

The Herald

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

VOLUME 62 | ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY 2018

Spring 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. You may register online or by mail. Visit the SISTERS webpage at www.nohcob.org/SISTERS. Article submitted by Tina Hunt, SISTERS Team



Pastor Joy Sherman,
Community Church of God



Round Lake Christian
Assembly

Table of Contents

Spring Women's Retreat	1
What's So Important About Your Local Congregation	2
Celebration of Service, Charlene Oliver, Center CoB Organist ..	2
Youth Leader Training	2
Pastoral Placement.....	3
District Prayer Calendar	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
District Youth Events	4
District Conference 2018	5
Buckeye Brethren Institute	5
Welcome New Pastor	5
Disabilities Seminar.....	6
Hottle Disbursements	6
Disaster Relief Kits	6
New and Renew	7
Mission Alive	8
Annual Conference Volunteers Needed.....	8
Meet the Moderator (Annual Conference).....	8

What's So Important About Your Local Congregation?

Article by Dr. Frank Pettigrew, Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren; Congregational Commission Vice-Chair



At a time when there's more Bible teaching than you could ever consume available through radio, television, and the Internet, why should it matter where and how you're taking in God's truth? What's wrong with virtual, web-based congregations for the digital-age church? Why can't your Smartphone be your worship leader, your tablet be your pastor, and your friends be your fellowship? The answer is straight forward: that's not the way God designed it.

The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes the importance of local assemblies. In fact, it was the pattern of Paul's ministry to establish local congregations in the cities where he preached the gospel. Active

involvement in your local congregation is imperative to living a life without compromise. It is only through the ministry of the local church that a believer can receive the kind of teaching, accountability, and encouragement that is necessary for members to stand firm in their convictions. God has ordained that the church provide the kind of environment where an uncompromising life can thrive and His congregation can grow spiritually.

How can each of us be responsible members of our congregation? I'd like to start by trying to answer the question, in the church, the role of the congregation is: everything. Nothing gets done that's not done by

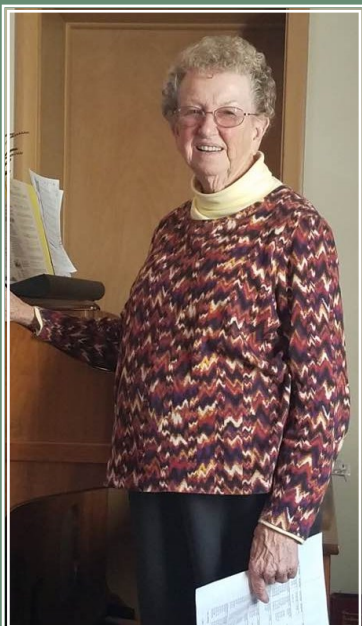
the congregation. There is no distinction between the leaders of a church and its members: the leaders are members. Leadership is a function rather than a position. Leading is a role that some people have in the church, just as other have a role of administration, of pastoring, of evangelism or any of the other ministries which God calls people to serve. If the church is like a car, then the role of the leaders is not to provide the power, everybody is needed for that, it's merely to steer the car.

The Congregational Commission of the Northern Ohio District is here to help congregations in a variety of ways, please contact us for assistance.

Celebration of Service

Charlene Oliver, Center CoB Organist

On October 22 Louisville's Center Church of the Brethren recognized Charlene Oliver's 50th year as our church organist. In 1967 Charlene sign a contract with the church for this "job". At some point early it stopped being just a job and she became a integral part of the church's ministries; from serving as Sunday School teacher, church clerk, choir director, deacon, and continues playing almost every week at the organ. Thank you Charlene and here's to many more years serving together.



Youth Leader Training Event on Sexual Integrity/Pornography, held January 5, 2018 Ashland First Church of the Brethren

Twenty-three pastors, youth leaders and parents attended a "How To" Session on talking with youth about sexual integrity and pornography. Our guest speaker was Bill Quigley, [Doctorate of Ministry & Master of Divinity, Professor of Youth Ministry at Malone University]. Bill shared valuable insight into God's Word as it applies to both spiritual and physical relationships. He also covered child physical and psychological development. He challenged churches to be a safe place for youth to talk about difficult subjects and youth advisors and parents to not be afraid of candid conversation. (Photo by Tina Hunt)

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland Dickey – *Tom Zuercher* retiring in August 2018. Search Committee reviewing pastoral profiles.

