

NOVEMBER 2017

# THE HERALD

*Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren*

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018

**August 3-4, 2018 // Hosted by Dupont Church of the Brethren, Dupont, Ohio**

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The District Central Committee has set the date for the 2018 District Conference for August 3-4.

This is different from the last weekend in July that is our usual time. This change is specific to this year only due to the conflicting dates of National Youth Conference (NYC). NYC in Colorado ends on July 26th and many will still

be traveling back to Ohio on July 27th (our "normal" weekend).

Our 2017 District Conference saw the first youth registrations and events in 5 years. And the youth performing from the Worship Arts Camp add such richness to our experience together. The Central Committee is committed to including youth and youth activities as part of District Conference and believe that warrants holding conference one week later than usual.

Please mark the date - and plan to attend this important event in the life of our district.

### "The Good Life"

Life More Abundant

John 10: 9-11

Northern Ohio District  
Conference August 3-4, 2018  
Dupont Church of the Brethren



## Mark Your Calendar

11/5-Family Fun Event, Paradise CoB, Smithville, OH (See flyer)

11/11-District Board Meeting, Bristolville CoB, Bristolville, OH

11/17-Young Adult Progressive Dinner (See flyer)

11/19-Thanksgiving Celebration, Akron Springfield CoB, Akron, OH

11/18-Buckeye Brethren Institute-Teaching and Learning in the Church, District Office, Ashland, OH

11/18-19-Powerhouse RYC, Camp Alexander Mack, Milford, IN

12/1-2-Sr. High Winter Fest, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

12/8-9-Jr. High Rally, New Philadelphia CoB, New Philadelphia, OH

12/9-Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

1/6-Youth Leader Training, District Office, Ashland, OH

1/13-14-Sr. High Leadership Series #2, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

1/13-Buckeye Brethren Institute-Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH

1/27-Buckeye Brethren Institute-Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH

## Pastoral Placement

### Congregations actively in the search process:

**Ashland Dickey** – *Tom Zuercher* has resigned as pastor effective August **2018**. Search Committee preparing to look at profiles.

**Brook Park** – *Tom Michaels* serving as interim. Profile completed. Search Committee interviewing.

**East Nimishillen** – *Carolyn Kuryn* serving as interim. Search Committee completing profile.

**Pleasant View** – *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim. Search Committee reviewing profiles.

### Congregations that have chosen not to seek at this time:

**Bethel** – *David Wyant* serving as interim.

**Dupont** – *Steve Heilshorn* serving as interim.

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

**Lakewood** – *Gene Wyse* serving as interim.

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

**Woodworth** – *John Polanski* serving as interim.

Updated 09/29/17

## District Prayer Calendar

### October 29—November 4

Sugarcreek East CoB (Pastor Dick Marshall) and Swan Creek CoB (Pastor Dick Neuwirth)

### November 5—November 11

Woodworth CoB (Interim John Polanski) and Zion Hill CoB (Pastor Jason Harsh)

### November 12—November 18

Adrian CoB (Pastor David Morton) and Akron Eastwood CoB (Pastor Paul Bozman)

### November 19—November 25

Akron First CoB (Pastor Tobin Crenshaw) and Akron Springfield CoB (Pastor Alan Brumbaugh)

### November 26—December 2

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Tom Zuercher) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)



# Northern Ohio Ministry Training Program Certified

The **Buckeye Brethren Institute** (BBI), our Northern Ohio ministry training program, is now fully certified by the Brethren Academy of Ministerial Leadership as an Academy Certified Training System (ACTS). This is training that is recognized throughout our denomination as meeting the educational requirement for ordination. **Paul Bozman** (Pastor, Akron Eastwood) serves as the program coordinator and was instrumental in completing the application process.

Through BBI, Licensed ministers can receive the education necessary to move towards ordination and those already ordained can receive continuing education. Classes began in August under a provisional certification, with a class of twelve. Full accreditation was received in September. Classes meet at the District Office and the cost is minimal. **Paul Bozman** taught the first course: History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of the Brethren and **Tina Hunt** (Pastor, Ashland First) is currently teaching the second: Teaching and Learning in the Church. The next class begins January 13th with **Tom Zuercher** (Pastor, Ashland Dickey) teaching "Introduction to Pastoral Care." **You don't have to be clergy** - anyone interested can sign up for individual classes. Forms and information are on the District website ([www.nohcob.org](http://www.nohcob.org)) or call the District Office for more information.

## Disaster Kits—We will deliver them

As we seek ways to help those that have been impacted by the recent hurricanes, Brethren Disaster Ministries is collecting Emergency Clean-Up Buckets and Hygiene Kits on behalf of Church World Services. Many churches in our District have already initiated the assembly of Clean-up Buckets and Hygiene Kits. Please consider being a part of this important outreach. Use this link (<http://cwskits.org/>) to discover more about the contents and assembly of these kits – or call the District Office if you need instructions mailed.

