

January, 2024

2024 District Conference

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference will be held on September 27 & 28, 2024 at the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, 800 E David Rd, Dayton, OH. The theme for 2024 is "Breathe in the Beloved". You are also invited to participate in three events which will lead up to District conference. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of the conversation as we breathe into what God calls us to be.

- **February 14, 2024:** Ash Wednesday Service at East Dayton Fellowship, 3520 E 3rd St, Dayton, OH 45403. There will be a carry-in dinner at 5:30 PM followed by an Ash Wednesday service with congregational sharing at 6:30 pm.
- **June 15, 2024:** Cricket Holler, 6444 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414 at 8:30 AM. Morning Watch 9-1
- **July 14, 2024:** District Picnic at Salem Church of the Brethren from 4-6 PM--Being Mindful of the Spirit.

Men's Retreat is Back!

We are excited to announce the return of this popular event for Men. The retreat is a spiritual weekend will be held at The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein 2365 St. John's Rd, Maria Stein OH 45860, February 9-10, 2024. This is open to all men regardless of church affiliation. Men 16 years of age and older are invited to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, scripture teachings, worship and fun. The retreat offers different registration packages from full to partial attendance. Registration deadline is January 13, 2024. Forms can be found on the district website.

Disaster Ministry Updates

BDM Meeting – Start the new year by attending the BDM meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at Mill Ridge Village Community Center. Hear from volunteers who served at the Brethren Service Center and from those on the October and November rebuilding trips to Kentucky. We'll review the ministry accomplished in 2023 and look ahead to 2024 opportunities. Fellowship Time is at 6:30 PM, and the meeting is at 7:00 PM.

Rebuilding Trips – S. Ohio/KY BDM has a rebuilding trip scheduled for most months of 2024. January through June will be to Dawson Springs, KY, where we will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity. There's room for three more volunteers on the Jan. 14-20 crew. Volunteers are also needed for March 10-16.

Note that several months are claimed by a congregation: April-Oakland, May-

New Carlisle, and June-Happy Corner. We do need others to put their names on the waiting list for these trips. If the designated congregation doesn't fill all the slots, other BDMers will join the crew. On the July 21-27 trip we're encouraging both youth and adults to serve. Let's have parents come with a youth (14 yrs.+) or grandparents/another adult with a youth (15 yrs. +). Invite a youth from your church to serve with you. We're planning for a rich intergenerational experience!

A flyer with trip dates can be found on the district website. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – In 2024 Sewing Bees will be held February through October on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. They will alternate between Greenville COB and Eaton Community Church. Volunteers will sew school bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Non-sewers will prep items for school kits and cleanup buckets. A flyer with the 2024 schedule can be found on the district website.

2023 Data – Support to S. Ohio/KY BDM was given in many forms: as a rebuilding volunteer, CDS volunteer, sewing school bags, assembling CWS kits, helping with fundraisers, financial contributions, and prayer. All are greatly appreciated as together we bring hope and share God's love with disaster survivors.

Rebuilding -13 trips with 125 volunteers to Dawson Springs, KY and Jackson, KY at a cost of \$4,800

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) – 8 volunteers served on 5 deployments in Missouri, Arkansas, Hawaii, Illinois, and Guam

Church World Service (CWS) - 528 Cleanup Buckets, 3,239 Hygiene Kits, and 3,043 School Kits were assembled for \$55,300. At nine Sewing Bees, 103 participants sewed bags for school kits or prepped items for CWS buckets/kits. 300 volunteers worked at the Kit/Bucket Assemblies.

Donations to support the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM are greatly appreciated. Checks to S. Ohio/KY District COB need to be footnoted BDM and sent to PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, email the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District (sodcob@brethren.org) or visit our website: www.sodcob.org. In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to sodcob@brethren.org **before the 15th of the month.***