



Wabash Church of the Brethren

645 Bond Street Wabash, IN 46992 260-563-5291 office@wabashcob.org

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February 2022

Peacefully, Simply, Together



We welcome all who are on the journey to know Jesus, who share in his love and who choose to embrace the diversity within this community of believers. As individuals we may be at different places along the path, but as a community, we are all traveling together in faith, trusting God to show us the way.

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Pastor Doug Veal

“Snowy Days, Slow Days”

Once again this month, as I sit down to write my article, I am drawn to the weather outside my window. At the moment, it is snowing for the second time in two days, right after we decided to cancel in-person services on Sunday. I have long been drawn to snow, though often times I find that its just the initial snow of the season that I appreciate the most. After a while, it just gets tedious, with more and more shoveling out the driveway, slowly driving around to avoid incidents on the road, and, especially in times of large snow storms, having to simply stay home all the time for several days on end.

In spite of all this, there is still something magical about snow. As it comes down, beginning to cover everything in a blanket of white, there's a difference in the air. Sound travels differently in the midst of a snow storm, and even afterward. As humans, we tend to slow down as well, choosing either to stay inside and watch the falling snow, or to go out and walk through it, or, especially in our younger years, going outside and playing in the snow as it falls.

Our dog, Maggie, seems to be a big fan of snow as well. Usually, during the winter, as the temperature drops, she tends to spend less time outside. Yet when there is snow, often times she takes longer outside, simply enjoying romping around in the mysterious new ground cover.

As children, most of us likely looked forward to snow days at school, and the opportunity to take the day off to play outside. I remember even when I was in college at Bridgewater, the prospect of a snow day was always a fun time. We'd often get up games of snow football, enjoying the opportunity to play around. In fact, there was a story about a new college president, in the 1990's, who promised a snow day in his first school year as president (Bridgewater College, being a mainly residential student body, had a tradition of never closing for snow). Yet of course, that winter proved to be very mild, and no snowstorms hit. So, in the spring, he declared a snow day on a lovely spring afternoon to fulfill his promise.

Snowy days for me conjure up such memories, and remind me of the need to slow down. Far too often in our lives, whether due to work or family commitments or volunteer commitments, we are always running from one thing to the next. Never taking time to rest, to relax, to simply sit and contemplate the beauty of God's creation, and how God continues to work in our lives. I am seeking today, and other times, to see snow as a reminder and an opportunity to slow down. Taking time to be with Tasha, taking time simply to sit and admire what is going on around us. Taking some of that time to slow down and pray more deeply. As you continue through this winter, perhaps, you, too, can see snowy days as a reminder from God to slow down, step back from over-scheduling, and simply be.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

Church Board

February Board meeting was canceled due to weather.

Nurture Commission

Important:

Newsletter update:

From here on, the newsletter will be sent out the last week of the month, so you will receive it in the first week of the new month. We are trying to get it out more consistently.

Kay's return to worship:

As most have seen, Jim and Kay Gaier have returned to worshipping with our congregation after a time apart from us, after her retirement. There have been ongoing discussions with our former district executive, Beth Sollenberger, the director of the Office of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, Nancy Heishman, Kay, Pastor Doug, and the Executive Committee around this as there are a number of ethical questions and issues for a retired pastor returning to a congregation where she previously served as pastor. Through these discussions, a written agreement has been reached that will be on file with our congregation, the district, and the Office of Ministry. There are a number of areas that are covered, including how we will handle requests for Kay to participate in weddings and funerals, her ongoing support of pastoral leadership, and guidelines around pastoral care. Pastor Doug is happy to sit down with anyone who would like to review the agreement, and clarify any questions you may have. We are very happy to be able to welcome both Jim and Kay back to our congregation in this way, even as they will be sporadic in attendance due to her work as part of the interim team for the district executive position.

Sunday School

Sunday School will take place at 9AM, before worship. We will be meeting downstairs in the Fellowship Hall initially.



