

# The Herald

## Winter 2022

THE NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

### Restoring Congregational Vitality Workshop

Date: March 4-5, 2022

Location: Maple Grove Church of the Brethren

Presenter: Galen Hackman

The Church is struggling. Maybe you noticed. What was already true before the pandemic has, for many congregations, been escalated. More than a few congregations are living on the margins of existence. Can dry bones live again? The answer is "Yes, but it is not easy." Revitalization is the work of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith as Christ becomes center and we become more spiritually and emotionally healthy. This seminar considers the pathways to vitality building on the simple idea that healthy organisms grow naturally.

Pastors, church leaders, and those in the congregation longing for renewal are invited to participate in this workshop on **March 4-5 at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren** sponsored by the District Congregational Commission. Galen Hackman will lead us through topics as: *The Church as a Pneumatic Community, Focus on Jesus and the Gospel, Worship and Preach for Transformation, Practice the Priesthood of All Believers, Establish a*

*Permission-Giving, Holy Spirit-Led Culture*, among others.

We will begin on Friday, March 4 at 6:30 pm with worship and the opening session from 7 pm – 8:30 pm. Saturday will begin at 8:30 am and we will close at 4:30 pm. Lunch is provided. The cost is \$25/person or a maximum of \$75 per church to help cover the costs. CEUs (0.75) will be available for pastors. You can register online at [www.nohcob.org/workshop](http://www.nohcob.org/workshop) or by contacting the District Office.

Galen Hackman has served the Church of the Brethren and other churches/ministries, as a pastor, missionary, teacher, writer, and mentor. He began his ministry pastoring in several CoB congregations, and then went to work with the EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) teaching at Kulp Bible College.

After Nigeria, Galen served as pastor at Conewago and Ephrata. In 2015 he left pastoral ministry to focus on working with congregations in transition, coaching pastors, training leaders and writing.

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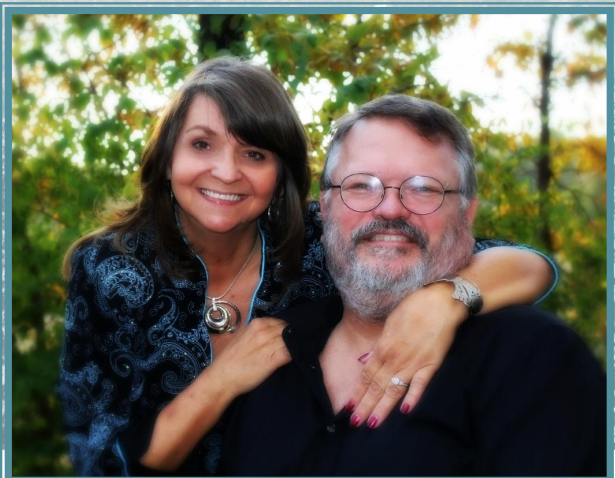
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Galen Hackman





## WELCOME NEWLY LICENSED MINISTERS



**Wayne & Cheryl Kissel, Mansfield CoB**

### **Wayne Kissel Licensed at Mansfield First**

There was rejoicing as Wayne Kissel was licensed in the Church of the Brethren on December 12, 2021 at the Mansfield Church of the Brethren, the church where he grew up and attended throughout his life. Wayne has completed the classes at the Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI). Wayne will be retiring January 31<sup>st</sup> from Delaware County Veterans Services. He and his wife, Cheryl, have 8 children and 16 grandchildren. Wayne and Cheryl are caring for his mother in their home which is a blessing to them all.



**Mike & Dawn Conner, Akron Springfield CoB**

### **Mike Conner Licensed at Akron Springfield**

It was a joyful day as Mike Conner was licensed to ministry in the Church of the Brethren at Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren on January 16. Mike grew up in the Akron Springfield congregation and served as a Junior High Advisor for both the church and the N. Ohio District. Opportunities there led him to consider a call to ministry. He has completed the classes with the Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI). Mike works as a block truck driver. Mike and his wife, Dawn, have two adult sons.

