

# Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
JULY/AUGUST 2021

## Fall Pastors' Workshop

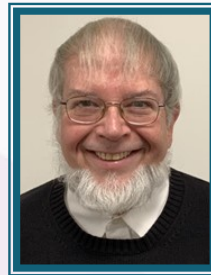
Invitation into the Bible: Connecting Brethren Beliefs  
with Scripture presented by Jeff Bach

September 22, 2021 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren

0.5 CEU's / Lunch Provided

Fellowship beginning at 9:30 A.M.



Jeff Bach was scheduled to provide part of the Pre-Conference Workshop for our District Conference. That event needed to be cancelled, but we are delighted that Jeff has agreed to provide our Pastors' Workshop this fall, connecting Scripture with life and practice. Come join the conversation about how Brethren throughout their history have understood and applied scriptures for a faithful Church, and how we can faithfully do the same.

Jeff Bach is director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies. He taught courses related to Brethren heritage for thirteen years at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana. He is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. He is married to Ann Mason Bach and they have two adult daughters.

## Evening Workshop open to all

Jeff has agreed to provide an evening workshop so that those that work through the day can also have opportunity to hear him share.

**DO THE CRIME, DO THE TIME: BRETHREN IMPRISONED FOR BAPTISM—**  
Presented by Jeff Bach

September 22nd, Evening Location TBD, 0.1 CEU provided for clergy

Six Brethren men served prison time at hard labor from 1717 to 1720 for receiving adult baptism. They all prayed for their captors and the fellow prisoners who mistreated them. How did they stay so firm and joyful in their faith? During this illustrated presentation we will ask **how seriously we take our faith today, and how meaningful is baptism?** The presentation will include reflections on the suffering of Brethren in Nigeria.

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# Missions Advocate News

Article by Billi Janet Burkey (May 2021)

About a year ago, the District Board, began a new position of Mission Advocate and asked me to help. What's the purpose for this position? To help keep the congregations informed about what is happening in the Church of the Brethren and sister organization mission fields.

Due to my personal schedule, I'm just now really starting to work at organizing this position. I was very excited that the 1st thing that I was reminded of today is that the Church of the Brethren has a Global Missions Advocate Network. We are grateful that Moses and Jocelyn Siakula (Hartville CoB) have agreed to serve as the Global Missions Advocates for our district. They are looking for local congregational advocates.

Congregational advocates: Each congregation is encouraged to appoint or give blessing to one person to serve as the Congregational Global Mission Advocate.

- Inform the congregation of mission updates;
- Serve as an advocate for funding of Church of the Brethren missions;
- Encourage congregation members to consider mission service opportunities;
- Lead prayer efforts and other engagement opportunities in the congregation;
- When available, host mission workers in the congregation for speaking or other engagement opportunities.

I encourage each congregation to do this by going to the website <https://www.brethren.org/global/gma/>. We will share mission news each month for you to share with your congregations. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions/questions. [billijanetburkey@yahoo.com](mailto:billijanetburkey@yahoo.com) / (330) 418-1148

Serving and Learning Together...

Billi Janet Burkey

## National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)

September 6-10, 2021

\$100 per person, \$150 for couples

The NOAC 2021 Planning Team met online via Zoom last October. After much discussion, it was decided that **the 2021 conference will be held online only**, based upon ongoing concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Theme: Overflowing with Hope**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (Christian Standard Bible)

**Theme Statement**

We live in a world that is ruled by division, anger, and fear. We, as followers of Jesus Christ, are called to a different way of living and being in the world. We are called to be people of robust hope. We cannot maintain hope by ourselves but must rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit. When we focus on our God of hope we can find joy and peace in our daily lives. We may not ignore the pain and sorrow in our world. We are called to face it and work to heal it as we allow God's Holy Spirit to fill us with Christ's presence and power. For more information and to register, Please go to <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/noac/>

## District Conference, August 14th Online Event Link

We are looking forward to seeing our congregation's delegates and district presenters during our 2021 Northern Ohio District Conference at Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren. We hope you will plan to join us online using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Mw5lyz9Ay8w>

Please be sure to pass this along to your congregation and friends. We will be streaming from 9:00am to 3:40pm, with a break for lunch between 12:15pm and 1:00pm. You'll be able to watch Worship Services, Business Sessions and the Consecration of our 2022 Moderator. For more information contact the District Office (419) 281-3058.

## Online Peace Auction

Bidding Begins August 14th-August 29th

All proceeds will go to the Northern Ohio District Peace Endowment. Visit [www.nohcob.org/auction](http://www.nohcob.org/auction) for more information. Submit item information for the auction to: Linda Fry, [linda@nohcob.org](mailto:linda@nohcob.org).

## District Office Hours

July 30—August 13

Please note that the Northern Ohio District Office hours will vary the next two weeks. Kris Hawk will be on vacation beginning July 30 through August 8. Jenny Imhoff will be covering for Julie on Friday, August 6. The office will be closing at 12pm on Friday, August 13 in preparation for District Conference. Thank you!

