

**April, 2023**  
**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**



## **SOK District Board Meets**

The District Board would like to thank the Potsdam congregation for their warm hospitality in hosting their meeting on Saturday, March 24. There was a lot of positive energy at the board meeting as they discussed ways we can better communicate with one another. They recognize the lack of current technology for many congregations and discussed the formation of a technology team to assist congregations and pastors address this issue.

The board heard a report about the Racial Justice Team and their important work in these times. Lucas Keller was announced as the new leader of the team and they are looking forward to his leadership. We discussed about how they are working together but also independent of the Standing With People of Color Committee formed in answer to the query we sent to Annual Conference last summer.

The Board also received an update on the progress of the Visioning Committee as well as the other commissions who are busy with their responsibilities. It was reported that the sale of the Mack Memorial property was completed to a Hispanic congregation with \$226,221 being received and deposited. The funds have been allocated to the Board Discretionary Fund for future use as determined by the board. We were given a good reminder at the end of the meeting that Jesus is at the center of everything we do and everything we plan moving forward.

If you are interested in the work of the board, they invite you to visit the district website where the archives of past board meetings are available.

## **Camp Sugarwood Summer Camps Are on the Way!!**

The dates are set for Camp Sugarwood summer camps. Registration is now open. All registration forms will need to be mailed along with a check to Carrie Drees. You can view the camp schedule and download flyers and brochures including registration forms for each camp on the district website.

Many volunteers are also needed. If you are interested in volunteering as a counselor, in the kitchen, lead a bible study, or with any other camp activity, or if you have any questions, please email, text, or call Carrie Drees, [cdrees23@gmail.com](mailto:cdrees23@gmail.com), 937-564-7346.

Adult Child Camp June 8-11  
Junior Discovery Camp June 11-13  
Sewing/Crafts Day Camp June 12-15, 9am-4pm  
Family Camp June 16-18  
Creative Arts Camp June 18-24  
Quilt Camp (at Bergamo) August 8-11



# You are invited to a Zoom Evening with the Women of SOKD District

## Galatians 5:22-23

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

Please join us via zoom on April 28th at 7:00 PM for an evening of study, music, and prayer. We invite you to "show & tell" us of any object that reminds you of one or more fruits of the spirit. Go to the district website to request a link for the zoom event and/or download a flyer with more information.

## Volunteers needed for 2023 Annual Conference

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District will serve as the host district to the 2023 Annual Conference. It will be held at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, OH. As you can imagine, many, many volunteers will be needed as we serve our sisters and brothers from around the world. Volunteers are needed in many different areas such as unloading supplies off of the truck; ushering; registration, helping with children and youth activities; and more. If you would like to join in as a volunteer to assist the Annual Conference staff in welcoming our delegates and attendees, please [click here](#) to give us your information. This form includes a partial list of volunteers needed. More may be added as the time for conference nears. Please complete the form and you will be contacted by the appropriate coordinator as they look at developing a schedule.

Volunteering allows you to the unique opportunity to experience the worship and observe the business of the church all while serving the body of the Christ. Please consider volunteering.

## Join East Dayton Fellowship in cleaning up Dayton!!

The East Dayton Fellowship (EDF) is one of many organizations working together on Saturday, April 22 during a massive city-wide clean up in Dayton organized by a ministry called Declare. EDF will be in charge of a small part of this.

Volunteers will gather at the East Dayton Fellowship (3520 E. 3rd St, Dayton 45403) at 8:30am. We will work until noon. At that time, our partner Food for the Journey Project will serve us a hot, delicious lunch. Food for the Journey Project is the organization that prepares and serves 300-400 hot lunches every Friday out of our parking lot.

Since East Dayton Fellowship is a congregation formed by both the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren In Christ denominations, we are inviting churches from both denominations to come help clean up. This is an opportunity to meet other Brethren (both COB & BIC) and to help the East Dayton neighborhood.

Registration, donuts, and coffee at 8:30am will lead to our dispersal through the streets and alleys around our church to clean up the discarded vodka bottles, mattresses, tires, and other junk that often fill up the abandoned spaces here. Volunteers will be provided gloves, trash bags, and trash grabbers. We hope to demonstrate Jesus' love for our neighbors by getting our hands dirty in the act of cleaning up.

After a few hours of work, we will break bread together with a delicious lunch. We hope you will be able to join us, shoulder to shoulder, in this work and that you will let us serve you a meal and enjoy some koinonia with you!

Come join us for an opportunity of fellowship and service, Saturday, April 22, 8:30am to approximately 12:30pm. If interested, or if you have any questions, call Pastor Susan Liller, 937-902-2240



## **Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates**

**BDM Sites** – In 2020 prior to Covid, Brethren Disaster Ministries had two BDM sites open at a time. This was reduced to one site with the added challenges of Covid and the availability of leaders and volunteers. In 2023 with reduced Covid concerns, the number of volunteer groups and leaders wanting to serve has increased. For two weeks in April and ten weeks in the fall, two rebuild sites will be open. The Dawson Springs, KY tornado recovery site will be open throughout 2023. In April a short-term site will be open in eastern KY for flood recovery. No announcement has been made for the location of the second site in the fall.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Short-Term Project in Eastern Kentucky – April 23-29, openings for four volunteers
  - Dawson Springs, KY - May 7-13 and Sept. 10-16 as well as other weeks later in the year
- To volunteer call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

**Sewing Bee/CWS Prep** – On Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 AM a Sewing Bee/CWS Prep will be held at Greenville COB. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for Church World Service (CWS). Non-sewers will prep items for school/hygiene kits and cleanup buckets. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

**Golf Scramble** – Save the Date! On Sat., August 19 the annual Golf Scramble will be held at Beechwood Golf Course. This fundraiser supports BDM and Camping & Retreat Ministries.

## **Retirement Open House**

The Eversole Church of the Brethren would like to invite all to a celebration of the 30 years of the ministry of Pastor Mark Bowman as he is retiring. Please join them at an open house at the church on April 26 from 1-4 PM.

Eversole Church of the Brethren  
11414 Old Dayton Rd  
New Lebanon, OH

## **Calling all Needle Artists!!**

Each year the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren quilts wall hangings and auctions them at Annual Conference to raise money for hunger projects. For several years the funds have gone through the CoB Global Food Initiative for Nigeria, where the need is the greatest.

If you would like to participate, please [click here](#) to download a flyer with more information. Blocks should be completed and mailed before May 15, 2023 so they can be assembled and quilted. It would be amazing if all of our congregations would participate.



## *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.

-For Cleve Bowling who is on the pastoral team at Flat Creek/Mud Lick who has cancer in his throat and voice box.

-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, interim
- **Pleasant Hill** -- Fred Bernhard, interim
- **Trinity** — John Ewdards, interim
- **Olivet**—Daniel Fullen resigned

- 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.