

January, 2026
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.

A New Way to Support Camping and Retreat Ministries

Buy Gift Cards through Raise Right. Turn your everyday expenses into support.

Simply buy gift cards and shop online through CRM's RaiseRight Program and brands will automatically give up to 20% back to help pay for Camping and Retreat Ministries programs like Winter Blast. Use gift cards to pay for everyday things like groceries, gas, clothing, coffee, or dining out. Whether you're at home or on the go RaiseRight gives you the flexibility with eGift cards, reloadable cards, and a mobile app. Help CRM any time, anywhere.

Download the app or use your computer. Enter this enrollment code: MGV2V7Y2G92N

Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates

2025 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 -12 trips with 104 volunteers to Letcher County, KY and Johnson County, TN at a cost of \$4,200

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) – 6 volunteers served on 3 deployments in Louisiana, California, and Texas

Church World Service (CWS) - 768 Cleanup Buckets, 3,206 Hygiene Kits, and 2,060 School Kits were assembled for \$46,200. At ten Sewing Bees, 131 participants sewed bags for school kits or prepped items for CWS buckets/kits. 308 volunteers worked at the Kit/Bucket Assemblies.

Thank you to all the dedicated supporters of S. Ohio/KY BDM!

Rebuilding Trips – Join a rebuilding crew in 2026! S. Ohio/KY BDM has a rebuilding trip scheduled for most months. We'll start the year working in Letcher County, KY, raising and repairing flood damaged homes and building new homes on higher ground properties. [Click here](#) for a flyer with trip



dates. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Children's Disaster Services Training (CDS) - There will be a 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.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – In 2026 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 2026 schedule can be found on the district website.

Prayer Needs . . .

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

- Pray for the Lower Miami Congregation, the West Milton Congregation, The Troy Congregation, and for new churches being developed in SOK District.

- 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.