

November, 2022
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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In Person District Conference “Celebrates God’s Abundant Goodness”

What an amazing time of fellowship and worship at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren for our 168th District Conference. More than 100 folks, including 60 delegates met in person and a few joined online.

Friday began with a workshop on Visionary Leadership led by Vicki Ullery and Andrew Wright. Friday afternoon saw conference goers splitting up and heading out to do service projects in the area. 25 of us assembled 1000 hygiene kits for Church World Service, Journey Kits, Cricket Holler, Cards, Northmont FISH, Northmont Schools.

The Friday evening worship was led by a district choir and orchestra. David Shumate, the retiring District Executive from Virginia District brought the message. After worship the District Board served ice cream for those who stayed to visit with one another.

Saturday business, led by Moderator Vicki Ullery, was filled with reports from staff, commissions, denominational agencies, and this year's Annual Conference Moderator, Tim McElwee.

The theme, "Celebrate God's Abundant Goodness" was evident throughout the weekend, especially on Saturday, when we saw videos from many congregations around the district sharing the "Good News" of what is happening in their churches. What a joy it was to see the powerful ways God is working in our district! In fact, if you were unable to be at conference this year, or if you would like to watch these videos again, they are posted on our district website.

We celebrated Karen Dillon's time as Director of Outdoor Ministries by presenting her with the Outdoor Ministries Staff Person of the Year that was awarded her at this past summer's Annual Conference. What a great way to recognize Karen's last district conference as camp director! Thank you Karen, for your faithful service!

We also celebrated Charlene Foster's 60 years of ministry with our camping program. When it was asked how many people in the room have been at camp with Charlene, almost everyone raised their hand! What a remarkable legacy! Thank you Charlene, for your faithful service!

Other business on Saturday was a vote on the 2023 District Budget. After a couple of concerns were shared, the budget passed. While we are facing many challenges in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District, just like most other districts, but God is working in powerful ways in and through the many faithful people in the district, which gives us confidence that we will meet and overcome these challenges.

Our moderator for 2023 is Ty Pyles and the theme is "Grow With a Growth that is of God" from Colossians 2:19



New Carlisle Congregation seeks Keyboardist

The New Carlisle Church of the Brethren is seeking a person who will play the keyboard during Sunday morning worship and provide pre- and post-worship music. This person will also accompany the choir two Sundays per month and be available for practice Wednesdays September-May. This position could be shared between two people if necessary. Compensation will be negotiated. Interested persons should contact Kelly at the New Carlisle Church. (newcarlislecob@gmail.com or 937-845-1428).

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

CDS Serving in Florida - A team of five Children's Disaster Services (CDS) childcare workers are serving in North Fort Myers, Florida. Melodie Bernhard from Oakland is part of the team who are serving children displaced by Hurricane Ian. They are providing services in a small tent behind the Red Cross - FEMA shelter, where 700+ people are staying. Services are provided seven days a week from early morning until supper time for babies through junior high. Please pray for the workers and the disaster survivors during these very challenging times.



Childcare Area



Children with smiles, having completed a puzzle



"It's my whole city. It's sad because my whole city got blown away." Artist-age 6

2023 Rebuilding Trips – Reserve your slot to serve on a BDM rebuilding crew in 2023. Volunteers are needed for January 8-14 and Feb. 5-11. The location for the BDM site has not been announced yet. Other 2023 dates are April 23-29, May 7-13, June 4-10, July 9-15, Sept. 10-16, Oct. 8-14, and Nov. 5-11. The March 26-April 1 trip is currently reserved for Oakland COB. However, names may go on the waiting list and will be moved up if Oakland doesn't fill all 15 slots. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhiooBDM@gmail.com. A flyer with all the 2023 trip dates is available on the district website.



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.

- For the people whose lives have been affected by Hurricane Ian.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition:

- ***Greenville***— Pastor Ron Sherck resignation as of June 19
- ***West Alexandria***—Pastor Brody Rike resignation as of May 15
- ***Oakland***--Andrew Wright, interim
- ***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
- ***Olivet***—Daniel Fullen resigned

- 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.