



Connecting Churches in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

"Spreading the Gospel in Ohio Through Healthy Churches"



"Developing Leaders through Mentoring Ministry" OARBC Conference 2023



Pastor Tim Cochrell

Dear Pastors and OARBC Family,

We are excited to welcome you to Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville for the OARBC State Conference, October 16-18, "Developing Leaders through Mentoring Ministry."

Our prayer is that this gathering is a time for each of you to be **encouraged** as we connect with one another, **equipped** as we study God's Word together, and **refreshed** as you step away from the regular routines of ministry.

We are looking forward to having Jeremy Kimble and Andy Giessman preach in our main sessions. These are men who not only faithfully proclaim the gospel, but model it in their own lives and ministries. I know you will be blessed through their ministry.

Our team is looking forward to hosting you at Grace and you can find all of the details including how to register in this newsletter. I hope that you will join us as we partner together in the work God is doing here in Ohio.

In Christ,
Tim Cochrell
Senior Pastor

To register, follow the instructions on the Grace Baptist website:

<https://www.gracecedarville.org/oarbc-conference-2023/>



Council of 12

2019-2023

- James Beight, *Abram Creek, Brook Park*
- Matt Nihiser, *Vice-Chairman, Calvary, Lancaster*
- Dave Ryan, *Treasurer, Grace, Canton*
- Dave Kisner, *Wash. Heights, Dayton*

2021-2024

- Sean Ingram, *Secretary, First, Stryker*
- Adam McCune, *Chairman, Shawnee Hills, Jamestown*
- Matt Oliver, *Grace, Lima*
- Steve Strong, *Grace, Westlake*

2022-2025

- Chris Hinton, *Christ Baptist, Cleveland*
- Jim Jamison, *Millersburg, Millersburg*
- Tom Mullins, *First, Bowling Green*
- Matt Otto, *Faith, Mount Vernon*

In This Issue

- Conference Info 1-2
- Word from the Rep 3
- Ohio New Pastors 3-4
- Ohio Women for Missions 5
- Ohio Missionary Appointees 6-7
- News from Across the State 8-11
- Cedarville News 12



Publication of the OARBC
Editor: Chuck Pausley
Ass't Editor: Linda Pausley

Please send news by 11/1/2023:
The Link/OARBC
17 W Maple Drive
Seville, OH 44273
lindapausley@gmail.com

Send gifts/support to OARBC
Assistant Treasurer:
Kathee Ingram
112 South Defiance Street
P.O. Box 86
Stryker, OH 43557
katheeoarbc@gmail.com

Conference Keynote Speakers/Schedule



Dr. Jeremy Kimble

Dr. Jeremy Kimble is passionate about teaching college and seminary students the truth of God's Word. His hope is that through his courses, students will grow in their love for God and others, rightly understand the grand narrative of Scripture, and apply theological truths to everyday life as they make disciples and multiply churches. Dr. Kimble is committed to teaching in the classroom, mentoring students in smaller settings, and speaking in churches, camps, and conferences. He served in pastoral ministry for eight years and currently serves as a co-leader of an adult Sunday School class at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville, OH. In his role as a theology professor at [Cedarville University](#), Dr. Kimble's academic interests include biblical and systematic theology, ecclesiology, preaching and teaching, discipleship and spiritual growth, and biblical and pastoral leadership.



Dr. Andy Giessman

Dr. Andy Giessman is executive director of the Addison's Walk Center for Christian Studies, a non-profit organization located in Scranton, PA. Engaging the academic community at the crossroads of faith, reason, and culture, [Addison's Walk Institute](#) is modeled after other Christian study centers around the world. Dr. Giessman holds advanced degrees in theology and philosophy, and is a Doctor of Ministry Philosophy student at Talbot School of Theology, a graduate program of Biola University. He has 20 years of ministry experience and is a sought-after speaker for youth groups throughout the United States, delivering radical messages that challenge students to think through the claims of Jesus Christ. He teaches philosophy at Marywood University in Scranton, and teaches theology and philosophy at the University of Scranton.

