

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Deb Peterson, interim pastor



RANDOM THOUGHTS.....

"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." This commonly quoted line from French author André Gide's 1925 novel *The Counterfeiters* has often been credited to Christopher Columbus, probably because he allegedly "crossed the ocean blue in 1492" dauntingly. The meaning suggests that you cannot make a great breakthrough ahead until you let go of the unknown and what is behind us. As we look ahead to a new year, this one sentence gives us incentive to examine where we've been and where we want to go.

January 2019

I'm thinking right now of the ocean. Standing on the shore, you can't see the other side, just blue sky and blue water meeting as far as we can see. Crossing it with less than a very big ship of protection around me brings me fear. Crossing the ocean involves a great deal of uncertainty of what is next, and uncertainty of whether what is next is even attainable.

In order to get to where you want to go, you have to let go of where you are. That's what this quote means. And letting go of where you are can mean so many things. It means letting go of *who* you are right now, letting go of beliefs maybe you've held onto for years and letting go of the training wheels that help you feel safe. It means letting go of *where* you are to step into the dark abyss and trusting the darkness won't consume you and spit you out.

Fear is very much a part of our lives. It teaches us to be careful, usually too careful. When I am faced with choices between comfort and the unknown, I am prone to "over-analyzing" every pro and con down to the tiniest detail. It is so hard to "let go and let God" sometimes! In life, it is inevitable not to be fear-driven occasionally but fear is a distraction. The moment we realize that, with our Captain we *can* "let go" because there is so much more we can achieve with God! Only then does the most practical thing to do become clear: Understand that fear is there but to also understand that there is joy in overcoming it.

"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." As I apply this quote to my own life, I see that although it's about both my secular and my faith lives, it's more obvious to me in my faithfulness. I think of the times I ignored God's calls on my life and said "no" because of fear. Sometimes when I think of the faith opportunities I missed because I was unwilling to lose sight of the shore and trust that God would be there to guide my ship, it makes me sad. But regret is only good as a motivator.

We are never going to cross from one side to the other if we are still afraid of losing what we have. We will be afraid, but what matters the most is what we're going to do about it. We are able to develop control over those fears and step out into the unknown with Jesus right beside us.

Are you full and open to new things in your life or are you empty? Are you clinging to the shore of where you are? It takes great courage to let that go, to put your toes in the water and to trust that you will be divinely cared for (especially if you believe you've done that before only to feel that your trust was wrongly placed). Those tough times make us stronger and they help us toward who we need to be, if we seek that help consciously.

Swim boldly into this new year, the year of our Lord, 2019. Once you're crossing the ocean, you're setting a trail for others and helping those we are meant to serve.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Deb

Worship Schedule

January 6

Pulpit—

Worship Leader—

Song Leader—Stan Miller

Greeter—

Usher—

Children's Church—Carol Horn

Musician— Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett

January 13

Pulpit—Deb Peterson

Worship Leader—Karen Odiorne

Song Leader—Stan Miller

Greeter—

Usher—

Children's Church—Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett

Musician— Bonnie Haughn

January 20

Pulpit—

Worship Leader—Leroy Striker

Song Leader—Stan Miller

Greeter—

Usher—

Children's Church—

Musician— Bonnie Haughn

January 27

Pulpit—Deb Peterson

Worship Leader—Linda Miller

Song Leader—Stan Miller

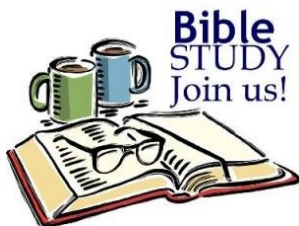
Greeter—

Usher—Larry Jamerson

Children's Church—

Musician— Bonnie Haughn

If you feel called to serve in any area of worship, please feel free to contact Michelle, or sign up on the schedule outside the office door.



Bible
STUDY
Join us!

Bible Study Meeting

We are now meeting on Wednesdays at 10am.
If you are able, please come and join us!

Thank You!

