

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Deb Peterson, interim pastor



October  
2018

## ***RANDOM THOUGHTS.....***

It seems we transitioned from summer to fall almost overnight. A week of 85-90 degree temperatures and unrelenting heat became two beautiful autumn days with no humidity, fluffy white clouds, bright sunshine and 65 degrees. That was a welcome relief, but then the temperatures dropped even more and the rain came. Seemingly with the snap of a finger, the bone-chilling dampness, chilly drizzle and downpours reminded me that I am one of over ten million people in the U.S. with fibromyalgia.

When the weather is sunny, very warm and low humidity, I can ignore the pain that someone once described as “it feels like the worst flu you’ve ever had.” But with fall and winter, like most people with chronic pain, it’s harder to stoically “carry on.” As we age, chronic pain is a way of life for many. Pain, whether physical, mental or emotional, is powerful. For some, that power is destructive—it rips into joints, muscles, nerves, thoughts and our very spirits—leaving hearts broken or scarred for life. Suffering can turn healthy, happy people into bitter, cynical distortions of their former selves.

Yet, suffering also has the positive power to literally transform us. We all know someone who has endured the death of a child or spouse, crippling arthritis, cancer and chemotherapy or any one of the many debilitating diseases. But somehow, they emerge with inner strength and outer compassion; the kind of beauty and grace that can only form in the intense heat of nonstop pain.

My own experience has been somewhere between positive and negative. When I was diagnosed 25+ years ago, I felt overwhelmed and helpless not to be able to “fix” this on my own or even find a way to understand what was happening in my body. I couldn’t even pronounce “fibromyalgia!” My usual way of coping the unknown was to research, make a plan then put it into action. But there were no books and few articles available in the early 1990s. Because it’s an invisible disease, it wasn’t taken seriously by the public and even some doctors. Some well-meaning friends wondered if it could be “all in my mind;” my own brother called it my “pretend” disease.

Two decades have passed since that early, confusing time and much more is known about chronic pain today. Like Jacob (Genesis 32) who wrestled with an angel and was struck on the hip, I walk with an emotional limp that will probably never go away. But just as Jacob hobbled off with God’s blessing, my weakness opened me up to know what God’s grace and love is. My helplessness leads me to trust in God’s tender care.

The fact that pain’s effects are so varied should warn us against analyzing suffering itself. Instead, let’s focus our attention on the people who suffer and accept that some respond to their condition better than others. We can’t escape suffering in this fallen world. But we can learn to endure it in a way that brings glory to God and personal growth to us. God’s power is indeed revealed in our weakness.

*Pastor Deb*

## Worship Schedule

October 7	Greater than Angels
Scripture	Hebrews 1:1-9, Ezra 9:5-9, Hebrews 2:14-18
Message	Deb Peterson
October 14	God is Great, God is Good!
Scripture	Hebrews 4:13-16, Amos 5:14-15, Romans 12:9-16
Message	Deb Peterson
October 21	
Scripture	
Message	Laurie Kieffaber—Cornett
October 28	Praise to God for a Living Hope
Scripture	1 Peter 1:3-9, Jeremiah 31:7-8, 1 Peter 2:9-10
Message	Deb Peterson
September 30	Be at Peace
Scripture	Mark 9:38-50; Psalm 19:7-10
Message	Deb Peterson

Please hold in your hearts the following:

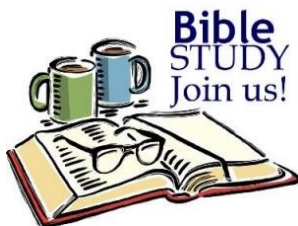
- members of the Executive and Search committees as well as board members for fruitful discernment during this transition period.
- So many of our family are still adjusting to transitions in life. We lift them up that they may know His peace.
- All those who have not yet given voice to whatever may be troubling them.
- Family and friends of Marguerite Smith as they mourn her passing.
- The greater denominational leaders as they listen to hear what local congregations share during the Compelling Vision Process..



### Bible Study Meeting

The Tuesday Bible study is looking at "troublesome" Bible passages and behaviors we may have always wondered about but never found answers. Each weekly lesson is not a part of a series, so you can come for several, all, or just a particular one that catches your eye. There is no homework or books to buy. It's from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This is what we'll be looking at in September.

Oct 2—Are Christians really supposed to share all their possessions? Acts 4:32-5:11



Oct 9—How important is belief in an afterlife? 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Oct 16—Where is the Kingdom of God? Luke 17:20-21

Oct 23—What is the "Image of God" in which we are created? Genesis 1:26-31

Oct 30—Why did God choose Abel and not Cain? Genesis 4:1-16

### October Special Offering— South Central District

The S/C District is made up of 43 Congregations as far south as Greenwood, and as far north as Fort Wayne and east to west the width of the state. We are a diverse group, bringing many gifts to bear. The Office of the District supports each of those congregations in many ways such as: leadership, conflict negotiations, worship resources, educational opportunities and much more. It is lead by a 17 member board, on which Karen serves. It is staffed by 3, a District Executive, an administrative assistant, and a BLI administrative assistant. If you have questions regarding how the board or the district works, please see Karen for more information.

