

Robin Sheikh, DUPC's Sunday School teacher (and so much more), will describe her spiritual journey.

Title: Roots, Yet Still Becoming

Bio/Summary: On Sunday, June 1st, we welcome Robin Sheikh to share her spiritual journey titled: Roots, Yet Still Becoming. Her path has been shaped by an early faith in two distinct Christian traditions, service as a summer missionary, and a growing curiosity about the role of belief in life. From a small-town church in Beavertown, PA, to interfaith conversations on a college campus, her story brings together missions, politics, academic study, and ultimately, love that crossed religious boundaries. With roots in the Church of the Brethren and a heart shaped by both conservative and progressive Christian spaces, she will explore how a faith journey evolves when it is lived out in complexity, not in spite of it.



Roots, Yet Still Becoming

Robin Sheikh

God's Missionary Church - Beavertown, PA





Marriage in this denomination

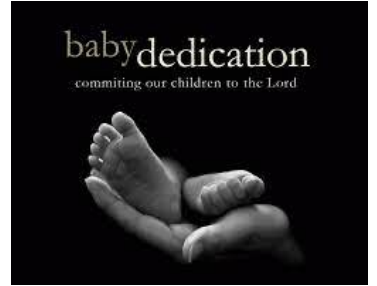


Family Roots in this Church



- My great-grandparents owned the land where the Beavertown God's Missionary Church is sitting on
 - My family sold their farm and put their trust in the value of this church
- My mother learned how to roller skate in this church parking lot. Many Wednesdays after school, she would walk over to the small church and hear the preacher preach
- Family members and friends belong to this church
 - My mother felt inclined to raise us in this church

God's Missionary Church



- Dedicated in this church
- Formative Years
 - Attended VBS
 - Central PA Youth Convention
- **Didn't fully break away from this church until 2015 (Trump Candidacy)**

Church of the Brethren

<https://vimeo.com/95754264>

Church of the Brethren

- Large children's ministry
 - Attended Day Camps
 - Splash Wednesdays
 - Musical Camp
 - Gingerbread House Decorating
- Large Youth Ministry
 - Drama Ministry
 - Creation Festival
 - Winter Jam
 - Impact Festival
 - NYC (National Youth Conference, Fort Collins CO)
- Camp Eder



BVCOB KidConnection · Join

Donita Keister · September 19, 2022 · 🌐

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All are welcome to join us this Friday evening, September 23, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren for our annual Hayride night. We will have hayrides, bounce houses, food (hotdogs, chips, drinks, cookies), pumpkin crafts, and lots of fun! Hayrides will leave every 30 minutes beginning at 6:00 with the last hayride leaving at 8:00. Come and go between 6:00 and 8:00.



3

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BVCOB KidConnection · Join

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It's time to register your kids for our Summer KidConnection Day Camp which is held on Wednesdays, June 14, 21, 28 and July 12, 19, 26.

Our PRESCHOOL program runs from 9am-12 noon. Children will have crafts, Bible lessons, and play time.

