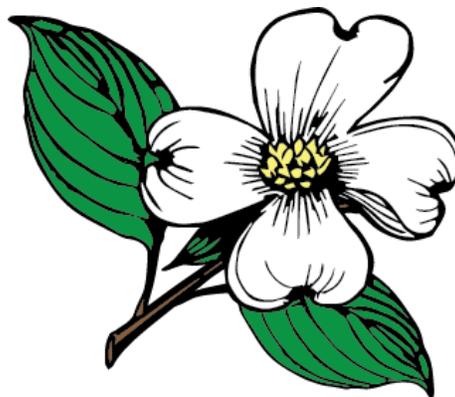


WEST MARVA DISTRICT MEMO APRIL 2017

384 Dennett Road
Oakland, MD 21550
301-334-9270

Kendal Elmore, Executive Minister
J. Rogers Fike, Executive Minister Emeritus
Brenda Harvey, Administrative Assistant
www.westmarvachurches.org



Forms! Forms! And More Forms!

Attention Church Pastors and Contact Persons:

We know how hard it is to take time to fill out the forms the denomination send, but they are so very important and give us much needed information. Please take a minute to fill them out or delegate this task to the appropriate person in your congregation (Clerk, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.). Here's a list of the forms and when they were or are due:

1. The **Congregational Outreach** form lets us know what you have budgeted for the district and camp for 2017 - this form was due Dec. 1, 2016.
2. **Form B** gives us the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of your church leadership - this helps us mail or e-mail district information to the correct person - this form was due Dec. 31, 2016.
3. **Statistical forms** give us information on membership, baptisms, etc. - due March 15, 2017.
4. **Form A** gives us information on pastoral staff, moderator and church address and contact information - will be mailed April 1 and due by May 16, 2017.

Please be sure to give us e-mail addresses so that your leadership can be included in our district newsletter e-mailed monthly. The district office staff and District Leadership Team members keep hearing that church members aren't receiving information from the district about important issues. The only way for us to get information to your members is if you, the pastor or church contact person, give us this information. Please help us keep you and your members informed!

If you have any questions about this information or need another form, please contact Brenda Harvey in the district office at 301-334-9270 or e-mail us at wmarva@verizon.net

Thank you for sending us this very important information.



SPRING GOSPEL SING SCHEDULED

The annual Spring Gospel Sing has been scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017 and will be held at the Larenim Park Amphitheater, Burlington, WV. The all day event is from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Limited drinks are available and lawn chairs are provided but anyone is welcome to bring their own along with small coolers. Scheduled to appear include Heartsong from Mt. Vernon, OH; Jericho Road, Findlay, OH; Peggy Hamilton, Sandusky, OH; Jacob Reel from Sandusky, OH; Loretta Hummel from Frostburg, MD and High Mountain Bluegrass from Burlington, WV. If your church has a trio or quartet that may be interested in appearing, please feel free to contact us. The park is handicap accessible and the event will be held at the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department in case of inclement weather. There will be a love offering collected. Contact info or questions to Thelma Cox at 304-289-3027.

Now is the time we remember the Passion, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection of Jesus... Isaiah foretold of this time:

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him*; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, He *was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth...

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done

no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 52:14-53:7,9

The Gospels tell the "rest of the story..."

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus...

⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. **Mark 15:43,45**

Now, Jesus was DEAD... and BURIED!

²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **Acts 2:24**

⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*,

⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. **John 20:6-7**

²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **Acts 2:24**

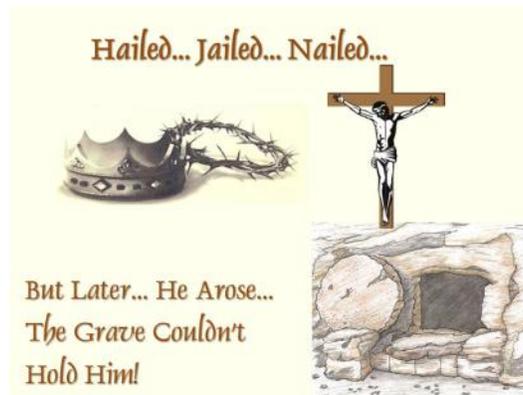
Down through the ages... Scholars have struggled to understand just what happened in that tomb... But it has been NO MYSTERY to those who have believed on Him and believed that God raised Him from the dead... And human life on this planet has not been the same since that stone rolled away, and the angel told the women: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here, but is risen!" **Luke 24:5b-6a**

Blessings one and all!

