

# Ohio Baptist MESSENGER

21  
November

THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

VOLUME 69 NO. 6

**Keep.  
Moving.  
Forward.**

## **ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

**November 16, 2021**  
Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington

Words create worlds. I first heard this phrase several years ago from the well-known strategic thinker, Will Mancini. Indeed, if you truly want to cultivate a culture, you must begin to speak a new language. A couple of years ago, our SCBO leadership decided to no longer call our annual gathering a meeting, but rather a celebration! Therefore, I am looking forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks for the 68th Annual Celebration of The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Lord willing, we will convene at Violet Baptist Church located in Pickerington, Ohio on Tuesday, November 16th. Doors open at 8:00am and the celebration will begin promptly at 9:00am. Therefore, messenger registration and a light continental breakfast will be available from 8:00-9:00am, so plan ahead and come early to reserve your seat.

We are thrilled to share with you many new and exciting updates, as well as the future vision of the SCBO. Also, we will be having a special on-site luncheon, that revolves around the future vision of our state convention. Trust me,

you will not want to miss opportunity, but you MUST sign up for it. This luncheon will be free, but registration closes at the end of the day on Tuesday, November 9th. I am happy to share with you that nearly 300 people have already registered for the luncheon, so go online and register today at [www.scbo.org/celebration](http://www.scbo.org/celebration).

Moving Forward,



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook  
Executive Director-Treasurer

**REGISTER FOR  
LUNCH HERE!**  
Registration closes Nov. 9th

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## Dr. Jeremy Westbrook

Executive Director-Treasurer

*Dr. Jeremy Westbrook currently serves as the newly selected Executive Director-Treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Previously, Jeremy served as the Senior Associate Pastor of Calvary Church in Clearwater, Florida and also as the Lead Missional Strategist of The Suncoast Baptist Association in Largo, Florida. Originally, Dr. Westbrook came to Ohio in 2008 to help plant Living Hope Church in Marysville and served as SCBO President in 2016. Jeremy and his wife Jennifer are blessed with 3 children.*



## Dr. Art Fulks

Pastor FBC Lancaster, Annual Sermon

*Dr. Art Fulks serves as the Lead Pastor at First Baptist Church Lancaster (Ohio). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, a Masters of Divinity in Church Music, and a Th.D. in Pastoral Theology. During his 25 years of vocational ministry, Art has served as a worship pastor, executive pastor, church planter, and lead pastor in NC, SC, GA, and Ohio. Shaped by the investment of so many, Art is passionate about investing in the next generation of pastors, church planters, and missionaries.*



## Reginald Hayes

Pastor United Faith International, SCBO President

*Reginald Hayes is the pastor of United Faith International Baptist (UFI) Church in Columbus, Ohio and currently serves as President of the SCBO. Reggie received his B.A. in Organizational Communication, with a Minor in African American Studies at the Ohio State University. In 2005 he completed the Pastor of Excellence Program at Ashland Theological Seminary and is pursuing additional seminary study. Prior to being called to preach, Hayes was the first African American Chief of Staff in the Democratic Caucus in the Ohio Senate and served two terms as an elected city councilman in Ashtabula, Ohio. Reggie and his wife Mary are proud parents of Lakeshia (Edward), Reginald II, Isaiah, and Alishia; and love being grandparents as well.*

**REGISTER FOR LUNCH HERE!**

Registration closes Nov. 9th

[SCBO.ORG/CELEBRATION](http://SCBO.ORG/CELEBRATION)

# November 16, 2021

Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington

## CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY MORNING

8:00 Doors Open  
8:00 - 9:00 Messenger Registration  
Light Continental Breakfast

9:00 Worship in Song  
Welcome and Prayer  
Call to Order  
Intro of Officer  
Committee Appointments  
Credentials Committee Report  
Seating of Messengers  
Program Committee Report  
Nominating Committee Report  
Mission Council Report and Actions  
Budget Presentation  
Election of Officers  
New Church Staff Recognition  
Worship in Song  
Executive Director's Report:  
Dr. Jeremy Westbrook

