



Connecting Churches in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

“Spreading the Gospel in Ohio through Healthy Churches”

Revitalization Can Happen as Churches Help Each Other

It is recorded in the New Testament, churches helped each other financially when able and through encouragement when needed (Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5). In the not too distant past, Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland, found itself in a financial crunch. Nearby sister church, **First Baptist Church of Strongsville** helped Madison Avenue with a timely loan for which they were very grateful. Recently, **Abram Creek Baptist Church** (formerly Madison Avenue) has returned the favor.

“We are so thankful for Pastor Beight, the Abram Creek Church and the OARBC...”

First Baptist of Strongsville has gone through some difficult times. Their pastor of many years retired. Disagreement in the direction of the church splintered the small congregation. The building and parking lot were in disrepair. A church-owned building next door was a financial liability.

In reaching out to the OARBC, Mike Peck was secured as their interim pastor. His loving leadership was healing and they were finding direction when he suffered a critical heart attack and once again they floundered. And COVID hit. When hearing of the circumstances and needs at First Baptist, Pastor James Beight and the Abram Creek Baptist Church stepped up to help them with a loan and financial gifts and also stepped into their building doing repairs and painting. Pastor Beight orchestrated Chaplain Jeff Cunningham, Army Captain, to serve as their interim speaker and loaned some of his people to help with worship and provide encouragement. The OARBC helped with a gift to repair the parking lot. Another church gave a gift of money to buy good used chairs to replace the pews. The building next door was torn down, leaving nice green space. They were encouraged.

“We are so thankful for Pastor Beight, the Abram Creek Church and the OARBC. We are excited for COVID to be over so we can begin to do outreach ministry and see what God can do through our church, “ says Tammy Collins, Church Treasurer and member since 2002.

Recently, **New Harmony Baptist Church in Caldwell** has also benefitted from the support of sister OARBC churches. Pastors from **Mogadore, Calvary in Lancaster, and Walnut Creek in Baltimore** met with the leadership of the New Harmony congregation. Though small in numbers, there are committed young adults and families who want to see their church go forward and ultimately support a new pastor. They are encouraged to know they are not alone but area churches are there to help.

May God enable the OARBC to continue to follow the Biblical example of churches helping churches.

Council of 12

2017-2021

- David Culver, Chairman, Shawnee Hills, Jamestown
- David Conrad, Calvary, Xenia
- Ken Lowe, Hope, Akron
- Larry Nocella, Camden, Wellington

2018-2022

- Mark Ashley, Northfield, Northfield
- Noel Hack, First, Lagrange
- Dave Kisner, Wash. Heights, Dayton
- Brad Rickard, Immanuel, Columbus

2019-2023

- James Beight, Abram Creek, Brook Park
- Matt Nihiser, Calvary, Lancaster
- Dave Ryan, Grace Baptist, Canton

In This Issue

- Word from the Rep 2
- Church News 3
- OWM/Missions 4-5
- Camp News 6-7
- Conferences 8
- Scholarship News 9
- Across the State 10-11
- Cedarville News 12



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On-line giving ... see page 2

A WORD FROM THE REP

It's hard to believe it's time for another spring LINK to roll off the press. You will note this issue emphasizes churches helping churches. Abram Creek (Brook Park), Fellowship (Dublin) and the New Harmony (Caldwell) are showing us what that can look like in revitalization. It has also been encouraging to see Perry Baptist (Canton) helping Whipple Avenue (Canton) by sharing their pastor, Joel Wasserstein, while Whipple's pastor, Dave Denny, has a long-term recuperation from a bone marrow transplant. This is what a fellowship of churches can do. Churches helping each other in times of need.



Chuck and Linda Pausley

We are still wearing masks and social distancing but our churches are meeting together, seeing new people in attendance and maintaining financial needs as people are faithfully giving. The pandemic cannot stop the spread of the Good News of the gospel.

I have enjoyed hosting four zoom meetings for pastors this year with a wide range of speakers and topics. There has been a good response from the pastors and also good conversation together. It is encouraging to see each other, even if only on the screen.

Linda and I are hosting a Seniors' Luncheon at Cedarville University the first week of May. We had planned to be at Cedarville last year but it was postponed due to the coronavirus. We are anticipating a great time with many of our seniors. Though our numbers are low because of the virus, we have a great representation of people coming from across the state.