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

East Nimishillen – *Carolyn Kuryn* serving as interim. Profile complete.

Maple Grove – *John Ballinger* serving as interim. Search Committee being formed.

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

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

Bethel – *David Wyant* serving as interim.

Dupont – *Steve Heilshorn* serving as interim.

County Line – *Tom Dearth* has resigned as pastor effective January 19th. *Chris Ewing* has resigned as Associate Pastor effective March 1st.

Lake Breeze – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Lakewood – *Gene Wyse* serving as interim.

Woodworth – *John Polanski* serving as interim.

Special Circumstances:

Jonah's People Fellowship – *Scott Hall* serving as interim while *Barry Belknap* is undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

Ross – *Jerry Holscher* is providing pulpit supply while *Keith Stoller* is on medical leave.

District Prayer Calendar

January 28—February 3

Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry Belknap and Interim Scott Hall) and Lake Breeze CoB (Pulpit Supply)

February 4—February 10

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

February 11—February 17

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

February 18—February 24

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

February 25—March 3

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

Mark Your Calendar

2/10—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH

2/12—Nominating Committee Meeting, Via Zoom

2/13—Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

2/17—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH

2/18-20—Clergy-Spouse Retreat, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH

2/24—Youth Western Area Skating Event, Edgewood Skate Arena, Lima, OH

3/3—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Orientation, District Office, Ashland, OH

3/3—Youth Central/Eastern Area Bowling Event, Eastbury Lanes, Canton, OH

3/9-10—Jr. High Rally, Dupont CoB, Dupont, OH

3/10—District Board Meeting, Good Shepherd Home, Fostoria, OH

YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Photos: Top L - Northern Ohio Youth attend PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference with other COB youth from the midwest. Top R - Youth brainstorm ideas for a team building activity at the Leadership Session. Bottom - Youth attend a day of fun at Cedar Point. Jr High youth put together Hygiene Kits at the Winter Rally at New Philadelphia COB.



Don't miss out!

Northern Ohio Youth have had many opportunities to get involved this past fall and winter, and there are many more upcoming events planned. Since District Conference, youth have been able to participate in a trip to Cedar Point, travel to Camp Mack in Indiana for PowerHouse Regional Youth Conference, attend our first Leadership Session, and come together for rallies. Many District Youth attended Dupont's annual over nighter, Recharge, as well. The Young Adults have been stirring and have met for a Game Night and Progressive Dinner.

Upcoming Events:

- February 24: Roller Skating (West Churches Jr/Sr) - Edgewood Skate Arena
- March 3: Bowling (Central/Eastern Churches -Jr/Sr) - Eastbury Bowling Alley
- March 9-10: Jr. High Rally - Location TBA
- March 17-18, 2018: Sr. High Leadership Series #3
- April 28, 2018: Service and Fun Day @ Camp - Jr/ Sr
- TBA Spring Rallies for Jr and Sr High
- July 21-26, 2018: Sr High National Youth Conference
- August 3-4, 2018: District Conference

Visit www.nohcob.org/youth for more info!

Northern Ohio 2018 District Conference



Some highlights:

- ♦ Pre-Conference Workshop: “Sharing the Good Life” led by Kayla Alphonse, pastor of the Miami Church of the Brethren
- ♦ Friday Night: Speaker—Moderator Terry Porter
- ♦ Friday Night: Performing Arts Camp led by our youth
- ♦ Saturday Night: Speaker—Jeff Carter, President Bethany Seminary
- ♦ ICE CREAM!

Buckeye Brethren Institute Receives Accreditation from Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership



Left to Right: Steve Simmons, Ministerial Chair; Paul Bozman, Ministry Education Director; Janet Ober Lambert, Director Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; Kris Hawk, District Executive; Tom Zuercher, District Board Chair

During the November 11, 2017 District Board meeting, the Ministerial Commission was presented with a formal certificate from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership for its ACTS program, Buckeye Brethren Institute. Janet Ober Lambert, Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, presented the certificate to the Ministerial Commission and shared her support and enthusiasm for the program.

