



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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

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January 2021

Welcome to a New Year



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.

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Looking back and looking forward

Pastor Doug Veal

Recently, I've been thinking and looking a bit more towards the new year that is rapidly approaching (and, by the time you are reading this, probably will have already begun). And as I did so, I took a little bit of time to look back at 2020. For all of us, 2020 has been a very strange year, one that has been marked by many shifts and changes, some welcomed, many unwelcomed and forced upon us by circumstances outside of our control. These changes have impacted our congregational life together, as well as our individual lives in many ways.

Just looking at our congregational practices, we've had to implement plans of moving our worship services online, then trying a hybrid in-person and online model, then back to all online services. I know that I have greatly missed the opportunities for informal fellowship both before and after our worship services (even as we've worked at having some times for this via Zoom). We had to cancel the Fish Fry in May, something that I was very interested in experiencing for the first time this year.

For myself, I've spent a considerable time this year learning new ways of doing worship, new technologies to allow us to continue to have music from our congregational musicians, and to remain connected with one another. I had hoped, as a newer pastor, to have more opportunities just to get to know folks through visitation and sharing of meals, through various church events, and in other ways as well. I'm sure all of us can think of things that we've had to either change or learn new ways of doing this past year.

This has been a challenging process for us, one that has left many of us seeking a return to a sense of normalcy. And there are reasons for optimism that we can return to many of our previous ways of doing things, even in the church, at some point in 2021.

Still, I think that we can use some of these new ways that we've learned even once we return to a more typical schedule and way of coming together. For just one example, it's been wonderful this past year at times to welcome in friends and family from across our country, and even across our world, that otherwise would not have been able to join our worship. It is our intention, even when we are all able to join in-person for worship again, to continue to offer this way for others to connect with us.

As you enter this new year, I'd like to invite all of us to take some time to reflect on this past year, thinking especially about how this past year has impacted your life of faith. What have you learned about

your life of faith in this strange year? What have you found to be integral in the practice of your faith this year? Are there new or renewed priorities for you in your life of faith Are there areas or practices that you may let go to allow you to focus more on the priorities that have emerged, or that have been an important part of your faith journey in the past?

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

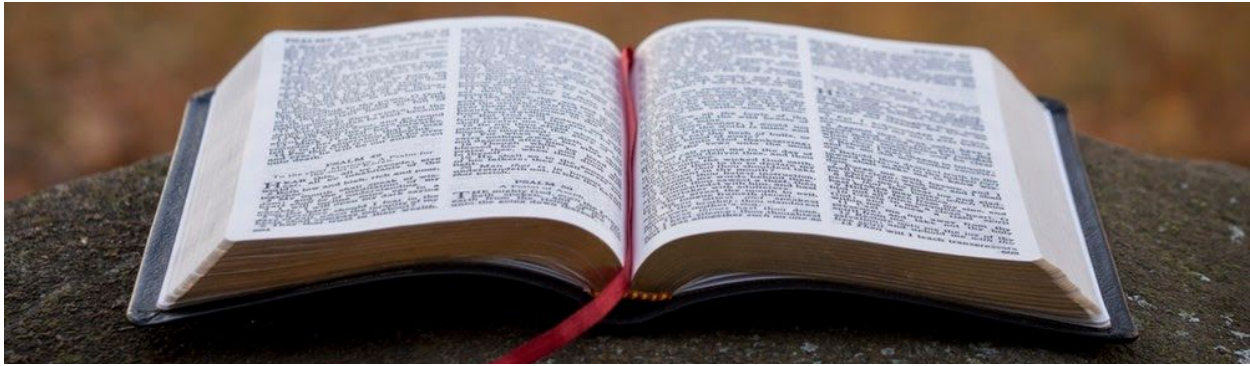
Church Board

Following the Council Meeting via Zoom in November, December's board meeting facilitates connecting new board members to both outgoing members, and those still serving. Per our church polity, board members may serve up to two three year terms, and then must take a sabbatical of one year before returning. For 2021, here is the Church Board, and the organizations of the members:

