



# **The Herald**

## **District Conference**

### **Issue**

#### **2025 Northern Ohio**

**District Conference**  
**August 8-9**  
**East Chippewa Church of the Brethren**

**NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN MAY 2025**

## **Message from the Moderator**

Mike Conner, Northern Ohio District Moderator and  
 Pastor of the Painesville congregation

Grace is a gift freely given, God's unmerited favor. It was given to everyone. Those who accept it are the one who chose to be in relationship with God through their faith. Otherwise, it is an unclaimed item sitting there without any understanding of how precious it is.

We can go through life trying to pay for or make up our mistakes, but we will never be good enough on our own without God's forgiveness. Guilt and grief can make worry turn into anxiety as we try to figure out what we must do to inherit eternal life, go to heaven. Prayer, conversation with God, confession of sins, seeking first the Kingdom of God, being in the Word are ways to understanding how valuable the gift of grace truly is.

The works that we do are out of gratitude for the gift we are given, not as a way to earn something from God. Do not let God's grace be left out in the cold. Put away pride and the like and accept a no strings attached gift, which leads to salvation, turning over your life to follow Jesus Christ and his teachings as our example of how to live and treat others.

Your Servant in Christ,  
 Mike Conner, Northern Ohio District Moderator

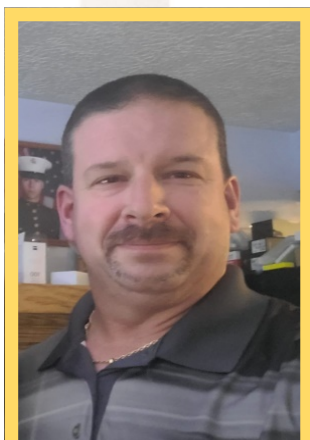


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## **District Conference Officers & Central Committee Members**

**Moderator**, Mike Conner,  
 Painesville CoB  
**Moderator-Elect**, Cindy Peel,  
 Akron Springfield CoB  
**Past Moderator**, Tina Hunt,  
 Mansfield First CoB  
**Clerk**, Ashley Harris,  
 Freeburg CoB  
 Deb Rising, Ashland First CoB  
 Michelle Brumbaugh, Eden CoB



# Northern Ohio District Conference 2025 Schedule



## Friday, August 8 Schedule

11:00 a.m.	Exhibit & Peace Auction Set-up Begins
12:00 p.m.	Registration Begins
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop, Speaker: Josh Brockway
5:00 p.m.	Dinner (in Fellowship Hall)
6:30 p.m.	Opening Worship, Mike Conner preaching
8:00 p.m.	Insight Sessions and Ice Cream Social

## Saturday, August 9 Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service (in Fellowship Hall)
9:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Business Session (in Fellowship Hall)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (in Fellowship Hall)
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Insight Sessions
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Business Session (in Fellowship Hall)
4:00 -5:30 p.m.	Worship Service, Guest Speaker: Josh Brockway Installation of Moderator
5:45 p.m.	Dinner (in Fellowship Hall)
5:45 p.m.	Reorganization of the Board (For newly elected and continuing board members)
6:30 p.m.	Closing

## Youth and Children Activities

Childcare (toddlers and preschoolers) is available during the Pre-Conference Workshop, Worship Services, Business Sessions and Insight Sessions.

Children's Activities (K-5th grade) are provided by East Chippewa CoB staff during Insight and Business Sessions.

Jr. and Sr. High activities are coordinated by district volunteers. Youth registration begins at 4:00 p.m. Friday and activities continue overnight through Saturday worship.

