

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



Here's what I'm thinking...

**November
2017**

The last couple weeks in October our scripture texts from Matthew have called us to think about what it means to love God and neighbor. I have been thinking about that a lot lately in terms of our life here in Wabash. Recently, I have gotten a closer look at the impact of our church's Growing Grounds outreach. Normally, I am a 2nd or 3rd string player in the daily feet-on-the-ground work that is involved in this program. Recently, due to the unavailability of others, I have tried to respond more to the needs that have come up. I want to share with you what happened to me on ONE day last week.

I started the day at 5:00am driving to Wabash to pick up a young man in Wabash who did not have a car and had no way to get to his job in North Manchester. I picked him up, took him to work and then he found out he had been fired for missing days when he could not find a ride. So, I drove him back to Wabash. Then, when I arrived at the church early because I had a lot of things I wanted to get done; waiting in the parking lot was a homeless couple with a two-year-old son. They had slept in the car the night before and needed some help finding a place to stay. It was cold so I brought them into the church with their sleeping child so that they could warm up and come up with a plan. Then, just as I returned to the church from taking this family to a temporary place to stay, a distraught woman came in looking for help. After spending some time listening to her, Michelle and I set her up with a phone and a landlord list so that she could search for a place for her and her son to stay. We eventually found a temporary place for her as well. Then, I had an appointment to take a young pregnant couple to the Senior Center to get some food. While we were there, the young woman stated that she was having severe abdominal pains and asked me to take her to the hospital. After tests and treatment they released her and I took her home. Later that evening, I received a text from Carol that there was another family that needed help with rent so they could stay in their apartment. This is a day in the work of Growing Grounds.

So here's what I'm thinking... I share this "day-in-the-life-of" experience to raise awareness of all that is done through Growing Grounds. I also want to thank all of you who share in this work and in so many other ways respond to the needs of our community. Figuring out how best to love our neighbors is not often obvious, easy, or convenient. This congregation has claimed and blessed this stumbling effort to answer God's call to love with its support, acceptance, and patience even as it complicates our "normal" life together. So, thank you and may you be blessed and a blessing as we continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

November 5

Servant Leadership—Is that a thing??

Scripture

Matthew 23: 1-12

Message

Pastor Kay Gaier

Jesus offers a counter cultural take on leadership which turns the whole concept upside down not only in his day, but in every day since. It certainly stands in contradiction of the models today. What would servant leadership even look like today?

November 12

You gotta serve someone

Scripture

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Message

Pastor Kay Gaier

This scripture always reminds me of a song Bob Dylan wrote after he got religion. Dylan says it differently, but he and Joshua are ultimately saying the same thing and asking the same question that challenges us today: "Who or what are you going to choose serve with your life?"

November 19

Scripture

Message

Zakaria Bulus

Zakaria is a member of EYN, and has worked with Cliff Kindy through Cliff's efforts to help rebuild in Nigeria. He is currently a student at Manchester University. Zakaria visited us when Cliff presented his story on the Haitian and Nigerian Crises earlier this fall. We are pleased to welcome him back to lead us in worship.

November 26

Youth Sunday—Who is my neighbor?

Scripture

Message

Wabash COB Youth

Jesus tells us the parable of the Good Samaritan; he teaches us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves but what does that mean in today's world?

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.



Women's Fellowship

November 11th at 9:30am

Meet at the Blue Bird Café in Laketon for breakfast and a Bible Study. RSVP to Bonnie Haughn or Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett. Please come and help us set the date for our Christmas Party.

If you would like to carpool, there will be a group meeting at church at 9:00am.



November Special Offering— 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!



POWER HOUSE 2017

A regional conference for Church of the Brethren youth

Who am I?



1 Corinthians 12:27

Nov. 18-19

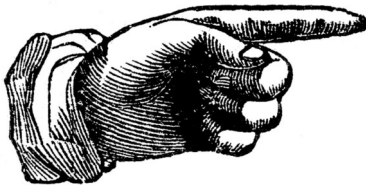


Speaker:
Jamie Makatche



Camp Alexander Mack | Milford, Ind.
Register online at manchester.edu/powerhouse

Please Notice This



At our October 11 meeting, the Church Board decided to schedule the **Congregational Meeting** at 12:45 on Sunday, November 5. This meeting will follow a carry-in meal, and it will be moderated by our District Minister, Beth Sollenberger. At that time, you will be invited to ask questions, share your vision for the future, and examine some of the possible options for pastoral leadership going forward. This meeting will be for the purpose of sharing and gathering ideas, and it will not be a time for making decisions.

