

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



Here is what I'm thinking...

I confess that I am writing this late. It is already March 2 and I am just sitting down to finally reflect on life and faith. It does not help that yesterday was Super Tuesday—arguably the noisiest day of this year so far. I have found the election craziness to be simultaneously both upsetting and fascinating. One reporter compared it to a tragic car accident from which you can't seem to look away. In that way, I admit that much of the distracting noise is self-inflicted. I listen to the reports on TV and radio, and I read articles in the paper and magazines. I justify time spent this way with the need to be informed, though I seldom feel smarter after indulging in reports of political side-swipes and all too frequent head-on crashes.

But, occasionally, I run into something that provokes serious reflection. On the recommendation of my son-in-law's father, who was for many years the Political Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, I read an article published in the most recent Rolling Stone magazine titled, How America Made Trump Unstoppable. In this very lengthy article, the writer forces us as a nation to answer the questions we have about today's political situation by looking in the mirror. The truth he is suggesting is that what disturbs us about our current political situation is a reflection of who we are and how we think and act as a people. Could it be that it is the glaring honesty of self-recognition that both draws and repels us? Maybe the noise of this election will shake us awake and call us to be our better selves.

So here's what I'm thinking...this is true, not only for politics, but for religion as well. Lent is a season of honest reflection on how our life does or does not reflect the faith we proclaim. We have incorporated a time of reflection into our worship time this Lent so that the stories of Jesus may shine light into our darkness to bring self-awareness and renewed efforts to live in that light. One of the most important ways that we as Brethren and as followers of Christ do this is by bringing the light of "Love Feast" into the darkness of Holy Week. Jesus tells us to "do this in remembrance of me" not because he wants to be famous, but because he wants us to remain faithful—to remember who and whose we are. Jesus knew there would be distracting noise in our lives so he gave us the ritual to call our attention back to who we are as followers of one who lived love, compassion, and forgiveness.

Please join us for this gathering of remembering and returning to lives of faith and to our better selves.

March 2016

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

March 6 Lent 4 Living Ink: Turning Over a New Leaf

Scripture Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

As we turn the page of each chapter in the grand narrative, we find ourselves invited to “re-turn” to the arms of Christ and his ways, and to experience his good news of reconciliation.

March 13 Lent 5 Living Ink: An Unexpected Twist

Scripture Psalm 126, John 12:1-8

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

The Grand Author works in mysterious ways—ways that we often find to be inexplicably, extravagantly generous. The twists that were thrown into the plot are counterintuitive to our human ways of seeing things.

March 20 Lent 6 Palm Sunday Living Ink: The Plot Thickens

Scripture Psalm 31:9-16, Luke 22:14-23:56

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

The Passion Week is thick with multilayered and complex symbolism. The characters in God’s story are not straightforward. The people who praised “Hosanna” and hailed Jesus as the coming King may be the very ones who later shouted, “Crucify him

March 24 Holy Thursday Love Feast

Scripture

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

This service is a time of solemn reflection on Jesus last night with his disciples. As we remember Christ’s gift of love to us, we are invited to listen to scripture, share in a Fellowship Meal, Holy Communion, a foot washing ceremony, and sing the songs of our faith.

March 27 Easter Sunday Living Ink: The End of the Beginning

Scripture Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

As the people of God, we place our faith, trust and hope in the resurrected Christ, who brings meaning to all unhappy endings by inviting us to a new beginning and a new hope—the all-will-be- well chapter. All the pages and chapters of our lives find their place within God’s grand covenant narrative.

Prayers for:

Stan Miller has received a session of acupuncture and did experience some relief. The doctor hopes it will be cumulative with successive treatments.

Solomi Titus is our girl from the group that was abducted from school in Nigeria. Please keep her and her family in your hearts and prayers.

Wayne Barkey continues his knee replacement surgery at home and continues his therapy at Wellbrooke.

Associate General Secretary Mary Jo Flory was hospitalized yesterday morning in Altoona, Pennsylvania, after suffering a bleed on her brain while traveling back to Elgin after spending time with the Shenandoah District and with family in Lancaster, Pa. She underwent surgery.

In response to a Facebook post calling for prayers for Mary Jo, Mark, Mary Jo’s husband commented, “Thanks for the prayers. She is out of surgery. Now we wait and pray.”

We have not received any updates today. Please ask your congregations to keep Mary Jo and her family in their prayers as she recovers from surgery.

Barb Miller and her family as they mourn the loss of her cousin, Gary Burkheart.

Friends and Family of the MU Students who died this past week from an accident along I-69N.

The **Manchester Symphony Orchestra** will perform the world premier of Tim Reed's new chamber work, "Vanishing Point." Reed is an associate professor of music at Manchester University and an award-winning composer. The concert will also feature Fort Wayne Philharmonic violinist Kristine Papillon's "Crumpet the Trumpet." Her work was selected as the No. 1 musical gift for children 2015 by about.com.