**There are no registration or meal costs for children or youth (jr. and sr. high). Advisors serving with the youth through the conference also attend without cost.**

## Herald Contents

### District Conference Information

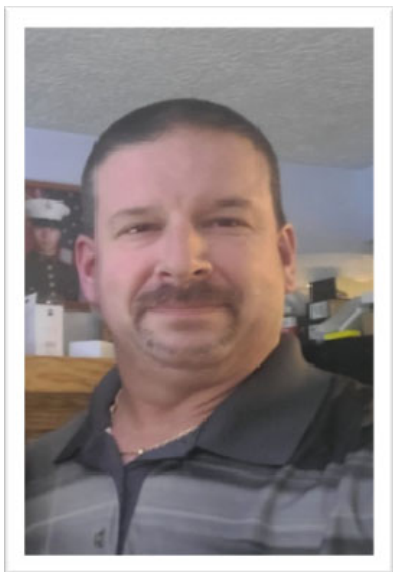
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# Conference Speakers

## Mike Conner

### Friday Evening Worship



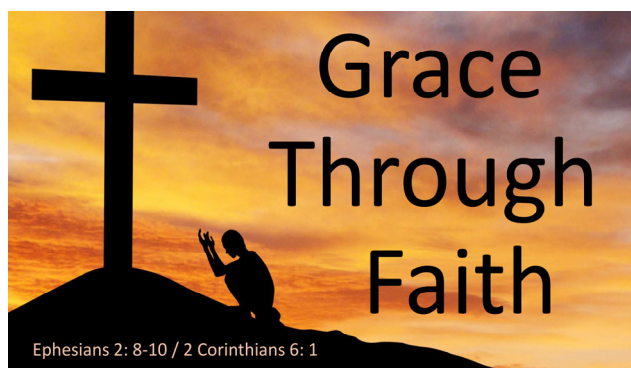
Mike Conner is a bi-vocational Pastor of the Painesville CoB. He was born and raised in the Akron Springfield COB.

He was on the Junior High Cabinet for the District for 12 years until Covid made it hard to meet.

Mike is a graduate of the Buckeye Brethren Institute. He was ordained in 2024. He is married to his loving and supportive wife Dawn. He

has 2 grown children, Brandon and wife Kayla, and Alex.

Painesville is his first Pastorate and they have supported him in many ways. He says God is leading him, and he gives God all the honor for what is being accomplished through the ministry God has given him.



## Josh Brockway

### Saturday Evening Worship



We welcome Rev. Dr. Joshua Brockway. He serves the Church of the Brethren as staff for spiritual life and discipleship.

His work includes oversight of a network of over 60 spiritual directors

and polity related to congregational ethics.

He also prepares resources and lead workshops on stewardship, spiritual practices, Brethren identity, and worship.

Joshua earned his Master of Arts in Theology from Bethany Theological Seminary, his Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, and Ph.D. in Early Church History from The Catholic University of America. He lives in Elgin Illinois with his wife and four children.

**Registration for District Conference opens May 1st. Register on-line at [nohcob.org/register](https://nohcob.org/register) or use the forms on pages 5-8 in this issue of the Herald.**



**Plan to attend our Ice Cream Social  
Friday evening  
provided by  
East Chippewa CoB and  
Smith Dairy!**

## Pre-Conference Workshop

**Friday, August 8 from 1 pm- 4:30 pm**

### Fruit of Discipleship in Shifting Times

**Presenter:** Josh Brockway

**Location:** East Chippewa Church of the Brethren  
CEUs for Clergy (0.3 CEUs)



**Focus:** There is little doubt that the church in North America is experiencing dramatic shifts. Using the parable of the fig tree, we will explore together which it means to be tended and nourished so that we might produce the fruit of God's salvation. Josh will focus on the demographic shifts that are impacting the church and wider society all the same. He will then turn to the practices of the church as regrounding us in the salvation of God.

**Presenter:** Joshua Brockway has served as the Director for spiritual formation for the Church of the Brethren since 2010. His work includes oversight for the Spiritual Directors Network and the Ethics for Congregations polity. He writes frequently for a range of denominational publications and leads workshops and renewal events on prayer, discipleship, and Brethren identity.

Joshua received his Master of Arts from Bethany Theological Seminary and completed his Masters of Divinity at Candler School of Theology. He finished his PhD in Church History at The Catholic University of America having written on the intersections of prayer, liturgy, and asceticism in the writings of John Cassian.

