

The Herald

February 2021

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEBRUARY 2021—WINTER ISSUE



We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on February 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM EST. The topic will be "The Global Church: Current Happenings, Future Possibilities." Carol and Norm Waggy, Interim Directors of Global Mission for the Church of the Brethren, will be the featured resource persons.

Currently, Church of the Brethren denominations exist in the African Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo), Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Spain, the United States, and Venezuela. This growth is reflective of an overall vision for "the development of a global Church of the Brethren consisting of autonomous groups that witness to their broader communities while mutually encouraging one another as branches

Moderator's Town Hall Thursday, February 18th

from the denominational vine... [promoting] core Brethren beliefs and practices while building organizational capacity and deepening faith."

The Waggys will provide updates on current Church of the Brethren denominations; this will include an update on the persecution of Christians in Nigeria impacting EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and other groups. The Waggys will also discuss future possibilities for expanding the vision of a global Church of the Brethren. Ample time will be provided for Town Hall participants to ask questions.

To register for the Town Hall, please use the following link: tinyurl.com/ModTownHallFeb2021



Carol and Norm Waggy,
Interim Directors of
Global Mission CoB

In This Issue

Moderator's Town Hall	1
District Conference 2021	2
Annual Conference 2021	2
Compelling Vision Bible Studies	3
CoB Online Worship Gathering	3
Statistical Forms	3
Pastoral Placement	3
Chippewa CoB	4
Ashland First CoB	4-5
Brook Park CoB	5-6
Youth and Young Adults	7
Inspiration Hills	7
District Prayer Calendar	7
District Events Calendar	7
Welcome Licensed and Ordained Ministers	8

Article and Pictures Provided by
Annual Conference Moderator's
Town Hall

District Conference 2021



The Northern Ohio District Conference Central Committee will be meeting on February 23rd with Akron Springfield Church's Conference Committee to finalize plans for District Conference being held August 13 & 14 at the Akron Springfield Church. For more information please visit our District Conference webpage www.nohcob.org/dc and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/nohcobconference. We will continue to update these in the upcoming months.

Annual Conference pivots from hybrid to online event in 2021

A release from the Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

The Program and Arrangements Committee has determined that the 2021 Annual Conference will be entirely online. The

committee hoped to have a hybrid (both in-person and online) Conference as announced last fall. However, due to the continuing challenges of COVID-19, the committee deemed that it is not wise to have an in-person component for Annual Conference this summer. As Program and Arrangements Committee has consistently stressed, the health and safety of Annual Conference participants is the highest priority.

This was a difficult decision to make since last summer's Annual Conference needed to be cancelled entirely because of COVID-19. While we know that meeting in person eventually will be safe again, we sadly do not believe that it will happen in time to safely have an in-person event at the end of June 2021.

This will be the first time that the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has gathered entirely online, as many of our congregations have been doing these past 10 months. While we lament that we cannot be together in person to hug one another, sing together, and eat at tables together, we are nevertheless excited about the new opportunities an online gathering offers. We will be able to open Annual Conference to much greater participation than ever before.



The Annual Conference logo.
Art by Timothy Botts

Registration Information from the Annual Conference Office

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will open at 12:00 Noon Central Time on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Churches up to 200 members should register one delegate, 201-400 members can register two delegates.

Please note: Unique to this year's ONLINE Annual Conference, each delegate MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS, A COMPUTER OR TABLET, AS WELL AS ADEQUATE WIFI SERVICE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. Please ensure that your selected delegate meets these requirements to participate so that your congregation can be fully represented at Annual Conference.*

One online site will be used for all business, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more. A link and password for access to the site will be emailed to each registrant in the days prior to the start of Conference. Training sessions will be provided in the weeks before Conference begins for those wanting to learn how to navigate the site.

Non-Delegate registration will be \$99 and will provide access to all the events listed above. The charge is necessary to help cover all the costs of hosting a virtual event.

All five worship services will be available free of charge to all registered and non-registered persons.

Please check out the webpage at www.brethren.org/ac2021 for more information about Annual Conference, including leadership, themes, schedule, concerts and much more. New information is added regularly so check back often.

*In Northern Ohio we are exploring the possibility of having several churches serve as "technology hubs" to provide access to the technology needed to participate in this year's Annual Conference. More details to follow!

