

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



November
2016

Here is what I'm thinking...

I don't think that generally I am a worrier. But recently, I find myself worrying—a lot. I am worried about the national election. I am worried about the church. I am worried about my children and my grandchildren. (I was worried about the World Series, but now at least, that is a moot point.) By the time many of you get around to reading this, the election will be over as well— then, tomorrow will have worries of its own.

Maybe I am feeling more vulnerable because I have experienced more loss and uncertainty in my life recently. Or maybe it is all the bad news that is generated in an election year. Maybe it is just the human experience. I am not sure, but this I know, worry drains me in very real ways. I have seen that happen in many of you as well. One of you even brought the challenge of scripture to me when in a daily devotional you again heard Jesus say, "So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." What does Jesus mean by this? I decided to use this text from Matthew 6:25-35 for our focus the first Sunday of this month. In doing some research I discovered that in a worship planning resource I often use, this text was assigned to Thanksgiving Sunday last year. At first I thought that was an odd coupling. But then I realized what an effective antidote gratitude can be for worry.

Here's what I'm thinking...In a few weeks, we will sit around a table, break bread together and hopefully honestly face our joys and concerns for our church in the coming year. What will we do with our temptation to worry? 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul says, "You are the body of Christ, and each one is part of it." In Rachel Held Evans book, *Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving, and finding the church*, she reflects on how often we worry about our bodies, especially when we look in the mirror. She extends this example of self-examination to the body that is the church. She offers us a mantra of gratitude as a stand against worry.

"This is the church. Here she is. Lovely, irregular, sometimes sick and sometimes well. This is the body-like-no-other that God has shaped and placed in the world. Jesus lives here; this is his soul's address.

There is a lot to be thankful for, all things considered. She, the church, has taken a beating. Every day she meets the gates of hell and she prevails. Every day she serves, stumbles, injures, and repairs. That she has healed is an underrated miracle. That she gives birth is beyond reckoning. Maybe it is time to make peace with her. Maybe it's time to embrace her, flawed as she is. Maybe it is time to smile back.

Sometimes I think the biggest challenge in talking about the church is telling ourselves the truth about it—acknowledging the scars, staring down the ugly bits, marveling at its resiliency, believing that this flawed and magnificent body is enough, for now, to carry us through the world and into the arms of Christ."

This brought tears to my eyes as I thought about our church and all of you who are part of this body. May healing thoughts of gratitude guide our continued work together.

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

November 6 **Don't worry about it!**

Scripture **Matthew 6:24-34**

Message **Pastor Kay Gaier**

These sayings of Jesus can sound glib, non-compassionate, overly simplified, and even naïve, if there were nothing to replace the anxiety or the worry about life as we experience it. Remove the anxiety and replace it with what? What do we worry about and what should we do about it?

November 13 **Youth Sunday—Grow in Wisdom**

Scripture **1 Timothy 4:12—15**

Message **Wabash COB Youth**

November 20 **Old self/New self**

Scripture **Isaiah 55:1-11, Colossians 3:5-17**

Message **Pastor Kay Gaier**

Stewardship is not ultimately about money. It is about the economy of our lives. What will save us? What will set us free. What is standing in our way? Worry/Gratitude—how are you doing with that?

November 27 **Advent 1: Carrying the Light**

Scripture **Psalms 122, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14**

Message **Pastor Kay Gaier**

Isaiah lays before us a beautiful image of people from across the world gathering at the mountain of the Lord, the house of God. Here they will lay aside their weapons and learn to live in the way of God's light. How do we carry the light of God on the way with us in our journey in the world today?

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.

Preparation of Advent—This year, we will be decorating the tree in the sanctuary to follow the Advent theme of *God's Heart*. If you have a special heart-shaped ornament you would like to loan to the church, or if you would like to make some, that can be used on our tree, please see Karen to make arrangements.

Hanging of the Greens—Please plan on meeting at the church on December 3 to prepare our worship spaces for the Advent season. More details to follow.

Prayers for:

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. Good news! 21 more girls have been released! Please add them and their families to your prayers as reintegration back into their communities has been a difficult transition for all.

Please keep the following in your prayers in an ongoing way: **Brian Genovese, Wayne & Linda Barkey, Danika Landis and family, Norma Schneider and Dr. Jim & Bonnie Haughn and family.**

Sharon Larrowe as she continues her recovery from back surgery at Kenny's and as she prepares to move into her new house.

Alan Kieffaber who is recovering from heart valve replacement. His lung has reinflated and he is currently at Peabody for his rehab.

Murray Cox and his family on the passing of his uncle, Jack Johnson earlier last week.

Eugene Copeland, father of Terry, is in the hospital in San Antonio with a blood clot in his lung. You may remember that we had prayer earlier in the year for Terry's sister, Denise, and she is getting cancer treatment every two weeks now for six months.

Many of you are aware that **Terry Shumaker** is now on hospice care. Cards can be sent to him at

5609 Ridgeview Ave.

Ft Wayne IN 46803

Please keep Terry and Carolyn and their family in your prayers.

In Support of the district, please include the following congregations in your prayers this month:

Nov. 6 Please pray with us for Salamonie COB.