### Drainage

As you can tell, Stewards Commission has been working feverishly to improve the drainage and water flow around the building. Many improvements have been made and more are on the horizon.

WF breakfast for September was hosted by Brenda Landis. We met at the Grandstaff-Hentgen funeral home downstairs meeting room at 9:30. There were nine ladies in attendance. Brenda shared a very delicious breakfast and afterwards shared with us the work Hands for Hope does to help victims of domestic violence. One thing that they do is to provide person hygiene bags and these bags are made and donated to the organization. Brenda made 18 bags that needed some finishing and purchased items to go inside. This was our project for the morning. We also wrote person notes with a scripture reference on note cards that Brenda provided, to place in each bag.

Also at the meeting, a letter from Camp Mack informed us of the need for financial help to defray the cost of the children's activities at the festival. A motion was made and consensus received to send \$50 for our treasury to assist. Thank you Brenda for your fine work!

The next breakfast is being planned for October. 20th, 9:30 at the church. Plans are still ongoing, but one thing might include attending the Craft show at the Honeywell Center. the cost to get in is \$1.00.



### September District Prayer Calendar

September 30 - Please pray with us for the Pleasant Dale COB and Northern Plains District.

October 7 - Please pray with us for Manchester Univ. and Timbercrest Sr. Living Comm.

October 14 - Please pray with us for the Portland COB and Northern Ohio District.

October 21 - Please pray with us for the Pymont COB and Southern Ohio District.

October 28 - Please pray with us for the Roann COB and Pacific Northwest District.

### Notes from the Clerk...

Approved board minutes, as well as the financial report are hanging on the bulletin board by the mailbox.

Our website has audio recordings again of Sunday's message.



Thank you to all the youth and advisors for the NYC Service. It was so encouraging to see your energy and excitement for your time there. You blessed many with wonderful memories of conferences past.

Dear Women's Fellowship—Thank you so much for preparing the wonderful hot meal. I know Mom used to help with funeral luncheons at my church and know the workers and food needed. Thank you! Linda (Smith) Domine & siblings.



Sunday, October 21, is Bethany Sunday, a time for congregations to highlight programs of Bethany Seminary.



## From Interim District Executive Carol Spicher Waggy—Compelling Vision

Perhaps you've heard? Our denomination is in the middle of some important discussions. They are called the Compelling Vision Process. I encourage you to learn more at the Church of the Brethren website

(<http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision.html>), and I ask you to invite congregational members to participate in one of the two discussion opportunities planned for our district:

**Saturday, Nov. 10, 3:00-5:00, Anderson Church of the Brethren, Anderson, Ind.**

**Sunday, Nov. 11, 2:00-4:00, Timbercrest Senior Living Community, N. Manchester, Ind.**

The following are excerpts from the introduction on the website:

Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. In response to the ongoing conflict, at the 2017 Annual Conference, the delegate body affirmed a report from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives that concluded with this assertion: "To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue."

Denominational and district leadership have worked together to call two teams to work collaboratively to guide the denomination through a process of conversation and discernment in an effort to arrive at a compelling vision rooted in our shared commitment to live as Christ's disciples. It is an invitation to place our trust in God's Spirit and engage in a visioning process to discern what God is calling us to do together with the fervent hope that our commitment to one another and to serving our God as the body of Christ might be renewed through this shared journey and a sense of shared mission.

Conversations began at Annual Conference this summer, will continue in districts, and will culminate at Annual Conference in 2019 where new business is suspended in order to continue the process.

Let us pray together that our relationships with one another will be strengthened and deepened, transcending points of disagreement and that the vision ultimately articulated will shape our identity and inspire our ministries. Please keep these district meetings and the Compelling Vision Process in your prayers and attend one of these meetings to be a part of the conversation.



## Meet Larry Landis



Larry grew up in Wabash with one brother, Lynn. Larry was interested in history, even as a boy, especially the Civil War. He enjoyed drawing maps, including of his neighborhood.

Larry was close to his grandparents, spending a lot of time with them. His parents traveled with the boys throughout the United States.

Larry attended Noble High School until it was consolidated and completed high school at Wabash. While in high school, he worked at Krogers, stocking shelves for 83 cents/hour.

Larry received his degree to teach history from Manchester College in the early 1960s. Barkeys, Horns and George Schneider were fellow students of his.