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
Website: www.campmack.org

Many sincere thanks to those who attended, donated items for the auction, provided a booth, did a demonstration, brought entertainment, or helped in any way to make the 19th Camp Mack Festival last month a great success. Plan to be a part of the 20th Annual Camp Mack Festival on October 6, 2018!

Volunteer Banquet: Everyone who served as a volunteer from November 2016 to October 2017 is invited to be camp's guest at a recognition dinner at Mexico Church of the Brethren on Saturday, November 4th. Registration and hors d'oeuvres are at 4:15 p.m.; dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment will follow the dinner. Call camp to make your reservation.

Mexico COB: 4460 N. Mexico Rd, Mexico, IN 46958

Church of the Brethren Pastors, plan to attend the fall **Pastors' Sabbath, November 7-8.** Leadership for the event is Gene Hollenberg, who will share on the topic of adult education. Fee is \$20.

Sandhill Crane Get-A-Way Day: Treat yourself to a mini retreat on November 11 while traveling to Jasper Pulaski FWA. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. We will stop for dinner on the way home. Cost is \$20 (covers snacks and travel)

Volunteer Work Days are November 13-15. Come for a day or the entire time. Meals and lodging are available. Contact the office for reservations.

Christmas Get-a-Way Days, December 2 and 3. Join us on December 2 for Christmas cookie baking/decorating, Christmas ornament making on the lathe, and wreathmaking with fresh greens. The Christmas cookie day has a morning and afternoon session on Dec 2 and an afternoon session on Dec 3. These are popular events and do fill up.

New Year's Eve Retreat is for those in the 6th- 12th grades and adult leaders. Experience a retreat BEYOND BELIEF as you explore the Universe of God. There will be music, dancing, pizza, awesome worship, time with friends, and camp's own "Times Square countdown" with a ball drop and sparkling grape juice! Dec. 31, 2017, 2:00 p.m. to Jan. 1, 2018, 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$60 (\$70 after Dec 5) \$10 scholarship available during early registration only

PRAYER REQUESTS and NEEDS:

Camp Staff and Volunteers

Camp is still facing a financial shortfall because of unexpected maintenance. Thank you to all who have assisted with your donations. We are still running about \$20,000.00 behind. We are in need of a 2010 or later model ¾ ton pickup truck before winter. If you know someone who can help us find one at low or no cost, please contact Gene by calling or emailing gene@campmack.org.

Now that the DACA program has been rescinded, Congress has until March to act on legislation that will provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented Americans who were brought into the country as children. If enacted, the bi-partisan Dream Act of 2017 (S.B. 1615/H.B. 3440) would give these "Dreamers" the chance to gain their green card or citizenship.

In the [1982 Annual Conference Statement on Undocumented Persons and Refugees in the United States](#), the Church of the Brethren affirmed that "everything belongs to God and that we are part of an immigrant people who are looking for better land. Our brother and sister immigrants are reminders of who we are and whom we serve."

In the same statement, the Church of the Brethren calls for the United States government to adopt legislation and public policies "which welcome and promote the welfare of immigrants and refugees," and "to bring about a general amnesty for those people who once entered the United States as 'undocumented aliens' but have settled peacefully among their neighbors. These persons should be given legal status as quickly and simply as possible to assure that they will not be further exploited."

The lives of our congregations have been enriched by the amazing work, stories and ambitions of young undocumented Americans. [You can read about one Church of the Brethren member's experience here](#). Dreamers make up an integral part of our families, churches, and communities. Take action today, and tell your Senators and Representative to support the Dream Act of 2017!

Call Congress Today!

1-866-940-2439

Please call 3 times to be connected to your 1 Representative and your 2 Senators

Sample Script:

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a constituent from _____. As a person of faith, I believe strongly in the importance of welcoming immigrants, and call on Congress to pass legislation that will provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers through the Dream Act of 2017. Please make the passage of the Dream Act of 2017 a priority.

In Christ's peace,

Tori Bateman

Peacebuilding and Policy Associate

Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness

Washington, D.C.

Camp Mack Needs our Help

“What a blessing it is to have this beautiful place and the people who worship and work here. We have had a very successful summer camp season with ministry to many children, youth, and adults. There is much to be thankful for as we reflect on what has been accomplished in the first two-thirds of 2017!



