

HATFIELD MEETINGHOUSE
Church of the Brethren
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June NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

- ✚ For the first time in the 233 years of recorded CoB annual meetings, the Brethren will not be meeting in person for Annual Conference. It has been cancelled for this year.
- ✚ It is with great sadness that this decision had to be made. The decision included a deferring of the Annual Conference theme, program, and featured leadership to the 2021 Annual Conference scheduled to take place in Greensboro, N.C. on June 30 – July 4, 2021.
- ✚ The business of the 2020 Annual Conference, such as affirming the Compelling Vision, is deferred to the 2021 Annual Conference.
- ✚ We are blessed that our host facilities in Grand Rapids have agreed to waive over a half million dollars in cancellation penalties if Annual Conference will return to Grand Rapids in our next open year.
- ✚ The Program and Arrangements Committee is glad to announce that Annual Conference will be back in Grand Rapids on July 3-7, 2024.

SOME GOOD NEWS

The Program and Arrangements Committee of the CoB Annual Conference has announced plans for a series of denominational virtual events on July 1 and 2; as it is important for the denomination to gather, albeit in a different way, in recognition of the church's ongoing life together.

A virtual **Denominational Children's Worship Time** and **Worship Gathering** on the evening of Wednesday, July 1, will unfold as follows (all times are given in Eastern time):

-- At 7:30 p.m. a **children's worship time** will include a variety of creative elements as part of this dynamic service.

-- At 8 p.m. the **worship service** will feature prayers, scripture, meditations, and music from across the denomination. During the worship gathering, a denominational virtual choir will perform two selections.

A virtual **Denominational Concert** will take place the next evening, Thursday, July 2, beginning at 8 p.m. (Eastern time). A wide range of musical gifts will be represented, providing many expressions of song celebrating the rich diversity and depth of the Church of the Brethren. The concert also will feature a third selection by the denominational virtual choir.

Commenting on the virtual events, Annual Conference moderator Paul Munday noted, "Though we can never replace Annual Conference, we feel these virtual events will gather the church together, nevertheless, in a creative way. Just as the recent online love feast events united the church during this challenging season, we anticipate these additional virtual offerings will resource us as we continue to find our way, through Christ, amid the disruption of COVID-19."

Additional information will be made available on the church web site. www.hatfieldcob.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH . . . FOOD CUPBOARD



A big thank you to the Hatfield residents that have been contributing canned foods and dollars to the food cupboard. Donations continue to come in keeping our choice pantry area well stocked. The financial support coming in helps us purchase needed frozen meat. However, fresh produce is hard to come by.

So, speaking of fresh produce, how many are aware of the garden on our property? Years ago Hatfield CoB had a successful garden for a number of years called "God's Little Acre". While that program ended several years ago, a new community based garden was started at the same location three years ago called the "Sun Garden". The main volunteers for the Sun Garden moved out of state and the garden is now fallow.



Wouldn't it be great for the food cupboard to have fresh vegetables from our garden again? I am sure all would agree, "Sure"! However, it takes someone to head up this project and quickly. Maybe you have some time during this slowdown period to take on this project. Our Sunday School lesson this past Sunday was about God's calling. Is someone hearing the call to do some gardening work for the church food cupboard ministry? It's not too late. Let me know.

FOCUS ON FOLKS!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

13 – Larry Landes

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

15 – Bill & Carol Roth

MESENTER – An Essential Resource

Messenger magazine is an essential resource for church leaders in congregations and districts across the Church of the Brethren. It is available now for subscriptions. If you are a current subscriber, or a NEW person wanting to subscribe, let Connie Holbert know. Make your check payable to Hatfield CoB for \$14.50 and write “Messenger” in the subject line on your check and mail it to the church.

Notice about Sunday Services:

✚ It was recommended by the Atlantic Northeast District that churches within the District remain closed until June 30th. We will continue Sunday school by video conference at 9:30am. Sunday mornings. If you would like an invitation to join the discussion, please contact the church office via email: hatfieldcob@aol.com or 215-855-3064

✚ Each week’s sermon is available on the home page of the church website – hatfieldcob.org.

✚ A big T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U for mailing in your weekly offerings. That enables us to keep our bills current and maintain our outreach ministries!

Friendship House Child Care Center will remain closed until the mandatory closing ends. We ask for your continued prayers for our staff and families.



...a fun place to play and learn!

Your January Donations from Giant for Bags 4 My Cause Program is here. Supporters raised \$119 from the purchase of the Bags 4 My Cause Bag in January at your selected store location(s). We thank you for the important work you do in the communities we serve.

---Hatfield Giant



FATHERHOOD

Takes the
STRENGTH
Of Samson
WISDOM
Of Solomon
PATIENCE
Of Job
FAITH
Of Abraham
INSIGHT
Of Daniel
COURAGE
Of David