## Insight Sessions

### Friday Evening/August 8 from 8 pm—9 pm

**Immigration: To Welcome the Stranger** - Presented by Connections Commission

How can we be faithful to the scriptures that command welcome and hospitality? Come hear how the Church of the Brethren is involved and receive practical ways of connecting and serving.

**Northern Ohio Strategic Planning Committee** - Presented by Strategic Planning Committee

Find out what is happening with this committee and the goals and plans for the District in the coming years.

**"Spiritual Gifts"** - Presented by Josh Brockway.

Paul tells us that those who confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ do so because of the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit gifts us with all the capacities for ministry. In this session we will explore how the Gifts of the Spirit, our passions, and our skills build up the church.

### Saturday Afternoon/ August 9 from 1:15 pm—2:15 pm

**What is Happening at Camp?** - Presented by Andrew Kauffman, Camp Executive Director

There have been a lot of changes and lots happening at Inspiration Hills over the last year! Come talk to Andrew, the Executive Director and learn what's new.

**Northern Ohio Strategic Planning Committee** - see above

**"Discipleship"** - Presented by Josh Brockway

Discipleship is the intentional journey of becoming like Jesus. So when Jesus washes feet, so do we. In this session we will explore a framework for understanding what discipleship is and what we do to become like Jesus.

**Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren**  
**2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM**

Mail the form to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 East Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Please do not include any payments with this form. All payments should be sent with the Registration Form along with any choices for meals.

**CONGREGATION NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegate 1**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

**Delegate 2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

**Delegate 3**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

**Delegates Authorized by: (Pastor, Clerk, or Moderator)**

**Sign below, name and title**

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**Number of Delegates:** District Polity says: "There shall be two (2) for each member church or fellowship with 200 or fewer members. Larger churches shall have one (1) delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof. One delegate should be a church board member. No elected delegate shall serve more than two years in succession, except in those congregations where the average weekly worship attendance is (35) or less.



# Adult Registration Form

August 8-9, 2025 Northern Ohio District Conference

**YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 25 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS**

Send Registration Forms and checks to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805

All delegates must also complete this form. Each congregation must provide a delegate authorization form signed by the church's pastor, moderator, board chair, or clerk. This is verification that the delegate has been chosen by the congregation to represent them at conference.

You may now also register on-line & print conference materials from the District Website:

<https://www.nohcob.org/ministries/conferences/district-conference>

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

**Are you a Delegate?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Congregation Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

**Phone Number** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you want a Conference Book? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Registration Fee:** \$25.00 pre-registration (\$35.00 on site) **Registration Fee:** \$ 25.00

## Choose your meal options:

Friday Dinner ☐ \$12.00 Saturday Lunch ☐ \$8.00 Saturday Dinner ☐ \$12.00

Special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Meals:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Camp lodging option\*:

Friday Night ☐ \$25.00 ind. or ☐ \$50 for family (# in family \_\_\_\_\_)

Saturday Night ☐ \$25.00 ind. or ☐ \$50 for family (# in family \_\_\_\_\_)

\*Continental breakfast included with overnight stay.

\*People staying at the camp will need to bring their own bedding and towels.

**Total Lodging:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you attending the Pre-conference event? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you wish to receive CEU's? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you attending the Ice Cream Social Friday after worship?  
(The cost is included in registration fees.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Please add together your Registration Fee, Meal, & Lodging Costs**

(Make checks to "Northern Ohio District") **Total Cost:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Jr. High / Sr. High Youth / Youth Advisor Registration Form

August 8 - 9, 2025 Northern Ohio District Conference

**PLEASE REGISTER BY JULY 25TH**

Send Registration Forms and checks to:

Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805 or register on-line & print  
conference materials from the District Website: [www.nohcob.org/register](http://www.nohcob.org/register)

☐ Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

☐ Junior High (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

☐ Youth Advisor

Congregation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a delegate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Registration Fee: No charge for youth.

