

December, 2021
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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You are invited!!!

Retirement Celebration for Dave Shetler

The District Board of Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren would like to invite all to a retirement celebration in honor of Dave Shetler on January 23, 2022 at the Salem Church of the Brethren from 2-5 PM. Donations in Dave's honor can be made to the district Brethren Disaster Ministries, Camping and Retreat Ministries or to the Brethren Retirement Community.

Please join us as we honor Dave's 11 years of ministry to our district as District Executive. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Todd Reish, District Board Chair at 937-621-4172.

Micah 6:8 Community: An Invitation to Participate

Your Resource Development Commission would like to invite you to join a new community within the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. The Micah 6:8 Community (formerly the Ambassador's Club) believes in the message and mission of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren and is willing to support this mission financially.

Micah 6:8 reads: "He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." [Click here](#) to download a brochure which gives a few examples of how SOKD strives to fulfill this verse.

If you have supported our mission in the past, we can't thank you enough. It is only through your generous donations that our ministry continues. Or possibly you have not contributed financially in the past, but have given of your time and talent. Thank you for that very precious gift. Would you now consider making a financial contribution? Your gift of any amount will undergird and enhance the ministry we do together, unleash the power and creativity of God's Holy Spirit in district and congregational ministries, and empower us to respond to God's call to radical discipleship informed by our Brethren heritage.

If you are feeling a call to be a part of the SOKD Micah 6:8 Community, you can mail your donation to the district mailing address at P O Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Or you can [click here](#) to make a donation online using your credit card.

Lower Miami Congregation Hosts Asylum Seekers

The first two weeks of life in Dayton have been amazingly full and productive for Karen and Luciano and their children, Nicola and Gianluca. Since they come from the tropical coast of Columbia, the wintery weather is a big shock. The boys are happily in school at Blairwood School in Jefferson Township and both parents have signed up for ESL classes that will start after Thanksgiving.



Asylum papers have been filed on behalf of Karen and the family. Gianluca celebrated his 6th birthday and Nicola his 10th in their first week in this strange new place. Lots of love surrounded them. Snow on his birthday, his first ever, was an answered prayer for Nicola. The boys built a big snowman!

Congregation members, neighbors and the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition team are all practicing whatever words of Spanish each one has and our guests are wonderfully gracious and patient with us. Basic needs have been met and we have paid the retainer fee for the lawyer. Luciano and Karen are determined to be as independent as possible but there will be ongoing needs. If you would like to contribute financially to the process or have other questions, contact Gale Stephenson at (513)314-1616 or scrapper042002@yahoo.com. If you are in the Dayton area and can help with transportation to ESL classes or for other needs, please contact Jan Futrell at (859)358-8152 or peacepathsteps@gmail.com.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Volunteer Opportunities— BDM has returned to Bayboro, NC to continue recovery from Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018). The site will be open through April, and volunteers are needed for all 2022 trips. Our next trip, January 9-15, has openings for four volunteers. [Click here](#) for a flyer with the 2022 trip dates. To volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902.

Sewing Bees/Prep CWS Items – Thank you to all the workers who helped sew school bags and prep items for school kits and cleanup buckets. We're now taking a break in getting together, but many of you are sewing bags at home. [Click here](#) for the 2022 schedule. Sewing Bees will be on the fourth Saturdays of the month, February through October. The location will alternate between Greenville COB and Eaton Community Church.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2021 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

- Dave Shetler, retirement beginning December 31
- Nick Beam, serving as interim Associate District Executive and then as Interim District Executive
- Pleasant Hill congregation, going through a pastoral transition.
- Deb Oskin, rotator cuff surgery
- There continue to be reports of shootings and planned shootings in the news. May we pray for an end to such violent responses. There is also significant unrest related to recent and ongoing court cases.
- People of Haiti as recovery continues from the recent earthquake. We also lift the 17 missionaries recently kidnaped and still missing.
- Those in Afghanistan with the upheaval in this country and many persons fleeing or attempting to flee to places of safety.
- Those affected by the coronavirus, including the Brethren Retirement Community.
- Businesses including healthcare are experiencing worker shortages; we need to lift up the employment situation in our world.
- The following congregations in pastoral transition - Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland. Donnels Creek** has called Nicholas Kallis to begin work as pastor; Nicholas will be working with the Ministry Commission regarding the credentialing process. Fred Bernhard, interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; the congregation has called Michael Trott as pastor. Michael's planned start date is the beginning of 2022. **White Cottage** con agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment. Tara Hornbacker, interim at **New Carlisle**. John Sgro, interim pastor for the **Prince of Peace** congregation. Rusty Dinkins Curling, interim pastor at **Trotwood**. Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim pastor at **Lower Miami**. Sandy Jenkins, interim pastor at **Beavercreek**.
- 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.