



The Herald

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

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Search Committee Update

The District Executive Search Committee posted the position with the Church of the Brethren General Offices in early January. The committee is in the process of accepting applications through March 9th. Please be encouraged that if you know someone who would be a good candidate for this position please have them contact the Office of Ministry at officeofministry@brethren.org for an application or further information. Updates will be posted in the upcoming Pastor’s Memos and District Bulletin handouts. Thank you!

2017 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

*February 19-21 Holiday Inn French Quarter,
Perrysburg, Ohio*

Plan on joining us for the upcoming Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 19-21, 2017 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH. The theme for the retreat is “Tethered Freedom” (Psalm 78). Our guest speaker will be Jason Barnhart. Jason serves as the University Chaplain at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. Jason will help participants reflect on the intergenerational truths and challenges of Psalm 78. Participants will reflect on those that poured into their lives,

identify next generation leaders to journey alongside, and explore how these two paths are interwoven in their respective callings. For more information please contact the District Office 419-281-3058. You may also register online at:

[http://nodcb.memberzone.com/
events/details/clergy-spouse-
retreat-1132](http://nodcb.memberzone.com/events/details/clergy-spouse-retreat-1132)

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Inspiration Hills

Upcoming Winter Camp and Project with a Purpose

If you loved summer camp then you will REALLY love winter camp! Roaring fires, snowball fights, snowman tournaments, live worship and more. Join us for Junior High Weekend blowout February 10-12 and Junior Winter Camp February 17-19, 2017. The camps are already filling up fast so don't wait to register! Details and registration information are on the camps website,

www.inspirationhillscamp.org.

The camp continues to look for ways to reach out to new people and to provide a place for leadership development in our district. With this in mind, the Camp Administration

has made the decision to immediately begin the renovation of Walnut Lodge so that it can be used to house Brethren Volunteer Service workers and staff. The building will be equipped with 3 self-sufficient apartments (1 upstairs and 2 downstairs) that can house up to 6 people in each unit.

Walnut Lodge has been stripped down to the studs in preparation of new plumbing, electrical panels, and wiring, insulation, HVAC and fire barriers between units. The blueprints and artist rendering of the final design follow.

We anticipate the final cost of this renovation to be between \$150,000

and \$200,000 and we hope to complete the project in 2017. We are looking for additional gifts from congregations, families and individuals to add to the Capital Improvement funds we have available so that we can bring this project to completion as quickly as possible. (See church bulletin insert for design photos.)

Please prayerfully consider a onetime gift from you or your congregation in 2017 to support this new opportunity to develop future leaders within our district and denomination.

Article submitted by Shannon Kahler, Camp Executive Director

Cherry Lodge Deck Project

*Article Submitted by Pastor Mike Zellers,
Freeburg Church of the Brethren*

Imagine walking out the back door of Cherry Lodge onto a 40 x 60 deck overlooking the ravine. On the ravine side is a raised platform where a band can play, a chorus can sing or a couple can exchange vows. There is lighting to set the mood, a railing to lean on as you look out into the nature that surrounds. All of this attached to a facility that sleeps forty people, with restrooms and showers and a meeting room that can be set with chairs or tables to accommodate one hundred.

Sounds great doesn't it? Well it will soon be a reality at

Camp Inspiration Hills. A project is underway to construct just that sort of deck on the side of Cherry Lodge. You can be a part of this momentous improvement to the camp.

The Freeburg congregation is sending a donation and would like to challenge other congregations to send what they can to help get the job done. Donations may be sent to the camp labeled "For Cherry Deck."

Take this opportunity to help with another setting at camp where lives are changed and memories created.



Bases and galvanized I-Beam posts to support the deck



Cherry Lodge deck area

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Spring/May 7-13, 2017 and Fall/October 1-7, 2017 - Columbia, South Carolina

Happy New Year All!

We have started a new year. What a blessing this past year has been for many who have helped those who suffered through a disaster. The type of disaster does not matter. Thank you to all who have help make their lives a bit better in the year 2016.

