

The Herald

Fall 2019

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

District Conference 2020

Plan on attending District Conference 2020 hosted by Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren August 7 & 8. The theme is Focusing on Jesus' Vision of His Church and For His Church, scripture reference Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:18-20. Brad Kelley, Commissioned Minister and Pastor of East Chippewa Church of the Brethren is our Moderator. Please visit our conference webpage www.nohcob.org/conference and Facebook page www.facebook.com/nohcobconference for more information.



Annual Conference 2020

From the Annual Conference Moderator

This coming year Moderator Paul Munday plans to do four pastoral letters to send out to congregations across the Church of the Brethren. Attached is the **fall pastoral letter**. Paul plans to do a similar letter in the winter, spring and summer. These could be used by churches for a Sunday School class, Bible Study group, or as devotions for a committee or board meeting. Please share this with members of your congregation and consider ways the church might use these thoughts in small groups, Sunday School, or Leadership meetings.

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District Conference 2019

2019-2020 District Board (*Elected in 2019)

Chair – Bruce Jacobsen*, Mount Pleasant

Vice Chair – Patrick Bailey, North Bend

Secretary – Deb Beer, County Line

Congregational Commission:

Chair – Mark Pollock, Brook Park

Vice Chair – Patrick Bailey, North Bend

Secretary – Agnes Hayhurst*, Reading

Member – Beverly Wengerd*, Paradise

Connections Commission:

Chair – Billi Janet Burkey, Center

Vice Chair – Dean Foster, Black River

Co-Secretary – Jean Garcia, Akron Springfield

Co-Secretary – Ellen Speicher, Woodworth

Ministerial Commission:

Chair – Tina Hunt*, Ashland First

Vice Chair – Ira Good, Dupont

Secretary – Fred Keener*, Bristolville

Member – Jim Gorrell*, Faith in Action

Stewardship & Finance Commission:

Chair – Maria Nichols, Lakewood

Vice Chair – David Bassett*, Pleasant View

Secretary – Charlene Kuhn, Richland

Member – Kevin Wilson*, Dupont

Additional Election Results:

Moderator Elect

Brian Layman, Hartville

District Conference Central Committee

Christine Harkless, Elm Street

Nominating Committee

Jim Masten, Lick Creek

Sherry Reese Vaught, Paradise

Camp Administration Committee

Jessi Adams, Ashland Dickey

Jean Nesbitt, Akron Springfield

Ed Wartluft, Freeburg

District Conference Approves 2020 Budget

The District Conference delegates approved the 2020 budget as recommended by the District Board. The total budget amount for 2020 is \$202,414 – a reduction of \$35,823 from the 2019 budget.

The delegates were asked to encourage conversation within each of their churches about contributions (self-allocations) to District Ministries. Dave Bassett from the Stewardship and Finance Commission presented information showing the difference that just a 3% increase by each church in giving would make as we work together to balance the budget. That information is available at www.nohcob.org/bridge.

Conference Statistics

Attendance:

Registration—240

Friday Worship—170

Saturday Worship—114

Insight Sessions—226

Pre-Conference Workshop—65

Non-delegate Session—21

Offerings:

Friday—\$874.00

(for the Brethren Disaster Ministries)

Saturday—\$639.00

(for conference expenses)

Total: \$1,513.00

Peace Auction—\$1,812.50
(this is the highest collected since 2008)

Several items were also donated for **Mohican Grocery Bag Ministry** serving the local community.



SISTERS Women's Spring Retreat May 1-2, 2020 Round Lake Christian Center

We hope you will plan to join us May 1-2, 2020 at Round Lake Christian Center for our Women's Spring Retreat sponsored by SISTERS. Please check our webpage for more information as it becomes available: www.nohcob.org/sisters

We would like to give a special word of thanks to County Line Church of the Brethren along with Pastor

Chris Ewing, Liz Hancock and Deb Beer for hosting and making our Women's Fall Retreat a wonderful time of ministry, fellowship and food! Pictured are some of the attendees at County Line CoB.



Thank you
Leslie
Heilshorn,
Dupont CoB, for
providing these
pictures.

