

Springfield Cornerstone

March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Online also!</p>			1	2	3 Newsletter deadline	4 Kid's Closet, 10 am-12 Akron 1st CoB- Soup Supper 4:30- 6:30
5 2 Cent Meal Lenten Service @ Reading CoB	6	7 Prayer, 6 pm, Bible Study, 7 pm	8 Commis- sions & Ex- ecutive Comm. Mtg. 7 pm	9 Choir Practice, 7 pm	10	11 "30 Somethings" Get Together at church.
12 Daylight Sav- ings Time Lenten Service @ Akron 1st Fellowship Hall reserved (Dombecks)	13	14 Prayer, 6 pm, Bible Study, 7 pm	15	16 Choir Practice, 7 pm	St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Lenten Service at Eden Cob	20 1st Day of Spring	21 Prayer, 6 pm, Bible Study, 7 pm	22	23 Choir Practice, 7 pm	24	25
26 Festival of Choirs, 7 pm Springfield CoB	27	28 Prayer, 6 pm, Bible Study, 7 pm				



Lent



Akron/Canton Area Church of the Brethren Lenten Schedule All services begin at 7 pm

March 5 Reading CoB Speaker: Wayne Scott
25418 Georgetown rd., Homeworth, OH

March 12 Akron First CoB Speaker: Paul Bozman
1812 Marigold Ave. Akron, OH

March 19 Eden CoB Speaker: Bruce Jacobson
4437 Richville Dr. SW, Canton, OH

March 26 Akron Springfield CoB Festival of Choirs

Refreshments and fellowship to follow each service.

30 Somethings Get together

A game night is being planned for people in our congregations in their 30's and 40's and thereabouts. It will be Saturday March 11 at the church. Child care will be provided by the deacons. Come and enjoy each other with latte drinks, pizza, pop and games.



Deacon Policy on Helping People - People who are in the hospital or sick should call Pastor Andrew, their deacon or a deacon-on-call.

Bulletin information: If you have any information or prayer concerns you would like in the bulletin, please email them to the church by Thursday each week. Thanks.

CD's of the worship service available: Please let the secretary know if you would like an audio CD mailed to you each week.

The Prayer Chain:

If you have a prayer that you wished to share among the community, you can reach out by: connecting Pastor Andrew's cell, the Church Secretary's phone, or [email springfieldprayers@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldprayers@gmail.com). (If prayers are urgently needed, call Pastor Andrew.) Reasons for prayers and names do not have to be disclosed if that is your wish.

We encourage you to keep the friends and members of our congregation in your thoughts.

Call those who have not been attending for various reasons and encourage them to come to church.

Also, continue to support and care for all people in our congregation.

We are the body of Christ, and a family who cares for each other. For this reason, we need to pray for and to care for each other!





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Meetings will take place this Wednesday, March 8th at 7 pm, followed by the Executive Committee Meeting at 7:40 pm

Festival of Choirs – We will be hosting the Festival of Choirs that culminates the Lenten services that we share with area Brethren churches. This will be on Sunday, March 26th at 7 pm. Be thinking of what snacks you can bring to share following the service on that day.

Easter Lilies – Celebrate the glory of our risen Lord with an Easter Lily! They will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. You may take your lily home after the church service. Deadline for orders is March 26th. \$9.50 each. Please see the order forms in your bulletin and on the back table. Turn in to Sam Courie or in his mailbox.

Crockpot Fundraiser for camp –this will take place following Easter, on Sunday April 30th. Details to follow.

Upper Room Devotionals for March/April are now available on the magazine rack inside the front entrance.

Kids Closet – the next Kids closet will be Saturday, April 1 from 10-12 and will continue the 1st Saturday of each month through April.

Flower Calendar – There is a new 2023 Flower Calendar up in the back. Take time to add names you would like to remember. Altar flowers are \$20.

Adult Sunday school Class ---On January 29th we started a ten week Bible study on the “Death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.” This will lead us up to Easter Sunday! Please join us for the Sun-

day school hour and share your love of Christ. The lessons will be a video followed by discussion for each Sunday. Hope to see you then!

A Sunday school class for pre-school - second grade children during the regular Sunday school hour. Please bring your children to the nursery to learn about God and the Bible, and form some long lasting relationships with other great kids. Christian Ed.

