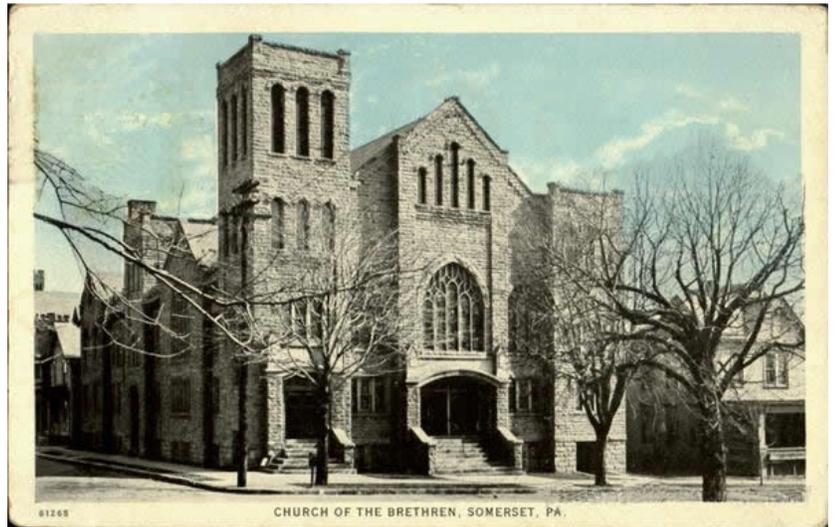


Somerset Church of the Brethren

The year 2012 officially marks the 92nd anniversary of the founding of Somerset Church of the Brethren. Our congregation was organized on January 28, 1920, shortly after the Middlecreek Church of the Brethren granted permission for their Somerset area members to form a new congregation. The Sunday school had already been formed on March 16, 1919 with the original Sunday school class being conducted in the Assembly Room of the Somerset County Courthouse with 68 members present. Early church services were also held in the Courthouse and it soon became apparent that a suitable church home was needed.



The congregation originally purchased what in 2012 is known as the home of Neilan Engineers on West Union Street in Somerset with plans to renovate that structure for worship services. Those plans were quickly abandoned when the congregation purchased a plot of ground at 303 South Center Avenue, where an old house was dismantled to provide a building site. A vigorous financial campaign was launched in the spring of 1920. The Union Street building was resold and by February 1921 a building committee was formed.



The congregation's huge stone edifice was constructed between the summer of 1921 and the late winter of 1911. The original house of worship was dedicated on May 7, 1922. Nine pastors served the congregation during the 85 years the congregation worshipped in their original house of worship.



In the early months of 2001, 7.33 acres of land in Somerset Township were purchased by the congregation. Negotiations began with Somerset Community Hospital to purchase the large stone church that required many updates and expensive renovations. The church board formed a building committee and a communication committee on January 14, 2004. Plans for the new church facility were presented to the congregation at a special council meeting on Dec. 11, 2005. The congregation voted in favor of the proposed building plans. Ground breaking ceremonies transpired on June 4, 2006. The construction process progressed rapidly that summer and fall and continued throughout the winter of 2007. By June 17, 2007 the first church service was held in the new church building and by June 30 the ownership of the 303 South Center building and its parking area was transferred to Somerset Hospital. A service of dedication for our new church was conducted on September 23, 2007. The sanctuary provides seating accommodations for 286 persons with over-flow seating providing 50 additional seats in the rear of the sanctuary. The large open chancel provides well for multiple worship styles and performances. State of the art sound and projection systems enhance the worship services.



Many persons gave time, talents, dollars, and insight into making our new church building a reality. Pastors Paul and Brandy Liepelt presented their first sermon on August 1, 2010, coming north from Virginia to become our new co-pastors. As we move forward in serving God and our community, it is gratifying to welcome new members and families into the congregation. Our congregation is known for its good musical performances and for being a caring congregation, interested in the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, community families, and our own members. A hearty welcome is extended to the public to join us in worship services and to participate in the many special programs advertised on our website as well as on our electronic sign board located at the entrance to our church parking lot.

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 **Somcob.org**

