

February, 2020
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Can we talk? *Conversations for Change through Story and Song*

Ted Swartz and Ken Medema come to Southern Ohio/Kentucky District

We are excited to welcome the Ted and Ken "Can We Talk?" tour to the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. "Can we talk?" is a rollicking 90 minutes of story, song, laughter and moments of serious reflection around listening and conversation, especially when there is seemingly so much disagreement on issues in the church and society. The show includes classic and new material from Ted Swartz and Ken Medema. You will never be more than a few minutes from a laugh or a moment that makes you hold your breath. Don't miss this opportunity.

Come join us:

Sunday, March 15, 2020
Northmont High School Auditorium
4916 National Rd
Clayton, OH 45315

Admission is free. A donation will be collected to benefit Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Disaster Ministry Local Response to support their work with victims of the 2019 Memorial Day Tornadoes.

The event is sponsored by congregations of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. More information can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board Meets in Southern Ohio/Kentucky District

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District is excited to welcome the Mission and Ministry Board. The Mission and Ministry Board serves as the board of directors of the Church of the Brethren, carrying out the direction set by Annual Conference. They meet 3 times each year, twice in Elgin and one time at Annual Conference. Occasionally (every 5 years) they meet at a location other than that. So it is a privilege to welcome them to their meeting on March 13-16 at the Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, OH. Many of their sessions are open to visitors. The meeting schedule will be posted on www.brethren.org/mmb/meeting-info.html once it is finalized.

On Sunday, March 15, MMB members and Church of the Brethren Staff will be visiting various congregations within our district. Be watching for more information about how you can request that someone visit your worship service.

Young Adult Gathering

The next Young Adult Gathering will be on February 22, 2020. We plan to go bowling at the Poelking Woodman Lanes in Kettering beginning at 7:30. All young adults ages high school graduates through 39 are welcome. Email Laura Brown if you have any questions. A flyer with information is available on the district website, or contact your church office.

Attention!! All Ordained Ministers

As you undoubtedly know, ethics training is mandatory for all ordained ministers of the Church of the Brethren as a part of the five-year renewal cycle. If you have not yet been able to attend one of these trainings, there are two more opportunities scheduled:

February 22, 2020 from 9 AM - 4 PM at Troy CoB.

March 21, 2020 from 9 AM - 4 PM at Salem CoB.

More information and to register is available on the district website.

Day Of Caring 365 Salem Church of the Brethren Pancake Breakfast

The last Sunday of February has been the Day of Caring 365 for organizations to host a pancake breakfast that raises money for feeding homeless and other people in need. This all started 30 years ago when some people said they wanted to do something to support organizations that fed hungry people. They came up with the idea of inviting their church families to eat together after church with a simple meal of pancakes and sausages. Donations from the meal would go to homeless shelters and food banks. That is how it began. Now more than 29 sites are sharing this concept with local communities. All money raised stays in our area. Corporate sponsors pay for the food and supplies which allows all the money received from people attending the breakfasts to go to the neighborhood shelters and food banks. Salem Church of the Brethren is one of the sites and invites you to come for a pancake breakfast on February 23, 2020, from 11:30 to 2:00. The fellowship hall will be filled with delicious food and warm welcome. In the relaxed setting you can chat with new and old friends as you enjoy the breakfast, knowing you are supporting a great cause. Salem Church of the Brethren 6037 Phillipsburg Road Englewood, Ohio 937-836-6145

Camping and Retreat Updates

Winter Blast 2020

The weather was cold, but not freezing, rainy, and muddy. So being outside for Winter Blast wasn't possible. However, that didn't stop the fun and excitement of being together again. Winter Blast 2020 was as successful as any of the previous years. In fact, this year had the most participants ever. More than 60 people came to this event as campers, leaders, and volunteers. More than 13 churches were represented. The cabins were full of campers, grandparents, parents, and leaders. They were warm, cozy places to rest or talk with friends. Even late into the night laughter and giggles could be heard. Friday evening was a time to get to know new people through games and activities designed to help everyone mingle together. After devotions about Jesus showing ways to get along and love each other more, we had the perfect snack - hot chocolate and cookies. With the choice between a cartoon and a wildlife adventure, movie time was relaxing as we spread out over the floor to watch in a comfortable position. A few campers couldn't make up their minds which movie to watch, so they bounced back and forth between the two. Our Saturday went by so quickly. After a big pancake breakfast, we rotated through three experiences: winter birds and trees, what is heaven like, and minute to win it games. Then it was off to the pool for a midmorning swim. All that fun built up a big appetite for grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. Free time after lunch sped by in a flash with board games, playing with blocks, and chilling out. Before we knew it, we were loading up to go home. The only complaint was that it was over too soon. We have next summer's camps and next year to look forward to being together again.

