

E-HEADLINER

MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - AUGUST 13, 2020

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for another Moderator's Town Hall on August 13th, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. (ET). The topic will be "Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Two." A special focus will be the current reality of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the reopening of churches.

Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, will once again be joining Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday to continue answering attendees' questions and share the latest information about the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with a number of organizations during this pandemic. 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.



To register for the exciting, informative town hall meeting, please visit at this address: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Cz2OqT2IQjmq-ZTIUcVsuQ. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

Questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters can be emailed to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com. Questions related to COVID-19 are to be submitted the night of the event.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR MINISTRY - BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering *Spiritual Practices for Ministry* taught by Reba Herder. This will be an online course beginning September 9.

During this course students will explore the following: what it means to pray without ceasing, ways to creatively honor the Sabbath, what the Bible says about spiritual practices, spiritual practices for different learning styles, how we get in the way of our relationship with God, and how spiritual practices can help congregations thrive.

Please consider participating in this course. **The registration deadline is August 4, 2020.** This course is also available for Continuing Education credit or Personal Enrichment.

ETHICS FOR SET-APART MINISTRY: BASIC COURSE - SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

The Brethren Academy is offering a training session with the new ethics material, Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course, created by James Benedict. This webcast training is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. The Zoom webcast will be held September 12, 2020 from 10:00-4:00 (ET) with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is August 31. This is the date for our office to receive the registration

form and payment. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES – BEGINNING OCTOBER 14, 2020

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering *Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, October 14 - December 8, 2020. Participants will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion. This course would be received by Christian Growth Institute as the equivalent of the Old Testament Survey course upon application to the Director of Ministry Formation. The instructor for this online course will be Matt Boersma.

A brochure with more information is available by e-mailing us a nuchurch@aol.com. Please give consideration to participating in this class. **The deadline to register is September 9.**

Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or (765) 983-1820. Please contact her if you have any questions.

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

NURTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT -2020

An excellent compendium of resources for individual and congregational use has been distributed by the Commission on Nurture of the Virgina District Board to all pastors and contact persons within the district. The Disabilities Ministries Committee, Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Spiritual Development Retreat Committee, Children's Cabinet, and Family Life Ministries have collaborated to share activities and devotions that each congregation can use for educational ministries, newsletters and bulletins. A central feature is a three-month calendar (August – October 2020) to help those who are staying at home to stay fit mentally, physically and spiritually.

We believe that you as an individual and your congregations will find this collection to be helpful during this time of pandemic. Both documents are identical except that one is designed for color reproduction and the other for black-and-white or gray scale reproduction. They may be found on the district website at <http://www.virlina.org/>. Please take the time to view and use these excellent resources. Let us pray for one another as we seek ways to nurture the hearts, spirits, minds and bodies of our people.

NEW DIGITAL PRODUCTS FOR FALL

Shine has produced two new digital resources to help your church keep connections strong with children, youth, and families no matter what setting is necessary for faith formation this fall.

Shine at Home is a new, simple option for families to do at home if you are not resuming regular Sunday school this fall. Shine at Home includes weekly mini-sessions, complete with a prayer practice, ideas for sharing the Bible story, questions and conversation prompts, media suggestions, and four activities that help kids and families explore the Bible story. Shine at Home is now available for preorder and will be released August 1 as a downloadable PDF to email to all the families. A sample session can be viewed at www.shinecurriculum.com

Shine Connect is a new free resource for those faith formation teachers leading children through online Sunday school sessions. Shine Connect materials are included with the purchase of any Shine teacher's guide starting with the Fall 2020 materials. The materials are accessible through the QR code or URL found in each teacher's guide.

Shine Connect for Early Childhood includes an outline and tips for creating fun, online sessions for preschoolers using activities in the teacher's guide and storytelling pictures in the Resource Pack.

Shine Connect for Elementary is a more robust guide with weekly online session plans for Elementary children and accompanies the Primary, Older Elementary, and Multiage teacher's guides.

Shine Connect for Junior Youth provides a simple two-page framework and tips for facilitating discussion around the Bible story and connecting via the at-home devotional, Quest.

Whether livestreaming or via video conferencing, churches can continue to teach children and youth using Shine teacher's guides, student materials, music, and storytelling resources.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR PANDEMIC RESOURCES?

