



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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

January 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.

Pastor Doug Veal

As I sat down to write my article for this month's newsletter, it was a windy, cold, and gray weekday morning. Not an unusual thing this time of year, of course. Winter days are often that way. Still, in the midst of winter, we often find ourselves reflecting the way the weather acts. On days like this, we want to simply stay in and refrain from much activity (at least, that's what I'd like to do!). Or on snowy days, we want to sit in front of a cozy fire, perhaps sipping our favorite hot beverage. Maybe you prefer tea, or coffee, or hot chocolate, or something else. We turn to the comforts we can find inside, as the outdoors seems a bit difficult to deal with!

Finding those comforts in colder weather seems an apt description for what we often do when we face other challenging times in our lives. We tend to pull inward, to step back from others, to seek ways to comfort ourselves. Whether that be through special foods (they don't call things comfort food for no reason!), or through connecting with those we are closest to, challenging times bring us back to our roots.

When we do so, perhaps that becomes an important time for us to rely upon our faith, and the disciplines that can help us through the challenging times. When we are lost, afraid, wondering what comes next, these are opportunities for us to return to the basics of our faith: reading scripture, praying, whether on our own or with a few trusted friends, and many other spiritual disciplines. Now, of course, these are all good things to be practicing before we come to a challenging time in our lives, but when we face such difficulties, returning to them, re-emphasizing them, can help us to make it through that particular challenge.

These past nearly two years of living with COVID-19 have been challenging ones, both for us individually, but also for us as a congregation. As we consider how to approach this new year, perhaps one thing we can each do individually is to return to practicing our spiritual disciplines on a more regular basis. Perhaps you've always wanted to take a time each day to read scripture, or to put aside a specific time each day for prayer, or another spiritual discipline.

I'd like to invite each of us to pick a spiritual discipline this year to embrace and practice throughout the year. And then, to share that commitment with one or two other persons, to help hold one another accountable. Making this commitment, and following through on it, will help our congregation to grow spiritually in the upcoming year.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

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Church Board

Actions of the 2021 Church Council Meeting:

On Sunday, November 14, following worship and a meal, the annual church council meeting was held. Reports from The commissions, the board, and the pastor gave reports. The slate of officers for 2022 was adopted, including approving three year board terms for Dave Hahn, Michelle Roudebush, and Cliff Ross. Laurie Kieffaber Cornett was approved for a one-year term as our Annual Conference delegate, and a two-year term as District Conference delegate. Mikayla Stanley was approved to a one-year term as District Conference Delegate. Pam Little was approved to a new three-year term on the Nominating Committee. Bob Gross was approved to a new three-year term as our moderator.

Three people were recognized for concluding six years on the church board: Linda Barkey, Bonnie Haughn, and Mikayla Stanley.

The following persons will continue on the church board as they complete three year terms: Laurie Kieffaber Cornett (1st term - 2023), Bethene Gill (2nd term - 2023), Audrey Hahn (1st term - 2023) Dennis Horn (2nd term - 2022), Larry Jamerson (2nd term - 2022), Sharon Larrowe (2nd term - 2023), Jean Martin (1st term - 2022), Barb Miller (2nd term - 2023), and Linda Miller (2nd term - 2022).

The 2022 Church Budget was adopted, with projected spending totaling \$90,570 for 2022. This represents a decrease of 6.25% from the 2021 budget. A portion of this savings comes from a revised contract with Pastor Doug, who will be on an 11 month contract for 2022. Tentatively, the plan is for him to take a month off from mid-September to mid-October next year. Copies of the 2022 budget are available through the church office.

The first commissions and board meeting of the new year was held at 6:30pm on Wednesday January 12.

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Nurture Commission

Sunday School

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



Worship Schedule - January

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
2	Pastor Doug John 1:1-18 "The Light of the World"	NA	Mikayla Stanley	Larry Jamerson	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett
9	Pastor Doug Matthew 3:13-17 "Baptism"		"	"	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett	Bonnie Haughn
16	Pastor Doug Isaiah 62:1-5 "God's Vindication"		"	"	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett

23	Pastor Doug Luke 4:14-30 “Jesus’ First Sermon”		“	“	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett	Bonnie Haughn
30	Nan Erbaugh (pastor Doug off)		“	“	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett

Women's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship met after church on December 19 for a delicious carry-in lunch. After lunch and lots of good fellowship, Brenda Landis led the group in devotions. She then explained the activities for the afternoon.

