

### Westbrook Completes First Year at SCBO

By Jeremy Westbrook

*'You become what you celebrate.'*

These infamous words apply not only to a local church, but also to a state convention. It is hard to believe that I recently celebrated my one-year anniversary as the Executive Director-Treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO). While there have certainly been many obstacles and challenges, there have also been many opportunities and victories to celebrate! While there are too many to mention, I would like to highlight just a few...

*"... there have also been many opportunities and victories to celebrate!"*

Send Network Ohio is moving our church planting efforts forward at an accelerated pace. Our new agreement with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) has opened the opportunity for us to partner and plant churches in every corner of Ohio for every person in Ohio! We are only eight months into this year, and we have already surpassed the number of new churches for the entire year last year... praise the Lord! Please feel free to visit our staff webpage and learn more about the Send Network Ohio team at <https://www.scbo.org/our-team>.

Our Ohio Disaster Relief team continues to grow under the leadership of John Heading, who previously served for many years here in Ohio as the Senior Pastor of Beaver Creek Baptist Church. Already this year, our teams have been deployed thirteen times, which is unusually high. These incredible servants of the Lord are

not just meeting physical needs, but sharing spiritual hope with those who are lost, resulting in many individuals coming to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the increased training efforts and the intentional focus to mobilize the next generation to help continue this important ministry. The Send Relief Serve Tour is coming to Dayton and proves to be an historic partnership opportunity. To learn more, please visit <https://www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour/dayton>.

Other reasons to celebrate include the new regional approach to serving our churches, a renewed emphasis on convening our ethnic churches and the record-setting attendance at Super Summer just to name a few. We give glory to God for what He has done, is doing, and pray He will continue to do here in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Lord and you over this past year. When I think upon it, I am thrilled about serving you for many years to come, Lord willing.



Moving Forward,

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook

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Greetings Ohio Baptists,

"So how are things at church?" This is a question pastors hear on a regular basis. Sometimes it is someone making small talk, other times it is coming from someone who genuinely cares. I was asked this question once and my answer was "Not good." I then began to list all the things which frustrated me. The next question was, "Well, is anything going right at church?" I began to list a couple things, then another came to mind, and another. There were problems for sure, but I had allowed them to occupy my mind to the point that I could not appreciate the wins.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "We are too prone to engrave our trials in marble and write our blessings in sand." Ministry is hard work. We must keep our eyes on the mission, or we will burn out. More importantly, we must keep our eyes on Christ who calls us to our mission. Of all the benefits of being a Southern Baptist and an Ohio Baptist, the fellowship and sense of community around the mission is one of the most meaningful to me. Every time I gather with other Ohio Baptists whether in a formal or informal setting, I leave encouraged and refocused.

Sometimes it helps just to share where you are in ministry. I would love to hear from you. If you have a story to share about how God is moving in your church, I would love to celebrate with you. If you are facing trials in ministry and need someone to pray for you, I would love to pray for you. I am here to serve our Ohio Baptist family.

# REGIONAL



## Matt Pardi - Northwest

I am inspired by the hands and feet of Jesus working in our area. Our conversations can often go to church services, church planting, and revitalization and rightly so. But those topics do not tell the whole story of our leaders serving beyond the walls of our buildings. I have encountered workers that have amazed me as I watch them care for needs in Lima, Toledo, Bryan, Sandusky and beyond.

We have people involved in fighting poverty, gathering donations for the poor, serving in food ministries, fighting sex-trafficking, training, and helping diverse congregations, and educating youth about Jesus. To know that believers are helping mothers who have chosen life, feeding those with food insecurity, and providing for those in need gives me great faith in the work of Jesus in our area.

I praise God for you leaders because you are not merely people of words, but you are people of actions! Thank you to all those in the Northwest Region for your team efforts to bring the gospel to those who could have otherwise been forgotten. "When you did this for the least of them, you did it for Me." – Matthew 25:40.



## Art Fulks - Southeast

Vacation Bible Schools and mission projects have filled the summer in Southeastern Ohio, including churches working diligently to re-engage their communities in this post-Covid climate. Twelve churches out of sixty-two in the region are facing the challenge of searching for pastors. Followers of Christ are stepping up to continue ministries and take on the task of filling the pulpit.