12:00 On-Site Luncheon *Registration Required*

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON

1:15 Worship in song  
Panel Discussion  
SBC Executive Committee  
Recognition of Retiring  
& Transitioning SCBO Staff  
Business Session  
Time, Place & Preacher Committee Report  
Resolutions Committee Report  
Ohio Baptist Foundation Report  
Stowe Award  
Worship in Song  
President's Address: Reginald Hayes  
Installation of New Officers  
Missions & Disaster Relief  
Right Now Media  
Celebration Stories  
Worship in song  
Annual Sermon: Art Fulks  
5:00 Close of Annual Celebration

*Messenger Cards are available for download at [sco.org/celebration](http://sco.org/celebration)*

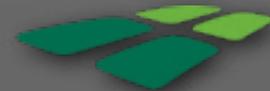


Join believers Sunday, November 7 for the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians, an annual event where thousands of believers around the world lift their voices to God as one Church and one Family. As we pray on November 7, we're confident God will continue to do amazing things in our lives—and in the lives of our persecuted brothers and sisters. Your prayers help them know they're not alone ... and they're not forgotten.

To help you share the stories of persecuted Christians with your church or small group, see links below:

[resources.opendoorsusa.org/resource-idop](https://resources.opendoorsusa.org/resource-idop)  
[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)  
[www.nikripen.com](http://www.nikripen.com)

Download the free resources and introduce your church to their persecuted family through the International Day of Prayer.



GuideStone®

It was great having the Associational Mission Strategist/ Director of Missions' among other leaders from around the state to hear from Dr. Hance Dilbeck, the new President and CEO of GuideStone.



## Collaborated Missions Conference

The SCBO and the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association collaborated on a Southwest Ohio Missions Conference held at First Southern Lebanon on October 4. There were plenary session speakers, breakouts, and a Mission Fair. The breakouts and Mission Fair were led by representatives from the IMB, IMB students, NAMB, SCBO, CABA, WMU, DR, and Church Renewal Journey.

Plenary speakers were Jamie Work, IMB and Dean Fulks, LifePoint Church. That evening CABA had its Annual Meeting and Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO's new State Executive Director, was the keynote speaker. The association also received a report from the Youth Evangelism Study Group.

# BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD REALITY

## Removing All Excuses

By: Amanda Mishne

September 26, 2021 Lifepoint Church held LifeChange Sunday - a baptism service that was clearly a movement of God. With over 2,500 in attendance at its three locations in Delaware, Lewis Center and Westerville, 85 believers were baptized that day! For the past several years, the church has had this special emphasis in addition to monthly baptisms throughout the year. Dean shared "[LifeChange Sunday] gives an opportunity for the church to see visible obedience. Giving believers an opportunity in the moment is so encouraging to believers."

No matter the size of your church a baptism service is something that can be pulled off. Dean Fulks, Lead Pastor of Lifepoint Church, gave us a few pointers for you to prepare for this special day.

**Pray** – Ask the Spirit of God to move and compel believers to that public profession of faith. Ask for the Spirit to soften the hearts of those that will make decisions that day.

**Promotion** – Start sharing with the congregation three weeks prior to Baptism Sunday, encouraging signing up ahead of time. Have information on hand to answer questions, prepare

them on the process and explain to bring. Lifepoint has a great information page on their website. Only about 1/3 of those baptized signed up ahead of time, so be prepared for spontaneous decisions.

**Preparation** - Everyone loves a free t-shirt! Lifepoint orders "Going Public" t-shirts for every believer being baptized. Be sure to have a variety of sizes on hand. Gather supplies that spontaneous decisions may need. Lifepoint provides swimsuits, shirts, towels, make-up remover, combs, deodorant, bags for wet items, and pony tail holders. Provide safe and private places to change clothes, etc. This can be as simple as a pop-up shower tent or designated bathrooms. Have your volunteer "baptism hosts" ready to walk believers through the process.

