

“We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up.” —Hebrews 12:1, NCV

“The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.” —Winston Churchill

“History is not the past, but a map of the past, drawn from a particular point of view, to be useful to the modern traveller.” —American historian Henry Glassie

“If you want to understand today you have to search yesterday.” —American novelist Pearl S. Buck

“History, it is easily perceived, is a picture gallery containing a host of copies and very few originals.” —French historian Alexis de Tocqueville

BY THE NUMBERS

7,159

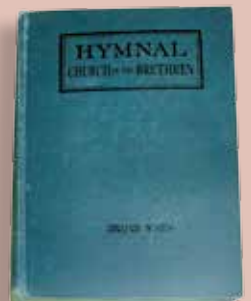
Approximate number of languages spoken around the world, according to Ethnologue. “That number is constantly in flux,” the site notes, “because we’re learning more about the world’s languages every day.” It notes that more than 40 percent of those languages are now endangered.

DID YOU KNOW?

Camp Alexander Mack (Milford, Ind.)—which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year—is home to a treasured piece of Brethren history. Its Quinter-Miller Auditorium houses 12 large oil paintings by Medford Neher, portraying important moments of the Brethren story beginning with the baptisms of the original group of Brethren in Germany in 1708. The paintings were created over several years and finished in 1949 while Neher was pastoring in Ohio. The Brethren Heritage Center in Brookfield, Ohio, has a replica set of the paintings. [Learn more about Camp Mack’s anniversary on page 6.]

THIS YEAR IN HISTORY

This year marks a century since the publication of the *first* blue Brethren hymnal. Published in 1925 by the Brethren Publishing House, it included 471 hymns and used shaped notes. A red hymnal followed that one in 1951, and the “new” blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book* that the Church of the Brethren still uses today came along in 1992. The denomination’s earliest hymnals date to the latter half of the 19th century.



MAY WE BUG YOU?

In this issue, Anna Lisa Gross writes about some of the “creepy crawlers” in our lives. Can you find the following insects and arachnids in the puzzle below? Answers can be horizontal or vertical, forwards or backwards or diagonal.

ANT	I N S T E K C I R C E C
APHID	T G U B Y I W O W V I V
BEETLE	E A R L C L A B E U G T
CICADA	E A N A P H I D E T E I
CRICKET	B N D D S N A A V W I C
EARWIG	Y A N Y G S R N I S M K
FLEA	E K L B S W H T L O E T
FLY	N F I U I N G O T E L R
GRASSHOPPER	O C R G U B E H P E T P
HONEYBEE	H Y R E D I P S C P E R
LADYBUG	A W L E R S A H F K E Y
MOTH	B E F L E W F L E A B R
SPIDER	
TICK	
WASP	
WEEVIL	

“We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you. Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.”

—from “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens,”
text by Catherine Cameron (1967)

“A year spent in artificial intelligence is enough to make one believe in God.” —American computer scientist Alan Perlis

“The key question isn’t ‘What can AI do?’ but ‘What should AI do?’” —author and AI expert John C. Havens

“We need to be mindful how (artificial intelligence) is developed and ensure that it aligns with humanity’s best interests.” —Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates

“Nobody phrases it this way, but I think that artificial intelligence is almost a humanities discipline. It’s really an attempt to understand human intelligence and human cognition.”

—former Udacity CEO Sebastian Thrun

“Remember that all through history there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Always.” —Mahatma Gandhi

GOING WITH THE GRAIN

Bread is a staple in many cultures around the world. The Church of the Brethren in Burundi, for example, recently received a mill funded by the denomination’s Global Food Initiative. Can you unscramble the different types of bread and related items listed below? Answers are elsewhere on this page.



- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ANNA | GLEBA |
| LOTTRAIL | APTI |
| PEARA | PINKCUPMERLE |
| CHERIBO | BATICAAT |
| TUBEGATE | RIOT |
| HAHALLC | NAVELDUNEE |
| CCCFAAIO | CUBSTII |
| HOUSGOURD | ZEEPLTR |

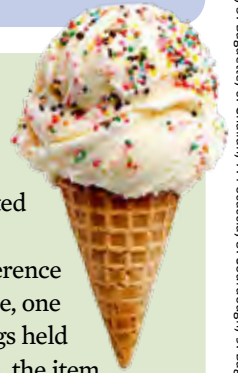
BY THE NUMBERS

55

Percentage of Americans who say they now regularly use AI, according to a recent Pew Research survey. National University reported that more than three-quarters of devices now in use implement some form of AI. Learn more about AI in our lives beginning on page 18.

