

E-HEADLINER



INDIVIDUAL KITS OF COMFORT (IKOC)

Eight congregations have responded to the challenge from the Northern Area Women's Fellowship to assemble 300 Individual Kits of Comfort (IKOC) for Children's Disaster Services. These kits provide children affected by trauma and disaster with small tokens of normalcy for play in the midst of chaos. We currently have a count of over 300 kits, plus cash contributions to help with shipping and to be used for additional supplies. Brethren Disaster Ministries has informed us that the Red Cross asked for 600 kits from New Windsor to be sent to Louisiana and Texas after Hurricane Laura and to California during the wildfires there. This is a needed project, especially during the pandemic when volunteers cannot travel to the disaster sites.

A list of items for these kits may be found online at www.virlina.org. A truck from the Shenandoah District will collect our kits on Saturday, September 12, at the Peters Creek Church of the Brethren. Any contributions of clean up buckets, hygiene kits, or school kits will be delivered at a later time. We appreciate those who have heard the need and answered the challenge. Contact Mary St. John at (540) 362-1816 or virlina2@aol.com for more information.

NORTHERN AREA MINISTERS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

It's been six months of changes, so let's get together to support each other. The Northern Area Ministers of the Virlina District will meet at Camp Bethel on Monday September 14th at 9 a.m. To meet safely, we'll meet at Shelter by the Spring, all screened in open air shelter. Everyone wears a mask and maintains 6-10 feet physical distance. There will be no meal or drinks to further simplify our lives, and help with safety.

We'll talk over some ideas of how to maintain our connections in this strange Covid-19 time. We also need to reelect our backup slate of officers. Due to transitions we used the entire slate. We want to thank Brother J. Richard "Dick" Gottshall, for his service as treasurer, and affirm our new officers.

Tom Powers, President
Donna Hornsby, Vice-President
Emma Jean Woodard, Treasurer

Of course, you're always welcome to pay your dues! The dues are \$15.00 (Cash or check payable to Virlina District Church of the Brethren - with Memo: Northern Area Ministers Association).

NEW POLICY FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Recognizing that live participation is becoming increasingly difficult for multi-vocational ministers and given the growing library of recorded webinars available from denominational agencies, the Brethren Academy is offering clergy the opportunity to view and report on prerecorded webinars and other educational events for CEUs. A standardized reporting process will provide the necessary accountability.

For recordings to be eligible for CEUs, they must: 1) have been created by a Church of the Brethren agency, 2) be no more than 10 years old, and 3) have been originally offered for CEUs according to the criteria set forth by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

After viewing a recording that meets these criteria, clergy may go to the Brethren Academy webpage to complete a "Continuing Education Report for Recorded Material." This fillable form requires the clergyperson to demonstrate knowledge about the material viewed. Completed forms may then be printed and mailed to the Brethren Academy along with the certificate fee. All submissions will be reviewed by the academy's director. To read the full policy, visit <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren->

MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on September 17th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The featured speaker will be veteran civil rights leader and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

The focus of the Town Hall will be: "Racism: Deeper Awareness, Bolder Action."

Andrew J. Young has earned worldwide recognition as a pioneer in and champion of civil and human rights. Ambassador Young's lifelong dedication to service is illustrated by his extensive leadership experience of over sixty-five years, serving as a member of Congress, African American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and ordained minister, among other positions.

During the 1960s, Young was a key strategist and negotiator during civil rights campaigns that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Appointed as an Ambassador to the United Nations in 1977, Young negotiated an end to white-minority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe and brought President Carter's emphasis on human rights to international diplomacy efforts.

Ambassador Young also serves on several boards, including the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change. In 2003, he and his wife Carolyn McClain Young founded the Andrew J. Young Foundation to support and promote education, health, leadership, and human rights in the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean.

He currently lives in Atlanta and serves as the Chairman of the foundation. He is also a father of three daughters and a son, a grandfather of nine, and a great grandfather of one.