**Service** – This is your opportunity to change up the order of service. Sing a few songs, preach a salvation/baptism message (keeping it to 10-15 minutes), give an invitation and have councilors ready to walk them through the process, baptize first group (those who signed up ahead of time), sing another song encouraging people that it's not too late and baptize the final group (repeat a third time if needed).

Be sure to clearly define believer's baptism and answer those questions about infant baptism.

Pray for people to be bold and courageous to make the decision to come now. You have removed ALL EXCUSES. "I don't have a change of clothes." We have it all for you! "I want \_\_\_\_ to be here," FACETIME! "I want to get baptized as a family." Lead by example! At the end of Acts chapter 8 it says: As they [Philip and the eunuch] traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8: 36-38

In order for God to move we have to make room for Him to move. Setting aside time to celebrate salvation, follow in believer's baptism and worship will rejuvenate believers and encourage the lost to seek his face. What is keeping you from inviting the movement of God in your church?

Watch a video from LifeChange Sunday here: <https://vimeo.com/617298513>



# How Do Lives Change?

Barbara DeLorme, SCBO WMU Coordinator  
Appalachian Christmas Backpack Ministry  
(937) 609-0231 11kidsnanny@gmail.com

So many things come to our minds when we think about the changes we experience daily in our lives. How do these changes affect our lives?

We change our minds, the filter in the furnace change burned out light bulbs, jobs, schools, time changes, change doctors, the baby's diaper, vehicles, tires, our attitudes change, change to a healthier way of eating and exercising, etc.

The biggest and greatest change comes in our lives, when our hearts need to be changed and we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Not only our personal life changes, but our way of living changes. When Jesus comes into our life our house becomes a home with Him living there with us.

The Appalachian Christmas Backpack Ministry is "changing lives - one backpack at a time".

We are looking forward, with great anticipation, to seeing how many lives of children and teens are going to be changed, with all the backpacks that our state has been filling this year. These backpacks not only have items for their physical needs, but their spiritual needs. There is a copy of the Christmas Story and a Bible. Each backpack has been prayed over as it was filled, for the child receiving this Christmas gift; praying that this young person will accept the gift of salvation from the Lord. Before the backpacks are given out to all of the children and teens, they will hear that Jesus is the reason for the season and the plan of salvation will be shared with them.

Be sure and bring your filled backpacks to our SCBO Annual Celebration November 16th at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington, Ohio. If you can't bring them, to the meeting, please get in touch with me and we can make other arrangements.

"Jesus Will Still Be There" by Point of Grace puts change in perspective:

*Things change, plans fail.*

*You look for love on a grander scale.*

*Storms rise, hopes fade*

*and you place your bets on another day.*

*When the going gets tough, when the ride's too rough,  
when you're just not sure enough.*

*Jesus will still be there.*

*His love will never change,*

*Sure as a steady rain,*

*Jesus will still be there.*

*When no one else is true,*

*He'll still be lovin' you.*

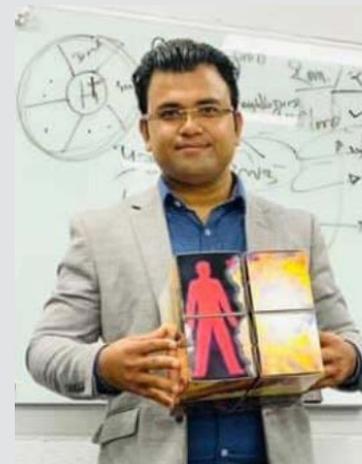
*When it looks like you've lost it all*

*And you haven't got a prayer,*

*Jesus will still be there.*

## Getting Ready, Equipped, GO!

One of our Send Network planters here and Cleveland, Abraham Diyali, a refugee from Nepal, recently trained his people at International Fellowship Church using the EvangeCube for witnessing. He writes, "Gospel training! Getting ready and equipped to extend His kingdom! 'GO' — this commandment is given to every individual who believe in Jesus!"



