

The Herald

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
OCTOBER 2026

Announcement of Retirement

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren,

At the October 13 District Executive Committee meeting, I submitted my letter announcing my retirement as District Executive Minister of the Northern Ohio District. My last day will be Saturday, January 16, 2027.

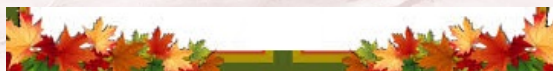
Serving as District Executive Minister for almost 11 years has been a blessing, a joy, and, at times, a challenge. It has been such a privilege to serve in this role. Thank you for giving me this opportunity for ministry, helping me grow, and supporting me with your prayers.

The strong leadership of the Executive Committee and the full District Board has been a blessing to me. I am confident that they, with Mark Pollock as Board Chair, will serve the district faithfully throughout this transition. Lisa Snyder, District Treasurer, and Laura Huffaker, District Administrative Secretary, will provide financial and administrative stability during this time. Many other gifted people serve in elected and appointed positions and remain committed to carrying out the work of the Kingdom in Northern Ohio.

The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry will work with the Executive Committee to develop an interim plan and assist the district in seeking new leadership for this role.

Please know that I will continue to hold your congregations and our entire district in prayer as you work together as part of God's Kingdom. I am excited to see how our creative God will move within the Northern Ohio District as you continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

Blessings in Christ,
Kris Hawk



In This Issue

Announcement of Retirement	1
Clergy/Spouse Retreat	2
Men's Retreat	2
Richland Hottle Grant.....	3
Todd Clemens Commissioning.....	3
District Board 2026	4
Area Clergy Meetings.....	4
National Youth Conference.....	5
District Conference 2027.....	5
Pastoral Placement.....	6
District Prayer Calendar.....	6
District Event Calendar.....	6
In Memory.....	6
Midwest Regional Conf.....	7
FaithX.....	7
Christian Citizenship Seminar.....	7
Annual Conference.....	8
Pastoral Compensation.....	8
Inspiration Hills	9
Directory Information.....	9
Self Allocations.....	10
Church Improvement Loans.....	10
Eder.....	10
New Philadelphia Hottle Grant.....	11
Heifer International.....	11
Labor Day Family Camp.....	12
Office Hours.....	12

2027 Clergy Spouse Retreat

February 14-16, 2027, Amish Door Village, Wilmot, OH

Guest Speakers: Keith and Linda Funk



Please join us for a time of relation-building, renewal, learning and rest. Like last year we will be at Amish Door in Wilmot, Ohio and like always the food will be great, but having time to reconnect with everyone will be even greater!! All single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. The retreat begins Sunday, February 14th at 4:00 pm and finishes with lunch together on Tuesday.

Costs are \$375/Couple (3 days/2 nights, plus 6 meals); \$275/Single (3 days/2 nights, plus 6 meals). Single clergy who may want to share a room can do so at the couple rate. Confidential financial scholarships are available by contacting Kris Hawk at krishawk@nohcob.org or 330-612-2086. You may register online at clergyspouseretreat2027

Keith currently serves at the Ecumenical and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Heartland Center for Spirituality, Dominican Sisters of Peace. He is an ordained minister (34 years) in the Church of the Brethren. He has served in the pastorate for 33 years in Ohio and Kansas. Linda has served in various aspects of congregational life, including worship leading and directing children's choirs. She currently serves as a substitute teacher in the Great Bend (KS) Hight School. Her great delight is her family, being a wife, mother and grandmother, and loving all that comes from this.

Keith and Linda have been married for 47 years, they have five children and five grandchildren. Together they enjoy family activities, the arts, music, driving in the countryside, and Nebraska football.



Men's Retreat at Camp Inspiration Hills

Article by Dean Foster, Associate Pastor at Black River CoB

God gave us a great day at camp on October 10th for the *District Men's Retreat*. We took the day to consider "*Continuing the Work of Jesus peacefully, simply and together.*" The "Men's Day" at Inspiration Hills was and always is, a time for men to be in fellowship with each other and know God's presence in our lives. In that fellowship, there is also a time to "Get Something Done!" Once again God provided just the perfect day and the right number of guys.

That morning the group met at Cherry Lodge. Prayer and worship with coffee began with some personal testimony. Real conversations about where we see God in our lives; where we recognize His daily presence, which led to discussion about the idea that "God works in mysterious ways." Which we concluded, He does not.

