

The Herald

WINTER 2023

THE NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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/newandrenew/>

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.

Our 2023 Northern Ohio District Conference will be held August 11-12, 2023 at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren in Ashland, Ohio. James Washington, Pastor of the Elm Street and Pleasant View CoBs will serve as Moderator. Each church can send 2 delegates. More information is available at <https://www.nohcob.org/ministries/conferences/district->

In This Issue

New and Renew Conference	1
District Conference	1
Youth Rally.....	2
Annual Conference	2
Annual Conference Quilting.....	2
Brethren Academy Course.....	2
Faith X Opportunities.....	2
Hottle Grant Update.....	3
Lick Creek Update.....	3
Jonah's People Update.....	4
Owl Creek Update.....	4
2023 Eastern Lenten Schedule.....	4
Ashland Dickey Services.....	4
Pastoral Celebrations.....	5
Pastoral Placement.....	6
District Prayer Calendar.....	6
Withdrawing Congregations.....	6
2023 IRS Mileage Rate.....	6
Inspiration Hills Updates.....	7
District Brethren Disaster Ministries.....	8
District Events Calendar.....	8
District Office Hours.....	8

Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren
District Conference 2023

BACK ←
TO OUR FUTURE

"LOOKING BACK TO OUR FUTURE"
I Corinthians 3:10-11

Upcoming Brethren Academy Course: *What Brethren Believe*

Dates: April 19 - June 13, 2023

Instructor: Denise Kettering-Lane, assistant professor of Brethren Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary

This course will explore Brethren beliefs related to a variety of issues, including Scripture, the person of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the nature of the church, original sin, and the end times. It will also examine how these beliefs and practices have changed over time and consider the diversity of beliefs found among Brethren today.

The deadline to register for this course is March 15, 2023. Persons interested in taking this course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

- 1) Mail registration form (available from District Office) with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374.
- 2) Register and pay online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>

Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820.

2023 FaithX Opportunities

FaithX Summer 2023 registration is open! A total of 12 service trips are planned for junior high, senior high, adult, and we are able participants. Join a trip to put your faith into action, examine your beliefs, build friendships, and explore a new place! View the full schedule and complete your registration at www.brethren.org/faithx

Youth Rally!

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.

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 will open online at 12 noon (central time) on March 1. For detailed information go to www.brethren.org/ac2023.

Calling All Needle Artists!

Celebrate 2023 – Annual Conference Quilting Bee
Your congregation is invited to create a block for the 2023 Conference quilts. All quilt blocks should be postmarked by May 15, 2023. Mail your quilt block and a dollar (or more) donation (checks payable to AACB) to offset the cost of the quilting materials to: Margaret Weybright, 1801 Greencroft Blvd. Apt #125, Goshen, IN 46526.

Quilt tops are assembled before conference. No blocks can be accepted at conference for this year's quilts. All blocks delivered at conference will be considered for next year's quilts and wall hangings.

Quilt block specifications and information flyer are available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ntg64tNRB47yO8AZNuJdswzcRAMjr9rk/view?usp=sharing> or see the attached flyer.

Hottle Grants For Outreach Ministries

The District Congregational Commission is responsible for distribution of money from the Hottle Fund to District Churches for establishing new projects and ministries or impacting outreach in their communities. For the period of the Covid Pandemic, we also expanded the use of these funds for operating expenses for churches impacted by the shutdowns caused by the pandemic. The operating expense funding will not continue in 2023, but we will continue to use the funds regular grants. The regular grants from the Hottle Fund are provided for:

- 1) Project grants within the church to expand the ministry of the church.
- 2) Outreach Ministry grants that impact not only the church but the community at large and may include changes to the physical plant.
- 3) Program Development grants within the church to stimulate growth or spiritual health and may include changes to the physical plant.

We are now accepting applications for 2023. Grants are approved at regularly scheduled District Board Meetings. For more information or a grant application form, please contact the Northern Ohio District Office.