Jr. and Sr. Spring Youth Rally, April 21-22 (7 pm-2:30 pm. **Registration by March 5th**, “A Chosen Generation, 1 Peter 2: 9) Camp Inspiration Hills.

District, camp and denominational news can be found in our March Cornerstone and in the District Herald that should be coming to us soon.

Prayers have been asked for Julie Watson (former District Secretary) and her family. Julie’s father passed away last month.

A prayer of joy from brother Tom Michaels, “Thanks for the cards & notes, thoughts & prayers, over the last few months during my health challenges. Surgery on February 2 was able to relieve most of the symptoms (primarily pain). I have been able to start taking short walks (50-60 yards) and standing for brief periods in the last few days. Praise the Lord! Again, thank you for your ministry to us during this time.”

Mission and Ministries of the Church of the Brethren thanks us for our partnership in the ministries of the church with our donation last year of \$6,500. Traci Rabenstein, Director of Mission Advancement.

Thanks to all who made and bought Super bowl subs in February. Proceeds will be going to our youth for the next National Youth Conference.



Mark Your Calendar

Prayer Meetings & Bible Study: Tues, 6 pm, 7 pm

Choir Practice: Thurs. 7 pm

Adult Sunday school class, Sunday, 9:30 am

Lenten Service, Sunday, March 5th, Reading CoB, with Wayne Scott

Commissions, Executive Comm Mtg, Wed. March 8th

Daylight Savings Time, March 12th

30 Somethings Get together, March 11th

Crockpot Youth Fundraiser, Sunday, April 30th

February Attendance & Offering

February 5, 2023 Attendance: 32;
Offering: \$1,965.00; Specials: \$282.00

February 12, 2023 Attendance: 36;
Offering: \$2,732.00; Specials: \$95.00

February 19, 2023 Attendance: 37;
Offering: \$1,465.00; Specials: \$1,114.00

February 26, 2023 Attendance: 26;
Offering: \$1,405.30; Specials: \$0



Bible Study: Meeting time is Tuesday at 7:00 pm using Zoom. A Prayer Meeting will precede at 6:00 pm. The Bible Study and Prayer Meetings are held downstairs in the Circle of Friends Classroom which is just to the right at the bottom of the stairs. (Link is in the weekly email)

The Many ways to stay in the know with our happenings!

- **Sunday service:** We are continuing to offer worship online by broadcasting directly on YouTube. How to watch: You can watch the worship live at 10:30 am on Sunday or the recording on our YouTube channel. **Link is found below.**
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/SpringfieldCOB
New information is posted here; you don't need to have an account to see the page.
- **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCPFzecAEgzFC0Q4LP6ix3pw
- Video of worship is uploaded here; Subscribe if you can for updates!
- **Mailing of CD's.** The audio version CD's of the sermon are being mailed out to those requesting them.
- **Email:** Pastor Andrew sends out regular updates from his address. The church office sends out regular prayer needs throughout the prayer chain: springfieldcob@gmail.com or the prayer request email: Springfieldprayers@gmail.com.
- **One Call Now:** Please see page 30 in the new directory for information in using One Call services. If you wish to be added, removed or have contact changed, please inform Pastor Andrew. Email Pastor Andrew or the church office, or call Pastor Andrew or the church office to add prayer concerns, announcements or reminders to be sent out on the One Call Now System.



Pastor Andrew's March Message: "Car Alarm"

My brothers and I spent a lot of our time playing in the woods growing up. We would walk up and down the valley, following stream beds, exploring ridges, and looking for new and interesting places. When we were younger, the rule was that we had to be within 'car alarm' range. That was how we were called home, mom or dad would set off the car alarm and we could hear it from nearly anywhere on camp property and quite a ways beyond.



I remember how this rule was created, it was actually before we had a car with an alarm. We had gone out sledding, if I had to guess, we were either 8, 6, and 4 or 7, 5, and 3, and we decided to follow the stream that ran behind the house. My parents hadn't been with us as the sledding hill was the backyard. Jacob, Laban, and I had a good time exploring the icy, snowy woods. I have a fairly vivid memory of doing so, but I don't remember how mom and dad found us. But I guess they had tried to honk the car horns to get our attention and we had ignored them. They were mad, I think we were punished, and after that boundaries were set and the car horn became our call home. Eventually, we became old enough that we could travel even further, as long as our parents had an idea of which way we were going.