Many resources are provided by Children's Disaster Services for children and families including faith-based resources and curriculum, devotional videos for children, and interactive materials, etc. The webpage features the new downloadable book, "Helpers Win: Yucky-rus Virus" as well as numerous links to resources. <https://covid19.brethren.org/children/>

A Checklist for Reopening Church Buildings is available in English and Spanish at <https://covid19.brethren.org>.

There is information on financial resources and grants at <https://covid19.brethren.org/financial-resources/>.

PART TIME PASTOR; FULL TIME CHURCH

The new *Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church* program is a grant-funded initiative through the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry designed to offer support and encouragement specifically for multi-vocational pastors. Pastors who participate are paired with a regionally based "Circuit Rider," a minister with gifts of deep listening and encouragement. Circuit Riders come alongside pastors to listen to their joys and challenges and then help to connect them with resources that will be helpful in their particular situation.

You can learn more about our program, see photos and bios of our Circuit Riders, and apply to participate here: <http://www.brethren.org/part-time-pastor> Angela Carr, pastor of the Laurel Branch Church in Floyd County, VA, is one of the Circuit Riders in our district.

A SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES (CDS)

We would like to introduce you to a new initiative called an *Individual Kit of Comfort* (IKOC) by Children's Disaster Services as we prepare for the remainder of the 2020 disaster season while keeping the COVID-19 pandemic in mind.

Typically, CDS volunteers would deploy to an area soon after a disaster to care for children in shelters and resource centers. They bring with them a "Kit of Comfort"—a childcare center in a suitcase full of creative play items. We now know that, due to health and safety precautions and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, ***CDS volunteers will not be able to deploy for the rest of 2020 and possibly into the new year.*** In response, CDS has developed an Individual Kit of Comfort to share with children who are experiencing the fears and stress of a disaster along with the extra stress and confusion of dealing with COVID-19. The IKOC will promote a sense of normalcy and provide an opportunity for the healing power of play, which is vital to a child's development and processing of their experiences, especially experiences that are confusing, difficult, or frightening.

Play brings a sense of normalcy and allows a child to explore their thoughts and feelings in a way that feels safe to them. When children are struggling, the best thing adults can do to help is to provide opportunities for play. The items included in the kit were chosen specifically to be used in multiple ways to promote creative, imaginative play. In the absence of a communal play space, the Individual Kit of Comfort is the next best thing we can provide! The kits will be handed out to children where they shelter after the disaster by Red Cross staff from the local area.

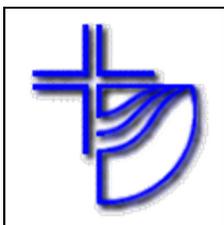
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*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



CDS has a goal of providing 2,500 IKOCs by the end of September 2020. To do this, we would like to engage individuals and congregations in the Church of the Brethren in helping us build them. ***A general information sheet about the Individual Kit of Comfort as well as a pictorial list of the items that need to go into each kit, including the plastic pouch into which it will all be packed is found on the Virlina District Website home page at www.virlina.org.***

The Virlina District Resource Center can facilitate the delivery of the kits to the Brethren Service Center warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. Shipping information will be provided by CDS upon completion of the kits.

We greatly appreciate any and all assistance that you can provide to help us reach our goal of 2,500 Individual Kits of Comfort by September 30. Please do not hesitate to reach out to CDS staff with any questions you may have or for additional ideas in how to promote the building of these IKOCs.

In closing, we would also like to offer the support of Children’s Disaster Services to assist your district with any programs related specifically to children and disasters or trauma, particularly as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please feel free to contact CDS associate director Lisa Crouch at lcrouch@brethren.org or (800) 451-4407, ext. 5.

DRIVE-THRU BBQ AT PETERS CREEK – AUGUST 1, 2020

There will be a ***Drive-Thru BBQ Dinner*** at Peters Creek Church of the Brethren on Saturday, August 1 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. It is sponsored by the Women’s Fellowship. The menu is as follows: BBQ with bun, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dill pickle spear, Slice of pound cake and bottle of water. Cost: \$5.00 (you must purchase a ticket) Tickets are on sale now thru July 31st. For more information, please contact: Gwen Kropff at (540) 761-8672 or jimgwenkro@comcast.net.

ONLINE BIOGRAPHICAL FORM FOR 2020 BALLOT NOMINEES

Persons who have agreed to be on the 2020 District Conference ballot recently received a mailing that included a biographical form to fill out and return by August 31. If you need to fill out an online form the link is <http://virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/163-2020-district-conference-biographical-form.html> and can be found on the homepage of www.virlina.org.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR AUGUST 15, 2020