Worship Schedule - February

If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact the office, or talk to pastor Doug!

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
6	Pastor Doug Luke 5:1-11 "Jesus Calls"		Stan Miller	Larry Jamerson	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett
13	Pastor Doug Psalm 91 "God our Rock"	Michelle Roudebusch	Mikayla Stanley	"	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett
20	Pastor Doug Isaiah 55:1-9 "God's Bread and Drink"	Linda Miller	Stan Miller	"	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett	Bonnie Haughn

27	Pastor Doug Luke 4:14-30 “Jesus’ First Sermon”	None Yet Volunteers ?	Stan Miller	“	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett
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Women's Fellowship

Martha Shepler will turn **100** on February 11, 2022. Let's give her a card shower!

Martha and Roy were active in the church several years ago and Martha is currently at Wellbrooke. Please write a little note in the card identifying yourself as part of CoB Women's Fellowship.

The address is Martha Shepler
 20 John Kissinger Dr.
 Wabash, IN 46992

Upcoming Youth/Adult Activities

Camp Mack Spiritual Retreat Opportunity for Adults

Join in this adult retreat exploring faith and the unique activities available at camp. An outside minister and camp staff will work together to provide spiritual growth and camp fun in a relaxing environment. Come and explore your faith and play in the beauty and sanctuary of Camp!

The winter retreat features a focus on centering our faith and lives, led by Amy-Gall Ritchie. The summer retreat will explore how we connect with God in nature, led by Randall Westfall

Fee: \$160 per person for 2 nights and 5 meals.

Dates: February 11–13, 7:00p Friday to 1p Sunday.

August 19–21, 7:00p Friday to 1p Sunday.

National Youth Conference

“Foundational”

Colossians 2:5-7

July 23 – 28, 2022 in Fort Collins, Colorado

The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Online registration will open in early 2022 on www.brethren.org.

The cabinet discussed theme ideas relevant to senior high youth. Ultimately, the theme that emerged was “Foundational,” based on scripture from Colossians 2:5-7, “For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

We talked about all of the ways that God is revealed as the foundation for our lives throughout the Bible. Some examples of this are the cornerstone, the way that God can be seen as an anchor for our lives, and how we remain rooted in God in all circumstances.

Isabella Torres noted, “Picking the theme was difficult at first because we had so many different ideas, but all of our ideas always intertwined with having a foundation in God. To me, it is a great theme, and it is also something I find to be very important as a youth today.”

Luke Schweitzer shared, “I am really excited about this theme and I cannot wait to see what the speakers and youth do with it next summer.”

Watch for NYC 2022 updates at www.brethren.org and social media of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

— Erika Clary will serve as coordinator of National Youth Conference 2022, working in the Church of the Brethren’s Youth and Young Adult Ministries through Brethren Volunteer Service.

Devotionals - Upper Room

The Upper Room is available in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office and please specify regular or large print. If you would like to pick one up the next time you are here, they are on the back table in the sanctuary.

Altar and Sanctuary Staging

We are looking for either a dedicated individual who would enjoy changing out the altar and window setups on a regular basis, or a small group who would like to rotate assignments. Please contact the office if you are interested.

2022 Directory

New directories are located on the back table.

Reading through the Bible in a year - January

1	Psalms 12-14	9	Job 11-12	17	Isaiah 34-39	25	Matt 20-22
2	Job 9-10	10	Isaiah 29-33	18	Matthew 17-19	26	1 Corinth 1-2
3	Isaiah 23-28	11	Matthew 14-16	19	Romans 15-16	27	Gen 32-35
4	Matthew 11-13	12	Romans 13-14	20	Genesis 28-31	28	Matt 8-10
5	Romans 11-12	13	Genesis 24-27	21	Judges 12-16	29	Judges 17-21
6	Genesis 20-23	14	Judges 7-11	22	Psalms 21-23		
7	Judges 1-6	15	Psalms 18-20	23	Job 15-16		
8	Psalms 15-17	16	Job 13-14	24	Isaiah 40-44		

Witness Commision

Special Offerings

February 2 (SCN) SOUPer Bowl of Caring

March 15 One Great Hour of Sharing

April 14 Guatemala Accompaniment

Growing Grounds News

Growing Grounds News

When you go past 571 South Wabash St. apartments now, you may notice lights on inside. This is the glow of (homeless) women now having a place to stay (at no cost) for a month while they are helped to figure out their next steps in life. Four of the apartments are occupied and the last two was cleaned and opened on January 3, 2022. To check about enrollment, women may call Rhonda at 260-568-2643.