In 2017 Northern Ohio is scheduled serve in Columbia South Carolina. We have two dates of service: May 7-13, 2017 and October 1-7, 2017. What a change in scenery. We have not been south in a long time. This should be a very interesting trip and time of service to others. Contact Brenda Hostetler by email: hjbrenda@aol.com or Bob Patalano: mrpatalano@frontier.com. We will be sending out more information throughout the winter and spring. Put these two dates on your calendar and go with us. Article submitted by Brenda Hostetler, Brethren Disaster Co-Coordinator

District Prayer Calendar

February 5—February 11

Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry A. Belknap) and Lake Breeze CoB (Interim James Washington)

February 12—February 18

Lakewood CoB (Interim Gene Wyse) and Lick Creek CoB (Pastor Bill Holsopple)

February 19—February 25

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

February 26—March 4

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

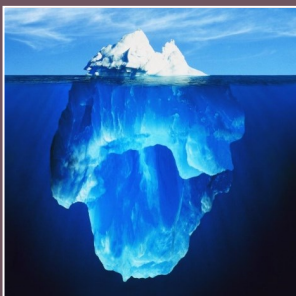
March 5—March 11

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

Spring Area Clergy Meetings

Finding Creative Ways to Work at Race Relations

Presented by James and Sandra Washington from TIME OUT Ministries (Today's Interaction May Encourage Our Unity Tomorrow)



We live in a world saturated with racism – much of it below the surface of our awareness. Come as we learn about what the church can and should bring to race relations within our communities. Clergy CE credit provided. Watch for more details.

Date	Time	Area
Sat. 3/18	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Central
Tues. 3/21	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Central
Wed. 3/22	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Central
Wed. 3/22	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	East
Thurs. 3/23	9:00 am – 11:30 am	East
Tues. 3/28	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	West
Wed. 3/29	9:00 am – 11:30 am	West

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Brook Park – *Tom Michaels* serving interim. Search Committee completing profile.

Dupont – Searching for youth pastor. Profile complete.

Eden – *Wayne Scott* serving as interim. Search committee formed.

Pleasant View – *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim. Beginning interviews.

Woodworth – *John Polanski* serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

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

East Nimishillen – *Matthew Reed* serving as interim. Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

Lake Breeze – *James Washington* serving as interim.

Lakewood – *Gene Wyse* serving as interim. Not actively seeking at this time.

Maple Grove – *John Ballinger* serving as interim until 2/2018.

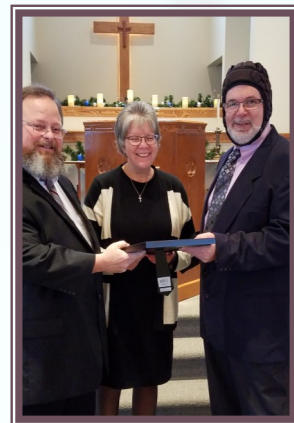
Mark Your Calendar

- February 10—Jr. High Winter Camp, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH
- February 11—Nominating Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- February 14—Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- February 18—Youth Area Events, Visit www.nohcob.org/resources/youth-news for locations
- February 19-21—Clergy-Spouse Retreat, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH
- March 11—District Board Meeting, Dupont CoB, Dupont, OH
- March—16, Central Committee Meeting, Hartville CoB, Hartville, OH
- March 25—Teacher's Training Event, Ashland First CoB, Ashland, OH

Welcome Pastors and Ordained Ministers

Ordination Service for Dean Foster

Dean Foster, Associate Pastor at Black River Church of the Brethren, was ordained December 11th during the morning worship service. The sharing time had many in the congregation expressing appreciation to Dean and his wife, Sandy, for the impact they have had in the life of the congregation. Pastor Mark Teal presented Dean with a picture frame that will be filled with a picture of Dean, Sandy, and the congregation taken at the end of worship that morning. The celebration continued with a meal shared together as a church family. Pictured Left to Right: Pastor Mark Teal, Sandy Foster and Associate Pastor Dean Foster



Terry Vaught Called As Pastor at Paradise

Terry Vaught had been serving as interim at Paradise Church of the Brethren for several months when the congregation extended the call for him to become the pastor. The installation service was held on December 4th amidst a time of celebration and conversation about the direction of the church in the months to come. Terry most recently served as Pastor of Visitation of Maple Grove. Terry, his wife Sherry (also an ordained minister) have one son, Reese. Pictured: Reese Vaught, Pastor Terry Vaught and Sherry Reese Vaught



