

“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

~Matthew 10:42

The small things matter. My mantra when things seem too complicated to fix or evil seems too big to overcome is this: yeast, salt, light, mustard seeds. This is the way the kingdom comes – through small things that ripple out, quietly at first, hardly noticed, until all of the sudden the dough has risen, the field is full of grain, the food has a pop of flavor, the hidden things can be seen.

The scripture above is the scripture that goes with Brethren service cups in our tradition. Very often those cups are used in congregations, not for communion as most traditions use chalices, but for giving. As a kid I remember collecting spare change in them to put in the offering plate on Sunday. Perhaps your congregation gets out a Brethren service cup for special offerings.



I have been thinking of this symbol again recently for a couple reasons. For annual conference, on the worship planning committee, we decided to invite folks to bring items to make small worship centers on each delegate table. One of those items is a Brethren service cup or chalice. Some people have shown me what kinds of cups they are bringing and all are beautiful and precious in their variety. I look forward to seeing more than 75 of them gathered together as we gather for worship and business in the “Big Meeting,” a symbol of both diversity and unity in service to Christ and neighbor.

The second reason I've been thinking about Brethren service cups is because I have been on the lookout for them as gifts for our newly ordained ministers. We have had two ordinations this year so far, and we have another coming up in August. Praise God for raising up leaders in our midst! As I hand these ministers the Brethren service cups, I give them a reminder that any time they give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name, they are doing kingdom work.

So much of ministry, a calling for all disciples, is noticing a need and offering of what we have – a cup of cold water to soothe, cool, restore. It starts there. And because God is who God is, it grows and grows. Today a cup of cold water, tomorrow the kingdom coming among us. So the questions stir: What do you have to offer? To whom are you called to give? From whom are you called to receive?

I pray travel mercies to those of you going to conference, and the Spirit among us in worship, fellowship, and work. I pray glimpses of God and cups of cold water to give and receive for each one of us as we minister and grow together.

Blessings in the moments,

Laura

A way that Laura will be using to stay in touch with the S/C IN District and provide updates is via video!

Her videos are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SouthCentralIndianaCoB>

Also look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District on our District blog at:

<https://southcentralindianacob.com/blog/>

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Creative Financial Centre
2704 S. Goyer Rd., Kokomo, IN 46902

Theme: “Cross Training”

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” - Luke 9:23

Moderator: Mark Stahl

Delegate designation forms have been mailed to all the churches, and are due July 1, if you need a new one please contact the District Office asap!

Non-delegate forms (due July 20) are available on the website at:
https://www.scindcob.org/2023_non-delegate_registration.pdf

Please note, new for this year, there will be a vegetarian option for conference lunch. There is a line on the forms to indicate if you want this option, if you missed it on the forms, please call or e-mail the District Office with your preference.

JULY 2023 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

July 2-4 - Council of District Executives Meeting—Cincinnati, OH

July 4-8 - Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH

July 9 –18 - DEM Laura Out of Office

July 21 - Program & Arrangements Committee - 9 AM—District Office

July 30 - Installation of Kay Theel at Marion CoB

July 28—August 6—DAA Sarah Out of Office

DISTRICT OFFICE SCHEDULE DURING JULY & AUGUST

July and August are a very busy time for the District Office staff, with various work and family commitments that have us out of office or in office at different times than normal.

Please call ahead if you plan to stop by the office, and don't hesitate to call, leave messages, text or e-mail. We will respond as soon as possible. Thank you!!

PRE – DISTRICT CONFERENCE CEU EVENT

MINISTRY IN SMALL CHURCHES
A Panel presentation, including:
Jan Largent, Union Grove CoB, Circuit-Rider
for the denomination's
Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church program

Friday, August 18, 2023

12:30 - 5:00 pm

Kokomo Church of the Brethren
311 W Lincoln Rd, Kokomo, IN 46902



Increasingly, our churches are small and our pastors are multi-vocational.

This poses challenging shifts to navigate and surprising opportunities to cultivate.

Yoked churches (two churches with one pastor), partnerships between churches, raising up leadership from within, house church, online church, and team ministries are all creative ways of doing church that are happening in our district.

These churches have found ways to thrive even in their smallness!

We will explore these possibilities together and hear from Jan Largent, our area's circuit-rider for the denomination's Part Time Pastor, Full Time Church program, and a part-time pastor of a small church herself.

This is a .4 CEU opportunity and a good chance for lay leaders and pastors to join together around what it means to be a vibrant small church.

