

# YOUNG CENTER

## News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR  
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES  
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Center schedules multidisciplinary conference on the Amish

“THE AMISH AND THEIR NEIGHBORS” TO BE HELD JUNE 2-4, 2022

Registration is now open for “[The Amish and Their Neighbors](#).” Hosted by the Young Center and open to the public, the conference focuses on interactions between Amish communities and wider society, including those in areas such as public health, government regulation, business and economic development, charitable work, land use and environmental issues, tourism, and civic involvement.

[Carl Desportes Bowman](#), director of survey research at the University of Virginia’s Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, will give the keynote address, “Tacit Tribes and Soft Allegiances in American Life.” “The past two decades have witnessed extreme political polarization and paralysis, culture wars between progressives and conservatives, and racial diversity and division. What is less obvious are the tacit cultural tribes into which Americans sort themselves and their allegiances that often remain unrecognized and unspoken,” Bowman said. “This presentation will examine the American cultural context of the early twenty-first century, especially as it pertains to the Amish.”

The conference will include three plenary sessions. [Jeanette Harder](#) will deliver “Who is Caring for Our Children? Plain Communities’ Involvement in Foster Care and Adoption,” a presentation of the findings of the qualitative research study she and a colleague conducted with Plain community families from diverse affiliations and geographic settings who have provided foster care and adoption for children. Harder is a professor of social work at University of Nebraska at Omaha and a founder of Dove’s

Nest, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “empower and equip faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches, and communities.”

In “Epidemics and Echo Chambers: What the Pandemic Teaches Us About Beliefs, Behaviors, and Community,” [Rachel E. Stein](#) will explore how the relationship between health officials and the Amish has developed over time and how public health directives were accepted (or not) in Amish communities during COVID-19. Stein is an associate professor of sociology at West Virginia University. Her research focuses on community building and health in Amish communities.

In “Plain Politics: Assessing Old Order Amish Voter Participation in the 2004, 2016, and 2020 Presidential Elections,” [Kyle Kopko](#) will present a comparative analysis of Amish voter registration and voter turnout across the 2004, 2016, and 2020 presidential elections. Kopko directs the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative service agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and is an adjunct professor of political science at Elizabethtown College.

The conference will also include academic paper presentations, seminars, and poster sessions.

“The population growth and geographic spread of Amish and other Plain Anabaptist groups make the topics presented and discussed at this conference critically important,” said Steve Nolt, the Young Center’s interim director. “Today, there are more Amish living in new places with neighbors who have not previously interacted with Plain people. This development means new relationships are forming and, in some cases, potential misunderstandings are surfacing, whether around buggies on roads or human services providers meeting Amish clients for the first time. Meanwhile, in older settlements we’re seeing Amish integrating into regional economies and civic life in new ways.”

For more information and to register, visit [www.etown.edu/amish2022](http://www.etown.edu/amish2022), call 717-361-1470, or send an email message to [amish2022@etown.edu](mailto:amish2022@etown.edu). Register by May 1 to receive a discount.



C. Desportes Bowman



Jeanette Harder



Rachel Stein



Kyle Kopko



## From the Interim Director

Scholarship and interpretation are central to the Young Center's mission. We foster the study of Anabaptism and Pietism and present that research to campus, community, and worldwide audiences.

Our spring public events, described elsewhere in this issue, are one way in which we promote multidisciplinary scholarship, sharing new understanding in the arts, in history, and in religious studies.

Through the generosity of the Snowden and Kreider families, the Young Center supports visiting faculty fellows and graduate students engaged in creative and important research. Last fall, Snowden Fellow Rosalind Beiler investigated Mennonite and Quaker migration to colonial Pennsylvania, and this spring Jonathan Stayer, our Kreider Fellow, will be looking at nineteenth-century Brethren in Christ history.

Graduate students also benefit from Young Center fellowships. Lily Anderson-Chavarria, a joint MD/PhD student at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, spent time at the Young Center and Hess Archives last fall with our extensive collection of Amish periodicals and related archival collections. This spring, Caleb Zimmerman, a PhD student in philosophy at Temple University, will be in residence here, developing arguments in moral philosophy rooted in Anabaptist two-kingdoms theology.

Scholars are drawn to the Young Center because of our unique resources, from professional expertise to the quiet spaces for writing and reflection on our beautiful campus to our many one-of-a-kind research collections. We are delighted to continue building those resources in cooperation with the Hess Archives. For example, and as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we recently acquired an amazingly rare eighteenth and early nineteenth-century baptism and membership ledger for the Germantown Church of the Brethren, a document sure to interest historians and genealogists.

