

# Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
SEPTEMBER 2020

## MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL FEATURING ANDREW YOUNG SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for the next Moderator's Town Hall on September 17th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The featured speaker will be veteran civil rights leader and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young. The focus of the Town Hall will be: "Racism: Deeper Awareness, Bolder Action."

Andrew J. Young has earned worldwide recognition as a pioneer in and champion of civil and human rights. Ambassador Young's lifelong dedication to service is illustrated by his extensive leadership experience of over sixty-five years, serving as a member of Congress, African American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and ordained minister, among other positions.

To register for the town hall, please visit: [tinyurl.com/modtownhallsep2020](https://tinyurl.com/modtownhallsep2020). Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to [cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com](mailto:cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com).

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# Buckeye Brethren Institute History, Beliefs and Practices of the Church of the Brethren

*Instructor: Paul Bozman*

*Meeting dates: October 24, November 7, and  
November 21; 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Via Zoom Video*

This course will provide an overview of the History of the Christian Faith from Pentecost through the modern day. Emphasis will be given to the events and movements that had a leading role in the development and influence of the Church of the Brethren. Online registration: [www.nohcob.org/registerbbi](http://www.nohcob.org/registerbbi).

By the end of this unit, the student will:

- A. Be able to place at least two dozen key figures and events on a timeline of the history of the church.
- B. Be able to construct a family tree of the church's story, showing different branches of Christendom and how various denominations relate to those branches.
- C. Be able to name some significant emphases of both the Anabaptist and Pietist movements.

## New Brethren Academy policy for clergy continuing education credits

Recognizing that live participation is becoming increasingly difficult for multi-vocational ministers and given the growing library of recorded webinars available from denominational agencies, the Brethren Academy is offering clergy the opportunity to view and report on prerecorded webinars and other educational events for CEUs. A standardized reporting process will provide the necessary accountability.

For recordings to be eligible for CEUs, they must: 1) have been created by a Church of the Brethren agency, 2) be no more than 10 years old, and 3) have been originally offered for CEUs according to the criteria set forth by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

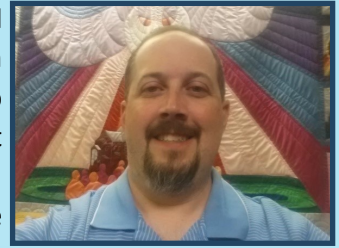
After viewing a recording that meets these criteria, clergy may go to the Brethren Academy webpage at to complete a "Continuing Education Report for Recorded Material." This fillable form requires the clergyperson to demonstrate knowledge about the material viewed. Completed forms may then be printed and mailed to the Brethren Academy along with the certificate fee of \$10. All submissions will be reviewed by the academy's director. To read the full policy, visit <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren>

D. Be familiar with the life and thought of at least one Christian leader in (a) the church prior to 1500 and (b) the church since that time.

E. Be able to identify one or more episodes in church history that shed light on events or issues in the church today.

F. Be able to trace the development of the ecumenical movement and assess its significance for the life of the church.

Paul Bozman serves as pastor of Eastwood COB in Akron, OH. He also serves the Northern Ohio District as the Ministry Education Director and has established the Buckeye Brethren Institute. Paul has earned a Master of Divinity in Theology from Ashland Theological Seminary.



Paul Bozman, Ministry  
Education Director

## Welcome, Interim District Youth Coordinator, Jenny Imhoff



Jenny Imhoff serves as the Interim Youth Coordinator for the Northern Ohio District. She graduated from the University of Mount Union with a major in Interactive Media in 2015. Throughout college, Jenny worked as a counselor at Inspiration Hills Camp and has continued to volunteer. Starting in 2018, Jenny began serving on the District Junior High Cabinet and has been involved with many district youth events. She is excited to join the staff, see many familiar faces, and meet new people while planning events.

Jenny has also served as a Field Instructor with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, where she taught environmental education to middle school students. She enjoys being outdoors and often goes camping, hiking, and kayaking.

Jenny can be reached at [jenny@nohcob.org](mailto:jenny@nohcob.org) or 330.234.8991. Jenny's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm\*

\*Visits/meetings welcomed anytime by appointment.

## Annual Conference Moderator Offers Ministers a “Fall Sunday Off”

At the invitation of the Office of Ministry, Annual Conference moderator Paul Munday is preparing a Sabbath rest-themed sermon designed to encourage preachers to take a Sunday off from preaching sometime this fall.