\$10 fee for those pursuing CEU credit

5:30 PM PASTOR APPRECIATION SUPPER

(reservations requested by July 27, contact the District Office)

7:00 PM - FRIENDS WITH THE WEATHER CONCERT



“[Friends with the Weather](#), a project from the trio of singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalists [Seth Hendricks](#), [Chris Good](#), and David Hupp, celebrated its debut album release and inaugural performance in September 2016. A proud member of the Earthwork Music Collective, Friends with the Weather's unique sound blends dynamic musicianship, 3 part vocal stylings, and rich lyrical content exploring how we can learn and grow in the midst of challenging times, striving to be sources of love, hope, passion and vision.”

BRETHREN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES COURSE WITH BLI

You are welcome to join us for any sessions that interest you. Below are the dates, times, and topics we plan to discuss.

Please RSVP to Laura (scindlaura@gmail.com) to receive the zoom link and the reading list for the class you wish to attend. Suggested donation \$5 per hour, to support BLI students. All Zoom meetings are 7-9pm on Wednesdays.

- ◆ **July 12: Reconcile, Refuse Violence, Make Peace** (*Peace, Shalom, Anointing*)
- ◆ **July 19: Serve and Care, Open the Circle** (*Service, Community, Love Feast*)
- ◆ **July 26: Minister, Go and Tell** (*Ministry, Evangelism, Baptism*)
- ◆ **August 2: Be Faithful and Be Different** (*Discipleship, Stewardship, Simplicity*)
- ◆ **August 13 afternoon: New Vision** (*and some polity... and some ice cream...*)
-- 4 hours, in person, available to those who have attended any prior zoom session

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of May 31, 2023		
	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$6,411.48	\$37,448.34
Restricted Income	\$650.00	\$958.00
Other Income	-\$13,242.63	\$44,126.16
Total Income	-\$6,181.15	\$82,532.50
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$10,796.02	\$57,208.85
Restricted Expenses	\$426.82	\$4,085.86
Total Expenses	\$11,222.84	\$61,294.71
Net	-\$17,403.99	\$21,237.79
District Fund Balance		\$995,909.98

JULY DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

July 2 - Join us as we lift up Annual Conference.

July 9 - Join us as we lift up the Church of the Brethren, Inc.

July 16 - Join us as we lift up Northview CoB and the Western Plains District.

July 23 - Join us as we lift up Peru CoB and the West Marva District.

July 30 - Join us as we lift up Pike Creek CoB and the Atlantic Northeast District.



Manchester -

Gwen Gustafson-Zook has been called as interim pastor.

Marion - Kay Theel has been called as minister-in-training through the EFSM program.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023
Duke Energy Convention Center
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 4-8, 2023

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2023/>

Viviendo el amor de Dios
Viv Lanmou Bondye A
Rayuwan Kaunar Allah
Living God's Love

Ephesians 5:1-2
Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

Annual Conference worship services can be viewed online at www.brethren.org/ac2023/webcasts live or later via the recording. Services start Tuesday evening, July 4 at 6:45 Eastern Time. They continue at the same time on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings as well as Saturday morning at 8:30 am Eastern Time. A livestream of the worship services, as well as recordings, will also be available in Spanish. There is no fee to watch the worship services although donations are appreciated.

Note: Indiana folks will be preaching at 3 of the worship services:

- ♦ ***Moderator Tim McElwee on Tuesday evening (7/4),***
- ♦ ***Deanna Brown on Thursday evening (7/6),***
- ♦ ***Audri Svay on Saturday morning (7/8).***

While there will not be District-wide watch parties for these we encourage you to gather with others from your congregation to participate in these or any other of the worship services being livestreamed!

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS ITEMS

Unfinished Business

UB 1. [Query: Standing with People of Color](#)

UB 2. [Query: Breaking Down Barriers – Increasing Access to Denominational Events](#)

New Business

NB 1. [Request for an Annual Conference Study on Calling Denominational Leadership](#)

NB 2. [Recommendation Regarding Nominations from the Floor of Annual Conference](#)

NB 3. [2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education](#)

NB 4. [Restated and Amended Articles of Organization for Eder Financial](#)

NB 5. [Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors](#)

NB 6. [With Actions and in Truth: A Lament of the Doctrine of Discovery](#)

Briefing Video, Mission and Ministry Board and Agency Reports, and 2023 Ballot
—www.brethren.org/ac/2023/business

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN HISTORY COURSE

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) will offer *Church of the Brethren History*, online from September 11-November 5, 2023. Craig Gandy will be the instructor. TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion. EFSM students may take this course as part of a Learning Unit.

