

# Pastor's Memo

APRIL 2023

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

## Annual Conference in Cincinnati

“Living God’s Love” is the theme for the 2023 Annual Conference to be held on July 4-8, 2023. The moderator for the conference is Tim McElwee.

Register is now open to everyone. The advance delegate registration fee is \$320 each and the advance non-delegate registration fee is \$140 which will close on June 10. Onsite delegate registration in Cincinnati is \$395 and \$175 for non-delegates.

There is also an online option to register as a Virtual Non-Delegate to watch business online, view special events and concerts, and participate in a number of equipping sessions. The fee is same for non-delegates, \$140 before June 10 and \$175 from June 11-June 27.

## District Conference August 11-12

### Registration Opens on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Our 2023 Northern Ohio District Conference will be held August 11-12, 2023, at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren in Ashland, Ohio. James Washington, Pastor of the Elm Street and Pleasant View CoBs will serve as Moderator. On-line registration will open May 1st and paper registration forms will be in the District Conference edition of the Herald that will be out at the end of April.

### Lodging options for District Conference

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wingate Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Express) in Ashland Ohio. Room are \$89/night and include a full breakfast. Call 419-281-2900 for reservations and mention the Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren to get the reduced rate.

Inspiration Hills is offering lodging for those attending District Conference at a rate of \$25/night for an individual, \$50/family. A continental breakfast is included. You will be able to reserve a place at camp through the District Conference on-line registration that will open May 1<sup>st</sup>, or by marking the paper registration forms available in the April Herald.

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Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren  
District Conference 2023

**BACK**   
**TO OUR FUTURE**

“LOOKING BACK TO OUR FUTURE”  
I Corinthians 3:10-11



# Pine Lodge Matching Fund Opportunity

The Northern Ohio District has received a wonderful gift from the estate of Darlene Bucher. The District Board, at their March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting acted on the recommendation from the Stewardship and Finance Commission to use one-half of the \$25,594.79 gift to provide matching funds for donations given to repair Pine Lodge at Inspiration Hills Camp.

Pine Lodge was built 55 years ago and has very little work done since then. The windows need replaced and the woodpeckers have drilled holes into the logs that are the siding for the building. This is a great space for a smaller group sleeping up to 26, but because of the current state (including bats in the ceiling and squirrels, mice, and chipmunks running through the walls) it is difficult to rent out.

The repairs are estimated at \$40,000. The district board would like to help get a jump start on donations for this project by matching the first \$12,297.40 that comes in. So each dollar donation will bring \$2 to the project, \$100 will bring \$200, \$1,000 will bring \$2,000 to the project. Checks should be written to "Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren" with the memo of "Pine Lodge" and mailed to the District Office at 1107 East Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805. We will then match the donation and send it along to the camp.

**Proverbs 22:17**  
*"A merry heart does good like medicine"*



## New and Renew Conference May 17-19

*If you are looking for new and practical ways to engage your community and congregation, look no further than the New & Renew Conference 2023.*

**Register by April 17th and use the code DM1451**

Our District Congregational Commission would like to encourage you to join the "New and Renew" conference. This three day hybrid conference has more than 20 sessions to broaden your knowledge of church planting and congregational renewal. Besides the workshops, inspirational worship, keynotes and storytelling will invigorate your calling for passion for ministry. Registration deadline is April 17th and the Commission will cover the cost of registration if you register by then. Enter the code **DM1451** as directed below. You can find more information and register online at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenue/>

At the bottom of the registration form is an "admin only" field. **Please enter the code: DM1451** and the district will be billed after the conference.

**Some from our district will be attending on-site. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact the District Office of [erin@nohcob.org](mailto:erin@nohcob.org).**

### April Prayer Calendar

#### Churches/Pastors

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

#### District Leadership

Central Committee—James Washington, Moderator

#### Sister Districts

Pacific NW, Pacific SW

#### National Leadership

Madalyn Metzger, AC Moderator-elect

### May Prayer Calendar

#### Churches/Pastors

County Line, Chris Ewing  
Defiance, Eugene Yenser  
Dupont, Solomon Okang  
East Chippewa, Brad Kelley

#### District Leadership

Ministerial Commission—Steve Simmons, Chair

#### Sister Districts

Missouri/Arkansas Southeastern

#### National Leadership

On Earth Peace/Church of the Brethren in Spain



# Disciples in a VUCAH World Course

(volatile, uncertain, chaotic, ambiguous, hyperconnected).

Do you plan to attend the New and Renew Conference in May, either, in person or virtually? If so, please consider participating in this Directed Independent Study (DISU) course.

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Disciples in a VUCAH World, May 16-23, 2023 with Stan Dueck as the facilitator. This course is a Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) in conjunction with attending the New and Renew Conference in Elgin, Illinois. Attendance may be onsite or online via Zoom.

How might churches relate with people who live in a North American culture that is increasingly both non-religious and multi-religious? The course will explore discipleship and congregations in a VUCAH world (volatile, uncertain, chaotic, ambiguous, hyperconnected).

TRIM/EFSM students will receive one credit in Ministry/Ministry Skills upon completion. This also qualifies for a Brethren College/Connections Experience.