Churches, such as FBC Waverly and Ebenezer, Logan, are engaging in Disaster Relief. And as the fall approaches, Sharon Baptist Church in Ironton recently hosted the Marshall University Football team - where Pastor Steve Harvey serves as chaplain. Churches like New Lexington Baptist and FBC Logan are preparing for school to start and for their local partnerships through Lifewise Academy to begin. ([www.lifewiseacademy.org](http://www.lifewiseacademy.org))

LIFT, the Muskingum Valley Baptist Association pastor gathering is set for Tuesday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. in Cambridge. The 'Amplify Preaching Conference' is coming to FBC Lancaster on Monday, September 26. Find complete details and register at <https://www.scbo.org/event/amplify-preaching-conference>.



## Reagan Wagoner - Southwest

I am excited as God works in our churches in the Cincinnati area! Recently, Pastor Duane Walz and the Covering Church celebrated their One-Year Anniversary! The churches of the Southwestern Baptist Association are coming together to think about how they can create Leadership Pipelines in their churches no matter the church's size.

Send Cincinnati and Send West Ohio will train five more men as church planters this fall. I am thankful for the Send Network Team, Travis Smalley, Oliver Hawkins, Kirk Kirkland, and Ryan Jones, who serve our area helping to plant churches!

Registration ends soon for the Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference at Lakota Hills Baptist Church on September 8, 9am-4pm. The event features breakouts for each area of ministry. Conference registration is 'buy one, get one free' if you register in advance, so bring someone with you. \$20 at the door otherwise. Speakers include Vance Pitman, Shane Pruitt, Hershael York, and more! REGISTER NOW at [www.swohioleaders.com](http://www.swohioleaders.com).



Celebrating 1 year at The Covering Church.

# UPDATES



## **Rick Williams - Central**

It has been a joy to come alongside leaders this summer, and listen to how God is at work in their churches. Pastor David Perkins, LifeBridge Church, Baltimore, shared with me about their great Vacation Bible School week. They had thirty-six children attend with thirty-two volunteers. Four children accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord!

It has also been a joy to resource pastors in multiple ways: sabbatical coaching, revitalization, personal renewal, staffing, and strategy. I am currently communicating with Joel Penton, founder, and CEO of LifeWise Academy, about opportunities for Central Ohio leaders and churches to partner with LifeWise Academy to provide Bible education for public school students during school hours. If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity, please contact me at [rwilliams@scbo.org](mailto:rwilliams@scbo.org).

Let me encourage you to attend the upcoming Amplify Preaching Conference, an event to help pastors sharpen their preaching skills. This conference will take place at First Baptist Church, Lancaster, on Monday, September 26, from 9 am to 4 pm. I am excited to partner with Pastor Art Fulks, Southeast Regional catalyst, for this event. You can register for this conference at <https://www.scbo.org/event/amplify-preaching-conference>.



## **Chad Keck - West**

School is back in session in the West Region. It has been fun hearing about the ways churches are ministering in their local schools. Over the past month I have had the privilege of meeting pastors who are intentionally engaging with their local schools through backpack or school supply drives, back-to-school block parties, and school prayer walks.

I have also heard about great ways churches are connecting with college students as they return to campus. Reaching the next generation is vital to the life and health of the local church. As your church celebrates a “promotion Sunday” or a back-to-campus day, please know that I am praying for you. If your church is doing something creative to connect with your local school, I would love to hear about it. Please email me at [ckeck@scbo.org](mailto:ckeck@scbo.org).



## **Stephen Owens - Northeast**

This month I had an opportunity to spend time at the Summit Baptist Association office as Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) Bob Beike led the quarterly Pastor’s LIFT, a time of encouragement and training for the pastors in the association.

The session was on Preaching for a Greater Missional Impact. Bob did an excellent job of reminding us of the importance of making sure we are thinking about the Great Commission and making disciples of the Lord Jesus in our sermon prep and preaching moment. It was a blessing to spend time with the pastors and associational leaders in the Summit Baptist Association.

Northeast Ohio AMS and associational leaders, I want you to know your roles, efforts, and prayers are valuable to the local churches in our region. Thank you for the planning, work, encouragement, and opportunities for fellowship you provide for pastors and churches. Please know I am praying for you, and if I can assist in encouraging the pastors and churches in your association, please do not hesitate to reach out. ([sowens@scbo.org](mailto:sowens@scbo.org)) God Bless.