The author of three books, Andrew Young is sought after as an advisor to world leaders along with being active as a speaker on the lecture circuit. An ordained minister with the United Church of Christ for over six decades, he continues to preach and considers the work of his foundation an extension of his ministry and of the Civil Rights movement itself.

To register for the town hall, please visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9lEte86GS6-1MPHmEHQNmQ

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

The Town Hall will once again feature a Question & Answer format. You are invited to submit your questions for Ambassador Young during the Town Hall, or you can send them in advance. To send your questions prior to the Town Hall, please email: cobmoderatoretownhall@gmail.com. Though we cannot commit to answering every question, we'll do our best to use what is submitted.

Questions or issues related to registering for the Town Hall can be emailed to cobmoderatoretownhall@gmail.com as well.

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS REPLACE ON-SITE HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

Due to the continuing health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to hold an "in-person" Heritage Day Festival at Camp Bethel on Saturday, October 3. Camp has re-opened for families, guest rentals, and some

modified events and programming, but Heritage Day would be too complex to mitigate health risks for so many person-to-person interactions and the high volume of attendees and participants.

I know many congregations have already been preparing items and foods for Heritage Day, so I encourage each congregation and/or family to explore what's possible: A drive-thru church "yard sale" or food stand? A special after-church parking lot event? An on-line sale or auction with doorstep delivery or pickup? A special offering? Any way you can help support Camp Bethel in 2020 in honor of Heritage Day is greatly needed AND appreciated.

Please let me know how we, the camp staff and the Outdoor Ministries Committee, can support or promote your creative efforts. Updated information is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day

We already miss you all so very much, and now we will miss this, our favorite of days. We know that you, too, have been impacted by COVID-19, so thank you for your time and your support. We continue to adapt and respond in responsible and creative ways, and we continue to foster and build relationships with God, with each other, and with creation. Your continued support is a great blessing to everyone in our Camp Bethel community!

Contact me with any questions, input, concerns, or ideas, and let me know how we can support you. Contact me at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or (540) 992-2940.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE SERVICE – OCTOBER 4, 2020

The Annual Day of Prayer for Peace Service will be held online due to the continuing pandemic. This exciting service will feature music from the young people of Antioch Church of the Brethren, the "Brethren Beats." The Race Education Team will be providing content and the guest speaker will be Pastor Sam Roman.

Elder Sam Roman is a visionary and has been since his upbringing in Brooklyn, New York. He felt his calling to preach God's Word even from a young age as he spent countless hours preaching in the mirror as a young child. Following military service as a young adult, he accepted employment with the Roanoke City Police Department where he served for 25 years. After over two years as Chief of Police in Lexington, Virginia, he became chief in Roanoke on March 31, 2020. He and his wife, Sonya, are the parents of two children.

Ordained in November 2009, Roman has a bachelor's degree from Liberty University and has attended undergraduate certificate programs at the University of Richmond, University of Virginia, Harvard University and Boston University. In October 2016, he became pastor of the Faith and Hope Church.

The online event will be posted on www.virlina.org beginning Sunday, October 4. This recorded service will stay on the website through the end of the year. We invite you and your family to watch it at your convenience. The Peace Affairs Committee hopes to provide a safe alternative to gathering, while we continue to pray for peace and healing in our congregations, communities and the world.

THE VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE FOR 2020

There will be no "in person" Virlina District Conference on November 13-14, 2020. The Program and Arrangements Committee made this decision due to the tension between available space and the need for social distancing. Even a "delegates only" conference would strain the space that is available to us. After consultation with legal counsel, this decision was brought to the District Board on August 8.

Some of the details are as follows:

The booklet and the packet will be sent to all registered delegates from Virlina District. This will be covered by the registration fee. Others with interest may receive this material for \$5.00 or view it on the district website when available. A pre-registration packet was sent by postal mail on August 14. All pre-registrations should be returned by September 21.