Wayne Scott Installed as Pastor at Eden CoB

Sunday, October 29th was a day of great joy as Wayne Scott was installed as the Pastor at the Eden Church of the Brethren. Pastor Wayne was also commissioned in the Church of the Brethren on this Sunday morning. He had served for almost two years as Interim Pastor at Eden before being called as part-time pastor. Wayne is ordained in the United Methodist Church and works as a chaplain for Medina County Hospice.

Wayne and his wife, Tricia have four daughters: Abigail (24 - graduate of Baldwin Wallace Univ.), Elizabeth (21 and a Senior at Otterbein Univ.), Lydia (18 and a freshman at Baldwin Wallace), and Esther (16 and a sophomore at Perry High School).

Wayne writes “add my profound thanksgiving to God and God's People for this wonderful blessing. And thanks to YOU, and to Eden, and to the District Board, and to Mark Bowyer (for preaching on my installation Sunday), and to family and friends who shared in that day. And my profound faith that God has wonderful things in store for Eden, and for the entire District (in my humble opinion) -- never lose faith! The BEST days of God's Church are always AHEAD!!”



Wayne and Patricia Scott

Disabilities Ministry Training

March 17, 10am—3pm

Mohican Church of the Brethren,
West Salem, Ohio

Keynote Speaker: **Debbie Eisenbise**

Disabilities Ministry...what does that really mean?

As congregations seek to serve the communities around them, one area of need is being inclusive of those with disabilities. What physical plant changes are needed; what sound equipment; what types of programs etc.

*And when they could not bring [the
paralyzed man] to Jesus because of
the crowd, they removed the roof
above him..."— Mark 2:3-4
(paraphrased)*



The Disabilities Ministry is committed to opening doors and building bridges in the Church of the Brethren and beyond so that all may worship, serve, be served, learn, and grow in the presence of God as a valued member of our Christian community.
(www.brethren.org)



Debbie Eisenbise has served in various areas of ministry in the Church of the Brethren including Brethren Volunteer Service, Intergenerational Ministries, and the Open Roof Fellowship. She is currently serving on the Anabaptist Disabilities

Network as a field associate.

She encourages caring ministries that impact all generations: inclusion of persons of all abilities, abuse prevention, and gifts discernment. She is an ordained minister and spiritual director. She lives in Michigan with her husband and her cat, and has a daughter in college.

Lunch will be provided. A \$5.00 donation is suggested for attendance. You may register online for this event at www.nohcob.org/events.

2017 Annual Hottle Grant Disbursement to Congregations

Ashland First CoB

Thank you for your generous gift from the Hottle account. We are in the process of getting church improvement quotes, which includes handicap accessibility to multiple levels.

Marion First CoB

We are happy to share that the Marion First Church of the Brethren used the funds from the Foundation to support a couple of local charities- Love Inc. and Marion County Salvation Army. We also purchased 2 water buffaloes supporting Heiffer International. We appreciate the ability to support these worthwhile causes. Submitted by Bev Young, Board Chair

Disaster Relief Kits

398 Health kits and 14 Clean up Buckets were delivered to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor Maryland. They will be used by Church World Service as they minister to disaster victims. Thank you to Akron Springfield, Bristolville, Brook Park, Eden, Poplar Ridge, and the district youth who contributed to this truck load. Other churches in our district have individually sent kits for Church World Service. Thank you for your hearts of ministry.



Scott from the Brethren Service Center, loads a pallet with the Clean up Buckets and Health kits given by Churches in the Northern Ohio District.

New and Renew

Revitalize Plant Grow

May 16-19, 2018

Bethany Theological Seminary

The Risk & Reward of Embodying Jesus Locally
a conference for new and renewing congregations

Risk. Ask any church planter, and one of the first things they are likely to tell you is that it takes great deal of risk to enter into the difficult work of planting a new church. God took a risk sending Christ into the world, to move into the neighborhood with us. Come and explore with us the ways that we can do risk well as we go about the work of planting new communities of faith across our country and the world. Share your own experiences of risk in the work of church planting, as well as hearing how others have handled the risks and challenges of this important work.

