

August, 2020
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
Printable Version



2020 District Conference

October 9-10, 2020

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Because of the ongoing pandemic, and our care for the safety of one another, the 2020 District Conference will for the first time be in a virtual online format. The Program and Arrangements Committee has been working on ways we can have our conference in the virtual format and still hold all of the elements of conference which we hold dear. It will be a challenge, but one we are willing accepting.

Registration is now open and we can't stress enough the importance of early registration. The technological complexities of allowing for delegates to share comments and vote, necessitate that each delegate have their own personal email address, and their own device to connect to the conference. We are asking that you please register before August 31, 2020.

We invite congregations to donate monies for the purchase of masks or make masks for staff and residents at the Brethren Retirement Center. Send monetary donations to Southern Ohio/Kentucky district marked “Monies for Masks”. If you choose to make masks or purchase them you may send them to BRC at 750 Chestnut, Greenville, OH 45331. Mark them “district conference service project.” Let’s spread the love and compassion of Jesus Christ as we care for all our BRC folks.

A full conference schedule as well as registration form can be found on the district website.

Annual Conference Moderator Town Hall: “FAITH, SCIENCE AND COVID-19, PART TWO”

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for another Moderator’s Town Hall on August 13th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The topic will be “Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Two.”

A special focus will be the current reality of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the reopening of churches.

Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, will once again be joining Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday to continue answering attendees’ questions and share the latest information about the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with a number of organizations during this pandemic. She is also a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, Oakton, Virginia, valuing her connection to faith and the Church of the Brethren.

You can register for the town hall online at brethren.org. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to cobmoderatorevent@gmail.com. Questions related to COVID-19, etc., are to be submitted the night of the event.

Camping and Retreat News and Updates

Virtual Summer Camp is very different from face-to-face camp. There is no eating together, but some kids snack or finish breakfast as we meet. We don't go swimming, even though some campers have just gotten out of the shower. The only campfire we see is the one found on YouTube. Our hikes and nature studies are found in video form. We don't hug, hold hands, sit close together or touch each other physically.

Some would think our camping experience this year would be dull and boring. Those descriptors are not even close to what camp has been like this year.

Three mornings a week the school age campers click on the Zoom invitation to meet at 10:00, depending on their age. Mondays are for campers in Pre School through 2nd Grade. Tuesdays have 3rd to 5th Graders meeting. 6th through 8th Graders click on camp on Wednesdays. Knowing teenagers don't like to get up early, the High School campers meet at 4:00, in the afternoon. Fridays are for Family Camp at 7:00, in the evening.

From the announcements which open each camp through music, bible study, activities, and fellowship, campers from places as far away as Maine; Columbus; Thornville, Indiana and Illinois join together to make this a unique and meaningful camping experience.

No one knew a year ago what a drastic change our world would take. Nurturing campers and sharing our faith in God goes on during difficult circumstances. Click here for a full report of how our virtual camp is an expression of this district's commitment and willingness to step out in faith to bring God's message of love, compassion, and mercy to campers in a new and exciting way.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Ice Cream Social, Share-a-Meal Donations - You're invited to make a donation of the amount that you would usually spend/donate at the Ice Cream Social for dinner and Share-a-Meal tickets. We're unable to have these events, but your gifts will enable the ministry to continue reaching those in need. In 2020 we're working with national BDM and local long-term recovery groups rebuilding tornado damaged homes in Dayton and flooded homes in Pamlico County, NC. For Church World Service 1,000 clean-up buckets and 1,000 school kits will be assembled. Click here to donate on-line. Checks can be made out to S. Ohio/KY District COB, with BDM on the memo line. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Thank you for your donations, as we serve Christ by serving others together.

Dayton BDM Site – The long-awaited BDM rebuilding site has now opened in Dayton under the leadership of Sammy Deacon and Rex Miller. Local volunteers are serving in July and the first week of August. Volunteers started with outside jobs, removing siding and then hanging new siding on two houses in Harrison Township and Dayton. One of the next projects will be in Trotwood. In August the volunteer housing at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1541 S. Smithville Road, Dayton, will be opening. Volunteers from outside the area will be coming to serve. It has taken extensive planning to develop Covid-19 protocol for the housing and work environments. There will continue to be opportunities for local volunteers to serve. To volunteer contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

School Kit Assembly – On Thursday, August 20 at 6:30 PM there will be an assembly of 1,000 school kits for Church World Service. It will be held at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Road, Eaton. Thirty volunteers who are eighteen or older are needed. Because of the pandemic, we will need to follow the Covid 19 protocol that Bullens has in place. Volunteers will need to be able to stand for the duration of the assembly because there will be no chairs. Call or text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 to volunteer or for more information.

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, August 22, there will be a Sewing Bee at Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Come at 9:00 AM to sew school bags for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, a sack lunch, and a mask. Tables will be spread out for physical distancing. Call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442 for more information.

Happy Corner Music Ministry Position

Happy Corner is seeking a Director of Music Ministry (Part Time). The Director of Music ministry shall be

responsible for coordinating the best possible appropriate music for worship services and other church events. He/She shall seek to provide musical leadership, including musical education from children through adult. The Director of Music Ministry will contribute to the larger ministry of the church...Continuing the work of Jesus; peacefully, simply, and together. [Click here for a complete position description.](#)

Prayer Needs

-With the unrest, protests, and violence as a result of recent deaths and incidents of racism, may we lift this situation in prayer. Racism is still a force of hatred, violence and anger in our country and in our world; we are compelled by the gospel to work to overcome injustice and hate. May our prayers this day be for peace and understanding.

- Brethren Retirement Community (BRC). --Safety and healing for residents and staff.

- As the situation with the coronavirus continues with rising cases across our country and state, may we remember those affected by this outbreak. There are many changing directives, regulations and recommendations affecting our country and way of life, may we remember all those adjusting to this changing world. As some reopening is occurring, may our prayers be for keeping everyone as safe as possible.

- Larry Tyner and his family-- his brother Mike, has had a serious heart attack

-Libby Kee--fell and injured her back.

-- The Mack Memorial congregation as the congregation has voted to close due to declining membership. They held their last worship service on July 12.

- Karen Chronister as she fractured her upper right arm just below the shoulder.

- Kirt Chronister, recovery and rehabilitation after stroke

- The Constance congregation continues to discern space needs, although temporarily on hold during the pandemic.

- Mary Sue Rosenberger--various health issues

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - Mark Lancaster is serving as interim at Good Shepherd; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at Brookville during this time of transition; their profile is now posted. 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. 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 me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.