

The Herald

WINTER 2024

THE NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Andrew Kauffman called as Interim Camp Executive Director for Inspiration Hills



Andrew Kauffman began his new role at Interim Executive Director at Inspiration Hills on December 1, 2023. Andrew brings administrative and relational gifts to this ministry as well as a passion for Christian camping. He also has a deep love for Jesus and a joy in being able to share that faith. Andrew has worked at Camp Mack (the Church of the Brethren Camp in Indiana) for multiple years both as an employee and as a volunteer. He moved to Arizona in 2008 to teach, also serving as Technology Coordinator and Dean of Students before becoming Principal then Superintendent of the school district. During that time, he returned summers to volunteer at Camp Mack until his administrative roles kept him in Arizona year round. Andrew holds a Bachelors degree in Instrumental Music Education from Manchester University and a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University. Andrew can be contacted at andrew@inspirationhillscamp.org

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Youth Ministries Update

With Taylor Peterson's resignation from the District Youth Coordinator position at the end of 2023, the District Connection's Commission began looking at creative ways to provide these vital ministries to our youth and young adults. We are currently in conversation with the camp exploring ways we can work together to provide our junior /senior high youth with opportunities to grow in their faith, experience Christian fellowship, and develop leadership skills within the camp setting. If you have interest in working with children and youth or ideas about this ministry, please contact Kris Hawk at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

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Happy New Year from the District Disaster Ministry team!



We are excited for 2024 and the opportunities we have to serve in Jesus' name. Our district is committed to serve two weeks with Brethren Disaster Ministries this year. We will be part-

nering with the Southern Ohio/KY district with each of us planning to send seven volunteers each week. The weeks we have scheduled are May 19- 25 in Dawson Springs, KY and September 8-14 (location to be determined). Just a few reminders : *jobs for all skill levels and all ages *transportation provided * costs only for 2-3 meals * fun, fellowship, laughter, good food and more! There are other weeks that need volunteers if you'd like to volunteer but can't go the weeks we have planned. We'd be pleased to help you plan a week to serve. Children's Disaster Service will be providing training this year – April 12-13 in Ankeny, Iowa, April 13-14 in LaVerne, California and May 3-4 in Freeport, Illinois. If you'd like to hear stories or more information about Brethren Disaster Ministries or Children's Disaster Service, we are willing to visit your church to share a quick 5-minute talk on a Sunday morning, we can send written information for you to have available and/or you can subscribe to the Bridges newsletter (see the Brethren Disaster Ministries website). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sandy Humphrey 330-603-9073

Pete Snyder 419-685-0903

Kim Morckel 330-618-2379

See pages 4-5 to see more of what a BDM trip includes!



Hottle Grants Available to Churches for up to \$5000

The Congregational Committee would like to remind the district congregations that there is Hottle Grant money available for this year. The Hottle Grant was established in 2016 to help Northern Ohio District Congregations to expand the ministry of their congregation, impact the community around their congregation and to stimulate growth and spiritual health of their congregation. In the past these grants have been used to improve the aesthetics and needed maintenance of buildings with new roofs, windows and signage. They have also been used to assist in starting outreach programs like food pantries and updating technology within buildings. Requests of up to \$5000.00 can be made. To read all of the guidelines and find the application go to nohcob.org and on the left hand side menu go to Resources, Church Resources, Hottle Grant Application and Guidelines. Or click [here](#) for more information and an application.

We are looking forward to receiving requests.

Beverly Wengerd, Chair of the Congregational Commission

Church Improvement Loans Available at 0% interest

Does your church building need a new roof or does your parking lot need repaired? Church Improvement Loans are available through the district at 0% interest. The loan may be used for building improvements and repairs to the main ministry property. Payments are set by the Stewardship and Finance Commission in conjunction with the church based on the church's ability to repay. Click [here](#) for more information and an application.