He is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

Kendal ☺



West Marva District Mission and Evangelism Team... Invites EVERYONE to come...



When: May 19 and 20, 7:00 PM Nightly

Where: Camp Galilee, Terra Alta, WV

Speaker: Rusty Brown, Pastor and Evangelist from Galivant's Ferry, SC

Song Leader: Kevin Staggs

Keyboard: Jennifer Sanders Kreighbaum



Rusty Brown, Speaker

Special Music in Both Services, which are to be in the New Outdoor Chapel.

Dr. Rusty Brown is scheduled to preach in an Evangelistic Rally for two nights at Camp Galilee, in Terra Alta, WV. The West Marva District Church of the Brethren Mission and Evangelism Team is sponsoring the event.

Testimony: Having been raised in church from birth. After graduating from high school and moving out of his parents' home, Rusty continued to attend church periodically still believing he was "good with the Lord". Behind the scenes, Rusty lived a life of secrecy. He continued his battle of drug addiction that stemmed back to high school while managing and working in a very prosperous service business founded by his father and mother. Later he married Brooke, and after 3 years they had a daughter, Chloe. God revealed his sin and where he actually stood with God at the age of 24. God saved Rusty on his living room floor. He was delivered him from addiction! **No rehab! No hospital! No withdrawal meds! The only rehab Rusty received was at the foot of the Cross!**

Soon, God called Rusty to preach. Now, the pastor at Galivant's Ferry (SC) Baptist Church his focus and passion is studying the Gospel and doing what God has called him to do, "the work of an Evangelist..."

Come to be spiritually refreshed and blessed... Bring others with you, who may not be clear regarding their relationship with God!



WORKSHOP: “TEACHING TO TRANSFORM NOT INFORM”

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Pastors, Bible Study Leaders, Sunday School Teachers.

All too often, teachers teach to impact listeners lives but listeners forget what teachers teach. (*quote from Bradley Simon*) It’s a common problem. We teach Bible Study Lessons, Sunday School Lessons, and even informational sermons, but people just can’t seem to remember the points we covered.

In a series of books called “Teaching to Transform, not Inform” Dr. Bradley Simon shares how we can teach more by teaching less. It sounds strange but he makes some very valid points.

The introduction in Dr. Simon’s book begins with: In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives teachers a clear and concise teaching goal: ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to **obey** everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.” (NIV) As a result, Jesus makes life-altering transformation (not simply information or explanation) our primary teaching goal.

The “Teaching to Transform not Inform” books focus on informational and transformational teaching techniques that effectively teach the head and heart using a step-by-step, biblically grounded, tested, and proven approach. You will learn how to improve the listeners comprehension and understanding, but more importantly, how to help them accept and obey the truth from the heart. As you learn to replace informational or educational lessons with life-altering transformational ones, your impact will ripple from person to person to person.

During this one day workshop, we will cover Dr. Bradley’s key points and you will have the opportunity to discuss some of his ideas with others in attendance.

PLACE: Westernport Church of the Brethren, 200 Oak View Drive, Westernport

DATE/TIME: Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 2:00—6:00 p.m. (**Please note this is a change in the date**).

