

Pastor's *memo*

Giving What You Cannot Keep

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Mathew 16:24-25

Inspection stickers used to have printed on the back, "Drive carefully: the life you save may be your own." That is the wisdom of men in a nutshell. What God says, on the other hand, is, "The life you save is the life you lose." In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard, and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself; and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living. To bring this point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of men's wisdom, he was a perfect fool, and anybody who thinks he

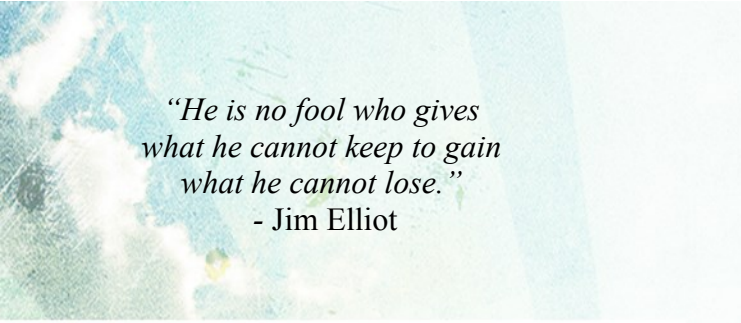
can follow him without making something like the same kind of fool of himself is laboring not under a cross but a delusion.

Frederick Buechner

Source: *Listening to Your Life*

Pastor's *memo* ***publishing date changed***

You may have noticed that you are receiving this Pastor's memo earlier in the month than usual. We have moved to a new publishing schedule. You should receive the month's Pastor's memo on or before the first of each month. Please have any materials that you would like included to the District Office no later than the 23rd of each month. This will give us time to include the article and format the newsletter. Thank you!



*“He is no fool who gives
what he cannot keep to gain
what he cannot lose.”
- Jim Elliot*

Something to Consider...

The bulletins at both East Chippewa and New Philadelphia churches include the District Prayer Calendar each week as a reminder that their church is part of a broader gathering of Brethren brothers and sisters. Each also include a local congregation from another denomination to remind that we are part of a greater body of believers. As we pray for each other, please consider encouraging your congregation to do the same.

District Prayer Calendar

May 29—June 4

Woodworth CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and Zion Hill CoB (Pastor Jason Harsh)

June 5—June 11

Adrian CoB (Interim David Morton) and Akron Eastwood CoB (Pastor Paul Bozman)

June 12—June 18

Akron First CoB (Pastor Tobin Crenshaw) and Akron Springfield CoB (Pastor Alan Brumbaugh)

June 19—June 25

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Tom Zuercher) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)

June 26—July 2

Bethel CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and Black River CoB (Pastor Mark Teal)

Attached to this Memo, there is a list of clergy available for pulpit fill along with their contact information. Feel free to share this with your ministerial team and/or church board. Please contact Kris Hawk at krishawk@nohcob.org with any corrections or additions to this list.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Center – Search Committee has completed interviews. **David Hall** serving as interim.

Dupont – Search Committee completing church profile. **Bill Helminger, Doug Price, Terry Porter** serving as interim pastoral team.

Lick Creek – Congregational vote June 5th. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Sugar Creek West – **Michael Huffaker** will begin ministry there June 25th. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

Swan Creek – **Dick Neuwirth** called as pastor and installation service held 5/22/16.

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

Adrian – **David Morton** serving an interim

Chippewa – **Bill Eley** serving as interim.

East Nimishillen – **Matthew Reed** serving as interim. Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim. (waiting 6-12 months to begin the search process).

Lake Breeze – **James Washington** serving as interim.

Maple Grove – **John Ballinger** serving as interim until 2/2018.

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim

Woodworth – **John Palanski** serving as interim.

*Some of these “interim” pastors have been faithfully serving their congregations for many years. While they are ordained in other denominations, the Ministry Commission is actively working with these individuals so they can be credentialed also in the Church of the Brethren and called by their churches for ongoing ministry.



Annual Conference 2016

Online Advanced Registration and Housing Reservations end June 6!

If you have not registered for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference now is the time to do so! Advance registration ends on June 6. The next time to register will be on-site where the registration fees increase. Annual Conference will be held June 29-July 3 in Greensboro, NC.

If you have already registered for Annual Conference, please forward this to family and friends that are planning on attending!

Avoid the higher registration fees by registering online NOW! Go to brethren.org/ac/2016 and follow the steps to complete your registration.

Housing reservations can be made after registering. If you have already registered for Annual Conference but still need a hotel room call our office for help. [800-323-8039 x365](tel:800-323-8039)

District Youth Coordinator Position

It is with deep sadness that we announce that **Spencer Dolezal has resigned as District Youth Coordinator effective August 15, 2016.** Spencer has received a strong calling into full-time teaching, working specifically with at-risk youth in the classroom. Spencer has been a gift to our District in his brief tenure here, expanding the vision of this ministry to include training for youth advisors and district-wide service opportunities through the "City-Changers" program and a District youth mission trip to Chicago this summer. **Spencer will continue to serve in his current role through District Conference, completing his commitment to Senior High Camp, the Summer Mission trip, and the Conference Insight session.**

The District Youth Coordinator will be filled as an interim (through 2017), 20 hour/week position. If you know of someone gifted in relating to youth who also has strong administrative skills, please encourage them to send a resume to Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive at krishawk@nohcob.org, or to call her directly at [330-612-2086](tel:330-612-2086) with questions. The job posting is attached.

Student Ministers' Fund Scholarships Available

Scholarships are available for those working towards their MDiv or going through the TRIM program. Up to \$1000 for a full-time student, \$500 for part-time, and \$400 for a TRIM student may be granted. Please contact Steve Simmons, District Ministry Commission Chairperson at april1286@zoominternet.net, or call the District Office for an application.

Brethren Bible Institute

The Brethren Bible Institute is scheduled for July 25-29 on the campus of Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. This event is sponsored by the Brethren Revival Fellowship (BRF). The courses offered this year include "Church Leadership and Administration," "The Book of Judges," "The Supernatural World," "Relationships," "The Book of Ecclesiastes," "The Beloved Old Man on an Island-John," "More Than a Prophet: Jesus and the Gods of This World," "History of the Christian Church," "How to Study the

Bible," and "The Book of Job." Instructors are Craig Alan Myers, Eric Brubaker, Carl Brubaker, Wilmer Horst, Fred Beam, John Minnich, and Steve Hershey. Total cost for dormitory students including room, board, and tuition, is \$250 for the week. Applications must be completed by June 25. Continuing education credit is available for ordained ministers. Request an application form by mail to Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, Pa., 17517. (see attached flyer)



Mark Your Calendar

May 29-June 4—Northern Ohio District Brethren Disaster Ministry Project, Detroit, MI

June 16—Christian Peacemaker Team, Biking for Peace Visit, Center CoB, Louisville, OH

June 21—Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

June 26-July 1—Youth Summer Mission, Chicago, IL

June 28-July 3—Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC

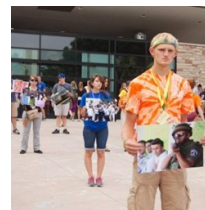
July 29-30—District Conference, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH

July 30—District Board Reorganization Meeting, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH

Michael Himlie and David Jones will ride 100 miles in all 50 states for 50 consecutive days, to raise money for the Christian Peacemaker Teams, which is committed to nonviolence around the world. "They focus on helping the oppressed populations," Himlie explains. "Whether that's through war, or occupation such as Palestine and Israel, and how they can assist civilians." Part of the ride will be going through Stark County.

Michael and David will be making a stop on Thursday evening, June 16 in Louisville. Center Church will host gather with them to hear about their trip and the Christian Pacemaker Teams. We invite everyone to join us and met Michael and David. (A love offering will be taken to donated to their trip.)

Hope to see you on Thursday, June 16, 7:00 pm Center Church of the Brethren 2811 Ravenna Ave!



ATTACHMENTS

- ⇒ Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Sunday, Business & Worship Services Information
- ⇒ Annual Pre-Conference Directed Independent Study Unity (DISU) "Walking to Peace" Registration
- ⇒ Ministerial Leadership Fall Course: Church of the Brethren History
- ⇒ Brethren Academy TRIM Application and Orientation Flyer
- ⇒ Brethren Bible Institute Brochure
- ⇒ Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren Available for Pulpit Fill
- ⇒ District Youth Coordinator Job Posting