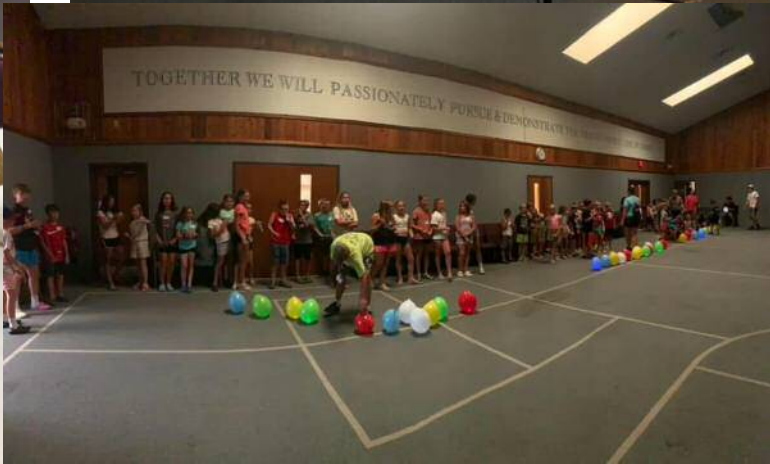
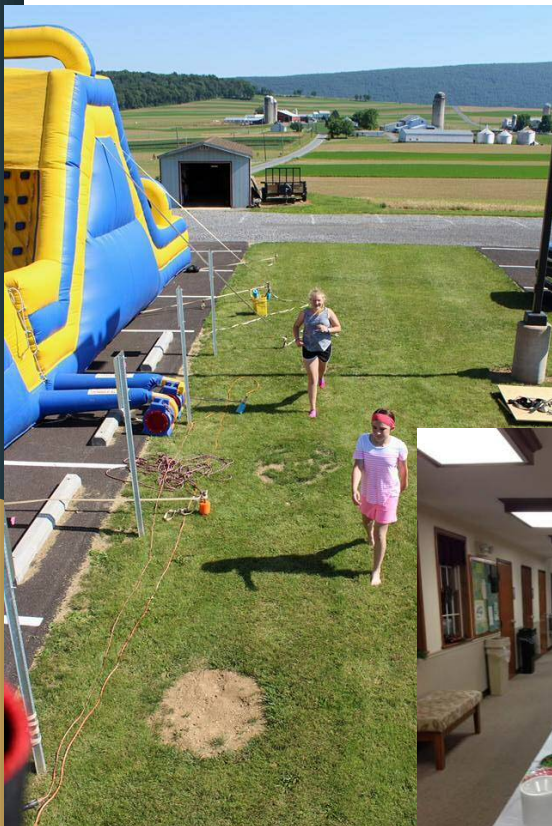
Our program for kids who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade runs from 9 am - 4 pm. Kids receive lunch and then we transport them to the Mifflinburg Pool from 1-4. Parents pick up K-5th grade kids at the pool by 4 pm. If children do not want to stay for the afternoon then parents pick up the kids at the church by 12:30.

Preschool families are welcome to join us at the pool as well, but preschool children must be supervised by their parents at the pool.

We cover the cost of the pool for all who attend with us.

Please preregister your children for daycamp by going to our website: kids.bvcob.com. We hope your children will join us for at least some of our Wednesday Day Camps this summer.





Baptism



Child Evangelism Fellowship

- Attended Day camps as a kid
- When I aged out, I became a camp counselor
- Age 15 - Summer Missionary

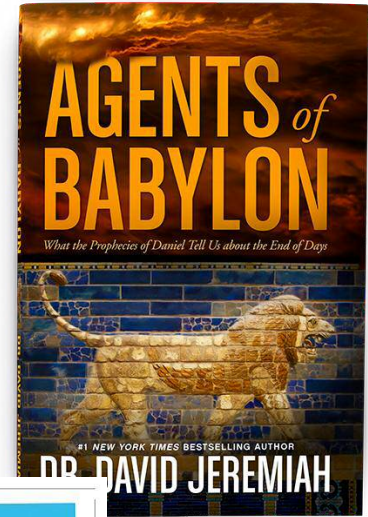
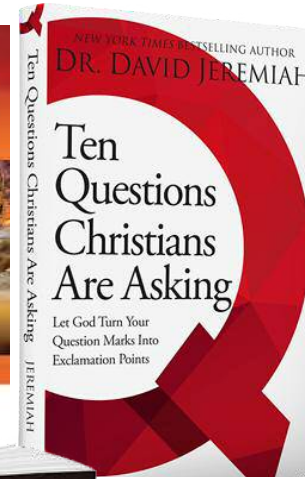
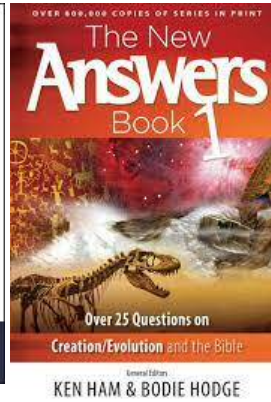
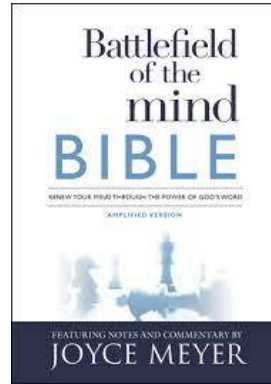