# A Man's Call to Action

By: Jason Andino, Worship & Groups Pastor at Urbancrest

We are back! The Men's Summit at Urbancrest is ready to kick off 2022 with a bang! This year's Men's Summit is not just a rally, it is not just a worship service to make you feel good about what you know, it is a call to action! You will experience excellent preaching and inspiring worship, but you will also have the opportunity to level up in a practical way with breakout sessions dealing with lust, family finance, and parenting, and through open and free dialogue with other men dealing with (or men that have succeeded through) your same struggles. Book your seats for January 28th and 29th as soon as you can because they will go quickly!

As the men of the church, without regard to denomination, we are dealing with an epidemic that mirrors a major epidemic in the world at large: obesity. We are not talking about the weekly bake sale, the church breakfasts, or the pre-service donut... lets be real... donuts; we are talking about *spiritual* obesity. We have become content with being gluttons for knowledge, feeding ourselves weekly from the pulpit until we should be overflowing with God's word; but instead of sharing the life-giving bread, we are keeping it to ourselves.

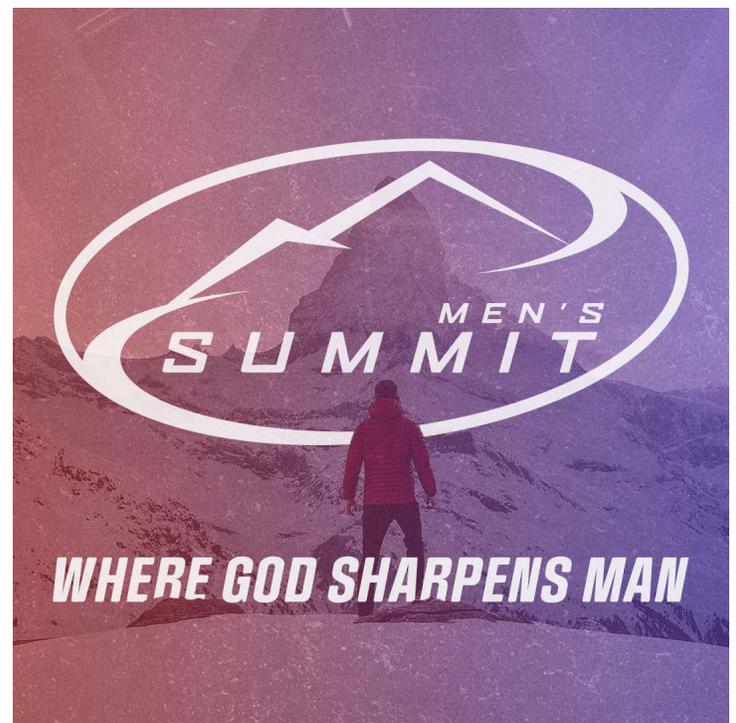
At this Summit we will discuss important cultural and spiritual issues. We need to recognize how we've been shaking our heads at how the culture has shifted away from God, while patting ourselves on the back for staying right with Him; without realizing that the issues arrived on our watch. WE dropped the ball.

It's time for us to take action again. The men of the church need to step up and reclaim our keys to the kingdom and manage it well, because when the King returns and finds a mess, He's going to be looking for answers. He's going to be looking for us.

That is the reason for the Men's Summit at Urbancrest. We wake up, we get fueled up, and we get sent out to make a difference in the world. I think we have all heard it said that...

*"If you want to change a child... change the FATHER.  
If you want to change a marriage... change the HUSBAND.  
And if you want to change the world... change the MAN."*

If you substitute the word "change" with "improve," "strengthen," "inspire," "affect," OR "discourage," "dishearten," or "destroy," those phrases remain true. WE have to be the ones that decide which path we are going to take. If we continue to neuter our knowledge by keeping it to ourselves, it is not only to the detriment of our families, it is to the detriment of our churches, our communities and ultimately to the kingdom of God.