These online courses "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. New lessons are posted weekly, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations).

This course will be hosted on the Brethren Academy Moodle site. Brethren Academy students will use their Moodle account information. Passwords can be reset if needed. Non-Academy students will be provided with Moodle account information.

The deadline to register for this course is **August 1, 2023**.

Registration and payment are through SVMC. To register, go to: <http://events.r2o.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejorrz6fdf8e968c&llr=adn4trzab>

UPCOMING BRETHREN ACADEMY COURSES

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

September 6-October 31, 2023

Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation. Topics include the multivocational ministry of the Apostle Paul and an investigation of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

The deadline to register for this course is **August 2, 2023**

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures

October 11-December 5, 2023

Instructor: Matt Boersma

Students will work through the various books of the Hebrew Bible and look at their ancient context, and attempt to better understand how these books interact and how they influence the New Testament texts. They will also look at a number of modern theories about these texts and how these theories influence how these books are read today.

The deadline to register for this course is **September 6, 2023**.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

- 1) Mail registration form with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374.
- 2) Register and pay online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> There is a 3% service charge when registering online.

Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE (NOAC)

September 4-8, 2023
Lake Junaluska, NC



NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God’s call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Online registration opens May 1. Past participants will receive an e-mail soon with updated information. For more information: <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/noac/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Mark Charles**, speaker, writer, consultant on the complexities of American history, race, culture, and faith
- **Ken Medema** and **Ted Swartz**
Ken is a singer/songwriter and “sneaky” theologian. Ted is a Mennonite actor and writer.
- **Osheta Moore**, writer, pastor, speaker, and podcaster

Note: Timbercrest is planning to host online viewing of NOAC for Timbercrest residents and S/C IN District folks who are not able to travel to Lake Junaluska.

More details about plans for this will be available in upcoming newsletters.

2023 SONG AND STORY FEST

The 2023 Song and Story Fest family camp co-sponsored by On Earth Peace will be hosted at Camp Peaceful Pines, in California, on July 29-Aug. 4.

The theme for this year’s Sierra Wildfire Song and Story Fest is “After the Fire...” (Psalm 19:1-3). The event is billed as an intergenerational camp for all ages, individuals, and families.

Storytellers, musicians, and workshop leaders include Rhonda and Greg Baker, Hannah Button-Harrison, Matt Guynn, Bill and Jacob Jolliff, Erin and Cody Flory Robertson, Anna Lisa Gross, Kathy Guisewite, Jonathan Hunter, Katie Loomis-Adams, Mike Stern, and Barbara West.

The schedule includes, in the mornings, intergenerational gatherings and worship followed by workshops for adults, children, and youth; in the afternoons, family time, recreation, story swaps, and music-making; and in the evenings, campfires, snacks, and concerts or a folk dance.

Registration includes all meals, on-site facilities, and leadership, and is based upon age—adults \$370, teens \$240, children age 5 to 12 \$150, children 4 and under free—with a maximum fee per family of \$1,000. Daily fees are available. Registrations after July 1 add 10 percent as a late fee.

To register online and for additional information: <http://onearthpeace.org/song-and-story-fest-2023>.

For questions contact Ken Kline Smeltzer, director, at 814-571-0495 or bksmeltz@comcast.net, or SongandStoryFest@gmail.com

**In case you missed one of them in an earlier newsletter,
here are links to some upcoming events that you can still sign up for:**

- ♦ **2023 Camp Mack Camps and Retreats:** <https://www.campmack.org/summer-camp/> or <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/>

Brethren Heritage River Cruise

Schwarzenau, Germany – Visit the Founding Location of the Church of the Brethren

The Experience - August 22 - 30, 2024

Take a one-week cruise that combines the majesty of two great European rivers - the Rhine and the Danube. Explore the Upper Middle Rhine Valley with its numerous castles and experience the tranquil Main meanders. Travel the man-made Main-Danube canal - a stunning technological marvel - as you transit onto the beautiful Danube. Discover the half-timbered buildings of Miltenberg and Wertheim, along with the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Würzburg, Bamberg and Regensburg.

We will end our river cruise with a visit to Schwarzenau, Germany to visit the historic village and the Alexander Mack Museum. We will then enjoy a refreshing box lunch onboard the motor coach as we travel south to Frankfurt to be dropped off at our hotel for the evening. There we will say farewell to our driver and have free time in Frankfurt and dinner on our own before flying home the next morning.

Wood Travel Partners -Joshua Wood—Jwood@dreamvacations.com -(765) 274-3986



Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

South/Central Indiana District
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Church of the Brethren

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