# SCBO

The State Convention Of Baptists In Ohio

# ANNUAL CELEBRATION

## Rediscovering Gospel Multiplication

Monday, November 14

### *Pastors' Conference*

*Everyone is welcome, not just pastors!*

Ohio leaders, this is your time!

Join other pastors and leaders from all over the state for an evening of powerful speakers, engaging worship, and “can’t miss” fellowship opportunities. You’ll be encouraged and energized by the special program featuring guest speakers Brian Croft & Alistair Begg.

Tuesday, November 15

### *Annual Meeting*

The SCBO thrives in cooperation.

This annual event provides Ohio churches with a rare opportunity to come together in unity. Let’s join voices in worship and prayer, connect with friends both old and new, deepen ties with ministry partners, and collaborate to see God’s Kingdom expand in Ohio.

November 14-15 | Cuyahoga Valley Community Church | Cleveland, Ohio

# Disaster Relief Teams Deployed to Kentucky Flooding

By John Heading  
SCBO Disaster Relief Director



Residents of southeastern Kentucky experienced devastating floods. Ohio DR teams are working with DR teams from fifteen states to help victims recover.

Ohio Disaster Relief (DR) brings practical help to those in need with the goal of sharing the hope found in Jesus. Ohio DR teams have been ministering in Kentucky following the extensive flooding in the southeastern area of the state.

The worst homes had six inches of thick mud with three to five feet of water inside. Many homes are a total loss because sewage has

contaminated the flood waters in some areas.

Ohio DR volunteers Linda Humston, Lisa Jump and Jackie Lee are assessors who determine

*"You cannot pay me to do this kind of work, but I will do it for free all day long."*

the needs of each family in need. Often the situations they see are not just physical, but also emotional and spiritual.

The ladies met a man named Blaine, a retired heavy equipment operator living in Eastern Kentucky, and listened to his story.

The night of the flood, Blaine noticed water rising from the nearby creek. He gathered his wife, son, and eight neighbors and piled into his truck.

They could not outrun the flood, so he chained his truck to a bridge. Throughout the night they called

their families to say goodbye, not knowing if they would survive. They heard the cries of neighbors in need, but they could not help. When daybreak came, all eleven in the truck survived, but seven neighbors passed away.

Blaine's story is just one of many in the six-county flood zone. The need is great; the work is hard; the humidity is high; but it is worth it. Ohio DR volunteer Mark Snowden, director of missional leadership for the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA), said, "You cannot pay me to do this kind of work, but I will do it for free all day long."



Ohio Disaster Relief Blue Hat Josh Wright and his team working mudout at a home in southeastern Kentucky.

In the last three months, twenty people have come to faith in Christ through the ministry of Ohio DR, including seven who accepted Christ in Kentucky.

Ohio DR has a unique opportunity to serve people in their time of greatest need. If you are ready to jump into this kind of service, go to [scbo.org/DR](http://scbo.org/DR) and find out how you can take the first steps.



Ohio DR Teams shovel 3-5 inches of mud and remove everything from inside a flooded home in Kentucky.

# The Brown Family:

## Missionaries to Palermo, Sicily

presented by:

**OHIO WMU**<sup>®</sup>

Women's Missions & Ministry

By Cathy Pound

Steve and April Brown serve with IMB as church planters in Palermo, Sicily. Chloe is a senior at California Baptist University (CBU), majoring in public health. Vance, also a student at CBU, is a junior studying international relations with a double major in Christian studies.

Sophie is a first-year student at CBU who plans to study nursing. Chloe attended the IMB MK (Missionary Kid) Re-Entry Retreat in August hosted



The Brown Family: (left to right) Sebastian, Chloe, Vance, Sophie, April, and Steve

by Alabama WMU. Chloe is grateful to Ohio WMU for covering her travel expenses for this retreat. Sebastian is a first-year student at the Italian Art High School this fall.

During their STATS visit to Mansfield late July, Ohio WMU connected with the Browns who shared more personally about church planting experiences. Ohio Baptists, please keep this IMB family lifted in prayer for God's favor and for His kingdom to be established in Sicily.

## Forty Compassion Projects Set for Serve Tour Dayton October 7-8

By Dr. John Heading  
SCBO Disaster Relief Director

Serve Tour Dayton is six weeks away on October 7-8. It is an initiative to bless the Dayton region while sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Project organizers have asked non-profits, including schools, churches, and local government leaders, to

asked, "If you had a little bit of help and a little more funding, what would you do?"

