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Consider 1st Term 2026

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pray

Please pray for the WATER students as they prepare for their summer in missions and also for the staff preparing for the WATER training week.



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Return Service Requested

Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute
7304 Lincoln Hwy., Harrisonville, PA 17228
ph # 717.485.4341
tsmbi@smbi.org
www.smbi.org



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02

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the Monitor

Preparing for Life & Ministry

Peer Pressure

Teresa Yoder
(4th term writing class)

Some years ago, my teacher asked the class to solve a math problem he had written on the board. The first student spoke confidently, but his answer was wrong. I quickly dismissed it. When the next classmate gave an identical answer, I began to waver. I squirmed in my seat as my turn grew closer. They all answered the same, but something didn't quite line up. I redid the problem in my head sure that I must have missed something. I think we all have been in similar situations where we felt the effects of peer pressure at one point in our lives. Maybe it was a group of close friends talking about someone behind their back, and we did not have the courage to speak up for them. Maybe it was as simple as the person in front of you in line getting chocolate milk, reminding you that yes, chocolate milk is an excellent way to start one's day. Peer pressure is not intrinsically negative; what matters is our reason for succumbing to it.

Western culture tends to think of peer pressure mainly as destructive. One can easily find examples of this. The recurring theme is "big group gangs up on individual and pressures them into doing something they would never think of doing otherwise." We are continually admonished against spending time with people who are "bad influences." It is wise to have caution in this area, but there is another very real aspect of peer pressure — one that affects us for the better and encourages good choices. .

For example, the environment at a conservative Bible school pushes youth to study and grow. When everyone else is putting themselves into their work and trying their hardest to succeed, it is much easier to stay diligent with our own studies. This works in general social situations as well. Picking up social cues from peers helps us learn how to act in any given scenario.

Why does peer pressure have such a strong effect on us? We were created by God to have relationships with others, and we naturally put a lot of weight on what people think of us. The human need for belonging and acceptance is universal. That is why community is so powerful. Acceptance is directly connected to our sense of identity. We tend to feel that we need to behave the same as those around us in order to be accepted.

I don't remember if these thoughts were going through my head as my classmates gave their answers to the teacher's question. In the end, I stuck with my own conclusion. It was still incorrect, but I learned something much more valuable than algebra that day. It is the attitude of the heart, and not peer pressure itself; that is the real issue. If we are not secure in our identity in Christ, we will easily allow those around us to guide our behavior. This may work out fine, until we are put into a group with different beliefs and values than us. If we base our worth on other people's opinions of us, we will inevitably be let down or make poor life choices. .

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers,
in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"

(1 Timothy 4:12, KJV).

Upcoming Events

WATER

June 23 - July 31, 2026



Pray for the WATER students as they prepare for their summer. There are 41 students signed up who will be going to 13 different countries or states. Locations include - Harrison, Arkansas; Cambodia; Cherry Creek, SD; Dominican Republic; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Washington, IN; Ireland; Liberia; Nicaragua; and State College, PA. Pray that they could be a blessing to the missions and that they could also be blessed.

Family Week

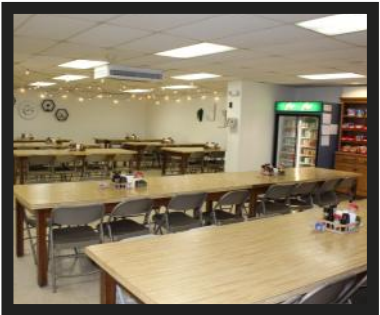
Periods	Courses
8:40-12:00	Character Training & Child Care
8:45-9:40	I John—Youth (Elijah Yoder— Harrisonville, PA) Living from the Heart —Parents joint and split sessions (Jeremy and Vanita Sensenig— Millerstown, PA)
9:50 - 10:45	Living from the Heart continued Choir—Youth (Samuel Heatwole—Harrisonville, PA)
10:55 - 11:50	Learning Through Story—Youth & Parents (Leroy Hershberger— Hutchinson, KS)
11:50 - 12:00	Announcements
12:00	Lunch
1:00-1:55	Freedom Through Discipline—Youth (Samuel Heatwole—Harrisonville, PA) Children’s Activities
2:00-2:30	Choir—Youth
2:30-5:15	Family Time
5:15	Chapel
6:15	Supper
7:15	Group Recreation



Kitchen/Dining Room Remodel

The current dining room and kitchen cabinets have served thousands over the last 35 years. It is time for regeneration which is scheduled for Aug. 17-Sept. 11! We are very grateful for the significant material and labor donations which have already been committed to the project. Expected cash cost of the project is approx. \$100,000. To-date donations are \$15,000. Donations can be earmarked and sent to the office or contributed anonymously through Anabaptist Financial.

The project includes new floor and wall coverings, an open ceiling concept with natural lighting in the back portion of the dining room, and a higher suspended ceiling in the front portion. The kitchen will be redesigned with new cabinets increasing overall counter space by 50 square feet. It will also streamline the dishwashing and open up the floor space with one larger serving bar.



2026 Graduates



Josh Beachy | Charles Kline V

1st Term 2026 Classes

September 21—October 23, 2026

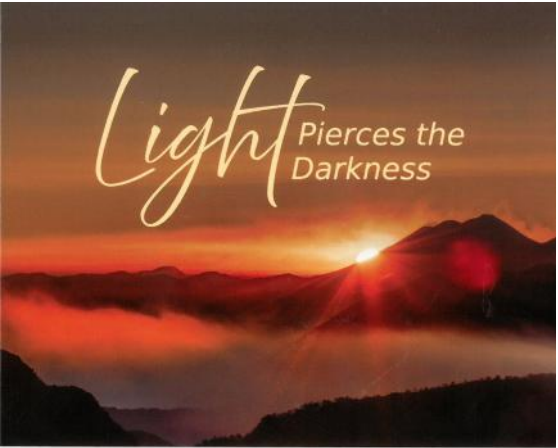
- Developing the Servant—Larry Bergey
- Revelation—Elijah Yoder
- Methods of Bible Study—Elijah Yoder
- Minor Prophets—Samuel Heatwole
- Ezra / Nehemiah—Austin Weaver
- Growth in Christ—Clifford Schrock
- Biblical Stewardship—Larry Bergey

Also included in first term is Discipleship Groups. Small Groups assigned to a group leader to work through your life story throughout the term.

New CD Release

Light Pierces the Darkness
3rd Term 2026

- Cd Includes:
- Light
 - The Lord is My Light
 - Shines the Light
 - Night Will End
 - There’s a Light A-Comin’
 - Heavenly Light
 - Sun of My Soul
 - Where are the Laborers?
 - Let Me be a Light in the Darkness
 - Tilt Your Candle
 - Come to His Eternal Light
 - An Unclouded Day
 - Hymn of Heaven



Sharon Singers 2026

CD’s—\$15 plus shipping
To place an order:
Email—smbi@smbi.org
Website—smbi.org.



Check out our digital
platforms -
Spotify
Apple Music
YouTube Music



Follow us on Facebook for updates!
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute

Support the Work

Student Aid Fund

provides discounts for pastors (and those supporting their children), school teachers, long-term mission staff, and those with financial need

Recurring Donations

We rely on contributions from churches, individuals, and businesses to provide 35% of our annual budget! Just 30 donors contributing \$1/day adds over \$10,000 to the budget!



Weddings

Cali Kline & Weston Hochstetler – 3.21.26

Olivia Sommers & Delwyn Yoder - 5.2.26

India Good & Clayton Yoder - 5.30.26

Births

Austin & Desiree (Martin) Weaver
-Silas William