The group broke up into small groups of three or four and shared special Christmas memories. As they were sharing, one person in each group recorded the memories of that group. Envelopes were addressed by the small groups to women who were not in attendance.

Linda Miller had prepared a Christmas craft featuring cinnamon stick Christmas trees which the group made along with doing a lot more visiting. Later Brenda made copies of the memories shared in each group and mailed them, along with a "We missed you" greeting to the women who had not been able to attend.

Upcoming Youth Activities

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.

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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 to come.

Sharon Larrowe's new cell number is 260-571-6754.

Reading through the Bible in a year - January

1	Romans 1-2	9	Gen 4-7	17	Josh 11-15	25	Ps 9-11
2	Genesis 1-3	10	Josh 6-10	18	Ps 6-8	26	Job 7-8
3	Josh 1-5	11	Psalm 3-5	19	Job 5-6	27	Isa 18-22
4	Psalm 1-2	12	Job 3-4	20	Psalms 146-148	28	Matt 8-10
5	Job 1-2	13	Isa 7-11	21	Matt 5-7	29	Rom 9-10
6	Isaiah 1-6	14	Matt 3-4	22	Rom 7-8	30	Gen 16-19
7	Matthew 1-2	15	Romans 5-6	23	Gen 12-15	31	Josh 21-24
8	Romans 3-4	16	Gen 4-7	24	Josh 16-20		

Witness Commision

Special Offerings

January 12 Supportive Community Network

February 2 (SCN) SOUPer Bowl of Caring

March 15 One Great Hour of Sharing

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 will be 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

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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.

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Around the District

Camp Mack



Finding Hope in the Sanctuary

As the new year opens, it sure looks like the world is made up entirely of optimists! There are celebrations everywhere, ringing in the new year with the hope of new opportunities, vanishing pain, and the resolution of conflict. Yet, usually within a month, it appears to be the opposite. Pessimism becomes the norm, and according to the 24/7 news cycle, everyone is overwhelmed with pain and suffering.

In this season of Christmas, we experience hope. God's work in the world is represented by the gift of God's son, Jesus. Hope is not the false optimism of New Year's Eve, nor is it overwhelmed by the troubles of the day. To be sure, many of the elements of our world can easily cause anxiety and fear, but hope brings us the confidence that God will ultimately triumph.

Galen has a scripture over his desk that gives him encouragement. It has been there since before the time I came to work at Camp Mack. Jeremiah 29:11 in The Message states: "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." God gives us hope because God's faithfulness guarantees our ultimate peace.

Our mission statement declares that Camp Alexander Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community. Sanctuary is the foundation of our mission. We constantly talk about it as a staff; we measure our success by our ability to create a safe and meaningful space for people to encounter God in new and vibrant ways.

The Peace Garden symbolizes the sanctuary we strive to create. It is a place of rest and reflection. The simple beauty brings peace and hope. People find shelter in its quiet design.

The ministry of Camp Mack provides summer camp experiences, retreats, active programs, outdoor education, challenge events, church support, and hospitality to families and rental groups. But, our most important ministry calms the noise of the world so people can hear the Word and Voice of God.

As you enter this new year, tell us what we can do to help you find sanctuary.

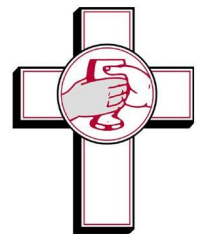
“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

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 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.



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And remember Nov 28 - Dec 4 our district with the IL/WI District is to provide volunteers for rebuilding from hurricane damage in the coastal North Carolina region. Respond to this email or call me at 260-982-2971.

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

Cliff Kindy, District Disaster Coordinator

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Clergy Tax Seminar—January 29, 2022

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

- Morning Session, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only. According to the new webinar policy, CEUs may also be earned by viewing the recording and filling out the report form. (Registration is required to receive the recording.)
- Afternoon Session, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

Registration and Cost: Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons.

Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 19, 2022.

Brethren Leadership Institute

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