Sending Sunday at County Line Church

On Sunday, September 29, 2019, Pastor Chris Ewing led the congregation from County Line Church into our community. Being a “country church” nestled in the middle of farm land, our neighbors are spread out for miles in all directions. We were looking for a way to reach out and just let them know that there was a church “just up the road” that was there for them. There were three areas of outreach: blessing our neighbors, visiting those members of our congregation that are no longer able to come to our services and helping a local non-profit organization. Members of the congregation were asked to choose the area in which they wanted to serve. In all, 100 members participated in this event and concluded the morning with a lunch at the church, sharing their stories of blessing.

Blessing Our Neighbors



A member of the congregation works for Proctor & Gamble. The company blessed our church with a gift of laundry and personal care products worth about \$20,000 earlier this year. A couple of people got a list of our neighbors from public voting records and we came up with a map of homes within a 2-mile radius

of our church. Fifteen to twenty teams of 2 or 3 church members went door to door with packages of the P&G products, just saying hello and asking if there were any needs the families had that they would like someone to pray with them about. Over 200 households were reached and numerous needs were shared and prayed for on porches, by front doors and in yards. Many people were shocked that we would just give them a “no strings attached” gift and were so appreciative that someone would want to pray for them. The requests were brought back to the church and typed up for the church to continue praying for these needs.

Visiting Our Missed Members

Four couples split up and went to spend a little quality time with some of our members that aren’t able to fellowship at the church any longer due to age and illness. Great conversations were shared as people were encouraged and relationships were strengthened.

Bluffton Senior Citizens Center

A group of 16 church members went to the Bluffton Senior Center to serve at a non-profit organization. We picked this site because Deb Beer, a member of the congregation, works at the Senior Center. A list of about 15 jobs was waiting for them. “I wanted to have plenty of jobs to keep everyone busy,” said Deb Beer. The group tackled both heavy and light duty projects, such as moving display cases, washing windows, scrubbing ovens, sanitizing over 100 chairs, dusty and arranging items on glass display shelves, and polishing wood cupboards. In only two hours, the group accomplished absolutely everything on the list.

Article submitted by Chris Ewing, Pastor County Line CoB

Mohican Blesses Lake Breeze

On Sunday September 22, Lake Breeze CoB, of Sheffield Village had the unexpected blessing of a visit from District Executive Minister Kris Hawk. In the course of conversation with Interim Pastor Stephen McLaughlin she asked what needs the Church might have. The Church had been praying for a while about a few things, one being grounds keeping needs, and the repair and cleaning of the gutters on the Church building. Kris indicated that there might be folks in the district that could help.

Later Kris approached Pastor Paul Bartholomew of Mohican Church of the Brethren about these needs. He took these concerns to heart and expressed an interest in helping. On Tuesday October 22, Pastor Paul, Associate Pastor Chad Palmer, Robert Altenburger, and Ben Bartlett came up from Mohican in the morning. They worked for several hours and completed the work. Much to the delight and blessing of the congregation and surrounding community. The congregation would like to express its warm gratitude to all those who were involved in helping with this work, to Kris, the Mohican CoB men, and the Lake Breeze Ladies who served a nice lunch. Rich blessings in Christ to you, one and all.

Article submitted by Stephen McLaughlin, Interim Pastor Lake Breeze CoB

Mansfield First CoB Window Replacement Project



The Mansfield First Church of the Brethren has been engaged in renewing, restoring, and upgrading the church building on 889 Grace St., over the last four years. It is believed that when inviting people into our church, we should present the church building as who we are spiritually. With that thought, we have completed many projects to allow the church to be an inviting place to come and to worship.

Some examples of the work that has been completed: Remodeled the kitchen, painted the fellowship hall, installed new lights in the fellowship hall, replaced ceiling tile in the reception room and overflow room in the sanctuary, renewed the décor in the entry way, replaced the main entry door, installed a video system (with the help from the Hottle Grant in 2018) and finally replacing windows that needed replacing for a

long time. Several of the old panes had dropped several inches allowing for heat loss during the winter months.