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ANNOUNCES MILEAGE RATE FOR 2022

Beginning on January 1, 2022, the standard mileage rates for the business use of a vehicle will be 58.5 cents per mile driven. This is up 2.5 cents from the 2021 IRS rate. The rate for miles driven for charitable work remains at 14 cents per mile.

## SAVE THE DATE: SISTERS' Spring Retreat

April 30th, Location TBD (Central Area)

Guest speaker: Laura Kell, Center CoB

Visit [www.nohcob.org/sisters](http://www.nohcob.org/sisters) for more information.

# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Bristolville (full-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee interviewing. **Congregation** arranging pulpit supply.

**Mansfield First** – Search Committee being formed. **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

**Painesville (part-time)** – Profile completed, Search Committee interviewing. **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

**Woodworth** – Search Committee formed. Preacher **John Polanski** will complete his ministry in April.

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

**Akron Eastwood** – **Cindy Peel** serving as interim pastor.

**Brook Park** – Leadership providing pulpit supply.

**Dupont** – **Jeff Rhees** serving as interim pastor.

**Sugarcreek East** – **Nelson Brown** serving an interim pastor.

**Silver Creek** – **Ric Beals** serving as interim pastor.

Updated 1/29/2022

# District Prayer Calendar

## February

### Churches/Pastors

Adrian, David Morton

Akron Eastwood, Cindy Peel

Akron First, Tobin Crenshaw

Akron Springfield, Andrew Wenger

### District Leadership

District Board—Patrick Bailey, Chair

### Other Districts

Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic

### National Leadership

David Steele, CoB General Secretary

## March

### Churches/Pastors

Ashland Dickey, Jeff Messner

Ashland First, Brian Layman

Bethel, David Wyant

Black River, Mark Teal

### District Leadership

Nominating Committee—James Washington, Chair

### Other Districts

Shenandoah, Virlina

### National Leadership

Dave Sollenberger, AC Moderator

Visit [www.nohcob.org/prayer](http://www.nohcob.org/prayer) for a complete copy of our District Prayer Calendar.

# Mark Your Calendar

- 2.2 Western Area Clergy Luncheon
- 2.8 Eastern Area Clergy Luncheon
- 2.8 Executive Committee Meeting
- 2.9 Central Area Clergy Breakfast
- 2.12 BBI Class - Evangelism/Outreach
- 2.20-22 Clergy-Spouse Retreat
- 2.21 Office Closed—President’s Day
- 3.2 Western Area Clergy Luncheon
- 3.4-5 Congregational Vitality Workshop
- 3.8 Eastern Area Clergy Luncheon
- 3.9 Central Area Clergy Breakfast
- 3.12 BBI Class - Evangelism/Outreach
- 3.12 District Board Meeting

## 2022 Akron/Canton Area Church of the Brethren Lenten Schedule

March 6—Hartville CoB, Speaker: Moses Siakula

March 13—Center CoB, Speaker: Mike Conner

March 20—Springfield CoB, Speaker: Jim Lee

March 27—Site TBD, Speaker: Tobin Crenshaw

April 3—Mt. Pleasant CoB, Choir Festival

Choir Director: Judy Workinger



# Charitable Contributions

Article provided by Dave Bassett, Stewardship & Finance Chair



## Income Tax Deductions for Charitable Contributions

There have been many changes regarding federal tax laws in the past several years that have affected how or if we can claim deductions for charitable donations. The Stewardship and Finance Commission would like everyone to be aware of these changes, how they may affect you, and an alternate way to give charitably that may have tax advantages for you.