INSTRUCTOR: Diane May, pastor of the Westernport Church

COST: \$10 for the book (You will only be purchasing one of the books in the series, but information will be shared from both books)

Evening meal will be provided (freewill offering)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED so that we may order the appropriate number of books and prepare the necessary handouts. Please Pre-register prior to April 1st to guarantee the \$10 price. After April 1st the price could increase to \$15 to guarantee delivery in time for the class. Pre-register by contacting the District Office at 301-334-9270 or wmarva@verizon.net. Books need to be paid for prior to the class.

If any pastor needs financial assistance to cover the cost of their book, please contact the District Office.

0.4 CEU's available

WORKSHOP: “Recognize, Respond, REACT Training—Suicide Prevention”

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Pastors, Bible Study Leaders, Youth Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and all others who would benefit from this training.

0.35 CEU's available.

PLACE: Tearcoat Church of the Brethren, 48 Dunkard Church Road, Augusta, WV

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: John Lyon, BA is experienced with both suicide prevention programming and active crisis intervention. John has worked with Prevent Suicide WV as a regional youth intervention specialist since 2015 and with the Potomac Highlands Mental Health Guild as a crisis worker since 2013. John has a bachelor degree in Political Science and Religious Studies and is a graduate student in the Integrated Mental and Behavioral Health Program at the West Virginia University School of Social Work.

Purpose of Recognize, Respond, REACT: This is a locally developed gatekeeper training. Participants will be introduced to the prevalence and significance of suicide. Participants will also learn to recognize the risk factors and warning signs for suicide, as well as a model for intervention. By the end of the workshop participants will understand the best practice in interacting with youth and adults at risk for suicide.

THERE IS NOT A CHARGE FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

Pre-registration is required — contact the Tearcoat Church of the Brethren at 304-496-7841 or e-mail the church at tcbchurch@frontiernet.net

Registration deadline will be May 7, 2017.

**WEST MARVA DISTRICT
WOMEN'S SPRING RALLY
MAY 10, 2017
OAK PARK CHURCH OF
THE BRETHREN**



Theme: "Shaped to Serve"

O Lord, you are our Father, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Isaiah 64:8

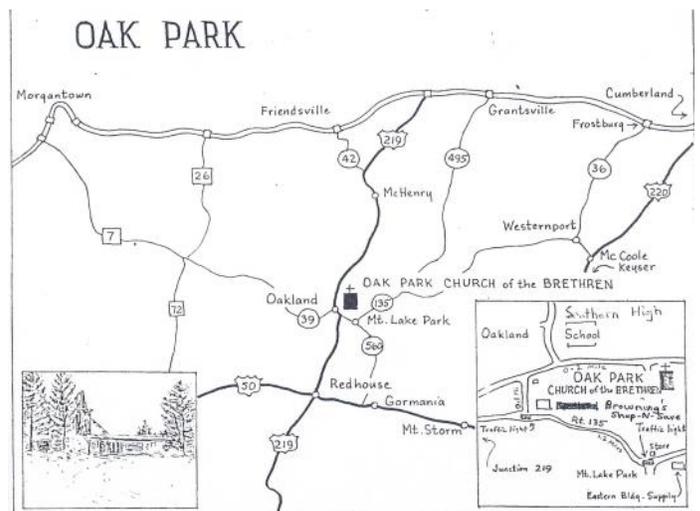
TIME: Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., with dismissal at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served during registration. Don't forget that we will also be set up at registration for all of the "Gift of the Heart" kits; this includes postage on the kits. Make checks payable to Church World Service.

PROGRAM: Tina Ferry and Jennifer Paugh are local business women who along with the Kitzmiller Lion's Club assisted the many families in Clendenin, WV, who were affected by devastating floods during the summer of 2016. Come and hear their stories.

Elaine Bernard, wife of Mike Bernard, pastor of the Oak Dale Church and **Kaylie Matthews**. Elaine and Kaylie will be sharing with us their experiences from their first mission trip to Guatemala

The Oak Park Church will provide the noon meal. Please call Betty Wolford at 301-334-9521 or the District Office at 301-334-9270 by May 5th. If you find you can attend after the deadline, please feel free to come, we are sure there will be extra food.