Monday, October 16, 2023

- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** *Arrivals/Check-in*
- 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm** *Main Session (Dr. Jeremy Kimble)*
- 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm** *Break*
- 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm** *Seminars (Men & Women)*
- 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm** *Dinner Break*
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm** *Welcome/Well Done Dinner (by invitation)*
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm** *Main Session (Dr. Andy Giessman)*

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

- 10:00 am - 11:30 am** *Main Session (Dr. Andy Giessman)*
- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** *Lunch Break (Complimentary Chick-fil-a Box Lunch at Cedarville, rsvp when registering)*
- 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm** *Seminars (Men & Women)*
- 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm** *Association Business Meeting*
- 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm** *Dinner Break*
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** *Main Session (Dr. Jeremy Kimble)*
- 8:30 pm** *Ice Cream Social (for all in attendance, sponsored by Baptist Mid-Missions)*

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am** *Brunch, Hosted by Ohio Camps (Patmos, Skyview, Scioto Hills)*
- 10:00 am - 11:15 am** *Closing Session (Dr. Jeremy Kimble)*

To register, follow the instructions on the Grace Baptist website:

<https://www.gracecedarville.org/oarbc-conference-2023/>

A Word from the Rep

Hello, OARBC Family!

Linda and I have had a great summer ministering in and attending our churches in Ohio. We also celebrated our 46th anniversary and I turned the big 7-0 this summer while at the GARBC Conference in Portland Oregon. Though distance and cost prohibited many from attending, **it was a great conference.**

The statistical report was sent by email this year. You should have received the email and have returned it to our secretary of the council Pastor Sean Ingram. If not, please do so. Your **updated directory information** and your **nominations for the Council of 12** are very important. The Council will be meeting in September to make plans for the 2023-24 year and to give leadership to our fellowship.

The **annual senior adult luncheon** is planned for Tuesday, September 26. We are looking forward to our gathering this year at Scioto Hills in southern Ohio. Be sure to register on or before September 12. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and to see what God is doing at Scioto Hills.

The annual fall **OARBC state meeting is planned for October 16-18.** We are looking forward to our coming together this year at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville. The on-line registration is open at www.gracecedarville.org/oarbc-conference-2023/. We are appreciative for all that Grace Baptist is doing to host this conference. It is going to be a great OARBC family reunion.

The truth of Ephesians 3:20 *“God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us”* has blessed my own life recently. As you will read in this issue, God has blessed many of our churches with new lead pastors. In this day when resumes are few, God is still providing for His church, sometimes in unexpected ways. Continue to pray for our 11 churches still seeking God’s man to lead them, but let us be encouraged that our **God is able.**

See you soon,
Chuck

Ohio Church Calls New Pastor



*Pastor Steve and Heather Lytle
Sawyer, Kinlee, and Hudson*

First Baptist Church, Strongsville has called Steve Lytle to be Lead Pastor. Steve had the privilege to grow up on a First Nations reservation in Central Manitoba, Canada where his parents are missionaries. When he was 14, his parents graciously allowed him to move to Hartville, Ohio, and live with his grandparents, where his dad grew up. He attended Canton Baptist Temple with his grandparents and other family members. It was there he met his wife, Heather.

For his first ten years of ministry he served as Communications Director at Canton Baptist Temple and as Director of Camp CHOF. Camp CHOF, a ministry of Canton Baptist Temple, is the place where Steve was saved, called to ministry, where he and Heather were married and where they brought each of their three children home from the hospital.

For the past six years, Steve has served as the discipleship pastor at First Baptist Church, Medina.

He began ministering at First Baptist, Strongsville the first Sunday in August, 2023. He says, “I am humbled, grateful and excited to serve the Lord as Lead Pastor of First Baptist Church of Strongsville with Pastor Sam Farlow. Truly, God’s way is always the best way.”