The in-person GARBC annual meeting is June 28-July 1 in Schaumburg, Illinois. I encourage all our pastors to come, and you should encourage your pastor to attend. As Mike Hess, GARBC National Rep, encouraged us on one of the zoom meetings, we need to intentionally cultivate friendships. To finish well, we need each other. We are planning to have an OARBC gathering at some time during the conference. We will let you know when and where.

Our annual OARBC state meeting is October 18-20, 2021 at Washington Heights Baptist Church in Dayton. We are anticipating a great conference with guest speakers Mike Hess, National Rep for the GARBC and Paul Davis, President of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. There will be great preaching, great worship, great fellowship, plenty of displays and plenty of food to enjoy. Mark your calendars. Remember, it is not just for pastors. The people of our churches are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.

We are looking forward to warmer temperatures and hopefully no more snow! I am enjoying seeing the green grass and even mowing it. The trees are budding, the birds are singing and the flowers are growing. We are continuing to pray for you and desire God's best for you individually and for your church. Looking forward to seeing many of you this summer.

Chuck Pausley
OARBC State Rep



There is a new button on the front page of oarbc.org. This button will allow churches or individuals to easily give monthly support on-line on a recurring basis. It also allows one-time gifts and donations to the OARBC. It can also be used to buy tickets for scheduled events.

1. Click the button at www.oarbc.org
2. Create an account or visit as a guest.
3. Give your gift or donation.

Thank you for supporting the OARBC!

CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST, DUBLIN REACHES OUT

Our leadership team believed that God was directing Fellowship Baptist in early 2020 to come alongside a small, struggling nucleus of older believers twenty miles away in Galloway (Dayspring at Alton Road Baptist Church) who desired to keep their doors open, even though it did not seem feasible or even practical. Crafting a plan for our involvement and more importantly, God's glory, we engaged in multiple meetings with this church over many weeks to provide leadership, encouragement and a vision. They unanimously voted in favor of our plan to help turn this ministry around by God's grace.

We knew above all that we needed to provide short-term and longer-term pastoral care, so our pastoral staff and several deacons filled the pulpit and led the Tuesday Bible study for several months. We also added a pastoral intern with the intention of having him give half of his time to this church and for him to eventually preach every Sunday. We formed a A/V team of three families that would lead that ministry every Sunday at the church. We've encouraged and have seen several of our families visit the church and offer themselves to help as needed. We've helped host several outreach events in the past year, including a week-long Backyard Bible Club and a community open house, as well as initiating a counseling ministry out of this church.

“...it doesn't take a large church to help another church – just a large heart.”



Josiah and Sarah Finneran, Jayla and Silas
Intern at Fellowship Baptist, Dublin
serving at Hope, Galloway

Though the pandemic has greatly affected the ability to reach out to the community, we're looking to Livestream the Sunday service as well as initiate a program to reach residents moving into the area. We also believed that a change of name would be important to communicate to the community a new ministry at this location. When the dust settled, Hope Baptist Church was born. What a great name to share the hope of Christ to the Galloway community!

The pastoral intern has assumed pastoral duties with Hope as he and his family seek to move into the community and lead Hope into the future. With a housing forecast of projected growth in the area, we look forward to seeing what God will be pleased to do in this ministry. It has certainly encouraged Fellowship to be a small part of this endeavor to continue the gospel ministry of this church. We're also reminded that it doesn't take a large church to help another church – just a large heart.

—Pastor Jim Stevanus, Fellowship Baptist, Dublin

PERRY BAPTIST, CANTON SHARES THEIR PASTOR WITH WHIPPLE AVE BAPTIST, CANTON



Pastor Joel Wasserstein



Combined Morning Worship 3/28/21

It is not easy for Pastor Dave Denny, Whipple Ave Baptist Church, Canton to quarantine for 100 days following his bone marrow transplant, but he can rest easier knowing that his church is being cared for by a fellow pastor, Pastor Joel Wasserstein, Perry Baptist, Canton. Pastor Joel preaches at his church then travels the short two miles to Whipple Ave to preach there. Once a month the churches combine and worship together. It could be up to a year before Pastor Denny can resume his ministry. The two churches, along with Grace Baptist, Canton, have worked together to provide meals for Pastor Dave and Lola. Churches helping churches!

