



Together on the Journey with your District Executive Minister...

The district recently issued our fifth recommendation regarding in-person gatherings during this pandemic. That was sent to leadership team and board chairpersons, church offices, and pastors. It's also posted on the district website.

I heard a psychologist being interviewed last week. She was asked, "Who's doing well during this pandemic?" Her answer: "No one. No one's doing well." She said, "I'm talking to you as I'm eating breakfast. Breakfast is on the table, as are the children's schoolbooks, because the kids and I will be working from here today. The kids aren't eating breakfast though, they're huddled under the table. No one's doing well during COVID."

These are such difficult times for all of us. It's an anxious time for families – emotionally and for many economically. It's a stressful time for the church, a trying time for our country. But you know this, you're living it. In such times, under such stress and pressure, and this time may be unprecedented for some if not many of us, we can be unconsciously short and sharp with each other, as one of my mentors, Don Booz, might phrase it, "ooze out" in hurtful ways toward others, even if unintentionally.

So, a reminder to myself as much as to any of us, to take a breath, to breathe, to step back, to remember, as one of my favorite poets, Nicki Mehta, says, "Most people are doing the best they can." Reflect on all the ways that you are blessed and practice gratitude. Exercise the tenderhearted kindness and forgiveness the author of Ephesians commends to us (Eph 4:32).

Love, Peace, and Prayers,

Gene Hagenberger

Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister

Together on the Journey with your District Moderator...

I was driving home recently from picking up my car at the garage, where I had taken it for some routine service. I was listening to my favorite radio station and they played a song by Hillsong United called "Another In The Fire". The song is based on the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in the book of Daniel, chapter 3. These three young men refused to fall down and worship an idol of king Nebuchadnezzar. Therefore, they were thrown, bound, into a fiery furnace and certain instant death. The king was amazed when he looked into the furnace and saw "...four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire...", Daniel 3:25.

The lyrics of the song by Hillside remind us that there is another in the fire. The message in the song and this scripture passage, tells us that we are never alone, no matter what. It reminds us that Jesus will be with us in every battle. The year 2020 has certainly been a year to challenge all of us in one way or another. Perhaps it has meant an unplanned break in employment, or a hit to your retirement savings. You probably had to cancel some travel plans and missed out on some annual family gatherings. This song reminds me that there is another walking in the midst of the fire with us. The outcome may not be what we want or desire, but Jesus is there with us no matter what.

Does that give you a small glimpse of how much God loves even each one of us? He does!

Allen O'Hara,

District Moderator

WESTMINSTER – During the Covid 19 Worldwide Pandemic, the Church of the Brethren is not able to respond as usual to help in areas affected by natural disasters. The **Westminster Church of the Brethren** has responded to the call of finding a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus by providing care to children experiencing trauma from natural disasters that happen where they live. Liz and Tom Haff from the **Westminster Church of the Brethren** heard about Children's Disaster Services program of providing kits of comfort to children in disaster areas. They



were inspired and asked their church family for help. The WCOB congregation generously supported the program. Liz and Tom assembled nearly 100 kits of comfort for children!

Inside each kit, children will find imaginative gifts: playdough, washi tape, finger puppets, paper plates, notebooks and markers and pens. When disaster hits, the healing power of play helps children caught up in crisis. Yay WCOB!

Photos provided by Liz and Tom Haff

Also from Westminster...serving at the Cold Weather Shelter

Serving strangers is one way to have Blessed Assurance from Christ Jesus! Yes, it is in (happily) giving that we may and will be filled with Love, Peace, and Serenity. This is God's gift to all Believers. Such a rich and fulfilling Blessing.

When Westminster CoB congregation was asked to help at the local shelter, I volunteered without any prior experience nor expectations or knowledge of what the specific tasks would be. Trusting all who were helping at the shelter for knowledge and guidance. They are familiar with the shelter tasks on hand.

The local shelter asked to help on the "intake" at the shelter greeting and welcoming our new-found friends. This eye opener through checking our friends' bags and backpacks was a humbling experience. This was all their belongings. Today, I am incredibly grateful and thankful for a beautiful home to be a much appreciated. Since God and Jesus entrusted me with this homestead, it is only fitting to care for it and being a good steward with reverent thanks. Realizing how many ways God continues to Bless...