Thank you so much for remembering us at Christmastime! It is wonderful to be a part of such a loving family. Shalom, Michelle, Ben and Zak Roudebush

January Special Offering—

SCN Goals :

- To offer support, resources and opportunities for dialogue among congregations which welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual members;
- To encourage meaningful dialogue at the denominational level;



Women's Fellowship will have their annual Christmas luncheon on January 6th. Please plan on joining us for a carry-in meal and lots of fun and fellowship. We will have a short business meeting, reveal secret sisters from 2018 and draw new ones for 2019. Snow date is January 13.



January District Prayer Calendar

January 6—Please pray with us for the Akron COB and Atlantic Northeast District.

January 13—Please pray with us for the Anderson COB and Atlantic Southeast District.

January 20—Please pray with us for the Andrews COB and Idaho District.

January 27—Please pray with us for the Antioch COB and Illinois and Wisconsin District.

Please hold in your hearts the following:

- members of the Executive and Search committees as well as board members for fruitful discernment during this transition period.
- All those who have not yet given voice to whatever may be troubling them.
- The greater denominational leaders as they listen to hear what local congregations share during the Compelling Vision Process..



Thank you to everyone who helped supply the many Christmas gifts, to 36 families, that were distributed out of the church to children and youth who would otherwise not have had some gifts. It was initiated and carried out largely by Tammie and Mariah Mahan. Also, Growing Grounds had gotten a donation from the Manchester Inmate



Ministry for Christmas needs. and so blankets, games, and some clothing items were purchased which added to the gifting. There were happy faces!

2019 Church Board

The following are your 2019 church board members. January 9th at 6:30pm will be the next Commissions Meeting, followed by Board at 7:30pm.

Witness Commission:	Stewards Commission:
Linda Barkey	Bethene Gill
Sharon Larrowe	Audrey Hahn
Barb Miller	Dave Hahn
Katie Ply	Cliff Ross
Karen Odiorne	Leroy Striker
(Chair)	Larry Jamerson (Chair)

Nurture Commission:
Megan Bishir
Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett
Mikayla Genovese
Bonnie Haughn
Michelle Roudebush
Linda Miller (Chair)



Snow and ice

If we ever have to cancel Sunday morning worship this winter because of snow and/or cold, please check WANE-TV (Channel 15), Ft. Wayne, for such an announcement. An attempt will also be made to post this info on the local radio station(s).

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS
15th of every month**



January

31—MLK Remembrance & Rededication Ceremony; Cordier Auditorium 7pm.

UPCOMING BLI CLASSES

The winter class, Introduction to Pastoral Care, will be taught by Tara Hornbacker at Marion COB. The class dates are as follows:

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9 am—4 pm

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9 am - 4 pm

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 9 am—4 pm

Please contact the District Office to pre-register; a late registration fee of \$25 will be added for registrations received after Dec. 29.

The spring class will be Introduction to Theology, and will be taught by Eugene Roop, location TBA. The tentative class dates are:

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9 am—4 pm

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9 am—4 pm

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 9 am—4 pm

Other upcoming BLI dates (locations TBA):

Practice of Ministry Day—Saturday, May 4, 2019

BLI Orientation—Saturday, May 11, 2019, 9—11 AM

Register by sending an email to

BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com or calling 260-982-8805.

Classes are open to all:

You may be exploring ministry, answering a call to ministry, and/or seeking further education. CEUs are available. For more information on the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) and fees, visit <http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html>

DID YOU KNOW...

The bulletin board articles get changed out every couple of weeks. Be sure to check it out for all the latest news from:



⇒ Manchester University

⇒ District Offices

⇒ Brethren Disaster Ministries

⇒ Global Food Crisis

⇒ Church of the Brethren, Nigeria

⇒ General Offices

⇒ Bethany Seminary

⇒ BVS The Volunteer

⇒ And many more!

Anyone who has a cell phone of any kind that is not broken, can donate the phones to Hands of Hope. The phones can be given to abused women who can call 911 without having an account with anyone. It would be good if they also donated the charging cord, too but that is not absolutely necessary. They can contact Brenda Landis (765-833-2141) or Hands of Hope directly at 260-563-4407.