Registration Fee: \$ 0.00

**Meals: Meals will be provided for youth at no charge.**

Special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_ Total Meals: \$ 0.00

**\*Lodging: Youth will lodge at Inspiration Hills at no charge**

(bring your own bedding and towels)

Total Lodging: \$ 0.00

Total Cost: \$ 0.00

**How will you be coming to District Conference?**

☐ With my Family

☐ With my Youth Leader

☐ Driving Myself

\*Youth are expected to stay overnight at Inspiration Hills Camp on Friday and participate in all youth activities.

Youth registration begins at 4 pm on Friday, August 8th.

In addition to this Conference Registration form, you must complete the Youth Registration Form at [www.nohcob.org/youth](http://www.nohcob.org/youth) (if you have completed this in the last calendar year, no need to complete it again).

# Child Under 12 Registration Form

August 8-9, 2025 Northern Ohio District Conference

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 25 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS.**

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING ADULTS, USE ADULT FORM

Send Registration Forms and checks to:

Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805 or register on-line

[www.nohcob.org/register](http://www.nohcob.org/register)

## Child 1

Congregation Name

Child's Name M/F Age/Grade

Address (Street, City, State)

Parent's Name

Parent's Phone Number

Is this your child's first conference? Yes ☐ No ☐

Parent's contact information at conference

Who will pick up children from their activities?

(Children under 12 do not pay registration or meal costs)

Please mark the meals you want for your child.

	Lunch	Dinner
Friday		
Saturday		
Totals	No Charge	

**Preschool Children:** Childcare is provided during Pre-Conference, worship on Friday and Saturday, and Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Please indicate below if/when your child will be in Child Care.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Insight Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Business Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Insight Session

**Grade School Children:** Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc.?** Yes ☐ No ☐ Explain:

Parent or Guardian's Signature:

## Child 2

Congregation Name

Child's Name M/F Age/Grade

Address (Street, City, State)

Parent's Name

Parent's Phone Number

Is this your child's first conference? Yes ☐ No ☐

Parent's contact information at conference

Who will pick up children from their activities?

(Children under 12 do not pay registration or meal costs)

Please mark the meals you want for your child.

	Lunch	Dinner
Friday		
Saturday		
Totals	No Charge	

**Preschool Children:** Childcare is provided during Pre-Conference, worship on Friday and Saturday, and Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Please indicate below if/when your child will be in Child Care.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Insight Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Business Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Insight Sessions

**Grade School Children:** Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes ☐ No ☐

**Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc.?** Yes ☐ No ☐ Explain:

Parent or Guardian's Signature:



## Lodging for District Conference 2025

A block of rooms has been reserved at:

**Holiday Inn Express** Distance from East Chippewa: 9 miles  
128 Riffel Road Drive Time: 15 minutes  
Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: (330) 601-1221



Rate is \$159 for a King or Double Queen Room Standard or Suite– Free Hot Breakfast.

**Must reserve by 7/8 for this rate**

Let them know you are from the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren-Group Code:BRE

## Camping

**Inspiration Hills Camp** Distance from Maple Grove: 16 miles  
4819 West Easton Rd Drive Time: 21 minutes  
Burbank, OH 44214 Phone: (419) 846-3010  
\$25/person, \$50/family Please bring your own towels/bedding  
Includes Continental Breakfast



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## Other Lodging Options

**Cobblestone Hotel** Distance from East Chippewa: 4 miles  
1720 N Main St Drive Time: 6 minutes  
Orrville, OH 44667 Phone: (330) 682-1711



**Hampton Inn Wooster** Distance from East Chippewa: 9 miles  
4253 Burbank Rd Drive Time: 14 minutes  
Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: (330) 345-4424



**Days Inn** Distance from East Chippewa 9 miles  
789 E Milltown Rd Drive Time: 14 minutes  
Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: (330) 439-5749



# Our Local Service

## Project:



Please consider donating these new items to People to People Ministries

### PANTRY HELP

Families can receive a **3-day emergency** pantry supply every 30 days.