It is our privilege to be stewards of this scholarly tradition and to facilitate research and understanding across the academic disciplines.

Steve Nolt  
Interim Director

# Jonathan Stayer is 2022 Kreider Fellow

Jonathan Stayer, retired supervisor of reference services at the Pennsylvania State Archives, has been named the Young Center's Kreider Fellow for spring 2022. Stayer is vice president of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, serves on the boards of the York County History Center and the Friends of Camp Security, and volunteers at both the State Archives and the History Center. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Messiah University and a master's degree in American Studies from Penn State Harrisburg.

Stayer's ongoing research interests include Pennsylvania's Civil War conscientious objectors, the Revolutionary War prison encampment in York County known as Camp Security, and his ancestry. He is a direct descendant of Jacob Hertzler, the first Amish bishop in the United States.

"During the Kreider Fellowship, I plan to explore materials that may yield information about how the River Brethren adopted the name 'Brethren in Christ' in response to the Civil War draft, particularly for the years 1864–65," Stayer said. "Of greatest interest are the records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, Record Group 110, at the National Archives. The holdings of the Philadelphia branch of the National Archives are particularly pertinent as they include the registers and letters of draft districts in Pennsylvania. According to Brethren in Christ sources, a council was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which resulted in the name

change. I am hoping that the files of the provost marshal of Lancaster County or one of the other districts in Pennsylvania contain a letter or petition in which the River Brethren recorded their name as Brethren in Christ, or that a marshal noted the Brethren's decision. Other sources to be scoured include church periodicals, newspapers, and letter collections."

Stayer plans to use Kreider Fellowship funding to make trips to the National Archives at Philadelphia and other institutions to locate documentation. And, he noted, "The Young Center and the Elizabethtown College library contain valuable Church of the Brethren sources that may yield helpful information for this project because the Brethren in Christ often were confused with the Church of the Brethren at the time of the Civil War."

"My research fits well with the work that Young Center staff members have done on the Civil War: Steve Nolt and his book on Mennonites in that conflict, and Edsel Burdge and his book on the history of Mennonites in Franklin County, which contains a significant section on the Civil War," Stayer pointed out.

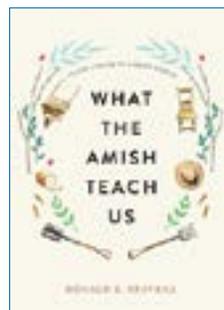
Stayer will present a talk about his work on April 5 in the Bucher Meetinghouse. The lecture will also be livestreamed.

The generous gift of Ken and Carroll Kreider endowed the Kreider fellowship and lecture. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for its fellows programs. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for details.

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## New book by Donald Kraybill

*What the Amish Teach Us: Plain Living in a Busy World*, the most recent book by Donald Kraybill, Distinguished College Professor, Senior Fellow, and Professor of Sociology Emeritus, was released by Johns Hopkins University Press in October 2021.



The book contains 22 essays on a diversity of topics including community, parenting, spirituality, rituals, and suffering. Kraybill, who has spent decades researching Amish history, religion, and culture,

shares stories and insights from forty years of conversations, fieldwork, and research and describes the practices and values of Amish life that offer wisdom for mainstream society.

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## Videos of past events available

Young Center presentations from the past year and a half are available on YouTube—and they are close captioned! Visit the Young Center website ([www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr)) and select "Videos of Past Events" from the left navigation bar for descriptions and links.

# Brethren Heritage Festival

Snacks including apple butter on homemade bread, popcorn, and bicycle-churned ice cream, children's crafts, a quilting demonstration, and a magic show were elements of the Brethren Heritage Festival, which was held at the Young Center on Saturday, October 16, as part of Etown's 2021 Homecoming festivities. At right, Joanne Hess from Lititz Church of the Brethren demonstrates quilting on a quilt to be sold at the Brethren Disaster Relief auction.



## Joe A. Springer named Durnbaugh Lecturer for 2022

MENNONITE HISTORICAL LIBRARY CURATOR TO BRING OLDEST SURVIVING COPY OF THE *AUSBUND*

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Joe A. Springer will present the Durnbaugh lecture and seminar on Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25, events postponed from March 2020. The subject of the talks is early Anabaptist hymnals and hymnody.

