



A Word from the District Board

As we shift our focus toward the year ahead, we want to build upon the solid foundation of work accomplished in 2023. Our new District Executive Minister, Laura Stone, took the reins in February and was formally installed in April. Dozens of folks were introduced to Laura at the sectional Meet-n-Greets hosted by congregations across the district. Our immediate past board chair, Diana Bucher, helped plan and implement an overnight board retreat at Camp Mack which included opportunities for growth, planning, fellowship, exercise, and worship lead by past moderator Mark Stahl, and incoming moderator Bruce Dunk.

Your district board will be taking a deeper look at the factors that have lead some congregations to consider severing their relationship with the Church of the Brethren and the South/Central Indiana District. We will develop action plans to address any of those factors that are within our ability to control. Additionally, we will work on identifying a relevant value proposition that provides a basis for congregations to WANT to stay connected to the District and the “peculiar” body of believers known as the Church of the Brethren. To put it bluntly, we need to figure out what value a congregation gets in exchange for their participation in our shared journey as we seek to continue the work of Jesus; simply, peacefully, together.

If you have thoughts you would like to share or concerns that you wish to express, please reach out to me at your convenience.

Paul Schrock (schrock.paul@gmail.com)

District Board Chair, 2024

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

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

To subscribe to the blog and get new articles by email, click the brown gear icon at the top of the website.

Also, follow South/Central Indiana District on Facebook to see current information and upcoming events.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Good Morning, afternoon, or evening to you. Well, we made it through the holidays! Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day. For me and my extended family, it's back to work, back to school, back to life after all the holiday celebrations. Our next focus at Church will be the Lenten season with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. That seems to be so far from now. We have to trudge through the winter weather with snow, slush, the wind, and ice. For me, I'm not a snowbird, but I'd sure like to be in a milder climate for the winter.

The time spent in winter weather takes up a lot of actual space on the yearly calendar. As a seasoned citizen I'm less likely to take advantage of this time of year for visiting and doing other church things. My natural tendency is to throw another log on the fire and watch too much TV. This year I am more determined to make use of, what seems to be an eternity on the calendar, in a more useful and fulfilling way. It's about time to clear out the Christmas decorations, as beautiful and meaningful as they are, and get to work.

Lamentations 3: 22-24 says, "The steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, 'the Lord is my portion' says my soul, 'therefor I will Hope in him'" (ESV). Isn't that a better way to deal with the doldrums than getting up and grumping at the weather every day? Instead of facing the weather every morning, face the reality of God's mercies and faithfulness.

For some of us the seasonal light, or lack of it, might play a part in our winter blues. But I wonder how much is because of the lack of getting together with our church people during the of winter. We weren't meant to be alone in life or in our Christianity. We build each other up, we strengthen each other's faith, we cause each other to look to the Lord for those new mercies.

In our down time between the holidays, send a text, call a friend, visit as the weather allows. Get into each others lives. We are stronger together. Allow church relationships to build the Kingdom in our midst. God has rooted us where it pleased Him to do so and He has given us others to encourage us. It is our charge to seek the Lord together, to learn of his goodness, and put forth the effort to grow and mature where we are, and become fruitful.

Agape from your moderator,

Bruce Dunk
Lower Deer Creek COB

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

CONTACTING LAURA DURING JANUARY:

This month her schedule is full of travels, conferences and classes, so her response time to e-mails will be slower.

For assistance with administrative or resource needs, please contact Sarah at scindcob@gmail.com or (260)274-0396. A phone call with a voice mail is a good way to let Laura know of urgent and important needs (574-306-8768). She will call you back or have the District Board chair or vice chair check in with you, for things that need addressed while she is away.

Laura will return to her regular schedule January 31.

