

The pastors and congregations of the North Branch Conference continue to gather and work together in support for one another in mission and ministry.

In 2024:

Lay leader Josh Reinsburrow ended his service as stated supply at St Peter, Columbia Hill in December.

Pastor Joel Zeiders retired from his call at St Matthew, Bloomsburg following New Year's Eve worship.

Hidlay, Bloomsburg closed at a worship service led by Bishop Miller December 1. We give thanks for the faithful service of the congregation over 168 years.

In 2025:

Pastor Troy Spencer left his call at Good Shepherd, Berwick, following worship January 5.

St. John's, Mifflinville reports: The church continues with its monthly "Welcome Table" bagged lunches on the second Saturday of each month. We average around 128 lunches each month, which is possible through the generosity of the congregation members. We continue to explore other avenues to feed our neighbors as the price of food has increased significantly and will be trying these new ideas come the Spring. We have been supporting the ministry of the Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine with donations and in other ways to help make their ministry viable. We also mourned the closing of our sister church, Hidlay Lutheran Church as we were once a parish with them for a number of years.

St Matthew, Bloomsburg is still expanding ministry to the neighborhood, transient and student community through its Community Blessing Box—it seems impossible to outgive the need. The congregation continues to promote Fair Trade products from around the world through Equal Exchange.

The Conference also continues to discuss how best to serve our congregations who are without called leaders.

We give thanks to God for the gifts put into use for mission and ministry by the people of God in the North Branch Conference.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Joel Zeiders, Dean