THIS YEAR IN HISTORY

The June 3 issue of the *Times-Union* newspaper from Warsaw, Ind., contained a historical blurb related to the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference that took place in nearby Winona Lake, one of many Annual Conference gatherings held in the town. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the item highlighted the large quantity of ice cream consumed by attendees. “Two thousand gallons of ice cream was being made at the Collins Ice Cream factory in Warsaw in anticipation of the unprecedented demand for the frozen delicacy by the delegates” attending the conference, the historical excerpt noted. “It is expected that upwards of 3,000 gallons of ice cream will be consumed at Winona in the next seven days of the Brethren conference, due to the unusually hot weather.” Some things never change. Read about this year’s Annual Conference starting on page 8.



DID YOU KNOW?

Aug. 6 and 9 marked the 80th anniversary of the World War II atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, respectively. The World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, a long-time Brethren Volunteer Service project, continues to tell the story of the bombing and its effects while working for peace today. Brad and Sue Cox of Lynchburg (Va.) Church of the Brethren are currently serving there through BVS.

Puzzle answers: 1. Nearn; 2. Tortilla; 3. Apepa; 4. Broocher; 5. Baguette; 6. Challah; 7. Focaccia; 8. Sourdough; 9. Bagel; 10. Pita; 11. Pumpkinckel; 12. Gabatta; 13. Roti; 14. Unleavened; 15. Biscuit; 16. Pretzel.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.” —Isaiah 9:6a, NIV

“Christmas is the day that holds all time together.”

—Scottish poet Alexander Smith

“Hope is a song in a weary throat.”

—civil rights activist Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, in *Dark Testament*

“The very location and circumstance of Christ’s birth was a symbol and sign of God’s solidarity with the socially oppressed and outcast.” —Brethren author and professor Drew G.I. Hart, in *Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*

“Before we took down the tree each year, Dad would always say a prayer that we would be together the next Christmas. I cling to that prayer, which serves as a reminder that it’s important to be grateful in the present for the people you love.”

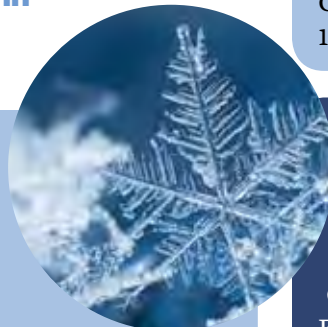
—actress Catherine Hicks



BY THE NUMBERS

580

Number of youth who attended the Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference (NYC) in Fort Collins, Colo., in summer 2022 (along with 321 advisors and staff). Registration for the 2026 NYC, which is returning to Estes Park, Colo., for the first time since the 1980s, opens Jan. 5.



EVERGREEN IN WINTER’S SNOW

Can you find these various types of evergreens in this month’s puzzle? Answers can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal, forward or backward.

PINE FIR SPRUCE	HEMLOCK CYPRESS REDWOOD	JUNIPER YEW ARBORVITAE	HOLLY BOXWOOD WAX MYRTLE							
X	C	H	E	T	H	L	E	D	H	
M	W	R	B	O	O	D	E	O	M	
J	I	A	O	E	Y	L	L	O	H	
U	S	T	X	E	N	E	Y	W	E	
N	M	A	W	M	R	I	X	D	M	
I	S	P	O	W	Y	G	P	E	L	
P	E	R	O	N	N	R	K	R	O	
E	C	O	D	I	I	J	T	B	C	
R	U	X	K	F	O	P	C	L	K	
A	R	B	O	R	V	I	T	A	E	
O	P	J	E	S	U	S	W	N	G	
C	S	S	E	R	P	Y	C	X	A	

DID YOU KNOW?

Sarah Mullally in October became the first woman to be appointed Archbishop of Canterbury—the Church of England’s top leadership post and one of the world’s most recognized religious offices. Previously the bishop of London, she is scheduled to be formally installed in March.

THIS YEAR IN HISTORY

Bethany Bible School, now Bethany Theological Seminary, opened for classes in Chicago 120 years ago, in the fall of 1905. The seminary moved to suburban Oak Brook, Ill., in 1963 and to its present location in Richmond, Ind., in 1994.

Courtesy of Bethany Theological Seminary