Included in this mailing you will find a brochure about Emma's Wish. We are asking each person attending to bring one of the items mentioned to assist with the assembling of gifts for local children who have cancer. The deadline has been extended so that we may participate.



**Mineral County School of Practical Nursing
Mineral County Technical Center**

As our Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Community Project,
we are collecting children's items for...

EMMA'S WISH, INC.



Emma was just three years young when she earned her wings on January 31, 2016, after a diagnosis of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), a type of pediatric brain cancer.

We are assembling ***Wish Jars*** to distribute to local children who have cancer. Please help us honor Emma's memory by donating new children's items (age 9 or younger), such as:

- ✓ Small toys, such as dolls or stuffed animals
- ✓ Personal care items, such as body wash, body lotion, lip gloss, or nail polish
- ✓ Books, such as story books or activity books
- ✓ Other small children's items, such as puzzles, crayons, or DVD movies

The fight against childhood cancer goes on! We are ***Emma strong***... are you?!?!?

BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE WOMEN'S RALLY

WEST MARVA DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT UPDATE:

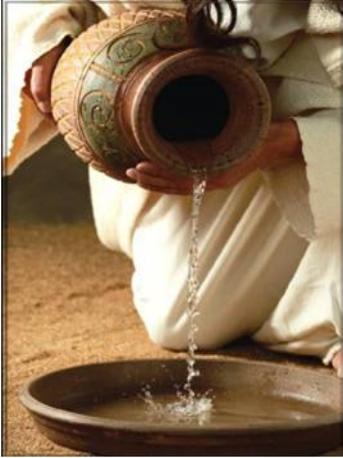
The West Marva District Youth met in Cabins, WV the last weekend of February for their annual Winter Retreat. We had twenty youth and four adults present for the event representing seven churches. We had a great weekend filled with games, hiking, bowling, Bible Study and ministry filled with great fellowship. The weather was too warm and rainy to go skiing but we didn't seem to miss it and all present were asking when we would have the next district event. We are working on a one day even in May and will get more information to you on that soon. On Sunday morning the kids performed a ministry event at the Brake Church with music and dramas that blessed the whole congregation. They finished up with a soup and sandwich lunch at Brake before going home. A special thank you to Dalton Longbon, Camille Howard and Thelma Cox for their help with the retreat. We also want to thank Smoke Hole Resort for providing us accommodations and such a reasonable rate.

Reported by Craig Howard, District Youth Director

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM NAOMI FISHER

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, and visits. The Lord is good and I am doing pretty well for what I went through. I have a ways to go, but I am believing in God's promise. There's a song by Laura Daigle called "My Revival". It is based on the scripture from Isaiah 40:31—"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint". This scripture and song helped get me through those difficult times in the hospital and even now at home give me strength.

Once again, thank you all for your prayers and concerns. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I continue to recover.



A TIME OF *Refreshing* For All Who Minister

Ministers and spouses are encouraged to attend a special dinner at 6:30 PM Friday, May 5th at the Moorefield Church of the Brethren, 115 Clay Street, Moorefield, WV.

Our guest musician for the evening will be **Jill Holler**, from Oakland, MD. Jill attends the Loch Lynn Church of God and is the Assistant Director at the James Isaac House (formerly known as the Mt. Top Crisis Pregnancy Center). She is now working on her first musical CD.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be **Jerry Eisenhour**. Jerry is a native to the Keyser area and has pastored the Mount Zion Church for the past 32 years. During that time God has grown the congregation from 14 to over 300. After going through two major building programs, the church recently purchased a 40 acre campus that will ultimately house a 1000 seat sanctuary, an educational complex and a multipurpose facility. He hosts the weekly *Break-through* broadcast which airs on WFRB 560 AM. Known for his down-home style of ministry, he combines his unique Faith walk with a genuine passion to reach out to hurting people.