Ohio Churches Call New Pastors



Pastor Josh and Janah Littler and family

Faith Baptist Church, Streetsboro called Josh Littler as Lead Pastor on May 28, 2023.

He was born and raised in the near-west side of Cleveland, Ohio, and came to faith in Christ as his family attended a small store-front church in the Stockyard neighborhood. He accepted God's call to ministry while attending the Abram Creek Baptist Church in Brook Park, where he was discipled by missionary Harry Ambacher and Pastor James Beight.

Josh acquired an undergraduate degree in Bible from Clarks Summit University and an M.A. and an M.Div. from Liberty University. He also obtained an M.S. in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Bible Exposition from Liberty University. He has worked as an adjunct professor at Clarks Summit University since 2014 and has written numerous articles and resources for Union Gospel Press and Regular Baptist Press.

Josh loves encouraging and equipping his fellow believers, preaching and teaching God's Word, and writing articles that challenge the church to more effectively pursue its God-given calling. Josh and his wife Janah are blessed with three children – Brendan, Austin, and Ellen. His parents still attend the Abram Creek Baptist Church, where his father has served as a deacon for several years. Josh also enjoys reading, retro arcade games, and Ohio State football.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville has called Jeff Dilyard as the new teaching pastor. He began his ministry on June 4, 2023.

Jeff was born and raised in Orrville, Ohio nearby the church. Christ saved him during VBS at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where he grew under the teaching and preaching ministry. After interning for four summers at Pleasant Hill, he served the church since July 3rd, 2022 as an associate pastor. Jeff graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa, with an M.Div.

Jeff and his wife, Rebecca, were married on May 28, 2022 are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. They also enjoy reading, playing tennis, baking, traveling, and spending time with family.



Pastor Jeff and Becky Dilyard



Pastor Chuck and Emily Pausley

Grace Baptist Church, Troy has called Chuck Pausley, II as lead pastor. He is the third generation Pausley to serve at Grace. Chuck's grandfather, Charles G., served as pastor of Grace from 1977-1986. His father, Charles J., served as an associate and then senior pastor from 1978-1994. Chuck has served as associate pastor since 2018.

At the installation service July 16, Chuck's father, Chuck Pausley, current state representative for the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and his cousin Jeff Halsted, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan were guest speakers. It was a special day for family, Grace family and friends.

Chuck and his wife Emily met at Clarks Summit University and have served in student ministries in Florida and Michigan before coming to Troy. Chuck is continuing his Master's work at Cedarville University. They love hanging out with family, vacationing to historic sites, walks on the beach and enjoying a coffee with friends.

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



Greetings, Ladies of Ohio!

“Trusting God’s Amazing Story — for our good and for His glory”

Every so often I need to be reminded why I am doing something. I need to answer a few questions: *Is this what the Lord wants? Am I serving others? Can I change something to make it better?*

I want to ask the same questions concerning the Ohio Women For Missions. Our purpose statement is:

The object of the organization (Ohio Women For Missions) shall be to provide a fellowship for all women’s fellowships of the parent organization of churches (OARBC) and promote missionary projects that join us together.

As we examine our purpose as women of Ohio, I pray we are a fellowship of women encouraging one another at our events. We certainly have promoted and supported missionary projects through the past 90 plus years, and each project has joined us together for the cause of Christ. The OWM has a rich and amazing story for our good and for **HIS GLORY!**

Ephesians 1:11-12 “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of **HIS GLORY.**”

LATEST UPDATE FROM THE WAITS

Praise the Lord! Together, we achieved our goal, \$10,000, for the Waites to redo the property in front of the church in Slovakia. They are so grateful to the OWM for providing for this need. Thank you for your sacrificial giving this past year. Praise the Lord!

