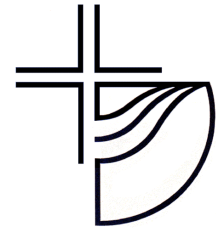


WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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

August 2019

Welcome to August

Ponderings

This is the month that would be the last hurrah before school started in the fall. Family vacations, grilling out, and catching fireflies were all par for the course. It seemed, relaxed, almost lazy. And why not—who wants to move fast during the dog days of summer? This year, it seemed as though summer is over even before it began. We got off to what seemed like a late start, with so much cool weather in May, and so much rain in June. School starts in two weeks (yikes!) and it seems everyone is in a mad dash to get done all the fun summer things while there is still opportunity.

But I invite you to get a cool glass of lemonade, water, or iced tea and take this out to your back porch, find some shade, and enjoy some leisurely reading to catch up on what is going on in the lives of our (near and far) neighbors. Let us all take a moment (however long we can make it last) to savor the sweetness while we have it.

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.



In This Issue

- Pastor's Letter
- Women's Fellowship News
- Worship Schedule
- Camp Mack Corner
- District Prayer Concerns
- Annual Conference
- BLI Update
- Church Calendar
- And more!

Wabash CoB Sanctuary



Changing Rooms

Pastor Doug Veal

As Tasha and I have been working on settling into our new home, I've had the opportunity to look and observe closely at our house. And I've noticed some things that would likely be easy to overlook. After all, as we decide how to arrange furniture, store our belongings, and learn how to live in our new house, we have to be aware of where things can go, how we will arrange our lives in our home, and begin to learn new places for familiar things.

We had gotten very used to how things were set up in our previous home, and, of course, we have had to change things around to fit them into a different space. Doing so has led us to try things a bit differently, and find improvements we can implement to make our lives better.

I think oftentimes, with our spiritual lives, we can have much the same kind of reactions. It's easy for us to get into a routine, doing the same things over and over, and not really paying close attention to what is going on in our spiritual lives. We don't always pay close attention, and can miss things that are going on.

When we stop and take time to really look, to really think, about why and how we go about our own individual spiritual disciplines and practices, often we can find out things that can make our lives better. Things that can help us grow closer to God, and to grow in our relationship with others in our lives.

As you go about your spiritual disciplines and practices this month, I'd invite you to take time to really think and reflect about why you are doing a particular practice. If you have a particular time each day that you are praying, think about why you do it then.

Or perhaps you might try a new, different spiritual discipline, or a familiar one in a different time and different place. Doing so can open up new and interesting paths in your ongoing relationship with God and with one another.

This is not to say that a routine is a bad thing. No, routines often help us to continue to practice our spiritual disciplines, and oftentimes are a comforting presence in our lives. But taking the time to shake things up, or to think about how and why our practices have begun to become routine, offers us additional time to grow.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

Women's Fellowship

There were 9 women at breakfast and back at the church. We had 10 participate in activities to get to know each other better.

We began by having each woman use her initials to find words or a phrase that described herself. Next, each woman had to find other women present who matched her in such ways as color of eyes, birth month, or siblings and have that woman sign her name. Last, everyone wrote a fact about herself on a slip of paper which she thought no one knew about her. Each fact was read and women tried to guess whom the clue belonged to. at least one everyone guessed correctly but others were harder to figure out!

The next meeting will be August 31 at Bethene Gill's home at 9:30.



Worship Schedule

There are many roles that bring worship each Sunday; contact a member of the nurture commission (Mikayla G, Bonnie H, Laurie K-C, Linda M, or Michelle R) to find out how your unique gifts can be of service.

August	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
4	Pastor Doug Different Gifts, One Goal: Unity in the Body of	Dennis H.	Mikayla G.			Carol H.	Laurie K-C
11	Pastor Doug We live by Faith	Linda M.			Larry J.	Laurie K-C	Bonnie H.
18	Pastor Doug God's Steadfast Love				Larry J.	Laurie K-C	Bonnie H.
25	Guest Speaker	Karen O.	Mikayla G.		Larry J.	Laurie K-C	Bonnie H.



