

April, 2022
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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National Youth Conference Grants Available

Every 4 years, Church of the Brethren youth from all over the world gather at Ft. Collins, Colorado for National Youth Conference. 2022 is the year!! Many of you are already busy holding fundraisers and making plans attend. The Resource Development Commission and the District Board want to assist you. They have made a \$500 grant available for any youth or adult advisor from this district who is attending.

More information, including how to apply can be found on the District Website. More information about NYC including how to register can be found at www.brethren.org. Early registration ends April 1, 2022. After that date, registrations will have an extra \$50 late fee.

Updates can also be found on the NYC Facebook page.

The Generosity Project

The SOKD Resource Development Commission is excited to offer our churches the opportunity of a year-long study titled "The Generosity Project". This study will:

- reinforce the importance of stewardship as a call to generosity of disciples of Jesus
- reframe your church's stewardship conversations
- refresh stewardship patterns by finding new ways of engaging generosity.

You are invited to participate by joining the first Generosity Project cohort. This will consist of 4-5 pastors and a selected layperson from his/her congregation. Activities will include:

- attending an initial in-person, half-day orientation
- reading *The Generosity Project* selected books, one each quarter of the year
- attending a quarterly virtual meeting of the cohort to discuss the reading
- viewing one Generosity Project webinar per quarter (in asynchronous time)
- creating and implementing a generosity experiment to address your congregation's unique stewardship needs.

The Cohort will begin in May 2022, so if you would like to participate and immediate response is necessary. Please contact Glenn Timmons at 937-623-5609 or email gtimmons1@woh.rr.com. More information can be found on the district website.



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.

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.

Camp Sugarwood 2022 Spring and Summer Events

SOK District Camping and Retreat Ministries have put together some exciting events and summer camps that will engage people of all ages to experience God's abundant love and mercy. [Click here](#) for more information about these opportunities to gather in His name for recreation, learning, prayer, adventures, service and renewing spirits.

Cookie Camp will be held at Salem Church of the Brethren on Friday, April 8, 12:00 pm -9:00 pm (two sessions-- 12:00-5:00 and 6:00-9:00) and Saturday April 9, 9:00 AM-2:00 pm. A flyer which describes what cookies are available and order forms are available on the district website, or you can inquire in your church office. Orders for the cookies should be called or emailed to Karen Dillon by April 3. The funds raised from this sale of cookies help support the activities and camps of Camp Sugarwood.

Spring Flings are an opportunity for students to get together for a Saturday of fun. The flings are a replacement for Winter Blasts that were cancelled. The activities will include games, devotions, crafts, lunch, swimming, and some other surprises during the day. Flyers can be printed off from the district website, or inquire at your church office.

Summer Camps will be held in person at Cricket Holler this coming summer. There are many types of camps being planned. A complete list of each camp, brochures with printable registration forms, posters with more details for each camp and how to register online can be found on the district website.

Sunday Picnics were popular and well attended last summer. There will be two more Sunday afternoon picnics in June and July. We have the opportunity to just be together to enjoy games, activities, and time of friendly conversations at Salem Church of the Brethren's park-like setting with its ballfield, playground, and picnic shelter. A free, light supper will be provided. Our evening will end after a vesper service and an ice cream bar. The posters give a lot more details, so please place them where people can read all about the picnics. A poster which can be used to advertise or invite can be downloaded on the district website, or inquire at your church office.

Volunteers are a vital part of Camping and Retreat Ministries. Information about signing up to be a volunteer in an area of interest can be found on the district website. The programs and camps cannot exist without volunteers donating their time and energy. Please post the sheets and encourage volunteers to contact us. A volunteer form is available on the district website, or contact your church office to inquire about how to volunteer.

Scholarships are available for all camps. For more information about how to receive a scholarship, contact Karen Dillon.



Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Volunteer in Dayton, OH – Work continues in Dayton on “Tornado Survivors Pathways to Home Ownership” houses. Volunteers are needed the weeks of April 3, April 10, and throughout May. The preference is for volunteers to work Monday - Friday, but working partial weeks is possible too. 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.” More information, including how to register is available on the district website.

New Rebuild Site – Waverly, TN is the location of the new BDM site that opens April 24 and continues through 2022. The recovery is from flooding that occurred in August 2021. Along with rebuilding, there is still cleanup that needs to be done. Housing will be at the Presbyterian church located in the center of this small town. Work sites will be close. Volunteers are needed for May 15-21, July 17-23, and Sept. 4-10. To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902. All of the 2022 trip dates are posted on the district website.

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – A Sewing Bee/CWS Prep will be held on Sat., April 23 at 9:00 AM. Come to Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine for making bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Non-sewers will prepare items for hygiene kits, school kits, and clean-up buckets. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. Contact Barb Brower (937-336-2442) for more information. The complete 2022 sewing bee schedule is available on the district website.

Hygiene Kit Assembly – Volunteers are needed on Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 PM to assemble 1,000 hygiene kits for CWS. Come to Mill Ridge Village Community Center, 1000 Mill Ridge Circle, Union. There will be a variety of work – from jobs that are done while seated to carrying and loading boxes of kits. Plan to join in this time of service and fellowship.

Trotwood CoB Offers Scholarships for College Students

The Trotwood Church has five scholarships for college students. You can learn more details and ask for an application form by calling the church office, Tuesday thru Friday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The amount of each scholarship will be determined by the number of applications, the resources available and the guidelines of each contributor. Office number- 937-837-6604.

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.

- For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.
- Pastor Lee Saylor, Thomas and Isaac and the Salem congregation in prayer for the death of Ashley Saylor.
- Ken Oren and family as Ken has begun treatment for leukemia.
- Scott Fitzgerald (district treasurer), mother has broken leg and heart issues
- Becky Maurer, Standing Committee Delegate, hip replacement surgery February 22, 2022
- We are thankful that COVID cases are coming down and pray that it will continue. Please be aware of the changing mask requirements in different settings. Brethren Retirement Community continues to experience nearly daily changes. If you plan on visiting at BRC, please make sure that you will be able to do so. In addition, many businesses including healthcare are experiencing worker shortages; we need to lift up the employment situation in our world.



- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition:

- **Oakland**--Andrew Wright, interim
- **Brookville**--Mike Trott begins serving
- **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 pastor
- **Donnels Creek** -- Jim Chronister providing pulpit fill
- **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.