Storm Window Addition to Lick Creek Windows

At Bryan Lick Creek Church of the Brethren while developing our 2023 annual budget planning had to increase our natural gas cost significantly due to price increases seen (nearly 30%). In lieu of this visibly to us we then made consideration of additional steps we could possibly take with our facility to improve its energy efficiency. One of the things we opted to focus in on was that we still had several windows that were single pane glass which allows for heat loss and heat gain. This especially held true with the stain glass windows in our sanctuary and entryway.

We then worked with a local commercial window fabricator/installer to develop a cost-effective solution and had them provide us a quote. Our solution was to have double pane glass windows installed on the interior side of the existing single pane windows. This significantly lowered the labor expenses in removing the existing windows, and now actually gives us triple pane windows in these locations.

We then reviewed our memorial funds and applied for a Hottle grant to help supplement moving forward with this project, and the windows were installed in January of 2023. We expect that we will see a reduction in our natural gas cost through the improved building envelope that will pay for itself within a fairly reasonable time period while lowering our annual operating expenses immediately and for the long term.

Jonah's People Fellowship

Jonah's People Fellowship partners with Good Shepherd home to give out school back packs and gift cards to staff's children before school started last fall. Pastor Bob Simonsick with church members help serve lunch and pass out back pack school bags to Good Shepherd Home's staff with children in front of the Retirement Home in the gazebo. Throughout the year church members help with Good Shepherd Home's Projects the Memorial Service for residents who pass away previous year, bazar and auction which raise money for residents, Coat give away and pack packs/gift cards for staff children for school. Jonah's People Fellowship worships in the chapel at Good Shepherd home but is a partner in many project to help the retirement community and residents.



2023 Akron/Canton Area Church of the Brethren Lenten Schedule

February 26	East Nimishillen Cob	Speaker Brian Layman
March 5	Reading CoB	Speaker Wayne Scott
March 12	Akron First CoB	Speaker Paul Bozman
March 19	Eden CoB	Speaker Bruce Jacobson
March 206	Akron Springfield CoB	Festival of Choirs

Ashland Dickey

Ashland Dickey's annual Spiritual Enrichment services will be held March 26-29, at 8:30am & 10:45am Sunday morning and 7:00pm each evening. This year we will welcome Pastor Paul Munday. You are invited to mark your calendars now and join for spiritual renewal during these special services.



Owl Creek CoB

The Owl Creek Church of the Brethren, located at 13241 Toms Road, Fredericksburg, OH. celebrated its Annual Homecoming on Sunday, October 16th, 2022. Church goers, family, friends, and special visitors enjoyed a wonderful church service with special music, poetry, and a meaningful story; all to Glorify the Lord God Almighty. After the service everyone was invited to share a wonderful meal in the basement of the church.

Tina Hunt Installed as Pastor at Mansfield First



Tina Hunt has been called as Pastor at Mansfield First Church of the Brethren and begin serving on December 11, 2022. Her

service of installation was held during the worship service on January 29, 2023. Tina's ministry journey began in the Church of the Nazarene in 1980 where she served churches in Ohio and Wisconsin and as a chaplain. Tina earned her MDiv from Nazarene Theological Seminary and a Master of Pastoral Counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary.



The Mansfield First congregation celebrating on the day of Tina Hunt's installation as pastor. Tina and her husband, Nelson are in the front row 3rd/4th from the right.

Tina and her husband, Nelson, joined the Church of the Brethren in 2010. Tina was called first as Interim Pastor at Ashland First CoB, then as pastor as she was licensed. She was ordained in 2016. Tina and Nelson have two grown daughters and three teenage grandchildren.

Stephen McLaughlin Ordained at Lake Breeze

Mike Conner Installed as Pastor at Painesville



It was a joyful day as Mike Conner was installed as Pastor at the Painesville Church of the Brethren on August 28th. Mike grew up in the Akron Springfield congregation and

served as a Junior High Advisor for both the church and the N. Ohio District. Opportunities there led him to consider a call to ministry. He has completed the classes with the Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI). Mike will be serving as a bi-vocational pastor, also working full-time as a block truck driver. Mike and his wife, Dawn, have two adult sons.