**Personal Products:** Hygiene is offered to eligible individuals and families once a month.

### IN-KIND DONATION SUGGESTIONS:

- Canned vegetable
- Canned fruit
- Pasta sides
- Rice sides
- Peanut Butter (16 oz or less)
- Laundry Soap (Travel Size)
  - Dish Soap (Small)
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant
  - TP / Paper Towels

**Household Items:** Blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, and kitchen items are offered one time a year or in emergency situations.

## Friday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.

A special offering will be taken during worship for the **District Conference Fund**. This fund provides for conference expenses, including but not limited to supporting host church expenses, ice cream social, conference speakers travel and expenses, delegate materials, books and handouts, youth and children's activities, display area, insight sessions and much more!

## Giving Opportunities at District Conference

## Coming at District Conference!

August 8-9, 2025

## The Silent Auction For The Peace Endowment Fund

Support District Peace Education Efforts!

## We Need YOU to Donate!

### handmade items and goodies

(handcrafted items, artist's work, homemade food) for the auction! Themed baskets are also welcome.

### Donate by:

- Bringing your donated items to the Auction Table Friday, Aug 8 by 5 p.m.
- provide an estimate of their value
- Not what a minimum starting bid should be

Money raised by the auction goes to support the District Peace Endowment Fund. This fund supports District peace education efforts.



As one of the Historic Peace Churches, we are committed to teaching Christ's message of peace – peace within ourselves as we make our peace with Jesus; peace within our families, our congregations, and with our friends; peace in our communities; and peace in the world with our friends and those we may call enemy. The Peace Endowment Fund was established in 1982 to support efforts in the District to teach the things that make for peace!



**Come prepared to bit on items in the auction too!**

(cash, check, or credit card accepted)



## Saturday, August 9th at 4:00 p.m.

A special offering will be taken for **Disaster Fund** during worship. Our district camp needs the generous support of our churches and members to continue this vital ministry in our district. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

You may also give at anytime during conference through the Offering Boxes that will be available for each of these opportunities.

## Eden CoB Hottle Grant

We received a thank you from Eden CoB.

"We at Eden Church wish to thank you for the grant to purchase AED Devices for our Narthex and fellowship hall. We have completed the project and have updated our first aid kit and purchased two Life Vac units with the funds you provided. Here are pictures of the final product. We could not have finished the project without your assistance and the extra funds from our congregation. Thank you again for providing this service to us."



Eden Church  
Narthex

(a LifeVac has been added to the basket since this picture was taken).



Eden Church  
Fellowship Hall

(a LifeVac has been added to the basket since this picture was taken).

## Lakewood CoB Hottle Grant

Lakewood also sent a note of thanks.

"We want to thank you for approving our application for a Hottle Grant to help offset the cost of boiler repairs at Lakewood. The work required to make these repairs was extensive and costly. Your generous support has provided warmth for worship services and other church activities throughout the cold winter months. Again, thank you for the support.

Gene Wyse, Thelma Boos, and Jack Johnson"

## Annual Conference Delegate Briefing Sunday, June 1 from 2—4pm Ashland First Church of the Brethren

8122 East 3rd Street, Ashland, OH



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 1 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.** Dava Hensley, Annual Conference Moderator, will hold our Annual Conference Delegate Briefing at Ashland First Church of the Brethren.

This session is for Annual Conference delegates, pastors, and all who would like to know more of what will be happening at Annual Conference this year in Greensboro, North Carolina on July 2nd-6th.

Come hear about Faith Working Through Love (theme for Annual Conference), the fellowship and learning opportunities, and Dava's vision for Ashland First during the 10:30 am Sunday morning worship, and you are welcome to attend.

Light refreshments will be served. We are grateful to Ashland First for their hospitality in hosting. Call/text Kris Hawk at 330-612-2086 with questions or for more information.