NAME	NURTURE	STEWARDS	WITNESS	CHAIRS				
				Bd	Vice	N	S	W
Linda Barkey (2 nd – 2021)			X					
Laurie Kieffaber Cornett(1 st – 2023)	X					X		
Bethene Gill (2 nd – 2023)		X						
Audrey Hahn (1 st – 2023)	X							
Dave Hahn (1 st – 2021)		X			X			
Bonnie Haughn (2 nd – 2021)	X							
Carol Horn (1 st – 2022)								
Dennis Horn (2 nd – 2022)				x				
Larry Jamerson (2 nd – 2022)		X						
Sharon Larowe (2 nd – 2023)			X					
Jean Martin (1 st – 2022)			X					
Barb Miller (2 nd – 2023)			X					
Linda Miller (2 nd – 2022)	X							
Karen Odiorne (2 nd – 2023)			X					X
Katie Ply (1 st – 2021)			X					
Cliff Ross (1 st – 2021)		X						
Mikayla Stanley (2 nd – 2021)	X							
Leroy Striker (1 st – 2021)		X					X	

Ex- Officio members = Stan Miller, Treasurer; Doug Veal, Pastor; Bob Gross, Moderator. Carol Horn is currently serving as Clerk.

Nurture Commission



Virtual Connections

For Sunday School and Bible Study

On Sunday mornings, except for Sundays that Pastor Doug has off, we are continuing to offer Sunday School via Zoom. We have been working through a study on the subject of wisdom in the Bible using A Guide for Biblical Studies from the denomination. Even if you do not have a copy of the book, you can still join in the discussions, which are always very insightful. We will soon be finishing up this book, and will provide more information on what will come next soon. To join in Sunday School, simply log into the Sunday Morning Worship Service Zoom link at 9AM. We end the session with enough time that if you would like to join in-person worship, you still can.

On Tuesdays, we are now studying the Book of Esther. To connect,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574172976?pwd=ZUhLRnVrZThsWGJTb3pGMVYyMW4vUT09>, or call 312-626-6799, enter meeting ID 895 7417 2976 and passcode 710386. The group meets at 10am.

Worship Schedule

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
3	Pastor Doug John 1:1-18 The WORD and Beginnings		No singing			No CC	
10	Pastor Doug Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men		Until further			Until further	
17	Pastor Doug 1 Samuel 3:1-10 The Call of Samuel		Notice			Notice	

24	Mark 1:14-20 The First Disciples						
31	Joel Peña, AC 2019						



Women's Fellowship

Knowing that we all miss seeing each other, are there alternate ways we can be together? If you have ideas, please contact Michelle in the office.



From Pastor Doug and Tasha

Tasha and I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for the beautiful poinsettia and financial gift from the congregation. We are very glad to be a part of this congregation, and look forward to our continuing journey together in the upcoming year.

Upcoming Youth Activities

Junior High

July 23 – 25: National Junior High Conference at Elizabethtown College. Online registration opens in January.

Senior High

December 1: Christian Citizenship Seminar registration opens at www.brethren.org/yya/ccs.

February 7, 2021: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. www.souperbowl.org.

April 24 – 28: Christian Citizenship Seminar 2021 (This year it will be a virtual event.)

May 2: National Youth Sunday. Theme and worship materials will be posted online by March 2021.

Young Adult

January 8, 2021: Ministry Summer Service applications due. www.brethren.org/mss

January 21: National Young Adult Conference 2021 registration opens at www.brethren.org/YAC

May 28-31: National Young Adult Conference 2021 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina).

Upper Room Devotionals - January/February

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.

Reading through the Bible in a year

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

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 Michelle at office@wabashcob.org.

Many thanks to Karen who continues to tirelessly keep the church clean and tidy. She also does a lovely job to keep the sanctuary looking festive, no matter the season.

Witness Commision



Special Offerings - January and February

Supportive Community Network works with congregations to help them to become more open, affirming, and welcome.