Part of growing up is learning about and pushing on our boundaries. They can become a source of friction between parent and child. At the same time, children thrive when they have clearly defined limits. As parents we have to slowly move them further and further out. If we move them too fast then our children can end up in a situation that they are not properly mature to handle. However, boundaries that don't move fast enough, or at all, end up harming a child's ability to mature and they won't be able to handle situations that are age appropriate. Sometimes people can handle being unready fine, other times they make poor decisions and end up harming themselves intentionally or unintentionally.



The same is true for our faith. When we are little our faith has very small, very rigid boundaries. "This is good and good people have good things happen to them and they go to Heaven. That is bad and bad people have bad things happen and they don't go to Heaven. If you aren't sure, just ask an adult, they will have the answer."

As we get older we discover that life is no where near as simple. We figure out that bad things happen to good people, that what is good and what is bad is not always clear in every situation, and no person is simply good or bad. We also begin to be



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clever enough to ask harder, more probing questions and may even discover that the adults don't have all the answers. We even begin to read the Bible for ourselves and begin to come to our own conclusions as to what it says.

Its hard for us adults, we continue to see our children as who they were and not what they are becoming. We think that they are not ready for a more mature faith when in fact it is we who are not ready to see them as independent believers. There are many people who try to quash young people at this point, who try to keep them in hard boundary faith. I don't agree with this, it either creates believers that worship the boundaries instead of the God of Love or it simply chases people out of the Church because they believe that they are too sinful to belong.

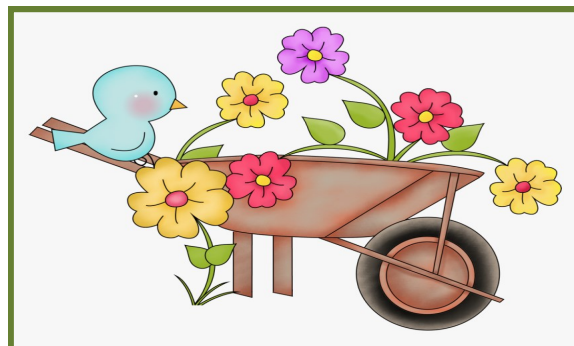


“But wait!” say some, “Are we not suppose to have faith like a small child?” “By all means!” I reply. (Sorry, I just really love Paul’s style.) Yes, we are called to have faith like a child, but we are also told that in Christ we are free. At times in our faith journey we will want concrete answers, but as we mature we find that we are able to accept that somethings are a mystery. We come to realize that we will never have all the answers. Like a child who doesn't understand why clean clothes appear in their dresser, we live in the mystery of how the Trinity works and why God loves us (to name a few). We progress from not needing to, to needing to, to accepting that we are unable to know all things.

As we continue the journey through Lent and towards the Cross: be at peace with not knowing the whys and hows, God has it in hand. Be a gentle and loving hand to those behind you on the path of faith as they explore their edges and continue to grow in belief. And be ready for that day when God sets off the car alarm and calls you home. Blessings



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.





Executive Committee Notes from February 8th

Pastor's Report: Continuing with services concentrating on the Gospel of John. Put into place: One call now system. With daily calls/emails communicating prayer concerns, announcements, etc. Continuing with Bible study (Isaiah) and prayer meetings.

Treasurer: No report.

Christian Education: 82 subs were ordered. Selling on Feb. 12th. Proceeds to Youth National Youth Conference.

Fellowship & recreation: We will be hosting the Festival of Choirs March 26 with needs for providing refreshments. Planning for the Easter breakfast. Will possibly have a birthday dinner or other event such as soup competitions and fundraisers.

Finance: No report

Music & Worship: Met with Pastor Andrew. Will choose a song for the Festival of Choirs. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday. Pricing lilies for Easter. Will provide wrapped Hershey bars for Mother's Day.

Trustees: Elevator inspected for its 9 mo. inspection. There is a concern for the water softener. The pump on boiler was rebuilt and parts ordered for future problems.

