

January, 2024
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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2024 SOK District Conference

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference will be held on September 27 & 28, 2024 at the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, 800 E David Rd, Dayton, OH. The theme for 2024 is "Breathe in the Beloved".

You are also invited to participate in three events which will lead up to District conference. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of the conversation as we breathe into what God calls us to be.

- **February 14, 2024:** Ash Wednesday Service at East Dayton Fellowship, 3520 E 3rd St, Dayton, OH 45403. There will be a carry-in dinner at 5:30 PM followed by an Ash Wednesday service with congregational sharing at 6:30 pm.
- **June 15, 2024:** Cricket Holler, 6444 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414 at 8:30 AM. Morning Watch 9-1
- **July 14, 2024:** District Picnic at Salem Church of the Brethren from 4-6 PM--Being Mindful of the Spirit.

Men's Retreat 2024

February 9-10, 2024

Registration deadline is January 13, 2024

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein
2365 St. John's Rd
Maria Stein OH 45860
(This facility is handicap accessible)

Guest Speaker

Paul Pyle
Pastor of Discipleship at Patterson Park Church

Entertainment

"The Padgetts - Father & Son"

This retreat is a spiritual weekend for all men regardless of church affiliation. Men 16 years of age and older are invited to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, scripture teachings, worship and fun. The retreat offers different registration packages from full to partial attendance. Your well-being is our priority, so please contact Jeff if you have any food allergies. For those seeking a little extra comfort, private rooms are also available for an additional cost.



Package A-- Includes registration, 2 nights lodging, and 4 meals. Cost \$105

Package B--Includes registration, 1 night lodging, and 3 meals.

Package C--Includes registration, 3 meals

All registration forms can be found on the District website.

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to those who came to Cookie Camp and made dozens of cookies and to those who iced cookies, unwrapped Hershey Kisses, rolled cookie dough in sugar, or boxed cookies, or helped in any other way. Your hands are a blessing.

Thank you to everyone who purchased and enjoyed the cookies that were made at Cookie Camp. Together you enjoyed over 5000 cookies.

Thank you to those who made a donation during Cookie Camp.

May each and everyone of you be blessed by your generosity and support of Camping and Retreat Ministries.

Winter Blast will be a blessing to our children and youth this coming January. Thank you for helping make it happen.

Registration is Now Open

Registration is now open for the Winter Blast weekends and the Quilting and Crafting Day Camp.

Winter Blast for K-5th grade and accompanying adult is January 12 and 13. \$25 per person.

Winter Blast for 6th-12th grades is January 19 and 20. \$25 per person.

Quilting and Crafting Day Camp is February 8, 9, and 10. \$20 per day.

Registration forms are available on the district website, www.sodcob.org

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

BDM Meeting – Start the new year by attending the BDM meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at Mill Ridge Village Community Center. Hear from volunteers who served at the Brethren Service Center and from those on the October and November rebuilding trips to Kentucky. We'll review the ministry accomplished in 2023 and look ahead to 2024 opportunities. Fellowship Time is at 6:30 PM, and the meeting is at 7:00 PM.

Rebuilding Trips – S. Ohio/KY BDM has a rebuilding trip scheduled for most months of 2024. January through June will be to Dawson Springs, KY, where we will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity. There's room for three more volunteers on the Jan. 14-20 crew. Volunteers are also needed for March 10-16.

Note that several months are claimed by a congregation: April-Oakland, May-New Carlisle, and June-Happy Corner. We do need others to put their names on the waiting list for these trips. If the designated congregation doesn't fill all the slots, other BDMers will join the crew. On the July 21-27 trip we're encouraging both youth and adults to serve. Let's have parents come with a youth (14 yrs.+)



grandparents/another adult with a youth (15 yrs. +). Invite a youth from your church to serve with you. We're planning for a rich intergenerational experience!

A flyer with trip dates can be found on the district website. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – In 2024 Sewing Bees will be held February through October on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. They will alternate between Greenville COB and Eaton Community Church. Volunteers will sew school bags for Church World Service (CWS) school kits. Non-sewers will prep items for school kits and cleanup buckets. A flyer with the 2024 schedule can be found on the district website.

2023 Data – Support to S. Ohio/KY BDM was given in many forms: as a rebuilding volunteer, CDS volunteer, sewing school bags, assembling CWS kits, helping with fundraisers, financial contributions, and prayer. All are greatly appreciated as together we bring hope and share God's love with disaster survivors.

Rebuilding -13 trips with 125 volunteers to Dawson Springs, KY and Jackson, KY at a cost of \$4,800

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) – 8 volunteers served on 5 deployments in Missouri, Arkansas, Hawaii, Illinois, and Guam

Church World Service (CWS) - 528 Cleanup Buckets, 3,239 Hygiene Kits, and 3,043 School Kits were assembled for \$55,300. At nine Sewing Bees, 103 participants sewed bags for school kits or prepped items for CWS buckets/kits. 300 volunteers worked at the Kit/Bucket Assemblies.

Donations to support the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM are greatly appreciated. Checks to S. Ohio/KY District COB need to be footnoted BDM and sent to PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

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.

-**Chuck Cupp** fell at his home at the BRC and is now in the medical wing recovering and receiving rehab

-**Burt and Helen Wolf**—Burt is home recovering slowly but surely from open heart surgery.

-**The Standing With People of Color Annual Conference study/action committee** as they continue their important work.

-For the people in **Ukraine**.

-May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition

- ◆ **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, transitioned to part time Pastor
- ◆ **Beavercreek**--Sandy Jenkins, transitioned to part time Pastor
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**-- Jim Chronister, Interim
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**--Fred Bernhard, Interim
- ◆ **Trinity**-- John Edwards, Interim

- ◆ **Eversole**-- Mark Bowman retired, April 30
- ◆ **Circleville**--Roger Cruser retiring Dec. 31, 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.