You need to be at the Men's Summit because you are called to be...

In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 we read:

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

Later on (verse 8) we read who is supposed to be making that intercession...

"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling..." (ESV. Emphasis mine)

That's us!

If all the other stuff doesn't fire you up, then "God said so," should do it! Just kidding (mostly).

You DO NOT want to miss the opportunity to attend this powerful, God glorifying, spiritually edifying event! Mark January 28th and 29th as "Men's Summit at Urbancrest" on your calendar today, keep those dates clear and book your seats right now!

Tickets are \$25 but you can save \$5 a seat by registering before January 1st. We can only accommodate the first 1000 men in person, but we will also be offering a Live Stream for those that do not register on time or cannot be in the building. Pastors Joe Veal, Jeremy Westbrook, Aaron Taylor and Tom Pendergrass are each going to bring a powerful word, Dinner on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday morning will be provided for all in attendance, and the overall experience will be life changing! Don't miss it. We will be praying for you as you make plans to come out, and we can't wait to see you there!

For more information about program, pricing or to sign up please go to: [menssummit.urbancrest.org](https://menssummit.urbancrest.org)



**January 28–29, 2022**  
[worship424.com](http://worship424.com)

Cedarville University and  
the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio present

# Worship 4:24 Conference




FEATURING **Matt Papa**  
AND **Matt Merker**

## WORSHIP 4:24 CONFERENCE SET TO EQUIP CHURCH MUSICIANS

By: Roger O'Neel

This January, we will be hosting our annual Worship 4:24 conference at Cedarville University, on Jan. 28-29. The purpose of the conference is to help equip the local church in the area of music and worship. Our guest musician will be Matt Papa, Cedarville University's artist in residence this year. Matt is a well-known singer and songwriter of such songs as "His Mercy is More" and "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death." Matt will be presenting a Night of Worship that is free and open to the public on Friday night, Jan. 28. The guest speaker for this year is Matt Merker, Director of Creative Resources and Training for Getty Music. Matt is also a musician and songwriter of "He Will Hold Me Fast" and "I Will Wait for You."

In addition, we will have 30 additional guest speakers and over 80 breakout sessions, all designed to help church musicians and tech crews improve and develop their skills. There will be classes to help performers with guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and vocals, as well as specific tech classes to help those that support worship ministry stay abreast of the latest technology and techniques. Core sessions on Friday will focus on technology, songwriting, worship leadership, and bivocational worship leaders. All of this will be underscored with the theme for the conference which is based on John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth". There will also be a special event for the youth called "Weekend of Worship." You can find out more information about both events and register now at [worship424.com](http://worship424.com).



**Worship 4:24**  
SPIRIT + TRUTH

**Mark your calendar now!**

Plan to attend the Worship 4:24 Conference at Cedarville University on **January 28-29, 2022**. Co-sponsored by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and Cedarville University Department of Music and Worship. The conference is designed to equip and encourage worship leaders, musicians, bands, praise teams, and tech crews to be effective leaders. It will include a worship concert on Friday evening, general sessions and breakouts on both Friday and Saturday.

**Cost**

<b>Early Bird registration</b>	November 1 – December 19	\$50 per person (\$20/student)
<b>Regular registration</b>	December 20 – January 19	\$59.95 per person (\$30/student)

### Registration

**Online:** [worship424.com](http://worship424.com) | **Phone:** 937-766-4444

To pay offline for multiple registrants with a single check, please select the gray button "Add Registrant," then add each individual's information. Please make out checks to Cedarville University and send your check and registrants' names to:

#### Event Services

Cedarville University  
251 N Main St  
Cedarville, OH 45314

Registration fees are due by and are nonrefundable after the deadline on January 19, 2022.



## Ohio Disaster Relief and the Gospel Mission



Ohio Disaster Relief has been active in 2021, deploying 14 teams since March 1. Recently, six teams deployed to the Northeast where the leftovers of Hurricane Ida damaged and flooded thousands of homes. Ohio teams worked recovery in mudout, chainsaw, plus food service, chaplains and assessors leading to 10 people coming to faith in Christ.