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



“CHRIST: OUR HOPE AND CONFIDENCE”

Proverbs 14:26

“In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”



OWM Ladies Fall Retreat

November 11 - 12, 2021

(Thursday - Friday)

Carlisle Inn — Sugarcreek, Ohio

Speaker: Cecelia Weer, freelance writer for *Israel My Glory*

We will have more details for our fall retreat as the time approaches. Please save these dates and plan to be a part of the Ohio Women for Missions fall retreat.

Our State project for the OWM 2020-Spring 2022 is to be a financial help to our three state camps: Camp Patmos, Skyview Ranch and Scioto Hills. Since the pandemic our camps have been severely hit hard financially. Ladies, we are praying and looking to the Lord to provide each camp with \$5,000. That makes our total project goal \$15,000. At present, we have \$4,321.00. Praise the Lord. This is a good start in the fact that we have not met together at all last year. Please pray, share and give as the Lord leads each of us to meet the needs for our camps. God can do anything but fail!! Our confidence is in Him to provide for this need!!

We met for the first time since the pandemic for our spring meeting on April 24 at the Baptist Mid-Missions Global Ministry Center in Middleburg Heights. It was great to meet again. We were welcomed with enthusiasm and Christian warmth. The Baptist Mid-Missions team gave us tours through the mission and informed us of all the different services offered to missionaries in assisting them so they can focus their energies on their calling to go and proclaim the Good News to other nations.

Thank you Kathy Armstrong and Baptist Mid-Missions staff for a wonderful and enlightening day. Enjoy just a few pictures of the day's events.

Confidence in Him,
Donna Victor, President



Dr. Odle, President, welcomed and shared the vision of BMM.



One of the tour groups prepare to begin



BMM timeline history and artifacts room



The Anderson Ministry Training Center (far left)



The ladies enjoyed a delicious catered lunch (left)

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“Pray ye, therefore, Lord of the Harvest...”

THEN

This article was published in the February 2018 LINK. Note their support level.

Ben and Abby Howder
South Asia, ABWE
Sending Church:
Emmanuel Baptist
Bellbrook, OH
Support Level: 2%



(Abby grew up at Shawnee Hills, Jamestown. Pastor Dave Culver strongly commends the Howders to the OARBC.) God is leading us through ABWE to a hospital in South Asia. A great need at the hospital is for a person to manage the technology associated with the hospital and the ministries connected to the hospital. We will be going to the hospital to fill that need by serving anyone we encounter at the hospital, patients, missionaries, doctors, nurses, etc., through the effective use of technology. Our ultimate role will be to fulfill the Great Commission and proclaim Christ to the people of South Asia. Please pray for us as we follow God’s leading first through pre-field ministry and then in South Asia.

It is my pleasure to recommend **Ben & Abby Howder** to you as those called of God to serve Him in a restricted access country under ABWE.

Abby (Brown) grew up at Shawnee Hills and her family was very involved serving the Lord for many years. Ben and Abby met at Cedarville University and are both graduates. I had the joy and privilege of marrying them six years ago and since then they have grown to a family of six with the Lord adding three daughters and a son.

But, even more so, Ben and Abby have grown spiritually. They are committed believers who desire to serve the Lord in the second poorest country of the world—joyfully.

The Howders are part of the Shawnee Hills ministry family and we stand 100% behind them for the cause of Christ. I commend them to you and recommend them highly! Please pray for them, and support them financially, if you can.

Pastor Dave Culver
Shawnee Hills, Jamestown

NOW

Ben and Abby are now at 60% of their support.

For three years Ben and Abby have persevered in pre-field ministry while Ben has continued to work full-time. In June, they plan to leave for their field for one year in hopes that God will raise up additional support when they return.



Ben and Abby are Ohio natives and Cedarville University graduates—Ben in Informational Technology Management and Abby in Nursing. They are going to a now undisclosed field to a medical ministry that has been supported for many years by many OARBC churches.

We pray for God to raise up pastors and missionaries from our Ohio youth and God has answered! Won’t you consider partnering with them and the eight churches and individuals committed to seeing Ben and Abby get to the field?

Contact info: benandabbytoasia@gmail.com

Missionaries often give testimony of learning and growing through pre-field ministry, but also share the challenge of persevering and stretching their faith. We can be a great encouragement through prayer even if we cannot give. Will you pray for Ben and Abby?