The Mansfield First CoB approached the Congregational Committee of the Northern Ohio District board in March 2019 for a \$5,000.00 Hottle Grant to help with the window project. The total cost of the project was \$6,419.25. The Northern Ohio District board granted \$5,000.00 for the project. The project was completed on July 16th.

The window project enhanced the overall appearance of the exterior of the church. The windows will help to save on fuel costs because of the newer thicker glass. The new windows have a better seal to help with reducing the heat loss. They also allow more light into the rooms.

This project is one of the many projects to allow the congregation to continue to upgrade and repair the church facility. Thank you, Northern Ohio District for your concern and granting the \$5,000.00 for our window project.

Article submitted by Vaughn Loose, Pastor Mansfield First CoB

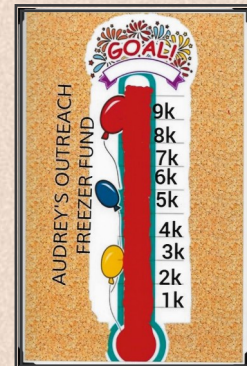
Brook Park CoB Faith in Action Grant

Brook Park Community Church of the Brethren is in the process of installing a much-needed outdoor walk-in freezer/cooler for use at their Audrey's Outreach food pantry ministry located at the church. These units will allow produce and dairy products to be kept fresh longer and frozen items stored on site next to the Fellowship Hall.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank kick started the project with a \$10,000 donation toward the total project cost of \$35,000. In addition, a generous patron pledged up to \$10,000 with a one to one matching contribution. That challenge was met resulting in \$20,000. The final \$5,000 needed was received from a Brethren Faith in Action Fund grant.

The equipment pad has been completed and the walk-in freezer/cooler and the units are scheduled to be installed on the pad next week. Work upgrading the electrical service to the building and connecting the units will begin shortly after the units are in place.

Article submitted by Mike Ramser, Brook Park Community CoB



Black River CoB Grant Project

We would like to thank the district board and the Hottle Fund for the \$5,000.00 granted to us. We requested this grant to add a video/sound system and screens in our sanctuary.

We have had the pleasure of this addition for the past month or so. We will now be able to increase our outreach possibilities, such as “Movie Nights” or “Web Seminars.” With the ability to connect with internet, we have additional resources in teaching and worship.

Comments since the installation took place have been interesting. We would like to share a couple. From our worship team came “Kinda scary with all of you looking at us as opposed to your eyes on the hymnals.” From the congregation “So nice to not only hear but see the praise team as they lead us in song.”

Our praise team has a bit of practice to adjust to the new sounds. They can actually hear their own voices as they sing the old hymns and praise songs with the new speakers.

We are looking forward to using the system in July when we have Vacation Bible School. Nothing like seeing our kids getting excited as they sing the many songs they learn that week.

We are sure there are other things to enhance the system so we will be taking notes and suggestions from our congregation. We have a few that have hearing problems so that is one addition we will be working to add.

Thru the generosity of our members and thru holding “spaghetti” & “soup & sandwich” fund raising dinners during the year we were able to match the \$5,000.00 granted from the district board and Hottle fund. Our surrounding community, friends and family of our congregation attend these dinners regularly.



Black River CoB Praise Team
singing “How Great is Our God”

We would like to add, in addition to matching the grant, we were able to cover in full the costs of camp fees for the summer. Five of our children will be attending one camp, one will attend two camps and one “young man” along with “Grandma & Grandpa” will also have the experience of spending spiritual growth time at our beautiful Inspiration Hills Camp.

Thanks to all involved, our Black River Church congregation, young and old, send our thanks. This picture is of our praise team leading the congregation in one of our favorite praise songs “How Great is Our God.”

Article submitted by Mark Teal, Pastor Black River CoB

County Line CoB Church Improvement Loan

County Line Church is very appreciative of the \$16,575 we were able to borrow from the newly created Church Improvement Loan Fund. The money was used for roof maintenance on our sanctuary. Lee Construction of Delphos cleaned and painted the metal roof which was more than 35 years old. They also painted the “ornamental” steeple on the building.

