



Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MARCH 2016

Communication

One of our goals at the District Office is to increase the effectiveness of our communication with each congregation. One suggestion we have received is to contact the individual in each church (in addition to the pastor) responsible for that area. The forms from the denomination give us the Church Board, Deacon, and some ministries information. It is important that these forms are completed as they comprise the mailing/emailing list for important information to be shared with each church. **We would like to include this information in the 2016 District Directory.**

In addition to the information listed on the forms, it would be helpful to know the people filling each of the following positions within your local congregation. You can send names and contact information (address, email, phone) for these positions to julie@nohcob.org or mail to the District Office.

- Camp Representative
- Disaster Response Representative
- BVS Representative

Thank you for helping us improve the effectiveness of communication within the District!

Consecration Service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive

The District Board would like to invite everyone to join us on Saturday, April 23, for a consecration service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive. We will gather at 1:30 p.m. in Cherry Lodge at Inspiration Hills for fellowship time and join in worship at 2:00 p.m. This will be your opportunity to meet Kris and to talk with members of the District Board. We look forward to seeing you on April 23!

Mark Your Calendar

- April 2—Central Committee Meeting, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH
- April 6, 9—Pastor's Workshop, District Office, Ashland, OH
- April 8-9—Jr. High Winter/Spring Rally, North Bend CoB, Clear Fork, Butler, OH
- April 10—Annual Conference Delegate Briefing, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH
- April 12—Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- April 23—Consecration Service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive, Inspiration Hills, Burbank OH
- April 29-30—SISTERS' Spring Retreat, Beulah Beach, Vermilion, OH
- May 21—District Board Meeting, Lakewood CoB, Milbury, OH

District Prayer Calendar

March 13—March 19

Lakewood CoB (Pastor Bill Holsopple) and Lick Creek CoB (Interim Dr. Nancy Berkheiser)

March 20—March 26

Mansfield CoB (Pastor Vaughn Loose) and Maple Grove CoB (Interim John Ballinger)

March 27—April 2

Marion CoB (Interim Rick Hicks) and Mohican CoB (Pastor Paul Bartholomew and Associate Pastor Chad Palmer)

April 3—April 9

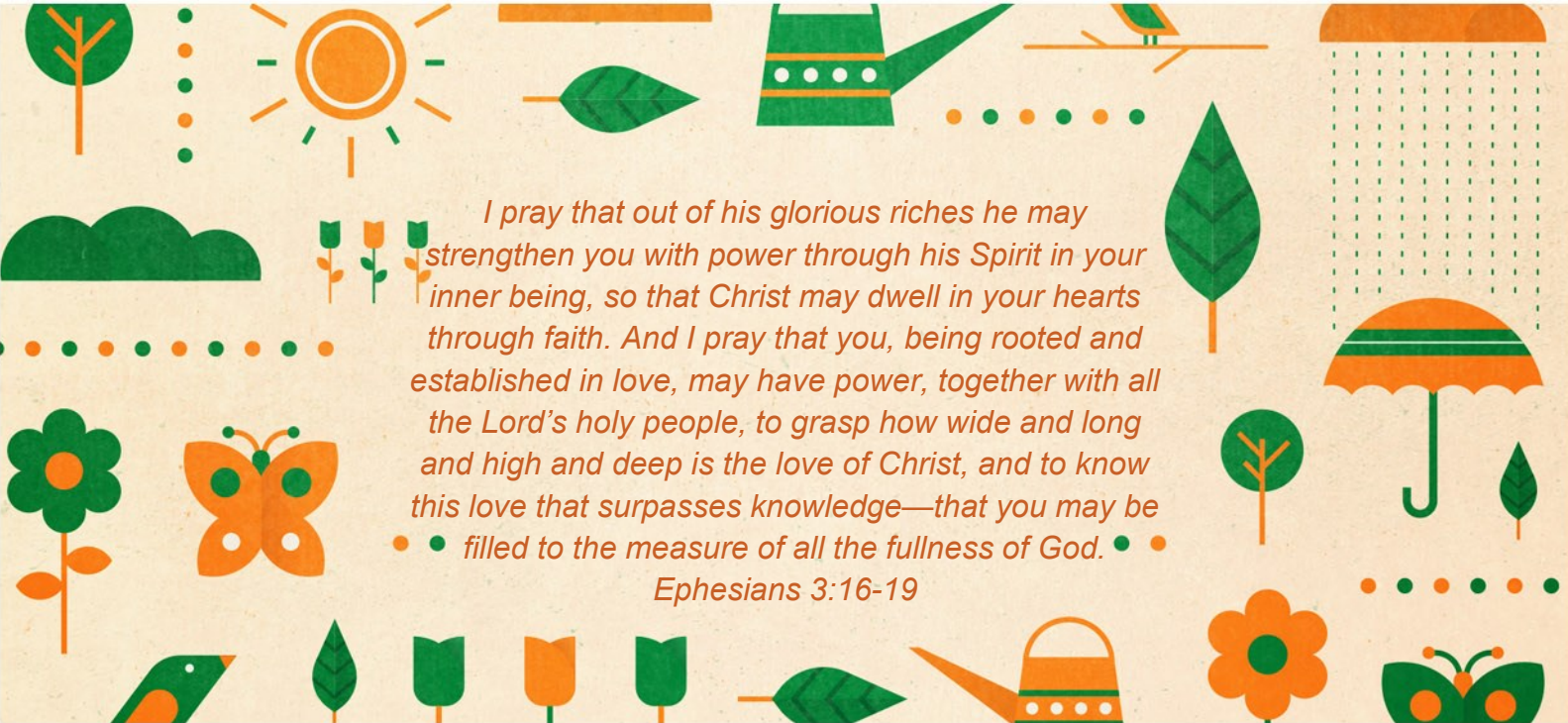
Mount Pleasant CoB (Pastor Bruce Jacobsen) and New Philadelphia CoB (Pastor Max Canfield)