We will arrange delivery to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor to save your church the shipping cost. Please contact the Northern Ohio District Office 419-281-3058 or [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org) by December 2nd to arrange for us to pick up your kits by December 9th for delivery. Thank you!





## National Youth Conference

Once every four years, a special conference is held to bring together youth from across the Church of the Brethren. Next year is that year! National Youth Conference will be held July 21-26 in Fort Collins, Colorado. Esther Harsh, our District Youth Coordinator is working to make sure that any youth eligible (those that have completed their freshman year through those that graduated in 2016) have opportunity to attend. Whether you have an entire youth group going – or just one young person interested; whether you have been fund-raising for this for several years – or this is the first time you've heard of this event, please contact Esther at [esther@nohcob.org](mailto:esther@nohcob.org)

Esther will help in booking travel if needed and teaming up churches who are interested. Please let her know as soon as possible if you have youth interested in attending. Please also let her know if you already have plans made. Youth can find more information at <https://www.facebook.com/nyc2018/>

## District Youth Activities

There are so many fun and exciting activities planned for the district youth this fall and into next year. After district conference in July, the young adults enjoyed a game night, and junior and senior high youth enjoyed a day at Cedar Point in September. Starting soon, youth have the opportunity to build their leadership skills

in the upcoming Leadership Series. We are teaming up with Inspiration Hills Camp to offer overnight leadership retreats where youth will learn about styles of leadership, how to deal with conflict and confrontation, cultural importance, leading with integrity, and much more! Youth will learn skills that will be helpful for future CITs, cabinet members, anyone part of a team/group and life in general. Cost is \$25 per session. If youth attend the first two, they come to the third one for free!

For most events, transportation can be arranged, and we have a scholarship fund available to help with cost if there is a financial need. For information regarding any details of the future events or to RSVP, please contact Esther at [esther@nohcob.org](mailto:esther@nohcob.org) or [330.880.7161](tel:330.880.7161) or visit our website: [nohcob.org/youth](http://nohcob.org/youth).

### SAVE THE DATES - YOUTH

2017	Oct. 21-22: Sr High Leadership Series #1 @ Camp
	Nov. 3-4: Recharge @ Dupont - Jr & Sr High
	Nov. 17: Young Adult Progressive Dinner
	Nov. 18-19: Sr High PowerHouse @ Camp Mack
	Dec. 1-2: Sr High Winter Fest @ Camp
	Dec. 8-9: Jr High Rally @ New Philadelphia
2018	Jan. 6: Youth Leader Training @ District Office
	Jan. 13-14: Sr High Leadership Series #2 @ Camp
	February TBA - Area Activities - Jr & Sr High
	February TBA - Jr High Rally
	Mar. 17-18: Sr High Leadership Series #3 @ Camp
	April 28: Jr & Sr High Camp Service & Fun Day
	TBA Spring Rallies for Jr and Sr High
	June 10-15: Sr High Camp @ Inspiration Hills
	June 17-22: Jr High Camp @ Inspiration Hills
	July 4-8: Annual Conference
	July 21-26: Sr High National Youth Conference
	August 3-4: District Conference

## Spring 2018 Women's Retreat

**April 20-21, 2018, Round Lake Christian Assembly, Lakeville, Ohio**

The SISTERS team invites you to the Spring Women's Retreat at Round Lake Christian Assembly (State Route 3 in Lakeville south of Wooster) April 20 and 21. Round Lake Lodge offers a serene escape from the busyness of our daily tasks. (Building is handicapped accessible too.)

Our speaker is Rev. Joy Sherman. She is pastor of the Community Church of God in Mt. Carmel, IL. Joy is a dynamic and gifted speaker, whose passion is seeing people come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and taking believers to a deeper spiritual experience. Come, be fed, revived, and renewed.

Cost for Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and over night is \$65. Start saving now and consider paying a registration for a SISTER as a Christmas gift. More details and sign up will be available on the District website after the holidays. Submitted by Tina Hunt, SISTERS Team



Pastor Joy Sherman of the Community Church of God



## Outreach in Our Communities

The Congregational Commission of the District Board provides a means of looking at project proposals of the churches of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren to provide opportunities for new growth or service beyond already established membership. At the Fall District Board Meeting, the Congregational Commission studied two Hottle Grant applications from Brook Park Community CoB and Elm Street CoB. Both proposals provide wonderful opportunities for outreach in their communities.