SOUPER Bowl of Caring is a food drive that can support any local food pantry. We choose to give our donations to FISH (Friends In Service Here) which was started many years ago out of our basement, and now is housed in the Women's Clubhouse adjacent to the City Park. Due to restrictions on gatherings, we may need to consider a monetary donation this year, instead of our traditional left-side vs. right-side of the sanctuary challenge.

Little Free Pantry

Our local panty 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

Lighthouse Mission

They have purchased the old Plain Dealer building on the corner of Canal and Cass and are looking to remodel! They will be providing office space to 85 Hope, FISH, and Advantage Housing, in addition to their storefront.

Their goal is to raise \$200,000 to complete the remodeling. If you are so inclined to assist with their cause, the Community Foundation of Wabash County is administering the fund for them. You can mail in a check and earmark it for them, or you can donate online at www.cfwabash.org.

Emergency Disaster Fund Update

Central America Hurricane Relief (from Newsline 11.21.2020)

Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed two grants from the Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to assist the hurricane relief work of partner organizations in Central America. The grants respond to needs following two hurricanes that hit Central America in November, Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Hurricane Iota made landfall in Nicaragua on Nov. 16 as a category 4 storm and traveled through Central America for three days dumping heavy rain and causing widespread flooding and landslides, with Honduras taking the brunt of the storm. Just two weeks previously, Hurricane Eta made landfall on Nov. 3 causing extensive flooding and mudslides that damaged roads, destroyed bridges, and isolated entire regions of Central America. The people most affected by the storms were already dealing with high unemployment, food insecurity, and hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A grant of \$25,000 has been designated to support hurricane relief programming in Honduras by Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG). This nonprofit humanitarian and development organization has connections to the Church of the Brethren and is led by church member Chet Thomas. After Hurricane Eta, PAG quickly organized a relief program providing 8,500 family food bags (for a week of provisions), used clothing, mattresses, health kits, blankets, shoes, and family hygiene kits to 50 communities before hurricane Iota struck. A Nov. 18 update from PAG reported that as staff waited for roads to open, they were putting together additional family food bags and health kits. PAG's priorities are to provide food for those who have been displaced and lost their homes and to repair community water systems, restoring the availability of potable water. This initial grant also will support PAG's work to develop a longer term recovery plan.

"The government estimates that half of the 9 million people in Honduras have been directly affected by these two hurricanes," said Thomas. "Priority right now is food for those who have been displaced and lost their homes. More than 600 shelters over the entire country contain tens of thousands of displaced families and all will need food and some kind of shelter in order to return to their communities. Another big priority for us is the repair of hundreds of community water systems as food and potable water are the first needs. We hope to help those farmers who lost their grain crops to replant at least an acre of corn, beans, or vegetables."

A grant of \$10,000 supports the Church World Service (CWS) response to the hurricanes in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. CWS has long-term partners in the three countries. Its response will focus on providing food and hygiene kits for families in six communities in Nicaragua, as well as recreational activities for children in shelters; supporting families and individuals in Honduras with food kits, hygiene kits, and psychosocial support; and providing aid to at-risk families in Guatemala who have an

incarcerated parent(s) and supporting penitentiary guards who lost their homes in the storm. Additional grants are anticipated to support the long-term recovery programs to be developed by CWS in coming months.

Give to the Emergency Disaster Fund to support Brethren Disaster Ministries and the work of disaster relief in Central America and elsewhere. Go to www.brethren.org/edf.

Growing Grounds

Growing Grounds continues to serve many households throughout the county. Even with current elevated government support and moratoriums on rent and utility cut-offs, the needs remain high. Work continues on the HOST House on Hill St. and the apartments on Wabash.

Around the District

District Prayer List

January 3—Please pray with us for the Anderson CoB congregation and staff and the Atlantic Southeast District congratulations and staff.

January 10—Please pray with us for Andrews CoB congregation and staff and the Idaho Northwest District congregations and staff.

January 17—Please pray with us for the Antioch CoB and the Illinois/Wisconsin District congregations and staff.

January 24—Please pray with us for the Arcadia CoB and the Northern Indiana District congregations and staff.