April 10—April 16

North Bend CoB (Pastor Patrick Bailey) and Owl Creek CoB (Interim Charles Barnhill)

Pastor's Workshop

Attention Pastors! Plan on attending one of the Pastor's Workshops, held this year on Wednesday, April 6th or Saturday April 9th from 10am -3 pm at the District Office. All clergy – new and not-so-new, retired, and interim – are invited to join the fellowship and practical conversation about sharpening their ministry tools. "Open Forum" topics may include pastoral leadership, sermon preparation, worship planning, visitation, counseling, conflict, or self-care. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to the District Office by Friday, April 1. Five contact hours of Continuing Education provided. Meet and greet 30 minutes before each meeting.



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be

● ● filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ● ●

Ephesians 3:16-19

Pastoral Placement

Congregations that have not yet begun the search process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

Adrian – **David Morton** serving as interim.

Chippewa – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Dupont – **Bill Helmlinger, Doug Price, Terry Porter** serving as interim pastoral team.

East Nimishillen – **Matthew Reed** serving as interim.

Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim. (waiting 6-12 months to begin the search process).

Lake Breeze – **James Washington** serving as interim.

Maple Grove – **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim.

Swan Creek – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Woodworth – **Mitch Funkhouser** serving as interim.

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Springfield – **Alan Brumbaugh** being installed as pastor April 17th. **Tom Michaels** serving as interim through March 27th.

Bethel – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.


Congregational profile completed.

Center – **David Hall** serving as interim. Congregational profile completed.

Lick Creek – Search Committee interviewing. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Sugar Creek West – in negotiations with pastoral candidate.

Dr. Byron Hawbecker serving as interim.



Clergy Visits

During April and May Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive, will be visiting with each **active and retired Ordained Minister, Licensed Minister, Lay Speaker, and Interim Pastor**. These visits will be a time to share about your ministries, your hopes and concerns moving forward, and to hear how the District can be helpful to you and your congregation. You will receive a schedule by mail and/or email in the next few weeks. Please contact Kris if the time scheduled for you does not work, so we can reschedule as soon as possible. (If there are days/times that do not work for you, it would be helpful if you would email that info to krishawk@nohcob.org or call the District Office so we have that information as we finish the schedule.)

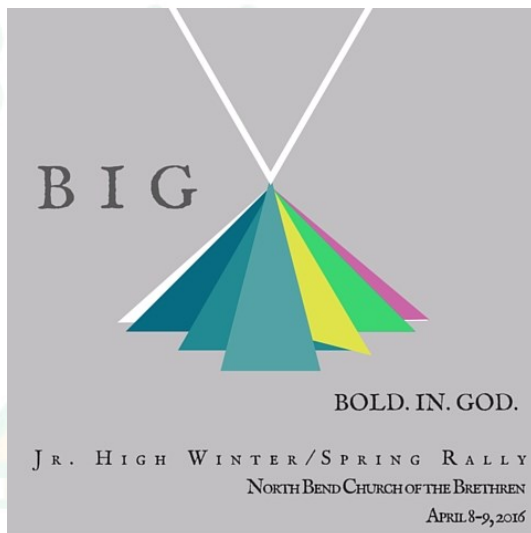
Kris is visiting in churches each Sunday as a way to meet/connect with every congregation, so there is no plan to meet with church boards during this round of visits.

JR. HIGH WINTER/SPRING RALLY—APRIL 8-9

Greetings!