While deployed, Ohio DR teams do more than just cut down trees and clean up flooded homes. DR teams present a Bible signed by all the team members to the homeowners. This year, they also received a laminated book-mark made by campers at Kids Kamp at Seneca Lake. This one was given to a



homeowner in Pennsylvania after the flood recovery team cleared a home.

In addition to multiple deployments, Ohio Disaster Relief has started an online certification process, allowing all new DR members to do their introductory training at home online. The online training consists of three courses and once the online coursework is completed and a clear background check is obtained, trainees will be certified for Disaster Relief.



Trainees can then go to a training event to train in a specific unit or they can deploy with the unit and get their training in the field.

Recently, the first three trainees finished their online training and deployed with the chainsaw team to Horsham, PA, to complete their unit training. They are Andy Gilmore, Dublin BC; Michele Woodard, Farmersville BC; and Josh Howell, Beaver Creek BC.

DR has had additional requests to deploy but have had to decline due to a lack of trained volunteers and leaders. If you would like to serve in this ministry, go to [scbo.org/dr](http://scbo.org/dr) and register for the next training event.



# Around Ohio

Visit [scbo.org/calendar](http://scbo.org/calendar) for details on all upcoming events.

## November 16 SCBO Annual Celebration



**WORSHIP 4:24**  
SPIRIT + TRUTH

## January 28-29 Worship 4:24

## Exceeding Ray Roberts Offering Goal

Covid - 19 has affected so many things when it comes to ministry in the local church, and at Camden it is no different. Coming on the heels of celebrating our 70th Church Anniversary, I wondered how hard to push and how aggressive to appeal regarding the Ray Roberts Offering due to the sacrifices people were already making. Our Goal was \$3,100.00. Why that number? It would be a good offering. A doable goal. I wanted our folks to celebrate a victory in the midst of a season so full of defeat. To God be the glory as He was not finished and used FSBCamden to give a great offering. On the day of the Victory March, God blessed as over \$4,200.00 was received. We praised the Lord, but He was not finished, as we received word that our online giving had not been added and it eventually totaled an additional \$1,550. To date our Ray Roberts total is over \$6,388.00.

Pastor be encouraged that God still does great things, even in small places. Challenge your people to support the work of the SCBO and you lead by example. Inform your folks on the history of Ray Roberts and his heart for Ohio Baptist Churches.

Until He comes, we will go.  
Pastor Greg Jackson - FSBCamden  
- The Corner of Hope



## How to Become a Christian

If you are not a Christian, have never surrendered your will to the Lord Jesus, let me share briefly how you can make this life changing decision. GOD WANTS YOU SAVED.

**FIRST**, you must believe that God loves you and wants you to have peace in your heart and an everlasting life (John 3:16).

**SECOND**, you must recognize that you are a sinner, that you have done things which have displeased God and that you have separated yourself from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

**THIRD**, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24). However, it's not enough just to

know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

**FOURTH**, you must personally ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you of your sins (Revelation 3:20).

You can pray this prayer now and if you mean it with all of your heart, Jesus will come in just like He said. He cannot lie.

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I'm really sorry for my sins, Lord. I ask you now, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I now receive You into my heart. Thank You for coming in. I will follow You all the days of my life. In Your name I pray, Amen.*

# We want to hear your story!

Send church news and stories to Amanda Mishne at [amishne@scbo.org](mailto:amishne@scbo.org)

Published monthly by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio for members of Southern Baptist churches in Ohio.

9000 Antares Ave  
Columbus, Ohio 43240

Member of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jeremy Westbrook, State Convention Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor  
Amanda Mishne, Digital Communications Assistant

## Ohio Baptist MESSENGER



The State Convention  
of Baptists in Ohio  
AMPLIFYING LEADERS TO ACCELERATE GOSPEL IMPACT