



**April, 2017**  
**Southern Ohio District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**

**Southern Ohio District Conference** will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. The theme will be **Created to Love** based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.*

Our moderator is John Kinsel. We look forward to what God will teach us through this theme in the months ahead.

## **Annual Conference Moderator Elect Visits Southern Ohio District**

The Troy, West Milton, and Pleasant Hill congregations have enjoyed the blessing of worshipping together on the fifth Sundays of the month for the past year. It is a wonderful time to get together with sisters and brothers from nearby churches to share in a time of worship. Our normal practice is to bring in a guest speaker to give the message on those special Sundays. Our next time together will be April 30 at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Our guest speaker that day will be Samuel Sarpiya from Rockford, Il. Samuel is the Moderator Elect of Annual Conference. We are inviting anyone who would like to meet and hear Samuel to join us for worship that morning beginning at 10:30 am. Lunch will be served following worship for anyone who would like to stay. If you can't make it for worship there will also be time between 2-3 PM Sunday afternoon to come and visit with Samuel.

## **Camp and Retreat Schedule for 2017**

March 12: Ambassadors' Meeting Salem COB

June 7: Camp Set Up Cricket Holler

June 8 -11: Adult/Child Camp--Cricket Holler

June 12-15: Camp Safari-- Cricket Holler

June 11-15: Possible Youth Service/Work Camp (local projects) Cricket Holler

June 15-18: Family Camp--Cricket Holler (Registration form is available online)

June 18-24: Creative Arts Camp--Cricket Holler

July 5-8: Quilting Camp-- Bergamo

August 12: Golf Outing

September 22-23: Women's Retreat Bergamo

September 25-29: Adult Bible School - Salem COB (other locations and dates to be added in the future)

October 15: Ambassadors' Meeting

## **Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Sewing Bee** – On Saturday, April 8 there will be a sewing bee for making school bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Come join others for a time of sewing and fellowship. Meet at the Greenville COB, 421 Central Ave. at 9:00 AM. Bring your sewing machine, extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. (Note that this is one week later than originally scheduled.)

**Assembly of CWS Buckets/School Kits** – On April 20 at 7:00 PM there will be an assembly of Clean-up Buckets and School Kits for Church World Service (CWS). It will be at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. This is the warehouse location for BDM's storage. A BDM sign will be posted by the designated entry door. S. Ohio BDM has set a goal of providing **200 Cleanup Buckets and 200 School Kits**. Donations are helpful and appreciated! Please make checks payable to S. Ohio District COB, with a footnote "CWS Buckets/Kits". These may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

**Volunteers Needed** – S. Ohio's upcoming trips of April 23 – 29 and May 28 – June 3 are in need of volunteers. We are going to Columbia, SC to rebuild homes following storms that hit South Carolina in October 2015, causing historic rainfall and much flooding and storm damage. To sign up for a trip or for more information, contact Burt Wolf 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com). Transportation is provided in the BDM vans, and expenses are covered by BDM.

### **Upcoming Holy Week Events**

**Seder Celebration**, April 11, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM at New Carlisle Church of the Brethren--Brothers and sisters across the Southern Ohio District are invited to celebrate the Seder that Jesus loved! The Seder is the telling of our faith heritage story and is the precursor to our own Love Feast/Foot washing. A love offering will be taken for the Nigeria Crisis Response and the SoDCoB as we do not charge for the traditional meal that is prepared. Menu consists of roast chicken; glazed carrot-apricot Tzimmes; potato kugel, fruit salad, desserts and of course, MATZO BALL SOUP (everyone's favorite)! Reservations are requested by 4 April 2017 and childcare's available if requested in advance. We are inviting District congregations who have never experienced a Messianic Seder to see why Jesus said, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." We will be willing to share recipes and other "How To" tips after our event, if other congregations would like to host their own Seder next year.

