

October, 2021
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

October 8 & 9, 2021

Theme: “Move in Our Midst, Thou Spirit of God”

This year's all virtual conference is now just a couple weeks away. *Please register as soon as possible.*

Friday workshops will be led by the District Racial Justice Commission, the District Climate Justice Commission and by Zach Spidel and Susan Liller about Jesus in the Neighborhood. An afternoon session will explore how the Spirit is moving in our midst through all three of these district ministries. CEUS will be offered for all 3 workshops.

If you have not yet registered your delegates, it is important that you care for that as soon as possible. The registration form is available on the District website. All attendees must register to obtain your zoom link.

Move in Our Midst

An Invitation to Participate

--Written by Nick Beam, Conference Moderator 2021

I chose the theme for this year's District Conference “Move in Our Midst Thou Spirit of God” based on the family connection I have with my wife Annette's grandfather, Perry Huffaker, who wrote the music for Ken Morse's words.

This hymn has been a favorite for the Church of the Brethren ever since it first appeared in the 1951 or “Red” hymnal. The powerful words and beautiful melody continue to bless us when sung in worship. Each of the four verses speak to different ways God's Spirit moves: comforting us, guiding us, freeing us, and empowering us. The hymn builds up to verse four imploring God's Spirit to inspire and empower us to ministry and mission by raising up our banners and building new worlds in God's name.

These words challenge us as individuals, as churches and as a district to be about the great commission of spreading the good news of the Gospel and building the kingdom of God. Just as individual churches count on the generosity of its members to help them carry out this mission so the district counts on individuals and churches for the same reason. We are blessed in the fact that God's Spirit moves in different ways among our district. Just as we can't control where the wind blows neither can we control how the Spirit moves in the different churches in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky district. I celebrate that the Spirit move in different ways among us which enables us to reach more and more people. It's important though that we do not forget that it is in the sharing of our financial gifts that enables these different ministries of the district to happen.

The district has what's called the Ambassador's Club as a way of reminding us of the importance of supporting our district ministries as we continue the work of Jesus. Anyone who believes in the ministry of the Church of the Brethren and wishes to see thriving congregations throughout the district may become a member of this club. Our goal for 2021 is \$50,000 which you can help us reach with gifts large or small.

Yes, God's Spirit moves in each of us differently, yet it is that same Spirit that unites us in our common goal of seeing our district “burn with thy flame.” May God's Spirit continue to move in our midst comforting,



guiding, freeing and empowering us to join the Ambassador's Club by sharing our financial gifts, to the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

1. Go to the district website at www.sodcob.org and click on the "Ambassadors for Christ" link to make a commitment for a future donation.
2. Donate now by check. Please mark Ambassador's Club on the memo line. Send your check via mail to
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren
P O Box 785
Greenville, Ohio 45331

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Camping and Retreat Ministries Updates

Fall Ambassadors' Meeting October 17, 2021

The Fall Ambassadors' Meeting has been set for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 17, from 2 to 4 pm, with a Zoom connection. Each church is invited to select an ambassador to provide representation at our meetings. The ambassadors fill a vital position in helping communications flow easily from the committee to each church. They speak for the churches to the committee, and then take information about events and activities of the ministry back to the congregations. Ambassadors encourage church members to participate in the camps and retreats, gather ideas and suggestions, express concerns, and help build this vital ministry.

Our two yearly meetings are held in the spring and fall, where we are introduced to new friends and visit with those we already know. Different members bring inspiration with thoughtful devotions. Sometimes we share videos from past gatherings and camps. We offer updates of the camps, retreats, fundraisers, and events. Sometimes we learn new games to play. There are tasty snacks, singing, and devotions, all mixed with lots of fun, faith, and fellowship.

Because of the problems with Covid and the safety of everyone, our next meeting will be a **virtual** gathering using Zoom. If your church has a current ambassador, please contact that representative to be certain of her/his desire to continue in that position. If there is no current ambassador, please select someone who would be willing to serve on this team. Since our communications at the present are through email, please send the ambassador's name, address, email information, and a phone number to Karen Dillon, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries, crimdill@aol.com.

WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?

2021 Women's Retreat November 5 and 6

The Camping and Retreat Ministries is happy to announce the upcoming retreat for women of the district to be held **virtually** on Friday, November 5, at 7:00 pm, and running through Saturday, November 6, in the afternoon. Our theme is "*What Brings You Joy?*" In our current day to day life filled with restrictions, worry, concerns, health issues, and problems, we will be taking time out to look for the places we find joy.

Friday evening at 7:00, we will meet to spend some time connecting with others using Zoom. Our guest leader will help us find joy in scriptures that should lift our spirits. Breakout rooms of small groups will be set up to give us time for sharing in a more intimate place. Of course there will also be fun with some jokes, stories, singing, and a few surprises. We should be finishing the evening by 9:00.

Saturday will be a full day with some twists. Morning Watch will begin our day at 9:00, as soon as we all login to Zoom. An inspirational craft will further guide us in finding joy. A scavenger hunt is planned to get us all up and moving around. Another short session on joy will be followed by small group sharing. Closing out the morning around 11:30, will be a communion service.



Saturday afternoon is optional. After eating lunch, anyone interested in going for a fall walk can gather at the south parking lot of Englewood Metro Park off Aullwood Road, for a stroll through Mrs. Aull's Gardens. We will be outside for the walk which has clear paths, wide spaces, and natural beauty Mrs. Aull cultivated over many years. Maybe we will find some little joys as we experience God's fall handiwork.