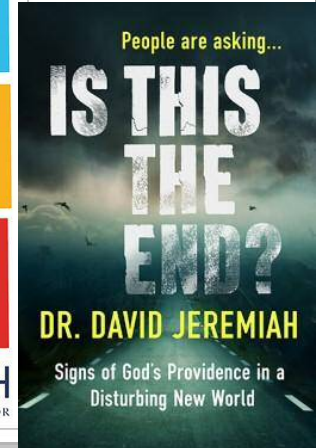
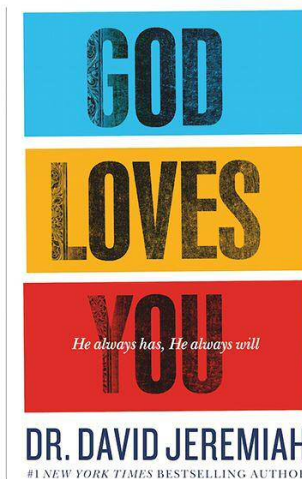
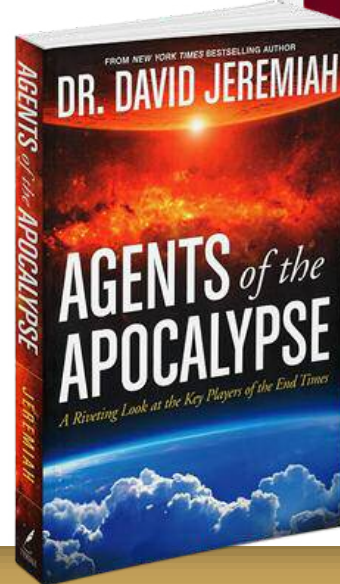
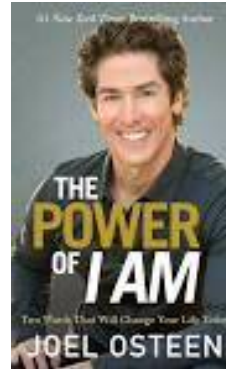
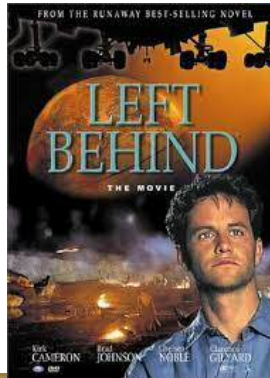
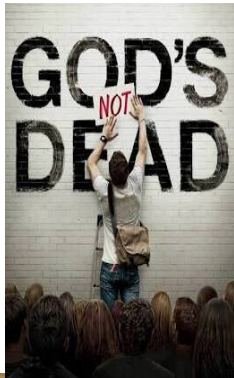


Before Trump

- Spiritual Influences
 - David Jeremiah
 - Joyce Meyer
 - Joel Osteen
 - Ken Ham

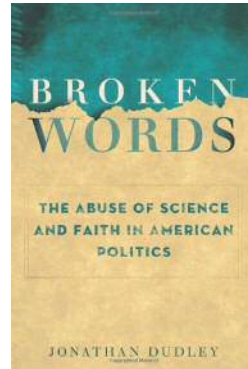
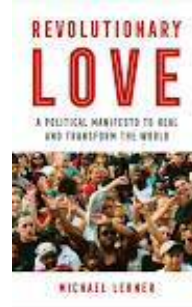


- Watched Christian movies
- Played Christian Music



After Trump

- Became more Political
 - The Women's March DC - Jan 2017
 - Summer of 2017 - UN Trip
 - March 24th 2018 - Helped organized the March for Our Lives School Walk-out after the Parkland Florida shooting that happened on Feb 14 2018
 - Summer of 2018 - NRA YES
- Spiritual Influences
 - Became more critical of Christianity
 - Jonathan Dudley
 - Looked beyond Christianity
 - Rabbi Michael Lerner



UNITED NATIONS



North on Route 15

Easter's over
mom's cooking still clings to my coat,
dad's laugh echoes faint through the static of the
drive.
The kind of warmth that makes you ache
once you leave it behind.

