



THE IMPRESSION

“Equip the People of God to Impact the World for Christ”



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“A Sign of the Times”

The recent total eclipse was a show stopper for millions of people living in North America. Those living in the” path of totality” had schools let out early, employees stopped working, and interstates slowed into parking lots as the moon blocked out the sun. Social media and the news was filled with photos of people staring into the sky.

I was reminded of the words in Acts 1:11, “Why do you stand there looking into the sky?” The Disciples stood there amazed at the sight of Jesus’ ascension. Jesus, the resurrected Messiah had just ascended into the heavens. The men in white robes, told them that he’d return in the same way from the heavens.

News commentators and many of those they interviewed spoke of their spiritual experience in witnessing the total eclipse. There’s a natural spiritual hunger experienced by most people. An emptiness that we try to fill with relationships, possessions, wealth, experiences, careers, and even alcohol & drugs, only to leave us with a feeling of greater emptiness, frustration and despair.

Jesus said, that he came to offer life - abundant and eternal to anyone that would follow him (John 10:10; 14:1-6). As Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, we can experience this abundant & eternal life, by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. We are called to share the good news and make disciples, so that others may know the peace & joy of following Jesus Christ.

Until Jesus Christ comes again!

We are Better Together! Please join us in the mission of God to bring the good news to the world and make disciples for Jesus Christ. Support the Buckeye Mission & Ministry Offering (BMMO) as we work together to make a difference in Ohio and beyond. 100% of gifts to the BMMO stay in Ohio. Make a donation at www.abc-ohio.org.

For His Glory,

Rev. Mark Click

Northwest Area

Greetings to All,

As we continue to move forward by the grace of God from the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, let us please be reminded that our focus is on doing God's will. As our theme for the year comes from John 13:34-35 "United in Christ Rooted in Love 2024" WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER; let us know that we can do more together being led by God. As we emphasize the fact that through the process of Spiritual Development, Leadership Development, and Congregational Development, we are fulfilling the mission of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, as we Equip the People of God to impact the World for Christ.

As we continue to build a stronger Association, we need each of you to be intentional about your relationship with Christ and invite others to come along beside you to worship for the common good.



Blessings to each of you as we continue to grow together.

Rev. Dr. James H. Willis, Sr
Northwest Regional Minister

NW Area Associations



Marion Association



Northwestern Association



Northcentral Association



Mohican Association



Toledo Area Baptist Association

NW Area Events

St. Paul Missionary Church



MEN'S DAY
Men's Day was March 9 - 10, 2024. The Men's Day 2024 Celebration of praise was a great success. The men acknowledges all praises to God, our St. Paul family and friends for your cooperation. We extend to Rev. Allen Smith, our speaker blessings, and our sincere appreciation.



Riley Chapel
Pastor Sheila, daughter Surita, granddaughter Bethany. First time 3 generations in the kitchen on Easter fixing sunrise breakfast. Pastor Sheila taught Bethany how to make her (Bethany's) great grandmother's buttermilk biscuits.

Calvary Baptist Church

Installation Pastor Jeff Smith - Elyria, OH



Northeast Area

First Baptist Church Canton - Full Devotion

Celebrated their 175th anniversary on
April 28, 2024



Trinity Baptist Church - Canton

Had a successful season of First Friday Fun
Nights for ages 4-12 on the first Friday of every
month. Structured like a Vacation Bible School,
it averaged 32 children each month. What a
great way to reach the next generation!



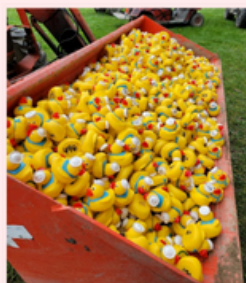
A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM KOINONIA CAMP!

If someone could please supply me with more adequate words to express our gratitude here at Koinonia I would greatly appreciate it! But since I do not yet have these words, I will simply say a robust THANK YOU! We at Koinonia have just completed our second annual Duck Race and BBQ Fundraiser, and it was a massive success!

For the first part of the fundraiser; the duck race; we sold 1670 rubber ducks, which will bring over 22 kids to camp this summer who could not otherwise afford it! This is more ducks than we have ever sold before, and we are astounded at the incredible support that all of you showed by purchasing ducks to Change Lives!

During the second portion of the day; the BBQ and Auction; we raised about \$30,000.00. This is an amazing amount, and we cannot say thank you enough for all of you who sponsored tables, purchased tickets to the dinner, donated items for the auction, or simply spread the word and prayed for us! We could never have made this happen without all your prayers and support! The funds from this portion of the fundraiser go toward bringing kids to camp and making sure they have a fabulous time while they are here.

Now for the fun part.... our executive director Randy Brookes proved that he was a man of his word. He promised that if we sold 1500 duck race tickets, he would kiss one of our 16 horses... so he did! Please enjoy this picture proof of that event and mark your calendars to buy your duck race tickets next year! I'm sure that we can think of something even funnier for him if we outsell ourselves again!



