

September, 2022
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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In Person District Conference will “Celebrate God’s Abundant Goodness”

We eagerly anticipate a return to an in-person District Conference this year. It will be held at the Happy Corner Church of the Brethren on October 7 & 8. We will also be offering a virtual option, but ***all delegates must be present to vote. Both delegates and non-delegates must register if you plan to eat at the conference.*** We will hear stories of celebration from our congregations, our commissions, and our board. But more than that, we will celebrate by serving together! More information, including a complete schedule, how to register, and more can be found on the district website or ask in your church office.

This year, we are piloting a new way of holding conference. Since we use the campus at Happy Corner so frequently, your Program and Arrangements Committee feels it is unfair to ask them to once again provide all of the volunteer help that it takes to host the district at our District Conference. So, this year the Trotwood, Lower Miami, Good Shepherd, and New Carlisle congregations will join together to provide volunteer help. Friday morning begins with a training session on Visionary Leadership led by Vicki Ullery and Andrew Wright. This session is open to anyone and CEUs will be given to our pastors. Following our lunch, we will all participate in a service project for the afternoon. You will need to choose a first and second choice of which project you wish to participate in when you register.

In addition to our service projects, we wanted to offer an opportunity for the entire district to join together in a meaningful way, even if you are unable to attend conference. Our moderator, Vicki Ullery, along with the Program and Arrangements Commission decided to do this through a "Witness to the Host Communities". We have chosen a ministry of each of the congregations who are helping with District Conference this year. We are asking you to collect and bring items for these ministries. These items will be distributed to the following organizations:

Trotwood CoB- Little Free Library, and Trotwood-Madison City School

Lower Miami CoB--Assistance to Asylum seeking guests, and contributions for St Vincent de Paul

Happy Corner CoB--Blessing Box

New Carlisle CoB--Family & Youth Initiatives

Good Shepherd CoB--Needy Basket of Tipp City and Miami County

Registration for conference is now open. ***It is necessary that both delegates and non-delegates register.*** This is always extremely important as we make preparations for conference. But more so this year, since many of the meals will be catered.

We look forward to seeing you at Happy Corner this fall and to serving together as we "Celebrate God's Abundant Goodness".



Pre-Conference Briefings to Present Budget

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Resource Development Commission has scheduled two different times to present and discuss the 2023 Budget. These will be held via Zoom on Saturday, September 17 at 10 AM and Tuesday, September 20 at 7 PM. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested but you must pre-register. Please [click here](#) to register and receive your link to the meeting you prefer.

Women's Retreat

September 30-October 1, 2022

At Bergamo Center

[Click here](#) to download a brochure with more information, including how to register.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Volunteer at the Bucket Assembly – Come assemble Clean-up Buckets for Church World Service (CWS)! The assembly will be on Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 PM at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. Volunteers are needed for putting cleaning supplies in 528 buckets and stacking them on pallets. These will be shipped to the Brethren Service Center and then distributed to flood survivors.

Eastern KY Flood Response – BDM has responded to the request of Mud Lick COB for donations of non-perishable foods, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies for those affected by the flooding in eastern KY. One load was delivered to Oneida, KY on Thursday, Aug. 11. These items were received with much appreciation. A second load will be taken in mid-September. This is later than originally planned, but allows comforters to be included. Thank you to all who donated items.

The Brethren Service Center has shipped cleanup buckets, hygiene kits, school kits, and blankets. Children's Disaster Services has sent four volunteers at the request of the Red Cross. Please remember in prayer those affected by the flooding and those responding to the needs. Online gifts can be made at www.brethren.org/give-kentucky-flooding. Checks may be sent to Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Sewing Bee/Prep CWS Items – A Sewing Bee/CWS Prep will be held on Sat., Sept. 17 at 9:00 AM. Come to Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine for making bags for CWS school kits. Non-sewers will prepare items for CWS kits. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. Contact Barb Brower (937-336-2442) for more information.

School Kits Assembled – Thank you to those who helped with the School Kit Assembly on Thursday, Aug. 18 where 1,800 kits were packed. These, along with kits that were put together earlier, total 2,705 school kits. These have been shipped to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. From there Church World Service (CWS) will distribute them to children in the US and beyond. Thanks also to the many sewers who made all the school bags!

Appreciation for Support/Fundraisers – Thank you to all who supported the BDM Ice Cream Social on August 6. There were about 250 in attendance which included 80 workers. It was an evening of food, music, and fellowship, as we raised \$7,900.

August 19-27 BDMers parked cars at the Darke County Fair, using the parking lot of Orthopedic Associates on Sweitzer Street. Funds raised were \$2,500. Thirty-two volunteers helped with this project.

On August 20 the annual Golf Scramble was held at Beechwood Golf Course. This is a joint fundraiser with Camping and Retreat Ministries. There were seventy-three golfers and the total raised was about \$5,700.

The support of these fundraisers is greatly appreciated! It enables us to continue helping disaster survivors by rebuilding homes and providing Church World Service kits.

Together we share God's love with those in need.



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.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition:

- ***Greenville***— Pastor Ron Sherck resignation as of June 19
- ***West Alexandria***—Pastor Brody Rike resignation as of May 15
- ***Oakland***--Andrew Wright, interim
- ***White Cottage*** continues their agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment.
- ***New Carlisle***--Tara Hornbacker, interim
- ***Prince of Peace***-- John Sgro, interim
- ***Trotwood*** -- Rusty Curling, interim
- ***Lower Miami***--Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim
- ***Beavercreek*** -- Sandy Jenkins, interim pastor
- ***Donnels Creek*** -- Jim Chronister providing pulpit fill
- ***Pleasant Hill*** -- Fred Bernhard, interim

- 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 Nick 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.