January 31—Please pray with us for the Bethel Center CoB and the Michigan District congregations and staff.



Camp Mack - Warm Campfire Stew

When I am camping, I get great enjoyment from cooking over the fire. Grilling is fun, and creating packet meals can sure be tasty, but my favorite way of cooking is with the Dutch Oven. While camping, my friends and I have produced beef and noodles, chicken and noodles, pizza, chili, prime rib, braised chicken, roasted chicken, cobblers of all kinds, breads, cakes, breakfast casserole, lasagna, and a hundred other things I have forgotten. The first meal I learned to cook in a Dutch oven was beef stew, and it is still my “go-to” meal to bring me satisfaction and comfort.

When I make a beef stew, the Dutch oven begins low over the fire, so it becomes hot enough to brown the meat. It sizzles and pops, creating brown bits of flavor on the bottom. The pot moves up higher as I add broth and water to begin braising. I stir well to pick up the browning from the bottom, and then let it simmer for a while, slowly tenderizing the rich meat and gathering flavor from the smoke. As the day goes on, the onions, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, and any other vegetables I might choose are added with salt and pepper. After a while, the flavors have been blended and concentrated, and the aroma is wonderful. The final step is to add a thin paste of flour and water to thicken it up before letting it set off the fire to cool.

A Week of Camp is like making a good campfire stew. It begins with high energy and lots of possibilities as campers find new things and explore the world and relationships around them. As the week moves on, the campers and their leaders begin to recognize they are surrounded by the love of God, transforming them into a foundation of goodness and strength. New ideas and understanding are added each day to enrich the experience, blending together the fruits of the spirit learned through patient tending and care. Before it is time for the week to end, the opportunity to talk about how we have changed helps bring it together. In every case, God provides the fire that makes it possible.

Simpler life “stews” are created throughout the year as our retreats and guest groups also experience the Sanctuary on Lake Waubee. Life slows down; love is shared; God is at work. This place becomes “pure and holy – tried and true.”

As we focus on The Twelve Days of Camp Mack this year, we highlight the things, big and small, that connect each of us with God and others. We hope you can be present for even a small part of this, but even when you can't, your prayers and gifts bring you in. I thank God daily for this community of people representing many faith traditions and tied together by many different experiences. Together, we make the wonder that is Camp Mack! Merry Christmas, and may this coming year bring us peace.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Upcoming Dates

January 16—Camp Rep Meeting Saturday, January 16, 2021—Camp reps mark your calendars! This will be a Zoom meeting.

January 30—Snow Camp Jr. Saturday from 9a-4p. Snow Camp Jr. is a day program for 5-12-year-olds. Enjoy a day with friends at camp. Play outdoors, build snow sculptures, warm yourself around a campfire with hot cocoa, do crafts, and so much more. \$35, lunch and snacks included.

February 13—Snow Camp Saturday from 9a-4p. Snow Camp is a day program for 6th-10th graders. Enjoy a day with friends at camp. Play outdoors, reverse tie dye a mask, sip and paint, get warm around the campfire, and much more. \$35, lunch and snacks included.



Brethren Leadership Institute

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

Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course - The Brethren Academy has set a date for the next training session of Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course, created by James Benedict. This webcast training is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. The webcast will be held January 9, 2021 via Zoom, from 10:00-4:00 EST with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is December 17. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants. Registrations must be received by the Brethren Academy office by this date. For a registration form contact the District Office (scindcob@gmail.com) or the Brethren Academy (academy@bethanyseminary.edu).

Preaching - Instructor: Aaron Gross **Delayed until springtime**

Dates: January 16 & 30, and February 13; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, 12:30 -3:30 pm

To register, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com. Please pre-register by Monday, January 4, 2021.

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>.

Clergy Tax Seminar

January 16, 2021

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar.

Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.

Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Earn 0.3 CEU's - requires attendance in the first session

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 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, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.

Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary

Seminar Schedule

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST: Morning session

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally non-refundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will 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 online. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 6, 2021.