

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



May  
2017

## *Here's what I'm thinking...*

It has been cold, cloud covered, and windy for days, but green evidence of the long-awaited spring is everywhere. Bethene and Karen are planting flowers with confidence, the strawberries are blooming and Jim is already harvesting rhubarb. It is 38 degrees this morning but the sun is finally visible and the sky is a clear blue. I think we are going to be okay—warmth is on its way.

Sometimes having the big picture perspective helps us to have the faith to keep moving forward, keep planting, even through difficult times.

I have been thinking about this lately in terms of the life of the church, both locally and the larger historical picture of the Church of the Brethren. The church goes through seasons as well and sometimes we wonder what is next for us. As I prepare to offer a class that will focus on the story of the Church of the Brethren in general and the Wabash in particular, I am aware that there are seasons of growth and confidence and seasons of uncertainty. The interesting thing is I am not sure how that growth and strength is related to faithfulness. Sometimes faithfulness is exactly what has taken us into a season of uncertainty. It is at those times that when we need the big picture perspective to keep planting seeds of love and hope even through our uncertainty.

***So here's what I'm thinking...*** We are now moving into a season in our life as a congregation that feels like Spring. With the welcoming of ten new folks into our fellowship, there is a sense of planting new seeds. We have been experiencing the energy and gifts that this new life brings and we celebrate their presence with us. We want to welcome and nurture these new relationships.

On May 21st at 9:30am, we will begin an adult class in which we will share the story of the Church of the Brethren both denominationally and locally here in Wabash. We will explore the history, the theology, the foundational ordinances, and the current struggles that are part of each of those stories. We are focusing on this now as an orientation for those new to our congregation and denomination, but we are hoping that many others will join us for a rich time of getting to know each other and sharing in conversation about where we have been and how we will move forward together. We are planning for four or five sessions, but we may decide to extend it if there is interest. Please consider joining us!! (There may be coffee and pastry—whatever it takes.)

***Blessings,***

*Kay*



# Worship Schedule

May 7      4th Sunday of Easter      Awe-filled fellowship

Scripture      Acts 2:42-47

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

Acts presents an almost utopian view of life in the awe-filled early church. A view that inspired those first members of the Church of the Brethren to structure their life together similarly. When was the last time you felt awe? How were you changed? How are you different now?

May 14      5th Sunday of Easter      Troubled Hearts

Scripture      John 14:1-14

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

In Kathleen Norris's, *Amazing Grace; A Vocabulary of Faith*, she explains that "at its Greek root, 'to believe' simply means 'to give one's heart to,' thus if we can determine what it is we give our heart to, then we will know what we believe." Does this change how you understand this scripture?

May 21      6th Sunday of Easter      Left Behind

Scripture      John 14:15-21

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

In today's reading from John, Jesus has sensed the chaos, confusion, and concern among the disciples. Like a parent reassuring a child who is having second thoughts about leaving home to live without the constant presence of back-up. How do you relate to feeling abandon and alone?

May 28      7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture

Message      Ruth Ritchey-Moore

June 4      Pentecost      Fired Up

Scripture      Acts 2: 1-21

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

Wind and fire, discordant voices and languages, vivid dreams and visions, and the out pouring of the Holy Spirit establish the inauguration of an entirely new era! We join in as we celebrate the birth of the church. We also celebrate new members in our congregation!



Would you like to participate in the worship service sometime? If so, you'll find a sign-up sheet outside the office for various positions.



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542  
 Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765  
 Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)  
 Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

BRANCHING OUT <i>Connecting Through Christ</i> SUMMER CAMP 2017			
<b>Samplers</b>	<b>June 4-6</b>	<b>Pedal &amp; Paddle</b>	<b>July 2-8</b>
<b>Beginners</b>	<b>June 11-13</b>	<b>Samplers</b>	<b>July 9-11</b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>June 11-15</b>	<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 9-14</b>
<b>Grand Camp</b>	<b>June 15-17</b>	<b>Followers</b>	<b>July 9-14</b>
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>June 18-23</b>	<b>Splash Camp</b>	<b>July 9-14</b>
<b>Finders</b>	<b>June 18-23</b>	<b>Creative Arts</b>	<b>July 9-14</b>
<b>Survivor</b>	<b>June 18-24</b>	<b>Culinary</b>	<b>July 11-15</b>
<b>Eco Adventure</b>	<b>June 25-30</b>	<b>Dadirri</b>	<b>July 23-29</b>
<b>Dune Challenge</b>	<b>June 25-July 1</b>	<b>Grand Camp</b>	<b>July 30-Aug 1</b>
<b>Seekers</b>	<b>July 2-7</b>		
<b>Finders</b>	<b>July 2-7</b>		
<b>Youth</b>	<b>July 2-8</b>		

### Calendar:

- May 1-4 Seasoned Citizen’s Retreat
- May 4-6 Birdwatcher’s Retreat
- May 7 5K Run/Walk
- May 12-13 Counselor Training
- June 1-3 South Central Women’s Camp

\*Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1-2 weeks in advance.