Please give consideration to participating in this class; the registration deadline is April 12, 2023. You may now register online for the DISU at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>

You may learn more about the New and Renew Conference, and register for the conference at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>

**COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR  
YEARBOOK FORMS BY  
APRIL 15!**

Update and return your congregational yearbook forms. These forms are due on April 15. 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).

# Junior and Senior High Youth Rallys Are Back!

Click this link to register

<https://nodcb.memberzone.com/events/details/youth->



## An invitation from the District Disaster Ministries Team

We would like to invite you to participate in the **Inspiration Hills Camp Annual Work Weekend**, beginning Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and ending Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Overnight lodging and food will be provided. This time would be a great opportunity to meet and work with some who are going to Kentucky and those who like to serve but cannot go on the trips. It will be a good time to work together, maybe learn a new

skill, help the camp, and have an experience similar to volunteering with Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). Sandy Humphrey (330-603-9073, [sandiques@hotmail.com](mailto:sandiques@hotmail.com)), Kim Morckel (330-618-2379, [kmorckel@netscape.net](mailto:kmorckel@netscape.net)), and Pete Snyder (419-281-3001, [pwsnyder@bright.net](mailto:pwsnyder@bright.net))





## Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

### Congregations actively in the search process:

**Ashland Dickey** – *Jeff Messner* has resigned effective September 30. A Search Committee is being formed.

**Bristolville (full-time)** – *Ed Agler* serving as interim. Search Committee interviewing.

**Woodworth** – *Steve Simmons* serving as interim. Search Committee interviewing.

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

**Akron Eastwood** – *Cindy Peel* serving as interim.

**Brook Park** – *Ryan Lopez* serving as interim.

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

**Sugarcreek East** – *Nelson Brown* serving an interim pastor.

**Silver Creek** – *Ric Beals* serving as preacher.

## Grant Opportunity for our Part-Time Pastors

The Church of the Brethren's Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program offers circuit riders/mentors, program resources, and financial support for continuing education events and self-care strategies. Visit <https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/part-time-pastor/> to learn more about the program. Contact the District Office to access an application form for grants.

## Area Clergy Gatherings

Please consider attending one of the monthly area clergy gatherings for fellowship (and food). See dates and locations as well as contact information below.

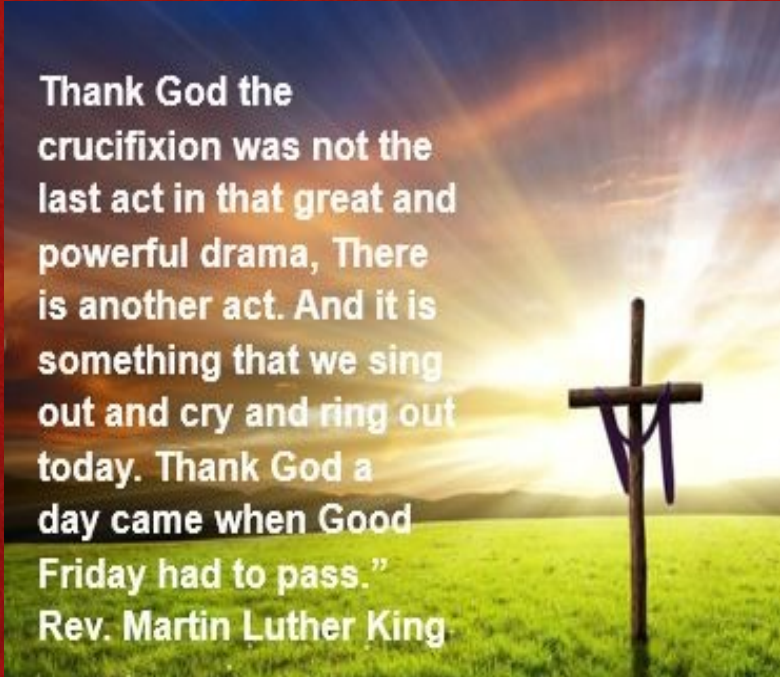
**Western Area Clergy** meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm at the Barn Restaurant in Archbold. Please contact Ben Polzin at (419) 770-9347 for more information.

**Central Area Clergy Breakfast** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8 am at Tim Hortons in Ashland, Ohio. Please contact Tina Hunt at (567) 203-8872 for more information.

**Eastern Area Clergy Luncheon** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at noon at the Front Porch Cafe in Hartville, Ohio. Please contact Andrew Wenger at (717) 725-4695 for

## District Events Calendar

- 04.05 Western Pastor's Gathering
- 04.07 Good Friday (District Office Closed)
- 04.09 Easter
- 04.11 Executive Committee Meeting
- 04.13 CAC/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- 04.15 BBI—Leadership/Administration Class begins
- 04.18 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering
- 04.18 Central Committee Meeting
- 04.21/22 Youth Rally for Junior and Senior High
- 04.28/29 Camp Annual Work Weekend / BDM
- 04.29 BBI Leadership and Administration (Class 2)
- 05.13 District Board Meeting at Black River CoB



Thank God the  
crucifixion was not the  
last act in that great and  
powerful drama, There  
is another act. And it is  
something that we sing  
out and cry and ring out  
today. Thank God a  
day came when Good  
Friday had to pass.”  
Rev. Martin Luther King