

Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JULY 2026

District Conference 2026

August 14-15, 2026

Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren

“Give it to Jesus”

Philippians 3:7

Be sure to register for District Conference and make necessary overnight reservations. The last day for purchasing meals is **August 3rd**. Be sure to post this information on your congregation's bulletin board and share during your service announcements. We would like to thank Akron Springfield for hosting this years District Conference. Please check out the links for more information. This is also available on our website.

Register for District Conference and Reserve Lodging & Registration and Printable Forms:

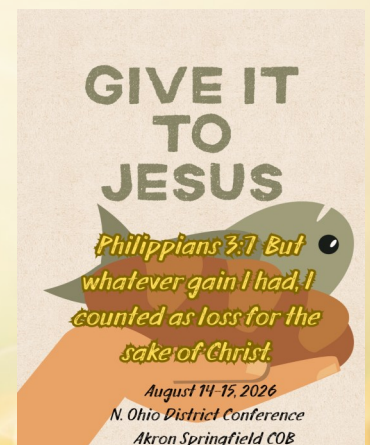
<https://www.nohcob.org/district-conference>

For More Information:

<https://www.nohcob.org/ministries/conferences/district-conference/2026-district-conference>

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Happenings at Inspiration Hills

Labor Day Family Camp September 4-7, 2026

The Perfect End to Summer

Squeeze every last drop out of summer before the school year kicks into high gear! Our **Labor Day Family Camp** is the ultimate way to unplug and reconnect with the people who matter most. Let us handle the cooking and cleaning while you focus on making memories. From hiking to campfires and s'mores, this is the hassle-free vacation your family deserves.

A Relaxing Christian Family Retreat

We design the schedule to be a refreshing **Christian family retreat** that balances activity with rest.

- **Faith:** worship together as a family during our chapel sessions, exploring our theme 'Going Deeper & Reaching Out' in a way that resonates with both kids and adults.
- **Fun:** Compete in family challenges, play a game of Gaga ball, explore the woods, or just relax by the fire.
- **Fellowship:** Connect with other families who share your values in a safe, welcoming environment.

Register online at <https://www.inspirationhillscamp.org/event/labor-day-family-camp-25/register>

Fall Festival & Chicken BBQ 2026

September 26, 2026 10:00 am-3:00 pm

There is no better place to see the changing leaves than at Inspiration Hills. Join us for our annual **Fall Festival**, a day designed to bring our neighbors and supporters together. As a premier **Northern Ohio family event**, we open our grounds to the public for a day of laughter, fellowship, and crisp autumn air.

The Famous Chicken BBQ

Come hungry! The highlight of the day is our delicious **Chicken BBQ**. Prepared fresh on-site, our team serves up a hearty meal that brings the community together. It is the perfect opportunity to enjoy great food, catch up with friends in the Dining Hall, and support the ministry of the camp.

- **Outdoor Fun:** Enjoy the autumn weather with hayrides, mini-golf, and outdoor challenges.
- **Silent Dessert Auction:** Do you have a sweet tooth? Don't miss the chance to bid on delicious homemade treats while supporting the camp.

• **Hiking:** Our trails are open for self-guided hikes through the woods.

For more information <https://www.inspirationhillscamp.org/event>



Northern Ohio District Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Brook Park – Search Committee completing profile. **Ryan Lopez** serving as interim pastor.

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 not yet begun the Search Process or 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 pastor.

Updated 8-5-2026

District Events Calendar

- 8.4 Northern Ohio Pastors' Gathering at 10:00 am
- 8.5 Western Pastors Gathering at 12:30 pm
- 8.13 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at 9:00 am at District Office
- 8.13 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:00 pm
- 8.14-8.15 District Conference at Akron Springfield CoB in Akron, Ohio
- 8.18 Northern Ohio Pastors' Gathering at 10:00 am
- 8.20 CAC Meeting at 6:00 pm

Fellowship, Food, and Faith: 3 Churches of the Brethren Celebrate 3rd Annual Joint Picnic

Article Submitted by Sandra Washington, Pleasant View and Elm Street CoB

On a beautiful, sun-drenched day, members from three local congregations came together at the park to celebrate their 3rd Annual Church Picnic. The special joint gathering united the families, friends, and congregants of Elm Street, Sugar Creek West, and Pleasant View for a memorable afternoon of shared community and joy.

The day was filled with the pillars of true Christian fellowship: uplifting music, heartfelt conversations, and an abundance of wonderful food. Laughter echoed across the lawn as generations spent time catching up, relaxing in lawn chairs under the shade trees, and enjoying the blessings of unity.

A beautiful highlight of the picnic was a beautifully decorated sheet cake featuring a stained-glass design, two golden crosses, and the inspiring words of Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The event served as a wonderful reminder of the strength found in coming together. Thank you to everyone from all three churches who helped organize, bring food, share music, and make this annual tradition such a joyful success. We are already looking forward to gathering together again next year!





Buckeye Brethren Institute

Upcoming Classes

Teaching and Learning in the Church

Instructor: Cindy Peel

**Meeting dates: August 28, September 11 and 25;
9:30am to 3:30pm**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, the student will:

- A. Be able to describe some of the formal and informal ways in which teaching and learning take place in the Christian community.
- B. Be able to demonstrate skills in preparing and conducting a class session with a particular congregational group.
- C. Be able to identify some of the stages and passages of life that affect learning and faith development.
- D. Be familiar with some of the educational programs offered in the Church of the Brethren, including People of the Covenant and various curriculum series.
- E. Be able to articulate the role of the pastor in the educational ministries of the congregation.
- F. Be able to assess strengths and weaknesses of the educational programs in his or her congregation.

This class is available to those interested in the ministry and to licensed ministers moving towards ordination. Ordained and Commissioned clergy can also take this class for CEU's (1.5 CEU's for attendance at all three Friday sessions) at a cost of \$25.00. And anyone can take this class for personal enrichment.

Visit our webpage nohcob.org/BBi to register or for more information.



Annual Conference 2026

Our very own James Washington, Pastor of Pleasant View and Elm Street CoB congregations preached Tuesday evening about "Is Peace Possible" and on Monday evening he led an insight session on "Jesus's Simple Plan for Growing the Church. Both were uplifting!!

District Prayer Calendar

August Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

Lick Creek, Bill Holsopple

Mansfield, Tina Hunt

Maple Grove, Steve Keib

District Leadership

Stewardship & Finance

Dave Bassett, Chair

Sister Districts

Illinois/Wisconsin/Michigan

National Leadership

Mission & Ministry Board, Kathy Mack, Chair

Tina Hunt, our MMB rep

Church of the Brethren in India

District Office Hours

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. Kris will be on vacation from July 25th through August 3rd.

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

