

September, 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. A full conference schedule is available online.

Be watching for a special District Conference newsletter coming in mid-September.

Annual Conference Moderator Town Hall

Featuring Andrew Young --September 17, 2020

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for the next Moderator’s Town Hall on September 17th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The featured speaker will be veteran civil rights leader and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young. The focus of the Town Hall will be: “Racism: Deeper Awareness, Bolder Action.”

Andrew J. Young has earned worldwide recognition as a pioneer in and champion of civil and human rights. Ambassador Young’s lifelong dedication to service is illustrated by his extensive leadership experience of over sixty-five years, serving as a member of Congress, African American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and ordained minister, among other positions.

During the 1960s, Young was a key strategist and negotiator during civil rights campaigns that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Appointed as an Ambassador to the United Nations in 1977, Young negotiated an end to white-minority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe and brought President Carter's emphasis on human rights to international diplomacy efforts.

Ambassador Young also serves on several boards, including the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change. In 2003, he and his wife Carolyn McClain Young founded the Andrew J. Young Foundation to support and promote education, health, leadership, and human rights in the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean. He currently lives in Atlanta and serves as the Chairman of the foundation. He is also a father of three daughters and a son, a grandfather of nine, and a great grandfather of one.

The author of three books, Andrew Young is sought after as an advisor to world leaders, along with being active as a speaker on the lecture circuit. An ordained minister with the United Church of Christ for over six decades, he continues to preach and considers the work of his foundation an extension of his ministry and of the Civil Rights movement itself.

To register for the town hall, please visit: . 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 cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

Who Still cares about climate change? Congregational responses to denial and despair

This "retreat" will take the form of a weekly virtual seminar, beginning mid-October. Doug Kaufman of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions and Mark Lancaster of Bethany Theological Seminary are collaborating to bring Brethren and Mennonites in Ohio and the Midwest to engage with climate change. Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube, former director of Compassionate Development Services of the Brethren in Christ Church of Zimbabwe, is one of several speakers. Co-sponsored by the Climate Justice Task Team of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren. Registration is available on the district website.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Women's Retreat

October 23-24, 2020

Theme: This Is Our Prayer

The committee for Women's Retreat has met and begun the planning for the 2020 Women's Retreat. With the Covid-19 Virus still menacing all of us, it was decided to have the retreat using the Zoom format, thus keeping everyone safe. Our committee members also set a later than usual date for the retreat, to give a little extra time for organizing and securing all the details in making the event an inspiring gathering. Our theme is a continuation of the summer camp program "This Is Our Prayer."

We will begin the retreat Friday evening at 7:00 for a relaxed, social catching-up and sharing of talents and experiences from the past year. It will be wonderful to be together again in a very informal setting.

Our main presentations and break-out sessions on prayer practices in the midst of all the problems in today's society, will be on Saturday afternoon, from 1:00-4:00. We will have a closing worship just before we leave the retreat.

Women who register for the retreat will receive some instructions and a list of items needed for the time together. It will be necessary to have an email address where the Zoom link can be sent.

Although we are all getting used to a very different format for Women's Retreat, the committee feels dedicated to connecting women of the District in this vital experience. Just think: no one has to travel, we can wear casual clothes (waist up is all that is seen), there will be no waiting in lines for food or the bathroom, you won't forget to bring anything, and you can sit in a favorite chair or comfortable couch. We are planning lots of fun activities to be sprinkled throughout the retreat.

Further details and registration information will be coming soon.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Appreciation - Thank you to all who made donations to S. Ohio/KY BDM. Without our usual income from the Ice Cream Social, Share-a-Meal dinners, and Golf Outing, these gifts will enable the ministry to continue reaching those in need. In 2020 we're 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 are being assembled. It's not too late to make a donation! 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 – BDMers are now coming to Dayton to rebuild homes damaged by the Memorial Day tornadoes of 2019. In August volunteer groups came from N. Indiana and Shenandoah districts. Individual volunteers have come from PA, DE, IL, and MD to serve with our local volunteers. The homeowners are most appreciative of the help! Not only are homes being rebuilt, but hope is being restored. There are more opportunities for local volunteers to serve. To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Clean-up Bucket Assembly – Yes, we're doing another 500 buckets! This is the priority need for Church World Service (CWS). On Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 PM there will be an assembly of clean-up buckets 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, September 26, there will be a Sewing Bee at Greenville COB, 421 Central Ave. 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.

Brethren Service Center Trip – The October 19-23 trip to the Brethren Service Center is cancelled. The Center has announced that they will be closed to volunteers for the remainder of 2020. We are hopeful of having a 2021 trip to help process school kits and hygiene kits for Church World Service.

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, together.

Emmanuel Congregation Music Position

Emmanuel Church of the Brethren is looking for a pianist and / or organist. At first this would involve taking a turn providing instrumental music and eventually change to every Sunday. This also would involve special services during the church calendar year, such as Christmas Eve. On Sunday, the piano player plays a prelude, offering, two or three hymns, and postlude. Families might also request music for occasions such as weddings and funerals. This is a paid role as a private contractor. If interested contact the pastor or church at 937-329-0166 or 937-233-1422.

Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren Celebrates 50 Years in Current Building

On Sunday, June 6, 2021 the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren, Pleasant Hill, Ohio will be celebrating 50 years in their current church building. You are invited to attend a special Sunday morning service, followed by a noon meal and the opening of the time capsule. A video documentary is being created to chronicle the church's history from its earliest beginnings to the present day. The planning committee would like to invite you to share your stories, photos, videos, and keepsakes. If you have something to contribute, please contact committee chair Sharon Bledsoe at sbb212@hotmail.com, or the church office at 1-937-676-2281 or Pastor Nick at phillcob@gmail.com

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer.

--It seems there are new reports of injustice and violence nearly every day, with growing unrest and protests continuing, 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.

- A Brethren Retirement Community (BRC). Testing continues among residents and staff. Several tests came back positive for the virus, however, subsequent tests thankfully proved these to be false positives.

- 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 recommenda-

tions 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.

- Nan Erbaugh, having some tests for a breathing issue
 - Lower Miami CoB--a BLM banner stolen from the property
 - Libby Kee-- felland injured her back. She's taking strong pain meds to reduce pain in her back and is essentially bedridden. Her recovery could be a long and arduous journey.
 - Mack Memorial congregation--voted to close due to declining membership. They held their last worship service on July 12.
 - Karen Chronister-- fractured her upper right arm just below the shoulder. Karen is slowly improving.
 - 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, continues to deal with various health issues. MarySue Rosenberger has been receiving care from Hospice since April 2019 because of Pulmonary Fibrosis which had been first diagnosed in the fall of 2017.
 - May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - John Sgro resigned as pastor at Oakland with an effective date now being at the end of September. Donnels Creek shares that pastor Tad Hobert has ended his term of pastoral service, I am working with leadership to locate an interim. 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 Dave Shetler if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.