

October, 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. One blessing in having our conference in this virtual format is that you can attend the worship service without leaving your living room. However, you will need to pre-register so we can send out the link. It will not be made public.

"Monies or Masks" will be our service project at this year's conference. The pandemic has increased the need for personal protection equipment at the Brethren Retirement Community. 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.

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

A Virtual Experience

Our virtual Women's Retreat will be very different from the usual face-to-face retreat. We won't be eating together, hugging each other, or sitting together. But we will be gathering, sharing, socializing, discussing and worshipping together. Most of our usual retreat activities will now be experienced from the comfort of our own homes. A brochure with more information, including the full schedule, is available on the District Website or contact your church office. Set aside the days and times to click on the Zoom link in your email, so you can be a part of this exciting new encounter. The registration deadline is October 15. This virtual retreat is an expression of our district's commitment to step out in faith to bring God's message of love, compassion, and mercy to you in a new and exciting way.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Thanks to all who are involved with Brethren Disaster Ministries.

On Thursday, Sept. 24 S.Ohio/KY BDMers completed our second emergency cleanup bucket assembly in 2020. We have now filled 1000 much needed buckets for Church World Service (CWS). On Saturday, Sept. 26 volunteers gathered at the Greenville Church of the Brethren to sew the bags we use for CWS school kits.

Since the first of the year we have had at least 32 volunteers who have worked in our rebuild program through either SO/KY BDM and/or the National BDM unit in Dayton. In addition, we have received donations from many people and congregations that make our work possible. Together we serve Christ by serving others. Thank you for your part in this ministry.

Contact: Burt and Helen Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or 937-287-5902.

Donations: 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.

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, October 26, there will be a Sewing Bee at Eaton CC, 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, 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.

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.

-- Brethren Retirement Community (BRC). Testing continues among residents and staff. Procedures are being conducted to keep our residents and staff safe.

- Wildfires continue to threaten life and property in the west, may we uphold those facing these threats in our prayers. Hurricanes and flooding continue in the southern part of our country, we also uphold those facing these threats.

- Pandemic--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.

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

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

- Mary Sue Rosenberger, as she continues to deal with various health issues.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition Oakland-- John Sgro resignation; Andrew Wright, interim. Donnels Creek - Tad Hobert resignation, Mark Lancaster is serving as interim at Good Shepherd; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at Brookville; their profile has been 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. Mel Smith, pastor at Charleston, has retired.

- 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.