A note of thanks...

A couple of days before Christmas, we received a call from FISH saying that a man with two young boys was homeless and sleeping in his truck. Upon calling him, he said that an accumulation of unfortunate incidents had converged to leave him homeless and asking for help for the first time in his life. After talking with him and reviewing the application he filled out, the GG committee decided to pay for a week at Knight's Inn for him and his boys.

We have just received a text from him thanking GG for being able to spend a warm Christmas with his boys, get cleaned up and presentable, and able to start making contacts for construction work in this area. "Thank you so much. You guys really helped me out in a time of need and I will not forget this. I am very thankful and it is not taken for granted." He is now collecting references to give us so that we can pass these along to those needing construction and millwright work. He already has some work lined up.

Little Free Pantry

Our local pantry is looking to supplement what we get from Milford each month. Additional items needed are:

Mac and Cheese boxes
Hamburger
Baked beans
Hamburger /Tuna/Chicken Helper
Peanut butter
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Jelly
Pasta
Saltines
Bread

Soups
Canned fruits and veggies
Saltines
Cleaning Supplies
TP/Tissue
Personal Hygiene items

Stewards Commission

Looking at a new and exciting way you can help the church? We are in need of a volunteer (or two or three) to help run the video streaming. A very positive outcome to sheltering in place is that we've been able to improve our ability to include family members who aren't normally able to worship with us, as well as reach beyond our community.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact Pastor Doug at pastordoug@wabashcob.org or Mikayla at office@wabashcob.org.

Around the District

District Office

The South/Central Indiana District Board of the Church of the Brethren has called Kay Gaier and Anna Lisa Gross to serve as Co-Interim District Executive Ministers for its halftime position beginning January 17, 2022.

Kay Gaier is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and a graduate of Bethany Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. She also holds a Master's degree in Counseling and Family Studies from Michigan State University. Kay served for 14 years as pastor of the Wabash Church of the Brethren.

In her time as pastor, she served as a volunteer in several District leadership roles including District Moderator, the Shalom Team, and participation on Teaching Committees for several Ministers in Training as part of their Ministry Formation experience. As a result of her participation in a nationwide forum on "Small Churches", Kay initiated the development, implementation, and a session presentation for a regional conference on Small Church Ministry.

Kay's role within the Co-Interim DE Minister position will draw from her experience and interest in the gifts and challenges for pastors and congregations in their life together over time. Her focus will be supporting pastors and congregations as they experience the issues that come through a congregation's life cycle. Important in that work will be connecting with the district committees, teams, and other resources currently in place as well as continued orientation and educational opportunities for pastors.



Anna Lisa Gross is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. She has served as interim pastor for six congregations (one in the United Church of Christ, the remainder in the Church of the Brethren) and is now a settled pastor at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren.

Anna Lisa's call to interim ministry includes her experience that all pastorates are interim (see her article in the January/February 2020 Messenger Magazine), given the enormous changes we're experiencing within churches and in our wider communities.

Anna Lisa's role within the Co-Interim DE Minister position will feature her experience with interim work, with congregations, the District Board, and other constituent bodies. Anna Lisa will focus on pastoral and congregational transitions and representing the District with the Council of District Executives, Camp Mack, Timbercrest, Manchester University, and Annual Conference agencies.

Camp Mack



Sponsor a Child

Registration opens for our 2022 Summer Camp on February 25th!