- May 6 Canoe the St Joe: Canoe from Mottville, MI to Bristol, IN with this relaxed float. Count the turtles along the way. \$20. Includes a sack lunch. Meet at camp before going offsite.
- May 6 Dutch Oven Cooking: Food over the coals always tastes better. Explore a variety of recipes from appetizers to desserts. We bet you won’t leave here hungry. \$15. Dinner included.
- May 6 Wildflower Walk: Experience the spring flower show in the Camp Mack wilderness area and get to know your spring wildflowers. FREE. Bring a snack to share.
- June 10 Pumpkinvine Bike Trek: Load up your bike at Camp Mack and head to the Pumpkinvine Rails to Trails pathway. Ride from Goshen to Shipshewana. This is a beautiful trail with little road traffic. \$20 (Sack lunch included)
- For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray daily for: Camp Staff, Counselors, Campers

Enrollment for **Summer Workcamps** is now open. There are many spots available across the country and for many age groups. Please contact Dennis or Carol Horn for additional information, or visit the denomination website at <http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/>



### Church Women United

Church Women United in North Manchester is meeting at Timbercrest at 9:00am. They have invited any of us that would like to join! This month's offering is the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Manchester University offers summer camps for youths who want to learn more about basketball, chess, cooking, football, LEGO basic skills, LEGO robotics, wrestling and string performance. It is also bringing back the popular scrapbooking and crafting retreat for all ages.

Camps will be on the Manchester campus in June and July, offering hands-on learning about specialized topics in a fun setting.

Classes are taught by professionals, some of whom are Manchester's own coaches and faculty members. Prices and registration deadlines vary based on the camp. Information is available at <http://.manchester.edu/summercamps>.

## Special Offering—Wabash CoB Youth Fund

This year and next there will be several events for our Youth to attend; National Junior High Youth Conference, National Youth Conference, Camp Mack, Christian Citizenship Seminar and others. This fund helps us provide scholarships for those youth who would like to attend.

Annual Conference Witness to the Host City  
Bethany Christian Services  
Since 1944, Bethany Christian Services has been reaching out to children who are alone or vulnerable. In Grand Rapids, they work with families for the first six months they are in the country. Helping with everything from meeting them at the airport, providing language training, and helping them find a job. They are an affiliate of the Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program.



How you can help:

Annual Conference attendees can help by bringing the following items they expressed were their needs:

Twin and full sheet sets  
Pens and pencils  
Envelopes

Notebooks

Scotch tape

To learn more: [www.bethany.org/grand-rapids](http://www.bethany.org/grand-rapids)

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#### Refugee Education Center

Their mission is to support refugee children and families to gain the necessary skills for successful integration into the community through education support, youth development services, and fostering cultural knowledge and understanding. The REC has a strong history of meeting the unique needs of refugee students.

How you can help: Annual Conference attendees can help by bringing the following items for them:

Back packs  
Peanut-free granola bars  
Small bags of crackers (Cheeze-its, Goldfish, Wheat Thins, etc.)  
Small bags of pretzels or popcorn  
Small bags of dried fruit

To learn more: [www.refugeeeducationcenter.org](http://www.refugeeeducationcenter.org)



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#### Jubilee Service Projects (Friday afternoon, 1:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.)

##### Well House

An urban garden project for the homeless. Work will include weeding garden beds, harvesting, and working with tenants.

To learn more: [www.wellhousegr.org](http://www.wellhousegr.org)

##### Mel Trotter Ministries

Shelter and food for the homeless. Work will include working in the kitchen, cleaning in the shelter, and working in the thrift store.

To learn more: [www.meltrotter.org](http://www.meltrotter.org)

##### Witness to the Host City Donations

At the convention center. Help sort and box the items brought by Conference attendees for Bethany House and Refugee Education Center.



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#### Annual Conference Blood Drive

Plan to donate blood in Grand Rapids during our Annual Conference blood drive. The American Red Cross will be taking donations on Thursday and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Grand Gallery Room B of the DeVos Place Convention Center. Sign up at the table in the registration area.





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**

### Summer Staff at Camp Mack

We are in the process of hiring our final 3 Summer Staff and would like to have the positions filled ASAP. We really need staff who would like to be trained as lifeguards or have current certification. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to receive free (re)certification as part of their job. Summer staff works in the areas of Facility, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Program, Lifeguarding and more. Lodging and meals are part of the summer staff package as well as the opportunity for a college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) if interested. Applications are available at [www.campmack.org/employment](http://www.campmack.org/employment). Apply today!

Need to use the **Prayer House**? It has moved to the old WC Mills school building. Hours are Monday 12-4pm, Tuesday 8am-10am, and Thursday 8am—8pm. Called Shirley Neal at 563-0047 to reserve.

## 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
- ⇒ And many more!

### Letter from Gene Hollenberg, Camp Mack Executive Director

It is hard to believe, but in a month, summer camp begins!...Volunteers and staff have been doing the work to be ready, but there is one area we cannot control. We need volunteer leaders who will commit to training and leadership. In order to provide the program for our campers that will truly connect them with God, we need people who are willing to give their time to learn the program and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the next generation. I still have strong ties with children whom I counseled over the years. I still get tears as I remember the stories sparked by looking at the Waubee Waves of years past.

Counselor training is May 12th and 13th. A camp orientation will be held on Friday evening and a general training for everyone will be Saturday morning and afternoon. Won't you please consider how you can help bring God's love through Christian community at Camp Mack this summer? Counselor applications are available at our website: [campmack.org/employment](http://campmack.org/employment), or you can call us, and we will happily send you an application. Branch Out with us this summer. We are waiting to hear from you.



# PULLED PORK OR CHICKEN DINNER

Includes meat choice, 2 sides, & drink

Adults \$9, Children 5-12 \$5, 4 and under free

Wabash Church of the Brethren

Friday, May 12 4pm—7pm

Proceeds to benefit the Wabash  
Church of the Brethren Youth Fund  
and the Wabash County Homeless.