Compelling Vision Bible Studies

As we prepare for discussions about the compelling vision at Annual Conference and as your congregation imagines what it might look like to live into the vision, the Compelling Vision Team of the Church of the Brethren encourages you to spend time in Bible study and prayer. They have designed a Bible study series to help you do just that. Each of the thirteen studies focuses on a different word or phrase from the compelling vision, inviting you to engage with God's Word with the hope of deepening and enriching our understanding of each word or phrase in particular and the vision as a whole. Find more information, including 2 sample Bible Studies, at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/bible-studies/>

Denomination-wide online worship gathering is set for February 27

The Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has announced a denomination-wide online worship gathering titled "Venturing Forth Boldly as a Faith Family," scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m. (Eastern time). In a season of disruption and despair, the service will assure us of what "God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9) and how we can faithfully respond.



Congregations are invited to consider using this for their own Sunday morning worship service on Feb. 28, or any later date. Links will be shared later in February at <https://www.brethren.org/news/2021/denomination-wide-online-worship-feb-27/>

How to Report 2020 Congregational Statistics

When the denomination forms arrive for reporting your churches information, reporting attendance for 2020 will be a most unusual challenge. For many weeks, congregation did not meet. How do we average that in? Is on-line attendance counted?

The Yearbook office offers this guidance:

"We ask congregations to report their average attendance before their services were disrupted by COVID-19. That way we're comparing apples with apples...It's tough to find the perfect solution, but we are allowing congregations to self-report and hope to get a solid average attendance."

We encourage you to please complete your forms when they arrive. This information is helpful to the district as well as the denomination.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland First – Search Committee interviewing pastoral candidates. **Tina Hunt** providing pulpit supply via Facebook.

Bristolville – Search Committee appointed. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Reading – **Paul Bozman** called as Pastor beginning 04/18/2021. **Brian Layman** serving as interim.

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.

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 02/3/2021



Chippewa Church Front Entrance with New Roof



Chippewa Church Side Entrance with New Roof

Chippewa Church of the Brethren Gets a New Roof

Article provided by Pastor Bill Eley, Chippewa CoB

During the Fall of last year (2020), Chippewa Church of the Brethren in Creston had a much needed new roof replacement put on their church. The then existing one had served its purpose for a number of years but the depletion of its ability to protect the inside of the church mandated that something be done. Having been previously patched a number of times, it was decided to have a new metal roof put on. The church is greatly appreciative to the

Congregational Commission Committee for providing the church with two grants of \$5,000 each. Through their agreement to issue the two grants, the church was able to complete the project and secure the protection of the church building for many years to come. We are grateful for the assistance of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren and encourage other churches of the district, that in your essential needs, to give the Congregational Commission Committee the opportunity to assist should they be able to do so.

Ashland First Church of the Brethren Missions Update

Article provided by Lisa Snyder, Ashland First CoB (shared with permission by the Ashland First Congregation)

Thank you to all who have continued to give gifts, tithes and offerings this year. I wanted to share some of the wonderful things that have been occurring at church. Many of you have not been to the physical building, so I will share some pictures as well!

Over the months of November and December we collected quarters in the quarter pole for Heifer International. We filled it to the brim and had more to add, the total in quarters was \$145.50! In addition, members of our congregation gave cash and checks, with a total gift to Heifer International of **\$1,255.50!!!**. We purchased a heifer, a sheep, a hog, a goat, an alpaca, 2 honeybees, 2 flocks of ducks, 2 flocks of chicks,

and 2 Hope baskets with rabbits and chickens. What awesome gifts!!

Also, a donation to Heifer in memory of Betty Kettering was given as a gift to Delbert Kettering, for providing his services for our Christmas Eve communion service. His message was very meaningful.



Quarter Pole at Ashland First CoB



Mitten Tree, Ashland First CoB

Ashland First CoB Missions Update (continued from previous page)

We also filled the mitten tree this year with hats (some really beautiful handmade), gloves, mittens, scarves and socks. These gifts will be divided between the Dale Roy school and Reagan Elementary to give to students who are in need. Items included: 32 pairs of gloves and mittens, 33 hats, 3 scarves and 11 pairs of socks.

Our White Gift offering was designated to go to Inspiration Hills Camp. As many of you are aware, our district camp had to cancel the in person camps this year, and so had very limited income in this year of COVID. Our gift from Christmas Eve service totaled \$835.00.

Clinking coin gifts were also collected in our little bucket, totaling \$82.28. This will be added to clinking coins collected earlier in the year (\$135.43) and added to our white gift offering to Inspiration Hills.

There were also some gifts given to Associated Charities for the food pantry! We also delivered 13 stuffed fun Christmas stockings to our shut ins...

