

March, 2025
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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More information on Disaster Ministry and Camp Sugarwood including complete schedules, registration forms, etc can be found on the district website: www.sodcob.org.

“Faith Working Through Love” The Grief Process Annual Conference Moderator offers Grief Workshop

Submitted by Dava Hensley, Moderator of Annual Conference 2025

Greetings as we enter this year of 2025. With these new beginnings, our thoughts bring memories of the past, evaluating our present, and looking forward to the newness of life where God is leading us as individuals and as the Church. It is not an easy time, and loss and grief are a part of this process.

Theologian, Howard Thurman, shared in his book, *The Growing Edge*, these words. “ All around us worlds are dying, and new worlds are being born. All around us life is dying, and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree. The roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against the time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge”

We, in the Church of the Brethren find ourselves in this growing edge. I am a firm believer that all the loss and grief unnamed in the church could be the underlying cause of our inability to move forward into God’s continued mission, both now and in the future. In my travels as your Moderator, I have listened to expressions of grief across the denomination.

Grief counselor, Kenneth Doka, shares in his book, *Disenfranchised Grief: New Directions, Challenges, and Strategies for Practice*, “grief work is the work that must be accomplished in order to move through the pain associated with the loss.” Grief is not only the process of mourning the death of loved ones, but the loss of the past or circumstances unfulfilled in their mission.

The losses in the church community are great. The loss of community through death and departure of churches is real. The loss of being and doing church like years past is our reality. There is much grief and sadness associated with these realities and grief does not have an end time. What we can do is learn how to better move through grief and loss. In the coming months, I am planning monthly sessions for one hour to acknowledge our grief together and then share in small groups the grief we are experiencing. We will have an overview of grief, processing loss, and in this process learning ways to move forward in our mission which continues to be sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

This series of sessions will take place on Zoom once a month on a Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. ET / 7:00 p.m. CT / 6:00 p.m. MT / 5:00 p.m. CT. Registration is required. The dates and registration links are listed below:

Grief Workshop # 1 was held in February

Grief Workshop #2 – March 13, 2025 https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/g3M9VOSNSDy1A_mTZ0EQsQ

Grief Workshop #3 – April 10, 2025 <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/FxiBoFvBQ0yLTbZ-zOyWhA>



Grief Workshop #4 – May 15, 2025 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5YFttoTI6TQPRHnggtCw>

Grief Workshop #5 – June 5, 2025 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/UfVKs1puTKy9xVn23qio0w>

I look forward to our time together and pray Gods' presence be with us in this difficult, but necessary work.

Camp Sugarwood Updates

Women's Mini Retreat—Learning and Sharing in Community “Nurturing Growth”

March 29, 2025

8:30am-12pm

Bible Study

Fellowship

Worship

Trotwood

Church of the Brethren

208 E. Main St.

Trotwood, OH 45426

Cost: \$10.00

Scholarships available

[Click Here](#) for a registration form. Forms are due by March 14.

Camp Ambassadors' Meeting

Camp Ambassadors will meet **3pm, March 9 at Salem Church of the Brethren**. All are welcome to attend to hear about the upcoming camping season and to fellowship with other camp enthusiasts.

Camp Sugarwood Scholarships Sought

Have a heart for the camping ministry, for children, and teens but cannot volunteer? Would you be able to support our camping ministry by contributing to scholarships needed for many of our campers?

About ten to twelve campers each year need your help to experience the life-changing impact of our summer camps and Winter Blast. While some churches offer partial scholarships, many families cannot afford the remaining cost. Your donation will directly support these children, providing them with opportunities for spiritual growth, personal development, and unforgettable memories. Please donate today at sodcob.org or mail your gift to SOKD CoB Camping and Retreat Ministries PO Box 785 Greenville, OH 45331. Thank you for your generosity!

Camp Volunteers are the Heart of Camp!



Many hands and hearts are needed to make the summer camps successful. If you would like to volunteer please contact Carrie Drees at cdrees23@gmail.com, 937-564-7346 or Charlene Foster at charbyclark@aol.com, 937-572-2882.

Volunteers are needed in various areas.

Here are some of the volunteers needed:

Kitchen Helpers

Counselors get to hang out with the campers all day and all night. Counselors are needed for Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Exploration Crew the week of June 8-14 and Woodworking Camp June 25-28.

Mentors for Winning Character Camp: Check out this letter ([click here](#)) from the camp dean Caleb Kragt.

Camp-set up helpers on June 4 starting at 9am until finished.

Bible Study leaders lead an hour long Bible study for the various camps.

Workshop leaders for Trailblazers and Pathfinders Camps

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. **If you have an idea to share, I'd love to hear it!**

Disaster Ministry Updates

CDS Training –A Children's Disaster Services (CDS) training is scheduled for March 28 – 29 at Creekside COB in Elkhart, IN. Those that are interested in the mission of CDS, to bring comfort and serve the needs of children during disaster responses, can learn more at www.brethren.org/cds. To register go to: <http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html>

Volunteer Now! – Volunteers are needed for rebuilding trips to Letcher County, KY. There are three openings for May 4-10. The work is flood recovery, which includes working on damaged homes and new builds. A You tube video about the site can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/gmKy5PDf4PE>. Transportation, housing, food, and tools are provided. Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew. A flyer with all the 2025 trip dates is posted on the district website. There are openings for more volunteers on many of these dates.

Intergenerational BDM Trip – July 20-26 is a BDM trip for adults and youth. It's an opportunity for grandparents/youth (15 yrs. +), parents/youth (14 yrs.+) to work together rebuilding homes for disaster survivors. A two-page flyer with additional information is available on the district website. Sign up now! Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – Come to sew school bags or to prepare items for Church World Service (CWS) kits. The next sewing bee is on Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 AM at Eaton Community Church. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. A flyer with the 2025 schedule is available on the district website or check with your church office. .

Trotwood CoB Offers Scholarships for College Students

The Trotwood Church of the Brethren has five scholarships for college students. For more details and to ask for an application form, please email the church at office@trotwoodcob.com or call 937-837-6604 to leave a message. The amount of each scholarship will be determined by the number of applications, the resources available and the guidelines of each contributor. Applications will need to be turned in by April 1, 2025.

Prayer Needs



A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2025 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.
- ◆ **Donnels Creek**--
- ◆ **Pleasant Hill**—
- ◆ **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.