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of November 30, 2023

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$0.00	\$72,993.22
Restricted Income	\$0.00	\$7,050.00
Other Income	\$93,700.00	\$146,305.16
Total Income	\$93,700.00	\$226,348.38
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$12,695.55	\$134,019.29
Restricted Expenses	\$0.00	\$22,618.62
Total Expenses	\$12,695.55	\$156,637.91
Net	\$81,004.45	\$69,710.47
District Fund Balance	\$1,057,791.23	

2024 District Directory Updates

Its that time of year again!! 2024 District Directory Update Forms are being sent to all churches this week.

Please take a few moments to review your church's form and make any changes; then send it back to the district office by e-mail or USPS mail or online at: <https://forms.gle/QnUv9kogbjDnUFdx6> .

If there are no changes, a quick e-mail or phone call to let us know that would be greatly appreciated! Please have all changes in by January 31.

JANUARY DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

January 7 - Join us as we lift up Arcadia CoB and the Atlantic Southeast District.

January 14 - Join us as we lift up Bethel Center CoB and the Idaho District.

January 21 - Join us as we lift up Buck Creek CoB and the Illinois & Wisconsin District.

January 28 - Join us as we lift up Buffalo CoB and the Northern Indiana District.

JANUARY 2024 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

January 1 - District Office closed for New Year's Holiday

January 14 - Mark Cripe Licensing Service - 1:00 pm - Lafayette CoB

January 18 - Ministry Credentialing Committee - 7:00 PM - District Office

January 20-24 - Council of District Executives Meeting - Melbourne, FL

January 27 - District Board Meeting - 9:00 am — Logansport CoB

DISTRICT CHURCH UPDATES

- **Anderson** - Is currently in the search process to fill a new part-time ministry position, Leader for Growth and Community Engagement. For more information about this position, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a7uN41DD7o8pDfI0J_cp-3b6B-cfDeIsJr6gRs4bj5s/edit?usp=sharing
- **Eel River Community**—Is seeking to fill a part-time position on their ministry team.
- **Guernsey** - Is beginning the search process.
- **Manchester** - Is in the search process.

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR 2024

January 27, 2024

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar.

- Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- Earn 0.3 CEUs - for the first 2 sessions only.

Schedule:

11:00am - 12:30pm: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 1

Topics covered: IRS's definitions of ministers (ministerial "status") and of ministerial work (ministerial "services"), as well as the three kinds of income ministers receive, the two kinds of taxes ministers pay, and the various ways ministers can pay those taxes during the tax year.

1:00pm - 2:30pm: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 2.

Topics covered: Housing exclusion, parsonages and parsonage adjustments, and self-employment taxes, as well as ways to reduce total taxes.

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Completing the Clergy Tax Return.

Rev. Zeke Zacharias, pastor at Litlold Church, has a typical clergy tax return to complete. We will walk through it with him. Deb will be using H&R Block's Premium (for self-employed people) version of their downloadable software.

Registration and Cost: \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons.

Registration deadline is January 19, 2024.

For more information or to register, go to: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>

FLOURISHING IN MINISTRY

Book
Discussion



It's no surprise to pastors, but ministry can be challenging. Ministry work is complex, continuous, and diverse and the demands pastors feel can be overwhelming. Yet we also know that pastors who are spiritually, emotionally, and physically healthy are better able to serve their congregations.

Multi-vocational pastors are invited to join Pastor and Circuit Rider, John Fillmore, for a 10-week discussion of Matt Bloom's book, *Flourishing in Ministry: How to Cultivate Clergy Well-Being*, as we dig a little deeper into the things that contribute to pastoral wellbeing.

Sessions will begin January 16th and be held on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00 ET. Registration is limited, so sign up as soon as you can. Books will be provided by the Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church program, and CEUs will be available. Register by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/JWi3m7pfAP6ZUCzL9>.

POWERHOUSE REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Greetings from DYSCO - District Youth Serving Christ Openly - the district youth cabinet for the Northern Indiana district of the Church of the Brethren! We are coordinating Powerhouse, the regional youth conference, for this school year. It has been planned by Manchester University in the past. This year, it is February 16-18. (The schedule is on the second page). It will be at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana.