Heading back north,
somewhere in Pennsylvania's spine,
I pass a truck stacked with horses
muscle and grace crammed into metal and
misery,
their eyes dead-set forward,
as if hope's been stripped out at the border.
Canada-bound.
Slaughter-bound.
And this is legal.
This is commerce.
This is what we do in the land of the free.

And I keep driving
back to New York,
where the rent is absurd,
the groceries cost more than my patience,
and the man in the White House
can barely string a sentence together
without reminding us how rigged this all is.

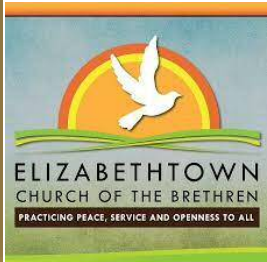
I'm 24 and exhausted.
Not by growing up,
but by waking up
into a country that chews its young
and tells us we're lazy
when we choke on the bitterness.

They say we're soft.
But they raised us
on recessions,
on war,
on mass shootings,
on melting ice and melting dreams,
on bootstraps that were never actually there.

Those horses didn't flinch.
They just stared.
And maybe I get it now.
Maybe when you're part of a system
that profits off your silence,
you learn how to go quiet
even when you want to scream

Religious Studies - Elizabethtown College

- Dr. Jeffrey Long
 - Dharma Traditions
 - Bhagavad Gita
 - Guru Nanak
- Church of the Brethren
 - More progressive than my hometown COB
 - Flew Pride, BLM Flag



Interfaith Civil Rights Pilgrimage



Religious Studies - Nazareth College



Corinne G. Dempsey

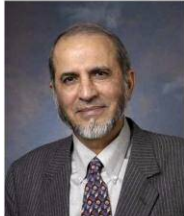
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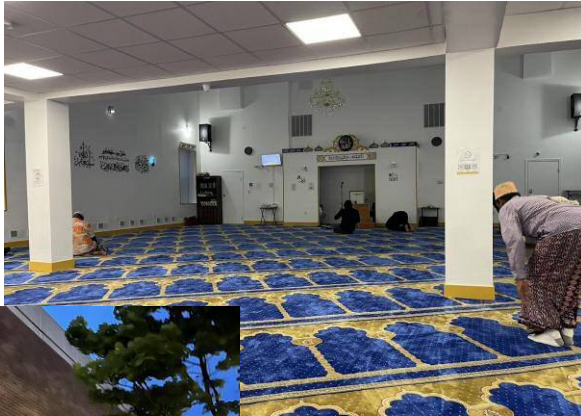
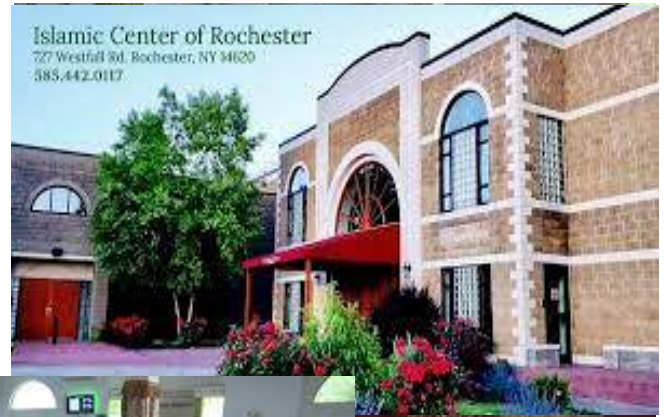
📍 Golisano Academic Center 309

Dr. Dempsey - Religion and Healing

Dr. Shafiq - Interfaith, Islam

Bishal Karna - Death and Dying

Islam 101 - Dr. Shafiq



Enter: DUPC



- Gave me a place to teach children about Christ (back to my roots)
- Gave me a church family
- Deepened my appreciation for Christ, for the Bible, and for Church

