

**December, 2024**  
**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**



*More information on Disaster Ministry and Camp Sugarwood including complete schedules, registration forms, etc can be found on the district website: [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org).*

**Due to circumstances beyond our control**, approximately 50 issues of the October Messenger that should have contained our Together insert did not contain the magazine. If you received one of those issues, and if you would like to receive the insert, please email the district office. Be sure to include your name and address in the email ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)). We will be happy to send you a copy of the Together insert.

### **"Together" magazine request for help**

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District publishes a magazine twice in the year entitled Together. The magazine is inserted into the denominational publication "The Messenger". The purpose of this "Together" magazine is to inform us of the life of each of our congregations to help us all know how we can support and encourage each other. We are seeking help on the editorial staff of this magazine. Members meet by zoom as needed to share ideas and seek out articles from others in the district. We are currently seeking individuals who may have an interest in joining this editorial team. If you feel a calling to seek out more information about joining this group, please contact Mary Boone at [sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org).

## **Camp Sugarwood Updates**

### **Cookie Camp**

You are Invited to Cookie Camp December 6 and 7. If you enjoy baking and fellowship, bring your mixer and willing hands to Salem Church of the Brethren for one or more shifts. The first shift will focus on making lemon cookies, ginger cookies, sugar cookies and chocolate crinkles. The second shift will focus on decorating the sugar cookies and dipping the ginger cookies, as well as making peanut butter blossoms. The last shift will focus on all the rest. Help is also needed during the second and third shifts to box cookies and for clean up. The shifts are: **Friday 12-5pm, 6-9pm: Saturday 9am-1pm.**

**For questions, contact Carrie at 937-564-7346 or [cdrees23@gmail.com](mailto:cdrees23@gmail.com)**

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to those who have made purchases from the Camp Sugarwood Wish list on Amazon. Thank you for your generosity and support of the Camping and Retreat Programs. There are still more items on the wish list. Please follow the link if you would like to support Camp Sugarwood by purchasing an item. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/17UUZ989BSJ4D?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/17UUZ989BSJ4D?ref=wl_share)



## Winter Blast Registration Opens December 1.

Registration for the two weekends of Winter Blast opens on December 1. Click [here](#) for the registration forms and more information.

## Save the Dates for 2025

Camp Sugarwood dates for summer 2025 are set as well as the Fall Family Gathering dates. We have new opportunities to grow in community and faith, and we hope to see you next summer. All events will be held at Cricket Holler except Pieceful Quilt Camp which will be held at Maria Stein Retreat Center. If you are interested in volunteering at any of the camps please reach out to Carrie Drees at [cdrees23@gmail.com](mailto:cdrees23@gmail.com) or 937-564-7346.

### June 4 Camp Set Up

**June 6-8 Winning Character Camp:** a time to enjoy games and fellowship for youth and mentors, not just drawing up characters who win at tabletop games, but winning for ourselves the virtues of Christian character as we grow as disciples of Jesus. (completed 7th grade)

**June 8-14 Trailblazers** (formerly Senior Creative Arts Camp): traditional camp full of swimming, group games, Bible study, worship, workshops, swimming, and service projects. For those who have completed 7th grade through 12th grade.

**June 8-14 Pathfinders** (formerly Junior Creative Arts Camp): traditional camp full of swimming, group games, Bible study, worship, workshops, swimming, and service projects. For those who have completed 3rd grade through 6th grade.

**June 8-10 Exploration Crew** (formerly Junior Discovery Camp): for those who have completed 2nd grade through 4th grade to get a taste of camp. Enjoy all that the traditional camp week offers in a shorter time.

**June 16-19 Sewing and Crafting Day Camp** for those who have completed 6th grade through Adults. This is a time of working on your own projects or learning how to make new projects from our leaders as well as having plenty of time for fellowship and Bible study.

**June 20-21 Buddy Camp** (formerly Adult Child Camp) A first taste of camp experience for those 3yrs-7yrs with an adult buddy (parent, grandparent, etc).

**June 22 District Picnic** (more details to come)

**June 23-25 Adult Vacation Bible School** (more details to come)

**June 25-28 Woodworking Camp** (more details to come)

**August 5-8 Pieceful Quilt Camp** at Maria Stein Retreat Center, bring your quilting projects to work on and enjoy times of fellowship, games, Bible study, and learning or relearning new techniques.