Abby recently shared her heart and ministry with the ladies of the Bethany area missionary fellowship at Champion Baptist in Warren...but you can see who really won their hearts!

CAMP NEWS



SPRING UPDATE

My mind has been running to the old chorus, **"If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now!"** I haven't thought of it for decades but it keeps coming back to my mind most likely because it's true! We sure do need the Lord in these crazy days. What better time to be in the business of helping people find the peace and hope available in Christ than in these days of uncertainty? Everywhere we turn people seem hopeless but, because of God's grace, we have the answer to their hopelessness! Therefore, it's exciting to continue our partnership with the local church, and quite frankly, the relationship between the two might be more important than ever! We need you and your church families, friends and lost acquaintances—all need time away in a camp setting to reflect on the big issues of life. My modified version says, **"If we ever needed to go to camp before, we sure do need to now!"**

God continues to meet our every need as we anticipate a busy summer. We just finished our first three youth retreats since February 2020. They were well-attended, the Word was preached, hearts were challenged and the kids had a blast. Our spring men's retreat would have set a record attendance if it weren't for "cohort" limitations. Our work weekend, May 7-8, is back on schedule and our hybrid modification summer camp guest groups are having a good response. We are hoping the protocols will loosen and allow us to "fill some of the empty beds" with campers and counselors from other churches (more details soon). Our four weeks of family camp are filling up but there is still room for more families to enjoy a vacation with a purpose.

God has been so faithful to Scioto Hills. What a joy it's been to serve our churches and to look forward to continuing to get back to the "new normal". Please visit www.sciotohills.com for all event details.

Finally, if you know of a person who is a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult) or hearing impaired, we have a camp opportunity designed especially for them. If you know of a family who has been impacted because of an incarcerated parent or if the children are in foster care for the same reason, we are now partnering with Angel Tree/Prison Fellowship to offer these families full scholarships to our family camps. Contact the camp for details at 740-778-CAMP. I look forward to continuing our wonderful relationship. May God grant us the grace and strength to impact our generation.

For His Glory,
Scott at Scioto Hills



2021 SUMMER SKYVIEW CAMP SCHEDULE

Week 1 JUNE 14-19

Junior Camp \$375
Pioneer Camp \$375

Week 2 JUNE 21-26

Mini Camp 1-2* \$230
Jr Hi Camp \$385

Week 3 JUNE 28-JULY 3

Senior Hi Camp \$395
Aviation Camp* \$650

Week 4 JULY 5-10

Senior Hi Camp \$395
Scuba Camp* \$625

Week 5 JULY 12-17

Private Rental Group

Week 6 JULY 19-24

Mini 3-4* \$230
Jr Hi Camp \$385
Equine (4-8th) \$520

Week 7 JULY 26-31

Junior Camp \$375
Pioneer Camp \$375



The Multipurpose Activity Center at the Ranch is closer to completion as the summer is fast-approaching. There are awesome volunteers putting up a coat of primer in the new building and getting ready to stain the barn siding that will be installed in the meeting/dining room.

*All 2021 Mini Camp, Aviation Camp, Scuba Camp, and Day Camp opportunities are tentative. If you have any questions, please call our office at [\(330\) 674-7511](tel:3306747511).

Hello, OARBC friends,

We are looking forward to opening again this season for youth camps and retreats. God blessed us greatly during our closure last year, and we cannot wait to see what He does this season. Our summer theme is *Journey to the Cross*; focusing on Jesus' ministry and His work and mercy on the cross. Check out dates and rates for Summer Camps, Marriage Retreat, Men's and Ladies Retreats and our Middle School and High School "Banished" to the Isle Retreats. Find more information on our website at www.camppatmos.com!



2021 Program and Price

	Dates	Program 1	Cost
Retreat	June 4 - 6	Marriage Retreat	\$275 (Per couple)
Event	June 6	Run for the Light - Scholarship Run, Jog or Walk (See our website for event details, to sign up and more)	
Week 1	June 21 - 26	High School Unplugged (9th - 12th)	\$499
Week 2	June 28 - July 3	Middle School Unplugged (6th - 8th)	\$494
Week 3	July 5 - 10	Family Camp (Call for availability and pricing)	
Week 4	July 12 - 17	Juniors (Elementary, 4th - 6th)	\$489
Week 5	July 19 - 24	Middle School (6th - 8th)	\$494
Week 6	July 26 - 31	High School (9th - 12th)	\$499
Week 7	Aug 2 - 7	Juniors (Elementary, 4th - 6th)	\$489
Retreat	Sept 9 - 11	Men's Retreat	\$135
Retreat	Sept 17 - 19	Banished 1, Middle & High School	\$135
Retreat	Sept 24 - 26	Banished 2, Middle & High School	\$135
Retreat	Oct 8 - 10	NEW Ladies Fall Retreat	\$150

MAKE AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT...SEND A CHILD TO CAMP!

