

Pastor's Memo

March 2023

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

With Much Gratitude

The Northern Ohio District Board is grateful for the gift of \$25,594.79 received from the estate of Darlene Bucher. Darlene was the wife of Gordon Bucher who served as the District Executive in Northern Ohio for more than 30 years. One-half of the gift will be used to match donations for the repair of Pine Lodge at Inspiration Hills Camp (see below for details). The other half (\$12, 297.39) will be placed in the District's Excellence in Ministry Fund. This fund provides for continuing education programs, events, and retreats for credentialed clergy; scholarships to assist clergy with financial needs to attend events; and for pastor recognition programs and appreciation gifts. For all the years that the Bucher's encouraged pastors in our district, this seemed a fitting use of this special bequest.

Matching Fund Opportunity

The Northern Ohio District has received a wonderful gift from the estate of Darlene Bucher. The District Board, at their March 11th 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.

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Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland Dickey – Jeff Messner has resigned effective September 30. The church board will meet on March 20 with Kris Hawk, DEM, to begin the search process.

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.

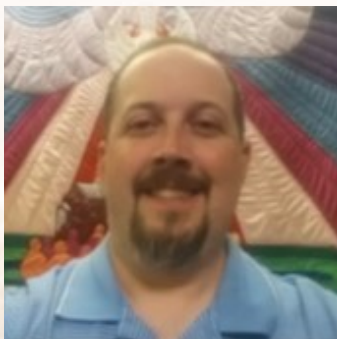
Sugarcreek East – Nelson Brown serving an interim pastor.

Silver Creek – Ric Beals serving as preacher.

Buckeye Brethren Institute Recertified for 5 Years

The Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI), the ministerial training program of the Northern Ohio District, has been recertified for 5 years by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Paul Bozman, the District Director of Ministry Education worked through the process with the Academy to ensure that our program met the standards that are recognized throughout the denomination.

We are grateful to Paul for his commitment to training those exploring ministry, licensed ministers moving towards ordination, as well as credentialed clergy seeking continuing education.



Prayer Calendar

March

Churches/Pastors

Ashland Dickey, Jeff Messner

Ashland First, Brian Layman

Bethel, David Wyant

Black River, Mark Teal

District Leadership

Nominating Committee—Tina Hunt, Chair,
Moderator-elect

Sister Districts

Shenandoah, Virgina

National Leadership

Tim McElwee Annual Conference Moderator

Church of the Brethren in Brazil

April

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

Begins April 15th—Next BBI Class Ministerial Leadership and Administration

The next class offered by the Buckeye Brethren Institute will begin on Saturday, April 15th. Paul Bozman will serve as instructor for this class on Leadership and Administration. This course can be attended in person at the District Office in Ashland, or electronically through Zoom. Ordained and Commissioned ministers can receive 1.5 CEUs for the three-session class that will be held from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm on April 15, April 29, and May 20th. Please contact Paul Bozman at pbozman78@gmail.com or the District Office for more information.



Greetings! We have news to share from the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) District Coordinator team!

Northern Ohio is on the schedule to volunteer in Dawson Creek, Kentucky, May 21-27, and Sept. 3-9. A little over a year ago, the area was hit by tornadoes and according to the denomination's BDM website – "estimates are that around 75 percent of the town of Dawson Springs was leveled, which was home to around 2,500 people. Over 650 of the 1,200 housing units in the town were lost and there were 15 lives that were lost." BDM is working with Habitat for Humanity to build new homes. (Please go to the Brethren Disaster Ministries website for more information).

We are excited about this opportunity and are hoping to hear from many of you who might be able to go along. We have committed to bring 7 people each week, ages 15 and up, who have "a deep desire to share the love of Christ by helping others". (A waiting list will be joyfully started if needed.) There is no expectation that volunteers are skilled tradesmen; only that they have a willingness to work, learn, cooperate, listen, and share God's love. We plan to rent a van and travel to Kentucky together for both weeks. We will leave the morning of Sunday, May 21 (Sunday, Sept. 3) and return the evening of May 27 (Sept.9). All costs – food, travel and housing will be covered.

