

July, 2021  
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter  
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## Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

October 8 & 9, 2021

Theme: "Move in Our Midst, Thou Spirit of God"

This year's conference will again be all virtual. Because of the planning time needed, and the uncertainty of circumstances when planning began, your Program and Arrangements Committee again made the difficult decision to hold our conference using the Zoom platform.

Friday workshops will be led by the District Racial Justice Commission, the District Climate Justice Commission and by Zach Spidel and Susan Liller about Jesus in the Neighborhood. An afternoon session will explore how the Spirit is moving in our midst through all three of these district ministries. CEUS will be offered for all 3 workshops. A complete conference has been posted on the district website. Be watching for more information including how to register.

### Move in Our Midst

An Invitation to Participate

By Sarah Friedrich

To date 63 persons have donated or pledged \$24,780 of a \$50,000 goal.

**"Touch thou our hands to lead us aright.  
Guide us forever, show us thy way."**

*"I have lived my whole life around the Southern Ohio Kentucky District. I was born into the West Alexandria Church of the Brethren, with a baby dedication as an infant and baptism at thirteen. My first participation in district events was attending church camp at Woodland Altars with several years at Performing Arts Camp. In junior high and high school, I attended district youth events. These events in my life served as learning experiences of how other teens felt and experienced God and summer camp reunions.*

*"The district was there for me in my darkest hours, I was cut from the varsity basketball team, while being recruited for basketball by several regional colleges. My youth leader Nan Erbaugh suggested, I go to the District Fall Youth Rally the following weekend. My emotional outlook on myself and life changed that weekend. I became part of the District Youth Cabinet and met a mentor, who I still hold in my heart to this day.*

*"As I moved into my college years, the district was there for me again. My plan as a summer research fellow did not happen and I needed a summer job. I knew I did not want to work retail, on a farm, or secretarial jobs. The suggestion came, "be full time staff at Woodland Altars for the summer." That summer was wonderful and challenging. I learned to face fears by crawling through caves--that I can be calm in emergency situations-- and others got to know God through my words and actions.*

*"After college, I moved to Cincinnati. I was a single woman, living in an apartment alone, knowing only a few people in a new city. I was encouraged to seek out the Cincinnati congregation. At the time, the church was just a small fellowship, meeting in a fellowship hall of another church. I found another supportive community. Ben and Kristen Walters welcomed me into the church. From their own travels, they knew the struggles of being on your own in a new place. I became active in the church from reading scripture, telling children's stories, to setting up and tearing down after church. I even preached a sermon as the pastor and a few of the men from church ran in the Flying Pig Marathon.*



*"I moved to Columbus for a new job, I found a new community in the Living Peace congregation. Being a part of Living Peace, I saw others being active in the district and helped with hosting district meetings at the church. When I was asked by members of my church to be on the District Board, I knew I had to say yes. This is my third year on the district board and member of the Resource and Development Committee. I am excited for the opportunities that lay ahead for the district. I want others to find this district as supportive as I have." --A testimony by Sarah Friedrich*

Please consider making a pledge, or a donation in one of the following ways.

1. Go to the district website at [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org) and click on the "Ambassadors for Christ" link to make a commitment for a future donation.
2. Donate now by check. Please mark Ambassador's Club on the memo line. Send your check via mail to:  
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren,  
P O Box 785  
Greenville, Ohio 45331
3. Contribute monthly or make a one time donation by credit card. Simply go district website at [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org) and click on the donate now tab. This will walk you through the process of making a donation using your credit card.

## Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

**Dayton BDM Site** – Volunteers from many COB districts have joined local BDMers working with the tornado recovery. Tornado damaged homes are being repaired on Greenbrook Drive in Trotwood and Brandt Pike and Shiloh View Drive in Dayton. Through "The Tornado Survivors Pathways to Home Ownership Program", worksites are on Marlin Avenue and Natchez Avenue in Trotwood and Saylor St. in Dayton. Thank you to all our BDM volunteers!