Register your delegate for Annual Conference and learn more about the business, learning and fellowship opportunities at

<https://www.brethren.org/ac/>

## Standing Committee Delegate Annual Conference Dawn Baldwin







## National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)

September 1-5, 2025  
Lake Junaluska, NC

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Online Registration opens May 1. Past participants will receive an email with the registration link on May 1.

### Keynote Speakers:

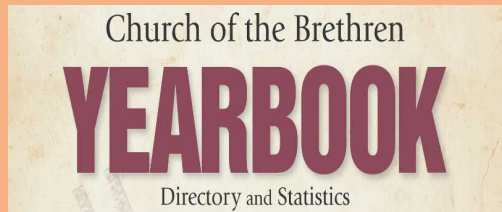
- Cole Arthur Riley is a writer and poet. Her writing has been featured in The Washington Post.
- Ken Medema is one of the most creative and authentic artists performing today.
- Ted Swartz is a Mennonite actor and writer.
- Dominique Gilliard is the Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation for the Evangelical Covenant Church.

### Preachers:

- Monday- Greg Davidson Laszakovits
- Tuesday- Rebecca Dali
- Wednesday- Herb Smith
- Thursday- Samuel Sarpiya
- Friday- Audri Svay

For more information:

<https://www.brethren.org/dlf/noac/>



## Annual Yearbook Forms Delay

As you are aware of the fact that you have not received the Yearbook forms yet this year.

As previously communicated, the standard congregational Yearbook forms could not be distributed this year due to technical difficulties. As a result, we revised the process and this year's congregational Yearbook form is new and improved. The previous three forms have been replaced with one, and congregations have the option to fill it out online. A paper form has been mailed to all congregations, along with instructions on how to access the online form. Congregations should complete one form only – either online OR paper. **The due date is May 15, 2025.**

We are hoping that the ease of an online form will help to increase congregational participation in this process.

**Option A:** Fill out the [online Yearbook form](#). (You can start the form and then return to it later before you click to submit. You will receive a copy of your responses.) <https://>

OR

**Option B:** Complete the paper form which was mailed to your church and return a scanned copy via email to [yearbook@brethren.org](mailto:yearbook@brethren.org) or mail to Yearbook Office, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120.

If you need replacement forms, contact Jim Miner, Yearbook Specialist, at 800-323-8039, ext. 320 or a direct line at 847-429-4320, or email [yearbook@brethren.org](mailto:yearbook@brethren.org).



## Hope: Roots and Branches, Jeremiah 17:7-8

### Young Adult Conference

May 23 – 25, 2025

Brethren Woods Camp and Retreat Center  
near Keezletown, Virginia

Young Adult Conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults!

**Regular registration** (March 1 – May 1, 2025): \$250

<https://www.brethren.org/yya/yac/>

Do you wish YAC was longer? It can be! Add on YAC MAX to your registration and stick around on Sunday for lunch and a long afternoon of fellowship!



**National Junior High Conference**  
**June 20-22, 2025**  
Juniata College • Huntingdon, PA

Gentleness, commanded in scripture and names as a “fruit of the Spirit,” is not valued by the culture around us. How would our relationships with each other and with God change if gentleness guided us? What does it mean to “Let your gentleness be known?”

Junior High youth (those who have completed grades 6 – 8) and their adult advisors are invited to this weekend of faith formation, friendship, and fun!

We will begin on Friday night with worship. Saturday will be a mix of worship, small group time, workshops, and recreation. Sunday we will worship again before saying “see ya’ next time!”

Regular registration (Feb. 1 – June 1): \$275 / <https://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc/>

## Brethren Volunteer Service accepting applications for the 2025-2026 year

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 year. “Put your faith in action, and volunteer with BVS!” said an invitation.



Volunteers must be at least age 18 and able to commit to a year of service. Before embarking on a service year, volunteers first attend an orientation. There are two volunteer orientations planned for the year, a summer event in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and a fall event on the East Coast:

**Summer orientation: July 27 to Aug. 4 at Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo.**

**Fall orientation: Sept. 10-18 at Camp Mardela in Denton, Md.**

Orientation training is a time spent building community with other volunteers and the BVS staff. At orientation, volunteers prepare for their service experience by exploring ways to enable personal and societal change, learning how to live simply, examining their personal beliefs and values, and becoming more aware of their role as a BVS volunteer.