At first, their thoughts went to small projects because, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." But after challenging them to "think bigger" and assuring them that Southern Baptists are coming to bless them

spirit attire, classroom supplies, general hygiene products and other items will be available for students who need them.

Other projects include creating opportunities for students to learn sustainable farming, deploying a mobile medical clinic, winterizing homes for children with medical needs, and honoring military, local police, and fire personal during an outreach event.

Send Relief covers the funding; you cover the volunteering. To complete forty projects and bless Dayton will require one thousand Southern Baptists from Ohio and surrounding states participating in Serve Tour Dayton.

If you can give a day or two on October 7 - 8, 2022, go to <https://www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour/dayton/> for more information. On Monday, August 29, all Serve Tour Dayton projects will go live online, and you can sign up for a specific project of your choosing.

This is an historic opportunity to take compassion ministry outside the church and into the streets. Join us as we share the love and hope of Jesus in the Dayton area. For specific questions about Serve Tour Dayton, contact John Heading at [jheading@scbo.org](mailto:jheading@scbo.org).



submit potential projects that Send Relief, the compassion ministry arm of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will fund, and Southern Baptist volunteers will complete during the two-day event.

At those initial meetings with organizational leaders, "What's the catch?" was the first question they asked. As members of the organizing team worked to assess needs, they

without asking for anything in return, they began stretching their imaginations.

As a result, Serve Tour Dayton has almost forty projects planned for the second weekend in October.

One urban school project involves working to change the school's culture. Their goal is to create an area in their building where school

# Twenty-five Receive Christ at Camp U CAN

By Reginald Hayes, SCBO Senior Staff



Evening worship at Camp U CAN.

In mid-August, twenty-five young men received Christ at Camp U CAN, a four-day retreat for urban young men, ages 10-15, who are unsaved and unchurched. These young men live in mainly female single parent homes in urban communities across



David McCreary, Christian Comedian & Magician.

Ohio, enduring bullet-riddled streets as well as drugs, crime, and poverty.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) sponsored Camp U CAN along with several Ohio baptist churches. The camp environment focused on teaching the next generation of urban leaders the tenets of manhood from godly mentors. These mentors encouraged camp attendees about their faith in God and in themselves.

Simultaneously, the young men learned about having an authentic

relationship with Jesus Christ, which resulted in half of the fifty attendees asking Jesus Christ into their lives.

John Maze, Pastor of Agape Bible Fellowship in Dayton, Ohio, and

*"I have not seen any other retreat or event that has influenced urban boys... any better than Camp U CAN..."*

Camp U CAN mentor said, "I am 80 years old, and I have not seen any other retreat or event that has influenced urban boys, who are at crossroads in their lives, to want Jesus Christ any better than Camp U CAN has."



Fishing at Camp U CAN.



The Keynote speaker for the week was Lawrence Funderburke, former NBA player and OSU basketball standout. Additional speakers included Doug Worthington, a former NFL player; H. Goode, entrepreneur and motivational speaker; and Pastor Tony Harris, SCBO Second Vice President as well as President of the Ohio African American Fellowship.

The speakers and the young men cannot wait to return next year.

For more information and to learn about becoming a sponsor, please visit <https://www.scbo.org/CampUcan> or email Reginald Hayes at [rhayes@scbo.org](mailto:rhayes@scbo.org).



Engaging activities help campers connect with lessons.

## SCBO to Partner with Florida Baptist Convention

By Stephanie Heading



Members of SCBO and Florida Baptist Convention announced their new partnership. Pictured left-to-right: Micah Ferguson, FBC Director of Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, SCBO Executive Director-Treasurer; Dr. Tommy Green, FBC Executive Director-Treasurer; Dr. Jeffrey Singletary, FBC Regional Catalyst; and Ray Umphrey, SCBO President.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) has entered a new partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention (FBC).

To announce the partnership, Dr. Tommy Green, FBC executive director treasurer, Dr. Jeffrey Singletary, FBC regional catalyst,

and Micah Ferguson, FBC director of strategic initiatives, traveled to Columbus to spend a day educating and encouraging the SCBO staff.