Stewards' Request

Keeping it clean

With summer in full swing, it can also mean the march of the ants...

Please be mindful to clean up after any food or drink spills. Please also make sure food items are in sealed containers and placed in the refrigerator, as appropriate. Also make sure to cover your food in the microwave before using.





Ben at Camp, 2016

Camp Mack Corner

Upcoming Opportunities at Camp:

- Colony Camp August 16-18
- Golf Outing August 17
- Labor Day Family Camp August 30-Sept. 2
- Summer Camp Registrations are Open NOW!
- Go to the Camp Mack website: www.campmack.org for information and to register or call 574-658-4831.

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

Prayer Request:

Please pray for committed summer staff and camp counselors.

Campers love to get mail! Please mail early and address your mail following this sample:

Chris Camper
Program Name (i.e. Samplers, Seekers, etc.)
Camp Mack
P.O. Box 158
Milford, IN 46542



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
Email: info@campmack.org Website:
www.campmack.org

Community Support

Church Food 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

Hope 85

Copy Paper (letter size)
Cleaning Supplies
TP/Tissue/Paper Towels
Personal Hygiene items
Disinfectant Wipes
Feminine Products
Address Labels
OTC Medicines

The ministry of fishing

By David Steele, general secretary

“Simon replied, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.’ So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. . . . Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people’” (Luke 5:5-6, 10; CEB).

Many within the Church of the Brethren are not afforded the opportunity to regularly experience the church beyond a local congregation or district setting. Without the privilege to worship, meet, and engage with congregations and districts across the country, it is difficult for someone to truly appreciate the richness of what we call the Church of the Brethren. Without those opportunities, one could easily see a denomination unsure of its own identity and miss the forest for the trees.

While we may talk about membership decline and its impact on giving, I would caution against making any direct correlation of that decline with competing notions of identity or a denomination unsure of its identity. A common purpose and identity are essential to the success of any organization, and I won’t deny that some have doubts or disagree with the identity articulated by the Mission and Ministry Board and Church of the Brethren staff. However, from my experiences as a pastor and a district executive, I believe membership declines have less to do with any common understanding of a true north “Brethren-ism” and much more to do with cultural and familial shifts, our hesitation to move beyond “the way we’ve always done things,” and pastors and church leadership at all levels struggling to meet the ministry needs of local communities and to live into the great commission.

In many ways, our predicament resembles that of the tired fisherman that Jesus encountered. We have labored in less-than-ideal circumstances, been left wanting for better results, and are weary from difficult, often thankless, work. And yet, Jesus is calling us to cast out the net again—not just to continue our usual work but to do the work of fishing for people.

Despite our challenges, our ministries and missions continue. The Mission and Ministry Board, with the help and support of districts, congregations, and members, is working to fan the positive sparks that are emerging. Continued Page 10

Family News

Updates from the congregation

There is much always going on in our faith family. If you have a story or tidbit you'd like to share, please contact the office, or one of the nurture commission members. Everyone always loves to read about what is going on!

Safe Travels

Maya Benysh is traveling to Japan as a part of a student cultural exchange program. She will be sharing her experience with Women's Fellowship when she returns.

Mahala Haughn is relocating to China to teach English as a second language. She will be there for 15 months.

We lift both of these wonderful young women up in prayer that they may have safe travels and that their endeavors will be fruitful.

Moving

Cohen Marvel will be moving into Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI) to start his freshman year of college and study marketing within the medical field.

Jesse Montel will be moving into Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH) to start his freshman year of college and study Computer Engineering.

Ben Roudebush will be moving into Trine University (Angola, IN) to start his freshman year of college and study IT/Security.

Justin Zumbrun will be moving to Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, IN) to start his freshman year of college and study Ministry within Athletics.

