

January, 2020
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Camping and Retreat Ministries Upcoming Events

Brochures and registration forms for all events are on the district website at www.sodcob.org or ask in your church office.

Winter Blast

January 17&18 at Cricket Holler

Prepare yourself for lots of outdoor fun along with cabin living, devotions, a pancake breakfast, swimming, and much more. Registration forms are on the district website or ask in your church office.

Men's Retreat

February 7-9, 2020 at Woodland Altars

A spiritual weekend for all men ages 16 yrs and older regardless of church affiliation. The retreat offers different registration packages from full to partial attendance. Click here for more information including how to register. Click here for a brochure which includes registration form. Registration deadline is January 20, 2020.

Simple Living Weekend

March 27-28, 2020

Plan ahead to attend this new intergenerational camp at Cricket Holler. Designed for all ages, this camp reminds us of the Brethren value of simple living. Activities, crafts, devotions, cabin living . . . lots of fun for all ages. Watch for upcoming registration.

District Youth Event: God in Pixels and Polygons

January 10, 2020

6-9 PM

West Charleston Church of the Brethren

Interested in playing video games? Interested in creating fun, interactive works? Raul will be presenting what it's like to create video games, tell stories through this medium, and adapt biblical narratives and stories for a new generation. We'll talk about games, get to play a few, discuss some tools for creating your own, and talk about what it's like to work on games.

Young Adult Gathering

The next Young Adult Gathering will be on January 25, 2020 and will be a Paint Night at Happy Corner CoB

Climate Justice Task Force Meeting

All are invited to the next meeting of the SOK District Climate Justice Task Force which will be held at Salem Church of the Brethren, on Wednesday, January 8 from 7-9pm. Pastor Doug Kaufman from the Mary Lea Environmental Center will join us via ZOOM and hopefully a member of the local Climate Reality group will join us personally.

We also hope to show a video recently done by former Vice President, Al Gore, on the science of climate change and what we might do. We should also have an update on a climate retreat for the Southern Ohio/ Kentucky COB, sometime next fall.

Please be in touch with Mark Lancaster at 510-809-6721 or marklancaster116@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Nigerian Meal @ Prince of Peace COB

The Prince of Peace COB will be sponsoring and providing a Nigerian Meal on Saturday, January 11, 2020 starting at 12:30 pm. Hassan Dicks and his sister Patricia Amos Doka will be preparing the meal. Reservation will be needed in order to have a count for the meal preparation by January 4, 2020. The cost of the meal will be a donation to help support Nigerian students studying in United States. After the meal, Hassan will be sharing information about the current cultural and religious atmosphere in Nigeria. All are welcome to experience this cultural event. Call Prince of Peace and give your name, phone number and the number of people in your reservation by January 4.

Church's phone number is 937-294-0708 or Email: popcob1956@aol.com
800 E. David Road Kettering, OH

New Carlisle Leadership Academy Presents: *Science Fiction and Theology: Take Two!*

January 24-25, 2020

Steve Schweitzer, Leader

Steve Schweitzer writes, "Science Fiction is extremely popular in our wider culture. It engages theological themes and raises questions that our culture is asking. Based on a course I teach at Bethany, this workshop will explore key themes in popular SciFi series: The Matrix Trilogy, Star Trek, and the Marvel superhero movie Black Panther. Each one asks deep questions about the nature of existence, what it means to be human, the nature of violence and peace, and our responsibility to our communities and to the wider world."

Steve Schweitzer (PhD, Notre Dame) is Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary. He regularly teaches a graduate seminar on Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah and a course on Science Fiction and Theology. Steve has preached, taught, and led workshops for several congregations and districts, including Bible studies and Insight Sessions at Annual Conference. Steve and his wife, Jill, have 3 children. They attend Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky district.

Friday evening registration is free. Saturday registration is \$25.00 which includes lunch.

CEU's are available. See Registration Form for more information.

Registration deadline is Friday, January 17, 2020.

Need more information or have questions, call or email Vicki Ullery at (937)845-1428, newcarlislecob@gmail.com.

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

2019 Data - The S. Ohio/KY District has had a very active year with Disaster Ministries. There were 17 rebuilding trips with 139 volunteers. These trips were to North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas at a cost of \$24,000. Locally, through Brethren Helping Hands, there was one ramp project with New Carlisle COB. With the Memorial Day tornadoes, 665 volunteers worked 70+ days at a cost of \$7,000. For Church World

Service (CWS), 528 Cleanup Buckets, 2,500 School Kits and 2,200 Hygiene Kits were assembled for \$39,000. At seven Sewing Bees, 61 participants sewed bags for school kits or prepped items for buckets/kits. There was also a trip to the Brethren Service Center with 35 volunteers who processed CWS kits. Through Children's Disaster Services, three volunteers served in Texas and N. Carolina. Thank you to all for your support. Together we bring hope and share God's love.

2020 Rebuilding Trips – Sign up for a trip in 2020! The current site is in Lumberton, NC, and a site in Tampa, FL opens mid-January. Volunteers need to be at least fifteen years old, unless they go with a parent or guardian, and then they may be fourteen. Expenses are covered, and transportation is provided. Volunteers are needed now for the February 9 – 15 trip to Lumberton, NC. Click here for a flyer with the 2020 trip dates. Sign up by contacting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com

2020 Sewing Bees – Sewing Bees are scheduled for sewing school bags for Church World Service. They will be held at Greenville Church of the Brethren and Eaton Community Church in 2020. Click here for a flyer showing the dates and locations. The next Sewing Bee will be in Greenville on Saturday, February 22. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2020 Prayer List for Congregations is available on the website.

- May we remember Jonathan Brumbaugh Scarr, husband of Trotwood pastor Jennifer, as he will be facing heart surgery in February.
- The Constance congregation continues to worship in space graciously provided by the nearby Hebron Lutheran Church. Our prayers for these sisters and brothers during this time of transition are appreciated.
- May we continue to lift Mary Sue Rosenberger, as she continues to deal with various health issues. MarySue Rosenberger has been receiving care from Hospice since April 2019 because of Pulmonary Fibrosis which had been first diagnosed in the fall of 2017.
- Rob Raker, former pastor, continues to deal with the heart condition that has plagued him for some time now. He is hoping for a new procedure which may alleviate some of the issues he has been facing. Doctors continue to work with Rob as these heart struggles continue. Rob appreciates our prayers.
- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - **Good Shepherd** and Carla Gillespie have decided to end their agreement for pastoral services; I will be working with Good Shepherd regarding future pastoral services. **Beech Grove** has called George Glaze as their pastor; Larry Tyner will continue to serve as interim until George begins; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; the search team is working on their profile. **White Cottage** has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment. Tara Hornbacker is serving as interim at **New Carlisle**, their search team has completed their profile. Andrew Wright is serving as interim pastor at **Oakland** while Pastor John Sgro is on a Sabbath Rest. Mel Smith, pastor at **Charleston**, has announced that he will be retiring this year. The **Bear Creek** congregation has voted to close with the official date being the end of the year. May we offer our prayers of love and support for the members of this congregation as they seek new church homes.
- May we remember the possibility of a new church starts in various locations in our district as well as the urban ministry team for revitalizing some of our urban churches.
- 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.
- The Constance congregation continues to worship in space graciously provided by the nearby Hebron Please contact Dave if you know of prayer situations of which he should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we strive to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.