Currently, I am still learning how to be more compassionate.

Submitted by Allan Ness

OAKTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Oakton Partners in Learning Invitation

You may have seen the Oakton Partners in Learning (OPIL) tutoring program, hosted by the Oakton Church of the Brethren, was featured in this summer's virtual Annual Conference worship. OPIL continues to meet important needs for students and families during these difficult times. OPIL currently tutors students online through one-on-one and group tutoring. Have you wondered if a similar program would be possible in your congregation? Or are you interested in giving of your time and gifts in a significant way? Well, you're invited to join the OPIL team! While we remain virtual, anyone from anywhere can become a tutor or learn more about what OPIL is doing. If you are interested in learning more about OPIL and/or becoming a tutor, please be in touch with Pastor Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, pastors@oaktonbrethren.org.



Photo provided by Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey

Many thanks to all who shared their outreach. Please consider sharing how your congregation did outreach for the next District newsletter. Email gamad@brethren.org

The Mid-Atlantic District CORE Ministry Team has created a Facebook page for sharing resources, material and otherwise. We believe this to be a faithful approach to life together in our district, and see this work as cooperative, gospel work. The world tells us to operate in isolation and to believe in scarcity, but the gospel tells us Christ came that we might have life, and to live it abundantly (John 10:10). This project gives us a tangible way to see our abundance in creative ways and to share in the work of the gospel, together.

What can you do on this page? Well, a variety of things.

1. **Gift** - Do you have something sitting around your church that others may find useful? Offer it. (Ex. Hymnals [can be used for their intended purpose or can be used for special crafts], decorations from a one-time event, curriculum, etc.)
2. **Request** - Do you have something you need that others may have? Ask for it. You are not permitted to ask for money on this page. (**Ex. Items for a one-time event, additional copies of a resource, craft materials, etc.**)
3. **Lend** - Do you have a resource, talent, or item that you have used that others can borrow? Lend it. (**Ex. Curriculum, book studies, theme decorations, musical talent, etc.**)
4. **Advice/Consultation** - Do you have or need someone with a special talent or special ability? Offer or ask for consultation. (**Ex. Community outreach, evangelism, music ministry, family ministry, etc.**)
5. **Gratitude** - Did you receive a gift, or did someone lend you something? Share a post of gratitude. Gratitude builds community and generosity. Tell us how you used your gift and how God moved through our sharing together.

To be added to this page, simply ask to become a member, answer a few simple questions (this project is only for Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren congregations) and you're in. Join in on this community building, ministry supporting project today at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/madcobsharing>



A new video, shared by the District Church Outreach, Renewal and Evangelism (CORE) Ministry Team is an invitation to visit and support GraceWay in their journey, with Jesus, in their neighborhood. Help support this diverse church plant with your time and financial giving.

This is a new, searchable link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbflWXwjaqs&feature=youtu.be>

From the District

Brethren in the Mid-Atlantic District are invited to join Paul Munday for a **Moderator's District Q+A Zoom - Thursday, October 29, 7 – 8:30 pm.**

From AC Moderator Paul Munday -

"Any and all persons in your district who have interest can participate. It will focus on the 'state of the church,' using a Q+A format. Any and all questions will be 'game,' as we seek to be available and responsive to constituency during these challenging times. Joining me on this ZOOM Q+A will also be the other two Annual Conference Officers, Dave Sollenberger, Moderator Elect, and Jim Beckwith, our Annual Conference Secretary.

Please email aamad@brethren.org to receive a link.



Meet Bruce T. Anderson, Shepherd's Spring's Executive Director

Greetings. I am Bruce T. Anderson and I am the Executive Director at Shepherd's Spring. Over the past year I have enjoyed meeting many of you. I have been asked to share a little about myself with you. I will do that over time, but in this newsletter I will offer you an introduction.

I am a graduate of Taylor University in Indiana. Following graduation I went to live and work in the inner city of Cincinnati with a ministry to children and families. I was there for seven years. Soon after I arrived the organization purchased an old summer camp from the Baptists that was across the river in Kentucky. We renovated the aging camp and over time sent hundreds of children from the inner city to experience the best week of their lives (We went with them).