Prayer Calendar

March Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Akron Eastwood, Cindy Peel
Akron First, pastoral vacancy
Akron Springfield, Andrew Wenger

District Leadership

District Board-Terry Baldwin, Chair

Sister Districts Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic

National Leadership

David Steele, CoB General Secretary
EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

April Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Bristolville, Ed Agler
Brook Park, Ryan Lopez
Center, Mark Kell
Chippewa, Bill Eley

District Leadership Tina Hunt—Moderator

Sister Districts Pacific NW, Pacific SW

National Leadership

Discipleship and Leadership Formation/Office of Ministry
Church of the Brethren in Haiti

Denominational Forms - it's that time of the year

In the last few weeks your church office should have received a set of forms from the denomination's Yearbook office. These include a statistical report form that looks at membership and attendance, a financial reporting form, and an informational form that asks who is doing what in your church so that appropriate mail can be sent to those persons. Forms are **due back to the Yearbook office by April 15**. Thank you for making sure this happens for your congregation.

District Office Hours

Regular office hours are Tuesday—Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. But since Kris is sometimes out for meetings, it is best to contact her to make sure she will be there. Kris can be reached by phone/text at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, Erin Beebe is in the office Monday and Wednesday from 4 pm—8 pm. The rest of her 16 hours/week are flexible. She can be reached at erin@nohcob.org.

Peace and Conciliation Advocate, Linda Fry, works from her home and can be reached at linda@nohcob.org

The office will be closed March 24-April 2nd while Kris is on vacation.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Eastwood – Search Committee formed. Cindy *Peel* serving as interim.

Ashland Dickey – Search Committee Interviewing.
Leadership arranging for pulpit supply.

Bristolville – Search Committee interviewing. *Ed Agler* serving as Interim Pastor.

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

Brook Park – *Ryan Lopez* serving as interim.

Dupont – *Solomon Okang* serving as preacher.

Freeburg – *Ed Wartluft* serving as preacher.

Silver Creek – *Ric Beals* serving as preacher.

Jonah's People– *John Ballinger* serving as Interim Pastor

Eden-Tom Michaels serving as Transitional Pastor.

Sugar Creek West - Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Congregations that have completed the Search Process:

East Chippewa - *Michael Huffaker* called as pastor and installed on January 8th.

Sugarcreek East - *Nelson Brown* called as pastor and installed on December 17th.

District Events Calendar

- 03.05 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10 am (Zoom)
- 03.06 Western Pastor's Gathering at 12:30 pm
- 03.07 Camp Administration Committee Meeting at 6 pm
- 03.09 District Board Meeting at Good Shepherd Home
- 03.13 Central Area Pastor's Breakfast Tim Hortons at 8 am
- 03.14 Eastern Area Pastors at 12 at Front Porch Café.
- 03.19 Central Committee Meeting at Hartville CoB
- 03.24 Palm Sunday
- 03.28 Maundy Thursday—Love Feast and Communion at many of our churches
- 03.29 Good Friday
- 03.31 Easter—Resurrection Sunday!!
- 04.06 SiSters Retreat at Richland Church of the Brethren

BDM Sends 6 Northern Ohio District CoB Members to Dawson Springs, KY

On Sunday morning, Sept 3, 2023, instead of attending their usual local congregation's worship services that morning, 6 Northern Ohio COB members set out on a journey to Dawson Springs, KY to spend a week serving with Brethren Disaster Ministries. This trip was to help in the rebuilding effort after a tornado ripped through this small town, killing 19 and wiping out 75% of the homes in December 2021.

BDM has partnered with Habitat for Humanity and set up a site in Madisonville KY, about 30 miles from Dawson Springs, where volunteers from around the country come in each week to donate their time and talents in this rebuilding effort. This was second trip this year for NOHCOB, and this time, the team members were Pete and Lisa Snyder (Ashland First), Deb Rising (Ashland First), Jane Matz (Ashland Dickey), Mary Jo Wittel (North Bend) and Dave Bassett (Pleasant View). Once on site, we were joined by four men from Grossnickle CoB, in Maryland.

