



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
EVENTS

Original photo by Regina Holmes, Midland COB

July 2026

Welty Church of the Brethren
13465 Greensburg Rd Smithsburg, MD

JULY 13 - 17

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

VBS For K - Elementary School Age



Register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/welty>
or scan the QR code →

Look for our Welty Church of the Brethren
Facebook Event! Questions? 301-824-3941



Monday Evening:

Get-acquainted Activities
Music with Phyllis and Rusty
Ice Cream Social

Friday Morning:

Closing activities and dismissal

Other Available Activities:

Coloring Cards
Alone Time/Napping
Crafts
Disc Golf
Four Square
Games
Hiking
Quilting
Prayer Trail
Puzzles
Visit with Friends
Zentangles

This is your retreat - choose the activities that interest you.

Music Leaders:

Phyllis Dodd & Rusty Curling

Older Adult Planning Committee:

Bonnie Cheshire melvinch@aol.com
Everett Fisher everett@woodfish.net
Brenda Palsgrove brendapalsgrove@gmail.com

Registration includes 11 meals, 4 nights lodging, and program costs:

Lodge - \$400/person
Cabins - \$350/person
Tent - \$250/person

Day only attendance:

\$200/person (for whole retreat)
\$45/person/day (incl 2 meals)

Register at: <https://shepherdsspring.campbrainregistration.com/>



Located near Sharpsburg, MD, this retreat, camp, and global village center is a place where people of all ages come to unplug, reconnect, and grow together. Set on 220 acres of rolling land and wooded trails, this Church of the Brethren Camp has provided a welcoming space for the past 36 years.



CREATING PEACE . . .

Mid-Atlantic District
Older Adult Retreat
(50 and older)

Monday, September 14, 2026

Check in: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Friday, September 18, 2026

10:00 am retreat ends



Tuesday, September 15
Creating Peace with Neighbors



Resource Leader: Phyllis Dodd, LCSW
Phyllis (Yvonne) Dodd lives in Greensboro, Maryland and is in private practice as a Licensed Bilingual Clinical Social Worker. She works primarily with Latino families in the area of domestic violence and childhood sexual abuse. Phyllis is a graduate of Juniata College, spending her junior year abroad in Barcelona, Spain through Brethren Colleges Abroad. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador and has continued to build her social work skills over the years. She completed her Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Phyllis has written a book: *Love Has No Borders*.

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- 9:30am •Morning Session
- 1:15pm •Field trip to Dunker Church – Dennis Frye
- Global Village Tour – J. Clister
- Service Project
- 3:30pm •Trauma Art – P. Dodd
- 6:30pm •Fundraising Walk Supporting Deportation Defense Fund or Shepherd's Spring
- 8:00pm •Campfire

Wednesday, September 16
Creating Peace with Creation



Resource Leader: Doug Ruby
Doug Ruby lives in Rockingham, Virginia and taught undergraduate and graduate ecology courses for 39 years. His outdoor teaching experience started at Camp Swatara while in college. He has been a naturalist, nature program leader or resource person over many years for Camp Swatara, Camp Mardela and Shepherd's Spring. He is an avid birder and has led adult birding events with his wife Sally for more than 40 years. He graduated from Gettysburg College and earned a doctorate in Zoology at the University of Michigan. Doug grew up in the Westminster Church of the Brethren.

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- 7:00am •Birding – D. Ruby
- 9:30am •Morning Session
- 1:15pm •Presentation & Seed Collecting – Antietam Conococheague Creek Watershed Alliance – Susan Simonson
- C&O Canal Hike – D. Ruby
- Service Project
- 3:30pm •Hidden Life of Trees – J. Clister
- 6:30pm •Evening Birding – D. Ruby
- 8:00pm •Campfire
- 8:30pm •Night Hike – Dave Evason
- Stargazing – D. Ruby

Thursday, September 17
Creating Peace with Ourselves



Resource Leader: Judith Clister
Judith Clister lives in Bruceton Mills, WV. She is a retired public elementary school teacher and counselor. Judith is an ordained pastor and spiritual companion. She received spiritual formation training from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. She worked thirty plus years at Shepherd's Spring where she served as nature director, counselor and director. Judith now volunteers at the West Virginia Botanic Garden leading tours and nature and labyrinth walks. She is a member of the West Virginia Storytellers Guild with a specialty in Celtic stories. Judith has written two books of prose and poetry: *Lessons in Little Things* and *Connections*.

