

Pastor's *memo*

December 2018

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren



Mark Your Calendar

12.11—Eastern Area Pastors Lunch, Front Porch Café, Hartville, OH

12.12—Central Area Clergy Breakfast, Tim Hortons, Ashland, OH

1.2—Western Pastors Lunch, The Barn Restaurant, Archbald, OH

1.8—Eastern Area Pastors Lunch, Front Porch Café, Hartville, OH

1.12—Shalom Team Training, (team members only) District Office, Ashland, OH

1.12-13—Senior High Leadership Series, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

1.19—BBI Class: Preaching, District Office, Ashland, OH

2019 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

Plan on joining us for the upcoming Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 17-19, 2019 at the Days Inn & Suites, Richfield, OH. Presenter: Dr. Lee Wetherbee, PHD, LP, LPCC-S This year's theme is: "Working with Difficult People - Without becoming difficult yourself!"

This is a time for relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. A new location promises that the food and facilities will be great, but the fellowship is even greater! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Lee Wetherbee is a Professor of Counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary (ATS). He blends knowledge and humor together as he teaches in ways that change lives. The ongoing gift of mentoring and training Clinical Counseling students is something Dr. Wetherbee counts among his most fulfilling achievements in life.

Dr. Wetherbee received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Akron, MEd in Community Counseling from Kent State University, and a BA in Psychology/Sociology from Malone University.

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Annual Renewal Agreements for 2019

Pastors and Church Board Chairs, please remember to send in a copy of your Annual Renewal Agreement for the year 2019 to the District Office via U.S. mail or email julie@nohcob.org. Thank you!

YEARBOOK FORMS

Church of the Brethren congregations will not be sent a typical Form B this fall. It will instead be combined into a later mailing. That's because changes to the way CoB collects data are forthcoming.

The Yearbook Office's end goal is to reduce the collection of information from multiple forms and mailings to a single mailing that will be sent out early each year. They also plan to provide an online option for congregations to submit their information—something many congregations have asked for. There will still be a paper option for those who prefer that.

They will implement these changes over the course of a couple of years, and we hope they will make this process easier for you. More details and further instructions will be sent to you in early 2019.

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Dr. Wetherbee and his wife, Faye, met as juniors in high school and have been married for 40 years — years which he describes as "glorious"! The Wetherbees have two grown children and are now enjoying three grandchildren.

You may register online at www.nohcob.org/retreat or mail in the Clergy-Spouse Retreat flyer attached. Costs are \$325.00/Couple (3 days/2 nights, plus 6 meals); \$250.00/Single (3 days/2 nights, plus 6 meals); \$40.00/Single One Day Registration (Monday Lunch, Dinner and Sessions). Single clergy who may want to share a room can save money at the couple rate. Please indicate your request under "comments".

Healthy Congregations Workshop

April 12-13, 2019 at Maple Grove CoB

Friday: 6:30pm-9:00pm/Saturday: 9:00am-4:30pm

As churches seek to bring others into God's kingdom, it is essential that we live together in ways that are different than the ways of the world. The Healthy Congregations Workshop gives pastors, church leaders, and all congregation members practical skills that bring health to a congregation so that others can be drawn to the light of Christ.

Leadership will be provided by Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. Richard is a trainer and mediator, with broad experience in serving as a consultant to conflicted churches.

This workshop will help you learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation—how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community; learn how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious; gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities; learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, manage reactivity, and overcome sabotage; discover how leaders can function as the congregation's immune system; learn to focus on strengths, resources, options, and the future. These skills can make a difference not only in the church but also in our families, our workplaces, and our communities.

Registration fee is \$25 per person (includes manual and lunch), or \$35 for a couple (sharing one manual; two lunches). Preregistration deadline is April 2nd, after which the registration fee increases to \$35 per person or \$45 per couple. For every 4 registrations from one congregation, the 5th one is free. Register by mail with the form provided to congregations or online at www.nohcob.org/healthy.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Springfield (full-time) – Search Committee completing profile. **George O'Reilly** serving as interim.

Brook Park (3/4-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Tom Michaels** serving as interim.

Elm Street – Search Committee formed. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** beginning as interim January 1st.

Maple Grove (full-time) – Congregational call vote November 25th. **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

Pleasant View (part-time) – **James Washington** called as pastor and will begin January 1st. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim through December 31st.

Zion Hill – Search Committee formed. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Congregations that have not yet begun the Search Process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

Lake Breeze – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim.

Lakewood – **Gene Wyse** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

District Prayer Calendar

December 2—December 8

Sugarcreek East CoB (Pastor Dick Marshall) and Swan Creek CoB (Pastor Dick Neuwirth)

December 9—December 15

Woodworth CoB (John Polanski, Preacher) and Zion Hill CoB (Pulpit Supply)

December 16—December 22

Adrian CoB (Pastor David Morton) and Akron Eastwood CoB (Pastor, Paul Bozman)

December 23—December 29

Akron First CoB (Pastor Tobin Crenshaw) and Akron Springfield CoB (Interim, George O'Reilly)

December 30—January 5

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Jeff Messner) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)

January 6—January 12

Bethel CoB (Pastor David Wyant) and Black River CoB (Pastor Mark Teal and Associate Pastors Dean Foster and Cullen Thompson)



Next BBI Class: "Preaching" begins January 19th

Instructor: Paul Bozman

Meeting dates: January 19, February 2 and 16, 2019 (Make-up date, March 2); 9:30 am to 3:30 pm , Northern Ohio District Office, Ashland, Ohio

This course will discuss the differing ways in which sermons are prepared and presented within a Sunday morning worship setting. It will also give the student an opportunity to preach and evaluate sermons with peer feedback. This class is open to all, students, Ordained/Commissioned pastors for CEU's, and personal enrichment. Cost is \$25. Register online at nohcob.org/preaching or download the flyer at the link and register by mail.



District Youth Events

"Lead Now. Learn How." Northern Ohio District invites Senior High Youth in grades 9-12. to come learn about all things leadership. Sessions include conflict/resolution, leading in ministry, character development, discovering strengths, etc. This is a great way for youth to learn about how to lead in various roles. This is another time for youth to build relationships with their friends from around the district!

Register online at nohcob.org/youth. Future dates include January 12-13 and March 23-24. Please contact Esther Harsh, Youth Coordinator at 330-880-7161 or esther@nohcob.org for more information.

District Office Holiday & Staff Hours

The District Office will be closed December 24th through January 1st for Christmas and New Year's.

District Executive, Kris Hawk takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, Julie Watson is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 am—3 pm. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org.

Youth Coordinator, Esther Harsh is in the office on Mondays. She can be reached at 330-880-7161 or esther@nohcob.org. Thank you!