We lift these inspiring young men up in prayer that they may adjust well to new surroundings and learn how they each might be able to make a difference.

Recovering

Wayne Barkey suffered a fall and sustained injuries on his hip, arm and legs. He did not break any bones, but it has affected his ability to walk.

Barb Brown had screws and plates removed from her ankle and is not supposed to walk on it for 2 weeks.

Jack Poole is home after being hospitalized for a stroke. He is doing well and has started therapy.

We lift these up, and the many unspoken others, in our prayers that may feel the fullness of God's unending love.

District Prayer List

August 4—Please pray with us for the Manchester CoB and Atlantic Northeast District

August 11—Please pray with us for the Marion CoB and Atlantic Southeast District

August 18—Please pray with us for the Mexico CoB and the Idaho District

August 25—Please pray with us for the Northview CoB and the Illinois Wisconsin District

Knights of Columbus—Love on Liz

August 24 4-7pm, \$9

This is a fundraiser for Liz Hobbs who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She is going through chemotherapy and needs help to pay medical bills. Pork BBQ, baked beans, applesauce, chips and drinks will be served. A live auction will start at 5pm.

District Conference Project

September 21, 2019—Living Faith CoB, Flora IN

This year, the District Conference Board has chosen CWS hygiene kits as the mission project. Each church is being asked to supply a minimum of 5 kits, plus the \$2 each for shipping. Please place your donations in the box at the rear of the sanctuary. Needed items are:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x 28" to 16"x 32"
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

CoB Newsline

Annual Conference Numbers

2,155: Total registration number for the 2019 Annual Conference including 677 delegates and 1,478 nondelegates.

\$50,928.49: Worship offerings. Each evening worship service and the Sunday morning service received an offering dedicated to a particular purpose. This total includes:

- \$13,212.01 for Brethren Disaster Ministries work in Puerto Rico
 - \$11,383.41 for the Church of the Brethren core ministries
 - \$11,152.16 for church rebuilding in Nigeria in a collaboration between the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission and EYN
 - \$8,171.35 for child care and age activities expenses at Annual Conference
 - \$7,009.56 for Calling the Called workshops in the Church of the Brethren districts, sponsored by the Office of Ministry
 - \$2,360: The online donations and offerings received via www.brethren.org related to the 2019 Annual Conference. The 30 online gifts included \$900 in general donations for Annual Conference, \$940 to support webcasts of the Conference, \$150 for the Nigeria Crisis Response, \$150 for Brethren Disaster Ministries work in Puerto Rico, \$200 for Church of the Brethren core ministries, \$100 for the work of Global Mission and Service, and \$70 for the work of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C.
 - \$7, 595: Amount raised for hunger relief by the Association for the Arts Quilt Auction.
 - \$1,312: Amount received in an offering for ministers' assistance during the pre-Conference Minister's Association event.
- At least 132 people participated in the event led by Dr. David Olson on the theme, "Saying No to Say Yes: Everyday Boundaries and Pastoral Excellence."
- \$2,500: Donation from the conference center in Grand Rapids to purchase free ice cream bars for this year's Conference goers, as a gesture of thanks to the Annual Conference for returning to their city again in 2020.
 - 165: Pints collected by the Annual Conference Blood Drive in onsite donations.
 - 35: Years of service by Joyce Person as teller coordinator and lead teller for Annual Conference, recognized during the first morning's business session.