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- 7:00am •Birding – D. Ruby
- 9:30am •Morning Session
- 1:15pm •Meditation at Labyrinth – Sandi Evans Rogers
- Drum Circle – J. Clister
- Service Project
- 3:30pm •Guided Nature Walk – J. Clister
- 6:30pm •Hike – D. Evason
- 8:00pm •Campfire – Celtic Music and Storytelling–J. Clister, P. Dodd, R. Curling

Sunday, September 20, 2025

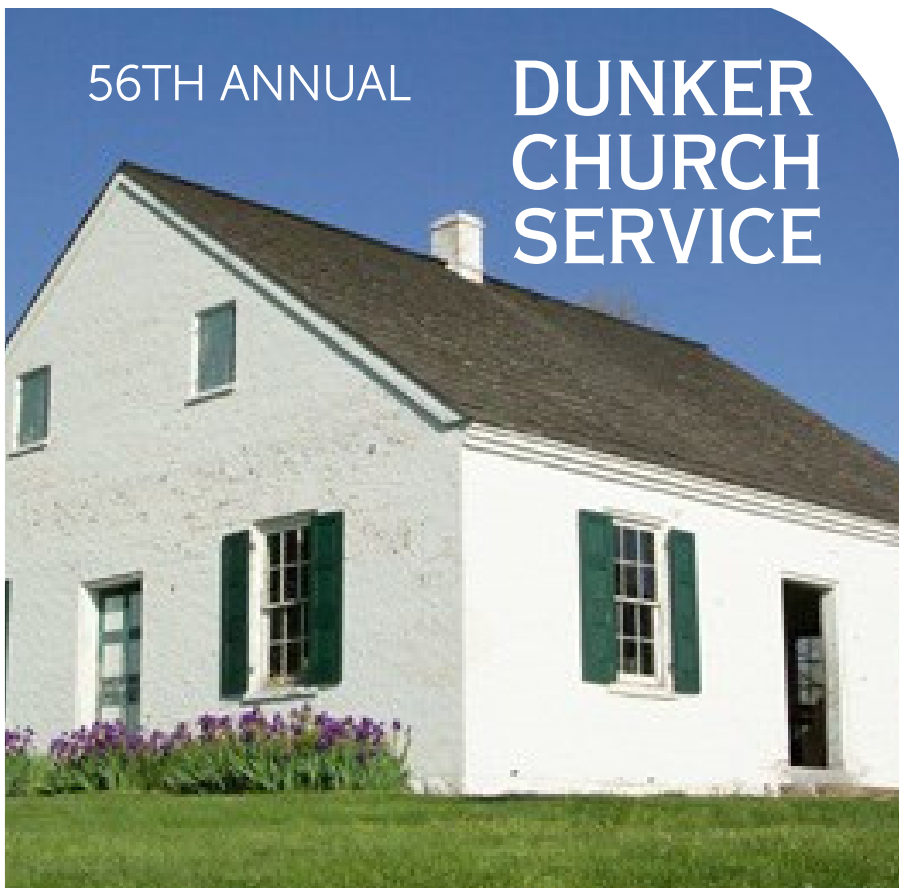
3:00 pm

at the little white "Dunker Church"

Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD

56TH ANNUAL

**DUNKER
CHURCH
SERVICE**



Hymns, sharing of scripture, special music and readings, prayers and a message by Guest Speaker Denise Kettering-Lane, associate professor of Brethren Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US.



Roman's 14:10-13

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable. 13 Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister.

Conference Emblem by CJ Bowman

2026 Mid-Atlantic

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

October 9 & 10

CAMP MARDELA

301 Deep Shore Rd., Denton, MD 21629-3408

FRIDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

Campfire Songs • Inspirational Stories • S'mores!

More information to follow as available

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

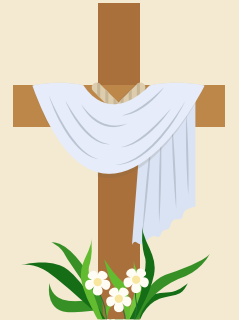
EARLY BIRD
(BEFORE
MAY 1)*

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



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

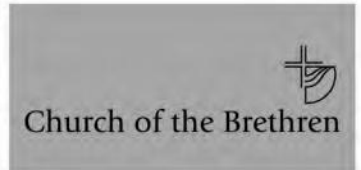


Photo Credits: Glenn Riegel & Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford

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.



Camp Blue Diamond - Program Director



Camp Blue Diamond is a 238-acre Christian retreat center, summer camp, and family campground nestled within the Rothrock State Forest near Petersburg, PA.

The mission of Camp Blue Diamond is to encourage discipleship of Jesus Christ and to facilitate growth and healing in each person's relationship with God, others, themselves, and the created world through providing summer camp and retreats for the children, youth, and adults of Middle PA District Church of the Brethren, and providing rental facilities to other organizations and Christian churches.

We are seeking a gifted, Christ-centered leader with a passion for outdoor ministry to oversee all aspects of camp maintenance. The Facilities Director is responsible for the year-round maintenance, safety, and operational readiness of Camp Blue Diamond's physical assets, including buildings, grounds, vehicles, and specialized systems such as wells and septic systems.

This is a full-time, salaried position that includes healthcare reimbursement, generous PTO/holidays, and available on-site housing with utilities. Review of applicants will begin August 1, 2026, with an anticipated start date in October. See a full description and more information in the files below.

To apply, submit letter of interest, resume, and three references to Brian Bert, Executive Director, at executive@campbluediamond.org, or:

Camp Blue Diamond P.O. Box 240 Petersburg, PA 16669