

May, 2023
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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It's time to register for Summer Camps!

The Camping and Retreat Committee is busy working on all the fun adventures for each camp. Now all we need are the campers! Send in your registration forms as soon as possible. Remember, scholarships are available if needed.

Adult/Child Camp—June 8-11
Junior Discovery Camp—June 11-13
Sewing and Crafters Day Camp—June 12-15
Family Camp—June 16-18
Creative Arts Camp—June 18-24
Quilting Camp—August 8-11

Registration forms can be found at www.sodcob.org or contact your church office.

Volunteers are Needed for Summer Camps

Volunteers are still needed for Summer camps. Counselors for Junior Discovery camp and Creative Arts camp are needed as well as help in the kitchen and bible study leaders. If you are interested please contact Charlene Foster at 937-833-3336, charbyclark@aol.com or Carrie Drees at 937-564-7346, cdrees23@gmail.com.

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.

The Southern Ohio/KY Racial Justice Team Continues Work

The SOKD Racial Justice Team is in the process of reforming in order to continue the work we began a few years ago. We are grateful that the Standing with People of Color Team of the denomination is working to address issues and concerns across the country as directed by the Annual Conference adoption of the query that our district presented last year. We as a district team realize that we too need to continue to explore, educate and grow in the understanding of our own history and the relationship we have as the Church of the Brethren to people from different ethnic and racial groups.

Over the next year we hope to have more information to share with each congregation in the district about its origins, relationship and interactions with Black, Native, and other groups that have settled in the Ohio Valley historically and today. It is important that we recognize the places where we fell short in our interactions as well as the progress we have made in our continued ministry as the hands and feet of Jesus.

We are aware that each community in the district is distinct and has a different perspective on many of the issues that we will address as we move forward. We invite anyone who is interested to join the team as we will meet on Zoom and on occasion in person. We want to hear from you about what you are concerned about, what your congregation is doing in the areas of racial justice and what you want us to explore.

The team is being led by Lucas Keller. Feel free to contact him to become part of this exciting and important team in our district. Ideas for future newsletters can be sent to Lucas at jlkeller94@gmail.com or Terrilynn Griffith at momcat31@gmail.com.

May we continue to seek peace, and justice for all.

Turning Swords into Plowshares: The Story of the Seagoing Cowboys and the Heifer Project

MAY 21, 2023 FROM 4-6 PM THE SEAGOING COWBOY WITH PEGGY REIFF MILLER AT TROTWOOD CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 208 E. MAIN ST TROTWOOD OH

Trotwood Church of the Brethren is having Peggy Reiff Miller give her presentation of "The Seagoing Cowboy", a book she has written about her 20 year study of the little known history of the seagoing cowboys. Through historical images on screen and verbal presentation she tells the story of World War II ships and the lives of many men transformed into vessels of peace thru the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and Brethren Service Committee and its Heifer Project program. Many southwestern Ohio people played roles in this story of turning "swords into plowshares" including Heifer International founder Dan West and Dayton International Peace Museum co-founder Ralph Dull.

A flyer with more information can be found on the district website.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Volunteer Now! – May 7-13 S. Ohio/KY BDM will be working on tornado recovery in Dawson Springs, KY. There are openings for three volunteers on this crew. Other opportunities are June 4-10, July 9-15, and September 10-16. Transportation, housing, food, and tools are provided. To volunteer call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. A flyer with the 2023 trip schedule can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.



CDS Workers Serve – Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) has recently had two deployments. Two S. Ohio/KY workers went to Marble Hill, MO, the site of an EF2 tornado on April 5. Another team of CDS workers, including one volunteer from our district, worked in the Little Rock, Arkansas area. Here a series of three tornadoes hit the area on March 31. Both teams set up childcare centers in a MARC (Multi-Agency Resource Center). They cared for children, providing a safe and comforting place where children can play and receive emotional support while their parents/guardians are working with the available agencies to obtain needed assistance.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – On Saturday, May 27 at 9:00 AM a Sewing Bee/Church World Service (CWS) Prep will be held at Eaton Community Church. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for CWS. Non-sewers will prep items for school kits and hygiene kits. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. A flyer with the 2023 schedule can be found on the district website, or contact your church office.

Save the Dates!

Sat., August 5 – Ice Cream Social, Happy Corner COB, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Sat., August 19 – Golf Scramble, Beechwood Golf Course, 8:00 AM

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2023 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

- Travel mercies and safety for the BDM group from Southern Ohio in Kentucky this week.
- Victims and their families from the most recent and never-ending cycle of gun violence
- Richard Kee and family-- Libby passed away peacefully on April 2.
- Jan West Schrock, former Director of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) and daughter of Heifer International founder Dan West, passed away on March 8.
- All those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria
- Victims and their families of the continued violence in our nation and world.
- The Standing With People of Color Annual Conference study/action committee as they face a major assignment.
- Andrew Wright - home from the hospital and rehab and anticipating back surgery
- For Cleve Bowling-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:

Oakland--Andrew Wright, interim

White Cottage--continuing 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 Sturgis interim

Beavercreek--Sandy Jenkins, interim

Donnels Creek-- Jim Chronister, interim

Pleasant Hill-- Fred Bernhard, interim

Trinity -- John Edwards, interim

Olivet-- Daniel Fullen, resignation

Eversole-- Mark Bowman retiring April 30, 2023

-- 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.