Our contractor did a fantastic job. As a matter of fact, we asked him to do a small, additional job separately while he had the mobile lift equipment on site. We needed some gutters refastened/



repaired on the old sanctuary. He not only did that job for us, but refused to send a bill.



Having access to this loan money at no interest is a wonderful service the Northern Ohio District is offering to congregations. We hope more

congregations take advantage of this program.

Article submitted by Deb Beer, County Line CoB



Name _____
 Mailing address _____
 City, state, zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Church club (circle one) \$14.50 for 1 year \$27 for 2 years
 First-time subscriber (circle one) \$8.75 for the first year \$7.25 if in a church club
 Individual subscription (circle one) \$17.50 for 1 year \$32 for 2 years
 Student: \$1.25 per issue or \$10 for 8-month subscription

I am paying by: Check Credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
 Name on credit card _____
 Card # _____ Expiration _____ Security code (3 numbers on back of card) _____

Please return this form to your church's MESSENGER representative or mail with payment to
MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

Condolences



Max Canfield (Ordained Pastor of the New Philadelphia Church of the Brethren) passed away unexpectedly on September 27th. Max was Board Chair at New Philadelphia when he was called as pastor of the congregation. He faithfully served in that role since 2001. He also served the

District as part of the Ministerial Commission and he, together with his wife, Sis, served as hospitality coordinators for the Clergy-Spouse retreat. Please keep Sis, their family and the New Philadelphia church in prayer.



Wayne Wheeler (Ordained, retired pastor) passed away October 20 at age 96. Wayne was recognized at District Conference this year for 73 years as an Ordained Minister in the Church of the Brethren. He served as Pastor to the Richland congregation from 1963-1966 and at New

Philadelphia from 1966-1977 as well as a number of congregations in other districts throughout the denomination.

Upcoming Events

- 11/02 Men's Retreat (Inspiration Hills Camp, Burbank)
- 11/04 Nominating Committee (District Office/Zoom)
- 11/06 Western Area Pastors Lunch (The Barn Restaurant, Archbald)
- 11/09 District Board Meeting (East Nimishillen CoB)
- 11/12 Eastern Area Pastors Lunch (Front Porch Cafe, Hartville)
- 11/13 Central Area Clergy Breakfast (Tim Hortons, Ashland)
- 11/16 BBI New Testament Survey (District Office)
- 11/21 Pastor's Workshop (Ashland First)
- 11/23 Constitution Committee Meeting (County Line)
- 11/28-29 District Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/23-27 District Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

District Prayer Calendar

October 27—November 2

Owl Creek CoB (Pastor Charles Barnhill) and Painesville CoB (Pastors John & Sondra Bocchieri)

November 3—November 9

Paradise CoB (Pastor Terry Vaught) and Pleasant View CoB (Pastor James Washington)

November 10—November 16

Poplar Ridge CoB (Pastor Ben Polzin) and Reading CoB (Pastor Larry Bradley)

November 17—November 23

Richland CoB (Pastor Jim Frado, Jr.) and Ross CoB (Preacher, Keith Stoller)

November 24—November 30

Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin) and Sugar Creek West CoB (Pastor Michael Huffaker)

December 1—December 7

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

December 8—December 14

Woodworth CoB (Preacher, John Polanski) and Zion Hill CoB (Interim Scott McPeek)

December 15—December 21

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

December 22—December 28

Akron First CoB (Pastor Tobin Crenshaw) and Akron Springfield CoB (Pastor Andrew Wenger)

December 29—January 4

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Jeff Messner) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)

January 5—January 11

Bethel CoB (Pastor David Wyant) and Black River CoB (Pastor Mark Teal, Associate Pastors Dean Foster and Cullen Thompson)

January 12—January 18

Bristolville CoB (Pastor Fred Keener) and Brook Park Community CoB (Pulpit Supply)

January 19—January 25

Center CoB (Pastor Mark Kell) and Chippewa CoB (Pastor Bill Eley)

January 26—February 1

County Line CoB (Pastor Chris Ewing) and Defiance CoB (Pastor Gene Yenser)

Clergy Spouse Retreat 2020

February 16-18, Days Inn & Suites
Richland, Ohio

Sponsored by Northern Ohio District
Ministerial Commission

All ordained, commissioned, licensed clergy, interims, and spouses are invited. This is a time to laugh, time to learn, time for worship, quiet time, social time, and free time. One day registration is available and 0.5 CEU's will be issued for clergy. More information to follow. Please visit our website to register online: at www.nohcob.org/retreat.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Brook Park (part-time) – Search Committee interviewing. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Zion Hill – *Scott McPeek* serving as interim.