Southwest Area



New Era Baptist Church

Installation Rev. Dr. Johannon Tate - Middletown, OH



Living Word Bible Fellowship

Installation Pastor Jonathan James - Columbus, OH

Southeast Area



Marietta First Baptist Church

Installation Rev. Ryan Brooks - Marietta, OH



Pastor Rob Jones

Beulah Baptist Church- constructed a large gymnasium with classrooms during COVID and are now using it for community outreach. They also recently used their versatile worship center to host a women's conference -Proctorville, OH



Navigating Pastoral Transition: Embracing the Divine Continuity in Church Leadership

Within the fabric of Christian communities, leadership stands as a cornerstone, guiding congregations through seasons of growth, challenge, and transformation. Yet, one of the most profound yet often overlooked aspects of leadership is the transition itself, particularly in the context of pastoral succession. In the life of a church, the passing of the baton from one shepherd to another is not merely a procedural handover; it is a sacred journey embodying the essence of continuity, stewardship, and divine providence.

1. Embracing the Call to Lead and Transition: Leadership within a church is not merely a position of authority but a divine calling, a vocation to shepherd and nurture souls entrusted to one's care. Likewise, the transition from one leader to the next is not a disruption but an opportunity for renewal and continuation of God's work within the community. As stewards of God's flock, pastors must recognize the inevitability of transition and prepare themselves and their congregations to navigate this journey with grace and faith.

2. Honoring Legacy, Embracing Vision: Pastoral transition is a delicate dance between honoring the legacy of the outgoing leader and embracing the vision of the incoming one. While respecting the achievements and contributions of the departing pastor, the congregation must also remain open to the fresh direction and vision that the new leader brings. Transition becomes a bridge between the past and the future, where the rich tapestry of tradition intertwines with the vibrant threads of innovation and renewal.

3. The Role of Congregational Support: During pastoral transition, congregational support plays a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and fruitful handover. Unity in prayer, unwavering faith, and a spirit of cooperation are essential ingredients in facilitating a transition characterized by grace and harmony. By rallying behind both the outgoing and incoming pastors, the congregation becomes a beacon of love and support, embodying the timeless truth that "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).

4. Navigating the Challenges with Faith: Although pastoral transition holds the promise of new beginnings, it is not devoid of challenges. Conflicting emotions, uncertainty, and fear of the unknown may cast shadows along the journey. Yet, during these trials, faith becomes the guiding light, illuminating the path ahead and infusing every step with hope and courage. As the psalmist declares, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4, NIV).

In the grand narrative of Christian leadership, pastoral transition stands as a sacred journey, weaving together the past, present, and future of God's work within a community. As stewards of this divine calling, pastors and congregations alike are entrusted with the sacred responsibility of honoring legacy, embracing vision, and navigating the journey of transition with unwavering faith and unity of purpose. In this sacred dance of succession, may we find strength in the promise of God's presence, knowing that He who called us to lead will also guide us through every transition and into the glorious future He has prepared for His church.

Dr. Kevin S. Hairston
Southwest Regional Minister
Pastor Emeritus/Living Word Bible Fellowship

Education Updates:



The Ohio Leadership Academy is in the planning stages to host a Summer Seminar that would include two-course options:

1) Confronting Church Conflict



2) Worship

The date is Saturday, August 17th at New Salem Baptist Church in Columbus, OH. Both of the courses can be taken for OLA credit or as a continuing education course for pastors, lay leaders, or anyone interested in learning more regarding the two topics. Stay tuned for more details!

Great Lakes Leadership Retreat

Thank you to all who attended and prayed for this years Leadership Retreat



Executive Ministers from participating regions



camp grounds



Conference Hall



Fresh Expressions Speakers

Youth Events

Koinonia Camp Schedule

Primary Camp	Senior High Camp	First Time Camp	Elementary Camp	Junior High Camp
June 7th-11th	June 9th-14th	June 28th- 29th	July 7th-11th	July 28th- August 2nd
5:30 pm - 3:30 pm	5:30 pm-3:30 pm	5:30 pm-3:30 pm	5:30 pm-3:30 pm	5:30 pm-3:30 pm
2nd - 3rd Grade	9th-12th Grade	K-1st Grade	4th-5th Grade	6th-8th Grade

Check out the website for other camps offered (horse & special needs) visit: christiancampohio.org or email: koinoniacamp2003@yahoo.com

Kirkwood Camp & Adventure Park Camp Schedule

SENIOR HIGH CAMP	JUNIOR HIGH CAMP	JUNIOR CAMP	NEW ADVENTURE CAMP	NEW BEGINNINGS CAMP
Grades 9-12	Grades 7-9	Grades 5 & 6	Grades 3 & 4	Grades K-2*
JUNE 23 - 28	JUNE 23 - 28	JULY 7 - 12	JULY 7 - 10	JUNE 21 - 22
Overnight camping for students entering grades 9, 10, 11, & 12	Overnight camping for students entering grades 7, 8, & 9	Overnight camping for students entering grades 5 & 6	Overnight camping for students entering grades 3 & 4	* Parent MUST be present Overnight camping for students entering grades K - 2 and their parent/guardian

For more info: www.gokirkwood.com/summercamp or email: info@kirkwood.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 8, 2024 - ABW Conference

August 17, 2024 - Summer Seminar presented by
the Ohio Leadership Academy

September 27-28, 2024 - ABW Spiritual Growth
Retreat

October 15-16, 2024 - Ohio Annual Gathering



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Bonus Material:

Executive and Regional Ministers Representing Ohio



Back Row: Rev Dr Hairston, Rev Mark Click, Rev
Kevin Thomas, Rev Dr James Willis
Front Row: Rev Mark Eaton

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Website: abc-ohio.org