Ask anyone who has attended a Christian camp or conference center as a child or teenager, and chances are you'll hear stories of how that experience shaped their life and their faith, how it clarified their purpose and ignited their passion.

"Camp was my favorite place while growing up! It was a great place to learn and grow. It was also a good break, in some ways, from the things happening back home...chaos in my parents' broken relationship."

—Kimberly

"I went to an awesome one-week camp from the time I was 8 to 18. Then I went as a group leader for several years. I learned how to pray, conduct my daily devotionals, how to worship, how to support my peers and seek godly friendships. I learned about the Holy Spirit. Now I send my son. It was life changing for me."

—Jennifer

"I spent many summers at camp! I worshiped, developed great friendships, and learned to love God and people in new ways."

—Matthew

copied from cca.org

TWO EXCELLENT CONFERENCES TO CONSIDER



John 16:13 says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." As believers, we are to be controlled by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit unifies us, convicts us, and illuminates our minds so we can understand Scripture. We can serve others, worship God, and provide comfort because of the Spirit. We must take time to recognize the work of the Helper in our lives and in the life of the church.

2021 GARBC Conference
"Spirit Unleashed"
June 28–July 1
Bethel Baptist Church
200 N Roselle Rd
Schaumburg, Illinois

The GARBC National Conference is an in-person conference this year at **Bethel Baptist Church in Schaumburg, Illinois**. Please note the **new location** for this year's conference. Space limitations, because of ongoing COVID-19 regulations, necessitated the change. Bethel Baptist Church will allow us to have adequate room to spread out and enjoy fellowshiping with one another while staying in compliance with regulations. **Registration and information at www.garbcconference.org**



OHIO STUDENTS AMONG GARBC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



\$2,500

Katherine Wood

*First Baptist Church
Elyria, Ohio*



\$1,000

Katelyn Case

*First Baptist Church
Willowick, Ohio*



\$500

Casey Gerig

*Cornerstone Baptist Church
Columbus, Ohio*

Three OARBC students (*pictured above*) were among the fourteen high school seniors from GARBC churches that have been awarded a total of \$18,500 in the GARBC Christian Character Scholarship competition in 2021. The scholarships are open to seniors who exemplify Christian character and express an ongoing desire to serve God through the local church.

The scholarship program, which has replaced the GARBC's Talents For Christ program, is being funded and awarded by participating colleges, with matching dollar amounts, as available, through the GARBC Christian Character Scholarship fund. The seven colleges providing scholarships are Appalachian Bible College, Bob Jones University, Cedarville University, Clarks Summit University, Faith Baptist Bible College, Carolina University, and Shasta Bible College. All three Ohio winners plan to enroll at Cedarville University this fall.

The GARBC Christian Character Scholarship recognizes students who are committed to serving Christ in their communities and churches. Whether students plan to pursue vocational ministry or enter the secular workforce, attending a Christian college or university will help students develop a Biblical worldview so they can start their careers on the right foot and prepare to serve in their churches.

Graduates from high school in 2022, should plan to apply to the GARBC Christian Character Scholarship program starting September 1, 2021. Application deadline is November 30, 2021. Information and applications can be found at <https://scholarship.garbc.org/>

DID YOU KNOW...

W. David and Patricia Warren Pastors Scholarship at Cedarville University

This annually funded scholarship was created in 2009 by the Warren family to honor the lives and ministry of their parents, David and Patricia Warren, former OARBC State Representative, and to assist the children of pastors.

Selection Criteria

- Recipients must be children of full-time pastors. Preference will be given to children of pastors whose church is affiliated with the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches.
- Recipients must be freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior students in good standing with the University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in any academic program.
- Recipients must demonstrate financial need according to the criteria established by the University.
- Preference will be given to students who demonstrate a heart for ministry through involvement in Christian ministry projects or articulation of future career goals.

cedarville.edu/WarrenScholarship. (Click the "Sign In" button on the webpage to apply.)