Springer has served as curator of the [Mennonite Historical Library](#) at Goshen (IN) College since 1986. He holds a BA in history from Goshen College and an MA/MLS in history and library science from Catholic University of America.

Springer enjoys studying the bibliographic evolution of specific works as well as interconnections among different works. In his work as curator, Springer regularly fields

questions related to printing history, hymnody, and genealogy.

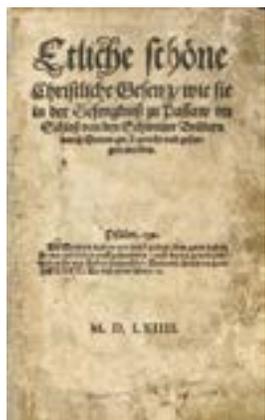
were written by Anabaptists in the sixteenth century. The original fifty-one hymns were written by Anabaptists in prison in Passau, Germany, from 1535 to 1540 and printed in 1564. The Amish still use this hymnal in their Sunday morning worship services, making it the oldest Protestant hymnal in continuous use.

A larger edition of the *Ausbund* with a total of 130 hymns came out in 1583. Eventually, the American editions, still containing the German texts, contained 140 hymns. Christopher Saur, the colonial printer in Germantown, printed the first American edition of the *Ausbund* in 1742. The book remains in

print in order to supply the congregations that still use it.

The 1564 *Ausbund* will be on display in the lobby of the Young Center on Thursday, March 24, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; on Friday, March 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and on Saturday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. to noon. It will also be displayed at the Young Center banquet and Durnbaugh lecture in the Susquehanna Room on Thursday evening.

The Durnbaugh lecture series was established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh. It brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually.

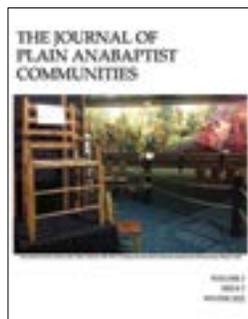


Title page of the 1564 Ausbund

He will bring with him the only surviving copy of the 1564 edition of the *Ausbund*, which is in the Mennonite Historical Library. The *Ausbund* is a collection of hymns, most of which

## Fourth journal issue to be released

The fourth issue of the [Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities](#), a peer-reviewed Open Access journal published by The Ohio State University Libraries and cosponsored by the Young Center and the Amish & Men-



nonite Heritage Center, will be released in February. The issue contains an examination of the origins of the Holmes County Amish settlement, a review of Kentucky Amish and Old Order Mennonite involvement in a newborn screening program, an analysis of the role of Plain community culture in certain court proceedings, and other articles.

For access to the journal, including an option to subscribe to the mailing list and detailed information for prospective authors, visit <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org>.

## Kulp Nigerian Missionary Collection

The family of H. Stover Kulp (1894–1964), one of the first two Brethren missionaries in Nigeria, recently donated a collection of Kulp family papers to the College’s Hess Archives. Many of the materials were collected by Kulp’s daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Moyer Kulp Payne (1932–2021), author of *No Longer Strangers: A Biography of H. Stover Kulp*.

The Church of the Brethren first sent H. Stover Kulp and Albert D. Helser to the northeast of Nigeria in Garkida in 1922. Kulp was soon joined by his first wife, Neta Ruth Royer Kulp, who he met as a student at Juniata College. Ruth died in 1924 along with their infant son, and Kulp married Christina Masterson, a Scottish missionary, in 1926. Together they had two children, Philip and Naomi Kulp.

The mission that H. Stover Kulp co-founded in Nigeria quickly grew into a congregation of more than 10,000. Kulp developed writing systems for local languages and helped translate the Bible. He assisted in the improvement of education, medical care, and agricultural development, and was widely

respected for his work. Kulp returned to the United States in 1964 to retire but passed away shortly thereafter. Kulp Theological Seminary, formerly Kulp Bible School, in Kwarhi is named in his honor.

The donated papers include letters, diaries, sermons, and photographs. Archives Student Assistant Erin Moore ’23 is currently processing the materials, and a finding aid should be available in the coming months.



Erin Moore '23 with a framed Kulp letter and photographs of Kulp with Helser and Kulp performing a baptism

## Graduate student uses Young Center materials to study Plain health care experiences

As an undergraduate anthropology major at Purdue University, Lily Anderson-Chavarria did her senior thesis on out-of-hospital birth outcomes in Plain communities. She chose this topic because of personal experience: her father was a family physician and a member of an Old Brethren Church in Indiana.