Ordination Service for Tina Hunt

It was a time of celebration as Pastor Tina Hunt was ordained November 27th during the morning worship service at Ashland First Church of the Brethren. The sharing time had many in the congregation expressing appreciation to Tina and her husband, Nelson for the impact they have had in the lives of many since Tina began as Interim Pastor in March of 2015 and continuing as she was called as Pastor last December. The church presented Tina with a picture frame that will be filled with a picture of Tina, Nelson, and the congregation at the end of worship that morning. Each one present also signed the matting for the picture, making this a very special gift indeed! Pictured: Pastor Tina Hunt and Nelson Hunt



Denomination Update

Within the denomination, this will be a year of challenge. Delegates at Annual Conference took the following action related to the query on same sex weddings:

“Query: Same Sex Weddings The 2016 Annual Conference adopted a motion from the floor to refer the concerns of the query to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations, and districts, bringing recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference.”

The Council of District Executives (CODE) Executive Committee and leadership team have met on this issue. The full CODE and leadership team are meeting even as we go to press to make decisions on what to bring to Annual Conference in 2017. Updated information will be shared in the February bulletin insert.

The light is more easily seen in the darkness, and so times of fear and change are also times of hope and renewal. Please continue to surround our churches, our district, and our denomination with prayer. It is our great and powerful God that sees way past our own understanding of possibilities. May we be faithful as we seek his face, continuing the work of Jesus to bring light and life to the world.

“Reenacting” the First Brethren Baptism in America

Article Submitted by Wayne Scott, Interim Pastor, Eden Church of the Brethren

As you know from Church of the Brethren history, the Brethren began coming to the Colony of Pennsylvania in 1719, led by Peter Becker. In 1729, Alexander Mack led another group of Brethren families to America. The first congregation was organized, and the first Baptisms took place in the Wissahickon Creek near Germantown, Pa., on Christmas Day, 1723. The Brethren Meetinghouse at Germantown can be visited still today, as can the cemetery behind it, holding the graves of Alexander Mack and many other Brethren leaders. The Wissahickon Creek also still flows, rising in Montgomery County, PA and running for approximately 23 miles through or next to much parkland before emptying into the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia. It makes a wonderful spiritual “pilgrimage” site for Brethren.

Stan and Mira Palmer have been attending the Eden Church of the Brethren for the past year or so. Stan grew up and was baptized in the Freeburg Church of the Brethren at Paris, Ohio. Mira grew up in the Minerva area. They recently retired

in the Canton area and began attending Eden. When they decided to become members, though she had previously been baptized, Mira also wanted to be baptized by trine immersion. Her baptism was scheduled for the Sunday before Christmas. However, a bad ice storm hit the night before, and because of the danger produced by the accumulation of ice, the Deacons decided to cancel services that day.



Stan & Mira Palmer, Eden CoB

Anticipating a smaller attendance on Christmas Day, and the possibility of inconvenience for family plans, interim pastor Wayne Scott gave Mira the option of rescheduling her baptism for another day. But the Palmers said they planned to be in worship on Christmas, so why not proceed! It then also occurred to the congregation that this was an historic occasion, whereas the first Brethren baptisms also had taken place on Christmas Day, 293 years before! Could God have had something to do with this? After all, there are no coincidences with God!!

Of course, we are pretty sure the ice on the Wissahickon had to be broken before those baptisms could take place – something the Eden Church did not have to do! Though those early Brethren surely remembered their baptisms, especially because of the iciness of the water, we are glad to report Mira always will remember her baptism, too! In fact, Stan said “Mira and I have had 38 Christmases together, and by joining Eden and Mira’s baptism today, Christmas 2016 ranks as the very best we have shared!” All praise to God for God’s blessing and peace!!

Northern Ohio District Fellowship Commission
Invites Deacons, Teachers, Pastors, Youth Leaders to:

APPRECIATION DAY

at Ashland First Church of the Brethren

Saturday, March 25, 2017

10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Join us for a day of fellowship with others in thankfulness for your ministry to our churches. We will have a panel discussion and share resource ideas for Christian Education Ministries. Go to the district website www.nohcob.org to make your reservation.

Sunday School Curriculum and Study Materials Available

East Chippewa Church of the Brethren has Sunday School curriculum and study materials they would like to give out to interested congregations in the district. Please contact East Chippewa Church of the Brethren Office at 330-669-3262 or email eccbsec@gmail.com to obtain a list of the materials or to request more information. Thank you!