We would also like to invite you to participate in the Inspiration Hills Camp Annual Work Weekend, beginning Friday, April 28th at 9:00 am and ending Saturday, the 29th 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 BDM.

We are excited to work together with you as our District continues to be involved in serving others through Brethren Disaster Ministries. Please call or email any of us on the district disaster coordinator team with questions, suggestions, and/or a commitment to serve.

We thank you and look forward to your response!

Sandy Humphrey (330-603-9073,
sandiques@hotmail.com)

Kim Morckel (330-618-2379,
kmorcel@netscape.net)

Pete Snyder (419-281-3001,
pwsnyder@bright.net)

District Events Calendar

- 03.19 Eastern Area Lenten Services at Eden CoB at 7:00pm
- 03.21 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10 am (Zoom)
- 03.25 BBI History of Christianity (last class session)
- 03.26-03.29 Ashland Dickey Enrichment
- 03.26 Eastern Area Choir Festival at Akron Springfield 7:00pm
- 03.21 Central Committee Meeting at 6 pm
- 03.28 Camp Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- 04.04 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering
- 04.05 Western Pastor's Gathering
- 04.02 Palm Sunday
- 04.09 Easter
- 04.15 BBI—Leadership/Administration Class begins
- 04.21/22 Youth Rally for Junior and Senior High
- 04.28/29 Camp Annual Work Weekend / BDM

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.

Youth Coordinator, Taylor Petersen is in the office on Wednesdays. She can be reached at 419-571-0612 or taylor@nohcob.org

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

New and Renew Conference

May 17-19 in person or on-line

Join to learn more about church planting and congregational renewal.

The Northern Ohio District will cover the registration cost.

Be sure to enter the code below.

Our District Congregational Commission would like to encourage you to join the "New and Renew" Conference on May 17-19. 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 and passion for ministry. The Commission will cover the cost of registration if you register by April 17th and enter the code **DM1451** as directed below. You can find more information and register online at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenuew/>

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.

Annual Conference July 4th—8th in Cincinnati

This year's Annual Conference is planned for July 4-8 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Churches with up to 200 members should plan on sending a delegate for this important event in the life of our denomination. Those with more than 200 members can send 2 delegates.

This year's theme is "Living God's Love" based on Ephesians 5:1-2

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates is open online. For detailed information go to www.brethren.org/ac2023.

We Want to Hear your Stories

How is your church or ministry being Jesus in the neighborhood? We would love to know! We want to be able to support, encourage and pray for one another. The Connections Committee from the District Board has put together a newsletter with church/ministry spotlights. We want to know how your church/ministry is "In the Neighborhood". What are you doing in your physical neighborhood, spiritual neighborhood, financial neighborhood, educational neighborhood...? The list can go on.

Please submit photos and articles to Jocelyn at siakula2018@gmail.com. There is the possibility to have 1 long article (375 words) or 2 short articles (175 words and 200 words), each containing a photo. We also would love to share prayer points about your ministry, congregational needs, or whatever you want/ need prayers for. Let us be in prayer for and support our neighbors

District Youth

JR/SR HIGH SPRING RALLY

Chosen

A CHOSEN GENERATION
1 PETER 2:9

Camp Inspiration Hills

APRIL 21-22
7:00PM- 2:30PM

Online Registration
opens March 5th



From Taylor Peterson, our District Youth Coordinator: "I am super excited to announce that youth rallies are coming back to the district this spring! We will be having a combined junior and senior high rally for grades 6-12. The rally will be held at Inspiration Hills Camp on April 21-22 (7pm-2:30pm). Our theme will be centered around 1 Peter 2:9-10. " More details will follow. We have received a generous donation that will help cover the costs at camp.



The National Older Adult Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska, NC September 4-8. Registration will open on May 1. You may find more information on the NOAC website at www.brethren.org/noac and on our Facebook page at "Church of the Brethren NOAC."