

October, 2023
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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2023 SOK District Conference

The 2023 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference will be held October 6 & 7, 2023 at the West Charleston Church of the Brethren, 4817 St Rt 202, Tipp City, OH 45371. We are grateful to our sisters and brothers at West Charleston for providing this space where we can gather. This year, we are reaching out to all of you for your help as this is a District event. Would you be willing to serve as an usher, set up or take down, serve meals, etc. Online registration is now closed. However, you can still attend. Non-delegate attendees are always welcome, but you will need to plan for meals offsite. If you plan to attend as a delegate, you will need to bring a letter, signed by your congregational leadership, to the registration table at the conference.

Your Program and Arrangements Commission is excited about CEU Opportunities. Jonathan Shively will help us take a look at the opportunities for growth presented in a post-pandemic church.

Loyce Borgman from Eder Financial will be available during the conference for one on one appointments to envision retirement, whether for yourself or a family member.

Nate Polzin will be our guest speaker for the worship service Friday evening. Moderator, Ty Pyles will lead a bible study around the conference theme.

SOK District Conference Service Projects

Your Program and Arrangements Committee is asking you to join in supporting the following two local ministries at this year's conference.

East Dayton Fellowship Ministry to homeless and others in need in Dayton, OH. We will be accepting donations of these items.

- Clothing-- they accept and always need all types of clothing. Right now they are in special need of kids clothes for ages 4-10 years old as well as teenagers.
 - In the winter, they also need men's gloves (think big hands)
 - Food--canned goods and non-perishables
- Other--household cleaners, blankets

We also invite you to support a ministry to the students of Antioch College supported by the West Charleston Church of the Brethren. Antioch College offers year round housing to students for whom returning home is impossible or unsafe. Although they do not yet know how many will remain on campus over winter break, there are typically around 15 students who remain on campus. This ministry provides care packages to these students. Items needed are: food (things like ramen, microwavable mac and cheese, fruit snacks, crackers, chips, candy, etc) and gift cards (amazon, uber eats, grub hub, etc). Also, cute dorm room things (journals, pens, water bottles, etc). If there are items to be made, hats or scarves could be quilted, rice bags sewn, or art made. (Antioch is very much an art school!).



Camp Sugarwood Updates

Cookie Camp

The 2023 Cookie Camp will be held Dec. 1 and 2 at the Salem Church of the Brethren. Please come and help make these stupendous, homemade cookies. Proceeds from the sale of these cookies provides funding for the 2024 Winter Blast for the youth of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. A flyer with more information can be found on the district website, or check in your church office.

Camp Ambassadors Meeting

The Fall Camp Ambassadors Meeting is scheduled for October 15 from 2-4pm at Salem Church of the Brethren- 6037 Phillipsburg Union Rd, Englewood, OH 45322. Please plan on attending to find out information about Cookie Camp, Winter Blast, and a new opportunity.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

With Appreciation – August was fundraising month for S. Ohio/KY BDM. Thank you to all who had a part in this! There were 310 people in attendance at the Ice Cream Social. The Golf Scramble that was held with Camping & Retreat Ministries had 22 ½ teams and 19 hole sponsors. The Darke County Fair parking at Orthopedic Associates had 29 workers. We are still finalizing the income from these events. Proceeds will support BDM's work with disaster survivors. We appreciate the support of the S. Ohio/KY District!

CDS in Maui - Children's Disaster Services (CDS) is responding to the wildfires in Hawaii. The team that left on Monday, August 14 includes one worker from the S. Ohio/KY District. This team has been called for a three-week deployment. Many of the survivors are now staying in motels. Therefore, the CDS team has set up a childcare center outside a motel in Lahaina. Please say a prayer for all the families impacted by these wildfires. Also pray for all the responders providing care, including the CDS volunteers.

Rebuilding Opportunities – Join a crew Sept. 10-16 and/or Oct. 8-14 going to Dawson Springs, KY for tornado recovery! Do you have time and a desire to serve? Construction leaders will teach needed skills. Tools, transportation, lodging, and meals are provided. To volunteer, call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – On Saturday, Sept. 23 at 9:00 AM, a Sewing Bee/Church World Service (CWS) Prep will be held at Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for CWS. Non-sewers will prep items for CWS kits. Bring a sack lunch and come for a time of service and fellowship. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

Save the Dates:

Cleanup Bucket Assembly – Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:30 PM, Bullen Ultrasonics, Eaton

Appreciation Dinner - Sat., Nov. 11, 6:00 PM, Brookville COB



Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2023 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

-Cleve Bowling--passed away this past Thursday, Sept. 28.

-Chuck Cupp fell at his home at the BRC and is now in the medical wing recovering and receiving rehab

-Willie Lynam- struck while riding his bicycle to work in Texas last week and is in very serious condition

-For the victims and their families and those recovering from the Maui wild fires. For those CDS volunteers and all the other agencies and people helping in the recovery.

-For the victims and their families recovering from the never-ending cycle of gun violence.

-The Standing With People of Color Annual Conference study/action committee as they continue their important work.

-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.

- ◆ May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**-- Jim Chronister, Interim
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**--Fred Bernhard, Interim
- ◆ **Trinity**-- John Edwards, Interim
- ◆ **Eversole**-- Mark Bowman retired, April 30
- ◆ **Circleville**--Roger Cruser retiring Dec. 31, 2023

- 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.