NEW STATE PROJECT FOR 2023-24: “FUELED FOR MISSIONS”

Help us raise \$10,000 to supply gas for Baptist Mid-Missions’ missionary appointees as they travel to raise support. Your offerings will speed up appointees’ progress to their fields! Use the link <https://vimeo.com/819609945/273ed9b115> to access a 3-minute video explaining our new project. Bookmarks are available. Contact Donna Victor.

OWM LADIES FALL RETREAT

November 9 & 10, 2023
Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek, Ohio
Speaker: Jeannie Vogel (*right*)
Christian Women’s Speaker and Author
New York Ambassador for Revive Our Hearts



The OWM Ladies Fall Retreat at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio is the highlight for the OWM each year. Your churches should have received the retreat information by e-mail. Please check with your church secretary/pastor for the fliers. If you did not receive the retreat information, please contact Michaela Brown or Donna Victor. Our registrar this year is Renny Snare. **Registration deadline is October 2nd.** Cost for overnight is: \$110 each/4 person room; \$125 each/3 person room; \$155 each/2 person room.

We will host our annual basket auction to raise funds for our project “Fueled for Missions.” Your basket donations are so appreciated and wonderfully made. We look forward to seeing you all in Sugarcreek this November.

Donna Victor, President

Fall Area Meetings

Maranatha

Saturday, September 30
Scioto Hills Camp
10:00 am

Hebron

Camden Baptist, Oberlin
Saturday, October 14
10:00 am
“Redeeming the Time”
Anna Smith, Slovakia

Bethany

Location TBD
Saturday, October 21
10:00 am
Jane Kilko, Brazil

President

Donna Victor
2100 Springfield Center Road
Akron, OH 44312
(330) 203-3415
cmvictorde@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Renny Snare
1120 Tinker Lane
Proctorville, OH 45669
(419) 979-2778
rennyssnare@gmail.com

Secretary

Michaela Brown, Secretary
1102 North Vine Street Apt A
Fostoria, Ohio 44830
(330) 604-2504
owm1929@gmail.com

Treasurer

Elizabeth Bird, Treasurer
1005 Ashland Co Rd 2256
Perrysville, Ohio 44864
(267) 218-0664
chefbird05@gmail.com

OHIO-BASED MISSIONARY APPOINTEES

I am excited and encouraged to introduce to you the following missionary appointees. These adults of all ages and stages of life are being sent out by healthy OARBC churches to serve the Lord in full-time missionary work.

I have heard pre-field ministry is a challenging, learning and growing time for missionaries. It can also be very discouraging if it takes years to raise the support needed to get to the field. As OARBC churches, we can **work together** to get these Ohio-based missionaries to their fields in record time. Yes, there are many good missionary appointees all over the country, but I feel we have a special responsibility to our Ohio appointees. I believe much of our Ohio money should be for our Ohio missionaries.

I know these are financially challenging days. You may not have money in your missions budget this year. Don't let that keep you from inviting these appointees to your church. Every contact they make is important. You can increase their prayer base. Their testimony may challenge others in your church to follow God's calling for them. Let's encourage them. **God is able** to do above all we ask or think!

—Chuck Pausley, OARBC State Representative



Ken and Amy Lowe

Ken and Amy Lowe, Faith Global Missions, West Lafayette, IN

Field: Portugal

Sending Church: Mogadore Baptist, Mogadore

Support Level: Currently 60% Target Departure is March, 2024

Contact: www.drkenlowe.com

Ken and Amy served in Portugal on a church planting team for 18 years before being called off the field. After 10 years serving as pastor and wife in local church ministry, they are following God's call back to Portugal to train pastors and develop Biblical counseling centers in western Europe.



Anna Smith

Anna Smith, BMM (Baptist Mid-Missions)

Field: Slovakia

Sending Church: First Baptist, Elyria

Support Level: Currently .5%

Contact: anna2slovakia@gmail.com

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home with many Godly influences in my life. We were in church every time the doors were open, and through those influences I accepted the Lord as my Savior at a very young age. I had a lot of exposure to missionary ministry as I grew up, and always felt a pull towards missions.