The congregation celebrated the beginning of Mike's ministry with a carry-in dinner.

Stephen McLaughlin was Ordained at the Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren on Sunday, November 27th where he



had been serving as pastor for almost two years. Stephen began serving as Interim Pastor at Lake Breeze in 2018 and was licensed and called as Pastor in December 2020.

Stephen and his wife, Jeanene, have a total of eight children in their blended family. Stephen received an M.A. in Counseling in 2012 from Ashland University and pastored for 10 years in a non-denominational church prior to coming to Lake Breeze. Stephen is also a full-time Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor working in an Adult Counseling program in Lorain.

The congregation celebrated with special music during the worship service and a carry-in dinner together.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

- **Bristolville (full-time)** – *Edgar Agler* serving as interim pastor. Search Committee interviewing.
- **Woodworth (part-time)** – *Steve Simmons* serving as interim 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 pastor.
- **Ashland Dickey**—*Jeff Messner* has resigned effective **September 30, 2023**
- **Brook Park** – *Ryan Lopez* serving as interim pastor.
- **Dupont** – *Solomon Okang* serving as preacher.
- **Sugarcreek East** – *Nelson Brown* serving an interim pastor and beginning the credentialing process.
- **Silver Creek** – *Ric Beals* providing pulpit supply.

Congregations that have completed the Search Process:

- **Mansfield First** – *Tina Hunt* called as pastor and began serving on December 11, 2022.

Withdrawing Congregations

Three churches in the Northern Ohio District have entered the process to withdraw from the Church of the Brethren. Mount Pleasant CoB, Zion Hill, and County Line congregations had their final votes in January. All were above the 80% majority needed to withdraw. The next 90 days are a time to finalize details according to our District Withdrawal Policy, which addresses property, financial settlement, and a service of blessing. The withdrawal policy can be found on our website [here](#). District Conference delegates will officially finalize the process at District Conference. While withdrawing removes them as part of our district, we continue as brothers and sisters in Christ, seeking first God's Kingdom. Please contact Kris Hawk with questions or concerns about the process.

Our District Executive Committee sent out a letter last fall, encouraging congregation to further engage with denominational leadership in a number of ways. The full letter can be read at <https://www.nohcob.org/resources/church-resources/executive-committee-letter-to-district-members-and-leaders>

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

Church of the Brethren in Haiti

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

2023 IRS Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued the 2023 standard mileage rates.

*65.5 cents per mile for business miles driven.

*14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

Camp Inspiration Hills Update

The annual Inspiration Hills Camp Cleanup will be held April 28-29, 2023. Much help is needed to get the camp ready for camps this summer! Please bring work boots, gloves and a smile; meals, fellowship and housing will be provided. RSVP to Ben Allhouse at (330) 621-4574 or benallhouse@inspirationhillscamp.org



2023 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Mom & Me Camp	June 5-6	Moms & Dads with campers ages 3-10
Grand Camp	June 7-9	Grandparents and campers ages 3-12
Senior High Camp	June 11-16	Campers going into grades 8-12
Senior High Bash	June 16-17	Campers going into grades 8-12
Junior High Camp	June 18-23	Campers going into grades 6-8
Annual Conference	July 4-8	Info available at www.brethren.org
Junior Camp	July 9-14	Campers going into grades 3-5
Beginners Camp	July 16-18	Campers going into grades 1-3
All New "Launch Pad"	July 16-18	Moms & Dads with campers ages 5-12

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 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

District Events Calendar

- 03.01 Western Pastor's Gathering at 12:30 pm
- 03.04 Inspiration Hills Strategic Planning Committee
- 03.07 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10 am (Zoom)
- 03.08 Central Area Pastor's Breakfast Tim Hortons at 8 am
- 03.09 CAC Meeting at 6 pm
- 03.11 District Board Meeting at Pleasant View CoB
- 03.21 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10 am (Zoom)
- 04.02 Palm Sunday
- 04.21/22 Youth Rally for Junior and Senior High
- 04.28/29 Camp Annual Work Weekend / BDM