This partnership will offer benefits to both SCBO and FBC, according to Dr. Jeremy Westbrook,

SCBO executive director-treasurer. "I believe staff members, leaders, and churches from SCBO and FBC will benefit from the following: coaching – mentoring and learning from one another; collaborating – working and learning best practices from one another; connecting – partnering our churches with one another; and celebrating – joining one another in God's activity among our churches."

## Mission Team Labors For the Lord in Scioto Valley Association

By Jack Helton, SCBO Senior Staff

Churches in Scioto Valley Association have been busy laboring for the Lord this summer. Recently, a mission team from Journey Fellowship Church in Carrollton, GA, ventured north to assist churches in the association with multiple ministry projects. They also brought eighty-eight backpacks that they collected at Journey Fellowship for distribution in Scioto Valley Association.

During their time in Ohio the mission team assisted First Baptist Church Logan with Vacation Bible School



Members of a mission team from Carrollton, Georgia help First Baptist Church, Logan hold Vacation Bible School.

(VBS), as well as distribution of a church information flier.

Their work at Grace Baptist Church, Wellston included door-to-door evangelism and distributing VBS invitations, as well as praying over local schools. In addition, they

helped Countryside Baptist Church with a food and clothing ministry give-away. Most importantly, people made decisions for Christ, built relationships, and accomplished ministry because of these combined efforts.

If your church needs ministry and mission assistance but does not have enough manpower to make it happen on your own, contact Jack Helton at [jhelton@scbo.org](mailto:jhelton@scbo.org) to see if we can assist you in securing a mission team to help you and your church impact your community for

## Online Giving Now Available for SCBO Contributions

We are thrilled to share with you that the SCBO now has online giving for you or your church to make contributions to the Cooperative Program, Disaster Relief, and the Ray Roberts State Mission Offering!

Simply visit [www.scbo.org/give](http://www.scbo.org/give) and select the option that best fits your preferred method of giving. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Chief Financial Administrator, Kevin Heaton, at [kheaton@scbo.org](mailto:kheaton@scbo.org).

[www.scbo.org/give](http://www.scbo.org/give)



## Trinity Baptist Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Stephanie Heading

After twenty-six years of waiting and planning, Trinity Baptist Church, Cambridge, recently celebrated the dedication of their new church building.

The journey began in 1999 when the church voted to relocate. They spent the next seven years looking for property. “We tried to be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading,” said Pastor Mark Stinson. In 2006 they purchased twenty-five acres and began a capital campaign to pay off the property.

In 2010 Trinity began a campaign to raise money for the new building. “We raised almost a million dollars,” said Stinson. However, the church still did not sense the Lord directing them to start building.

was a confirmation that it was time. We met with an architect and began to move forward,” said Stinson. “We also hired a contractor and kept moving through things.”

Four years later, on May 29, 2022, Trinity worshiped in its new facility for the first time. With the church’s sixtieth anniversary approaching on



*SCBO Executive-Director Treasurer Dr. Jeremy Westbrook brought the message during the Trinity Baptist Church new building dedication and sixtieth anniversary celebration.*

August 5, church leaders decided to celebrate both the past and the future on July 31, with a special worship service. The service featured former pastor Jack Helton, AMS Bob Beike, and SCBO Executive Director Treasurer Dr. Jeremy Westbrook.

“It was a good service,” said Stinson. “We are very excited about using our new building to share the gospel in Cambridge and Guernsey County.”

Twenty-six years later, Stinson sees God’s hand in the journey. “We firmly held to Psalm 127a. ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor over it in vain.’ We did not want to do anything outside of God’s will.”

Stinson also believes there was a message in the waiting--the Lord was reminding Trinity that relocating and building was something only He could accomplish. “It was Him, not us.”



*Trinity Baptist Church celebrated the dedication of its new building as well as its sixtieth anniversary recently.*

Finally in 2018, Stinson and other leaders began to sense that it was the Lord’s time to relocate and build a new facility. “The Holy Spirit spoke to me and others in the church. It

## SCBO ‘Makes Splash’ at 2022 Gospel Fest

By Reginald Hayes, SCBO Senior Staff

For the first time, The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) had a huge presence at the Columbus Gospel Fest.