Witness: BTSB planned for Aug. 6. Discussed Flower Calendar and Easter baskets for shut-ins and will coordinate this with the deacons.

Deacons: Care group packets went out. Communion served in January. Providing transportation, calls & visits. 30 Something letters went out. Date for event: March 11.

Old Business: Planning event for 30 Somethings. Child care provided by deacons. Will have latte drinks, pizza, pop and play games. If commissions would like events mentioned on One Call Now, that can be included in the message.

New Business:

Funeral Meals—A cold meal was served for Shirley Putt's funeral dinner. Considering providing a funeral dinner choice for future meals (hot or cold). Discussion as to which was more work for the committee. Thinking of giving families a choice as to hot or cold meals. Decision to be made by funeral dinner committee.

Back to School Blast:

The committee would like to apply for a matching grant through the denomination which would cover two years of materials. Several other options discussed: Go Fund Me and using memorial money. Motion was made to use Mary Ann Ludwick's memorial money to provide matching funds for the Brethren Faith in Action Fund.



Brethren News: District, Camp, Denomination

Jr. and Sr. Spring Youth Rally, April 21-22 (7 pm-2:30 pm. Registration by March 5th, “A Chosen Generation, 1 Peter 2: 9) Camp Inspiration Hills.

Calling All Needle Artists: Annual Conference Quilting Bee. You are invited to create a block sent in by May 15th. All quilt tops are to be assembled before conference. See flyer on bulletin board.

Hottle Grants applications for Outreach Ministries - See “The Herald”.

Camp Schedule can be found in The Herald” Theme: “Got Fruit”. Volunteers needed at camp. Also hiring young people to run camp programs.

Summer camp mission: Use camp money to send kids from local schools to camp.

Remember the camp when looking for a place to rent for church and family activities. Packages with discounted meal rates are available.

Camp Cleanup weekend, April 28-29. Meals, fellowship and housing provided. Bring work boots, gloves and a smile. RSVP Ben Allhouse 330-621-4574, or benallhouse@inspirationhillscamp.org.

Brethren Disaster Ministries – N. Ohio scheduled to volunteer in Dawson Creek, Kentucky May 21-27, and Sept. 3-9. See most recent Herald for info.

Firewood Splitting, March 24 & 25, Camp Inspiration Hills. Camp is coming up and split firewood is needed to replenish the wood bins for all those campfires. Lunch & snacks provided for volunteers to help out. Call the camp or Ben (330-621-4574) if willing to help out.

Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren
District Conference 2023

**BACK
TO OUR
FUTURE**

“LOOKING BACK TO OUR FUTURE”
1 Corinthians 3:10-11

District Conference: August 11-12, 2023, Maple Grove CoB in Ashland, OH. The theme is “Back to Our future” and is based on 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11. James Washington, Pastor of the Elm St. and Pleasant View CoB’s will serve as Moderator.

**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 2023

**Duke Energy Convention Center
Cincinnati, Ohio**

July 4-8 (Tuesday-Saturday)

Jean Garcia is our delegate who will represent us at the conference.

New and Renew Conference May 17-19 in person or on-line

If you are looking for new and practical ways to engage your community and congregation, look no further than the New & Renew Conference 2023. Join to learn more about church planting and congregational renewal. Register by April 17th and the district will cover your registration cost. This conference has more than 20 sessions to broaden your knowledge of congregational renewal.



Springfield Church of the Brethren

3500 Albrecht Avenue, Akron, OH 44312 (330) 628-3058

Church email: Springfieldcob@gmail.com

Church web address: Springfield-cob.com



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

We Invite You

- to join with us in the fellowship of a Christian family.
- to join us in our journey to a deeper faith in our Lord Jesus
- to strive with us to "Live for the Glory of God and our neighbor's good."



Pastor: Andrew Wenger

Phone: (717) 725-4695

Email: scob.andrew@gmail.com

**Pastor's In-Office Hours: Tues.– Fri.
mornings, and by appointment**

Church Secretary: Beckie Ebie

Church Office: 330/628-3058

email: Springfieldcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Friday: 9:00 am—2 pm

Sunday Hours

of Worship:

Sunday School, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:30 am