Under tax law changes in 2018, the standard deduction for single filers was raised from \$6,350 to \$12,000 and the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly was raised from \$12,700 to \$24,000. As a result, many filers who previously itemized their deductions (including their charitable donations) no longer benefited from itemizing. To assist non-profits affected by the pandemic, a one time provision was enacted in 2020 to allow individuals to deduct, in addition to their standard deduction, \$300 per individual or \$600 per couple for charitable donations. This provision was subsequently extended through 2021. Individuals making donations to their local church, to the Northern Ohio District, Camp Inspiration Hills, or other charitable causes are reminded to utilize this deduction when making out their 2021 tax returns.

Although this deduction may disappear in 2022, for some who qualify, there is a way to avoid paying taxes on income donated to charitable causes. If you are older than 70 ½, withdraw money from a traditional IRA, and donate to a charitable organization (such as your church), you can avoid paying taxes on those donations through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (often referred to as a QCD). A QCD is a distribution of taxable assets from a traditional IRA, beneficiary IRA, or beneficiary Roth IRA

paid directly to a qualified charity that is tax free for the IRA owner. This provision in the tax code has been in effect since 2017.

### Qualified Charitable Distribution Rules:

- Individuals age 70 ½ or over can exclude up to \$100,000 from gross income for donations paid directly to a qualified charity from their IRA.
- The donation counts toward any IRA required minimum distributions for the year.
- Donations from an inherited IRA or beneficiary Roth IRA are eligible if the beneficiary is at least age 70 ½. Donations from an active SEP, SIMPLE IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) are not eligible.
- Married individuals filing a joint return may exclude up to \$100,000 donated from each spouse's own IRA (\$200,000 total).
- The qualified charity receiving the donation must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All churches in the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren have this status under the umbrella of the denomination. You may contact the District Office for documentation if necessary.
- The receiving organization must provide the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution that you would need if you were to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution.

Information on the proper way to report QCDs to the IRS on tax returns can be found in *2021 IRS Form 1040 Instructions* for lines 4a and 4b *IRA Distributions*, or consult your tax advisor.

Most IRA administrators are familiar with QCDs and can answer questions related to your specific situation and help you set up a one time donation or a regular distribution schedule to meet your specific needs.



# Camp Inspiration Hills Update

Article provided by Inspiration Hills January Newsletter

## Save the Date-Spring Cleanup

The annual spring cleanup will be held April 29-30, 2022. Much help is needed to get the camp ready for expanded summer camps this year. We will be tackling a number of projects in the cabin circle, main area of camp, and trails for the growing numbers of campers expected this summer. Bring work boots, gloves and a smile; meals, fellowship and housing will be provided. RSVP to Ben Allshouse at (330) 621-4574 or [benallshouse@inspirationhillscamp.org](mailto:benallshouse@inspirationhillscamp.org).

## Youth Leadership Retreats

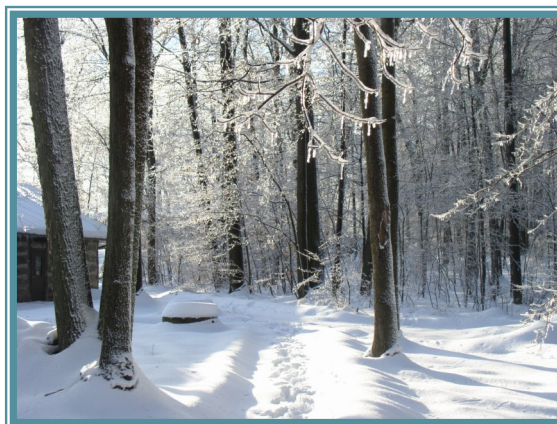
Have you felt God calling you to do bigger things with your life? Tired of being a spectator at church and in school? All teens 14 and up are invited to explore what it means to lead and serve in the places that you live, worship and work. Join us for the next retreat February 18-19, 2022, to explore how to identify and use your unique gifts and talents to lead others. This retreat is a prerequisite for those under 18 who would like to serve during summer camp 2022.

Registration information is available at [www.inspirationhillscamp.org](http://www.inspirationhillscamp.org).