Pastor James Washington led us through a Biblical study of how Jesus worked peacefully in a simple way with others just as He found them. Never asking them to

change.

The camp provided lunch and then we went out to help the staff with some of the things that needed to get done to close down for the winter at Inspiration Hills. So, everybody that was able climbed into or onto the back of the camp's F150 or the steel trailer behind it. I don't know how many trips were made to the outlying cabins to gather all the mattresses to put in Maple Lodge for the winter. It's a lot of hard work though and many hands got it done. Hallelujah!!

By 2:30 we were all back down at Cherry Lodge to finish up the day with a few more questions, answers and prayer. **That is how good the day was.** How good it was to talk, break bread, work and walk with other men of God.

How good it is to *Continue the work of Jesus Peacefully, Simply, and Together.*

Richland CoB Consecrates New Walkways thanks to the Hottle Grant

Article by Jim Frado, Pastor at Richland CoB



Some of the Richland Church family gathered on Sunday, September 27 to consecrate the new walkways to the Lord.

Over time, walkways deteriorate. They are subject to the forces of nature. They become uneven. They crumble and break and are no longer accommodating.

That was the case with the previous sidewalks that, for several generations, served as the paths by which both believers and unbelievers entered and departed God's church at Richland.

The decision to replace the walkways involved the need for significant financial resources – and with great appreciation for the blessing of a Hottle Grant, God provided.

The construction of the walkways involved expertise and commitment and hard physical labor – and God provided the people. The landscaping around the walkways involved a heart of care to maintain God's blessings. And once again, God provided.

To the Richland Church family these walkways are much more than a hard surface to walk on. They are the pathways by which people come to encounter Christ. And, importantly, they are a demonstration of God's continued faithfulness - that He has, and is, and will, sustain the ongoing ministries of the Richland Church for His purposes, just as He has for over 150 years.

In every sense, these walkways – the old ones and the new ones – are a vital part of God's Holy Ground. And so, on Sunday, September 27, they were consecrated them to the Lord for that sacred reason.

Todd Clemens Commissioned and Installed as Associate Pastor at Poplar Ridge CoB

It was a time of celebration as Todd Clemens was commissioned and installed as Associate Pastor of the Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren during morning worship service on September 13, 2026. Todd moved from license ministry to commissioned with the completion of the BBI program (our ministerial training program in the our district) and the call from his church to serve as Associate Pastor.

Todd is bi-vocational and will continue working full- time. He and his wife Judy have 5 children and 12 grandchildren.

The congregation celebrated with a wonderful meal together.



Ben Polzin, Pastor at Poplar Ridge, Todd, Judy, and District Executive Kris Hawk



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

The 2027 Annual Conference will be held later than usual, July 28-Aug. 1 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Dennis Beckner, pastor of Columbia City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren will serve as moderator, with the theme "Growing Faith." Registration opens March 10. Costs are \$350 for delegates and \$175 for adult non-delegates in advance and \$425 and \$120, respectively, on-site. The conference hotel will be \$190/night with tax, not including parking. Individual virtual registration will tentatively be \$220 for the full conference. Find more information at www.brethren.org/ac.

District Conference 2026

2026-2026 District Board (*Elected in 2026)

Chair– Mark Pollock, Brook Park

Vice Chair – Dave Bassett, Pleasant View

Secretary – Edith Kieffaber, Akron Eastwood

Congregational Commission:

Joe Routh, Chair, Black River

Scott Brinkman, Vice Chair, Sugar Creek West

Brian Layman*, Secretary, Ashland First

Marty Brumbaugh*, Eden

Connections Commission:

Jocelyn Siakula, Chair, Hartville

Deb Rising*, Vice Chair, Ashland First

Jane Matz, Secretary, Ashland Dickey

Abigail Gasu*, Elm Street

Ministerial Commission:

Mike Huffaker, Chair, East Chippewa

Bill Holsopple, Vice Chair, Lick Creek

Candie Orr, Secretary, Woodworth

Mike Conner*, Painesville

Stewardship and Finance:

Dave Bassett, Chair, Pleasant View

Todd Clemens*, Vice Chair, Poplar Ridge

Jenny Jones, Secretary, Sugar Creek West

Bruce Morckel, Akron Springfield

Additional Election Results:

Moderator Elect

Sherry Reese Vaught, Paradise

District Conference Central Committee

Erin Beebe, Maple Grove

Nominating Committee Central

Sierra Swanson, Brook Park

Camp Administration Committee

Terry Vaught, Paradise

Dean Foster, Black River

Chris Snyder, Hartville

The Fall Area Clergy Meetings

The Fall Area Clergy meetings are scheduled for November 10th-12th. This is a time for fellowship, renewal, and continuing education.

