

E-HEADLINER

DRC TO BE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

The District Resource Center will be closed for Memorial Day Weekend beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 22, and re-opening on Tuesday, May 26, at 9 a.m. David K. Shumate, District Executive Minister, will be out of the office until Monday, June 1.

SENIOR RECOGNITION IN MESSENGER

We know that graduating seniors, whether in high school or college, have missed public celebrations of their accomplishments. Messenger, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren, would like to recognize our graduates in a future issue. **Please fill out this form by May 27** so that we can include as many as possible:

www.brethren.org/2020seniors



SUMMER WORKCAMPS POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

The Workcamp Ministry announced this week that all workcamps this summer are canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there will be weekly times of connection from late June through August. Read the full story here at <http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all previously scheduled events have either been cancelled, postponed or moved to other formats through June 10. We continue to monitor and observe the directions of federal, state, and local health authorities to ensure that our continued operation during this time of national emergency is conducted in a manner that protects the safety of our co-workers and the public.

Unless otherwise noted, the appropriate link will be sent from the District Resource Center prior to the meeting. Please review the following list of upcoming meetings:

Spiritual Development Retreat Committee – Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The Spiritual Development Retreat Committee will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, by video conference.

Commission on Ministry – Friday, June 5, 2020

The Commission on Ministry will meet at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 5, by video conference.

Nominating and Personnel Committee – Saturday, June 6, 2020

The Nominating and Personnel Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, by video conference.

District Board Executive Committee – Monday, June 8

The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8, by video conference.

Historical Committee – Friday, June 12

The Historical Committee will meet at the District Resource Center at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 12.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL – JUNE 4, 2020

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for a Moderator's Town Hall on June 4, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The topic will be "Faith, Science, and COVID-19."

The town hall will feature Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with a number of organizations during the COVID-19 crisis. She is also a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, Oakton, Virginia, valuing her connection to faith and the Church of the Brethren.

Commenting on the upcoming town hall, Paul Munday noted: "As we continue to move through the COVID-19 crisis, the relationship between faith and science is rising in importance, especially as church leaders gauge when to reopen church campuses. I anticipate our town hall will provide a lively dialogue about the tension between 'moving out in faith,' and the wisdom of heeding medical, scientific realities."

Additional information on the Moderator's Town Hall will be released shortly. To register, please visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eXsB1T1SQZqfK8czm9ac3Q. To be added to the mailing list for the Moderator's Town Hall to receive updates, please email your contact information to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY CANCELLED – JUNE 13, 2020

"Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina District" has been cancelled for Saturday, June 13. We anticipate making some of the previously announced workshops available online. Please watch for an announcement in an upcoming E-Headliner.

SOCIAL DISTANCING, NOT SOCIAL ISOLATION – AN ONLINE EVENT – JUNE 11 OR JUNE 16, 2020

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering an online event: Social Distancing, Not Social Isolation: A Family Systems Perspective on Thursday, June 11, or Tuesday, June 16. Webinar presented via zoom by Rev. Richard Blackburn, Director Emeritus and Senior Consultant Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The webinar will place the current challenge of social distancing within the context of Bowen family systems theory. Participants will be introduced to the research on loneliness pioneered by John Cacioppo as a lens for further understanding the current challenge. Participants will be invited to reflect on how this time of social distancing can be utilized to facilitate life-giving connections with others. Input will also be provided on the unique role that the church can play to help overcome the potential loneliness of social distancing. Fee – \$30 (\$40 after June 8, June 12). To register online, follow this link: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852>. (Note: Brown Paper Tickets will charge a small convenience fee.) Upon registration, a link and further information will then be sent to you for accessing the webinar.

DENOMINATIONAL VIRTUAL CHOIR

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for a denominational virtual choir. A webpage will be available shortly, with resources that will allow persons from across the church to add their voice to a mass Church of the Brethren choir. Three hymns are projected to be a part of the overall project: "Blessed Assurance," "I See A New World Coming," and "Move In Our Midst."

Assisting Munday with this project are Moderator-Elect David Sollenberger and Enten Eller, who coordinated the recent denomination-wide Love Feast. A proactive timeline is underway to encourage participation and energy toward this vision.

Commenting on the vision of a denominational virtual choir, Paul Munday noted: "As we continue to explore new ways to connect with each other during the ongoing pandemic, the possibility of a denominational virtual choir holds great promise. Throughout history, song has united people of faith during times of crisis. I anticipate that uniting the Church of the Brethren in song virtually will accomplish a similar outcome."

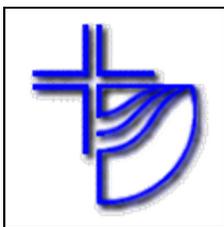
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*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



A number of other faith communities, including the Episcopal Church, have initiated similar projects.

In addition to a denominational choir, plans continue for other virtual events during the week of July 1-5, 2020, when the 2020 Grand Rapids Annual Conference was to be held. Additional details on those events will be released shortly.

Persons who want to be on the mailing list for the denominational virtual choir to receive updates and the link to the project webpage, when available, are encouraged to email their contact information to: cobvirtualchoir2020@gmail.com.

2020 WORLD HUNGER AUCTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

It is with regret that the steering committee announces that the 2020 World Hunger Auction has been cancelled. Even though we will not have the opportunity to join together in a great day of fellowship, food, and winning the bid, there are ways to support the Auction. Feel free to offer your arts and crafts, meals, trips or activities for sale and donate the money you raise to the Auction. For example, one couple has committed to walking 50 miles/month from May through August, totaling 200 miles each. They hope that others will pledge to support their walk or create their own plan for raising funds. Finally, the committee encourages groups and individuals to make donations so that the tradition of helping the hungry may continue even though we can't gather. Please send donations to World Hunger Auction, 130 Hickman Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151. We look forward to reviving the effort on August 14, 2021 and hope to see you there.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV – OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held October 30 – November 1, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

For more information, please contact Karen Haynes by telephone at (336) 765-5263 or by electronic mail at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to our website at www.experiencepilgrimage.com

2020 VIRLINA DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2020 Virlina District Directory has been mailed to all licensed, commissioned and ordained ministers, as well as the Executive Committee of the District Board. A digital (.pdf) version is available by request to nuchurch@aol.com. In 2019 we produced 500 copies. The 2020 directory was limited to 230.

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR MINISTERS – BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Bethany maintains a list of online resources for those who are adapting their ministries to the realities of the pandemic. From helpful tips for the effective use of technology to guidelines for a safe approach to "reopening," our list continues to change and grow. You can find it at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/covid-19-resource-list/>. The seminary is also hosting biweekly video conferences for those interested in discussing topics related to ministry during the pandemic.