Membership Transfers

Brent Zumbrun has transferred his membership to Shepherd's Heart Fellowship in Osceola, Indiana .

John and Laurale Kreps have transferred their membership to Manchester Church of the Brethren.



JOYA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Manchester Church of the Brethren will host a reunion concert for a group that first performed together 25 years ago. JOYA (Journey of Young Adults) was formed in 1994 to share inspiration through music, drama, and peace education with Church of the Brethren congregations around the country. The quartet was composed of active Brethren Volunteer Service workers: Barb Sayler (soprano), LuAnne Harley (alto), Shawn Kirchner (tenor), and Brian Kruschwitz (bass). They put 18,000 miles on a Chevy Lumina, and criss-crossed the country from September through December of that year.



JOYA re-gathered in 2004 with concerts in five areas of the country to help On Earth Peace celebrate 30 years of peacemaking. The upcoming January 25 concert represents a 25-year reunion for JOYA.

Perhaps best known for their 4-part a cappella singing, they will perform many songs (folk, spirituals, songs of justice) from their original tour, as well as newer material.

The JOYA concert will be Friday, January 25 at 7 p.m. at the Manchester Church of the Brethren located at 1306 N Beckley, North Manchester, IN 46962.

A free-will donation will be accepted at the door. This concert is part of the Manchester Church of the Brethren Concert Series.

BDM is making assignments for the year 2019. Our district is scheduled for these dates:

- 1) Feb. 3—9 we need seven volunteers. We will be working with Ill./Wis. District.
- 2) March 10—16 we need fifteen volunteers.
- 3) Sept. 8—14 we need fifteen volunteers.
- 4) Dec. 1—7 we need seven volunteers. Again we will be working with Ill./Wis. District.

The February and March dates we are likely to be located in Lumberton, N. Car.

As a congregation or other group, would you be willing to serve one of these weeks? Or are you willing individually to be part of a group coming together from our district? Let me know of your interest by sending an email to kindy@cpt.org or by calling 260-982-2971.

In addition, Puerto Rico is taking disaster volunteers. There is a need for construction leaders and household managers (cooks). Conditions will be challenging and flexibility will be required. BDM will be starting with getting homes livable before doing building to withstand future hurricane-force winds. First BDM will work with Brethren families, then with neighbors and community members. What would free you up to join this rebuilding effort that may continue for many months or years?

If you have questions feel free to email or call. Thank you for your support of Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Cliff Kindy, South/Central Indiana Disaster Response Coordinator

Please note that Cliff will be serving in North Carolina from Nov. 23—Dec. 23; if you wish to contact him during that time, please do so by emailing kindy@cpt.org.



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
Website: www.campmack.org

Camp Reps, mark your calendars! Plan to attend the Camp Rep Meeting on Saturday, January 12, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m at either Camp Mack or the Union Grove Church of the Brethren in Muncie, Indiana. Enjoy a breakfast and receive 2019 program information and materials. Send your RSVP to Jessk@campmack.org. Please send a substitute if you are unable to attend.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP:

- February Quilt Retreat Feb. 14-17
- Scrapbooking Retreat Feb. 21-24
- Team Leader Training March 2
- Annual Dinner March 8
- FLYE Weekend March 8-9
- Volunteer Work Days March 11-13
- Mother Daughter Retreat March 23-24

Applications are being accepted for 2018 Summer Staff, 18 years of age or older, with a heart for the ministry at Camp Mack. Applications are available at the Camp Mack website or persons may call or email camp for an application. Please consider being a Team Leader or counselor this summer to enrich the young lives at Camp Mack. Contact Jessica Kreider to check needs and dates 574-658-4831 or jessk@campmack.org

UPCOMING GET-A-WAY DAYS AT CAMP:

- February 11 Eagle Watch
- February 23 Scrapbooking
- February 23 Board Games

Go to the Camp Mack website: www.campmack.org for information and to register or call 574-658-4831.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for committed summer staff and camp counselors.