The **Winchester Senior Center** helps the community in many ways, including maintaining a food pantry for those in need. We rely on volunteers to do this important service, and more volunteers are needed. The pantry hours are 3 – 5:30 M-T, and 10-12:30 W and F, and closed on Thursday. Some lifting up to approximately 50# may be required.

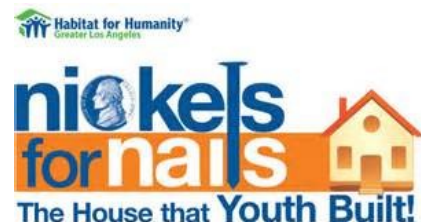
We are contacting the churches in order to recruit caring people so we can have at least a 4 (preferably 5) volunteers when it is open. We would like to have enough people so helpers can work as many days per month as they want. Our goal is that no one in Wabash County goes hungry.

If you are available to work during pantry hours, we would appreciate hearing from you. The satisfaction that comes from helping others is immeasurable, and you will be glad you offered your time and talents. We would appreciate it very much if you can let your congregation know we need help.

Anyone can contact me with questions about our pantry and other volunteer opportunities. My phone number is 563-4475, and email is elainea@livingwellinwabashcounty.org.

Church Women United—March 4, 9am—Wabash Church of the Brethren

Church Women United of Wabash will celebrate World Day of Prayer at 9:00AM on Friday March 4, 2016, at the Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond Street. World day of Prayer is celebrated the first Friday in March by women around the globe. The service for 2016 was prepared by women of Cuba and the theme is "Receive children, receive Me." In keeping with this theme, we will support the Nickels for Nails project of the K-Kids at OJ Neighbors. Nails will go to Wabash Habitat for Humanity **SO BRING YOUR NICKELS!** A time of fellowship with coffee and pastries will begin at 9 and the worship service around 9:30. All women in the Wabash area are invited to attend. Church Women United is an international volunteer Christian ecumenical movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures, and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace and justice in the world.



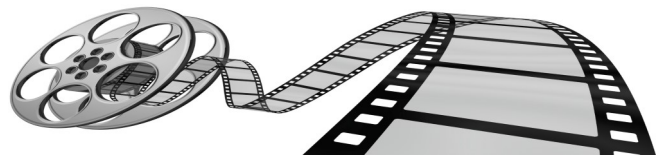
News from the Pew

The **Stewards Commission** needs your help! There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for different areas of the church to clean. We have a large building to clean, but lots of hands makes the work go faster! There are also sheets with instructions on what should be done for that area. In addition, there are Steward maintenance cards available for anyone to use; those are located in the box on the back table.

Freedom Writers

Sunday March 20, after church service.
All are welcome to stay, share a meal and watch the movie.

Summary: A young teacher inspires her class of at-risk students to learn tolerance, apply themselves, and pursue education beyond high school.



New Adult Sunday School Class Starting!

Anyone wishing to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 beginning March 13th the class will be studying the Covenant Bible Study book entitled Holy War or Just Peace written by Robert W. Neff and Frank Ramirez.
Thanks!



Please join us on Thursday March 24 at 6:30pm for our fellowship meal, love feast and communion service.



Women's Fellowship Spring Team for the months of March/April/May are: Bonnie Haughn, Carol Leach, Michelle Roudebush, Karen Odiorne and Katie Mullett. Next event details will be coming soon!

For your secret sister, find something green for her.

CAMP MACK

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P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765

Email: info@campmack.org

Volunteers are needed to help prepare camp for summer at the Volunteer Work Camps: March 14-16 and April 4-6 and 9 Prairie Restoration Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 9.

Call the Camp at 574-658-4831 to volunteer. Camp Mack's Annual Dinner is March 11th. Hors d'oeuvres are at 6:15 p.m. Banquet at 7:00 p.m. we will be having a few guest speakers speaking about the impact camp has had on their group and what camp means to them. Dinner music will be provided by Pam Kirkdorffer. Cost is \$25/person for undesignated seating; Reserved tables: Table of 6 - \$300; Table of 7 - \$350; Table of 8 - \$400.

Watch for your invitation or call the camp office for reservation details. Mothers and daughters, ages 5 and up, are invited to the Mother Daughter Weekend, March 19-20. This year's theme is "Seasons of the Heart" This is always a popular and fun event. Fee: \$163 for mother and daughter pair, \$72 for each additional person.

Why not spend a day at A Quiet Place during lent? To schedule a personal retreat or spiritual direction, call the Quiet Place Director, Norma Miller, at 574-831-2423 or 574- 536-5672.

Spring Quilt Retreat: April 21-24. Very popular! Call Camp to see if there are still openings.

CTI Training: April 15-17. \$50 registration fee Pastors Sabbath: April 5-6. There is not charge for this event; it is our gift to pastors. Leaders are Carl and Roxane Hill.

UP COMING GET AWAY DAYS: April 2: Flintknapping, Genealogy and Family History, Container Gardening and Youth Ministry. April 30: Nature Photography, Scrapbooking and Archery Please visits www.campmack.org for more information

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for: Children making summer camp decisions, Camp staff, and program and support volunteers.