Not so bad for a “little” church!

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings, masks are required. We have plenty of space to properly social distance, as seen in the picture!

Our next project will be collecting items and monies for Church World Service Health Kits. Items may be purchased and brought into the church, or checks can be mailed to support this project. This will be ongoing through February. Please ask me if you have any questions!

Items include: toothbrushes (individual in packaging), nail clippers, wash clothes, hand towels, band aids, wide tooth combs, full size bars of soap, and gallon size zipper storage bags.



Ashland First CoB Sanctuary

Brook Park Community Church of the Brethren Hottle Grant Report *Article provided by Mark Pollock, BPCCOB Board Chair*

Brook Park Community Church of the Brethren installed a worship center video recording and live streaming system with the money we received from the Northern Ohio Hottle Grants. We applied for and were approved for the \$5000 grant in May of 2019. With the money we were able to purchase a Pan, Tilt, and Zoom video camera from PTZ Optics, a joy stick controller for the camera, a compact computer to control everything, a monitor, Filmora video editing software, an upgrade to our WiFi, a video and sound control desk and chair, electrical wiring and cables for the system, and OBS software that allows us to live stream and record our services.

One of the big delays in getting the system up and running was getting a high speed WiFi/internet connection. Our existing connection had an upload speed less than 1 gigabyte/sec and the experts recommended at least a 10 gbps upload speed for live streaming. The provider we originally had could not upgrade to those speeds so we had to get a new provider. Several providers advertised higher speed connections, but none of them had a connection to our church. Verizon had a connection about 2 blocks away which they extended to our church building. Fortunately they waived the \$4000 installation fee!

To insure uninterrupted internet connections, we hard wired the control computer in the sanctuary to the internet connection which was about 100' away. PTZ Optics was the camera and controller company we selected. They are very involved in church/worship service videoing and offered a “Producer Kit” which included the computer, the pan, tilt, zoom camera, the joy

Brook Park Community CoB Hottle Grant Report
(continued from previous page)

stick camera controller, the audio interface connector, the video interface connector and cabling. The kit was about \$2500, but all the components were designed to work together and the PTZ camera allows us to have one camera at the back of the sanctuary that can move (pan) to where ever we want and to zoom into closeups or out for wide shots. The system also allowed us to use our existing sound board and microphones for good quality sound pickup. The OBS software is a free software package that allows coordinating all the components and live streaming. We also purchased a video editing software program called "Filmora" to edit and splice together video recordings when we were prerecording our services and putting them together to send out to YouTube. I was able to complete the installation of the equipment with a little help from others, but when it came to running and understanding the video editing and live streaming I enlisted the help of my daughter and son-in-law who are much more tech savvy to make the system work smoothly.

With all of the new equipment, we needed a "control center". We built a 3' x 8' counter/desk at the back of the sanctuary to house all the equipment. It was big enough to also house the sound board and amplification equipment we already had. We installed a mounting pole on the corner of the desk for the camera. This allowed it to be close to the control center to minimize cabling, but up high enough to allow people to walk in front of it and not interfere with the picture. The zoom feature of the camera allows close ups of the preacher in the pulpit and the band.

The grant money was a real blessing and the timing really worked to our advantage. We had intended to move to a live streaming system for our worship services, but when the Covid-19 virus forced us to close our Sunday morning in-person worship services, it was a life saver. It allowed us to continue to reach our congregation each Sunday with a safe, socially-distanced, recorded service on YouTube. Today we are back to live services and are using the system for live streaming with a prerecorded zoom call children's message.

Another part of the original grant was a TV monitor that we mounted in our Church vestibule. The original intent was to provide information about our congregation and denomination when we had people using our "Audrey's Outreach" food bank. The virus forced us to go to a drive through distribution system, but the TV is still available to play informational messages.

We want to thank the District for providing the grant that

allowed us to acquire and install the video equipment. It became a critical component in allowing us to worship thru the difficult socially distancing times



PTZ Remote Control Camera

of the virus. We expect the live streaming capability to reach congregation members that cannot attend our live services and to reach and introduce ourselves to people that may be looking for a congregation and want a flavor of our services before attending in person.