The first 1/2 hour is gathering, announcements and sharing, followed by 2 hours of a workshop for 0.2 CEUs. While it is not necessary to pre-register, it does help us to be able to give our host churches an idea of how many are coming as they prepare light refreshments for our gatherings. You can either let Kris Hawk know or click on corresponding link below to register online.

- Tuesday, November 10th, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
(Western area) Faith in Action
[AreaClergyFaithinAction](#)
- Tuesday, November 10th, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm -
(Western area) Pleasant View CoB
[AreaClergyPleasantView](#)
- Wednesday, November 11th, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
(Eastern area) Hartville CoB
[AreaClergyHartville](#)
- Wednesday, November 11th, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
(Central area) Ashland First CoB
[AreaClergyAshland First](#)
- Thursday, November 12th, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
(Central area) District Office
[AreaClergyDistrictOffice](#)
- Thursday, November 12th, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
(Eastern area) Woodworth CoB
[AreaClergyWoodworth](#)

District Conference Approves 2027 Budget

Approved the 2027 District Budget as recommended by District Board in the amount of \$160,936-\$5,130 less than the 2026 budget. They also approved the 2027 Inspiration Hills budget as presented \$382,045.

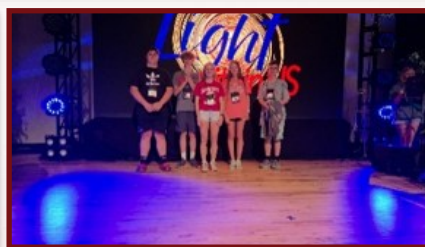


Cooking the chickens
for the Chicken
Barbeque at the Fall
Festival September
26 at Camp
Inspiration Hills

National Youth Conference 2026 in Estes Park

Article by Laura Huffaker, District Administrative Secretary

National Youth Conference 2026 was held July 18-23 in the picturesque mountains at Estes Park, Colorado at the YMCA of the Rockies and as I reflect on my time at National Youth Conference, I could not have asked for a more beautiful place. It was a time to get closer to God, it was a time to shine, just like Jesus would want us to. The theme this year was "Light within Us". The last time it was at Estes Park was in 1986. Eden Church of the Brethren along with East Chippewa Church were able to send youth (9th-12th grades) from our District. It was great to be able to room eat and worship together with the advisors and youth in the district. We even did our Service Project together tying fleece blankets for Fleece and Thank You, a non-profit that supplies blankets and then helps distribute them to children in hospitals across the US. We even donated 17 boxes of school supplies to Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success Family Resource Center. All together 785 people were registered for NYC. We were able to participate in 10 worship services (equivalent to 2 worship services a day), recreation, small groups, hiking, concert, and late night activities. My hope is that all were able to grow, change, be empowered, and to live more fully in the light and life of faith.



District Conference 2027

August 27-28, 2027

Lick Creek Church of the Brethren in Bryan, Ohio
Moderator Paul Bozman

Moderator Paul Bozman serves as pastor of Reading COB in Homeworth, Ohio. He served the Northern Ohio District as the Ministry Education Director initiating the Buckeye Brethren Institute, our educational program for ministers moving towards ordination/commissioning. Paul has earned a M.Div. in Theology from Ashland Theological Seminary and his undergraduate degree of Business Management in Accounting from Kent State University. He and his wife, Lynne have one daughter, Mackenzie, who attends Luther Seminary where she is pursuing her MDiv.

More information on District Conference to follow.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Brook Park – Search Committee completed profile and ready to interview. *Interim Pastor Ryan Lopez* is serving through November 1st.

Center – Profile completed. *Joe Routh* serving as interim pastor.

Swan Creek - Beginning to talk about the process. Members of congregation providing leadership

Congregations that have chosen not to seek at this time:

Akron First- pulpit supply

Freeburg – *Ed Wartluft* serving as preacher.