Painesville Church of the Brethren's Preschool/Daycare Presents The Story of Jesus' Birth

Painesville Church of the Brethren's Preschool/Daycare presents the story of Jesus' birth each December. The children, ages 18 months through 5 years, preform in our church filled with parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

The lights dim and the Bethlehem townspeople enter: first, a grumpy innkeeper dressed in a bathrobe, headscarf, and the like. Next comes Joseph dragging Mary down the aisle to find a place to stay. "No room," but the townsfolk cry out—"She's going to have a baby!"

Settled in the plywood barn, the shout goes up "it's a boy!" Enter the 18 month olds through 2 1/2 year olds as angels and stars. Eyes wide, lips quiver but they call the shepherds to come and see! Next come the 3-4 class of shepherds, head coverings falling off, ninja style shepherd staffs fighting, stuffed lambs swinging but they manage to bow in front of the baby. To round it out, enter the three kings, or in our case two wise girls and one wise boy??, wondering why a baby would want this 'frank in stuff'.

All assembled, they truly amaze us with voices lifted to share 'Hush, There's a Baby', 'Go, Go, Go Gold', and 'Presents, We Love Presents'. Amid the chaos and laughter, these children tell the wonderful story of a tiny baby born in a barn and give each of us a blessed start to the Christmas Season.

Coleridge School is an outreach of the Painesville Church of the Brethren.

P.S. This quarter's service project was 'Cents for the Congo'. We collected \$75.00 in change to purchase 2 goats for a Pygmy village in the Congo. Way to go Coleridge Kids!

Article submitted by Gaylee Hughes, Director, Painesville Church of the Brethren



**Northern Ohio District
Church of the Brethren
Women's Ministry**

"One Small Piece of the Puzzle"

Spring Women's Retreat

April 21 and 22, 2017, at Inspiration Hills Camp

Featuring pastor/musician "Leah J" Hileman



Northern Ohio District
District Conference
July 28-29, 2017
Hartville Church of the Brethren
Featured Speaker: Josh McDowell

In 2015, District Conference moved off campus and into a church. Both 2015 and 2016 District Conferences were hosted by congregations in the central part of our district (thank you Mohican and Maple Grove). In 2017, we will be hosted by Hartville in the eastern area of the district. In 2018, we will head west to Dupont.

Moderator Patrick Bailey (North Bend) has chosen “Be Thoroughly Equipped” as the theme with a focus on 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5.

This year’s conference will feature Josh McDowell (See bio) who will speak at both evening worship services and meet with the youth on Saturday morning!

More details on the Conference will follow in the coming months – the Pre-Conference Worship, Insight Sessions, Performing Arts Camp presentation all promise to bring together a weekend of worship, growth, fellowship, and fun.

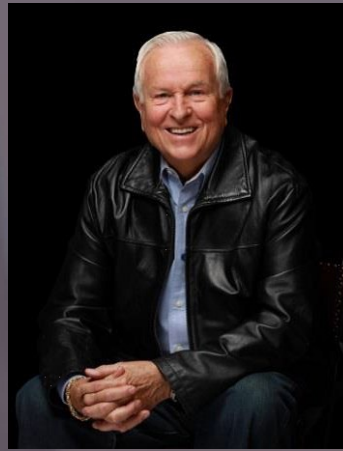
Conference registration will open April 1, 2017. But we anticipate larger attendance with such a well-known speaker. That, coupled with other events that will be happening in Hartville at that time, lead to a recommendation that **lodging reservations should be made early.**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Hartville, 1.3 miles from the church. All the rooms are suites and feature a 2-person sofa bed in addition to the King or Queen beds. You can receive the Northern Ohio District group rate by calling (330) 587-4347.

Other hotels are available 15-20 minutes from the church. Camping is also available.

You can find all the lodging information at:

http://www.nohcob.org/upload/documents/district_conference/hotels_and_campgrounds_2017.pdf



Josh D. McDowell

A trailblazer for truth and relationships, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and ground-breaking ministry for over five decades.