With the Lord



LaVerne L. Rogers, a pastor's wife of over forty years, went to be with the Lord on February 1. She was 91.

LaVerne, a lifetime resident of Northfield, accepted Christ when she was 19 years old. She attended and met her late husband, Lynn, at Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland (now Cedarville University). She served alongside Lynn as he was pastor of Northfield Baptist Church, Northfield, Ohio from September 1953 to January 1994.

LaVerne loved the Lord with her whole heart and loved serving Him. Her passion was teaching the Bible to the primary age children.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lynn, in 2012, and her son, Daniel.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan Emert; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Rev. Jeff Cunningham Ordained as Chaplain



Capt. Jeff Cunningham with his wife Maggie and Pastor James Beight

Jeff Cunningham was examined and ordained to the gospel ministry as an Army Chaplain on March 4, 2021 by Abram Creek (Brook Park) and First Baptist (Strongsville). His ordination coincided with his promotion to Captain as an Army Chaplain. Captain Cunningham has been filling the pulpit as interim speaker at First Baptist of Strongsville. Pastor James Beight is grateful to God for the opportunity to pour into Jeff's life since he came to Abram Creek as pastor when Jeff was 13. Captain Cunningham earned his MDiv from Liberty University while working full-time, serving in the Army Reserve, filling the Strongsville pulpit, and being a husband and father of five.

Faith Baptist Kenton Celebrates 50 Years

"FORWARD...BY FAITH!" was the theme of the February 21 celebration as Faith Baptist Church, Kenton, praised God for 50 years of ministry. Because of COVID, some of the weekend celebrations were scaled down, but it did not dampen spirits.

Dave and Darlene Murdoch celebrated in song, former Pastor Dennis Burns reminisced, and Chuck Pausley, OARBC State Rep was the speaker for the day. Current Pastor David and Susan Robertson have shepherded the church for five years and warmly welcomed all in attendance. They hosted the participating guests for the day in their home serving a delicious traditional "Sunday dinner."



Current Pastor David Robertson

30-Year Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Mark & Debbie Ashley, Northfield



Pastor Mark and Debbie Ashley honored for 30 years of ministry

March 1, 2021, marked 30 years of ministry for Pastor Mark & Debbie Ashley at Northfield Baptist Church, faithfully guiding and shepherding the people of Northfield and leading them to a greater knowledge of Him. The Deacons and Trustees surprised and honored the Ashleys at the end of the Worship Service on March 21 by presenting them with a gift card and a crystal award inscribed with "Pastor Mark J. Ashley – Thank you for guiding us through 30 years of seeking Him. Northfield Baptist Church, Colossians 3:2". They were also presented with a Hydrangea Quick Fire tree as a growing reminder of the love Northfield Baptist Church has for them. The celebration will continue with an outdoor picnic on June 27. The Northfield church family is so thankful for the love Pastor Mark and Debbie continually show to them as they serve Him.

**Akron-Canton
Men’s Conference**



Pastor Matt Nihiser

The Akron-Canton fellowship held a meeting for the area men Saturday, March 13 at Mogadore Baptist. Matt Nihiser (above), pastor of Calvary Baptist, Lancaster, challenged the men on the theme, “Being a Man on Mission in Times of Suffering” from II Timothy Chapter 4. Everyone enjoyed being able to gather together again in person.

Huntsburg Baptist

Huntsburg Baptist held a blood drive in the church Fellowship Hall, Friday, March 12, 2-7 p.m. Church family participated and even more people from the community donated blood. Seeds were planted and God’s love shared. It is another example of OARBC churches finding ways to minister in these pandemic days. Pictured below is Pastor Paul Radobenko, leading by example.



Pastor Paul Radobenko

The church also made goody baskets recently, delivering to shut-ins and medical facilities.

Men of God 2021



Brian Hanson

It was a good day at the annual 2021 Men of God Conference, held on Saturday, March 6, at Calvary Baptist, Bellefontaine. Brian Hanson, State Director—Ohio, Capitol Ministries, was the keynote speaker on the topics of Evangelism and Discipleship. The breakout seminars further challenged the men in aspects of their lives regarding the theme of the day “All Things New.”