While still with the organization I spent three years working on a master's degree in social work administration at the University of Cincinnati. Soon after I graduated I was recruited to work for the Cedar Ridge Children's Home in Williamsport, Maryland.

Two years later Cedar Ridge was contacted by the board at the nearby San Mar Children's Home and asked to provide some consultation. That connection resulted in my accepting an offer to become the director of that organization.

I remained in that role for 33 years (and one month). During which, we saw the organization grow immensely as we shifted our focus to specialize in serving adolescent girls who had experienced trauma. Over the years we added five additional group homes, a licensed school, a program of foster care for boys and girls of all ages, a mental health clinic for the community, and a community work in Hagerstown, known as *the Bester Community of Hope*.

In 2018 I retired and wrote a book about working with kids who have experienced trauma (*Breathing Hope*, published by Covenant Books).

Here are a few more nuggets. Pick one as a topic for when we meet and I can give you the context. But, you will have to ask (to show me someone actually read this):

- I was born within the continental borders of the United States, but not in any state. As a child growing up I never knew what to tell people when they asked me where I was from. I know now.
- My first flight of very many was transatlantic in a propeller plane. I was a passenger. When I returned it was not on a plane, but I did see the Lady standing in the harbor.
- An emergency room doctor once ordered my right leg to be amputated to save my life. Then God intervened through my mother and the CIA (seriously... although they deny it).
- I once walked alone all the way through an active train tunnel in total darkness, looking for two young boys who had gone missing. I did not find the boys but found a man who had managed a Red Lobster. I was able to bring him out before the train arrived.

Stop by and let's chat!
Bruce

CAMP MARDELA DRIVE-IN APPRECIATION DAY 2020



- The Camp Appreciation Day worship celebration featuring the music of Free Range and a message from Bethany pastor Jody Gunn is still scheduled for **Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2:30 p.m.**

This will be a "drive-in" event at the camp pavilion.

NOV.29 - DEC. 6, 2020 CAMP MARDELA ONLINE AUCTION

We are requesting that each Church submit a "Themed Basket" of their choosing for our Online Auction



Looking for Homemade items, Antiques, New Donated Items. Vacation Homes/Condos. Dinner for 4 Hosts, Baked Goods, Firewood
More info in the coming weeks

CAMP SUPPER THANK YOU!

2020... shew, she has not been very nice! After Camp Supper 2019, I sent out a letter asking how everyone felt about a buffet style meal vs. family style... I had no idea that 100% carryout should have been an option! Camp Supper 2020 is in the books and I can say that something wonderful did happen in 2020! What an amazing fundraiser for Camp Mardela this was. Although we had a skeleton crew, the supper was actually very easy to pull off. Thank you for your prayers. God truly blessed us! Who would have thought we would run out of food in about an hour! That was crazy! We made about 460 carryout boxes and had very little food left over. We had gravy, some sweet potatoes and some ham... that was about it! The amount of food left over was minimal. Health Department regulations normally make us throw a lot of food out, but this was not necessary since the food wasn't set out and shared at a table.

Our income after expenses was approximately \$5800.00. This is \$1300.00 more than last year. Many children will be able to benefit from your generosity and will get to do camp!

I seriously cannot express my sincere gratitude to all who helped out, everyone who donated rolls and desserts and especially those who got a dinner. I am truly sorry if you got turned away, but I'll be ready for you next year! I only planned on serving 400 dinners. Next year we will definitely have more.

As always, I appreciate your opinions and suggestions. I pray we are back to "normal" next year (whatever normal will be). Please continue to pray for Camp Mardela, support her financially as you can, volunteer as much as you can. Please be sure to keep the 3rd Saturday of September open next year. Let's make God smile at our efforts again.

Amy Hutchison

Please contact campmardela@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to the Camp Mardela email list.