I attended Faith Baptist Bible College in Iowa and studied missions and music, but after graduation was uncertain about the future. After some time, the Lord made it very clear that He was still pointing me towards missions, and I realized that I could not let any fears or concerns I had keep me from following His leading. I was able to take a short-term trip to Slovakia the last 3 months of 2022, and it was clear to me by the end of the trip that I needed to come back. I joined Baptist Mid-Missions in the summer of 2023 and am currently on deputation to return full-time to Slovakia.

OHIO-BASED MISSIONARY APPOINTEES



*Jared and Jessica Raines
Russell and Riley*

Jared and Jessica Raines, BMM

Field: Missionary Acres, Silva, Missouri
Sending Church: Pleasant Hill, Smithville
Support Level: 0% Beginning Deputation 9/2/23
Contact: raines4missions@gmail.com

Jared and Jessica were born and raised in Wayne County, Ohio. Jared was saved at an early age and later baptized at Pleasant Hill Baptist in Smithville. Jessica was saved while attending a church camp at the age of ten, just a year after her mother unexpectedly passed away. They met at the local vocational high school, and Jess began attending Pleasant Hill with Jared. Upon graduation, Jared began work at a HVAC company (where he would work for

the next 18 years). Two years later, he went on his first missions trip with a church work team to Missionary Acres, a BMM retirement community for missionaries, pastors, and career Christian workers in Silva, Missouri.

Shortly after his missions trip, Jared and Jess were married. A year later, they went together on another work team missions trip to Missionary Acres. For the next 15 years, God sent Jared, and sometimes Jess with him, on multiple work team missions trips around the world where they helped build churches and developed valuable relationships.

After such a missions trip to Peru, while working one afternoon in the church flower beds, Jess realized that she needed to surrender everything to the Lord and serve him with her whole life. Jared had always thought that God would use them in full-time ministry once they had retired. However, in August of 2022, he shared with Jess he felt God's calling on their lives was to serve Him full-time now, and she responded she was also ready. God has uniquely prepared and guided Jared and Jess step by step to serve Him full-time at Missionary Acres.



Bethany Ingram

Bethany Ingram, BMM (*Baptist Mid-Missions—Bibles International*)

Field: United States (currently)
Sending Church: First Baptist, Stryker
Support Level: Currently 31%
Contact: bingram@biblesint.org

Growing up in the church as a Pastor's kid has been a huge blessing in my life. I was saved at the age of seven, in the spring of 2003, through a Sunday school presentation of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit personally convicted me of my sin and I realize my need for a Savior – and my only Savior could be Jesus Christ. My father pastored a small church plant, so I quickly became accustomed to serving in the church wherever I was needed.

I was particularly inspired when missionaries came to speak at our church and presented their desire to spread the Gospel around the world. When I was twelve years old, I decided I would be a missionary, too. I retained that singular focus throughout high school; I used my talent for learning languages and my love for other peoples and cultures to look for the field in which God was calling me. God used my talents and interests to draw me to Bibles International (BI) in 2012. For believers and churches to grow spiritually, I learned about the desperate need for people to have the Bible in their own language.

I graduated from Grace College with a bachelor's degree in Bible translation and was thankfully able to join BMM and BI full-time in 2022. I am grateful for the many years God has already been guiding my life to become more like Him and for what He will continue to do in the days to come.

A Man Named Anthony

It was a typical gathering of the West Moriah pastors in the Columbus area. As the pastors ate lunch together, conversations about ministry filled the room. Pastors often find these gatherings to be encouraging and motivating, but they don't often turn into outreach. That is, until a man named Anthony came to the church.

Anthony rang the church doorbell while the pastors were meeting and preparing to pray together. Pastor Brad invited Anthony in and asked if he would like to join them for prayer.

Anthony was amazed that pastors would stop their meeting to pray for him! After the meeting, the pastors met one of Anthony's needs by sharing food with him. His heart was deeply touched by their Christlike kindness.