A mail-in ballot will be sent to all registered delegates with the results announced during a video "business session." The Executive Committee of the District Board will determine the method of board reorganization.

Since the ballot is being mailed (with head tellers counting), a second business item will be the affirmation of the 2020 budget as the 2021 budget. This is upon recommendation of the August 8 meeting of the District Board.

A taped worship service will be posted on the district website. In addition, there will be a second taped service that will be Moderator Paul Munday's reflections, the business session announcing the ballot results and the budget affirmation results, the installation of Greg Fleshman as 2021 moderator and his 2021 conference theme.

Children and youth activities are planned to be accessible online.

For more information, please contact Mary Sink St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness at virlina2@aol.com, (540) 362-1816 or (800) 847-5462.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV RESCHEDULED – MARCH 26-28, 2021

Although the severity of COVID-19 is different in various locations, we still are not to the place where we could have a large gathering in one room, sit together for meals and in small groups, give hugs, etc. So, for the safety of all, the Pilgrimage Committee has decided to postpone Pilgrimage. The new date is March 26-28, 2021, which is typically when it is held each year. There will be more information closer to the time if you would like to register.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GREENSBORO -2021

The Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren has set the registration fees for the 2021 Annual Conference in Greensboro., N.C. The fees for registration will remain \$125 for non-delegates and \$305 for delegates. The hotel costs will be \$119/night (+tax) for the Sheraton Hotel at Joseph S. *Koury* Convention *Center* and includes free parking.

NOMINEES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE BALLOT

The denomination is in need of nominees for these openings: Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee; Mission and Ministry Board (MMB) from Areas 3 and 5; Bethany Seminary, one representing Church of the Brethren affiliated colleges and one representing laity; Brethren Benefit Trust Board; On Earth Peace Board; and Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee.

All the details needed to make nominations are online at www.brethren.org/ac. From this page, click the button "2021 Nominations" to make nominations and see details about the open positions. You can make a nomination quite quickly if you have your nominee's e-mail address. You may nominate people for several or all positions. You do not need to have the nominee's permission to nominate them. However, you might discuss the possibility with the person to gauge their interest.

After you complete the nomination process, the Annual Conference Office will contact the potential nominee and ask them to respond with some additional information before being put on the initial ballot. Their information will be shared with the Nominating Committee for discernment and possible inclusion on the Annual Conference ballot in 2021. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Starkey, a member of the committee from Virlina District, at skc002@gmail.com or (540) 992-1067.

NEWS AND EVENTS CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS AND CONGREGATIONS

Eric Rajaniemi, a member of the Lake Side Church of the Brethren Fellowship at Moneta, was licensed to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Dallas L. Bailey, Associate Pastor of the Henry Fork Church of the Brethren, will be ordained to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, September 13, 2020.

Virlina District
Church of the Brethren

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We're on the web
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*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



ROANOKE VALLEY CROP HUNGER WALK – OCTOBER 11, 2020

The Roanoke Valley CROP Hunger Walk scheduled for Sunday, October 11, will be VIRTUAL. The planning committee is still finalizing details. We are planning a zoom meeting for team captains on Thursday, September 3, at 7pm. Please go to the Roanoke Valley CROP FB page for more information! You can also reach out to Tabby Patterson (Roanoke First COB) at tabbycat6380@gmail.com with any questions.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT LEARNING TOURS FOR 2021

2021 NCP Learning Tours: go, meet, learn, grow, change – yourself and your world! God-willing and COVID-permitting, the New Community Project will offer Learning Tours in 2021 to Myanmar (January); the Ecuadorian Amazon (June); the Dineh Reservation and Shenandoah National Park (July); Denali National Park and Arctic Village, AK or Yellowstone/Tetons (late July). Good company, simple-but-safe accommodations, low price, and a great experience of God's world! For more information contact the New Community Project at www.newcommunityproject.org or (540) 855-1199.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

