

May, 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 National Youth Conference Information

Held every four years, NYC provides young people in high school and the first year of college (or age equivalent) and their advisors to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation and more. And 2026 is the year! NYC will be held July 18-23 at Estes Park in Colorado. Registration is now open. Earlybird registration ends Feb. 28. Southern Ohio/Kentucky District is offering a \$1000.00 grant for each young person and each advisor to help offset expenses. More information and a grant application can be found on the district website.

Camp Sugarwood Updates

Why Camp?

Camp is a special place where campers can be unplugged from their usual home routine and tech devices. This opens up space for change and face-to-face interactions. Camp creates time to work on relationship skills (hello Cabin Life!) with oneself, with others, and with God. Everything we do at camp centers around God and how we relate to God. Camp is all about experiential learning from creative bible studies and trying out new skills during workshops and leading prayer and worship. Camp is a place where one's true self can shine, and of course there is plenty of fun from group games, service projects, and swimming. The things that are learned at camp are brought home by the campers which can include increases in self-confidence, leadership skills, frequency of devotional practices, and understanding how faith is relevant to daily life.



Camp doesn't just impact the children and youth at camp; it impacts the adults who are counselors, deans, workshop and bible study leaders, and kitchen staff. It's a time to put our faith into action and to see God move in our midst and in the lives of the campers we are serving. It is a time of faith renewal and strengthening relationships.

Camp of course is not just set apart time for our kids and grandkids. Camp is for all ages. Camps for adults to be campers are just as important as camps for children and youth. The main difference is usually that all the activities are a side bonus to the strengthening of relationships and support that campers give to each other. It is also important for adults to have time away from being plugged into the world to rest, reset, and recharge in a community of faith.

Camp Sugarwood provides a safe place for all: a place to be enlivened by God's creation, to be rooted in Christ's love, to grow in community, and to branch out in faith.



It's Time to Register for Summer Camp!

Registration is open for all summer camps. Registration can be done online or with a paper form. For those needing camp scholarships or taking advantage of the early bird price for Trailblazers and Pathfinders camps use the paper form. If you have questions please contact Carrie Drees, cdrees23@gmail.com, 937-564-7346.

- April 18 Women's Mini-Retreat @ Trotwood CoB
- June 3 Camp Setup Cricket Holler
- June 5-6 Buddy Camp (preschool-2nd grade with adult buddy)
- June 7 District Picnic
- June 8-11 Sewing and Crafting Day Camp (6th grade through Adult)
- June 12-14 Level Up and Join the Party! Game Camp (7th-12th grades)
- June 14-16 Exploration Crew Camp (2nd through 4th grade)
- June 14-20 Pathfinders Camp (3rd through 6th grade)
- June 14-20 Trailblazers Camp (7th through 12th grade)
- June 22-24 Adult Vacation Bible School
- August 4-7 Pieceful Quilt Camp



Volunteers Needed for 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 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. Counselors are needed for Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Exploration Crew the week of June 14-20 and Level Up! Game Camp June 12-14.

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.

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. New workshops this year are car maintenance and animal first aid. 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. 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!** Contact Carrie at cdrees23@gmail.com or 937-564-7346

Camp Sugarwood Scholarships

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!

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 at www.raiseright.com

For questions or help, contact Carrie, cdrees23@gmail.com

Amazon WishList

New items have been added to the Camp Sugarwood Amazon wishlist. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/17UUZ989BSJ4D?ref=wl_share

Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates

Volunteers Serving in NC – A new BDM site recently opened in western North Carolina with thirteen S. Ohio/KY volunteers serving. They worked on Hurricane Helene recovery with Henderson County Habitat for Humanity and Transylvania Habitat for Humanity. Volunteer housing is at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, NC. The church and Habitat were very welcoming to BDM! This project will run from April 12-June 6, 2026. S. Ohio/KY BDM will also be sending crews here in May and June. BDM's work for the rest of 2026 will be Hurricane Helene recovery in western NC. The exact locations are being determined.

Volunteers Needed May 10-16, Sept. 6-12 – Three volunteers are needed on our May crew. This trip will be to Hendersonville, North Carolina. There are also openings for Sept. 6-12. Call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – On May 23 there will be a Sewing Bee at 9:00 AM at Eaton Community Church. Volunteers will sew school bags for Church World Service (CWS) kids kits, formerly called school kits. Please bring your sewing machine and an extension cord. Non-sewers will prep items in the morning for kids kits and cleanup buckets. Everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch.

Church World Service Assemblies – S. Ohio/KY BDM is busy assembling kits for Church World Service. So far in 2026, Oakland COB assembled nearly a thousand kids kits, and youth from Eaton Community Church assembled 775. Hygiene kits will be assembled the end of April by Troy COB scouts and in May by Beaver Creek COB. Thank you to all those who have made donations to buy supplies, have sewn school bags, and who are helping at assemblies!

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.

-- That someone in the district would feel the call to serve as the District Clerk

--Dave and Bettina Balmer and family--passing of Dave's dad

--The Bernhard family--passing of Joyce Bernhard

-- Jon and Lori Keller-- Lori dealing with auto-immune disease

-- for peace in the Middle East

--For the ongoing violence between Russia and Ukraine

-- For those feeling the call and working to support those who are in danger of being deported.

--Larry Lutz-- slowly getting better and able to get around a bit.

- This month we are praying specifically for the Beaver Creek, Prince of Peace, Pittsburg and Painter-creek Congregations.

-- Camp Sugarwood-- for all of our campers and volunteers that camp is an impactful spiritual experience and that growth in faith and relationships will happen. Also celebrate with Camp Sugarwood the joy of being a ministry of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

- - May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition -

New Carlisle--Tara Hornbacker, Interim.

Prince of Peace--John Sgro, Interim.

Harris Creek-- Pastor Phil Dell retired

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.