Silver Creek - Jason Martin serving as interim

District Prayer Calendar

November

Churches/Pastors

Pleasant View, James Washington

Poplar Ridge, Ben Polzin

Richland, Jim Frado

District Leadership

District Office Staff

Other Districts

Middle PA

Southern PA

National Leadership

Discipleship Ministries Nate Polzin/Josh Brockway

Church of the Brethren in Congo

December

Churches/Pastors

Silver Creek, Jason Martin, Interim

Sugar Creek West, Ministry Team

District Leadership

Camp Inspiration Hills, Andrew Kauffman

Other Districts

Atlantic Southeast

National Leadership

John Fillmore, Director Office of Ministry

District Event Calendar

10.20 Northern Ohio Pastors Gathering

10.22 Central Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at District Office

10.23 BBI Class-History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of the Brethren at 9:30 pm at District Office

11.4 Western Pastors Gathering at 12:30 pm

11.6 BBI Class-History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of the Brethren at 9:30 pm at District Office

11.10 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 9:00 am at Faith in Action

11.10 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 5:30 pm at Pleasant View CoB

11.11 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 9:00 am at Hartville CoB

11.11 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 5:30 pm at Ashland First CoB

11.12 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 9:00 am at District Office

11.12 Fall Area Clergy Meeting at 5:30 pm at Woodworth CoB

11.14 District Board at New Philadelphia at 10:00 am

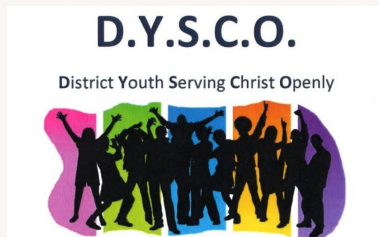
11.20 BBI Class-History, Beliefs, and Practices of the Church of the Brethren at 9:30 pm at District Office

11.26 Thanksgiving Day

In Memory



Delbert Kettering (Ordained, retired pastor) passed away August 28 at age 93. Delbert was recognized at District Conference this year for 69 years as an Ordained Minister in the Church of the Brethren. Delbert pursued higher education at Manchester College and Bethany Seminary. Through-out his pastoral career, he served congregations at Lake Breeze, Lakewood, Elyria, Trinity, East Chippewa, and Mansfield First Church of the Brethren. Even after retiring from full-time ministry, Delbert continued to share the teachings of Jesus, spreading the message of God's boundless love to all.



Midwest Regional Youth Conference 2027!

Where: Columbia City Church of the Brethren
112 N. Washington St., Columbia City, IN 46725

When: February 19th – 21st, 2027

Keynote Speaker: Beth Jarrett

Theme: Everyday Hallelujah

"GATHER"

Growing in
Action
Together in
Hope
Embracing
Relationships

More info to come! Check out our Facebook page:

**DYSCO-formerly DUCT, formerly
DYSCO**

FaithX 2027



Join FaithX during Summer 2027 to serve, grow in faith, make friends, and experience something new!

FaithX experiences are short-term service trips that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world so that we may learn to participate in God's vision of justice for all people. Participants will serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings, live and worship in community, make friendships, and explore a new place.

Registration for FaithX Summer 2027 opens on January 6, 2027 at 7:00pm (eastern time), and closes on April 1, 2027.

More information can be found at <https://www.brethren.org/faithx/>

Christian Citizenship Seminar 2027

Let the Children Come to Me: Protecting Children from Militarized Violence (Mark 9:36-37)



Difficult and dangerous situations around the world don't discriminate by age; children are caught in every war zone, under every repressive government, and in each time of trouble. Jesus calls Christians to recognize children as complex individuals made in the image of God, with unique needs, experiences, and dreams. How can we act in the way of Jesus to aid children in situations of militarized conflict and empower youth to create change?

Christian Citizenship Seminar 2027 invites high schoolers, college freshmen (and those who are age-equivalent), and their adult advisors to engage this question and discover how to be advocates for change while being grounded in Jesus' teachings.

We will build the skills you need to address various issues such as, climate change, war and violence, racism, and poverty, from a faith perspective. Learn from faith-based experts and policy advocates, practice conducting meetings with elected officials, and plan how to best take action and make your perspective heard.

What is the cost?

The \$525 registration fee includes:

- All event programming
- Lodging for five nights
- 2 dinner meals

Note: Each participant needs to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and public transportation fares.