# Buckeye Brethren Institute, Introduction to Worship

## August 28, September 11 and September 25

### District Office and Via Zoom

#### Instructor: Terry Vaught

This course will help students guide their congregations in worship. Students will increase their understanding in the theory and practice of worship using the Bible, good spiritual practices and a good understanding of time, space, aesthetics, and planning, to help their community worship God our creator, remember Christ our redeemer, and establish a deeper connection to the Father through the Holy Spirit. Although focusing on Brethren worship, we will take time to appreciate other worship settings to gain a better understanding of how worship has served Christians over the millennia to deepen our relationship with God. This course will be offered in person and virtually through Zoom. Ordained Ministers may audit this course for CEUs. Click [here](#) to register online or visit our BBI webpage at [www.nohcob.org/bbi](http://www.nohcob.org/bbi).

## Continuing Education Opportunities

The **Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership** is offering: ***Interim/Transitional Ministry: More than Mere Maintenance***, from September 15-November 9, 2021. Tara Hornbacker will be the instructor and TRIM students will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion and the BTS experience. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course. This course will explore the necessary tasks for successful interim/transitional ministry and the personality characteristics most helpful to develop for the practice of this specialized area of congregational leadership. The deadline to register for this course is August 11.

***Introduction to the New Testament***, October 13 - December 7, 2021. Matt Boersma will be the instructor for this course. Attached is the brochure with more information. This course will look at the various books of the New Testament, explore the world which created these texts, and look at how the texts may have interacted both with each other and the Hebrew Scriptures. The students will look at what the ancient authors of the texts might have been trying to say to their audiences as well as what they are still saying today. The deadline to register is September 7.

***The Shape of Ministry in a High-Tech World***  
October 13, 22-24 and November 3, 2021 via Zoom. From the barrage of social media platforms to website presence, to electronic communications, to a 24/7 cultural expectation of availability, the role of a

ministerial leader has shifted. In this digital age, how can one ensure that the practice of ministry remains grounded in the core principles of pastoral care and discipleship? How does the ministerial leader avoid substituting high touch ministry with high tech gadgets? What is the role of the ministerial leader in reminding communities of faith about healthy boundaries in the building of a community that furthers the life of discipleship through electronic platforms and social media? How does the ministerial leader maintain healthy Sabbath practices in a 24/7 connected world? This seminar-style course will explore the relationship of ministry to technology and investigates the practical tools that exist to enhance ministry. The class participants will examine the responsible engagement of these digital tools in the work of serving God's people as ministers of the Gospel.

CEUs are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course. Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at [oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1820.

# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Ashland Dickey** – seeking full-time Pastor of Next Generation Ministries. Position Description available through the District Office.

**Bristolville (full-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **Bill Aikens** serving as interim.

**Painesville (part-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee ready to interview. **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

## Congregations that have completed the search process:

**Lakewood** – **Gene Wyse** called as pastor, installed on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 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** – leadership providing pulpit supply.

**Mansfield First** – **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

**Silver Creek** – leadership providing pulpit supply.

Updated 07/27/2021

## Pastors Salary Table and Guidelines for 2022

The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry has issued the 2022 Pastors Salary and Guidelines and the District Office will be mailing packets out to Church Board Chairs, Treasurers and Pastors following District Conference.

# Prayer Calendar

## August

### Churches/Pastors

Lakewood, Gene Wyse

Lick Creek, Bill Holsopple

Mansfield, Tom Michaels

Maple Grove, Stephen Keib

### District Leadership

Stewardship & Finance – Dave Bassett, Chair

### Other Districts

Illinois/Wisconsin, Michigan

### National Leadership

Patrick Starkey, Mission/Ministry Board Chair  
Church of the Brethren in India

## September

### Churches/Pastors

Marion, Rick Hicks

Mohican, Paul Bartholomew and Chad Palmer

Mt. Pleasant, Bruce Jacobsen

New Philadelphia, Dave Hobbs

### District Leadership

Peace Task Team

### Other Districts

Northern Indiana, South/Central Indiana

### National Leadership

Jeff Carter, Bethany Theological Seminary  
Church of the Brethren in Rwanda

Visit [www.nohcob.org/prayer](http://www.nohcob.org/prayer) for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

## District Events Calendar

- 8.2 District Youth Game Night & Devotions
- 8.4 Western Area Clergy/Pastor's Luncheon
- 8.7 Western Area Youth Event—Rock the Lake Christian Music Festival in Lakeview, OH (Click image for link.) →
- 8.8 Central Area Youth Event—Trampoline Park in Mansfield, OH
- 8.9 District Youth Game Night & Devotions
- 8.10 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon, Mt. Pleasant CoB
- 8.14 District Conference, Akron Springfield CoB
- 8.17 District Board Reorganization Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 8.23 District Youth Game Night & Devotions
- 8.28 BBI Class—Introduction to Worship, District Office & Zoom

**Summer Area Events**

- July 24 - Eastern Area Roller Skating
- July 25 - Central East Area Bowling
- August 7 - Western Area Music Festival
- August 8 - Central Area Trampoline Park