The Northern Ohio District Youth Ministry will be holding a Jr. High Winter/Spring Rally on April 8th and 9th at the Clear Fork branch of the North Bend Church of the Brethren! Come out and bring your junior high school students for an overnight of fun, fellowship, prayer, and teaching. We will be continuing with our theme of Going B.I.G. - Bold In God. Any questions about the rally and registration can be directed to Spencer (spencer@nohcob.org, (440) 554-4657). Online registration can be completed here: <http://members.nohcob.org/events/details/jr-high-winter-spring-rally-92>

We hope to see you there!
God bless!
Spencer



Rally Schedule:

Friday:

7:00 pm Registration
7:30 pm Opening/Welcome/Announcements
7:45 pm Get Acquainted
8:00 pm Opening Worship
8:15 pm Session #1
9:00 pm Leave for the YMCA
9:30 pm - 11:30 pm YMCA
12:00 pm Pizza
12:30 pm Read for Bed - Settle down - Lights Out

Saturday:

8:00 am Rise & Shine
8:15 am Morning Devotions
8:30 am Breakfast
9:15 am Worship
9:30 am Session #2
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Butler Gym
12:15 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Worship
1:15 pm Session #3
2:00 pm Clean Up
2:15 pm Closing Circle
2:30 pm Head Home

Spencer Dolezal
District Youth Coordinator
Northern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren
Cell: [\(440\) 554-4657](tel:4405544657)
Email: spencer@nohcob.org

Announcements

Annual Conference Delegate Briefing

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Annual Conference Delegate Briefing and Reception. This important meeting will be held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Maple Grove Church of the Brethren on April 10, 2016. The church is located at 960 Township Rd. 964 in Ashland, Ohio. Visit the district website nohcob.org, click on "about us", then click on "congregations" to find an entry and convenient directions for the church.

Annual Conference Moderator Andy Murray will present information regarding business items for this year's conference. This will be a time for sharing general information about being a delegate as well as meeting other delegates from across our district. To familiarize yourself with business items, you may go to the CoB website, brethren.org/AC to read through the agenda. Please bring any questions you have to this briefing and reception. Light refreshments will be served.

We encourage delegates and all members of district congregations to attend. Moderator Murray will also be preaching at 10:25 a.m. at Maple Grove. We look forward to seeing you in the 10th. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to contact the District Office (419-281-3058), or one of your Standing Committee Representatives, Ben Polzin (419-770-9347) or Kathy Ballinger (419-606-0859) Until then, Carry the Light!

Annual Conference Moderator, Andy Murray to meet with District Youth

Sunday evening, April 10, 2016, the Northern Ohio District Youth are invited to a Youth Event with Andy Murray, Annual Conference Moderator. The event will be held at Maple Grove Church of the Brethren in Ashland, OH. The details are currently being formed. A formal announcement will be sent out with details.



2016 Annual Conference Request for Congregation Ministry Pictures

The 2016 Annual Conference theme is "Carry the Light." Program and Arrangements Committee is inviting all congregations to send creative pictures of different ministries from your church – the choir, the youth activities, mission work, fundraising events, fellowship, etc. that show how your congregation carries the light of Christ. We would like to develop a "congregational collage" that will be displayed on the video screens in the main hall before and after gathering for worship and business. Brother David Sollenberger will use his creativity to develop the collage.

We are requesting no more than ten (10) pictures in jpeg format. It would be good if one of them could be your church building. If you use a phone or tablet, the format might be different, but we encourage you to send them as jpeg files, if possible, and make sure they are clear and are your best set. This might make a good project for your youth or others in your congregation interested in media. These pictures can be emailed to accob2016@gmail.com with the subject as "Collage and [the name of your congregation.]" Please send them no later than May 15, 2016.

Church Directories needed

If your congregation has a printed or electronic church directory for 2016 the District Office would appreciate receiving a copy. Please mail to Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805 or email to julie@nohcob.org.

Clergy-Spouse Retreat

Thank you to Max and Sis Canfield and to Tom and Susan Zuercher for coordinating the Clergy-Spouse retreat February 14-16. Forty-two attended and it was a blessing for all!

The retreat format provided time for fellowship, rest, and renewal. Pete and Janice Kaltenbaugh led the group in activities and discussion to open us to new ways of looking for solutions, being cooperative instead of competitive, and encouraging each to use the gifts they have been given. There was much laughter and deepening of relationships during this time spent together.

Jonah's People Fellowship

Jonah's People of Fostoria took its first step towards community ministry in February 2016 with a food drive to supply the Seneca County Food Pantry.

Collected were:

63 jars of peanut butter

123 tubes of tooth paste

\$135.00 in donations

108 tooth brushes

5 dental care kits

a few misc. items