During the week, the group was divided into two teams (actually three, as Jane and I stayed behind and handled the cooking and housekeeping). The first team of Pete, Deb and Mary Jo were tasked with caulking and painting at different houses. In one day, they and a BDM on-site leader painted the interior of an entire house! The other group, the men from Grossnickle (experienced, retired contractors and past BDM volunteers, along with our own Dave, sheeted the sides, anchored trusses as they were lifted into position, sheeted and shingled the roof, added deadwood to the interior studding and finished their week with a wrap. A house wrap, that is! In addition, some of our volunteers worked on windows and doors in other houses where the building is in progress. It was amazing! Even the project leaders were amazed by the amount of work the teams completed during their week.

Each morning we each made up snack lunches, prayed, and had an amazing breakfast. The teams were given their instructions and set off in the BDM vans to their respective locations. The week started out with temperatures in the 90 degree range, but made a significant drop after mid-week. In the evenings, teams would return to the Habitat warehouse where

Habitat has converted part of the warehouse into sleeping and eating quarters and installed 3 nice showers for BDM groups. Some of us would partake in pre-dinner snacks before cleaning up and resting a bit before dinner. We all dined, fellowshiped together, had devotions, shared a little bit about our day, and received our next-day plan from our leaders. After that, the rest of the evening was up to each individual; some read, some played card games, some just chatted, some worked on puzzles, some went to bed early, some had dishwashing duty. We enjoyed being in each other's company and I especially enjoyed devotions each night, as we took turns! For me, it's always interesting to see what is on each person's heart and what God is saying to each of us. As this group was "more senior" Christians, the devotions seemed to have a lot of wisdom behind them. On a personal note, I had first volunteered to be the housekeeping assistant (each group is to take one), but the BDM cook scheduled for the week, was out at last minute, and I was asked to head up the cooking. I love to cook, but have no "formal" training. Armed with some favorite church and family recipes, and of course, Pete's requests, I think I did ok as dinner was usually quiet and plates were clean! Jane served as my sous-chef, and she makes a mean sausage gravy! I would definitely do this again, in either the cooking role, or another role...and would recommend it! It's a good way to serve a mission trip within our country. There is no financial cost to serve, just your time. The Northern Ohio District has a fund set aside to cover costs of transportation to and from the site.

Don't think that you have no talent to share, BDM project leaders will find a job for anyone who wants to serve. The site in Dawson Springs is a bit unique in that it is new builds and not repair of damaged homes. It is also housed in the Habitat warehouse instead of a church. This project is due to shut down at end of year but may be continued, TBD.

Lisa Snyder



Pictures of the Brethren Disaster Ministries Team as they volunteered in Dawson Springs, KY



Mike Conner Ordained at Painesville CoB



It was a joyful day as Mike Conner was ordained at the Painesville Church of the Brethren on December 10th where he has been serving as pastor since August, 2022. Mike graduated from the Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI), our district's ministerial training program, and is currently serving in the district as our Moderator-elect and chair of the District Nominating Committee.

Mike is a bi-vocational pastor, also working full-time as a block truck driver. Mike and his wife, Dawn, have two adult sons.

The congregation celebrated Mike's ordination Sunday with a beautiful worship service and a carry-in dinner.

Andrew Wenger Ordained at Akron

November 19th was a special day at Akron Springfield as their pastor, Andrew Wenger, was ordained in the Church of the Brethren. Andrew has been serving as pastor at the church since December of 2019. He has a BA from Elizabethtown College and his MDiv from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Andrew and his wife, Lauren have three children: daughter Grace (5), and son Beckett (1), and daughter Sophia in heaven.

The congregation celebrated Andrew's ordination Sunday with a worship service filled with beautiful music and a reception following the service.