Torrential rains and flooding threatened the event in the morning, but skies cleared and the event drew an enthusiastic crowd for the afternoon. The largest urban affair of its kind in central Ohio, 2022 marked the thirty-eighth occasion of the Columbus Gospel Fest. The theme of “Hope and Healing for All” unified a family-friendly, fun-filled day featuring Christian music, a Children’s Edu-Fun Fest, a Wellness Clinic, and more.

SCBO staff and volunteers from City of Refuge Baptist Church, Whitehall; First Baptist Church, Circleville; Covenant Church, Grove City; LifePoint Church, Lewis Center; and United Faith International Church, Columbus, braved the torrential rains and thunderstorms during the first half of the day to make evangelistic contacts with many people from Central Ohio.

The volunteers also distributed Christian literature and water bottles, provided a fifteen-minute Children’s Bible Study, and raffled twelve children’s bicycles.

Columbus pastor Reginald Hayes said, “Participating in this urban event was a huge opportunity to showcase how the SCBO is becoming a big presence in the urban community in Columbus and throughout Ohio’s metropolitan areas.”

The SCBO plans to continue building strong relationships through active participation at multicultural events in Ohio’s urban communities.

# AMPLIFY 2022

## PREACHING CONFERENCE

“Preaching for Gospel Transformation”

September 26<sup>th</sup> @ First Baptist Lancaster

Register Online | [www.scbo.org/AMPLIFY](http://www.scbo.org/AMPLIFY)

Registration: \$35  
(Includes Breakfast  
Lunch & Resources)

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm.

Information:  
[amplify@scbo.org](mailto:amplify@scbo.org)



Ben Mandrell



James Merritt



Kirk Kirkland



Daniel Dickard

One Day Only! Saturday, September 10, 2022 9am-4pm  
FBC Mt. Healthy - 1210 Compton Road - Cincinnati, Ohio

# Mission Celebration & Women's Fall Retreat

No Greater Love!

Ephesians 4:32

OHIO WML SCBO

SOUTHWEST OHIO

## LEADERS CONFERENCE

LEADERS DON'T LEAD ALONE



SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2022  
9 AM – 4 PM

Lakota Hills Church  
6300 Tylersville Rd, West Chester Township, OH 45069

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The Ohio Baptist Foundation offers a Short-Term Fund to help churches and other ministries maximize their income on cash reserves and designated funds. The annualized payout rate is 1.70% as of 7/31/2022. If this would be helpful for your ministry, please contact Jack Helton at [jackhelton@scbo.org](mailto:jackhelton@scbo.org) or 614-601-6881.

# Job Postings

## LEAD PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Seaman is seeking an individual to serve as Lead Pastor.

This is a full-time position. The candidate should possess the following: a pastor's heart, love, and compassion for the local body of believers; an evangelist's passion and zeal for preaching the gospel; a missionary's compassion for the lost; a church planter's enthusiasm for sharing the gospel. The church adheres to The Baptist Faith and Message of 2000.

Please submit resumes to [thompson5850@gmail.com](mailto:thompson5850@gmail.com).

## WORSHIP PASTOR

Chroma Church in Dublin is looking for a part-time Worship Pastor. The position is 20 hours per week part-time with a salary of \$1500 per month.

Applicants must be in full agreement with Chroma Church's statement of faith, possess a minimum of three years of church leadership experience (paid or unpaid), and have completed a minimum of one year of formal biblical/theological training.

For more information, please contact Chroma Church at [Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org](mailto:Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org)

*Let the Ohio Baptist Messenger help your church find a new pastor or staff member!*

*The Messenger* is offering classified ads free of charge for Ohio churches searching for new pastors and staff members. *The Messenger* is read by churches and individuals in Ohio and across the country.

To submit a classified ad, please send brief information about the position along with a return phone number or email:

[classifieds@scbo.org](mailto:classifieds@scbo.org)

## How to Become a Christian

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

**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.*

What is the Lord doing in your church or ministry?

-- *Tell us your story* --

*The Ohio Baptist Messenger* is a monthly publication highlighting what the Lord is doing in SCBO churches or ministries, and we need your help! Tell us your story and we could feature it in an upcoming issue of *The Messenger*. Please submit your stories to [messenger@scbo.org](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).

For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at [messenger@scbo.org](mailto:messenger@scbo.org).

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Jeremy Westbrook | Executive Director-Treasurer | [www.scbo.org](http://www.scbo.org)

*Ohio Baptist*  
**MESSENGER**