As I look at the snow on the ground and walk through the camp with wind chills at or below zero, it is truly hard to imagine that campers will be running, laughing, and playing in their summer clothes in just a few months.

I am excited for the possibilities of this summer as we share the Gospel through community and exploration. Camp Mack has always been that place where God is heard through the natural world and in the voices of dedicated leaders and friends we have made through worship and play.

This year, it is our hope we can bring the joy of summer camp to a new group of campers - children who have not had the opportunity of living in Christian community at Camp. For this reason we are asking individuals, families, Sunday school classes, churches, and community groups to consider sponsoring one or more children who would not otherwise be able to come to camp.

Imagine what it could mean for a child who has had little opportunity to hear about God's love to come to a place where that love is demonstrated and practiced every day. Consider the life-changing experiences that can begin because of caring sponsors, committed leaders, and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

If there is no obvious connection with a family or child, check with your local school or community center. Often, teachers and assistance groups can identify a child who could benefit almost immediately. Township trustees are also aware of families who have children who could be awakened by a week at camp.

For too long, we have thought of our summer camp program as only an event for the children of our churches. It is absolutely for the children in your church, but it is also an opportunity for the church to reach out, taking seriously the words of Jesus at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."

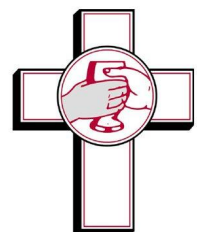
Matthew 28:19-20 (CEV)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Friends,

BDM is active and desires your participation. Children's Disaster Services has training scheduled in Roaring Spring, PA , November 5-6. CDS has been active person this year on the US/Mexico border with migrant children and presently



in

with children of families immigrating from Afghanistan. Call New Windsor, 800-451-4407 to ask questions or to register for one of the training sessions.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of BDM activities. Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, District Disaster Coordinator

Praise God for the return of four girls abducted from Chibok area of Nigeria

Church of the Brethren Newsline

February 4, 2022

By Zakariya Musa

Praise God for the return of four girls who were abducted from Kautikari, in the area of Chibok in northeast Nigeria, on Jan. 14, 2022. Kautikari village is located east and about 20 kilometers drive from Chibok town, predominantly occupied by Christians.

The girls were abducted by ISWAP, according to Ayuba Maina, the District Church Council secretary for that district of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). He said the girls are still with the Nigerian military in Chibok, where their parents met them.

The girls are Lami Yarima, age 9; Na'omi Titus, age 18; Hauwa Gorobutu, age 17; and Rahab Thumur, age 20.

Chibok, which is about 150 kilometers from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, has continued to suffer a series of attacks from both Boko Haram and ISWAP. Recently, members of the Chibok community have called for an end to the attacks in the area, seeking the return of the schoolgirls believed to still be in Boko Haram captivity. Kibaku Area Development Association (KADA), an association of people from Chibok, spoke during a press conference in Abuja, Nigeria's capital city, on Saturday. The group lamented that since the outbreak of insurgency over a decade ago, the area had been attacked more than 72 times, with more than 407 persons killed.

"On behalf of the entire Chibok community, we are using this medium to once again call on President Muhammadu Buhari to rescue Chibok community, an ethnic nationality, from total annihilation by the Boko Haram terrorists. This is because since the mass abduction of 276 of our daughters on April 14, 2014, where about 57 escaped on their own, we still have 110 of them still unaccounted for," said KADA national president Dauda Iliya.

"We call on all well-meaning Nigerians and Mr. President in particular, to rise up to the occasion and urgently save our people from total annihilation and starvation."

CHANNELS reported that the group also advised the federal government to seek support and synergize with the armed forces in tackling insecurity in the region. While asking the government to set up a camp for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the community, the association is still hoping for the safe return of the remaining 110 schoolgirls abducted more than seven years ago.

— Zakariya Musa is head of Media for Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

Brethren Leadership Institute

Due to current gathering restrictions, please contact the district office to confirm class schedule and method of delivery.