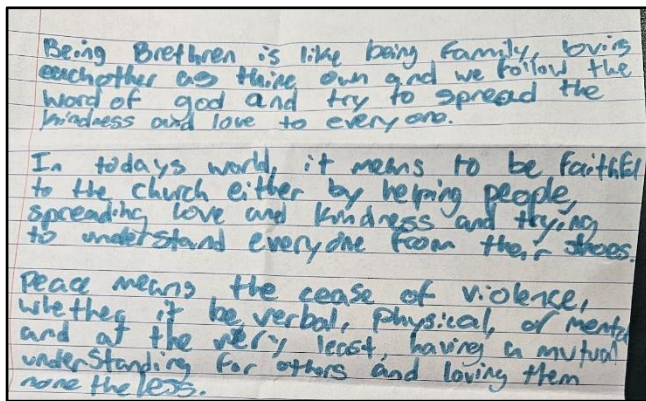


Repeat Retreat 2026: Youth Gather for Service and Fellowship

York First Church of the Brethren

(COB) provided host facilities and meals for the annual Repeat Retreat, a winter youth event that originated in 2024 as a District Youth Retreat at Lancaster COB (LCOB).

This year marked a significant milestone, drawing participants from nine congregations spanning three different districts (Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, & Southern PA). The group traveling furthest was from Manassas, Virginia. Other attending congregations included Annville, Harrisburg First, Lancaster, Lititz, Myerstown, Stevens Hill, Spring Creek, and York First. The event achieved its largest turnout yet, with 46 youth and 17 advisors in attendance!



Participants assembled on Friday evening in the gym for lively "Get to Know Ya" games as a way to break the ice. The weekend centered around three enriching sessions designed to explore the Church of the Brethren tagline: **Simply, Peacefully, Together**. Each session connected these principles to the heritage and values of the Brethren community.

Saturday morning was dedicated to mission work at UNTO, a humanitarian ministry of **CRU** (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). The group traveled to the warehouse in Mount Joy and, in just three hours, achieved remarkable results:



- **12,000 meals packed**, enough to provide 400 people a meal a day for one month.
- **Over 2,500 pounds of clothing sorted and packed**, providing an item of clothing to an estimated 2,000 people.



When not in session or serving, youth enjoyed a variety of free-time activities. Options included ping-pong and gym activities—9 Square was particularly popular. Our host provided a dedicated craft area and a “vegging” station with VeggieTales episodes. Saturday afternoon, leaders held a Digital Scavenger Hunt Game that challenged teams to collect photos and complete various tasks.



The successful retreat concluded Saturday evening with a relaxed pizza party and movie night before everyone began their respective journeys home. Watch for plans to repeat the retreat again in January 2027!

-Submitted by Linda Byers