Brook Park Community CoB has been instrumental in the inception and continued operation of Audrey's Outreach, a program that seeks to assist any person in need through outreach efforts including a Food Pantry operating every Monday and Thursday; Free Community Meals; Free Hot Lunches; Free Clothing Giveaways; Free Summer Lunch Sack Program for school kids; and a Free Community Garden. They needed a replacement concrete driveway to provide access for the delivery of items for their free dinners and food giveaways. This Hottle Grant will help Brook Park Community CoB continue to provide and serve the more than 500 families or 200 people per month.

Elm Street CoB requested funds for The Wheelhouse, a missional service that intends to provide bicycles and build relationships with those in need. Used bicycles are donated through Church bike drives, organizations and individuals. The Wheelhouse is a build-a-bike ministry where volunteers work with those in need to repair a donated bicycle. Volunteers work with youth and those in financial need to repair and learn how to fix and maintain bicycles. Elm Street needed garage space for volunteers to help bike recipients fix the bikes in a shop. Volunteers are providing up to 6 bicycles per week.

Both of these proposals provided great potential for creating and establishing service beyond our membership and the walls of each church. After prayerful consideration, both proposals were recommended to the District Board for approval. The District Board approved the recommendation of the Congregational Commission.

All churches in the Northern Ohio District are encouraged to bring outreach and service proposals for consideration.

Barbara Wilch, Lakewood Church of the Brethren  
Congregational Commission Chair

## Thanksgiving Celebration Service



**November 19th, 6pm // Hosted by Akron  
Springfield CoB, Akron, Ohio**

The Akron-Canton ministerial group is inviting churches in the Northern Ohio District to attend a Thanksgiving celebration service of song and praise, Sunday evening at 6 pm on November 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Springfield CoB at 3500 Albrecht Ave., Akron, OH 44312. All churches are invited to share in the service with music (choir, solos, duets, and trios, quartettes, vocal or instrumental) as well as Thanksgiving poetry, stories, or short homilies. Please contact the Springfield church regarding how your church would like to share in this service. In order for us to prepare a bulletin, please phone or email us by Nov 10<sup>th</sup> --Phone: (330)-628-3058; Email, [Springfieldcob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Springfieldcob@sbcglobal.net). An offering will be taken for Disaster Relief. Refreshments will be served following the service.



# Hottle Grant Recipients

**Zion Hill** — This past spring, we (Zion Hill CoB) applied for a grant from the Hottle Fund to purchase a new playground. Our application was approved and by the middle of May we had a brand new vinyl playground. Since then, the playground has proved to be a wonderful addition to our church and has been used for Vacation Bible School, our children's program, church picnics and cookouts. It has been enjoyed by families from our church and kids within the community.



This has also been a chance to show the children within our church that they matter to us. We are not just concerned with maintaining the church building, paying bills, or "adult" things, but with things that matter to our kids and families. The new playground has provided some great times of fellowship, something new for families we invite to events, and has resulted in me being frequently asked, "Pastor Jason, can you give me an underdog?"

Thank you to those who have made the Hottle Fund available to the district's churches. I highly encourage other churches to take advantage of this gift to the district. Submitted by Pastor Jason Harsh

**Hartville** — Thank you, Hottle Memorial Fund Grant Committee for presenting the Hartville Church of the Brethren with a check for \$5,000.00 to assist our church and daycare center in purchasing a new van/bus. As I stated in our application, the new vehicle was necessary to stay in compliance with the State of Ohio in transporting our Loving Heart Christian Childcare children. The 2007 Starcraft Starlite 14 passenger bus meets all of the compliance points so that we can now transport the daycare children to various field trips and activities.



As was stated in our application, the cost of the vehicle was \$17,000.00. Including the \$5,000.00 figure from the Hottle Fund, the church and daycare would provide \$2,000.00, and we sought donors from within the church for the remaining \$10,000.00. I am extremely happy to say that our congregation really stepped up to our challenge and we raised the \$10,000.00 quickly! We purchased the van, had it customized with our church name and daycare name (which was included in the price of the bus), and it has been used quite often over the last six weeks. Thank you again for sharing the Hottle Funds with the Hartville Church of the Brethren. Submitted by Chris Snyder, Treasurer

**Lake Breeze** — Dear Brethren, We wish to thank you for the recent evangelistic grant provided to our church this year. We were at a point where we didn't have any options to turn to but with this particular grant we were able to gain access to a new small laptop with PowerPoint for the use (with our projector) of worship during our service. Some of our members are senior citizens and appreciate being able to better see the wording during sermon.

We were also able to replace our sound system mixer, replacing a 21 year old unit that recently had broken down. Along with the sound system, a headset microphone for our pastor was bought and that alone enhanced the experience of his preaching as well as everyone better to hear clearly.

