

February, 2024
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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2024 SOK 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 “Breathing in the Beloved”.

You are also invited to participate in three events which will lead up to District conference. Mark you 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. (See below for more details)
- **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.

District Ash Wednesday Service

You are invited to join your sisters and brothers in the SOKD as we begin the 2024 Lenten Season together. Held at the East Dayton Fellowship, 3520 E Third St, Dayton, OH, this will be a time of fellowship, music, and worship. There will be time of self-examination and communal confession as we discover how we may feel disconnected with God, and how we can bring our whole selves into loving connection with God. We will also hear stories from several of our congregations detailing how their church began and how God has seen them through challenging times. Soup and bread will be provided. We encourage you to bring a side dish if you wish. Come enjoy this time of fellowship and the opportunity to visit a church that you may not have been inside. Meal will be served at 5:30pm and the service will begin at 6:30pm.

Brethren Heritage Center invites you to volunteer

The Brethren Heritage Center has volunteer opportunities. In order to achieve the best possible team building success, volunteers need to be engaged with what brings them enjoyment and fits their unique skills. A volunteer interview worksheet has previously been developed by the BHC Board for use in helping potential volunteers get acquainted with the needs of the center and their own interests. Currently, there are opportunities for: scanning photos & documents; tech help (trouble shooting tech issues/helping with website); periodical assistance for our library; sorter/organizer of documents; bookstore assistant; receptionist. If interested, contact BHC at: 937-833-5222 or email dean.garrett@brethrenhc.org.



Quilting and Crafting Day Retreat

Quilting and Crafting Day Retreat will be held at Happy Corner CoB February 8, 9, and 10 from 9am-4pm each day. Registration is due February 2. The cost is \$20 each day. At this all new day camp, quilters and Crafters will bring projects they are currently working on or projects with which they need help or encouragement. Campers can attend any or all days. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Questions or to Register contact Carrie Drees at cdrees23@gmail.com or 937-564-7346.

Camp Ambassadors Meeting

Camp Ambassadors Meeting will be held February 18 from 3:00-4:30 at Salem CoB 6037 Phillipsburg-Union Rd Englewood, OH. Ambassadors will gather for fellowship, devotion, games, singing, refreshments and will hear about all the upcoming Camping and Retreat opportunities.

District Game Day

Camping and Retreat Ministries Presents District Game Day. All ages are welcome to attend. This day of fun and fellowship will give you the opportunity to play board games, card games, and table games with others in the SOK District.

March 16, 2024 10am-5pm

You are welcome to come and go as you please.

West Charleston CoB

4817 S. St. Rt. 202

Tipp City, OH 45371

Please bring games you wish to play, a snack to share and a monetary donation for lunch. We will be ordering pizza. Text or email Carrie Drees with games you are bringing, hoping to play, or if you have questions. cdrees23@gmail.com 937-564-7346.

Day of Caring 365 Brunch

to be held at Salem Church of the Brethren on Sunday, February 25 from 12:00 to 2:00. Our church provides the meal of All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, orange juice, milk and tea. The suggested cost is \$7, but donations of any amount are accepted. Any money donated goes directly to the area food banks, because corporate sponsors provide all the supplies for the breakfast. Salem would like to invite people from the District to come for the food, fellowship, and fun time in support of this important cause to help feed other people in our area. More information can also be found at dayofcaring20@gmail.com .

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Volunteer Opportunities - Serve March 10-16 in Dawson Springs, KY! Nine volunteers are needed to fill the crew. The work is on new builds, as we help with tornado recovery. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join the crew. [Click Here](#) for a flyer with the 2024 trip dates.

Intergenerational BDM Trip – New this year! July 21-27 is a BDM trip for adults and youth. It's also an opportunity for grandparents/youth (15 yrs. +), parents/youth (14 yrs.+) to work together rebuilding homes for disaster survivors. The location hasn't been determined yet by BDM, but transportation will be provided. BDM also provides housing, food, tools, and leadership. Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join the crew or for more information. [Click Here](#) for a trip flyer.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – The first sewing bee of 2024 will be held on Saturday, February 25 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for Church World Service (CWS). Non-sewers will prep items for school kits and cleanup buckets. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. [Click Here](#) for a flyer with the 2024 schedule.



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.

- **Jim and Karen Chronister**— death of daughter, Shannon Collins
- Chuck Cupp** fell at his home at the BRC and is now in the medical wing recovering and receiving rehab
- Burt and Helen Wolf**—Burt is home recovering slowly but surely from open heart surgery.
- The Standing With People of Color Annual Conference study/action committee** as they continue their important work.
- For the people in **Ukraine**.

-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, transitioned to part time Pastor
- ◆ **Beavercreek**--Sandy Jenkins, transitioned to part time Pastor
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**-- Jim Chronister, Interim
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**--Fred Bernhard, Interim
- ◆ **Trinity**-- John Edwards, Interim
- ◆ **Eversole**-- Mark Bowman retired, April 30
- ◆ **Circleville**--Roger Crusier retired 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.