It was during his freshmen year in college that the Lord led him to surrender his desire to be a medical doctor and to pursue the call into ministry. He graduated with two Bachelor of Science Degrees from Eastern Mennonite College in 1983, and a Master's Degree from West Virginia University in 2003. Besides being actively involved in ministry, he also teaches Chemistry and Physics at Keyser High School. He resides in LaVale with his wife Hannah, and their two children, McClairen, 13 and Evin, 10.

REGISTRATION FORM and checks needs to be returned to the District Office by April 24th. (Make additional copies if needed)

Name(s) of person(s) attending:

Name

Address

Phone number _____

The cost (which we encourage the minister's congregation to pay) is \$13.00 per person or \$25.00 for a couple. The menu for the all you can eat buffet, which is being catered by the Moorefield Women's Fellowship, is to be: Ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad/dressing, rolls-butter/jelly, drinks and desserts.

Make checks payable to West Marva District, 384 Dennett Road, Oakland, MD 21550



**West Marva
District
Youth
Ministry
and Motion
Day**

May 7th from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Starting
at the Hazelton Church of the Brethren

We will start at the Hazelton Church of the Brethren sharing their service with them and participating in the service. After the service, there will be a meal provided by the church with games and devotions then load up and drive to Morgantown for an afternoon at the Trampoline Park. The cost per person will be \$20. Transportation will be provided from Hazelton to Morgantown. This event is for ages 8th grade through 12th grade. Please e-mail Craig Howard at pvicraigah@yahoo.com or call or text Craig at 304-668-1731 by April 30th with a number that you will have attending so we know what to tell the church for the meal and how many to tell the Trampoline park will be coming.

Brethren Bits from Betty's Desk.....

We could have celebrated last year...

Somehow, the years roll past in fast succession. How many of you recall the “days before there was a **West Marva District?**” Many of you are aware at one time there was **First West Virginia District**, organized in 1866; (see page 724 Allegheny Passage) eventually in 1877 there was a **Second District of West Virginia** and there has been a **Western Maryland District** since 1898.

If we were to get technical about this information, this could become a lengthy article. Records are scarce but it is known missionary activity by the Brethren in the already established districts in neighboring Virginia became active in spreading the gospel and getting community congregations established in areas where Brethren were rapidly settling in what is now our West Marva District.

As Dr. Emmert Bittinger explained in **Allegheny Passage** several congregations have been shifted from one neighboring district to another, on all sides. Sandy Creek Congregation which was divided in 1879 by having its northern half placed in the Western District of Pennsylvania is one instance; other examples: Asher Glade and Morgantown have in the past been affiliated with Western Pennsylvania.

Moorefield, South and North Mill Creek congregations were once in First Virginia District. We learn after a series of negotiations the churches ... “which lay westward in the state of West Virginia” such as those in Fayette County and the Charleston areas are not part of our West Marva. Yet, Gladys came to Second West Virginia from First District of Virginia in 1929.

It is believed for the most part, such realignments brought congregations into closer relationship with the churches geographically nearby.

By 1957 leaders in First West Virginia and Western Maryland had study committees on all sides discussing consolidation and a joint field program. During the 1957 District Conference held at White Pine there was approval to merge First District and the Western Maryland Districts by the year 1960. However, Western Maryland failed to approve the merger in 1957 and 1958. The Study Committees continued to meet, informal talks were underway, and the issue was discussed at the various District Conferences over the next years in the early 1960's. Owen Stultz, the joint field program executive convened a meeting at the Eglon Memorial Building with representatives of the three districts.

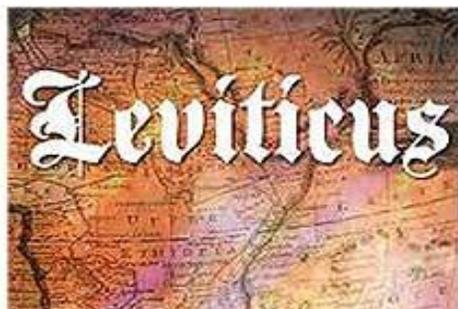
Patterns of mergers taking place across the brotherhood were discussed. When the proposals were presented to the District Conferences of 1964, they were approved by First District and Western Maryland. Second District, however, waited to see what the other two districts would do.

