

March, 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.

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. The open session meeting schedule can be found online at <http://www.brethren.org/mmb/meeting-info.html>

Hymn Sing Benefits SOK District Camping and Retreat Ministry

Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren, located at 7240 Peter's Road, Tipp City, Ohio, invites you to a Hymn Sing featuring "Rising Faith" on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Rising Faith is a husband and wife gospel duet spreading God's word in music, song and testimony. We will join together singing our favorite hymns. Please plan to attend this exciting event! A free will offering will be taken to support camping in our district. For information contact Pastor Mark Lancaster at 510 809 6721 or email at marklancaster116@gmail.com

Annual Conference Moderator's Forum

April 18, 2020

Annual Conference moderator, Paul Munday will be hosting a Moderator's Forum on April 18, 2020 entitled "Historical Themes Impacting Today's Church." The event will take place at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, from 1 PM-9 PM.

The forum will feature leading Brethren historians who will address the themes of accountability, compelling vision, division, forbearance, and nationalism. The day will conclude with an evening worship service and a message from Dennis Webb, a leading Church of the Brethren preacher. This service is open to the public without registration or cost. The forum will also be available via livestream. More information and registration options can be found at tinyurl.com/modforum2020. The event brochure is attached to this email. If you would like to request paper copies of the brochure, please email Paul's assistant, Rachel Kelley, at kelley-rachelj@gmail.com. You may also contact Rachel with any questions.

Simple Living Weekend

March 27 - 28, at Cricket Holler

Registration is now open. Registration forms are available on the district website, or check with your church office.

Everyone is invited to join in this unique time of remembering, sharing, and learning more about simplifying our lives in this busy, complicated world. There will be activities, classes, and discussions for all ages.

Friday evening we will have a traditional campfire with singing, stories, introductions, and, of course, s'mores over the fire. Following the campfire, table games and free time will be available in the lodge for night owls wanting to get to know others. People can choose to spend the night in one of the cabins or go home for their own beds.

Saturday will start with morning watch at 8:00 am, followed by breakfast. Two morning sessions will be offered. The first session will begin at 9:30. A break for stretching and changing clothes will be around 10:30. Our second session at 10:45, will also last about an hour. We will share lunch together at noon. After lunch, there will be a third session at 1:30. People can enjoy free time and group games later in the afternoon. At 3:00, we will gather for a final time of sharing and worship before saying farewell until we meet again.

Here are some of the topics and sessions being offered:

Waste Free Living - Katie Heishman

Screen Free Living - Tim Heishman

Bread Baking - Karen Dillon

Global Warming Issues - Mark Lancaster

Making Reusable Lunch Bags - Susan Fitze and Susan Wible

Solar Cooking and Dehydrating - Dan Royer-Miller Turning Junk Mail into Paper Treasurers - Alison "Paper Alice" Rusk

Other presenters and organizations have been contacted to provide information on urban gardening, recycling, and simplifying our lives. This is a great weekend no one will want to miss. Please join others from our churches and community to refresh and renew the ideas of simple living.

Summer Camp Registration Open

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Camping and Retreat summer camp schedule is online and registration is open. As always, there are many exciting camps to choose from for all ages.

Young Adult Gathering

The next Young Adult Gathering will be on March 21, 2020. We are looking forward to a personal tour of the Dayton Peace Museum. All young adults ages high school graduates through 39 are welcome. Email Laura Brown if you have any questions. [Click here to download a flyer with information.](#)

March Climate Justice Meeting

The SOKD climate justice group will meet at the Salem Church of the Brethren at 7pm, Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Please join us as we plan for a Caring for climate: Beyond Denial and Despair retreat for district churches October 23-25, 2020 at a site here in the Dayton area. We will also be working on ways to support congregations that hope to make a difference through their actions related to climate change. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Pastor Mark Lancaster if you have questions at 510 809 6721 or marklancaster116@gmail.com

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Updates

BDM Appreciation Dinner / RSVP - This year's Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 6:00 PM at Happy Corner COB, 7037 Union Rd., Clayton. All who have worked with and/or supported BDM through rebuild trips, local response, Church World Service kits, and donations are invited to attend. First time volunteers will be recognized. The speaker for the evening will be Laura Mercer, executive director of the Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group. RSVP by March 15 by calling/texting Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. (Please let us know if you are a vegetarian or need a gluten free meal.) We look forward to a time of fellowship, sharing BDM experiences and upcoming ministry opportunities.

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, March 28, there will be a Sewing Bee at Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Rd. 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. There will be work for nonsewers, preparing items for cleanup buckets. [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 – Volunteer now! The April 26 – May 2 trip to Lumberton, NC needs five more volunteers. There are also volunteers needed for May 24 - 30, June 7-13, and July 12-18. These are open to adults and youth (fifteen and older, fourteen if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian). The site for these trips hasn't been announced yet. Transportation and expenses are covered by BDM. Sign up by contacting Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. The updated 2020 trip flyer is available on the district website, or contact your district office.

Youth Trip to the Brethren Service Center – New this summer is the June 14-18 youth trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. This includes two travel days and three days for processing school kits and hygiene kits for Church World Service. Youth must be at least 14 years old to participate. Lodging will be at Best Western in Westminster, MD. Transportation will be provided. Participants will cover their expenses for lodging and most food. [Click here for the brochure which includes more information and a registration form.](#) For additional information or questions contact the trip leader, Tony Price, pastor of Cedar Grove COB (937-997-3675, pastortonyprice@gmail.com).

Prayer Needs

- Marcia and I express our appreciation for your prayers and support regarding the passing of my father. There have been many cards, hugs, and other expressions of love and care for which we are very grateful.

- May we remember David and Nan Erbaugh and family as David has been moved to a VA facility. David's health has reached the point that keeping at home was not possible. There have been some issues in the transition so prayers are most welcome.

- May we remember Jonathan Brumbaugh Scarr, husband of Trotwood pastor Jennifer, as he recovers from successful heart surgery. They have returned home and are on the road to recovery.

- May we lift Kirt Chronister, son of Jim and Karen Chronister, who suffered a stroke several weeks ago and is in a process of recovery and rehabilitation. Another procedure to aid Kirt in recovery occurred this past week.

- 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. Mary Sue Rosenberger has been receiving care from Hospice since April 2019 because of Pulmonary Fibrosis which had been first diagnosed in the fall of 2017. I spoke with Mary Sue and Bruce recently and they expressed their appreciation for the love and support.

- 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 has called Mark Lancaster to serve as interim; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at Brookville during this time of transition; their profile should be posted this week. 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 retired. May we offer our prayers of love and support for the members of the Bear Creek 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.

Please contact Dave if you know of prayer situations of which he should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.