Given the heavy demands on pastoral leadership during the pandemic, it is difficult for many ministers to take time away. For that reason, the Office of Ministry is pleased to work together with the moderator to provide a resource to congregations that will enable them to support their pastor taking time away from the responsibilities of preaching.

Munday’s sermon will be posted on the Church of the Brethren website, [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org), by Friday, Sept. 18, and will be available for streaming or downloading anytime during the fall.

Flowing out of the hymn, “O God in Restless Living,” Munday’s sermon is titled “Finding Rest Amid Restless Living.” Words from Jeremiah 31:25, “I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish,” assure us that there is a God in restless living who accompanies us in upheaval, offering sanctuary amid stormy anxiety, doubt, and fear. Congregations and their ministers are encouraged to partner together to find rest and refreshment in the midst of these days.

## Webinar on responding to the opioid crisis to be led by James Benedict

A webinar titled “Continuing the Work of Jesus: Responding to the Opioid Crisis” will be offered on Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. (Eastern time) and Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. (Eastern) with sponsorship from the Church of the Brethren Discipleship Ministries. Content will be the same on both dates. Presenter James Benedict, with more than 30 years of experience as a pastor in the Church of the Brethren, is a scholar in residence at the Center for Global Health Ethics at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The one-hour webinar is free. Ministers seeking continuing education credit may earn 0.1 credits. Register for the Sept. 21 session at [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsdeqqrTsoE9RdhxBvSW3Aub1\\_lag\\_1R3q](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsdeqqrTsoE9RdhxBvSW3Aub1_lag_1R3q) .

Register for the Sept. 23 session at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcude2qqj8iEtKsojaOLXgRKctE8RtrXXfH> .

## Information from Inspiration Hills

**The annual Fall Festival/Chicken BBQ** is one of the long-standing traditions of Inspiration Hills Camp and our biggest fund raiser each year. It is with great sadness we announce that due to restrictions surrounding Covid-19 we are unable to safely hold this event this fall. We do anticipate having a large celebration in the spring when it is safe to do so.

Please consider donating the funds (large or small) that you would normally bring to the festival to help sustain the camp operations over the next several months. All of the extra events including the SYD reunion planned for the 2020 festival will be moved to 2021. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

**The new Inspiration Hills website is online** with all of the basics; new content is being added daily but the general foundation has been built. You can visit the new site at [www.inspirationhillscamp.org](http://www.inspirationhillscamp.org). Thanks!

# District Prayer Calendar

September:

## Churches/Pastors

Marion, Rick Hicks

Mohican, Paul Bartholomew and Chad Palmer

Mount 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

October:

## Churches/Pastors

North Bend, Patrick Bailey

Owl Creek, Charles Barnhill

Painesville, John Ballinger

Paradise, Terry Vaught

## District Leadership

Shalom Team

## Other Districts

Southern Ohio/Kentucky

## The Larger Church

EYN—The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria

# Mark Your Calendar

- 9.12 BBI Teaching & Learning in the Church (Via Zoom)
- 9.25 District Board Orientation (Via Zoom)
- 9.26 District Board Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 10.3 BBI Teaching & Learning in the Church (Via Zoom)
- 10.20 Executive Committee Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 10.24 BBI History, Beliefs & Practices of the Church of the Brethren (Via Zoom)
- 11.7 BBI History, Beliefs & Practices of the Church of the Brethren (Via Zoom)
- 11.14 District Board Meeting (Via Zoom)
- 11.21 BBI History, Beliefs & Practices of the Church of the Brethren (Via Zoom)

# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Ashland First** – Search Committee working on profile. **Tina Hunt** bringing a message weekly via Facebook Live.

**Reading** – Search Committee has completed congregational profile. **Brian Layman** serving as interim.

## Congregations that have completed the search process:

**Zion Hill** – **Scott McPeck** licensed to ministry and installed as pastor on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**Jonah's People** – **Jerry Copeland** serving as interim pastor.

**Lake Breeze** – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

**Lakewood** – **Gene Wyse** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

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

**New Philadelphia** – **David Hobbs** serving as interim.

**Painesville** – **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

Updated 09/08/2020

# Congregational Outreach Forms

The Church of the Brethren Congregational Giving Packets for 2021 were mailed to churches on August 24, 2020. If you'd like to fill out your form online, visit: [www.brethren.org/sareport](http://www.brethren.org/sareport). Forms are due December 31.

View your congregation's 2020 pledge for district ministries and your year-to-date contributions at [www.nohcob.org/pledge](http://www.nohcob.org/pledge).