

Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
DECEMBER 2021

2022 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

February 20-22, Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lee Weatherbee

"Self-Care: Caring for yourself so you can effectively care for others."

Please plan on joining us for this time of relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. The food and facilities will be great, but the fellowship is even greater! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. The retreat begins with registration at 4 pm on Sunday, February 20 and finishes with lunch together on Tuesday.



You may register online at www.nohcob.org/retreat. 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". Financial scholarships are available by contacting Kris Hawk at 330-612-2086.

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.

In This Issue

Clergy-Spouse Retreat	1
Restoring Congregation Vitality Workshop	2
Advent Poem	2
Clergy Tax Seminar	3
BBI Class: Evangelism/Outreach ·	3
Nominations Annual Conference	3
Spring Pastors' Workshop.....	3
Pastoral Placement	4
District Prayer Calendar.....	4
Mark Your Calendar	4

Restoring Congregational Vitality Workshop March 4-5, 2022

The Church is struggling. Maybe you noticed. What was already true before the pandemic has, for many congregations, been escalated. More than a few congregations are living on the margins of existence. Can dry bones live again? The answer is “Yes, but it is not easy.” Revitalization is the work of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith as Christ becomes center and we become more spiritually and emotionally healthy. This seminar considers the pathways to vitality building on the simple idea that healthy organisms grow naturally. If health increases, growth in its various forms will follow. Being healthy requires new ways of thinking and acting – or maybe discovering older, forgotten ways and implementing them again.

Pastors, church leaders, and those in the congregation longing for renewal are invited to participate in this workshop on **March 4-5 at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren** sponsored by the District Congregational Commission. Galen Hackman will lead us through topics as: *The Church as a Pneumatic Community, Focus on Jesus and the Gospel, Worship and Preach for Transformation, Practice the Priesthood of All Believers, Establish a Permission-Giving, Holy Spirit-Led Culture*, among others.

(Continued below)



Advent Poem

Ron Beachley, former District Executive Minister in Western PA district has written an Advent poem to be shared. Ron's ministry of personal prayer and writing has been a blessing to many and it's a pleasure to share this piece of writing with you at his invitation and on his behalf (attached). Enjoy!

We will begin on Friday, March 4 at 6:30 pm with worship and the opening session from 7 pm – 8:30 pm. Saturday will begin at 8:30 am and we will close at 4:30. Lunch is provided. The cost is \$25/person or a maximum of \$75 per church to help cover the costs. CEUs (0.75) will be available for pastors. You can register on-line at www.nohcob.org/workshop or by contacting the District Office.

Galen Hackman has served the Church of the Brethren and other churches/ministries, as a pastor, missionary, teacher, writer, and mentor. He began his ministry pastoring in several CoB congregations, and then went to work with the EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) teaching at Kulp Bible College.

After Nigeria, Galen served as pastor at Conewago and Ephrata. In 2015 he left pastoral ministry to focus on working with congregations in transition, coaching pastors, training leaders and writing.



Clergy Tax Seminar

January 29, 2022
11:00 am - 5:00pm (EST)

New Revised schedule, new material, and 0.4 CEUs!* Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online seminar. Registration and Cost Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 19, 2022. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the seminar. To register go to: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>



Buckeye Brethren Institute

Evangelism/Outreach

Instructor: Brad Kelley

Course Description: This introductory level BBI course on Biblical and yet practical approach to Evangelism is rooted in our Lord's Great Commission and Gospel message. Our course will seek to introduce, aid and expand the student's understanding, skills and practice of Christian Evangelism at both the personal and corporate church community levels.

Meeting dates: January 29, February 12 and March 5, 2022; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Classes will be held in person at the Northern Ohio District Office. Register online at www.nohcob.org/registerbbi.

Ordained Ministers may audit this course for CEUs.

Spring Pastors' Workshop

Construction Zone: A New Testament Church in the 21st Century

Presenter: Jeff Bach

March 31, 2022 / 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.

Please register at www.nohcob.org/pastors or email julie@nohcob.org so we have a meal count for the host church.

This workshop for pastors directs our attention to the practices and teachings of the New Testament on which the Church is built, and which the Church of the Brethren embraces. With the challenges of these times, come for Bible study, discussion and discernment for how New Testament teachings still give a vital vision for the 21st century. We will examine the following selected topics: A Matter of Death and Life: Baptism, Uniting with Christ and His Body; Let's Dine In: The Love Feast, Feetwashing, Communion; Who Ya Gonna Call?: Anointing, Faith and Wellness; No Way to Treat an Enemy: Jesus' Command and Example to Love Enemies; Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (Anyway)?; Simple Living in the Age of Billionaires and Unemployment



Join us to study and discuss ways that biblical teachings ground the Church as we face current challenges and opportunities with joyful faith for the 21st century.

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 earned his Ph.D. in religion from Duke University in 1997, concentrating on the history of Anabaptist and Pietist groups.

NOMINATIONS: REMINDER FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2022 Annual Conference ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate? We encourage you to talk with the person you are planning to nominate, to gauge their interest, but more importantly to talk with them about the gifts and skills you see in them, to encourage them to prayerfully consider the call, and to encourage them to fill out the information following your nomination. The nomination isn't complete until they have responded." Go to:

www.brethren.org/ac/nominations to make your nomination or for more information.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bristolville (full-time) – Profile completed, Search Committee interviewing. **Congregation** arranging pulpit supply.

Mansfield First – Search Committee being formed. **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

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

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.

Dupont - leadership arranging pulpit supply.

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

Silver Creek – **Ric Beals** serving as interim pastor.

Updated 12/17/2021

District Prayer Calendar

December

Churches/Pastors

Ross, Keith Stoller

Silver Creek, Ric Beals

Sugar Creek West, Mike Huffaker

Sugarcreek East, Nelson Brown

District Leadership

Camp Inspiration Hills, Director Shannon Kahler

Other Districts

Puerto Rico, Atlantic Southeast

National Leadership

Nancy Heishman, Director Office of Ministry

January

Churches/Pastors

Swan Creek, Dick Neuwirth

Woodworth, John Polanski

Zion Hill, Scott McPeck

District Leadership

District Disaster Ministries

Other Districts

West Marva, Western PA

National Leadership

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete copy of our District Prayer Calendar.

Mark Your Calendar

- 12.24-31 District Office Closed for Christmas & New Year's
- 1.5 Western Area Pastors Luncheon
- 1.11 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon
- 1.12 Central Area Pastors Breakfast
- 1.17 Nominating Committee Meeting
- 1.24-27 Kris Hawk attending CODE Winter Meetings
- 1.29 BBI Class: Evangelism
- 1.29 Clergy Tax Seminar
- 2.8 Executive Committee Meeting

