

July, 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.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

September 26 & 27, 2025
Oakland Church of the Brethren

Your Program and Arrangements Commission has been busy planning this year's district conference. The theme this year is "Embracing Our Imperfections".

We are excited to offer two CEU opportunities on Friday, September 26. The first is a bible study of the Sermon on the Mount led by Dan Ulrich. The second, led by Leah Leininger, speaks to technology, offering actionable affordable ways to reach our community, and enhancing our worship services through the use of a website, Social Media, and other electronic tools.

Check the district website regularly for more information. Registration will open soon.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Sign-up for July 20-26 Trip! - There are currently three openings for volunteers on the Intergenerational BDM trip to Letcher County, KY. Both adults and youth (15 yrs. and older) are welcome! Youth who are 14 yrs. old must sign-up with a parent. We'll be building new homes and repairing ones damaged by flooding. Travel, lodging, and food are covered by BDM. No building experience is needed. Just be ready to learn from the construction leaders. There are also openings for Sept. 7-13. For more information or to volunteer, call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, July 26 there will be a Sewing Bee/CWS Prep at 9:00 AM. Come to Eaton Community Church, 813 Camden Road. Sewers need to bring a sewing machine to make school bags for Church World Service (CWS). There will be work for non-sewers, prepping kit supplies. All are invited to bring a sack lunch.

Be a Share-A-Meal Host! – Now is the time to sign up for hosting a Share-A-Meal. The host chooses a date, location, menu, and number of guests. Tickets are sold at the Ice Cream Social for \$25 each. The host covers meal expenses, and BDM receives the donation from the tickets sold. You and your guests will enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. All have supported BDM! Call/text Paula Connerley at 937-266-7171 or paula.connerley@icloud.com to sign up as a host. Thank you!



Ice Cream Social – On Sat., August 2, the annual Ice Cream Social will be held at Happy Corner COB from 4:00-7:00 PM. Plan to come for supper, ice cream and pie, music, and to buy Share-A-Meal tickets. All proceeds will support the ministry of S. Ohio/KY BDM. Mark your calendar! Invite friends to join you!

Golf Scramble – On Saturday, August 16 the annual Golf Scramble will be held at Beechwood Golf Course. Hole sponsorship and registration information can be found on the district website. This event is sponsored by the S. Ohio/KY District Camping and Retreat Ministries and BDM. Send all registration and sponsorship forms and money to Kevin Dull 554 Westbrook Rd., Brookville, OH 45309. For more information contact Kevin at (937-604-3285), montpres57@gmail.com.

Darke County Fair Parking Fundraiser – August 15-23 BDMers will be parking cars for fair attendees at Orthopedic Associates, 732 Sweitzer Street, Greenville. Volunteer for a three-hour shift parking cars in designated spots. We have shifts available throughout the fair. The work is light, and there will be times to get off our feet. Please call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 to volunteer.

Brethren Service Center Trip - Join the Oct. 6-10 crew going to New Windsor, MD. Monday is travel in the BDM van/bus or on your own. Tuesday through Thursday is processing school and hygiene kits for Church World Service. Return is on Friday. Volunteers pay for their lodging, meals during travel, and suppers while at New Windsor. Lodging is at Best Western in Westminster, MD. The trip leader is Tony Price, pastor of Cedar Grove COB. As long as there are kits to process, the trip is on! The processing of kits is scheduled to end at this location at the end of 2025.

Opportunity to Support Migrants

A group of concerned individuals within the Church of the Brethren is exploring ways to support members of our congregations who may be affected by detention and deportation. This effort includes members from various districts, including Southern Ohio/Kentucky, and is supported by Matt Guynn of On Earth Peace, Fauna Badet, COBi Director of Intercultural Ministries, and Ewan Benjamin, an intern at On Earth Peace.

This group hopes to launch a ministry that will:

1. Identify congregations where:
 - There is a high number of undocumented individuals or those directly affected.
 - Individuals are already engaged in solidarity efforts or may wish to do so.There is interest in learning more about immigration-related concerns.
2. Develop and implement appropriate strategies for each group, such as:
 - Providing pastoral and material support.
 - Encouraging engagement and allyship.
 - Offering spiritual formation for the broader church by developing or curating theological and biblical resources that call the denomination to engage with the plight of immigrants in the U.S.

To facilitate this ministry, the group plans to engage a multilingual contract employee who can maintain direct communication with leaders of our Spanish- and Haitian Creole-speaking congregations, offering training, support, and guidance in identifying helpful resources.

If you feel called to support this group, or would like more information, please contact Russ Matteson, Pacific Southwest DE, at DE@pswd.org.

If you would like to contribute financially, donations may be sent to the Atlantic Southeast District, 64954 Orchard Dr. Goshen, IN 46526. Please write "Immigrant Support" in the memo line.



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.