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 MITT 9 am Zoom
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		CORE 11 am Zoom				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
District Executive Vacation	District Business Ballot Count this week					
25 Scott Linton Licensing Service Union Bridge COB	26 S&CLMT 7 pm Zoom	27	28	29	30	31
				District Q&A with Moderator 7-8:30 pm Zoom		

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Relicensing Interviews from 2:30 pm Zoom	2	3	4	5	6	7 LT 8:30 am Zoom
8	9 Administrative Assistant Vacation	10 Meat Canning 10 am	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		P&A 7 pm Zoom				
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving District Office Closed	27	28
29	30					

LT-Leadership Team
CCMT-Calling & Credentialing Team
MITT-Ministry Interviewing Task Team
CETT-Continuing Education

CORE-Church Outreach, Renewal & Evangelism
F&P-Finance and Property
OR&S-Outreach and Service
S&CL-Spirituality and Congregational Life

LCT-Leadership Calling Team
P&A-Program and Arrangements

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

- Find Covid-19-related resources for congregations and families at <https://covid19.brethren.org/>
- There are several versions of the *Living Letters* Annual Report at <https://www.brethren.org/about/annualreport/>

• Planning continues for the 2021 Annual Conference

From the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee

Although uncertainty remains due to the pandemic, the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee has determined the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will take place in 2021. The event is planned for June 30-July 4, 2021, in Greensboro, N.C.

If CDC and/or state social distancing guidelines limit the number of people who can meet in the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, we are making contingency plans for a hybrid event. Such a scenario will allow for on-site participation (within government guidelines) along with virtual access for both delegates and non-delegates.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/planning-for-2021-annual-conference

• Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday's District Greeting.

From Paul Munday - "This is a 6 minute, 14 second video that offers my greetings to Districts, but quickly moves into a general word of encouragement for everyone. The video features me at the Joseph Sherfy farm located in the middle of the Gettysburg battlefield. In the video I make the connection between the Sherfy's identity as Brethren and their commitment to another way of dealing with difficult times. I then make the connection to our difficult times and the hope of the Gospel."

Links to the video: <https://tinyurl.com/y55xwzb9>

<https://vimeo.com/457317761>

• Nominations for denominational offices are needed now!

Annual Conference elects much of the leadership of church agencies and depends on grassroots nominations! Will you do your part? There are five simple steps.

1. Read the information here. <https://www.brethren.org/ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/07/request-for-nominations-2021.pdf>.

2. Consider and pray about the offices that are open.

3. Ask others in your church to do the same.

4. Make one or more nominations. (online preferred--it's simple)

5. If possible, let nominees know you've suggested their names and why you did so.

(From this point, it's up to the nominee and the committee to proceed or not)

Read the most recent statement and recommendation on COVID 19 from District Executive Minister Gene Hagenberger
<http://madcob.com>

The office has received a copy of **PASSIONATE PACIFIST** *The Life Story of Ora Ivan Huston* by Albert W. Huston. Look for more details in the next newsletter. The book can be ordered from Brethren Press.

**Next District Leadership Team Meeting -
November 7, 2020 by Zoom**

Permission is granted by the Mid-Atlantic District to reproduce and distribute information from this newsletter

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

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District Operations
CStockslager@brethren.org

Jo Ann Landon
Administrative Assistant
aamad@brethren.org
Monday – Thursday 8am to 1 pm

<http://www.madcob.com>

DISASTER RELIEF Walk-a-thon!

November 1 – 15, 2020

The 40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction scheduled for May 2, 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19, but we can still safely raise much needed funds for the **Emergency**

Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren

- “Steps for Disaster Relief” is a reflective 1 hour walk-a-thon done at your convenience.
- Recruit FAMILY and FRIENDS to walk with you and/or sponsor you.
- In that hour, intentionally walk in a disaster survivor’s shoes, imagining their plight, praying for them and for all those who in some way have, are and will continue providing relief.

New for 2020 (open and accepting volunteers) are:

Project 1 in Bayboro, NC rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Florence

Project 2 in Dayton, OH rebuilding homes damaged by the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes

In 2019 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported:

Carolinas Hurricanes Rebuilding Projects • Midwest U.S. Flooding and Tornadoes • Jacksonville, Florida, Hurricane Rebuilding Project • Puerto Rico Hurricanes Rebuilding Project • Hurricane Dorian Bahamas Response • Southern Africa Cyclone Idai • Nigeria Crisis Response • South Sudan Mission Relief Program for Families • Democratic Republic of Congo, Shalom Ministry • IMA World Health – Ebola response • Typhoon Hagibis Japan

- **November 1 – 15, 2020:** Get sponsors using this form and independently walk for a total of 1 hour at your own pace some place safe. Goal: \$200 - \$2,000 per congregation.
- **November 29, 2020:** Money collected should be submitted to your congregation’s financial secretary to total, then send one check to the Mid-Atlantic District office noting EDF “Steps for Disaster Relief.” Payment questions contact Jo Ann Landon 443-960-3052.

