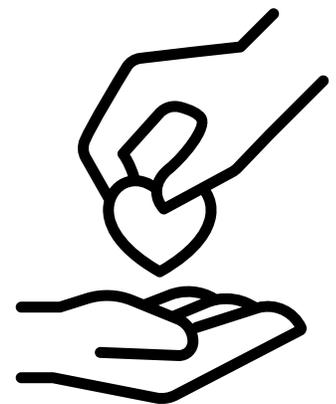
CAMP MARDELA BENEFIT AUCTION

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 PROGRAMS



CAMP MARDELA

JR. HIGH RETREAT

FEBRUARY 6TH - 8TH

GRADES 6-8

Camp Tuition - \$110

Enjoy classic camp activities, as well as new winter activities like skating and staying in the King Retreat Center!

www.campmardela.org/camp-programs/retreats

MINI DAY RETREAT

FEBRUARY 21ST, 8AM-8PM

GRADES 2-3

Camp Tuition - \$35

This day winter retreat is great for campers who want to come to camp, but prefer day camp programming

www.campmardela.org/camp-programs/retreats



TWIX RETREAT

MARCH 6TH - 8TH

GRADES 4-5

Camp Tuition - \$110

You don't have to wait for summer to enjoy fun at camp!

www.campmardela.org/camp-programs/retreats

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

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	\$250	\$215
	Overnight Day Only	\$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	\$400	\$340
	Youth Trip Camp - 8th-12th Grade	\$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



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 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

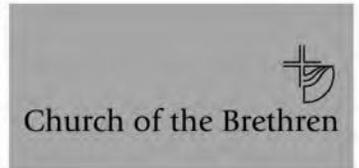


Photo Credits: Glenn Riegel & Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford

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.