Vestibule Monitor




Existing Sound Board





Monitor & Joystick Controller

District Youth and Young Adults

There are plenty of events for youth & young adults coming up soon! Mark your calendars and follow us online for updates. For more information, contact Interim District Youth Coordinator Jenny Imhoff at jenny@nohcob.org.

 nohcob.org/vya

 [/nohcobyouth](https://www.facebook.com/nohcobyouth)

 [@nohcobyouth](https://www.instagram.com/nohcobyouth)

Upcoming Events:

Every Monday – District Youth Game Night & Devotions on Zoom

Junior High – 7:00p

Senior High – 8:15p

February 26 & 27 – Virtual Senior High Rally
(Friday 7:30-8:30p, Saturday 10-11a, Saturday 3-4p)

April 24-28 – Virtual Christian Citizenship Seminar

May 28 -31 – National Young Adult Conference

Inspiration Hills Camp

THE FINAL CAMP DATES

The schedule has been modified for a later start date this year and a few camps have been eliminated for 2021 due to budget constraints. If you are one of our Grand Campers PLEASE contact the camp office for alternatives. We hope to be back to our regular camp schedule in 2022!

2021 Summer Camp Schedule

Staff Training June 10-16

Mom & Me Camp* June 17-18

Senior High Camp June 20-25

Junior High Camp June 20-25

Beginners Camp June 27-29

Junior Camp July 4-9

Junior Camp "Light" July 18-22

Beginners Camp 2.0 July 18-22

**This camp is not eligible for scholarships in exchange for service*

www.inspirationhillscamp.org

District Prayer Calendar

February

Churches/Pastors

Adrian, David Morton

Akron Eastwood, Paul Bozman

Akron First, Tobin Crenshaw

Akron Springfield, Andrew Wenger

District Leadership

District Board - Bruce Jacobsen, Chair

Other Districts

Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic

National Leadership

David Steele, CoB General Secretary

EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

March

Churches/Pastors

Ashland Dickey, Jeff Messner

Ashland First, Pulpit Supply

Bethel, David Wyant

Black River, Mark Teal

District Leadership

Nominating Committee - Brian Layman, Chair

Other Districts

Shenandoah, Virgina

National Leadership

Paul Munday, Annual Conference Moderator

Church of the Brethren in Brazil

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

District Events Calendar

2.8	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.9	Eastern Area Clergy Luncheon
2.9	Executive Committee Meeting
2.10	Central Area Clergy Breakfast
2.13	BBI Class-Biblical Interpretation
2.14-16	Clergy-Spouse Retreat
2.15	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.22	District Youth Games & Devotions
2.23	Central Committee Meeting
2.26-27	Sr. High Virtual Rally (Zoom)

Visit our events page www.nohcob.org/events for a complete events calendar.

Newly Licensed and Ordained Ministers

Jim Frado Ordained September 20

September 20 was a special day as Jim Frado was ordained in the Church of the Brethren at Richland, where he has been serving as pastor for 6 years. He is an Ashland Theological Seminary graduate and also an ordained minister in the Brethren Church. Jim and his wife Karen live in Ashland and are parents of three grown children and have six grandchildren.



Jim & Karen Frado, Richland

Bill Holsopple Ordained November 15

Bill Holsopple was ordained in the Church of the Brethren on November 15th during the morning worship service at Lick Creek, where he has been serving as Pastor since 2016. The church planned a special worship service, filled with music that Bill loves, and had homemade cookies/pastries for all.

Bill is the first graduate of the Buckeye Brethren Institute, our district's ministerial training program, to be ordained. Bill is bi-vocational, also working as a press operator at a local manufacturing company. His wife, Beth is an elementary school teacher at Pettisville. They have three children. Twins Bekah and Daniel both started college this fall. Their daughter Hannah and her husband, Todd, have a beautiful daughter, Aubree.



Bill & Beth Holsopple, Lick Creek

Gary Lorenz Ordained December 13

A small group of those leading Akron Eastwood's worship service was present in the church Fellowship Hall, while the rest of the congregation joined on-line as Gary Lorenz was ordained in the Church of the Brethren on December 13, 2020. Gary has been a licensed minister since 2009, serving as the Minister of Discipleship at the Eastwood congregation for several years. He completed his MDiv at Ashland Seminary in 2018. Gary is bi-vocational, working full-time as Security Site Supervisor.



Gary Lorenz, Akron Eastwood

Stephen McLaughlin Licensed and installed as Pastor at Lake Breeze December 20

Stephen McLaughlin was licensed to the ministry in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Pastor of the Lake Breeze congregation on December 20, 2020. Stephen had been serving as Interim Pastor at Lake Breeze since July, 2018. 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.



Stephen & Jeanene McLaughlin, Lake Breeze