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

Lake Breeze – *Stephen McLaughlin* serving as interim.

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

Mansfield First – *Vaughn Loose* resigned as pastor effective November 3rd. *Tom Michaels* to serve as interim.

New Philadelphia – *Pastor Max Canfield* passed away September 27th. *David Hobbs* providing pulpit supply.

Painesville – *John & Sondra Bocchieri* have resigned as pastors effective January 15th.

Reading – *Larry Bradley* has resigned as pastor effective July 26th.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Akron Springfield – *Andrew Wenger* has been called as Pastor and will begin November 25th. *Cindy Peel* serving as interim.

Inspiration Hills Camp SUMMER 2020

SAVE THE DATE

2020 Winter Camps/Reunions

Jr. High Weekend Blowout January 17-19
Junior Camp January 17-19

2020 Summer Camp Schedule

Staff Training	May 31-June 5
Weekend Bash	June 6-7
Grand Camp	June 7-9
Mom & Me Camp #1	June 10-11
Senior High Camp	June 14-19
Sr High Worship Arts	June 14-19
Junior High Camp	June 21-26
Jr High Worship Arts	June 21-26
Beginners Camp	June 28-30
Annual Conference	July 1-5
Junior Camp	July 5-10
Fine Arts Camp	July 19-24
Mom & Me Camp #2	July 20-21
Grand Camp #2	July 24-26
Family Camp	July 24-26
Junior Camp "Light"	July 28-31
Beginners Camp 2.0	July 28-31
Mountain Adventure	TBA

inspirationhillscamp.org



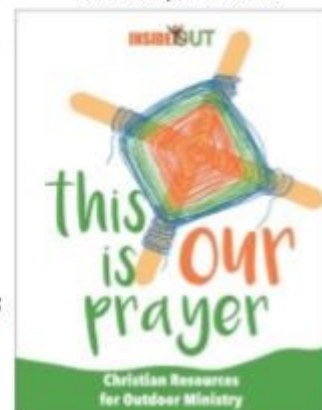
CALLING ALL EDUCATORS!

Can you make learning fun? Do you have new ideas for teaching kids about what it means to follow Christ? If so, we need your help!

The Camp Administration Committee of Inspiration Hills Camp is searching for several talented individuals to add to the camp's Program Committee. This committee works with the Camp Director and Program Staff to review and supplement the summer curriculum and provide training for Chaplains, Volunteers, Summer Staff and CIT's. Additionally, this committee helps plan off-season camp events for kids and the community that specifically target returning campers and un-churched children and adults.

If you are willing to be on this committee that meets 6 times throughout the year, please contact Linda Smith at lworth.reliv@gmail.com, or Inspiration Hills Camp at info@inspirationhillscamp.org; text 330 621-4575.

2020 Camp Curriculum:



Save the Date!

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7,
2019
10am-1pm**

Celebrate the birth of Christ with your family at camp; we will have something for all ages! The day will begin with a brunch at 10am followed by Christmas Crafts & Cookie Decorating. We will finish up our time together with caroling around the campfire (weather permitting) and a very special Birthday Party. We can't wait to see you there!

419-846-3010 www.inspirationhillscamp.org

District Staff Hours & Office Holiday Hours

The District Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the office will be closed November 27-29 and December 23-27.

District Executive Minister, **Kris Hawk** will be at the Council of District Executives meeting January 24-29, in Florida. Kris takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, **Julie Watson** is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Julie will be on vacation December 20-January 3. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org.

Youth Coordinator, **Esther Harsh** is in the office on Mondays. She can be reached at 330-880-7161 or esther@nohcob.org. Thank you!