Volunteers serve with one of BVS’ nonprofit partners in the US or abroad. Typically, volunteers go straight to their project site after orientation to begin their year of service. Volunteers are responsible for getting themselves to orientation. BVS provides transportation from orientation to the project sites. During their year of service, volunteers receive housing, food, a stipend, and health insurance. For more information, go to [www.brethren.org/bvs](http://www.brethren.org/bvs).

# District Prayer Calendar

## May Prayer Calendar

### Churches/Pastors

Defiance, Eugene Yenser/ Dupont, Solomon Okang/  
East Chippewa, Mike Huffaker

### District Leadership

Ministerial Commission—Mike Huffaker, Chair

### Sister Districts

Missouri Arkansas / Southeastern

### National Leadership

On Earth Peace/Church of the Brethren in Spain

## June Prayer Calendar

### Churches/Pastors

Eden, Interim Pastor Tom Michaels/ Elm Street, James  
Washington / Faith in Action, Jim Gorrell

### District Leadership

Connections Commission—Jocelyn Siakula, Chair

### Sister Districts

Idaho/Northern Plains

### National Leadership

Nevin Dulabaum, Eder Financial/CoB in Uganda

## July Prayer Calendar

### Churches/Pastors

Freeburg, Ed Wartluft / Hartville, Anthony DiMarco &  
Moses Siakula/ Jonah's People, Amanda Reidling & Mark  
Self / Lake Breeze, Stephen McLaughlin

### District Leadership

Congregational Commission—Beverly Wengerd, Chair

### Sister Districts

Southern Plains/Western Plains

### National Leadership

Annual Conference July 2-6 in Greensboro, NC  
CoB in Venezuela

## August Prayer Calendar

### Churches/Pastors

Lakewood, Gene Wyse / Lick Creek, Bill Holsopple  
Mansfield, Tina Hunt / Maple Grove, Stephen Keib

### District Leadership

Steward and Finance Commission—Todd Clemens, Chair

### Sister Districts

Illinois/Wisconsin/Michigan

### National Leadership

Carl Fike, Chair of Mission & Ministry Board

## Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

### **Congregations actively in the search process:**

**Akron First— *Rebecca Ebie*** is providing pulpit supply.

**Center — *Joe Routh*** serving as interim pastor.

**Jonah's People — *Mark Self* and *Amanda Reidling*** are serving as interim co-pastors.

**Sugar Creek West — *Ministry Team*** providing pulpit supply.

### **Congregations that have chosen not to seek at this time:**

**Bristolville— *Ed Agler*** serving as interim.

**Brook Park— *Ryan Lopez*** serving as interim pastor.

**Dupont — *Solomon Okang*** serving as preacher.

**Eden — *Tom Michaels*** serving as transitional pastor.

**Freeburg — *Ed Wartluft*** serving as preacher.

## 2025 NEW & RENEW CONFERENCE

### Cancellation Announcement with Regrets:

Due to various circumstances, we regret to announce the cancellation of the 2025 New & Renew Conference, scheduled for May 14-16, 2025, at the Church of the Brethren office in Elgin, IL.

We will share more information about this church planting and revitalization event in the future and keep you updated.





## Annual Conference 2025

Greensboro, North Carolina  
July 2-6  
Koury Convention Center  
3121 W Gate City Blvd

### On-line Registration is open until June 10th

As we gather to explore the theme *Faith Working Through Love* based on Galatians 5:6b (and 1 Corinthians 13) conference goers can participate in a variety of events and activities designed to *unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus*. You can register online at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2025/>. Delegate registration fee is \$350. Non-Delegate registration fee is \$175. These fees includes the full conference.

