


# Calendar of Events

.....	<b>Jan. 6 - Feb. 13</b>
.....	Jan. 17- 19
.....	Feb. 7
.....	Feb. 14 - 21
.....	<b>Feb. 17 - 21</b>
.....	<b>Feb. 24 - April 3</b>
.....	March 14
.....	March 28
.....	April 4 - 11
.....	<b>April 14 - May 22</b>

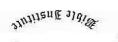
Media Effects—Harry Argo  
 The Book of Hebrews—Marvin Zeiset  
 Biblical Manhood—Duane Weber  
 The Blessing of Friendship—Joyce Martin  
 Living in the Spirit—Carolyn Weber  
 The Journey of Serving—Donald Hollinger  
 Effective Communication—Anthony Hurst  
 Christianity Among Worldviews—Steven Brubaker  
 Early Anabaptists—Edsel Burge

Registration: Monday, February 17, 10 am - 12 noon  
 Dismissal: Friday, February 21, 1:00 pm  
 Costs: Institute rooms - \$15 / night,  
 meals - \$5.00/meal.

 An offering will be taken to help cover costs.  
Pre-registration is required.

Return Service Requested

www.smbi.org  
smbi@smbi.org  
fax 717.485.0641  
717.485.0641



## Bless the Lord, O My Soul

-Clifford Schrock

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” Thus opens Psalm 103. The psalmist continues by listing numerous ways in which God “daily loads us with benefits.” The psalm concludes with these words, “Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!”

The repetition of “Bless the Lord” in these verses is a poetic expression for emphasis. A similar use is “Holy, Holy, Holy...” This Hebrew word, barak, is used in 68 verses in the Psalms alone! Certainly, this is a privilege for God’s people to respond with praise, honor, and worship! These passages gave rise to the Jewish tradition of short, specific prayers throughout the day known

as brakha. By New Testament times this was one short line that began, “Blessed is He...” So, Jesus’ blessing of the loaves and fishes may have been, “Blessed is He who bringeth forth bread from the earth.” In the following centuries this was expanded to “Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe...”

These short prayers of blessing were for almost any occasion or aspect of life. “Blessed is he who gives sight to the eyes.” Blessed is he who is the true judge.” Blessed is he who has given a pleasant smell to fruits.” Blessed is he who waters the earth.” “Blessed is he who does good to the undeserving.” As one rabbi said, “There’s a blessing for everything.” This prayer habit may have been part of the meaning

petition, with thanksgiving, present you God.” Note the connection that Paul made between anxiety, prayer, and thanksgiving. It is interesting that psychology has affirmed that the human brain physiologically respond to positive and negative emotions at the same time! Blessing and gratitude coexist with anxiety! As A.W Tozer wrote, “When one comes to a right belief about God, he does not have 10,000 temporal problems.” Or as Uriah Smith told the choir, “Praise scatters the enemy.” Recently, Michael Burkholder was at the end series of messages. His subtitle

*Growing in Inner Piety.* The last message of the weekend was on *Disciplinary Disciplines*. These disciplines are not life, nor do they live in themselves, but they are the grape arbor structure that sustains healthy life. Christ’s disciplines he identified and praise.

Spiritual disciplines are habits which can be cultivated and a habit of praise and worship is one of the things that we can intentionally cultivate. The psalmist says, “I will bless the Lord as long as I live; praise shall continually be in my mouth; and my heart shall not happen naturally, but we can develop it. In his great prosperity, the scripture says, “he rose up early in the morning, and offered offerings...continually.” When all was said and done, his response was, “The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord forever.” This is a natural response, but he had developed a habit that enabled him to respond well in the face of calamity.