Participant’s Name: _____

Congregation (if affiliated): _____

Personal Goal: _____ Total Amount Raised: _____

Sponsor’s Name	Donation \$	Sponsor’s Name	Donation \$
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 1 small beach ball (5-inch)
 - 12 paper plates (6-inch plain white)
 - 2 animal finger puppets
 - 2 simple small wooden cars
 - 2 small bean bags (3.5 inch)
 - 3 rolls of washi colored tape (1/2 inch (10mm) wide)
 - 1 child-sized jump rope
 - 1 watercolor paint set (8 colors with brush)
 - 1 small 3x5 notebook
 - 1 colored gel ink pen
 - 2 washable markers
 - 1 stuffed plush dog (not larger than 4 inch)
 - Activity/Trauma idea guide (supplied by CDS)
- **Funds** – The more packs we can produce in the next few months, the more children we can provide packs for – this may take a bit of creativity in funding and working together!
 - Larger quantities ordered of supplies will provide more cost savings
 - Church groups, Sunday school groups, families are encouraged to participate
 - CDS has some grant funds set aside for the IKOC project
 - Matching funds initiative in place with current funds available as needed
 - With the current material list, the price per pack is approximately \$17
- **Packing** –
 - Follow social distancing guidelines currently in effect for your geographic area.
 - Safety is a priority for all!
 - It works best to do quantities of 12 in ordering online, some bulk items are cheaper in larger quantities (100). The Mesh Pouch on Amazon comes in quantities of 24.
 - Recommend one person do the purchasing and tracking for group
 - We have additional supporting documents to help with group packing, order tracking, and engagement of congregation if interested.
- **Shipping Completed Packs**
 - Save some of the boxes you receive materials in for repackaging completed packs
 - Once Packs are completed and ready for shipment – contact Lisa @ CDS for information on shipping. lcrouch@brethren.org
- **Monetary Donations**
 - Gifts to the Emergency Disaster Fund are an important way to support CDS disaster efforts and can be specified to sponsor IKOC's.
 - Donate online at <https://churchofthebrethren.givingfuel.com/cds> with IKOC in comments
 - or mail check to Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 with a note indicating IKOC-CDS.
- For More information: cds@brethren.org or call 410-635-8734.

Individual Kit of Comfort by Picture



A4 Pencil
Zippered Pouch
Mesh (1)



2 oz Dough – Any
Brand (1)
*(discount school
supply has a
great generic one
or Crayola brand
on Amazon)*



Wooden track cars
(2 per pack)
*(can buy up to 5
sets at a time on
Amazon)*



Watercolor paint
set with brush (1)



White paper
plates 6 inch (12
per pack)



Washable
markers
(2 per pack)



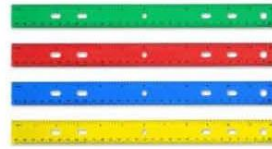
Washi Tape
(3 rolls per pack)



Small Plush Dog –
no larger than 5
inches



3.5 square
bean bags
(2 per pack)



12 inch Rulers
(2 per pack)



mini-deck
of cards (1)



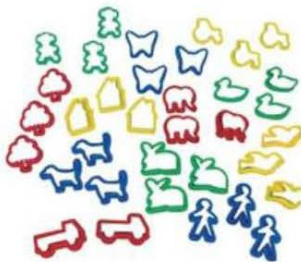
Children's jump
rope (1)



InkJoy Gel Pen
(1)



5-inch beach ball
(1)



Clay cutter
(1)



3 x 5 notebook
(1)



Animal finger
puppets
(2 per pack)

**** Kits need to meet these specifications so that children can all receive an equal play kit. Please do not add or substitute items.**

It's time for Open Enrollment

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

- Medicare Supplement
- Dental
- Vision
- Long-term Disability
- Short-term Disability
- Life Insurance
- Accident Insurance
- Pet Insurance