Anthony began to visit Pastor Brad in the weeks to come, and he gave testimony of health difficulties, broken family relationships, the death of a son, job loss, and, at times, homelessness. However, as Anthony's life story began to pour out, one thing was very clear: he had an amazing love for Jesus Christ.

He didn't give the polished testimony version that we are accustomed to in our church circles, but it was evident that Anthony was redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. As part of Anthony's attempt to improve his health, he would walk around the church parking lot. Often, he would walk by and wave at the church knowing someone was in there working. During one of these walks, a man from church was mowing the lawn, and Anthony went up to him to witness and invite the man to church.

There was no obituary, funeral, or memorial service for Anthony.

"You don't have to tell me about this church; I go here!" replied the member.

The two men became instant friends.

Each time Anthony came to church, he was a blessing to everyone from the youngest child to the most senior widow. When someone would tell him it was good to see him, he replied with an honest,

"It's good to be seen."

Isn't that what ministry is all about? To see one another and build up one another in Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:11)? That is the joy of welcoming one another in Christ (Romans 15:7)!

Anthony experienced a month-long hospital stay, but that didn't stop him from calling to check in. He would often call on speaker phone when someone was in the room who needed to hear about Jesus Christ and ask us to pray with him. Over the phone praise and prayer meetings certainly are unique, but they were great reminders to pray for one another (James 5:16) and bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

One of the Wednesdays Anthony came to Community Night, we noticed he looked like a different man. He was clean shaven, wore new clothes, and had improved health. Throughout the evening, he shared of God's goodness to him and the blessing of being in church with people who encouraged him. He made sure to talk with just about everyone that evening, and we began to notice that in the process of reaching out to Anthony, our church was experiencing the reality that, "he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 15:7b).

Three days after that Wednesday Community Night gathering, we learned the reality of God's plan for Anthony. His struggles on earth were now nothing compared to his joy in the presence of the Lord. There was no obituary, funeral, or memorial service for Anthony. He died a poor man with hardly any earthly possessions. Yet, he was rich because of the impact Jesus Christ had in his life, and he shared that spiritual wealth with us.

When the news about Anthony's homegoing was shared that next Sunday in church, the Immanuel family gave testimony to the impact of Anthony in each of their lives.

It was a celebration of life for someone we had only known for a short time. It was the memorial service he never had. As a church family, we rejoiced over the impact Anthony had on our lives. One man summed it up well when he said, "Our church needed Anthony."

The Lord used Anthony to open our hearts more toward others in the community and to welcome those who come across our path that may interrupt our plans and our meetings.

Welcome those interruptions. You might just meet someone like a man named Anthony.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU



Father/Son Camp Out September 15-16
 Ladies' Retreat 1 September 29-Oct. 1
 Ladies' Retreat 2 October 6-8
 Hebron Youth Retreat October 27-28
 Benefit Dinner/Silent Auction December 2

www.skyviewranch.org



Rejuvenate Ladies' Retreat September 8-10
 Rejuvenate Ladies' Retreat September 15-17
 Rewind Camp Out—Dads/Children September 22-23
 OARBC Senior Luncheon September 26
 Seasoned Saints Luncheon October 12
 Refine Mother/Daughter Retreat November 3-5
 Christmas at Camp December 1 and 2
 Recharge (Young adults 18-35) December 8-9

www.sciotohills.com



Men's Retreat September 7-9
 Banished Student Retreat September 15-17
 Ladies' Retreat October 6-8
 Real Men Don't Retreat October 13-15

www.camppatmos.com

Pilgrim Tours Israel Trip—Coming Soon

January 23-February 1, 2024

10 Day Inspirational Tour \$3,749 incl airfare/double occupancy*

Optional Jordan Extension \$1,119*

February 1-4, 2024

**single supplement \$1,049*

Grace Baptist, Westlake and New Community Baptist, Avon are sponsoring this trip to Israel and Jordan. There are openings available.

