“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, so you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

The words of Jesus Christ provide a needed light to us, His disciples in an age of so much division, conflict and rage. We live in a very broken world, where wrong is called right, and right is called wrong. People are so confused, looking for hope and direction.

Jesus instructs His disciples to “love one another: just as I have loved you.” The power of unconditional love has the ability to change our broken situation(s). The world chooses to respond to hate with hate and hurt with hurt, but Jesus calls us to change the narrative. We are to respond to hate with love! Yes, it may sound foolish, even ridiculous to you. But, God sending His only Son into the world to DIE for sinners (the ungodly) and for Jesus Christ to lay down His life for those who’d rejected, cursed, and were crucifying Him is the very nature of God.

Yes, we’re called to die to ourselves. Our priorities. Our desires. Our selfish attitudes. We are called to be a reflection of The Light (Jesus) and become a light in a dark world. Don’t be silent in a world of hurt, hate and injustice, but speak up for the right with grace and love and become a voice of love and hope. A light shining in the darkness and then ... “By this all people will know that you are my disciples ...”

Don’t lose your way, but show others The Way (John 14:6).

Let His Love Shine,
Rev. Mark Click,
Executive Minister
Our goal as an Association is to grow healthy churches. In pursuit of that goal, this Spring we will come together and take a look at Discipleship with “Ancient Path Disciple Making”. Mark your calendar now! For Friday evening March 8, and Saturday March 9.

You don’t want to miss this opportunity to grow a healthy church.

Speaker Joel Zaborowski is the President of Ancient Path Disciple-Making, a non-profit ministry that equips leaders to build disciple-making ministries following the ancient path of Christ.

The Great Lakes Leadership Retreat will bring together American Baptist Regions of Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky and Great Rivers for THE GREAT LAKES LEADERSHIP RETREAT on April 23-25 at the beautiful Cedar Lake Ministries, Cedar Lake, Indiana.

We are pleased to be able to provide this excellent conference to you at a very reasonable price, because of a generous Palmer Grant from the American Baptist Foundation. The COST including registration, lodging and meals is either $35, $50 or $75 based on your housing selection. Please go to www.abc-ohio.org to learn more, see all the details and purchase your tickets for the retreat. This conference is for everyone who wants to discover some fresh, new and exciting approaches to reaching your community and disciple-making.

If you have any further questions, contact your Regional Minister or the Leslie Hoskinson at the Region Office – (740) 587-0804 or lhoskinson@abc-ohio.org .

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BUILDING YOUNG WITH SPEAKER STEB STOOT
Learn more about how to build and maintain a committed and growing youth and young adult membership in your churches

For more information or to RSVP, Visit www.christiancampohio.org or call the office at 440-466-1278

Cost is $50

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CHRIStIANCAMPOHIO.ORG
Education Updates:

Spring Semester

Courses Meet March 9th (online) and May 11th (The Bridge Church, Sunbury)

Registration Fee: $100 per course. Application Deadline February 26th.

Applications are available online www.abc-ohio.org

For More Information contact the ABC Ohio Regional Office at 740-587-0824

Discipleship: What does it mean to follow Jesus? This course will stretch your faith through the “Cruciform Discipleship” approach. Learn practical ways to grow personally and to lead others in the local church.

Rev. Dr. Scotty Robertson
Instructor
First Baptist Church
Middletown

Old Testament: Think you know the Old Testament? This course will survey the Old Testament’s main themes, characters, and stories. Students will learn how to apply the Old Testament’s theology and teach the Old Testament in the local church.