In 2017, Anderson-Chavarria began an MD/PhD program at Michigan State University, where she expanded her previous research into a comparison of Indiana and Michigan birth systems and the diverse perspectives, experiences, and approaches to birth found in different communities. Her fieldwork has involved “interviewing families, care providers, and other knowledgeable folks with the goal of understanding how to create, improve, and maintain sustainable health care systems that meet the needs of underserved communities across the United States.”

Anderson-Chavarria spent three weeks at the Young Center last November using Amish periodicals and other resources. “A major focus of my work,” she said, “is how systems change over time, so the materials at the Young Center and the Hess Archives have been invaluable. By looking in periodicals such as *The Little Red Hen News*, I was able to track the appearance and growth in popularity of certain health recommendations that also came up in my interviews. In the work of other researchers, such as in the Kraybill papers, I was able to look through old news stories that illustrate how some local systems initially reacted to the medical preferences of Plain individuals.”

Next, Anderson-Chavarria said, she plans to “combine this information with materials collected from the Mennonite Historical Library in Goshen, Indiana, additional documents or observations I have gathered through fieldwork, and my interview data to describe the mechanisms by which access to quality birth care is stratified in America over time and the consequences experienced by both Plain and non-Plain individuals.”

## Jeff Bach enjoys retirement projects

Since retiring from the Young Center in August 2020, Jeff Bach has enjoyed traveling with his wife, Ann, and with their daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca. He has also happily returned to research and writing.

In the winter and spring of 2021, Bach transcribed and translated German texts from broadsides printed at the Ephrata Cloister for an exhibit in the visitors center at Ephrata. He also translated seven documents related to the arrest of four Anabaptists in Bern, Switzerland, in 1714, which will be included in volume 3 of *Documents of Brotherly Love*. And he has continued to do editorial work for the Brethren Encyclopedia Monograph Series.

Last fall, Bach coauthored with David Kenley (now dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Dakota State University) an essay about Brethren mission schools in China in the 1920s, which is currently under consideration for inclusion in *From Missionary Education to Confucius Institutes: Sino-American Educational Exchange, History, and Prospect*, an edited volume to be published later this year.

In 2020, Bach was invited to join an international research team directed by Veronika Albrecht-Birkner in Siegen, Germany. The group will study the transmission and reception of Johann Heinrich Jung-Stilling’s writings among German-speaking religious groups around the world. Bach will explore the use of Jung-Stilling’s writings in Pietist and Anabaptist groups in the United States.

Last year, Bach accepted an invitation to participate in a collaborative research project directed by Stephanie Delmaire of the Wintertur Museum, Garden & Library to study the 1784 manuscript devotional book by Ludwig Denig, sometimes called the Denig Picture-Bible. The goal of the three-year project, which is titled “The Denig Illuminated Manuscript: A Digital Project Exploring Art-Making in the Early American Borderlands,” is to create a digital platform that reproduces, contextualizes, and interprets the manuscript. Bach will provide transcriptions and translations of the German manuscript texts and contribute to interpreting the Pietist aspect of the work.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

All lectures will be presented in person and livestreamed via Zoom.  
See the [upcoming events page](#) of the Young Center's website for access instructions.

## LECTURE

**"I Have Come as My Name":  
The Vocation and Poems of  
Jane Rohrer**

**JULIA SPICHER KASDORF**

**Thursday, February 24, 7 p.m.**

**Bucher Meetinghouse**



[Julia Spicher Kasdorf](#) presents an illustrated lecture and reading of the poetry of Jane (Turner) Rohrer, one of the first Mennonites to publish poetry in the mainstream literary press in the United States. Rohrer, born in 1928 in Broadway, Virginia, was best known as the wife of the Lancaster County painter Warren Rohrer during his lifetime. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *Life After Death* and *Acquiring Land*, and anticipates an exhibition at [Woodmere Art Museum](#) in April 2022, [Hearing the Brush: The Painting and Poetry of Warren and Jane Rohrer](#).

Julia Spicher Kasdorf co-curated a Palmer Museum of Art exhibition and coedited with Christopher Reed and Joyce Henri Robinson the catalogue [Field Language: The Painting and Poetry of Warren and Jane Rohrer](#). She has also published four books of poetry: [Sleeping Preacher](#); [Eve's Striptease](#); [Poetry in America](#); and [Shale Play: Poems and Photographs from the Fracking Fields](#), created in collaboration with Steven Rubin. She teaches poetry writing at Penn State, where she is a Liberal Arts Professor of English.

## YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

**Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)**

**Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall**

The annual dinner gives friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the Center's activities and programs. Cost for the banquet is \$20; reservations are required by March 10. Call the Young Center at (717) 361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.

## DURNBAUGH LECTURE

**"That I May Sing a Song":  
Early Anabaptist Hymnals**

**JOE A. SPRINGER**

**Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.**

**Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall**



Joe A. Springer shares recent scholarship on the earliest hymnals published by German-speaking Anabaptists in the sixteenth century, devoting particular attention to the 1564 *Etlische schöne Christliche Geseng*, the first

known edition of the Ausbund hymnal, which is still in use among Old Order Amish today.

Joe Springer has served as curator of the [Mennonite Historical Library](#) at Goshen (IN) College since 1986. He holds a BA in history from Goshen College and an MA/MLS in history and library science from Catholic University of America.

## DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

**Early Anabaptist Hymnody: What Do We Want to Learn?**

**JOE A. SPRINGER**

**Friday, March 25, 10 a.m. to noon**

**Bucher Meetinghouse**

Joe Springer provides input and invites discussion of aspects of Anabaptist hymnody that merit further exploration. Can we better determine who used which texts or melodies and how? How did hymns spread geographically and across language groups? What musicological resources provide new documentation or insight?

## KREIDER LECTURE

**The Unknown Story of Naming  
the Brethren in Christ**

**JONATHAN R. STAYER**

**Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.**

**Bucher Meetinghouse**



Since the early twentieth century, the Brethren in Christ—formerly known as the River Brethren—have claimed that they adopted their current denominational name during the American Civil War when the United States government required them to register or go on record as a Peace Church in response to the draft. The conscription laws did not include such a requirement, nor has contemporary documentation of such action by the church been found. So what really happened and how did the Brethren in Christ get their name? Join a retired state government archivist on a fascinating romp through church sources, government records, newspapers, and historical accounts as he unravels the true story.

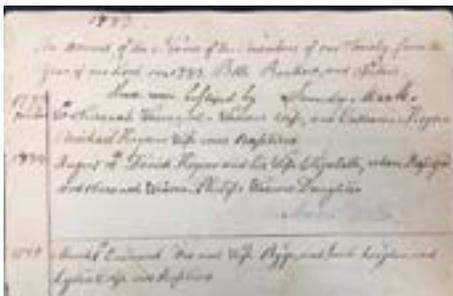
Jonathan R. Stayer was supervisor of reference services at the Pennsylvania State Archives when he retired in 2019 after 35 years of employment. He is vice president of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and serves on the boards of the York County History Center and the Friends of Camp Security. Stayer also volunteers at both the State Archives and the History Center.



[www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr)

## Rare church record book donated

In December 2021, Hugh Savage of Brunswick, Maine, donated a rare and previously



Cover and top of first page of Germantown Church of the Brethren record book, 1783-1842

unknown church record book of the Germantown (PA) Church of the Brethren, covering the years 1783 to 1842. Savage is a descendant of Peter Keyser (1766–1849), the minister who succeeded Alexander Mack Jr. at Germantown. The book had been passed down in the Keyser/Savage family since the mid-nineteenth century.

The book contains a record of baptisms as well as some weddings, funerals, and ordinations. It also includes a short record of love feasts held at Germantown and in Philadelphia and a reference to the dedication of Philadelphia First Church of the Brethren in 1817. Two of the book's pages are a financial ledger for the Germantown congregation's Bible Society, which collected money to provide Bibles for the poor.

The Germantown church record book will be housed in the Hess Archives, and Young Center Director Emeritus Jeff Bach plans to transcribe it.

The Young Center is very grateful to have received this rare piece of Brethren history. It's a wonderful resource for Brethren church history and genealogists.

SPRING 2022

**YOUNG  
CENTER**  
*News*

INTERIM DIRECTOR & SENIOR SCHOLAR  
Steve Nolt

DIRECTOR EMERITUS  
Jeff Bach

SENIOR FELLOW EMERITUS  
Donald Kraybill

RESEARCH STAFF  
Edsel Burdge Jr.  
Cynthia Nolt

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Kay Wolf

*Young Center News* is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. For email notification and a link to each new issue, send a message to [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

Please direct comments and suggestions to: Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies  
Elizabethtown College  
One Alpha Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298

Phone: 717-361-1470

Email: [youngctr@etown.edu](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu)

Website: [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr)

*Young Center News* editor: Cynthia Nolt