**Volunteer in Dayton** – Volunteers are needed in Dayton July 11-16, July 25-30, and September 5-11. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome! Leadership and tools will be provided. Lodging and meals are provided at the housing site on S. Smithville Road, Dayton. If volunteers prefer, they may spend nights at home and join the crew each morning. Volunteers need to be at least fifteen years old, unless they go with a parent or legal guardian, and then they may be fourteen. To volunteer or for more information, call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

S. Ohio/KY BDM has volunteer opportunities throughout the year. A flyer with all the 2021 trip dates can be found on the district website.

**Sewing Bee** – There will be **work for both sewers and non-sewers** at the July 24 Sewing Bee. It will be held at 9:00 AM at Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Sewers will be making school bags for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine and an extension cord. Non-sewers will be preparing school kit items for the assembly on August 19. Bring a sack lunch and come for a time of service and fellowship. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. A flyer showing all the 2021 Sewing Bee dates and locations can be found on the district website.

**Ice Cream Social** – The annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 7, 4:00 – 7:00 PM at Happy Corner COB. Come for supper, pie, ice cream, and fellowship! There will be musical entertainment in the sanctuary as you wait to go through the serving line. Share-A-Meal tickets will be for sale, and there will be an opportunity for turning in coin jars. Sign up to help with Pork Festival Parking or for a BDM trip. Invite others and plan to attend!

**Golf Scramble** – On Saturday, August 14 the annual Golf Scramble will be held at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. An informational brochure with a registration form as well as hole sponsorship information can be found on the district website or inquire at your church office. Registrations are due July 30. Be a hole sponsor! This event is sponsored by the S. Ohio/KY District Camping and Retreat Ministries and BDM. Send all registration and sponsorship forms and money to Kevin Dull 554 Westbrook Rd., Brookville, OH 45309. For more information contact Kevin at (937-604-3285), [montpres57@gmail.com](mailto:montpres57@gmail.com).



# Lower Miami CoB Prepares to Host Asylum Seekers

Lower Miami is preparing to host an asylum seeker or family at the church. While waiting six months or more for a hearing on their status, asylees cannot work or get a driver's license. They are gathering items to provide a comfortable living space. They are in need of a coffee table, 2 twin size mattresses and bed frames, a queen size mattress pad, and 2 twin mattress pads. It would be wonderful if a Sunday School class or a congregation would want to cover the monthly wi-fi \$55 fee, or perhaps pledge an amount monthly toward food and toiletries. One time gifts are also welcome. If there is someone with carpentry skills, they need help to repair a fire wall door for the living space. Lower Miami sisters and brothers would be grateful for whatever help you could offer. Please contact Pastor Nan Erbaugh at [nadaerbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:nadaerbaugh@gmail.com).

## *Prayer Needs*

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

- Shootings and other violence continue in many parts of our country. May we offer our prayers in support of those communities directly affected by these acts of violence and to an end of such violence.

-- We express our sympathies to Jim and Karen Chronister on the unexpected passing of their son Kirt. May we hold the Chronister family in the light of God's comfort and grace.

- As the situation with the coronavirus continues, 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.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - the **Constance** congregation has decided to formally close their operation as a congregation, this decision was recognized at the District Board meeting. May we offer prayer support to the members of this congregation. Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland**. **Donnels Creek** is using pulpit supply at this time, but now has a potential candidate. Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; 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**. Tim and Katie Heishman have announced their resignation as pastors of the **Prince of Peace** congregation for later this summer; I am in contact with Prince of Peace leadership on next steps during this transition. Jennifer Keeney Scarr has resigned as pastor of the **Trotwood** congregation, her last Sunday of service will be July 11. I am working with Trotwood leadership on transition. Nan Erbaugh has announced her retirement as pastor of the **Lower Miami** congregation for later this summer; I am working with Lower Miami leadership with their transition.

- 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 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.