After you have registered, a link to make a reservation in the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel (attached to the Koury Conference Center) will be included on the confirmation page as well as in your email confirmation. *Do not call the hotel for reservations, they will not be able to give you the Annual Conference reduced room rate.*

### 2025 Silent Auction supports the ministry of Annual Conference

They are requesting donations of items to be included in the auction. Potential items fall in three categories:

1. Arts and craft items: Included in this category are quality and unique hand-made items like wood-working, pottery, fabric art, paintings or drawings, stained glass, and so on.
2. Gift baskets: Baskets may be assembled around a theme (perhaps a retreat or family game night), organizational "swag," books (perhaps a recommended reading list), regional products, food, and so on. Be creative.
3. Experiences: Included in this category are things like tickets to events, use of vacation homes, trips, classes, a living room concert, and so on. Items being donated must be registered in advance. **NO UNREGISTERED ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONSITE THIS YEAR.**

To register a donation, submit your contact information and a description of the item you wish to contribute online at <https://cobrethren.wufoo.com/forms/ac-2025-silent-auction-donation-form>.

**ONLINE SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1.** Actual items must be onsite at Annual Conference no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2. Arrangements can be made to ship them to the Annual Conference office in advance if you are not planning to attend Annual Conference.

## District Conference Business Items

Each congregation in Northern Ohio is encouraged to send two delegates to our District Conference on August 8-9 at East Chippewa Church of the Brethren in Ashland, Ohio. (Churches with more than 200+ members can send an additional delegate). There are confidential scholarships available to cover the cost of sending delegates to Conference. Please contact Kris Hawk at 330-612-2086 for more info.

While the business agenda is not yet finalized, here are some of the items that will come to the delegates this year:

1. Ballot for District Leadership positions
2. 2026 Budget for the District
3. 2026 Budget for Camp Inspiration Hills
4. Closing the Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren
5. Finalizing the withdrawal of Dupont Church of the Brethren from the denomination.
6. Opportunities to learn about & celebrate the good ministries happening within our district and broader church.

## District Events Calendar

05.04-10 BDM Trip  
 05.06 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am  
 05.07 Western Pastor's Gathering at 12:30 pm  
 05.08 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at 9:00 am  
 05.08 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:00 pm  
 05.17 District Board Meeting at 10:00 am  
 05.20 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am  
 05.21 Central Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm  
 06.03 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am  
 06.04 Western Pastor's Gathering at 12:30 pm  
 06.12 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at 9:00 am  
 06.12 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:00 pm  
 07.02-06 Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC  
 07.10 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at 9:00 am  
 07.10 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:00 pm  
 07.15 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am  
 08.08 Pre-Conference Workshop 1:00-4:30 pm  
 08.08-09 District Conference at East Chippewa CoB

## Lenten Services 2025

The Northern Ohio 2025 Lenten Services were uplifting, relaxing and a time for spiritual renewal. We were all able to see friends from other churches we do not see all the time. Afterwards fellowship and finger food were provided by all the churches. The offering from the Lenten services that was collected went toward the Student Ministry Fund (BBI). Here is what was collected so far:

Central		East	
Ashland First	\$281	Eden	\$282
Mansfield First	\$301	Akron First	\$184
Paradise	\$385	Center	\$361
East Chippewa	\$318	Reading	\$130
Total Central	\$1285	Akron	\$417
		Springfield	
		Total East	\$1374

Total: \$2,659. This is truly a blessing for the Student Ministry Fund.

## District Staff Hours

The District Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm.

District Executive Minister, **Kris Hawk** takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or [krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org).

Administrative Secretary, **Laura Huffaker** is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or [laura@nohcob.org](mailto:laura@nohcob.org).

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren  
 District Office:

1107 East Main Street

Ashland, Ohio 44805

(419) 281-3058 Office

(419) 281-8914 Fax

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Registration for District Conference opens May 1st. Register on-line at [nohcob.org/register](http://nohcob.org/register) or use the forms on pages 5-8 in this issue of the Herald.