Holy Snacks and Sacred Side-Eye

They call me a Sunday school teacher,
which sounds a little *too official*
for someone who mostly wrangles glitter glue
and deep questions like:
“Did Jesus have a dog?”
(Probably. It was chill.)
I work in the belly of the church,
Presbyterian, polished,
with bulletins and bylaws
and someone always asking
who’s bringing the fair trade coffee.
And somehow, I fit.
Kind of.
I mean, I believe
in love that flips tables,
in grace that smells like Play-Doh,
in a God who’s way less “man in the sky”
and way more “vibe in the room.”
So I show up.
Not with commandments,
but with stories,
questions,
a snack bag that could rival the loaves and fishes.
(Ask me how many goldfish crackers
have been redeemed in that room.)

We talk about enemies
and how to love them,
about how Jesus probably would’ve
sat with the kid no one else liked,
and used they/them for God
because... duh.
And yeah, I’m technically part of the *system*,
but it feels more like sneaking in
to plant little subversive seeds:
kindness, courage,
queer-affirming, justice-seeking
seed bombs of grace.
And the best part?
No one’s stopping me.
This church might still wear its Sunday best,
but it’s loosening the collar,
learning how to dance,
how to say,
“We don’t know everything—
but we’re trying.”
So I teach.
I laugh.
I tell the kids God probably looks
a lot like them when they’re sharing their cookies.
And that feels
pretty damn holy.

Interfaith Marriage



**Theological Witness: Living in the
Both/And**

Our children will wake
to the call to prayer
and the hymn of a doxology.

They will know
how the floor feels
when you press your forehead in sujud,
and how bread is broken
when whispered, *this is my body, given for
you.*

We met
not despite the space between us,
but because of it.
In your Ramadan hunger,
I tasted the discipline of joy.
In my Advent waiting,
you recognized your own longing.

Some will ask,
What are you raising them to be?
as if we must choose
crescent or cross,
spice or stew,
past or possibility.

But the act of living
as a both/and person
in a world built on either/or
is a theological witness.

Our children will not be torn.
They will be woven.
A sermon with skin,
a bridge that breathes.
Not evidence of compromise
but of covenant.

Let them come
with their questions.
Let them name us contradiction.
We will answer:
Beloved. Whole. Still becoming.

Spirituality Today

- **Academic Interests**

- Interfaith
- Multi-Religious Belonging
- Tech and Religion
- Religion and Healing

- **Fluidity**

- Practice Christianity (Church, Sunday School)
- Practice Islam (Ramadan, Prayer, Eid)
 - Strengthens my Christian faith
 - But if I am being honest, also Spiritual rather than fully Religious
 - **I do not like boxes**



More Spirit than Structure

I work in a place with stained glass words,
Where theology hums in hushed hallways,
And everyone talks like God is a roommate
they've known since undergrad.

It's progressive, sure
rainbows in the chapel, pronouns in the liturgy
but still,
there are moments I feel like I'm standing
outside the temple
with dust on my shoes
and no desire to take them off.

The other day, my boss asked
if we could pray in a public restaurant
my mouth was already full of fries,
salt and grease the only sacrament I needed.
I nodded politely,
but inside I thought,
I don't do that.

It's not that I don't believe.
I do.
In breath.
In moonlight.
In people who show up when it's hard.

I just don't believe in the performance,
the politeness of piety,
the way some institutions
dress up power in holy robes
and ask us to bow.

Maybe it's the Gen Z in me,
maybe it's the ghosts of churches
that touched too many without consent.
But I feel God more
in awkward laughter
and shared playlists
and the silence between
"I'm not okay"
and
"Me neither."

So I show up.
I do the work.
I nod at the prayers.

But my altar is something
I carry inside
wild, unpolished,
and mine.

Still Struggling, Still Growing, Still Becoming

My faith journey isn't defined by finding simple answers, but by continually engaging with its inherent complexity.

It's living fully *in* that complexity, not trying to escape it, that allows faith to truly evolve and deepen.