The question was raised during the following year whether unification of programs actually meant merger of district organizations. During the year 1965 the plan of organization was developed by the study committee. Presented in 1965, it was approved by all three district conferences by a vote which exceeded the two thirds minimum required.

The first District Conference of the West Marva District was held September 9-10, 1966 at the Tearcoat Church with Fred Clayton serving as moderator.

(Part 2—next month)

The [Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center](#) (SVMC) with offices on the campus of Elizabethtown (Pa.) College is publicizing two continuing education events this spring: “Ten-Plus Reasons to Love Leviticus” on April 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Susquehanna Room at Elizabethtown College, and “Cultivating Conversations...Navigating Elder Care Challenges” on May 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Cross Keys Village in New Oxford, Pa.



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

Continuing Education Series

Ten Plus Reasons to Love Leviticus

ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE • Susquehanna Room

Courtesy of Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center

“[Ten-Plus Reasons to Love Leviticus](#)” will feature keynote speaker Bob Neff, an Old Testament scholar, president emeritus of Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., and former general secretary of the Church of the Brethren. Other speakers will address related topics including Christina Bucher speaking on sexuality in Leviticus from different faith perspectives, David Leiter speaking on social justice and Leviticus, Frank Ramirez speaking on the Brethren and Leviticus 19, and Brody Rike speaking on atonement and orientation to God. Cost is \$60 and includes a light breakfast, lunch, and .6 continuing education credits for ministers. Registration is due by April 10.

“[Cultivating Conversations...Navigating Elder Care Challenges](#)” will feature a number of presenters including Clayton Ligg, an elder care attorney, speaking on “Legal Matters”; Joan Groh, a community relations liaison for hospice and community care, speaking on “Comfort and Care When Needed Most”; and Cross Keys’ Memory Care Support Team members Jennifer Holcolm, Kimberly Korge, and Kathy Staub speaking on “Managing Difficult Conversations.” Registration costs \$60 and includes a light breakfast, lunch, and .5 continuing education credits for ministers. Registration is due by April 24.

For more information and to register, contact the SVMC office at 717-361-1450 or svmc@etown.edu.

44th ANNUAL BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE SCHEDULED:

This event has been scheduled for July 24-28, 2017 on the campus of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA and is sponsored by the Brethren Revival Fellowship. The courses to be presented this year will be *Brethren Life and Thought—part 1*, *The First Book of Samuel*, *Brethren Life and Thought—part 2*, *Major Religions of the World*, *Spiritual Warfare: The Defeated*, *Old Testament Survey—part 1*, *Studies in I Corinthians*, *Biblical Theology vs. Modern Humanism* and *Old Testament Survey—part 2*.

Instructors for this event will be Craig Alan Myers, Eric Brubaker, Carl Brubaker, Wilmer Horst and Steve Hershey. Principal/Coordinator will be Kenneth Leininger. The cost for these classes will be \$250.00 for dormitory students. Continuing Education Units are available and ministers should request the certificate when they register. To receive application forms write to: Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517. Please send for an application form early. Your application process must be completed by June 25, 2017

**Church of the Brethren
West Marva District Office
384 Dennett Road
Oakland, MD 21550
APRIL 2017 Issue**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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IN GOD WE TRUST

UPCOMING EVENTS

April	14	Office Closed—Good Friday
	30	Workshop—"Teaching to Transform Not Inform"—Westernport Church
May	7	West Marva District Youth Ministry Event, Hazelton COB
	5	Ministers and Spouse Banquet, Moorefield COB
	10	West Marva District Women's Rally, Oak Park Church
	13	Workshop—"Recognize, Respond, REACT Training—Suicide Prevention"—Tearcoat Church
	19-20	Revival Services at Camp Galilee
	29	Office Closed—Memorial Day