We then purchased 300 ink pens with our Brethren logo and address, and purchased as many welcome

*Cont'd on Page 7*

## Hottle Grant Recipients (Cont'd from Page 6)

folders with information about our church. We again thank you for what we've been graced with, for we couldn't do all this without you and the Hottle grant. God Bless and talk to you soon. Submitted by Jim Wallace Poe, Board Chairman

**Pleasant View** — Dear Brian and the Northern Ohio District Brothers and Sisters, Thank you for your granting our request to pay for the TV monitor and DVD Blu-ray player for our Junior Church "What's in the Bible" program. Our youth enjoy the DVD's that have provided continuity for them while a different teacher takes a turn during church services. We have anywhere from 2 to 10 youth most Sundays that go downstairs after the "Children's Story."



With the new equipment, we have been able to set up a larger viewing area with more room for the children and plan to use the area in a variety of ways for our older youth activities.

We are grateful for your help to provide Bible curriculum for the future of Pleasant View CoB and ask for God's continued blessings on the Northern Ohio District and His churches. For Christ and the church. Submitted by Susan White, Clerk

**Mount Pleasant** — The Mt. Pleasant Community Garden was a recipient of a \$5,000 Hottle grant. The funds were used to purchase an 18x20 steel storage building to house our garden equipment. Pastor Bruce Jacobsen, Sam Davis and Phil Myers prepared the building site and the building was put into place on July 10, 2017. For the past three years our tractor, 4' tiller, 5' finish mower, and a trailer sat outside. We also purchased an ATV pull-type seeder with the grant money. Now, this equipment, as well as our irrigation and trellising supplies can be stored safely inside the building.



The purpose of the community garden is to glorify God by utilizing our resources to grow community relationships as we work together to alleviate hunger. Since its inception in 2011, the garden has donated 83,000 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Stark County Hunger Task Force and has welcomed over 75 community volunteers. Submitted by Julie Myers, Garden Coordinator







## Small Church with a Big Vision

Elm Street Church of the Brethren is part of the Lima downtown community and has long embraced the goal to impact the social and spiritual needs of the neighborhood. This mission has led to the formation of multiple ministry projects. The church partnered with Salem Mennonite Church in Elida in 2009 to provide a monthly community meal served at the Elm Street Church. In 2014 a formalized clothing ministry, God's Closet was initiated at the Elm Street Church. The partnership with Salem expanded in 2013 with a shared mission trip to Hindman, Kentucky to serve with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People). These projects established a relationship which ultimately led to conversations about The Wheelhouse – A Christian Bicycle Cooperative, a “build a bike” ministry to provide low cost transportation for adults in need.

The Elm Street Church location near downtown Lima and adjacent to the Lima bike path was an ideal location for The Wheelhouse. Recognizing the ministry possibilities, the leadership at Elm Street allowed the transformation of Sunday school classroom space into the bicycle shop beginning in the fall of 2016 and opening for operation early in 2017.

Bicycles are donated to The Wheelhouse through church bike drives and from members of the community. Adults in need are referred by social agencies or church mission outreach programs through a common application form. Clients are then scheduled to come to The Wheelhouse during one of three weekly bike repair sessions. The Wheelhouse volunteers work alongside the new cyclist to refurbish the bicycle. During this work time, volunteers initiate a relationship with the cyclist and, if possible, open a faith conversation. At the close of each repair session, a prayer is offered for the new cyclist. Clients not affiliated with a church are invited to attend the Elm Street Church of the Brethren or an affiliated church close to their residence. Each week, Pastor Doug Price provides a follow-up contact with the cyclists to encourage a church commitment.

The initial target for The Wheelhouse was to rehab 35 to 100 bikes during 2017 year. Capacity for the bike shop increased as 2 volunteers with over 20 years of experience with bike repair joined other Wheelhouse volunteers. As of this date, an average of 5 to 6 bikes are being repaired each week with over 125 adult bikes completed between February and October of this year. Additionally, 50 youth bikes have been donated to service agencies. Fifteen area churches have committed to be part of 'The Wheel of Churches' to provide support for *The Wheelhouse* operations. This support includes the occasional bike drive and funding through Pedal Partners who sponsor a bike, lock and helmet at a cost of \$30.

This rapid growth has stretched the capacity of the new mission. Currently the 14-person Steering Committee and the 15-volunteer mechanics are in the process of building a storage facility behind the Elm Street church to stabilize the ministry. Funds for this building project have been generously donated through the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren Hottle Memorial Fund, Ohio Conference Mennonite Church Ministry Development Fund, Everence Financial, and other individual contributors. Plans are for this storage facility to decrease bike storage transport, increase volunteer leadership capacity and involve more community members from the adjacent bike/pedestrian path with The Wheelhouse ministry.

Elm Street Church of the Brethren is thankful to be part of an urban center and grateful for opportunities to serve the community. As a congregation, we are committed to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors, thus continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Submitted by Doug Price, Pastor