Simple Living Weekend

March 27-28, 2020

CRICKET HOLLER

A simple lifestyle is one of the faith markers for the Church of the Brethren. It is part of our heritage and future. But how do we lead a simple life? The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren, through the Camping and Retreat Ministries, is hosting a weekend event to help us see the vision of a simple life. Everyone is invited to Cricket Holler for this event. All ages will have opportunities to learn, participate, and share ideas of simple living. Guest speakers, skilled believers in simple living, and community leaders will be offering workshops and discussions to help all of us live more simply. Topic will include: Zero Waste Living, Screen Sabbaths, Solar Cooking and Dehydrating, Global Warming, Making Washable Sandwich Bags, Bread Baking, Urban Gardening, and more. Some of the leaders are Dan Royer-Miller, Barb Sayler, Mark Lancaster, Katie Heishman, Tim Heishman, Susan Wible, and Karen Dillon. The schedule will be simple: Friday Gather in the evening around 6:00 pm Campfire with worship, singing, stories, sharing Snacks Head to cabins for those spending the night Saturday Breakfast 8:00 am Singing, gathering, short worship 9:00 Session 1 9:30 - 10:30 Break Session 2 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch!! Singing Session 3 1:00 - 2:00 Break Session 4 2:30 - 3:30 Closing People can come to spend the night in the cabins that have already been reserved. Simple meals will be prepared and shared. Some tasks like setting tables and dishwashing will need volunteers. The costs are also simple, thanks to the Cookie Camp profits. Complete retreat: \$25 per person Saturday only: \$15 If anyone is interested in being a presenter, please contact Karen Dillon, 937-238-6909, crimdill@aol.com

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, February 9 from 7-9pm.

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

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Updates

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, February 22, there will be a Sewing Bee at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Come at 9:00 AM to sew school bags for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. [Click here for a flyer showing the 2020 sewing bee dates and locations.](#) Call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442 for more information.

2020 Rebuilding Trips – Sign up for a trip in 2020! The current sites are in Lumberton, NC, and Tampa, FL. Volunteers are needed for the March 14-22 trip to Tampa and April 26 - May 2 trip to Lumberton, NC. Transportation and expenses are covered by BDM. Sign up by contacting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

New Trip Flyer – An updated 2020 trip flyer is available on the district website. There is a change for the March 14 – 22 trip. The dates listed now include the extra days needed for travel to Tampa, FL. Also, the June 7-13 and July 12-18 trips are not designated as youth trips. While youth are welcome to sign up, these are open trips for others to sign up as well. Our designated youth trip for this summer will be June 14-18 going to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. More information will be coming soon.

Brethren Helping Hands Project – BDM has responded to a request by the Urban Ministry Team, that includes East Dayton COB, to help with the renovation of a building for community use. Two workdays have been held in January and more will be scheduled. So far, the work has been hanging and finishing drywall. If you'd like to be involved in this project, contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

BDM Appreciation Dinner – Save the date! This year's Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 6:00 PM at Happy Corner COB.

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 as well as the most current information on the church in Nigeria is available on the district website.

--With so many conflicts occurring around our world, may we lift those being affected by these events: Earthquakes in Puerto Rico; tornadoes in various parts of the country; fires in Australia; escalating tension in Iran, Iraq, North Korea. Shootings and other violent events cause one to wonder if well-being and peace can ever be possible. As followers of Jesus, may we hold all these situations in the light of God.

--Jonathan Brumbaugh Scarr, heart surgery in February

--Kirt Chronister, suffered a stroke and is in the process of recovery and rehabilitation.

--Constance congregation, seeking a path forward as they continue to worship in the space graciously provided by the Hebron Lutheran Church.

--Mary Sue Rosenberger, various health issues including pulmonary fibrosis. In Hospice care.

--Rob Raker, heart condition

--The Constance congregation continues to worship in space graciously provided by the nearby Hebron

May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition.

-- Good Shepherd has called Mark Lancaster to serve as interim.

--Brookville has Fred Bernhard serving as interim pastor during their pastoral transition. They are working on a their congregational profile

--White Cottage has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment.

--New Carlisle has Tara Hornbacker serving as interim pastor. Their search team has completed their profile.

--Oakland has Andrew Wright serving as interim pastor while Pastor John Sgro is on a Sabbath Rest.

--Charleston's pastor, Mel Smith has retired.

--Bear Creek congregation has closed. May we offer our prayers of love and support for the members of this congregation as they seek now church homes.

--May we remember the possibility of 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.

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.