**November 14-16 Fall Family Gathering** (family camp, more details to come)

**Volunteers are needed in various areas.** Here are the main areas volunteers help and what they do.

**Kitchen Helpers** help prepare breakfast, lunch, and supper for campers. Breakfast prep starts at 7am, lunch prep at 10am, and supper prep at 4:00 (times may be adjusted depending on the menu). Kitchen helpers also wash dishes after each meal.



**Counselors** get to hang out with the campers all day and all night. Each counselor is assigned a group of campers for which they are responsible for. Counselors also help lead group activities, devotions, morning watch, vespers, and meal time prayer.

**Dean:** the dean is responsible for the schedule of the camp, assigning counselors vespers/morning watch/prayer times. The dean also leads vespers, morning watch and a bible study session. Camper medications are distributed by the dean. Campers' workshop choices are assigned by the dean.

**Camp-set up** is also another time to volunteer. Camp set up at Cricket Holler involves several activities. Volunteers may help bring camp items from the storage unit to Cricket Holler. Volunteers also help clean the lodge by wiping out cupboards, cleaning the fridge and oven, sweeping all the floors, and putting camp supplies away. Cabins are also cleaned and checked as well as stocked with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels.

**Bible Study leaders** lead an hour long Bible study Monday through Thursday of camp.

**Workshop leaders** lead the campers in 45 minute workshops teaching them various crafts and activities. Some that we have had recently were: woodworking/making stilts, card making, origami, learning to crochet, making and launching bottle rockets, seashell creations. Anything that is fun, interesting, or a life skill can be a workshop. In previous years, communion bread has been made and check writing has been taught. The sky's the limit for creative workshops.

**Other areas** you could participate in are leading songs or telling stories at a campfire. Perhaps lead a drumming circle or teach the campers a special way to pray. Do you participate in a special ministry of the church? You can come share that ministry with the campers. We have recently had Bethany Seminary present their opportunities to older campers. Or perhaps there is a service project you know of that the campers could participate in. **If you have an idea to share, I'd love to hear it!**

## **Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Appreciation Dinner** – The annual BDM Appreciation Dinner was held on November 16 at Trotwood Church of the Brethren. Twenty-one first-time volunteers were recognized for participating in a rebuilding trip during 2024. Two awards were presented. Rex Miller received the Sledgehammer Award, given to the outstanding rebuilding volunteer. He served extensively as a BDM project leader using his construction and leadership skills as he worked with volunteers. Kathy Hepner received a Service Award for sewing hundreds of school bags for Church World Service school kits. Both Rex and Kathy are members of Trotwood COB. Appreciation was expressed to attendees for the many ways they support BDM including Children's Disaster Services, Church World Service kit assemblies, fundraising, donations, and prayer. Together we rejoice in the ministry accomplished in 2024 and look ahead to 2025.

**BDM Meeting** – **There will not be a monthly BDM meeting in December.** Plan to come to the next meeting which will be on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at Mill Ridge Village Community Center. Fellowship Time is at 6:30 PM, and the meeting is at 7:00 PM. 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 2024 and look ahead to 2025 opportunities.

**2025 Rebuilding Trips** – S. Ohio/KY BDM has a rebuilding trip scheduled for January 12-18 and most other months of 2025. Work will be in Letcher County, KY, which is flood recovery from July 2022. Flood damaged homes are being raised and rebuilt, as well as new homes are being built on higher ground properties. Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com). A flyer with all of the 2025 trip dates is on the district website.

**Donations to support the work of S. Ohio/KY BDM are greatly appreciated. Checks to S. Ohio/KY BDM may be sent to S. Ohio/KY District COB, 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 2024 Prayer List for Congregations is available on the district website.

May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition -

- ◆ **New Carlisle**--Tara Hornbacker, Interim.
- ◆ **Prince of Peace**--John Sgro, Interim.
- ◆ **Trotwood**-- Mark Lancaster beginning June 17, 2024
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**-- Jim Chronister, Interim
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**— Open position
- ◆ **Trinity**-- John Edwards, Interim—closing December 31-2024
- ◆ **Eversole** — Brent Driver, Interim
- ◆ **Good Shepherd** -- Dennis Delk, Interim
- ◆ **Circleville**--open position

- 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.