Keynote Speakers



Christiana Rice is an on-the-ground practitioner and visionary voice in the missional movement, serving as a coach and trainer with Thresholds (thresholdscommunity.org), a community of player-coaches who help people create spaces of discovery and communities of transformation. Christiana seeks to participate in God's restorative mission in all things. She leads a neighborhood faith community in San Diego. She grew up in Tokyo, Japan, a daughter of missionaries to that country.

She co-authored the book, *To Alter Your World: Partnering with God to Rebirth our Communities*, with Michael Frost. February 2017 publication. She has developed articles for the Junia Project and Outreach Magazine.



Orlando Crespo helped plant and serve as one of the founding pastors for New Life in The Bronx Church, the first English speaking CM&A church in the Bronx. Serves as Interim Director of Multiethnic Ministries and the Director of LaFe, Latino Ministries with InterVarsity, through which he travels developing Latino student leaders, training campus ministers, and speaking on college campuses and at churches on multiethnic diversity, cross-cultural ministry, ethnic identity and leadership.

He authored the book *Being Latino in Christ* and developed articles for Christianity Today, InterVarsity, and Sojourners.

New Church Advisory Committee: Rudy Amaya, Ryan Braught, Steve Gregory, Don Mitchell, Deb Oskin, Nate Polzin, Cesia Salcedo, Doug Veal.

CLM staff: Gimbiya Kettering, Randi Rowan, Stan Dueck

Visit www.brethren.org/churchplanting/2018/ for more information and to register online.





A Gathering of God's people...

A Global Church of the Brethren

April 6-8, 2018

Frederick Church of the Brethren

Frederick, MD

Theme

Behold! A gathering of people too numerous to count, from all across this earth, praising God in all sorts of languages and uniting to follow Jesus Christ, the Lord of Love.

This is the heavenly vision of Revelation 7:9, and the Church of the Brethren is seeking to live into an earthly vision to match. Can you see it?

Behold! A global Church of the Brethren—a spiritual community bound together by a common passion to be followers of Christ, a common New Testament theology of peace and service, and a common commitment to be in relationship with one another.

Mission Alive serves as an opportunity to:

- Rejoice in the growing presence of the Church of the Brethren across the globe
- Explore what it truly means to be a global church and how each district, congregation, and individual can take part
- Commit to investing in this vision

Full conference:

Early registration (through February 15): \$85

Full conference: \$110

Saturday only: \$50

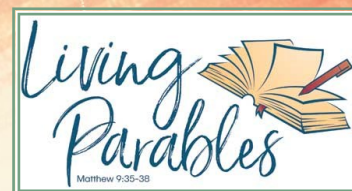
Student (high school, college, or seminary): \$50

Family full conference: \$170

CEU credit will be available for the cost of \$10 per ordained person

Details and registration can be found at www.brethren.org/missionalive2018.

2018 Annual Conference Volunteers Needed



The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati. Southern Ohio District will be hosting the conference with the theme of "Living Parables." Our district has the opportunity to be a "living parable" by assisting and serving in some capacity at the conference.

Volunteers are needed to assist with Early Childhood Care; Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Junior High, Senior High, Young Adults, Single Adults, Conference Registration, Ticket Sales, Ushering, Unloading (7/3/18) and Loading (7/8/18) of equipment.

Click here to download a form, check your interests, provide your contact information and send it to Glenn and Linda Timmons, On Site Co-Coordinators by February 1, 2018. (4481 Valleybrook Drive, Englewood, OH 45322) If you have questions, call us at 937-832-2630 (H) or 937-623-5609 (C)

Meet the Moderator

April 15th, 3:00 p.m.

Mohican Church of the Brethren, West Salem, OH

Mark your calendars for Sunday April 15th at 3:00pm. Samuel Sarpiya, Annual Conference Moderator, will hold our Annual Conference Delegate Briefing at Mohican Church of the Brethren. This session is for Annual Conference delegates, pastors, and all who would like to know more of what will be happening at Annual Conference this year in Cincinnati July 4-8th. Come hear of the fellowship and learning opportunities, the business items to be decided, and Samuel's vision for this Conference.

Brother Samuel, pastor at the Rockford, Illinois Church of the Brethren, will also be preaching at both services at Mohican on Sunday morning.