As you enjoy the holiday seasons of

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

CONTRIBUTIONS	96,299.52
	32,174.00
	3,664.24
	10,796.54
	83,402.57
	2,622.52
	178,445.63
	3,805.00
	7,139.99
	158,600.00
	219.25
	1,515.15
	585,410.66

BOARD FEES	3,619.66
MENT	82,759.15
CDs	14,278.57
	28,273.37
	94,513.57
	11,028.96
	22,310.01

ATION	8,095.37
NOLOGY	10,641.62
	28,545.72
	14,552.93
	246,033.41
	17,483.96
	3,030.70
	2,869.41
	14,792.90
	6,727.28
	2,912.76
	2,891.40
	2,669.87
	3,757.10
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Contributions help to keep the programs affordable for all who attend and provide for facilities improvements. Approximately 1/3 of the budget is provided by personal, church, and business donors. Thank you to the many who have contributed over the past year!

**Student Aid** provides discounts for school teachers, students who have been in voluntary service for a year or more, pastors, and those with specific financial needs. In 2023-24, this was \$16,316. This is typically paid for by general contributions. However, this year we made this available as a specific donation opportunity and \$5,500 was designated for this fund. If you wish to contribute specifically for this need, simply include a note with your donation.

**Recurring Contributions** can be set up at [smbi.org](http://smbi.org) or you can use the QR code below. We are very grateful for this small group of monthly supporters who contribute nearly \$600/month. It would be exciting to see this double in the coming year. Small amounts make a big impact with recurring contributions. Just \$1/day is \$30/month and \$360/year. If we had 50 contributors at this level, it would add \$18,000 to the annual budget!

**Building Improvements** in the 2023-24 fiscal year included new carpet in the main hallway of the school. We replaced the last three HVAC units in the main building to complete that multi-year upgrade. Some apartment work was also done with a bathroom remodel and new carpet in apt. 1. Mini-splits were added in two apartments that previously had electric heat and window A/C. Once again we are grateful for the donors who made this work possible! It is a constant work to keep the facilities in good repair and provide a comfortable environment for all who use them.

**Anabaptist Financial** provides an avenue of giving for those who may wish to do so anonymously. They also provide guidance for estate planning, creative giving with real estate or commodities, and other stewardship questions. They can be reached at [afweb.org](http://afweb.org) or 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

### How to Support...

You can use the QR code to the



Aaron & Barb (Schrock) Bontrager  
-Nolan Kenneth  
  
Shawn & Regina (Lehman) King  
- Malachi Robert

June 15, 2024  
Tyler Miller & Amber Hershberger  
October 19, 2024  
Sergio Penner & Brianna Petersheim  
November 2, 2024



Follow us on Facebook  
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### Upcoming

### NIGHT

February 7, 2024

Held on  
Sharon Mennonite  
7304 Lincoln  
Harrisonville

When registering at home  
are with  
Sharon Mennonite

### REACH

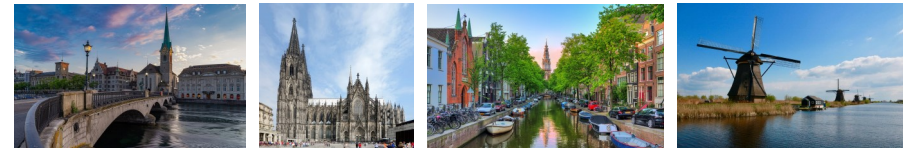
March 13-14, 2024

REACH brings together countless ministries and Kingdom walks of life. Join us for the event that includes 120 breakout sessions to support and equip people. Those with a desire for participating ministries share their gifts in sessions and displays. Gather the event together with prayer and prayer. All are welcome.

## Anabaptist History Tour

October 17—29, 2025,

We invite you to consider joining us on an Anabaptist History Tour to Holland, Switzerland, and Germany. Numerous native speakers and guides will contribute to this study tour directed by Myron & Mary Jantzi. At this point registration is open for anyone wishing to join. To sign up visit our website or contact the office. See the June-Aug. Monitor at [smbi.org](http://smbi.org) for more information.



## New CD Release

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord



-To Thee, O Lord, We Sing -One Faith, One Hope, One Lord -I Believe  
-Secure -Whispering Hope -I Know That My Redeemer Lives -My Blessing  
-I Am He! -Holy, Holy, Holy -Upon This Rock -I Am the Church  
-Blessed Hope -God Is Love -Blessed Hope -Blessed Hope