Aaron Ostendorf
Instructor
Global Servants,
International Ministry

ABC Ohio Family Updates

Northwest Area
Welcomes Rev. Stanley E. Clark Sr. as Assistant Pastor to St. Paul Baptist

Northeast Area
Welcomes Pastor John Oleyar to First Baptist Church in Perry, OH

Sends congratulations to Rev. Dr. Roger Alber on his retirement from First Baptist Massillon

Welcomes Rev. Kevin Slyh as interim minister of First Baptist Massillon

Southwest Area
Welcomes Rev. Zion McGregor as Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Cincinnati

Southeast Area
Welcomes Pastor Eric Leseon as Lead Pastor of Porterfield Baptist Church

Welcomes Pastor Austin Ragan as Lead Pastor of Vinton Baptist Church

Congratulations to Rick Migra (Oakfield’s Associate Pastor) on his ordination

Ohio Baptist Education Society

Established 1821

The Ohio Baptist Education Society exists to provide financial assistance in the way of scholarships to prepare American Baptist Professional Ministers for tomorrow. There are four scholarship funds available to apply for per calendar year.

The Ohio Baptist Education Society Scholarship –

The Faye and Robert Lett (African-American) Scholarship –

The Rev. Dr. Ralph And Joyce Lamb Memorial Scholarship –

The Rev. Robert E. And Gladys Ernst Scholarship – Available to those working toward a Doctorate degree.

Applications must be received by April 1st for consideration of a Scholarship for the upcoming academic year. Students must be entering at least their Junior year of undergrad with future plans of vocational work in ministry or missions in order to qualify for a scholarship. Priority is given to those individuals working toward their 1st master’s degree. Educational institutions must be accredited by the HLS or ATS. Scholarships are awarded in July.

Please contact Debbie Seese at homespanaturalis@yahoo.com to begin the application process.

Youth Events

Koinonia Camp 2024 Schedule

$95.00 Camp fee (includes full-color t-shirt, picture at opening and closing ceremonies, camp photos, and curriculum)

Koinonia Camp 2024 at Kirkwood Adventure Park

It’s time to get ready for the Kirkwood Camp & Adventure Park 2024 summer camps. Kirkwood camps are always a wonderful time of fellowship, spiritual growth, and unforgettable memories. Kirkwood can’t wait to share it with you!

Camps

• Senior High: June 23-28, 2024 Regular - $635; ABC Ohio Rate: $320
• Junior High: June 23 – 28, 2024 Regular - $635; ABC Ohio Rate: $320
• New Adventure: July 10 – 15, 2024 Regular - $385; ABC Ohio Rate: $200
• New Beginners: June 21-22 Regular $143; ABC Ohio Rate: $60

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the transformative power of camp, and our pricing is structured to be as inclusive as possible. American Baptist Churches/Ohio offers scholarships as well as many of your churches and regions. Please be sure to reach out to each of them for assistance.

Kirkwood is a beautiful 214-acre multi-purpose facility located near Wilmington, Ohio in Clinton County. The facilities include a lodge and conference center, a detached mini-lodge, cabins and a family campground as well as a small lake, all surrounded by open fields and gently rolling hills.

Find out more at go/kirkwood.com.
WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

ABC Ohio has received the Buckeye Mission & Ministry Offering since 2009 as a means by which congregations can support the mission of the Region to “Equip the People of God to Impact the World for Christ.” This ministry of equipping is accomplished through Spiritual, Leadership, and Congregational Development!

- Pastoral Care & Support
- Congregational Leadership Transitions
- Pastoral Searches
- Conferences & Workshops
- Next Generation Support & Training
- Ministry Grants & Education Scholarships
- Emergency Financial Assistance to Pastors
- Pulpit Assistance

ABC Ohio is blessed to have a gifted ministry team in our Regional Ministers, Associate Regional Ministers (ARMs), and office support staff working together to provide care, support and equipping of our pastors and congregations.

ABC Ohio’s 2024 ministry theme is “United in Christ. Rooted in Love,” based on John 13:34-35. Please join us as we work together to reach the 2024 BMMO Offering Goal of $75,000. Every dollar given to the BMMO goes to support the mission and ministry of ABC Ohio.

GIVE online at www.abc-ohio.org, click on GIVE ONLINE TO ABC OHIO.