**Hillside Baptist, Rittman
Celebrates Ten Years**

Hillside Baptist Church, Rittman, celebrated their ten-year anniversary on Sunday, February 7.

This young church began in 2011 as a church plant of Pleasant Hill Baptist (Smithville). Pleasant Hill came alongside a remnant from the former First Baptist of Rittman in order to restore an OARBC work in the nearby Rittman community.

Pastor Kevin and Heather Fath, who had served on staff at Pleasant Hill, have served as pastor and wife at Hillside since its beginning.

The celebration which lasted over two-hours included worship, reminiscing, skits, a trivia game, special music, testimonies, video greeting, from Pastor Steve Olsen (Pleasant Hill), interviews, and a message from Chuck Pausley, OARBC State Representative. True to Baptist tradition, a delicious catered luncheon followed.



Senior Pastor Kevin Fath



Assoc. Pastor Rick Thompson plays an elderly man in a skit

**Bethany Fellowship
and Burritos**



Curt Gordon, Sharon Baptist, Sharon, PA (left) and Dave Garlich, Calvary, Hubbard

Pastors and wives of the Bethany area fellowship look forward to meeting the first Tuesday of the month. They rotate hosting a breakfast at their churches, meet, and then often go to lunch. The April 6th meeting was hosted by Calvary, Hubbard. Note the size of the burritos discovered at the local Mexican restaurant.

KEEPING THE GOSPEL FIRST: STUDENT PODCAST ADDRESSES FAITH AND POLITICS

The relationship between faith and politics can be fraught with tension. Benjamin Mays and Jonny Gartner face the challenge head-on in their podcast “Cedar60.”

Mays and Gartner, sophomore political science majors at Cedarville University, wanted to provide more opportunities on campus for students to openly discuss political topics. A weekly panel discussion with several peers in the department of history and government quickly evolved into the “Cedar60” podcast.

“We have an opportunity to enter the public square and talk about politics, but also explore how political issues should be addressed by Christians,” said Gartner from Sunbury, Ohio. Mays added that “Cedar60” does not merely discuss politics for the sake of politics.

“As Christians, we realize that there’s more than just politics. It’s about culture,” said Mays from Middletown, Ohio. “And we recognize that the culture will only change through the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ — the gospel.” “Cedar60” keeps the gospel at the forefront of every discussion they facilitate by looking at current issues through a biblical lens. “The gospel should frame how we view politics,” said Gartner.

To accomplish this goal, Gartner, Mays, and their team are utilizing the invaluable resource of Cedarville professors. “We have so many wonderful and highly qualified people on campus with great insight,” said Mays.

The podcast has featured several Cedarville professors, including Dr. Mark Caleb Smith, professor of political science and director of the Center for Political Studies, and Sandi Wagner, instructor of social work. They have addressed issues like domestic violence, social media, the judicial system, and the 2020 presidential election.

In the next few semesters, Gartner and Mays hope to expand and address other topics that interest the Cedarville student body. “We recognize that a lot of students on campus aren’t history and government majors and are interested in different things,” said Gartner. “So maybe we address cybersecurity, health care reform, or international missions.”

Recognizing that political topics can be divisive, even in Christian circles, both Mays and Gartner are committed to discussing current issues on the common ground found in Jesus Christ.

“The gospel is the common denominator that unifies Christians and makes us the light of the world,” said Mays. “Without it, we’re nothing more than a bell ringing in the night.”

“Cedar60” is available for download on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [YouTube](#).



125th COMMENCEMENT WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON

Cedarville University, guided by statewide COVID protocols, has changed the way it will honor its graduates in 2021. The university has announced that it will conduct three in-person commencement programs in the 7800-capacity Doden Field House. Historically, Cedarville holds one commencement program for all of its graduate and undergraduate students.

The university’s 125th annual commencement ceremonies will begin with a program honoring master’s and doctoral graduates along with returning graduates from the class of 2020. This program will be held Friday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in the field house. Each graduate will receive four tickets.

The traditional “senior celebration” will follow at 9 p.m. in the Jeremiah Chapel. This worship program is open to all 2020 and 2021 graduates and their families.



On Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Cedarville plans to honor the 717 undergraduate members of the Class of 2021 in two separate commencement ceremonies. The programs will be divided based on academic schools and departments as evenly as possible, and each graduate will receive four tickets to the program in the field house and three tickets for overflow seating in the Jeremiah Chapel.