If you are interested, contact:

Pastor Brian Gardiner brian@newcommunitybaptist.com or

Pastor Steve Strong sstrong@gbcwestlake.org

<https://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/newcommunitybaptist2024.htm>



Ancient Aqueduct

OARBC Senior Adult Luncheon at Scioto Hills — Register by September 12



Steve Detrick, Troy

Remember the great time at Camp Patmos last September? This year the OARBC Senior Luncheon is at Scioto Hills Camp Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Registration and information:

<https://oarbc.org/oarbc-senior-adult-luncheon/>

ACROSS THE STATE

Pastor Stephen Olsen retires after 45 years at Pleasant Hill, Smithville

Pastor Stephen and Mary Jane Olsen have retired after 45 years of ministry at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville.

A celebration was held on Sunday, May 28, 2023 exactly 45 years to the day Pastor Olsen preached his first sermon at the little white church in the middle of nowhere with about 20 members. The young couple and their son arrived fresh out of seminary determined to be faithful “Holding forth the Word of Life” as God called them. God has been faithful and God has blessed faithfulness.

Included in the celebration services were greetings and reminiscences in person and via video of former staff members and missionaries, presentation of plaques and gifts, and special musical selections. Lunch was served for the over 550 in attendance and an afternoon service followed with an open mic for memories and appreciation.

Pastor and Mary Jane will continue to serve as Pastor Emeritus and support the church and ministry, with just a little more time to cheer for the Smithville football team, coached by one of their sons, and enjoy their seven grandchildren.



Pastor and Mary Jane Olsen

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Toledo, celebrates 125th Anniversary



Ralph and Mary Mungons

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio, celebrated 125 years of ministry with a weekend of remembering the past and looking forward to the future.

The celebration began Saturday, May 6, 2023 with lunch, an event that included members, past members, and friends sharing favorite memories and testimonies of God’s faithfulness. Ralph and Mary Mungons were present and shared special and humorous memories. Ralph has been a member of Emmanuel for 77 years and an attender for 85.

On Sunday, May 7, before the worship service, people browsed displays of photos and memorabilia giving a visual history of the church.



Decorated for Celebration

Pastor Duke Crawford welcomed Chip Bernhard as special guest speaker during the Morning Worship Service. Chip grew up attending Emmanuel and has been pastor of Spring Creek Church, Pewaukee, WI, since 1987.

Chip says his time attending Emmanuel, particularly during high school, has been an anchor for his soul even in his older years. What he and his family appreciated while attending Emmanuel was the preaching of the gospel—that Jesus Christ alone can save people from their sins.

Each attender was given a can of Pepsi as a fun token of the day. Pepsi-Cola was also founded in 1898.

Over the last 125 years, “God has done a great work in and through [Emmanuel Baptist],” says Pastor Duke Crawford, “with the gospel changing lives for the glory of God right here in Toledo.”

ACROSS THE STATE

Berean Baptist, Pickerington, Celebrates 50 Years

The 50-year Anniversary Celebration of Berean Baptist Church was held on Sunday evening, May 21, 2023. Church family, friends and special guests gathered for the evening and enjoyed a delicious dinner of smoked pulled pork and beef brisket prepared by some men of the church. Delicious side dishes and anniversary cake completed the meal.

A highlight of the evening was Pastor Joe Divelbiss interviewing three of the founding members of the church. Interesting details of the early days of the church, good times and very hard times, were rehearsed. There were many days in the history of the church that God's care, sovereignty and divine intervention were recognized.

Pastor Joe Divelbiss and his wife Deborah have served the church just over a year and look forward to many more good years for Berean Baptist, Pickerington.



Pastor Joe Divelbiss (left) interviews three of the founding members of the church.

Abbe Road, Elyria, Reaches Community Children



Sunday night, June 4, 2023 was Children's Night at Abbe Road, Elyria. The children and families of the 2022-23 After School Bible Clubs were invited to a service of singing, verses and testimonies from the children followed by a pizza party and game night in the church gymnasium which included Ga-Ga ball, a favorite game enjoyed by all ages (left).

