

HARVEST CONFERENCE LADIES RETREAT 2023

September 8-9, 2023, was a lovely weekend for our Fall Ladies Retreat. As each lady arrived at Laurelville Mennonite Retreat Center, we all came with our expectations of what the weekend would hold. For some it was simply a time away from home to fellowship and have fun, and for others it was a time of soul searching and deeper contemplation.

Our theme for the Retreat was “Putting the Pieces Together.” Our focus turned to looking at the difficult times in our lives and seeing how God worked His will and His way in each circumstance. God always has a plan even when we cannot see it at the first glance.

After perusing through the evaluation forms it is safe to say that our speaker, Pastor Brenda Young, received the most positive comments. Pastor Brenda brought God’s Word alive to us with deep thoughts, humorous stories and personal reflections on how God has worked in her life and ministry over the years. It was our pleasure and delight to have her with us for the weekend and I know many women connected with her on a personal level. The relationships will continue on for many years.

For our Retreat auction missions project we chose to support “Clear Blue.” This organization was formed by Pastor Brenda and her visionary team to dig wells in areas of the world where safe water is not readily available. As of last fall, over 450 wells in twenty four countries have been installed to provide a better life for the people in those communities. These wells provide safe drinking water, better health for the people and make it easier to for the families to get the water they need for their families and gardens.

Due to the generosity of our ladies we were able to donate \$645 to Clear Blue. This is an ongoing project. If you would like to continue to support them, please contact Pastor Brenda at Cornerstone Church in Akron, Ohio. I’m sure she would be glad to provide you with all the information you need.

Many other ladies were involved with the Retreat details and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support and dedication in the planning and preparation so that our Harvest Conference women have the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed each year. My heartfelt thanks to Marlene McRoberts, Patty Parsons, Brittany Davis, and Terah Green for their help in putting things together. This year we welcome Heather Poole, Supt. Matt Poole’s lovely wife to our committee. My appreciation also goes out to the many ladies who helped in set up, clean up, provide snacks, and all the behind the scenes jobs that need to be done. You are my people!

As we look forward to this fall our Ladies will once again be gathering at Laurelville on September 6-7 for another great time of fellowship and learning. We want to thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us through the years and look forward to what is coming then.

Joyfully serving with you for God’s Kingdom,

Carol Forsythe

Retreat Chairman