Where and when?

CCS 2027 will take place in Washington D.C., beginning April 17 at 2:00 p.m. and ending by 12:00 noon on April 21, 2027. We will be staying at the [Steinbrook Center](#).

Registration

Online registration opens December 1, at 12 p.m. central time. Register and pay in full by January 31 to receive a free t-shirt! Non-refundable deposit of \$325 due within two weeks of registration. Intercultural scholarships available.

Stay tuned for more information! Contact Becky Ulom Naugle in the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office with questions (bullomnaugle@brethren.org, 847-429-4385).



Annual Conference 2027
Wednesday, July 28 – Sunday, August 1

Daytona Beach, Florida
Ocean Center Daytona Beach
101 N Atlantic Avenue

Registration opens on March 10, 2027. The Annual Conference Office has shared that the delegate registration for 2027 conference in Daytona Beach will be \$350 and for non-delegates registration will be \$175. Conference will meet at the Ocean Center Daytona Beach. The hotel will be the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. Located on the beach and connected to the Ocean Walk Shoppes, the resort offers a full-service experience for families, business travelers, and vacationers alike and is a pet friendly hotel. The conference reduced rate is \$169 plus taxes and fees (12.5%) totaling \$190 per night. The normal \$25/person resort fee will be waived for all attendees.

For more information go to <https://www.brethren.org/ac2027/>.

We want to hear from you: Mission and Ministry Board committee holds listening sessions

The Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board appointed a committee to consider recommendations related to the future of Annual Conference. The task emerged from the “Breaking Down Barriers—Increasing Access to Denominational Events” study completed in 2025. Committee members are Torin Eikler, Cindy Laprade Lattimer, Rosanna Eller McFadden, and Rhonda Pittman Gingrich.

The committee is exploring the format for future Annual Conferences and would like to hear what would help you participate in the future, especially if you have not participated in-person in the recent past.

Virtual listening sessions will be held online on the following three dates, with interpretation provided as noted. Each session will last one hour. Registration is required.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. (Eastern time), English only
Register [here](#).

For more information, contact annualconference@brethren.org.

NOMINATIONS: REMINDER FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2027 Annual Conference ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate? We encourage you to talk with the person you are planning to nominate, to gauge their

interest, but more importantly to talk with them about the

gifts and skills you see in them, to encourage them to prayer-fully consider the call, and to encourage them to fill out the information following your nomination. The nomination isn't complete until they have responded.” Go to:

www.brethren.org/ac/nominations to make your nomination or for more information.

2027 Pastoral Compensation Resources Now Available

A letter was sent out from Kris Hawk regarding the 2027 recommended cash tables and guidelines. The 2027 Pastoral Compensation Guidelines and Tools are now available through the CoB Office of Ministry website at: <https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/compensation/> or on our website at <https://www.nohcob.org/resources/pastors-resources/2021-salary-guidelines-and-table>

All congregations are encouraged to review these documents on a yearly basis as they prepare the annual budgets.

The Integrated Ministry Agreement is to be completed, and a copy sent to the District Office no later than December 31, 2026. Please contact Kris Hawk if you would like someone trained in this newer form/process to meet with you as you work through this. If you would like paper copies please contact the district office.

Inspiration Hills Camp now offering School Break Day Camp

School Break Day Camp Week 1

March 22-26, 2027

Perfectly aligned for families in Wooster City, Ashland City, Rittman Exempted Village, and Orrville City Schools!

School Break Day Camp Week 2

March 29-April 2, 2027

Perfectly aligned for families in Norwayne, Northwestern, Green Local, Cloverleaf, Wadsworth, Chippewa, Dalton, Southeast, and Triway Local Schools!



Unplug, Explore, and Connect This Spring Break!

Looking for a safe, engaging, and nature-filled experience for your child during their school break? Inspiration Hills is thrilled to offer our 2027 Day Camp! Designed specifically for K-5th graders, our Day Camp swaps screens for outdoor adventures, hands-on workshops, and cozy afternoons.

The Daily Adventure (7:30 AM - 5:30 PM):

We know working parents need flexibility! Our 10-hour coverage ensures your schedule is stress-free.

- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM | Flexible Drop-Off: Arrive at Beechwood Dining Hall for low-key games, tabletop crafts, and a morning breakfast snack.
- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | The Core Program: Ravine hikes, tracking, gaga ball, ninja course challenges, and interactive faith discovery!
 - 12:00 PM | Family Meal: A delicious, hot lunch served family style!
 - 1:15 PM | Specialty Workshops: Campfire cooking, nature labs, and crafts.
- 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM | Flexible Pick-Up: Quiet reading, board games, and campfires as you arrive to sign out your camper.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.ih.camp/camps>

2027 District Directories

The 2027 District Directory will be available in January 2026. I am currently gathering. Updates for the new directory. If you have any updates, please send them to me by December 15, 2026.

If you have any questions please contact Laura at laura@nohcob.org or 419-281-3058.

Request for Directories

Also, it is very helpful to

have up-dated information from all the churches we serve.

If your congregation will be making a new directory for 2027 please send one to:

Northern Ohio District
Church of the Brethren
1107 E Main Street
Ashland, OH 44805

Thank You!
Laura, District
Administrative Secretary

2027 Self-Allocation

Reporting

The Church of the Brethren has discontinued their process of churches reporting their self-allocation pledges. But it is important that our district still receives your pledges, as we work at budgeting responsibly. You can submit your 2027 pledges for the district and the camp electronically at <https://forms.gle/qG4ZpKCbLU5MxgB7> or complete the paper form that was sent to your church. Or you can also email laura@nohcob.org or mail to the District Office.

Church Improvement Loans Available

Church Improvement Loans are available at 0% interest to any congregation of the Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District for building improvements and repairs to the main ministry property. Examples of projects would include building additions, structural repairs, adding handicap accessibility, parking lot improvements, new restroom facilities, replacing an old furnace, adding air conditioning, new lighting, roof replacement, window replacement, painting, signage, etc. Loans can be for up to \$20,000 or more on a case by case basis. Visit www.nohcob.org/loan or contact the District Office for more information.

Hottle Grants Available

Hottle Grants up to \$5000 are available starting again in 2027 to congregations for 1. Projects within the church to expand the ministry of the church; 2. Outreach Ministry that impacts not only the church but the community at large and 3. Program Development within the church to stimulate growth or spiritual health. Visit www.nohcob.org/grant or contact the District Office for information.



BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION (BFIA) GRANTS AVAILABLE

This denominational financial resource can aid congregations as they plan outreach ministries, either to expand current ministries or create new opportunities. A church can request grant funds of up to \$5,000 per 12-month period and up to \$15,000 over several years. Congregations have received money for projects such as food and clothing pantries, walk-in freezers, immigrant resettlement, evangelism outreach, radio station programming, school backpacks, weekend food kits for students, racism training, and audio/visual equipment for churches to stream worship.

Here is the link for more information and application: <https://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>



Eder Financial Insurance Information

Greetings!

Wanted to make sure that you are aware that Eder Financial will continue to offer group coverage for the ancillary insurance products for pastors and staff members of our congregations, districts, and camps in 2027. The ancillary products offered are:

- Short-term disability
- Long-term disability
- Life insurance
- Supplemental life insurance
- Vision
- Dental
- Accident insurance
- Critical illness

While the rates are not available yet, Eder Financial provides a group offering of these products which allows individuals to obtain insurance without medical screenings or knowledge of pre-existing conditions at a lower price than an individually priced product. Enrollment information will be sent to the church, district, and camp administrators in October 2027 with Open Enrollment running from November 9th to November 20 this year.

Eligible participants who want to keep their current coverage do not need to re-enroll, but prior to Open Enrollment, all eligible participants should visit ederfinancial.org and log in to the Health and Life Benefits member portal to verify and update their personal information to ensure they receive important benefits-related communications.