There were a total of 91 children reached through the Bible Clubs which were held at two public elementary/middle schools in Elyria.

The church hosted the 2022-23 clubs with 16 teachers and helpers, 15 who helped provide snacks and 42 prayer partners. Scheduling and recruiting are underway for the 2023-24 school year. Pastor Cal and Deb Searles' faithfully give leadership to the church and this ministry.

Calvary, Coshocton, Celebrates Homecoming Weekend

The annual Homecoming weekend for Calvary Baptist, Coshocton was held August 12-13. The Saturday picnic on the grounds included softball, cornhole, board games and fellowship. Sunday Morning Worship included church family testimonies and a time to catch up with old friends and meet new. "We are thankful for guests and old friends that joined us for this special weekend...the first homecoming since the pandemic," says Pastor Sam Brown. He and his wife Alyssa have been at the church since 2016 and senior pastor since 2021.



NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

I Talked to God When I Couldn't Talk to People

Being born without hearing can change someone's life forever. Through prayer, resilience and multiple surgeries, one [Cedarville University](#) student hasn't let her condition stop her from enjoying life and thriving in college.

Sophomore [nursing major](#) Masen Krampe from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was born with Connexin 26, a genetic condition making her fully deaf. Krampe is missing the approximately 60,000 hairs inside a hearing person's ear that are used to transmit sound from the eardrum to the auditory nerve.

"I was the first deaf person in my family for over five generations," said Krampe. "It was dormant for a long time and ended up surfacing with me."

When Krampe was 13 months old, she had cochlear implant surgery on her right ear. The implant uses electrodes to replace the missing hairs and facilitate hearing. At 6 years old, the implant failed and had to be replaced through additional surgery.

Cedarville's academic enrichment center, [The COVE](#), helped Krampe receive edited transcriptions from her classes to use as notes during her freshman year.

"One of my biggest prayer requests is that I really wanted the people I came to for academic accommodations to be people I could access and talk with," said Krampe. "At other schools, I felt like I was a problem others needed to deal with, but at Cedarville, The COVE staff led the accommodation discussions and made me feel heard and cared for."

"Masen has courageously overcome challenges to be a student," said Amy Frey, associate disability compliance coordinator at Cedarville. "She approaches all she does with a strong spirit of joy and perseverance. Masen is an inspiration."



Cedarville Student Masen Krampe

For years, Krampe struggled with directional sound due to only having one implant and decided to pursue getting an implant in her left ear as well.

"My doctor warned me that the second implant might not work since I was past the age of 5," said Krampe. "God decided to prove him wrong. By 17, I ended up with 70% speech recognition in the ear that he said I would have none. That was all God."

At age 11, a bacterial infection developed in her right ear, requiring her to stop using the implants for six months.

"Even in that trial, God healed me," mentioned Krampe. "God healed me without even needing surgery. My doctor only had two patients fully heal while exclusively on medication, making my case unique."

During her senior year of high school, Krampe struggled with her implants again. Krampe began having neuropathy pain, an extremely painful result of nerves under the skin getting rubbed raw from the device.

"For the other problems, there were less invasive medical interventions," said Krampe. "There were none for this outside of surgery."

Krampe was forced to surgically take her implants out and let herself heal before putting them back in. She went from 98% speech recognition to just 25%.

"I couldn't hear a thing," Krampe added. "It was lonely not being able to talk to people. I clung to knowing that God is with me always. I talked to God when I couldn't talk to people."

For six months, Krampe lived without her implants. Her pursuit of the Lord was rewarded when she still managed to graduate cum laude from high school and gain her hearing back before graduation.

Even through Krampe is still dealing with problems, such as another surgery for a faulty implant this past summer, she has remained faithful to God and is able to be successful in college no matter the challenge.