

February, 2022
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Encourage one another and build each other up . . . I Thessalonians 5:1

As COVID 19 and its variants continue to rage, we've grown weary of the disruptions, cancellations, adjustments and stress almost to the breaking point sometimes. Nowhere is this more true than for health care workers. Our own Brethren Retirement Community currently has over 30 individuals (11%) of their staff out with COVID or who have been exposed to COVID. Of course this adds to the workload of those who are healthy enough to continue working. Morale is becoming strained as the team is working extra hard to recover.

We are asking that you please consider encouraging the staff by reaching out with goodies, gifts and care packages. Remind them they are not fighting this battle alone and we are thinking about, praying for them and that we appreciate their efforts and their dedication to the residents they are called to care for.

Small tokens of appreciation such as lip balm, personal hand sanitizer, bottled water, apples, baked goods, box lunches, pizza and cards of appreciation would go a long way in showing our support for them. If you want other ideas of how to help, please contact Holly Hill (holly.hill@bhrc.org)

Thank you in advance for your response to this need.

Micah 6:8 Community: An Invitation to Participate

Your Resource Development Commission would like to invite you to join a new community within the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. The Micah 6:8 Community (formerly the Ambassador's Club) believes in the message and mission of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren and is willing to support this mission financially.

Micah 6:8 reads: "He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." [Click here](#) to download a brochure which gives a few examples of how SOKD strives to fulfill this verse.

If you have supported our mission in the past, we can't thank you enough. It is only through your generous donations that our ministry continues. Or possibly you have not contributed financially in the past, but have given of your time and talent. Thank you for that very precious gift. Would you now consider making a financial contribution? Your gift of any amount will undergird and enhance the ministry we do together, unleash the power and creativity of God's Holy Spirit in district and congregational ministries, and empower us to respond to God's call to radical discipleship informed by our Brethren heritage.

If you are feeling a call to be a part of the SOKD Micah 6:8 Community, you can mail your donation to the



district mailing address at P O Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Or you can make a donation online using your credit card.

Thank you . . .

Dear Friends of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District,

Thank you so much for the multitude of well wishes and support as I have moved into retirement. Many of you joined in the Zoom gathering on January 23rd which meant a great deal to me.

It was a joy, a privilege, and an honor to serve as District Executive Minister for the past eleven years. The journey was filled with significant moments.

I carry many fond memories of our service together and of all the accomplishments that have continued the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together. My prayers continue to be with you all as ministry continues in both new and ongoing ways.

Blessings for the journey!

Dave Shetler
RETIRED District Executive Minister
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

Guide Our Feet Women's Evening

The District Women's Retreat Committee has planned a wonderful evening filled with fun, joy, celebration, and inspiration with the theme of "Guide Our Feet." Scriptures relating to feet will help us work on a closer walk with Jesus. Songs about our journey of faith and the paths we take will be sprinkled throughout the evening. Prayer time and meditations will offer quiet personal reflections. A few surprises will also pop up occasionally.

One of the highlights will be our time of sharing personal stories about shoes. The committee is asking the participants to find a pair of shoes that have meaning and a story attached. The stories can be funny, silly, deeply moving, uplifting, sad, or simple. It is the sharing of these shoe journeys that brings us closer.

The meeting will be on Zoom, so there is no cost or need to leave the comfort of one's home. Groups are welcome to gather and join us also. The only registration needed is an email to Karen Dillon, crimdill@aol.com to help her complete the list of those needing the Zoom link.

So dust off those dancing shoes, roller skates, bedroom slippers, spiked high heels, running shoes, baby shoes, hiking boots, and any other shoes with a story. We can hardly wait to hear all the shared moments!

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – A Sewing Bee/CWS Prep will be held at Eaton Community Church on Sat., Feb. 26 at 9:00 AM. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine for making bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Non-sewers will prepare items for school kits and clean-up buckets. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. Contact Barb Brower (937-336-2442) for more information. The 2022 schedule can be found on the district website, or ask in your church office.

BDM Rebuilding Opportunities – Serve with BDM in 2022! BDM is working in Bayboro, NC through April with recovery from Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018). Volunteers are needed for March 13-19 and April 10-16. A new site will open in May, and volunteers are needed for May 15-21. The location has not been announced.

To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902. A complete schedule of 2022 trips can be found on the district website or contact your church office.

Volunteer in Dayton, OH – Work will continue in Dayton on “Tornado Survivors Pathways to Home Ownership” houses. The work is with a partner of Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Their disaster response group is called “Week of Compassion.” Due to Covid, the starting date has been delayed repeatedly. It is currently scheduled for the first of March. A flyer containing more information can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2021 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

- May we lift Dottie Woodard surgery on her ankle.
- We lift up Nick Beam as he begins service as Interim District Executive Minister.
- Those affected by the recent tornadic activity with lost lives, damaged properties and homes, and other effects.
- There continue to be reports of shootings and planned shootings in the news as well as other expressions of violence. May we pray for an end to such violent responses.
- Those affected by the coronavirus outbreak. There are many changing directives, regulations and recommendations affecting our country and way of life, may we remember all those adjusting to this changing world.
- employment situation in our world
- Those congregations in pastoral transition - **Oakland:** Andrew Wright Interim
Brookville: Mike Trott installed as pastor this Sunday
White Cottage continues their agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment.
New Carlisle: Tara Hornbacker, interim
Prince of Peace: John Sgro, interim
Trotwood: Rusty Curling, interim
Lower Miami: Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim
Beavercreek: Sandy Jenkins, interim
Pleasant Hill: Fred Bernhard, interim

- There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact Nick if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.