### ***Jewish Missionary to share "Christ in the Passover" in Greenville***

Jewish missionary Douglas Carmel of the Rock of Israel Ministries will be sharing at the Greenville Church of the Brethren, 421 Central Avenue, on Thursday, April 13th, 6:30 pm during a special evening worship service. This will be an interactive event where sample Passover foods will be enjoyed by attendees. The Exodus Meal and the Last Supper will be compared. Hebrew Songs will be sung and even the children will be incorporated in the service. An optional feet washing service will be offered. Carmel was raised in a traditional Jewish home in New York and accepted Jesus as Messiah in 1986 at the age of twenty-one. With his family very upset over such a move, the family Rabbi and other Jewish men were called in attempting to persuade him to renounce his newfound faith. When all else failed, his family rejected his belief, that Jesus was the Messiah, and asked him to move out of their home. Today, Carmel shares in evangelical congregations mostly around the mid-west. He speaks about the need for Jewish evangelism and teaches from the Old Testament showing Jesus from the Jewish Feasts and Mosaic Tabernacle perspective. This event is free and open to the public. We do ask that you RSVP, as space is limited. The deadline is April 4. This is a free event; however, there will be an offering taken to bless Rock of Israel Ministries. Children are invited. Child care is available for children 5 and under but you must request this when making your reservation. To reserve, please call 937-548-3583.

### ***Tennebrae Service***

This year you are invited to join us for a Good Friday Service hosted by Trotwood, Happy Corner, Salem, Lower Miami, and Bear Creek Churches of the Brethren to be held at Trotwood Church of the Brethren's building April 14th at 7:00PM. Together we will mark Christ's last moments in scripture, story, and song followed by a time for fellowship over hot crossed buns. May God guide you gently through this season.

### **Trinity Church of the Brethren Seeking Accompanist**

Trinity Church of the Brethren in Sidney, Ohio is looking for a full time or part time person or persons to play music for worship or as needed at other times such as Christmas Eve / Christmas Day and Love Feast. For more information, please contact either Linda Miller at 1-937-726-5258 or Shirley Stone at 1-937-492-3670.

### **Church musician needed for the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren**

starting June 18, 2017. Responsibilities are to play for the Sunday morning 10:30 service and to accompany the adult choir rehearsal, Wednesday evenings, 7:30-8:30, during the choir season. The choir sings the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and each Sunday of Advent and Lent. The service music duties include a Focus which is a short piece played soon after the service starts. It should be about a minute in length or slightly longer. There is also an Offertory and Postlude. The sanctuary has a keyboard, Hammond organ, and a piano. The position also involves accompanying the congregational singing on the keyboard. The songs are a blend of contemporary and traditional hymns. There is a small group of instrumentalists that plays with the congregational singing and the keyboard. The instruments include two trumpets, a horn, 2 acoustic guitars, flute, clarinet, violin, small percussion, and a soprano who leads the singing. The group is directed by the associate pastor who also arranges some of the music. The musicians are accomplished with several holding music degrees. The pay for this position is \$50 per Sunday and \$50 per choir rehearsal. Please send resume to New Carlisle Church of the Brethren, 219 N. Main St., New Carlisle, OH 45344 or send via email to ncbrethren01@aol.com.

### **Prayer Needs**

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2017 Prayer List for Congregations is available on our website.

--Mike and Julie Hostetter have settled in at the Bridgewater Retirement Community in Virginia. She has made connections with a wonderful oncologist at the University of Virginia Medical Center and has begun hormone treatment for the cancer that has metastasized in both lungs. It is a slow-growing cancer and at this point she is free of symptoms. Both are keeping active and adjusting to their "new normal."

-- Sheila Shumaker, retired pastor from Troy and current District Board member, had a total knee replacement on the 21st and is recovering.

-- Rob Raker, former pastor, is still dealing with his heart condition and is continuing to undergo tests to determine the best way forward; depending on how his health condition goes over the next several months, there may be some procedures to help his condition in April. Rob appreciates our prayers as decisions are made for continuing treatment.

--Possibility of a new church starts in various locations in our district.

-- 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 me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.