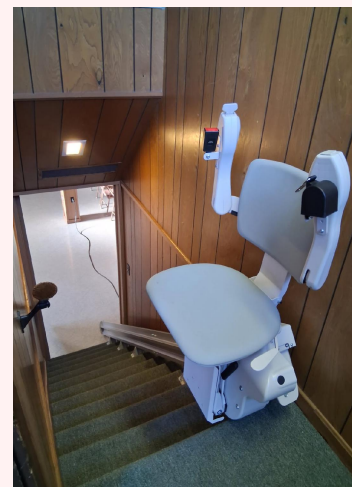
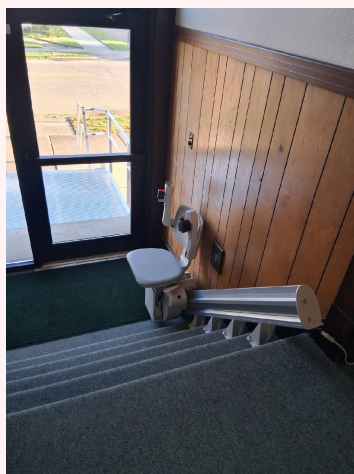
Eder Financial has worked hard to continue to offer these ancillary offerings in 2027 despite its announcement earlier this year that it would transforming into a benevolent organization in the future. If you have questions, please email insurance@eder.org

Blessings at New Philadelphia Church of the Brethren

Article by Dave Hobbs, Pastor at New Philadelphia CoB

Due to the sale of our parsonage, and with the help of the District through the Hottle Grant, we've been making some very welcome (and needed) improvements here at our church. Our handicapped-accessible ramp to our sanctuary has been here for many years, and being made out of treated lumber, it has started to decay. And since it only gave access to the sanctuary area of the church, its value has been limited at best for both the members of our congregation, and to our visitors.

So, we've moved our church sign forward to allow for a new aluminum ramp to access the front of our church instead. We then installed chair lifts from the entrance area both up to the sanctuary, and down to the fellowship hall. Due to the new ramp being less than half as long as the old one, we were able to do this for about the same amount of money that we would have spent just to replace the old ramp. And after having access to this new equipment for about a month now, what a blessing it is! Once again, all of us here at the New Philadelphia Church of the Brethren would like to express our thanks to the Northern Ohio District for their help with this project.



A Little Change Can Make a Big Difference: Quarter and Coin Collection

This Thanksgiving season, the Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren churches are joining together for a special mission project to support Heifer International. Through a friendly quarter and coin collection competition, our district hopes to raise \$5,000 to purchase an Ark from Heifer International and help fight hunger, poverty, and hopelessness around the world.

Churches are encouraged to use their quarter tubes, buckets, or even an ark to collect coins. Every quarter and every coin can make a difference! The collection will run from Thanksgiving 2026 through the end of December 2026. While coins are being collected locally, the district office will accept checks through January 15, 2027. Please do not send coins to the district office.

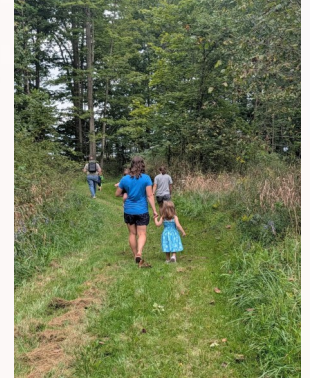
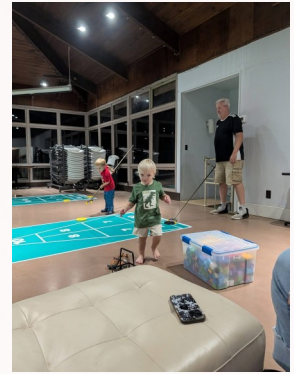
Heifer International helps families around the world build better futures by providing livestock, training, and resources for sustainable farming. These gifts provide food and income, helping families become more self-sufficient for generations to come.

What a wonderful way for our churches to come together in fellowship and friendly competition while making a lasting difference in the lives of families around the world! No gift is too small when we all work together toward a common goal.

So, start gathering those quarters and coins, encourage your congregation to participate, and let's see what the Northern Ohio District can accomplish together. With a little change from each of us, we can help change lives around the world! along with bees, chicks, rabbits, and more. These animals provide families and communities with milk, eggs, honey, wool, and other goods they can use or sell. This helps families earn income, improve nutrition, and build a more secure future for generations to come. **Please see attached brochure!!!**



Labor Day Family Camp 2026 at Camp Inspiration Hills



District Office Staff Schedule

The District Office regular hours are Monday—Friday from 9 am to 2 pm.

District Executive Minister, **Kris Hawk** takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org.

Administrative Secretary, **Laura Huffaker** is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or laura@nohcob.org.

Check us out on Facebook or the district website nohcob.org for more information about Northern Ohio District Ministries. Click on the icons below or use your tablet/smart phone to connect to our website via the QR Code.