Nov. 13 Please pray with us for Turnpointe Community COB.

Nov. 20 Please pray with us for Union Grove COB.

Nov. 27 Please pray with us for Upper Fall Creek COB.

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).

Church Council Meeting

Sunday November 20 after the service.
Please join us for this all-church meal and meeting! Come for the food—stay to offer your support to the community and your ideas for our future together.



Fellowship Meal

International Scholar at Bethany Seminary Receives Award

Richmond, IN - Musa Mambula, current international scholar in residence at Bethany Theological Seminary, has been acknowledged by his home country of Nigeria for his contributions to-ward the betterment of Nigerian society. On September 20 Mambula was honored with the Custodian of Nigerian Dream Award at the Nigerian Rebirth Conference in Abuja, Nigeria.

Mambula is Bethany Seminary's first international scholar-in-residence, part of the Seminary's effort to develop new academic relationships with Brethren groups outside the United States. During his two-year term, Mambula is helping to build an educational relationship between Bethany and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and to identify potential Nigerian students for the program. While at Beth-any, Mambula is traveling to speak at events, of-ten on issues related to his work with EYN.

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

CAMP MACK

Volunteer Banquet

Saturday, November 5, 2016

This banquet is Camp Mack's recognition of all volunteers that served with them throughout the year. Guests will enjoy special entertainment, fellowship, and great food. There is no charge for this banquet. Appetizers begin at 4:15 p.m. with dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Special Offering October — New Community Project

NCP is a small organization with a big goal - to change the world by changing the way we relate to the planet and its people. We offer resources that challenge us, experiences that change us and a community that gives us hope. Join us!

The 2016 South-Central District Conference was last month. It was an honor to be one of the 4 delegates to represent our congregation. It was quite interesting to learn a bit more about how the business of the district works, as well as a few of the many other organizations we help support. We started the morning with a wonderful continental breakfast provided by the Mexico CoB. Worship service was comprised of a lot of singing, with Paul Schrock leading on guitar. It gave me goosebumps to hear that many voices (100+) singing some of the old favorites (church & camp). Lunch was also provided for us and gave us time to fellowship with others. My surprise for the day was to find out that one of the men sitting at my table has 2 sisters that married cousins of my mom! The pie auction was led by Erin from the Liberty Mills church and he was a hoot! Our own Norma Schneider's cherry pie fetched quite a good price by Kay Gaier. She shared a couple pieces with me and I have to admit, she's right, it's the best ever!



DID YOU KNOW...



Mark you calendar now for Timbercrest's Fourth Annual Festival of Trees, to be held Saturday, December 3, from 10 am - 2 pm.

Mikayla Genovese to perform!

Outstanding choral ensembles from northeast Indiana – Fort Wayne, Wabash and North Manchester – are coming together to perform Karl Jenkins' *The Peacemakers* on Sunday, Nov. 6th, at Manchester University.

Jenkins' monumental work draws texts from international peacemakers including Mother Theresa, the Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King Jr., Anne Frank and Gandhi. The composer dedicated it to the memory of all who have lost their lives during armed conflict.

The Manchester University A Cappella Choir and Cantabile will be joined by Heartland Sings of Fort Wayne and choirs from Northfield and Manchester high schools for the performance at 4 p.m. in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus.

The performance is under the direction of guest conductor Bob Nance, president and artistic director of Heartland Sings.

Peabody's 3rd Annual Quilt Show December 1-8

Peabody invites you to enter your be-loved quilt in their 3rd Annual Quilt Show and Contest. This is a wonderful way to share your love of quilts.

Contact Angie Wollard, 578-3219, if you have questions.

Timbercrest free movies

Friday, November 18, Dead Poets Society

Friday, November 25, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Questions? call Wanda Miller, 982-6189



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

November 15

We rejoice with the Locust Grove Church of the Brethren

in the release of the Chibok schoolgirl they have been praying for, **Glory Mainta.**

Mutuality in mission by Debbie Eisenbise, director of Intergenerational Ministries

Someone recently asked me what I believe it means to be Brethren. Thinking back, I realized that it was a simple phrase that convinced me to join the church. I didn't grow up in the Church of the Brethren. I grew up going to church, studied religion in college, and then became acquainted with the denomination through Brethren Volunteer Service. There, I first heard the phrase, "mutuality in mission."

Mission philosophies come and go, and we may not talk about our engagement with the world this way anymore. However, what struck me at the time (and still does) was not the words themselves but how they are embodied in our church. We are people who put faith into action, and do so with others. We look for ways to work with others, to engage in community efforts, and to be of service where needs have been identified by local groups. We listen to others. We make decisions together.

Mutuality in mission requires us to respond to the needs of people in the church and in the world, and to work alongside others for the good of all. It is faith in action. Before I met the Brethren, I thought faith was a private thing, a way of believing that helped each person maintain a particular perspective on life. Now I know that, while faith is personal, it is not private, and the gifts of faith that each of us possess are to be used for the common good.

