

Working Together . . .
Empowering Disciples



April, 2020

The Church of the Brethren is called to a time of prayer and fasting

By David Steele, general secretary of the Church of the Brethren

Few events have dramatically altered global social, political, and economic realities the way the COVID-19 virus has in just a matter of weeks. Each country in which the Church of the Brethren has a presence has been affected. I recognize that this is a time of anxiety and even fear. Yet, as persons of faith in Jesus Christ we know that death no longer holds us captive, for we are people of Christ's resurrection. The Psalm reminds us that though the world quakes, seas roar, and the nations rage, God is our refuge and God is our strength (Psalm 46). ***I invite us to join together as a church in fasting and prayer each Friday in April.*** By fasting we seek to gather together spiritually before our ever-present God. We do not seek to make statements to our leaders, nor to be noticed by others, but only to center our hearts in the refuge of God's peace. By praying we intercede for our communities that compassion may flourish, that health and safety may reign, and that the peace of Christ will surround the world. May our prayer together be an offering to our God, and through us may God heal the nations.

Livestream Love Feast Invitation

By Nancy Heishman, director of the Church of the Brethren's Office of Ministry
The Church of the Brethren's Office of Ministry is coordinating a love feast service to be streamed live over the Internet on Thursday, April 9, at 8 p.m. (Eastern time). This service will feature meditations, scriptures, and music. If congregations or individuals wish to participate, they may choose to prepare their own footwashing/handwashing and communion supplies in advance. In addition to being available live, it also will be available as a recording immediately after the service. Connect at www.brethren.org/lovefeast2020.

Calling orchestra musicians!

Annual Conference, July 1-5, 2020 in Grand Rapids plans to have an orchestra! Any interested musician is asked to fill out a survey which can be found on the denominational website (brethren.org) to indicate your interest and skill level. If you have any questions, you may contact the Orchestra Coordinator, Nonie Detrick at VBD50@comcost.net.

Annual Conference Moderator's Forum

April 18, 2020

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced that the Moderator's Forum scheduled for April 18, 2020 at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA will be postponed until the fall of 2020. A revised date will be announced in the weeks ahead. →

Southern OH/KY Camping and Retreat Ministry Updates

The question before us is, will we be having summer camps? At this time, all Boy Scouts of America camps are closed, which includes Cricket Holler, our camping site. We don't know when or if they will open in time for our camps in June. Since we are all on restricted mobility, summer camping is not an essential activity. Will the "Stay in Place" order still be in effect through May and June? We don't know. We will just be waiting to see. All this is new territory for everyone. As we wait for this pandemic to be over, doing all that we can to protect the safety of others and ourselves, let us remember God and His love and mercy are constant. Lamentations 3:25 says, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." God is Good!

Southern OH/KY Disaster Ministries Updates

Sew Masks for BRC – Medical masks are in short supply at the Brethren Retirement Community, as they are everywhere. Sewers are invited to help meet this need. BRC has provided a pattern. Contact Barb Brower for the pattern and additional information. Email: barb-brower51@yahoo.com

BDM Site Coming to Dayton – The BDM site in Tampa, FL has closed. The plan was to move in early April to Dayton for tornado recovery. This move has been delayed. The project opening will be after May 2. Whenever this project moves forward, BDM's work will start in Harrison Township and Old North Dayton. Volunteer housing will be at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1541 S. Smithville Rd., Dayton. We anticipate many opportunities for our district to serve.

2020 Rebuilding Trips – In the midst of the uncertainty of when rebuilding will resume for BDM, we do need to look ahead and be prepared. S. Ohio/KY BDM is scheduled for June 7-13 and July 12-18 at the Dayton site. There are volunteer openings for both weeks. Arrangements can be made for volunteers to sleep at home and be with the crew breakfast through supper. BDM trips are open to adults and youth (fifteen and older, fourteen if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian). Expenses are covered by BDM. Sign up by contacting Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

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. A brochure which includes more information and a registration form is available on the website. For additional information or questions contact the trip leader, Tony Price, pastor of Cedar Grove COB (937-997-3675, pastortonyprice@gmail.com)

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, email the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District (sodcob@brethren.org) or visit our website: www.sodcob.org. In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to sodcob@brethren.org **before the 15th of the month.***