**Inspiration Hills Camp**  
**4819 West Easton Road**  
**Burbank, Ohio 44214**  
**(419) 846-3010**

## Welcome Hanna & Chris

As a part of expanding the ministry we have added some much needed help. We welcomed Hanna Warnick (Eastwood COB) to the team in October. Hanna has been a camper and CIT at Inspiration Hills and served at Camp IHC in Pennsylvania last year as waterfront instructor and counselor. Hanna will be serving in several areas of the camp and has been assisting with maintenance, housekeeping, programming and food services. January 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed Chris Kaake back to the IH team. Chris previously served as our Program Director prior to her BVS service in Northern Ireland as project manager and her work at Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland as Program Manager, Advocacy and Engagement. Chris will be serving at camp as director of program and operations while assisting in all other areas of camp as needed.



Inspiration Hills, Picture taken from Inspiration Hills December Newsletter

## Summer Camp 2022

Staff Training	May 30-June 9	
Mom & Me Camp	June 10-11	Moms & Dads with campers ages 3-10
Senior High Camp	June 12-17	Campers going into grades 8-12
Junior High Camp	June 19-24	Campers going into grades 6-8
Grand Camp	June 21-24	Grandparents and campers ages 3-12
Senior High Bash	July 1-2	Campers going into grades 8-12
Beginners Camp	July 5-7	Campers going into grades 1-3
Junior Camp	July 10-15	Campers going into grades 3-5
Annual Conference	July 10-14	Info available at <a href="http://www.brethren.org">www.brethren.org</a>
Junior Camp "Light"	July 17-21	Campers going into grades 3-5
Beginners Camp 2.0	July 17-21	Campers going into grades 1-3
National Youth Conference	July 23-28	Info available at <a href="http://www.brethren.org">www.brethren.org</a>



# Hottle Grants available in 2022 (limit one per congregation)

**Hottle Operating Grants:** The District Board has approved the use of Hottle Grant money for congregations through **June of 2022** for operating expenses up to \$5000. Applications are available on the district website.

**Hottle Grants for** 1) Project grants within the church to expand the ministry of the church. 2) Outreach Ministry grants that impact not only the church but the community at large and may include changes to the physical plant. 3) Program Development grants within the church to stimulate growth or spiritual health and may include changes to the physical plant. Applications are available on the district website.

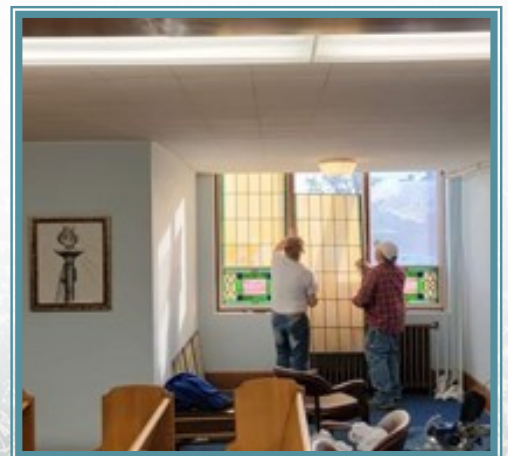
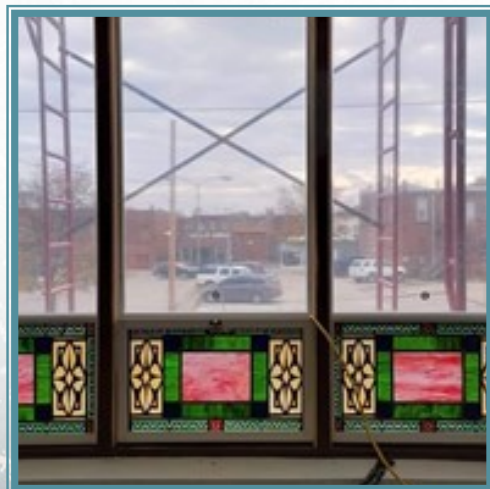
Visit [www.nohcob.org/grant](http://www.nohcob.org/grant) for more information and for grant applications forms.