Before I came into the Church of the Brethren, I had never participated in footwashing. Although I was familiar with the Bible, I'm not sure that scripture (John 13) made much of an impact on me. In the Church of the Brethren, I was surprised to find that this scripture was not only frequently cited but also enacted. It wasn't just a story about Jesus and his disciples at that last supper. These were also instructions for us today. Jesus tells us: "I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). As Brethren, we take this quite literally, and not just in worship. Mutuality in mission means that we serve others, and, acknowledging our own vulnerability, allow others to serve us in return. Indeed, faith in action is relational. We give and receive. Together we share God's love and build community.

I saw this happening at various denominational conferences I attended in May. At the New Church Planting Conference, Brethren brothers and sisters of various races and cultures came together to pray for each other's ministries. At the Church of the Brethren Spiritual Directors' retreat, ideas were shared about how to make spiritual direction more available to pastors to strengthen and encourage them in ministry. At the National Young Adult Conference, participants took time one afternoon to connect across generations with older adults at Timbercrest Senior Living Community.

Congregations across the country are joining the Open Roof Fellowship through intentionally ministering to and with persons of all physical, mental, and developmental abilities. Others are actively engaged in creating safe spaces for all people, particularly children and vulnerable adults, to worship, learn, fellowship, and serve together. At our conferences, in workcamps, through Brethren Volunteer Service, and in our congregations, we come together to put our faith into action, to engage in mutuality in mission. Thank you for all you do to respond to this call through prayers, gifts, worship, and service.

P[Ⓜ]OWER HOUSE 2016

A regional conference for Church of the Brethren youth

Plug In

to God, each other and the World

3 John 1:13-14

Nov. 12-13

Speakers:
Church of the Brethren BVS
and Workcamp Staff

Camp Alexander Mack
Milford, Ind.

Register online at
manchester.edu/powerhouse



FAST FACTS

Dates: Nov. 12-13, 2016

Location: Camp Alexander Mack, Milford, Ind.

Who: All youth in grades 9-12 and advisors

Cost: \$90 youth/\$80 advisors

Theme: "Plug In"

Speaker: CoB BVS and Workcamp Staff

Highlights from the 46TH Annual District Conference of South/Central Indiana

NUMBERS

126 delegates
25 non-delegates
37 congregations represented
25 pies donated
\$1250 raised in the pie auction
\$1113.50 morning offering
126 clean-up buckets for Church World Service

SLATE APPROVED

Moderator-Elect: Cindy Dunk, Lower Deer Creek

District Board members:

Central Section: Karen Odiorne, Wabash

North Section: Theresa Sites, Liberty Mills

APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

South Section: Janet Cassidy, Buck Creek

North Section: Bickey Garber, Liberty Mills

PROGRAM & ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

East Section: Mike Fry, Union Grove

West Section: Flora Williams, Lafayette

South Section: Gerry Longenbaugh, Grandview

INDIANA CAMP BOARD

Jim Bates, Lafayette

INDIANA YOUTH CAMP COUNCIL

Emily Miller, Pyrmont

MINISTRY INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

South Section: Gene Roop, Anderson

APPOINTMENTS

ANNOUNCED

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Merle Rummel, Four Mile

ETHICS COMMITTEE

John Bunch, Marion

Corky Cordes, Roann

SHALOM TEAM

Robin Wentworth Mayer, Marion

Kay Gaier, Wabash

John Wenger, Anderson



AUDITING COMMITTEE

Katherine Haff, Manchester

Jenny Cash, White Branch

SECRETARY

Debbie Craig, Locust Grove

BUDGET APPROVED

A budget of \$96,337 was approved for 2017.

The top-selling pie was baked by Dana Hood, pastor of Guernsey COB. The baking dish Dana used is one he got when purchasing a pie at last year's district conference. This sounds like the beginning of a tradition! Beverly and Leland Nicholson purchased Dana's Mile-High Apple Pie and shared it with their Bible study group.



Annual Swiss Steak Dinner

November 12 4:30 -7 pm

Adults \$9; Children \$4

Marion CoB

2302 S. Geneva Avenue

Call ahead for carry-outs

(765-662-1600)

Alternative Christmas Fair

Saturday, November 12, 10:30-2:30

Purchase gifts from charitable organizations which promote peace, justice, fair trade, and environmental stewardship. Donate to global and local agencies as alternative gifts to family and friends.

Homemade lunch served 11:30-1:30.

5555 E 46th St.

Indianapolis IN 46226

See www.NorthviewBrethren.org for more information.

Children's Disaster Services team begins work in N. Carolina, Material Resources ships to hurricane-affected areas

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) is responding in North Carolina following Hurricane Matthew. Areas of the state suffered severe flooding caused by the hurricane that hit the east coast of the United States after sweeping over Haiti and other areas of the Caribbean. A CDS team of volunteers traveled to Fayetteville, N.C., on Tuesday to begin serving children and families affected by the flooding.



Photo courtesy of CDS

Material Resources has been making shipments of relief goods in response to Hurricane Matthew. Materials Resources is the Church of the Brethren program that processes, warehouses, and ships disaster relief materials on behalf of ecumenical partners, based at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

Read the full story at
www.brethren.org/news/2016/cds-material-resources-respond-following-hurricane.html