Brian Layman Ordained at Ashland First CoB



Ashland First Church of the Brethren celebrated Brian Layman's ordination on January 7th. He began serving there in April of 2021. He has also run his own Website Consultation business since 2009. Brian attended the Buckeye Brethren Institute and has been active in local and District Church of the Brethren boards for many years. He also volunteers as Chaplain every year at Inspiration Hills Camp. He and his wife Denise have been married for 30 years. They have four adult children, Jaxom, Azia, Julian, and Caleb.

The congregation celebrated with a wonderful worship service followed by a luncheon provided by the congregation.

Nelson Brown Licensed and Installed as Pastor at Sugarcreek East CoB

Nelson Brown was licensed to ministry in the Church of the Brethren and installed as pastor on Sunday, December 17th at the Sugarcreek East Church of the Brethren. Nelson has been serving as Interim Pastor at the church since November 2021. He and his wife Cathy are from the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District and had been attending Sugarcreek for several months when the congregation asked him to lead Sunday School, and then eventually preach. Nelson appreciates the congregation encouraging him in his gifts for pastoral ministry.



Michael Huffaker Installed as Pastor at East Chippewa CoB

Michael Huffaker was installed as the new pastor at the East Chippewa Church of the Brethren on January 15th during the worship service.

Michael graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary as he began his years of pastoral experience in Church of the Brethren congregations in S. Ohio, Iowa, Virginia, and Kansas before pastoring the Sugar Creek West congregation in Lima, Ohio.

Michael and his wife, Laura, are blessed with four children. Daughters Ashley and Lauren each reside on the east coast. Kamryn and Jarred are young adults living at home. Kamryn (21) works in retail and Jarred (19) is working as bank teller while attending college.

The congregation celebrated with Mike and his family with a worship service filled with beautiful music and a meal following the service.



Eden CoB Celebrates 150 Years



Eden CoB celebrated 150 years of Ministry on October 22nd, 2023 with a special worship service and carry in dinner. Matt Holstein then led the congregation in a time of remembering and celebrating.

Akron Eastwood Pastor and Teacher Appreciation

Akron Eastwood CoB celebrated their Interim Pastor, Cindy Peel, and took that opportunity to also celebrate the others in the congregation that ministered through teaching and Christian Education.



Owl Creek CoB Celebrates 200 Years

Owl Creek CoB celebrated their 200th Anniversary this past October. The worship service was filled with music provided by multi-generations from within the congregation. A carry in dinner followed and a good time was had by all!

Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren



District Conference August 9 and 10

at the Hartville Church of the Brethren.

Registration opens May 1, 2024.

2024 IRS Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued the 2024 standard mileage rates.

*67 cents per mile for business miles driven.

*14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

WELCOME+ WORTHY

2024 CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Registration Opens March 1

Registration for Annual Conference begins on March 1st at noon (Central time). The Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, from July 3-7. Earlier this year your church should have received information regarding costs and the registration process. More information, as well as the registration link beginning March 1, can be found at www.brethren.org/ac/.

All are encouraged to attend. And we hope that each of our churches will send a delegate (churches with over 200 members can send 2) to have a voice in the decisions that will be made this year. For clergy, many CEU opportunities are available including the Pre-Conference Workshop **Listening for the Sound of the Genuine** (see page 3 for more info)

Virtual Non-Delegate Registration Option

An option will again be offered to Non-Delegates to participate in conference virtually. You can register for the virtual option online from March 1 through July 7, although the registration fee goes up after June 11. New this year is an option for Groups or Institutions to register and enjoy the convenience of the virtual platform as a group.



Saturday
April 6, 2024
10 am – 3 pm



You are invited to **"Be Encouraged!"**

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
SISTERS' Spring Women's Retreat
at Richland Church of the Brethren, Mansfield Ohio

Speaker: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford
Director of News Service for the Church of the Brethren



Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2

Corinthians 13:11

To register, email erin@nohcob.org or register on-line at <https://nohcob.org/retreat>