

## District Website Updates

As we have struggled to adapt and creatively seek out ways to stay connected during this time when we must stay apart, we've added several elements to our district website.

- A list of congregations who are offering some sort of electronic worship
- A place to write any words of encouragement, share ideas, offer prayer, etc.
- A list of resources which we hope will help our congregations minister to each other and to the communities we serve.
- Check the website often for news and updates as we face new developments and move together through this historical time in our lives.

Please send a note to the District Office ([sodcob@bsodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@bsodcob@brethren.org)) if you have an update for this page.

## Returning to Worship

As states and businesses are slowly being allowed to open back up, our congregations are beginning to ask when and how we will be able to again gather for worship. The District Board will be talking about this and drafting some written guidelines at our ZOOM meeting on May 9.

## Would You Like to Support Health Care Workers at the Brethren Retirement Community?

Last week Brethren Retirement Community (BRC) was blessed by the generosity of Evangelical United Methodist Church of Greenville. EUM gave each Care Partner (employee) a "goodie bag", consisted of a bottle of water, candy, pretzels, chips, crackers, and granola bars. BRC Care Partners are front line workers and they are doing an amazing job under very difficult circumstances because of COVID 19. They have worked tirelessly to keep all our residents safe and virus free, sacrificing much, all the while maintaining a positive attitude. Your congregation can help by showing our CARE PARTNERS how much you care. Each congregation can share by themselves or go in with other congregations to put together a token of your appreciation for BRC front line Care Partners. If you would like to participate in this opportunity please call Todd Reish at 937.621.4172. We thank you for your prayers and thoughts.

## Southern OH/KY Disaster Ministries Updates

**Cloth Masks** - Thank you to all the sewers who are making cloth masks. BDMers have given 535 masks to the Brethren Retirement Community (BRC), 350 to the Preble County Health Department and businesses, 150 to Fairborn Senior Services, and 320 to various care centers. All of these are very much appreciated. Additional cloth masks are needed for BRC, and we have received a request from BDM for masks for the rebuilding sites. Please keep sewing! Contact Barb Brower for the pattern and additional information. Email: [barbbrower51@yahoo.com](mailto:barbbrower51@yahoo.com)

**BDM Site in Dayton** – The current timeline schedules a rebuilding site for tornado recovery to be set up in July in Dayton. Not knowing how open or closed things will be, BDM is developing a new model for the initial phase of this project. We appreciate your patience and support as BDM works to develop a new model for safely serving disaster survivors.

**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. For additional information or questions, contact the trip leader, Tony Price, pastor of Cedar Grove COB (937-997-3675, [pastortony-price@gmail.com](mailto:pastortony-price@gmail.com)).

## Southern OH/KY Camping and Retreat Ministry Updates

No one expected our global situation to unfold as it has these last months. We don't have a clear vision of what the summer and fall will bring. What we do know is that we all want to be safe and as healthy as possible. We want that health and safety for our friends and family, too. To maintain everyone's well-being, the Camping and Retreat Ministries must suspend the summer camping season for 2020. Our hearts are broken over this decision, because we know it will be a lost time of building relationships with God, our friends and families, our natural environment, and our church and faith. Our time together in the camp setting will be deeply missed. To ease the blow of not having camp this year, the Camping and Retreat Ministries will be working on ways to connect remotely through Zoom gatherings, Facetime, and other technological methods. Some opportunities may be age specific and others all inclusive. More information will come when ideas and plans are more firmly made. Remember that camp changes lives even when our lives have been so drastically changed!

*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](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) or visit our website: [www.sodcob.org](http://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](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) **before the 15th of the month**.*

