

December, 2025
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.

District Clerk needed!

As of December 31, 2025 the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Clerk will be an open position. The role of the clerk as stated in the District bylaws is: *"The clerk shall keep the minutes of District Conference and of Board Meetings, see that all notices are given according to these regulations or as required by law; have custody of the corporate records; keep a register of the post-office addresses of each member; in general perform all the duties incident to the office of secretary; and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by District Conference."*

This position can be filled by either a man or woman. Would you, or someone you know, be able and willing to fill this vital position within District Leadership? Please contact Interim DE, Nick Beam (nbeam@brethren.org) or the Trent Smith, District Board Chair (pastortrent@happycornerchurch.org) for more information.

2026 Men's Retreat

January 16-18, 2026

Theme: "One Step Beyond the Point of No Return"

Registration Deadline January 5, 2026

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 guest speaker will be Pastor Mark McVey, Sr Pastor of Agape Family Worship Center in Beavercreek, OH. Pastor Mark carries a deep passion that fuels every message he preaches, fulfilling the Great Commission by reaching a lost world and proclaiming the saving power of Jesus Christ. His preaching style both challenges and inspires, stirring hearts to draw closer to God.

You are invited to attend all or part of the retreat. For your convenience, the retreat committee has created 3 different options, each with their own payment scale. Please [Click here](#) to download a brochure with more information, including how to register by mail.



Camp Sugarwood Updates

Winter Blast is coming; It is time to Register!

Enjoy time with friends playing games, swimming, sledding (if there's snow!), and deepening your faith. \$25 per person.

Elementary Winter Blast: January 9-10 at Cricket Holler, K-5 grades with accompanying adult,

Jr and Sr High Winter Blast: January 16-17 at Cricket Holler, 6th-12th grades.

Winter Quilting and Crafting Day Camp

February 5, 6, and 7 at Happy Corner CoB 9am-4pm

Quilters and Crafters bring projects to work on in the company of others.

Devotions daily, fellowship, and lunch.

Campers can attend any or all days. Cost \$25 per day.

Registration forms and flyers with more information about these events can be found on the District website, or check with your church office.

Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates

Appreciation Dinner – The annual BDM Appreciation Dinner was recently held at Troy Church of the Brethren. Eighteen first-time volunteers were recognized for participating in a rebuilding trip during 2025. There were two first-time workers recognized for serving with Children's Disaster Services. Mike Hemmelgarn from Oakland COB received the Sledgehammer Award, given to an outstanding rebuilding volunteer. He is a semi-retired contractor and has served on 34 rebuilding trips. Jo Ellen Zerkle from Greenville COB received the Service Award for sewing hundreds of school bags for Church World Service school kits. She also hosts Sewing Bees when they are held in Greenville. 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 2025 and look ahead to 2026.

Volunteers Needed Jan. 11-17 – Come serve with BDM in Letcher County, KY, as we build homes for flood survivors. Houses are being built on higher ground properties to ensure that homeowners don't have to deal with flooding again. Construction leaders are ready to teach, so both skilled and unskilled workers are welcome. Transportation is provided and expenses are covered. Invite a friend and join the crew! Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. For a flyer with all the 2026 trip dates [Click here](#).

CDS Training – There will be a Children's Disaster Services (CDS) training on Friday and Saturday, February 20-21, 2026 at Oakland Church of the Brethren. This is for those who are 18 years or older, have a heart for children, and may be interested in becoming Children's Disaster Services volunteers. Learn more about CDS at www.brethren.org/cds. Use the following link to register for the training:

<http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/>. Contact Toni Custer (937- 423-1841), our CDS Area Coordinator, if you have questions.

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 8, 2026 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 2025 and look ahead to 2026 opportunities.



Prayer Needs . . .

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. 2025 and 2026 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the district website.

-Larry Lutz--dealing with a lot of pain. Having trouble getting around

-For the people who have lost homes and barns due to recent hurricanes and flooding and fires.

-For the violence and war in the Middle East. May the God of peace prevail and lead those on both sides to ending the conflict.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear and for the families who have lost loved ones and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

-For the victims and their families recovering from the never-ending cycle of gun violence.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition -

New Carlisle--Tara Hornbacker, Interim.

Prince of Peace--John Sgro, Interim.

Donnels Creek-- open position

Eversole-- Brent Driver, Interim

Circleville--Open position

Good Shepherd--Dennis Delk, Interim

- 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.