## ASHLAND FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 2021 HOTTLE GRANT UPDATE

*Article provided by Lisa Snyder, Ashland First CoB*

In 2021, our congregation was the recipient of a \$5,000 Hottle grant funds to assist in a project to repair our beautiful large stained-glass window that faces Third Street in Ashland. This window had several cracks, loose panels and was badly in need of repair. Traffic on Third Street would literally “shake” the panels. In this project we also included storm window protection for this large window and the 10 smaller windows that surround both sides of the sanctuary. The large window repair involved completely removing the window and taking it to North Canton for repair this spring. Because of supply chain difficulty, the project was delayed. Total cost for the project was approximately \$41,500. The week of Thanksgiving the new storm window placement began, and the new large window was placed the beginning of December. We are grateful that the window project was completed prior to the cold winter setting in and that our beautiful windows will be protected for years to come. Thank you, District Board for providing the assistance for this project.

**Pictures provided by Lisa Snyder and  
Ashland First CoB**





# Hayrides, weenie roast, etc. all fun at the Harvest Festival

Pleasant View CoB, November 7, 2021

Article and pictures provided by Sandra Washington, Pleasant View CoB

After a morning of worship, Pleasant View was blessed to share the rest of the afternoon in fellowship with a "Harvest Festival." Roasting hotdogs, dipping apples in caramel, indulging in great tasting food, from the hearts of the women that shared their talents! Activities included games of cornhole, Nerf Ball, volleyball, and a hayride (thanks to John Zwiebel and his faithful tractor) and Tall tales from Pastor James and other members.



Special thanks to John Zwiebel (member) for the hayride!



## National Youth Conference 2022

National Youth Conference (NYC) 2022 will focus on Colossians 2:5-7 and the theme “Foundational.” The event will be held July 23-28, 2022. The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Online registration will open in early 2022. Keep your youth up to date at <https://www.brethren.org/vya/nyc/>



## District Youth Coordinator

We are interviewing for a District Youth Coordinator to facilitate ministries to the junior high, high school, and young adults in our district. This is a 20 hour/week position.

If you feel a calling to this ministry please send a resume to Kris Hawk at [krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org). Or if you know someone in your church that is gifted in this area, please encourage them to apply.

And please be in prayer as we seek someone to fill this vital ministry position in our district. A complete job description is located at [www.nohcob.org/opening](http://www.nohcob.org/opening). Thank you!

## Connections Commission

Can you help us get to know you better. The Connections commission is gathering demographic data on who are district is made of. It will just take about 3 minutes to complete this survey. There is also a section to inform you of volunteer opportunities in the district. Your name is optional unless you would like us to contact you and/or would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/9ZyQQs5Ep3BH5pnM7>

### Junior High Events:

First Sunday of November - [National Junior High Sunday](#)

Every other Summer - [National Junior High Conference](#) : on hiatus in 2021, will return in 2023

### Senior High Events:

April - [Christian Citizenship Seminar](#)

First Sunday of May - [National Youth Sunday](#) : May 1, 2022

Every 4th Summer - [National Youth Conference](#) @ Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO : July 2022

Fall - [Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference](#) @ Camp Mack, Milford, IN

### Summer Camp at Inspiration Hills:

Jr High and Sr High each have their own week of camp in June and July! Specialty camps are also offered that focus on different topics. Interested in working at camp? Sr High youth can serve as Counselors-in-Training, kitchen staff, or lifeguards. Visit [inspirationhillscamp.org](http://inspirationhillscamp.org) to learn more!

### Multi-Age Events:

Summer - [FaithX workcamps](#)

Summer - [Northern Ohio District Conference](#) : August 12-13, 2022, at Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren