

Inspiration Hills Camp

News

INSPIRATION HILLS IS HIRING!



JOB OPENINGS:

- FACILITY MANAGER (FULL TIME)
- CUSTODIAL STAFF (PART TIME)
- KITCHEN PERSON-IN-CHARGE (PART TIME)
- KITCHEN STAFF (PART TIME)
- 2025 SUMMER STAFF (JUNE-JULY)



EMAIL US!

INFO@INSPIRATIONHILLCAMP.ORG

Youth/Young Adult Ministries UpComing Events/Programs

April 5-9, 2025—Christian Citizenship Seminar— CCS gives high school students a chance to explore the relationship between their faith and a particular social justice issue, culminating in legislative visits on Capital Hill. Find out more at www.brethren.org.yya.ccs.

May 4, 2025 —National Youth Sunday-Empower you senior high youth to plan and lead worship! Resources will be posted in 2025 at www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday/.

May 23-25, 2025— Young Adult Conference— They will meet at Camp Brethren Woods in 2025. YAC offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more...with other fantastic young adults! More at www.brethren.org/yya/yac/.

Inspiration Hills Camp



SAVE THE DATES!

Put these dates on your calendar so that you don't miss camp this summer!

- June 8-13 - Senior High Camp
- June 13-14 - Senior High Volunteer Weekend
- June 15-20 - Junior High Camp
- July 6-11 - Junior Camp
- July 13-15 - Beginners Camp
- July 13-15 - Beginners Parents
- July 15-18 - Bring Your Big Camp
- Aug 29-Sept 1 - Labor Day Family Camp



inspirationhillscamp.org



FaithX registration opens January 8th, 2025!

Junior High

- June 8-12 – Richmond, VA
- July 8-12 – University Park, MD

Junior/Senior High

- June 8-13 – Keezletown, VA (Brethren Woods Camp)
- June 24-29 – South Bend, IN
- July 6-10 – Winston-Salem, NC
- July 20-25 – Boston, MA

Senior High

- June 15-21 – Portland, OR
- July 13-19 – Little Rock, AR

Family

- July 25-27 – Denton, MD (Camp Mardela)

Adult

- June 1-7 – Cle Elum, WA (Camp Koinonia)
- July 13-20 – Uganda

Older Adult

March 2-7 – Gotha, FL (Camp Ithiel)



Ordination and Commissioning Renewal Information

In the Church of the Brethren, ordination credentials are reviewed every five years and will need to be renewed by the end of 2025. Clergy will be receiving a letter with all the details and forms by emails to complete the process. If you prefer paper forms, please contact the District Office. Clergy that are retired but will be active in ministry in any way over the next five years (including pulpit supply), should participate in the Ministerial Ethics training and complete CEU hours. Here are some basics:

Background Check. A link to a secure website will be sent to each ordained or commissioned clergy member to enter information for a background check.

Attendance at the Ministerial Ethics Workshop. Many completed this training either at October 26 at Ashland Dickey or October 27th at Poplar Ridge. We are so grateful to our host churches for their hospitality. There will be a makeup workshop held in the District Office on Saturday, March 29th from 10-4 pm.

Continuing Education credits. Full-time clergy must complete 5 CEU's every five years to renew ordination. This is prorated, so that at half-time pastor would need 2.5 CEU's, etc. For those that have been recently ordained, the requirements are also pro-rated.

Complete the Ordination Renewal Form. The Renewal Form has been simplified. It is one page front and back. There is an **Ordination Resource Document** that has additional information that you need to review as you answer the questions on the **Renewal Form**.

Renewal Fee of \$25. This helps cover the cost of the ethics training materials, instructor travel, and background check fee. You can mail a check or pay on-line at <https://nohcob.org/renewal>

Credentialing Report Form. This is to be filled out by the church where you are a member. This form will be sent directly to the church.

The deadline for submission of the renewal paperwork is **July 15, 2025**. But you are encouraged to submit the documents as soon as you have completed the Ministerial Ethics Workshop and your CEU's.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bristolville (full-time) –Search Committee interviewing. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Center--Search Committee completing profile. *Mark Kell* resigned as of 12/2024.

Jonah's People--Interview together with Good Shepherd Home. *Amanda Reidling* serving as interim

Sugar Creek West- Ministry Team providing pulpit supply.

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

Akron First- Rebecca Ebie providing pulpit supply.

Brook Park – Ryan Lopez serving as interim pastor.

Dupont – Solomon Okang serving as preacher.

Eden- Tom Michaels serving as transitional pastor.

Freeburg– Ed Wartluft serving as preacher.

Owl Creek- David Searcy serving as interim pastor.

Silver Creek– pulpit supply.

Congregations that have completed the Search process:

Akron Eastwood—Called **Andrew Wenger** as Pastor, yoking with Akron Springfield beginning January 2025.

Ashland Dickey- Andrew Cuffman installed as pastor on 7/14/24.

District Prayer Calendar

November

Churches/Pastors

Pleasant View / Elm Street, James Washington

Poplar Ridge, Ben Polzin

Richland, Jim Frado

District Leadership

District Office Staff (Kris, Laura, Linda, Lisa, Cindy)

Other Districts

Middle PA

Southern PA

National Leadership

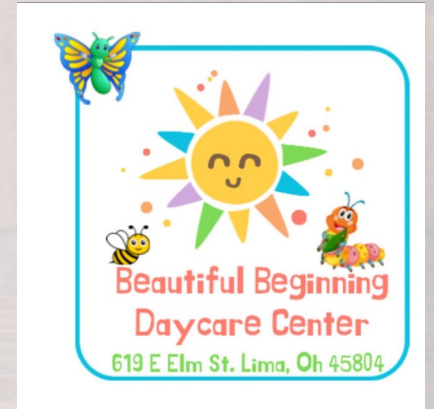
Discipleship Ministries

Church of the Brethren in Congo

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete copy of our District Prayer Calendar.

Elm Street Church of the Brethren

Pastor James and Sandra Washington joyfully share with you that Beautiful Beginnings Childcare has opened at Elm Street Church of the Brethren in Lima, Ohio. They are excited for this new ministry that is being offered. They offer childcare from ages 1 1/2 up to age 12. They also provide pre-school, school break programs, and are JFS certified. God is definitely doing good things!



Andrew Cuffman Licensed and Installed as Pastor at Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren



It was a joyful day of worship; and celebration as Andrew Cuffman was licensed and installed as Pastor of the Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren on July 14, 2024.

Andrew grew up in Ashland county. He studied Mechanical Engineering at Tri-C before moving to Kansas where he graduated from McPherson College with a four-year degree in auto restoration. Andrew served as youth leader at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren. Andrew and his wife, Shannon, have seen God's leading in their ministry journey as their guiding prayer has been "God, how and where would you like us to serve you?"

Andrew is enrolled in and taking classes through the Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI).

Educational Opportunities, Workshops and Training Opportunities

Ventures in Christian Discipleship

“Understanding Your Grief to Find Hope and Healing”

**TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 19 & 26, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 PM CENTRAL**

Presenter: *Chris Whitacre and Kathy Reid*- .3 CEU credit.

The November offering from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson College will be “Understanding Your Grief to Find Hope and Healing,” presented by Chris Whitacre and Kathy Reid. The course will be held online in two sessions: Tuesdays, November 19 and 26, at 7-8:30 p.m. Central Time.

Course Description: We all have experienced loss in varying degrees. How do we define or understand loss? How do we feel about loss? What do we believe about loss? What do we believe about death and dying? How do we manage loss, if we manage it at all? This course will attempt to open doors to new learning and reflection about loss within our lives. The book “Understanding Your Grief,” 2nd edition by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, will be referenced; companioning will be explored as a model for grief care; and the six needs of mourners will be highlighted.

Continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. During the registration process, you can pay for CEUs and give an optional donation to the Ventures program.

To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit www.mcpherson.edu/ventures

Ministerial Ethics Training

Saturday, March 29th from 10 am—4 pm at the District Office

Ethics training is a requirement for renewal of credentials for ordained and commissioned clergy. For those that missed the Ethics Training this fall, not to worry! There is a makeup session planned for Saturday, March 29th at the District Office—and it includes lunch! You can register at https://nohcob.org/ethics_march29 or by calling the office. The training will also be offered prior to Annual Conference in Greensboro. If neither of those work for you, please contact Kris as soon as possible.

Buckeye Brethren Institute Upcoming Classes

Evangelism/Outreach— Instructor: Mike Huffaker

Meeting dates: January 10, January 24, February 7, 2025.

Classes are held 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the District Office and are also available remotely via Zoom.

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

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” January 15 – March 11, 2025. The instructor for this online course will be Christy Waltersdorff.

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment

The course fee is \$300. Registration deadline is December 11, 2024. Registration is available online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/>.

Objectives:

- Explore the theology and structure of worship as experienced in the Anabaptist tradition, taking note of the variety of worship styles in our global church.
- Learn the building blocks of an authentic worship service; explore the use of all five senses in worship; celebrate the inclusion of all ages and abilities in our praise of God; and explore the ways in which worship can encourage healing in a divided congregation.
- Participants will create worship services and liturgy for a wide variety of worship experiences including, but not limited to, Sunday morning congregational worship, baptism, baby dedication, anointing service, and Love Feast and Holy Communion.

Request for Nominations for Denominational Office 2025

The Nominating Committee is calling on all of us to make nominations for the Annual Conference ballot in 2025. Please review the open positions, discern qualified candidates, and go to brethren.org/ac/nominations to make your nominations or find more information. All nominations needs to be submitted by **December 4, 2024**.

Moderator Elect --One person, 3-year term—Ineligible (past 4 Moderators): Paul Munday, David Sollenberger, Tim McElwee, Madalyn Metzger.

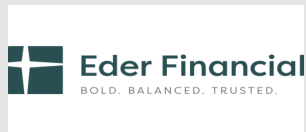
Program and Arrangements Committee —One person, 3-year term —Ineligible (member completing a term in 2025): Jacob Crouse

Mission and Ministry Board —Representative from Area 1: Atlantic Northeast, Southern PA, Middle PA, Western PA, Mid-Atlantic -**One person, 5-year term**

Representative from Area 4: Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Western Plains- **One person, 5-year term**

Review and Evaluation Committee Five Persons, 2-4 year term

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee- Laity One person, 5-year term



Clergy Mental Health Grants through Eder Financial

The Clergy Mental Health Grant provides up to \$2500 to financial assistance for mental health expenses that insurance won't pay.

Your Well-being Matters

If you or your dependents need assistance paying for mental health services, you may be eligible for financial support from the Clergy Mental Health Grant.

Determining Eligibility

The grant is available to clergy who currently serve a congregation in an official capacity and their dependents living in the same household.

Documentation Required

- You will need to submit a copy of the service provider's bill(s) before payments can be made.
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- You are not required to verify your income information or other expenses.

Applying for Assistance

- Go to ederfinancial.org/Church-Workers-Assistance-Plan.
- Complete the fields through your current employment and tenure section only— do not complete other sections of the application.

Pastors' Housing Equity Fund is coming

The newly revised pastors' Housing Equity Fund now offers a tax-friendly option for those ministers living in parsonages who wish to build equity toward a future home purchase. Significant revisions to the fund's structure were approved by the 2024 Annual Conference and have resulted in the creation of this new investment fund option.

Whereas the former fund had unfavorable tax consequences for those invested monies donated by congregations, the soon-to-be-arriving fund offers more desirable options that are now managed by Eder Financial.

More information will be forthcoming!

2025 Denomination Clergywomen's Retreat

February 10-13, 2025

San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

95 Bishop Grady Lane, Winter Park, Florida

We are delighted to invite you to register for the upcoming denominational **clergywomen's retreat** that is held every 5 years.

All Church of the Brethren licensed, commissioned, and ordained women are invited and encouraged to attend the 2025 Clergywomen's Retreat. The retreat theme is based on Ephesians 5:2 "Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God." The theme will explore the personal formation and character of those prepared to love like Jesus, the challenge of loving our enemies or opponents, and the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering a mission of love. Rev. Meghan Larissa Good, presenter, is lead pastor of Trinity Mennonite Church in Phoenix, Arizona and author of Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story.

Scholarship assistance is available through generous donations from individuals, congregations, Eder Financial, and the Women's Caucus scholarship fund.

To register online go to www.brethren.org/ministryoffice or if you would like a paper copy please contact the district office. Registration closes January 24, 2025.

Clergy Tax Seminar

Presenter: Deb Oskin

Saturday, February 1, 2025

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar. • Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally. • Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions. • Earn 0.3 CEUs - for the first 2 sessions only.

11:00am - 12:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs): Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 1. Topics covered: IRS's definitions of ministers (ministerial "status") and of ministerial work (ministerial "services"), as well as the three kinds of income ministers receive, the two kinds of taxes ministers pay, and the various ways ministers can pay those taxes during the tax year.

1:00pm - 2:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs): Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 2. Topics covered: Housing exclusion, parsonages and parsonage adjustments, and self-employment taxes, as well as ways to reduce total taxes.

3:00pm - 4:00pm EST: Completing the Clergy Tax Return. Rev. Zeke Zacharias, pastor at Litlold Church, has a typical clergy tax return to complete.

Registration and Cost Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Deadline to register is January 24, 2025.



Save the Date for District Conference 2025

August 8-9, 2025

East Chippewa Church of the Brethren,
Orrville, Ohio

Moderator Mike Conner (Pastor, Painesville) has chosen the theme, "Grace through Faith" focusing on Ephesians 2:8-10.

Each church should send two delegates plus others to join in the fellowship, planning, and worship. More information will be coming!!



Saying Good-bye to Erin Beebe District Administrative Secretary



Saying good bye to Erin Beebe, District Administrative Secretary. As we move forward, it is essential to reflect on her faithful contributions that she has made for the district as the District Administrative Secretary for the past 2 1/2 years. Her dedication to the district does not go unnoticed. We want to wish her well in her future endeavors. She will be missed!!! Her last day was September 30th.

New District Administrative Secretary



We would like to welcome our new District Administrative Secretary, Laura Huffaker, wife of pastor Michael Huffaker, East Chippewa Church. Laura began August 6th working closely with Erin learning the ropes as the new secretary. She had previously worked at a doctor's office before she and her family transitioned to the area as Michael became the new pastor at East Chippewa. Her hours are 9-2 Monday through Friday. We welcome Laura to the team!

Office Hours at the District Office

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

District Administrative Secretary, Laura Huffaker is in the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. She can be reached at 419-181-3058 or by laura@nohcob.org.

Side note: If you have an article you would like submitted for a future Herald or Pastor's memo please forward them to Laura at the District Office at laura@nohcob.org. The next Herald will be issued in December.

Mark Your Calendar

- **November 1**—BBI-Old Testament, 9:30 am at District Office, Ashland, OH.
- **November 6**—Western Area Pastors' Gathering.
- **November 8**—BBI-Old Testament, 9:30 am at District Office, Ashland, OH.
- **November 9**—District Board Meeting, 10:00 am at Akron Springfield.
- **November 14**—Central Area Clergy Breakfast, 9:00 am at District Office, Ashland, OH.
- **November 15-17**—L.E.A.D. Conference at Ephraim Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania.
- **November 19**—Northern Area Pastors' Gathering.
- **November 20**—Central Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at East Chippewa CoB, Orville OH.
- **November 22**—BBI-Old Testament, 9:30 am at District Office, Ashland, OH.
- **November 25**—CAC Meeting at 6:00 pm.
- **November 28-29**—Thanksgiving—The District office will be closed for Thanksgiving.

We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