NOAC 2019

Reaching into Joy

September 2—6. NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world. Registration will open online on April 15. The cost per person is \$195 if you register before July 20. First time attendees will get a \$20 discount. Your registration fee does not include housing or meals. After you register you will be able to go to the Lake J housing reservations website to make your lodging reservations. Timbercrest will offer transportation to NOAC. Seats for non-resident riders will be made available after we know how many Timbercrest participants will be available. If interested in traveling to NOAC with Timbercrest residents: contact Brian Daniels -260-982-2118 or BDaniels@timbercrest.org

Speakers

- Sister Joan Chittister -An American Benedictine nun, theologian, author, and speaker
- Drew Hart -Professor of Theology at Messiah College in PA. He is the author of the book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*
- Ken Medema and Ted Swartz -Ken is a musician and singer-songwriter who has been performing in the United States, Canada, and Europe for more than forty years . Ted is a Mennonite playwright and actor.
- Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm -Brightbill Professor of Preaching & Worship at Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN
- Jennifer Keeney Scarr -Pastor of the Trotwood Church of the Brethren, Trotwood, OH
- Jeanne Davies -Pastor of the Parables Community, Lombard, IL
- Walt Wiltschek -Pastor of the Easton Church of the Brethren, Easton , MD
- Dennis Webb -Pastor of the Naperville Church of the Brethren, Naperville, IL
- Paula Bowser -morning Bible study -Retired Church of the Brethren pastor, Englewood, OH
- Jonathan Emmons and Bev Anspaugh -Organ recital and hymn sing

N. Indiana District

Transportation Options

The Northern Indiana District Church of the Brethren is also sponsoring a bus to NOAC 2019 in Lake Junaluska.

The cost of the round-trip bus ride is \$200. There are 56 seats available.

Find attached the registration form and itinerary.

Registration is due by August 1... but early registration is encouraged for both the bus and hotels.

Contact the Northern Indiana district office for questions, 574-773-3149; or rachel.nidcob@gmail.com

Church Picnic

August 10th—Yup, that's a Saturday! Big changes, I know!

But, what hasn't changed is that once again, Larry and Nancy are offering the hospitality of their lake home for us to gather and fellowship together. Please bring: chair, place setting, a dish and drink to share, swimming gear, towels and a big smile! It is always a lot of fun. We will eat around noon.

More questions? Be sure to see Larry.

Action Alert

Inhumane Conditions at Detention Centers

People all over the U.S. have been disturbed by recent reports about the humanitarian crisis in detention centers along the border, in which children are being held in horrible conditions. This inhumane treatment of people seeking a better life, who are often in extreme desperation, goes against our fundamental Christian beliefs about how we should treat our neighbors.

The 1982 Statement on Undocumented Persons and Refugees in the United States still rings true today: "The primary truth of faith as we consider immigrants and refugees today is that Christ has made another appearance among us, as Himself an immigrant and refugee in the person of political dissidents, the economically deprived, and foreigners on the run. We are to join them as pilgrims in search of that city yet to come, with foundations of love and justice whose architect and builder is God."

The statement also asserts that "[w]e oppose any enforcement method likely to increase discrimination against undocumented people because of ethnic or racial characteristics." There is a distinct racial component to the abuses occurring to people who are migrating across the Southern border—we must ask ourselves why our society is quick to dismiss the abuse of black and brown bodies and why these same consequences aren't enforced on European immigrants.

How can we speak up about this? - Continued Page 11



Brethren Leadership Institute Upcoming Courses

Beliefs & Practices of the Church of the Brethren

Instructor: Beth Sollenberger
Dates: August 24, September 14 & 28, 2019
Location: TBA

New Testament Survey

Instructor: Robert Bowman
Dates: October 19, November 2 & 16, 2019
Location: TBA

To register for a BLI course or for questions, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com.

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>.



The ministry of fishing

The outcome of the denominational compelling vision process will inform the shaping of our next strategic plan—a plan that will guide our ministries for the future.

While these movements will lead us forward, each of us must take seriously the role that we hold. Max Lucado once wrote, “When those who are called to fish don’t fish, they fight.” Until we whole-heartedly unite for the work of fishing, we will continue to fight and continue to struggle for a common identity and purpose.

Friends, our governing principles and Annual Conference statements cannot save a church filled with imperfect people. Being the church is messy, and there always will be differences among us. Yet in the midst of our circumstances, if we listen carefully to members from across this country, we hear common and familiar themes: service, peace witness, community, living simply, mission, and discipleship—one might say “Brethren-isms” that still point true north. These are at the center of the work and ministries of the Church of the Brethren and the methods we will use together to fish for people.