The service project we will be supporting is the Trotwood Church of the Brethren food truck called "Homeful." This food truck is hosted by the church to bring in fresh foods and meats to the citizens of Trotwood who live in a "food desert." Our support will be used to purchase gift cards that people can use to help pay Homeful for their food.

Registration for the retreat is vital. Once we have each person's commitment to be a part of the retreat, the committee will be assembling gift bags with all the necessary items needed for activities, crafts, singing, and readings. Other special treats and surprises will find their way into the bags. Volunteers will be hand delivering the bags to those registered. If someone out of the area registers, the bag will be mailed to them. Registration will be online or through the mail beginning the first of October.

The cost of the retreat is \$20. Additional money may be added for the service project. For further information, contact Karen Dillon, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries at: crim-dill@aol.com 937-890-7388 H 937-238-6909 C.

Disaster Ministries Updates

BDM Sites/Volunteers Needed— The Dayton national BDM site that was scheduled to close on October 2, has now been extended through Oct. 30. Work continues on tornado damaged homes and with houses that are part of the Tornado Survivor Pathways to Home Ownership Program. BDM will return to Bayboro, NC on October 31, continuing recovery from Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018). Volunteers are needed Oct. 31-Nov. 6 and Nov. 14-20. To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902.

Fundraiser Data – Much appreciation to all who attended and helped with the Ice Cream Social and parking cars at the Pork Festival. On August 7, there were about 275 people who attended the Ice Cream Social at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. Along with food, fellowship, and inspirational music, \$8,500 was raised. On September 18 and 19 volunteers parked cars at the Pork Festival held at the Preble County Fairgrounds, earning \$1,500. These funds will be used to send volunteers on rebuilding trips and for Church World Service kits. Thank you to all for your support!

Appreciation Dinner – Each year BDM plans an Appreciation Dinner to thank our volunteers, recognize new volunteers, and to share the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM with interested individuals. This year's dinner will be on Saturday, October 23 at 6:00 PM at Salem Church of the Brethren. An RSVP for those attending is needed by Saturday, October 16. Please RSVP to Burt and Helen Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902.

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – There will be work for both sewers and non-sewers at the October 23 Sewing Bee. It will be held at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Non-sewers will be preparing items for *Church World Service (CWS)* school kits. Many items have been purchased and need to be taken out of the packaging. Sewers will be making school bags and need to bring a sewing machine and extension cord. Everyone, bring a sack lunch and come for a time of service and fellowship. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. A flyer showing all the 2021 Sewing Bee dates and locations can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.

Harris Creek Church of the Brethren Celebrates 175 Years

The Harris Creek Church of the Brethren will celebrate 175 years of life and ministry on Sunday, October 24th. Bob Bitner will be the main speaker and others will also be participating in the service. All are invited, especially those who have previously attended or provided pastoral leadership. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Painter Creek Church holds Potpie Supper

The Painter Creek congregation invites you to their annual Potpie Supper on October 30. Serving will be from 4-7 or until they are sold out. The menu is chicken or beef potpie, mashed potatoes, green beans or corn, applesauce or coleslaw, homemade pie and drink. The cost is a freewill donation. Everything is made fresh in the Painter Creek church kitchen. Profit will support the church and the outreach program of the Women's Fellowship. Painter Creek CoB is located at the corner of SR 571 and Gettysburg-Pittsburg Rd.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other in prayer.

- May we hold our district board chair, Todd Reish, in prayer. Todd is being treated for a heart condition with medication.
- We lift up Nick Beam as he soon begins transition to district leadership as interim Associate District Executive and then as Interim District Executive as I move toward retirement. We also remember the Pleasant Hill congregation as they will be going through a pastoral transition.
- We continue to lift up those dealing with recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.
- We lift up the people of Haiti as recovery continues from the recent earthquake. Many persons have been killed and many others have been injured and lost their homes. Many of the displaced are seeking new homes.
- We lift up those in Afganistan with the upheaval in this country and many persons fleeing or attempting to flee to places of safety.
- As the situation with the coronavirus continues, may we remember those affected by this outbreak. There are many changing directives, regulations and recommendations affecting our country and way of life, may we remember all those adjusting to this changing world. As noted above, there are cases associated with many of our congregations. Brethren Retirement Community continues to experience nearly daily changes. If you plan on visiting at BRC, please make sure that you will be able to do so.
- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland. Donnels Creek** has called Nicholas Kallis to begin work as pastor; Nicholas will be working with the Ministry Commission regarding the credentialing process. Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; a visit weekend for a potential candidate will be held mid-October. **White Cottage** has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment, but is considering entering the search process. Tara Hornbacker is serving as interim at **New Carlisle**. John Sgro is serving as interim pastor for the **Prince of Peace** congregation. **Trotwood** leadership has called Rusty Dinkins Curling to serve as interim pastor with his service beginning yesterday. The **Lower Miami** congregation has called Tracy Knechel Sturgis as interim pastor, she has begun service. **Eversole** has entered the pastoral search process with hopes to call someone to serve alongside current pastor Mark Bowman as he approaches retirement late next year and then for the newly called person to begin service as the senior pastor. Barb Sayler has concluded her ministry at **Beavercreek** to accept a call to be a chaplain in a retirement community. The congregation leadership has called Sandy Jenkins to serve as interim pastor.
- 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.