Take advantage of the early bird registration discount (\$30) for Camp Mack. But don't delay, it expires March 20. Don't forget, the church will pay half of the registration fee, per child attending, and additional scholarships are available as needed. This year's theme is "Fearless Faith" and is based on II Timothy 1:7. You can register online at www.campmack.org. If you do register online, be sure to let Dennis and Carol know so they can make sure the payments are correct. There are also booklets around the church that contain a paper copy of the registration form. One form per child is required, photocopies are accepted. Please give the registration forms and 1/2 payment to Dennis and Carol. They will put a check from the church and all completed forms in the mail to Camp Mack on Sunday afternoon, March 20.

Camp Mack Festival needs your help!

Would you like to help raise funds for our campership fund? Do you have some new ideas to bring to the festival? Do you love Camp Mack? If you answered YES to any of these questions then you may be a good addition to the Camp Mack Festival Committee. We are looking for four new committee members to fill the Banking, Facility and Demos & Displays Chair positions. We meet five times a year and the festival is the first Saturday in October. If you have any questions about the chair position job descriptions or about the festival please contact Lauren Carrick at lauren@campmack.org or 574-658-4831.

Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing

March 13—One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters.



One Great Hour
O F S H A R I N G



Heartfelt appreciation is expressed for all the women who gathered after their breakfast outing to sort and display clothing and household items that have so generously been donated lately to persons served by Growing Grounds. This appreciation is extended to the men who added more shelving on the stage area. It all represents many hours of giving. So, if you know of those in need, please have them come and take items. Here is a brief story about one such family brought to the church to look.

I picked up H and her three-year-old daughter so that they had a ride to look over clothing. It was a very cold and snowy day in February, but the mother had on flip flops despite the weather. She later told me that is all that she had for winter. When she found tennis shoes that fit, she was elated that now she could take her daughter outside. It is not only lack of a vehicle that keeps them “holed up” in their tiny apartment, but the simple need for proper footwear also. Your work makes a difference.

WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

645 Bond St., Wabash, Ind.

22nd Annual Fish & Tenderloin Fry

**Friday, April 1, 2016—and
that's no joke!**

4:30-7pm

Children ages 6—12 \$2.50

(5 and under FREE)

Adults \$9

~ All you can eat ~

Carry-outs available

Fish & Tenderloin by “Dan’s”

Dessert table is a free—will offering

2016 Work Camps

Blazing with Holiness

So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, 'I am holy; you be holy.' *1 Peter 1:13-16 The Message*



Jr. High

Completed 6th – 8th grade

June 15-19 South Bend, Indiana

July 20-24 Elgin, Illinois

July 27-31 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

July 27-31 Roanoke, Virginia

Sr. High

Completed 9th grade – age 19

June 6-12 Washington, D.C.

June 13-19 New Orleans, Louisiana

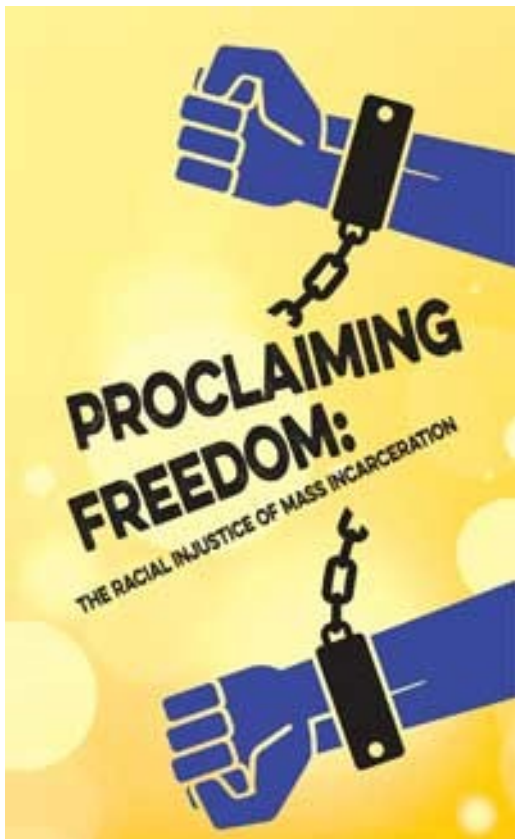
June 21-27 Knox Area Rescue Ministries - Knoxville, Tennessee

July 10-16 Pine Ridge Reservation - Kyle, South Dakota

July 19-25 Santa Ana, California

July 31-August 6 ECHO - N. Fort Myers, Florida

August 8-14 Koinonia Farm - Americus, Georgia



April 23-28, 2016

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CSS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in New York City through 12:00 (noon) on Thursday, April 28, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Register

Who is eligible to attend?

All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Churches are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend. Churches are required to send one advisor for every four youth.

We have 2 youth, **Mikayla and Anna** planning to attend.