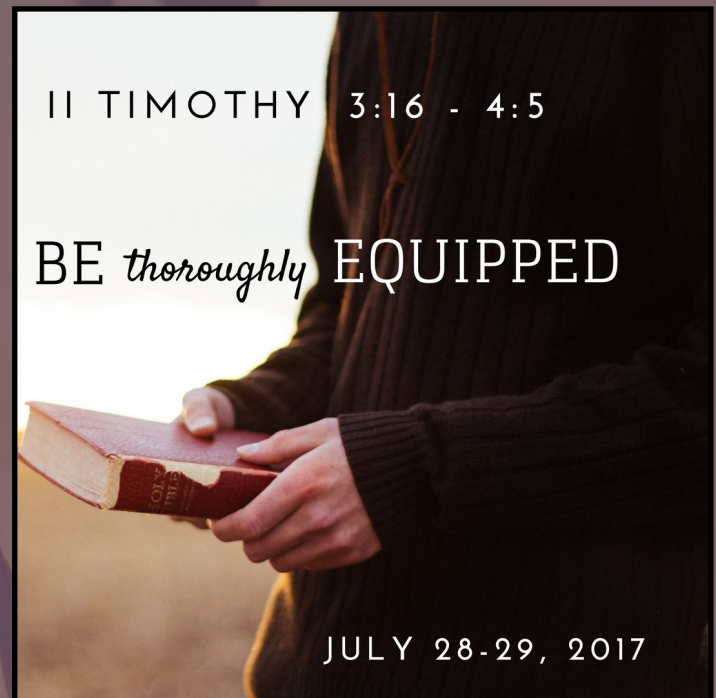
Josh shares the essentials of the Christian faith in everyday language so that youth, families, churches,

leaders and individuals of all ages are prepared for the life of faith and the work of the ministry. This included leveraging resources based on years of experiences, new technologies and strategic partnerships.

Since 1961, Josh has delivered more than 27,000 talks to over 25,000,000 people in 125 countries. He is the author or co-author of 147 books, including *More Than a Carpenter* and *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, recognized by *World Magazine* as one of the top 40 books of the twentieth century. Josh’s books are available in over 100 different languages.

Josh and his wife, Dottie, are quick to acknowledge that after their love for the Lord, family is their greatest joy and top priority. They have been married 45 years and have four wonderful children and ten beloved grandchildren.

Josh McDowell Ministry is a division of Cru (the U.S. division of Campus Crusade for Christ International).



District Youth Update

The District Youth have been busy the last few months and have several upcoming activities to pencil in on the calendar! Northern Ohio senior high youth attended the annual Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference on November 12th-13th at Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, IN. The theme this year was “Plug In: to God, each other, and the World.” 3 John 1:13-14. The weekend consisted of worship, workshops, music, and recreation for senior high youth in the Midwest and their advisors. The speakers for the main sessions were the staff of the Brethren Volunteer Service and Workcamp Office. This was a special experience since Jocelyn Snyder, BVS Orientation Coordinator and one of the presenters, is from our Northern Ohio District! I was also asked to lead a workshop on missions and my time as a missionary in Ukraine. Some of the other breakout session topics were the upcoming *Christian Citizenship Seminar* and *On Earth Peace*. Northern Ohio was the largest district represented with 8 youth and 3 advisors!

The Junior High Rally took place on November 18th-19th at Mount Pleasant COB. Five churches were represented. Our theme for the Jr. High youth this year is “Being the C.I.A. (Christians in Action) in connection with Matthew 25:37-40. The Jr. High Cabinet has planned the next rally, which will be on February 3rd-4th at North Bend COB. Contact me if you’d like flyers or more information concerning this event.

On December 2nd-3rd, Senior High Winter Fest was held at Camp Inspiration Hills. Youth from five churches were present. The theme was “Dig Deeper. Go Further.” Youth heard sessions about purpose, the greatness of God, and living out our faith authentically.



There was recreation time and a special presentation by the Christian Children’s Home of Ohio. Worship for the weekend was led by Dan and Kathy Hawk and the worship travel team from Malone University.

Article submitted by Esther Harsh, District Youth Coordinator

Upcoming Youth Events:

Jr. High Rally – February 3rd-4th @ North Bend

Jr. and Sr. High Area Activity – February 18th

Sr. High Rally – April 7th-8th @ County Line

Jr. High Rally – (Tentative) April 21st-22nd @ Poplar Ridge

I have been traveling to visit with individual groups and youth advisors and would love to meet up with your youth group and advisors if I haven’t already done so. Please contact me at 330.880.7161 if you’d like to schedule a time when I can come to spend time with your group.

You can keep up to date with upcoming events with the district youth online at nohcob.org/resources/youth-news or by following us on instagram (@nohcobyouth), facebook (/nohcobyouth), or remind (@nohyouth).