If we look around us, we will see passionate disciples continuing the work of Jesus. As followers of Christ, may we focus on the work ahead and keep our attention on the work of fishing. We have something unique that the world so desperately needs, and the Lord who calls us is faithfully beside us for our mission. It is for this reason that we may trust that the Church of the Brethren will flourish.

The Church of the Brethren continues the faithful work of fishing for people in the name of Jesus. Support its ministries today at www.brethren.org/give.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The staff is always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. Have a fun travel story? Read a good book lately? Attended a gathering of friends/family? Don't keep it secret, share it with us. Have questions? See Michelle in the office, or send her a quick email.

Action Alert

Contacting your representatives in Congress is an important way to combine our voices to change the conditions for migrant communities. This particular situation is complex, but here's the breakdown of a few key pieces:

Congress just passed a Supplemental Funding Bill in order to allocate \$4.59 billion to address the crisis at the border. However, these funds are going to a wide range of government departments for work on the border, including the military and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This bill essentially bails out the institutions that are responsible for human rights abuses, and we need oversight to ensure that funds will be used for clean and safe facilities.

Tell your representatives to prioritize the standards of care in detention facilities and call Congress to use the FY2020 Homeland Security appropriations process to eliminate the ability for the Department of Homeland Security to give funds from agencies like Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ICE for immigration enforcement.

Monica McFadden at mmcfadden@brethren.org for more information.

Family News

Remembering Willie

The church will surround Laurie and family with love during a Celebration of Life service on August 3rd at 11 am for her husband Willie Cornett. Willie had been a long-time member of our family and loved by many. He will be dearly missed. Visitation begins at 10am. Both will be here at the church.

Celebrating New Arrivals

Doug Veal will be installed as our Pastor on August 4 during 10:30am worship. The installation service will be led by Beth Sollenberger. Afterwards, we will have a carry-in meal. Please come to the service, and stay afterwards for the meal, to meet Doug and Tasha. Ham will be furnished, but other food items are welcome.

Celebrating Long Life

It was a joy to have Laurale bring Pauline Pobst to Women's Fellowship. What a blessing to be able to reacquaint with each other.

Byron Miller is moving into a larger room in Health Care at Timbercrest.

Volunteers Needed

A Note from Cliff



The double Brethren Disaster Ministries project in Lumberton, North Carolina has split. One unit will remain working in North and South Carolina. The new site is Jacksonville, FL. Our district is supposed to provide fifteen volunteers for the Florida site September 8-14. I presently have one volunteer and another with interest. Will you join them?

I don't understand the difficulty in recruiting volunteers. I realize FEMA and church disaster response agencies are being overwhelmed by the number and size of the disasters hitting our hemisphere. Yet we are buffered from the immensity of the problem. Other continents are facing much more dire consequences. Our natural response is to shy away from involvement because we have no answers or ability to make much difference. We are too busy to go now.

I have found in my efforts with BDM and Christian Peacemaker Teams that even taking one small step in response to problems opens new avenues of possibility and is a reliance on the ways God enters the equation in miraculous ways.

You are needed. Could you invite a co-worker, neighbor or friend to join you in Jacksonville? Is it time for a working retreat with your congregation? Contact me within three weeks or I will need to turn those spaces over to another district.

We are also on for the week of December 1-7 when we need seven volunteers, again in Jacksonville. That Florida site is in response to Hurricane Irma and we will be working in four counties, staying at a converted camp grounds with good facilities.

Keep in mind the need for volunteers with Children's Disaster Services, money gifts to support travel for our district volunteers, the ongoing need for volunteers for two week stints in Puerto Rico and disaster cleanup kits for projects everywhere.

August 1—31 Nature
through Art—Cordier Auditorium
Lobby Gallery

