

August, 2021
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
Printable Version



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. Registration is now open online. All attendees must register to receive your zoom participation link.

Move in Our Midst

An Invitation to Participate

By Mary Boone

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

"Transform our darkness Into thy light."

"It has been said that to truly know the people called Brethren, you need to listen to the words of their favorite hymn, Move In Our Midst". -- from a video created for Annual Conference, 2013

As I think about this hymn leading up to the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference, the line that stands out to me is "Transform our darkness into thy light".

Do you sense the darkness? Sometimes it feels like the world is getting darker and darker. A pandemic . . . businesses closing . . . inflation looming . . . political unrest . . . racial tension . . . wildfires and other natural disasters . . . the list goes on. Even, sometimes, the darkness creeps into the church.

I echo the words of Dave Shetler, our District Executive, "Jesus comes to us as the light which shines out of darkness. As we open our lives to the presence of Jesus, we are filled with God's light, we become the light of the world. Light which exudes energy, light which illuminates the journey, light which heals, light which opens possibilities for relationship and community." --07-26-2021 Weekly Note

As the world gets darker, shouldn't the light of the church be growing brighter?

If you are someone who wants to see the Church of the Brethren shining brightly in Southern Ohio and Kentucky, you are invited to join the Ambassadors for Christ by making a donation of any size.

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

1. Go to the district website at 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 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

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 for your enjoyment before and after you eat. A flyer showing musical groups and performance times can be found on the district website or ask in your church office. Sign up to help with Pork Festival Parking or for a BDM trip. Share-A-Meal tickets will be for sale, and there will be an opportunity for turning in coin jars. A list of Share-A-Meal hosts and meal dates can be found on the district website or ask in your church office. Invite others and plan to attend! All proceeds benefit S. Ohio/KY BDM, as we support disaster survivors through rebuilding trips and providing Church World Service (CWS) kits and buckets.

School Kit Assembly – *On Thursday, August 19 at 6:30 PM, there will be an assembly of 2,500 Church World Service school kits. It will be at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. Volunteers are needed to fill and pack the school bags. The Ziploc bags with the five small items have already been filled, which is a change from previous years. This means that all jobs will be done while standing.*

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – There will be **work for both sewers and non-sewers** at the August 28 Sewing Bee. It will be held at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Sewers will be making school bags for CWS school kits. Bring your sewing machine and an extension cord. Non-sewers will be preparing items for CWS cleanup buckets and school kits. 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.

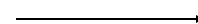
Dayton BDM Site – Work continues on tornado damaged homes in Trotwood and Dayton. Through the Tornado Survivor Pathways to Home Ownership Program, homes are being gutted and rebuilt. Volunteers are needed September 5-11. To volunteer or for more information, call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Pork Festival Parking – As a fundraiser, BDM volunteers will park cars at the Pork Festival on Sat. and Sun., September 18 & 19. This event is held at the Preble County fairgrounds. Workers are needed, and now is the time to sign up for a shift. Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902, SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren Celebrates 50 years in Current Location

On the weekend of August 28 & 29th, the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren will celebrate 50 years in its current location. The original dedication took place on Sunday, August 29, 1971. Events on Saturday will include historical displays, church tours, games, music and a supper with homemade ice cream. Our service on Sunday will feature a video documentary of the history of our church, music, and a special recognition of former pastors, student pastors, and their families, followed by a basket dinner (carry-in provided by the Pleasant Hill members), and the opening of the time capsule. We would like to extend a special invitation for you and your family to join us.

RSVP at sbb212@hotmail.com or leave a message at 937-676-2281. Please state which dates you will be attending. A full schedule of the events can be found on the district website.



Lower Miami CoB Prepares to Host Asylum Seekers

Lower Miami Church of the Brethren has been matched with a family of four from Honduras--parents and two sons, ages 7 and 12. They could arrive within a few weeks. They were in the citizenship process in the US more than a year ago and even had a sponsor in Michigan when the government changed the policy and sent them back to Mexico to wait. The new administration has changed the policy back, so they are working their way through the system again. If your congregation or Sunday School class might be interested in pledging a monthly amount or a one time gift to help us provide food, clothing, cleaning supplies, school supplies, toiletries, please contact Pastor Nan Erbaugh at 937-336-0207 or at nadaerbaugh@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prayer Needs

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

- There are still areas of severe wildfires and flooding in other areas. May we lift all those dealing with these disasters.

- Shootings and other violence continue in many parts of our country. It seems as though we become numb to all these reports. May we offer our prayers in support of those communities directly affected by these acts of violence and to an end of such violence.

- ♦ 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 - Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland**. **Donnels Creek** is using pulpit supply at this time, but is in the process of calling a new pastor to begin later this summer. Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; recently an interview was held with a potential candidate. **White Cottage** has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment, but is considering entering the search process. 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 working with **Trotwood** leadership on their pastoral transition with hopes of making arrangements with an interim pastor soon. 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. **Eversole** has entered the pastoral search process with hopes to call someone to serve alongside current pastor Mark Bowman as he approaches retirement late next year and then for the newly called person to begin service as the senior pastor. Barb Saylor has announced her resignation as pastor at **Beavercreek** to accept a call to be a chaplain in a retirement community. She will not be moving from their current home.

- 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.