While Manchester University is not taking on the full planning, we will still have Church of the Brethren students from Manchester come and help us out. We will also have some similar things from the past as well. There will be workshops from Brethren Volunteer Service and Faith X. There will also be other workshop opportunities and worship services.

Our main speaker this year will be David Radcliff, director of the New Community Project in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The theme will be "Caring for Others and Caring for God's Creation." (The scripture theme verses will be announced later-we wanted to get this "save the date" out there).

The cost will be \$99 for youth, and \$79 for advisors. If you need financial assistance, please reach out to Val Kline or Lucas Kauffman. Stay tuned about how to register as well. It will be open through Friday, February 2nd. In the meantime, before registration, if you would like to email us and let us know how many youth may be coming from your churches, please do, and then we can also email you to let you know when registration officially opens.

Thank you!

Lucas Kauffman - lmkauffman@spartans.manchester.edu or lucaskauffman1210@gmail.com; 574-312-0225 (Feel free to send a text)

Val Kline- v3kline@hotmail.com; 765-606-8541

POWERHOUSE 2024 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 16

- 7:00-8:00pm-Registration
- 8:00-8:45pm-Get to Know You activity/games
- 9:00pm-9:30pm-Opening session
- 9:30-11:30pm-Free time/snacks (movie option for two hours)? Games?
- 11:45pm-Get ready for bed
- 12:00am-In rooms and lights out (Room checks by advisors)

Saturday, Feb. 17

- 8:30am-9:15am-Breakfast
- 9:30am-10:30am-Service project
- 10:45am-11:45am-Worship service
- 12:00pm-1:00pm-Lunch
- 1:00pm-2:00pm-1st Workshop option
- 2:15pm-3:15pm-2nd Workshop option
- 3:15-5:15pm-free time (Free time options)
- 5:30pm-6:30pm-Supper
- 7:00pm-8:00pm-Worship service

- 8:00pm-8:45pm-Small group worship reflection from first two worship services
- 8:45pm-11:30pm-Free time/snacks (movie option, games)
- 11:45pm-Get ready for bed
- 12:00am-In rooms and lights out (room checks by advisors)

Sunday, Feb. 18

- 8:30am-Breakfast
- 9:30am-10:30am-Clean-up/pack up/feedback
- 10:30am-11:30am-Closing worship

Camp Mack Upcoming Events



- **January 27/February 3 Snow Camp Jr. (1/27) & Snow Camp (2/3):** Send your children and youth for a fun winter day at camp! Enjoy all things snow related through games, crafts, snacks, and outdoor play. Please dress for the weather and bring a change of clothes. Jr. is ages 5 to 12, and Snow Camp is for grades 6 to 10. Each day is \$35 and includes lunch, a snack, and all activities. 9a to 4p.
- **February 11 Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day:** Travel between Salamonie and Mississinewa to view migrating bald eagles and end your day at the roost. Learn about their reintroduction and comeback in Indiana and how to age an eagle that you see. Cost: \$35, snacks and transportation. Saturday from 1p–9p. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then travel offsite. Dress for the weather.
- February 12 or 14 CSI/Forensics Homeschool Outdoor Education Day
- **February 15–18 Quilt Retreat:** Arrival on Thursday or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival (3 p.m. or after). Bring sewing supplies and projects, sewing machine, table light, show and tell items, bedding for a twin bed, towel, toiletries, etc.
- **February 23–26 Scrap and Craft Retreat:** 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday with arrival options. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival. Each participant will have a 7– or 8-foot table, power strip access, Wi-Fi, and trash can.
- **February 24, Scrap and Craft Get-A-Way Day:** 9a to 4p. \$25 includes lunch. February 24 Knitting and Crocheting Get-A-Way Day: 9a to 4p. \$25 and includes lunch. This is for all levels of experience.

To register or for more information go to: www.campmack.org or call (574) 658-4831

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/>

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