I am writing to share with you a concern that we have, and we are hoping you can help. This year has been full of a number of “surprises” in emergency maintenance and equipment repair and replacement, such as: \$5,000 in vehicle repairs, \$6,000 in infrastructure failures, and almost \$40,000 in equipment repair and replacement in HVAC and the kitchen. This means that there have been over \$50,000 in unplanned expenses since January first. All of them were critical to our ability to provide services to our guests.

For this reason, other planned expenses like carpeting in Sarah Major and Ulrich House, lighting for the east side of the John Kline Welcome Center, and further cleanup of the Becker site have had to be put on hold. These are important tasks, but in order to be financially secure, we have to recover the \$50,000 in unexpected expenditures.

We would be grateful for any contributions to help us bring our facility budget back into line. Contributions can be sent to Camp Mack, Box 158, Milford, IN 46542. Please consider if you can help us continue to move forward in our ministry to connect people with God.”

Gene Hollenberg, Exec. Director

Brethren Disaster Ministries Work Groups

November 12-18, 2017, we have several folks headed for Eureka, Missouri, joining a group from Illinois/Wisconsin District to do flood repair. If you can join, call Jim Shively at 260-438-0919.

Then December 3-9, a group of fifteen is going to Marion County, South Carolina, for Hurricane Matthew repairs. Call Erin Huiras at 260-571-6612 if you wish to be a member of that team.

Looking ahead to 2018, our district is responsible for sending teams the weeks of Jan. 21, March 11, Sept. 9 and Nov. 25. Start planning now when a group from your congregation can go. Contact Cliff Kindy, 260-982-2971 or kindy@cpt.org for more information.

For an update on the situation in Puerto Rico, please visit www.brethren.org.

From the District—Haiti/Nigeria Offering

We have received letters of thanks from the Church of the Brethren for the generous gift presented to General Secretary David Steele at District Conference. The \$14,000 designated for Nigeria has been divided between the general Crisis Response Fund and a Well Project Fund there. The \$14,000 for Haiti will go for various water projects. Roxanne Hill, Coordinator for the Nigeria Crisis Fund, also sent a note, thanking us “for keeping Nigeria Crisis in the forefront.” She says, “The needs are still great and your donation will go a long way in helping our brothers and sisters in Nigeria.”

Stamps

Thanks to all who brought canceled stamps to District Conference! Most of them have been processed and will soon be delivered for sale to a stamp collector in Ft. Wayne.

In addition to the stamps you all donate, we have been receiving stamps from two persons on death row. One of them is Raymond Johnson, who is a member of the Manchester COB. The other is Micha’el Rivera, on death row in Florida. When Micha’el learned that the proceeds from stamp sales provide milk for children in Tijuana, Mexico, he wrote to say how much he appreciated milk as a child; he is grateful to be able to help provide that nourishment for children.



A reminder that commemorative stamps sell for a higher price than roll and book stamps; we’re always glad to see the commemoratives on envelopes coming to the district office!



Nov 2 & 16th 5pm—Help pack backpacks for Blessings in a Backpack at Manchester Elementary School. Contact cso@manchester.edu to sign up.

Nov 10th & 11th 7:30pm, 12th 2:00pm—MU Theater invites you to *A Doll's House* in Wampler Auditorium. Admission is \$10, \$7 for students/seniors.

Nov 12th 11:45am—Celebrating Diversity Workshop with Barb Burdge. Speicher Room in Switzer Center. Preregistration and \$5 admission. bjburdge@manchester.edu

Nov 14 & 28th 4pm—Zion Lutheran Church. Help serve the Community Dinner, transportation provided. Contact cso@manchester.edu to sign up.

Nov 15th 10am—World Affairs Conference sponsored by Rotary Club. Upper Level Switzer Center

Nov 16th 11am—Blood Drive, Switzer Center

Nov 18th 9am—Spartan Day, high school visitation. Contact kjreinoehl@manchester.edu

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**

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).

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
- ⇒ BVS The Volunteer
- ⇒ And many more!

Brethren Leadership Institute

Evangelism/Outreach Nov 4—9:00-4:00 Marion CoB

Taught by Nate Polzin, District Executive of the Michigan District and pastor of The Church in Drive In Saginaw.

Contact Tina at scincob@gmail.com for registration information.

BRETHREN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The next BLI class is Preaching, taught by Aaron Gross, pastor of the Logansport Church of the Brethren.

Class sessions are these dates:

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Back-up date in case of a weather cancellation of another day: February 24.

Register by January 3 to avoid a late fee.

The spring class will be History of the Church, taught by Mark Flory Steury.

More information about the Brethren Leadership Institute can be found at the district website.