

Pastor's

memo

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JUNE 2026

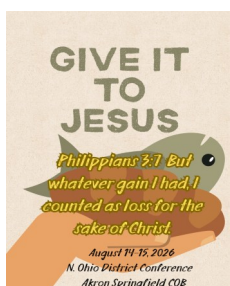
District Conference 2026

August 13-14, 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.

District Conference Delegate Briefing

July 12, 2026 at 3:00 pm

District Office or available by Zoom



Mark you calendars for **Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** Cindy Peel, District Conference Moderator, will hold a District Conference Delegate Briefing at the District Office or it will also be available by Zoom. This session is for delegates, pastors, and all who would like to know more of what will be happening at District Conference this year. Please plan to attend!!!!

In This Issue

District Conference 2026.....	1
District Prayer Calendar.....	2
District Events Calendar.....	2
Pastoral Placement.....	2
Newline Digest.....	2
Annual Conference.....	3
Messenger.....	3
Brethren Academy Courses...3	
Messenger.....	3
Canned Food Drive.....	4
BBI.....	4
District Office Hours.....	4

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->

District Events Calendar

- 6-28-7.2 Annual Conference at Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 7.7 Northern Ohio Pastors' Gathering at 10:00 am
- 7.9 Central Area Clergy Breakfast at 9:00 am at District Office
- 7.9 Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:00 pm
- 7.12 District Conference Delegate Briefing at 3:00 pm at District Office or by Zoom
- 7.20-7.23 National Youth Conference in Estes Park, Colorado
- 8.5 Western Pastors Gathering at 12:30 pm
- 8.14-8.15 District Conference at Akron Springfield CoB

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-** **Wayne Kissel** serving as interim pastor.
- Freeburg** – **Ed Wartluft** serving as preacher.
- Silver Creek**— **Jason Martin** serving as interim pastor.

Updated 5-28-2026

District Prayer Calendar

July Prayer Calendar

Churches/Pastors

- Elm Street, Anthony DiMarco
- Jonah's People, Mark Self
- Lakewood, Gene Wyse

District Leadership

- Congregational Commission
- Beverly Wengerd, Chair

Sister Districts

- Southern Plains/ Western Plains

National Leadership

- Annual Conference, June 28-July 2
- Church of the Brethren in Venezuela

Pleasant View CoB Heifer project



Pleasant View CoB project for the month of May was the Heifer Project. They collected \$698 to go toward Heifer International. Praise God!! To learn more about Heifer you may visit <https://www.heifer.org/about-us>



Delegate Briefing at Mansfield Cob May 31, 2026



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 worship services will be livestreamed

The daily worship services at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be livestreamed and available free of charge with no registration required, although donations will be appreciated. Annual Conference takes place in Fort Wayne, Ind., on June 28 to July 2. And our very own **James Washington** from the **Elm Street/Pleasant View CoB** will be bringing the message on Tuesday, June 29th.

The worship livestream can be viewed at www.brethren.org/ac2026/webcasts either live—starting with the Sunday evening worship service at 6:45 p.m. (Eastern time) on June 28—or later via recordings. The worship services continue at 6:45 p.m. (Eastern time) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, June 29-July 1. The closing worship service on Thursday morning, July 2, starts at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern Time). A livestream of the worship services, as well as recordings, also will be available in Spanish.

Annual Conference daily worship will focus on familiar themes from the Church of the Brethren’s past and present—radical discipleship, a New Testament church, peace, community, service, helping us engage with God, and inspiring us for the future.

Preachers for the daily services are Annual Conference moderator Don Fitzkee on Sunday evening, June 28; Beth Jarrett of Staunton Church of the Brethren on Monday evening, June 29; James Washington of Pleasant View and Elm Street Churches of the Brethren on Tuesday evening, June 30; Becky Zapata of Principe de Paz Church of the Brethren on Wednesday evening, July 1; and Caleb Kragt of West Charleston Church of the Brethren on Thursday morning, July 2.

Newsline Digest

The Church of the Brethren has a weekly news email called “Newsline” which shares updates from denomination offices, agencies, districts and local churches (if you aren’t on the list yet, you can sign up for it at: <https://www.brethren.org/news/>)

Sometimes its nice to have printable piece to put on a congregation’s bulletin board or share with folks that don’t use email. The Newsline publication has a “Newsline Digest” that gathers a few items of note from each month’s Newsline email and turns them into a printable piece. It is available at: <https://www.brethren.org/news/newsline-digest>

Messenger Updates

For more information on the Messenger magazine click on the links below:

Subscriptions: Find complete subscription information here: brethren.org/messenger/subscribe

Address changes: Find options for changing your address on the [subscriptions page](#)

Turning Points: Use this form to send announcements of new members, wedding anniversaries, centenarians, and deaths. Churches and members you can update the information and send to Messenger to get it published in the Messenger.

[Turning Points form](#) (to print and mail) or use the [online Turning Points form](#)

Submissions: Go to the [Submissions page](#) for information on what kind of writing we accept and how to submit it.



Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership Upcoming Courses

Multivocational Ministry

Online
August 19-October 13, 2026
Instructor: John Fillmore
Registration Deadline: **July 15, 2026**
[Course Brochure](#)

Cultivating an Everyday Faith

Online
September 23-November 17, 2026
Instructor: Joan Daggett
Registration Deadline: **August 19, 2026**
Course Brochure coming

Introduction to New Testament

Online
October 21-December 15, 2026
Instructor: Matt Boersma
Registration Deadline: **September 16, 2026**
Course Brochure coming
Register and pay for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership courses online:

<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>

or call 765-983-1824.

Canned Food and Peanut Butter Food Drive Results



Fourteen of our churches participated in a **Peanut Butter and Canned Food Drive challenge** within our district. An amazing total of **56,490.64 ounces (3,530.67 pounds)** were collected.

Our trophy winners:

Highest Total Collected: East Chippewa collected **14,834 ounces** and will receive a special trophy for the highest number of ounces donated by a congregation.

Highest Total per Attendee: Mansfield First collected a total of **11,721.75 ounces** which worked out to **509.64 ounces per attendee**. A unique trophy is being prepared for them also.

The biggest winners of the challenge are the local food ministries that received the donations from each congregation.

Thank you to (in alphabetical order) Akron Eastwood, Akron Springfield, Ashland Dickey, Ashland First, East Chippewa, Eden, Hartville, Lakewood, Lick Creek, Mansfield First, Marion, Painesville, Reading, and Richland congregations for joining in the fun as we worked together to help feed the hungry, working for the Kingdom in our local communities.

Please join us at District Conference for the presentation of the unique trophies to East Chippewa and Mansfield First.

East Chippewa Church of the Brethren really embraced the challenge of the canned food and peanut butter drive! Throughout the month of May, under the creative direction of Marcia Conrad, each Sunday featured a fun and unique advertisement promoting the drive. Whether it was catchy songs performed by Pastor Mike and the Chipettes or other creative presentations, the congregation was encouraged and inspired to participate.

One memorable highlight was Aaron and Nathan Kelbly carrying a life-sized can into the sanctuary! Marcia's wonderful ideas, combined with the entertaining songs and skits, helped make the drive a tremendous success.

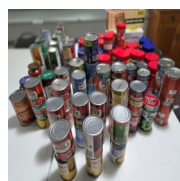
Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make a difference in our community. And who knows? Maybe Pastor Mike and the Chipettes will take their act on the road someday!



Pastor Mike and the Chipettes



Aaron and Nathan Kelbly



Week 1



Week 2



Week 3



Week 4

District Office Hours

The District Office regular hours are Monday—Friday from 9 am to 2 pm. The Office will be closed the week of June 28th until July 3rd as Kris and Laura will be attending Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Please contact Kris at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org as needed during that week.

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.