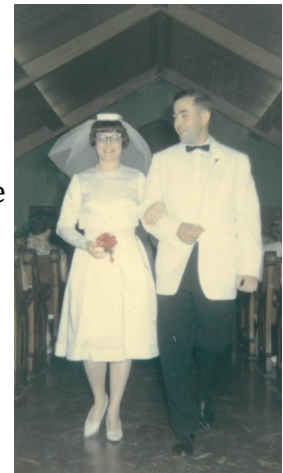
Larry was a commuter student. In one of his first math classes, he noticed a young lady, also a commuter, who was both cute and smart. (Smarter than him, he says)

His first date with Brenda was a cruise in Larry's '56 Chevy. (Brenda informs us that one of their destinations on this first date was to a viewing for a neighbor of Larry's that had died. While she waited in the car, Larry's parents dropped by to get a first look at their son's new crush.)

Larry and Brenda were married right after he graduated from college. (Brenda had one more year to go.) Larry received a fellowship for the summer to study American history at IU and then began teaching at Southwood where he taught for 32 years.

Larry and Brenda have had close relationships with Lynn's family and have acted as second parents/grandparents to Lynn's children and grandchildren.

One of the activities Larry and Brenda have enjoyed together is international travel. Often they visited foreign exchange students that Larry had gotten to know as a teacher. Larry particularly remembers trips to Germany and Sweden, but Greece was his favorite destination. (Brenda was usually the navigator and Larry, the driver, unless the vehicle was a stick shift. Then Brenda did the driving.)



In retirement, Larry is still interested in history and keeps up on the news. He likes doing crossword puzzles and Sudoku. He takes lawn maintenance very seriously, sometimes mowing

twice a week!



These days, Larry has upped his dating game from funerals. He now often takes his best girl on dates to Dairy Queen in N. Manchester on Tuesdays for \$2 banana splits.

If Larry could choose a part of history he would have liked to experience, he would like to have met Abraham Lincoln.

He feels fortunate to have made it to age 75, still in good health.

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**



All month—Syrian refugee art show, Gallery G, Jo Young Switzer Center, all month

Oct 2 3:30pm—VIA Access to behavior Health Services: A Matter of Social Justice. Cordier Auditorium

Oct 3 6:30pm—Dialogue Circle Training, Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center

Oct 4 5:00pm—Latino Migration and Placemaking to the Midwest, Toyota Round, Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center

Oct 13 9am—Advanced Mediator Workshop, ACEN 133, \$40

Oct 29 7:30pm —MSO: The Universe at an Exhibition, A Science and Symphony Event, Cordier Auditorium. Preconcert events start at 6pm.

## 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!

Anyone who has a cell phone of any kind that is not broken, can donate the phones to Hands of Hope. The phones can be given to abused women who can call 911 without having an account with anyone. It would be good if they also donated the charging cord, too but that is not absolutely necessary. They can contact Brenda Landis (765-833-2141) or Hands of Hope directly at 260-563-4407.



## UPCOMING BLI CLASSES

This fall marks the beginning of the third year of the 3-year rotation of classes of the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI). That means that a year from now we will be celebrating the graduation of those who have completed all 12 classes and other requirements.

BLI is structured so that new students can join any time, and anyone can audit individual classes.

In October and November, **Craig Alan Myers** and **Tim Morpew** will be teaching *Biblical Interpretation*.

Many thanks to **Don Fecher**, who has been the BLI administrator the last few months. **Tina Rieman** will be resuming that position for the rest of the year; she can be reached at [BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com](mailto:BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com).

More information about BLI can be found at [www.scindcob.org/BLI.html](http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html).

(Dorotha Fry Mason, a retired Church of the Brethren ordained minister who now lives in North Manchester, took the challenge that Fort Wayne Journal Gazette writer, Steven Smith solicited and responded with this letter.

### Christians' Beliefs All Flow from Love

In many letters, I have never shared my faith. I have tried to live my faith. In the Aug. 17 Journal Gazette, Steven Smith put forth a challenge by writing, "What exactly do Christians believe in? I would really like to know." So I am sharing what I and many in my church and others similarly believe.

I believe there is a mastermind behind our universe whom I call God. God is love. God loves us, his creation, and wants us to enjoy the world God created. God, not wanting puppets, gave us free will. In the Old Testament the people got it wrong so he sent prophets to help them, but they didn't listen. So God sent Jesus to show us the way to live and share in this bounteous world he created. Jesus came not to restrict us but to free us for abundant living. He did not leave us powerless. He sends the Holy Spirit, which enables us to live significant lives and be a part of God's love answer to a world in need.

Yes, I realize humans have messed up the world in which we live – wars, violence, racism, family separations, sexual abuse, etc. I try to work with God's power and strength for justice, mercy and peace. Though it is simply stated to love God and your neighbor as one's self, it is also costly. I believe God wants all the people of the world to live, not in sameness, but in harmony. I am most thankful for the thousands who are working toward this end. There's still a long way to go, but we keep on working. We do keep on – an impossible dream for all people.

Dorotha Fry Mason

### Volunteers Needed

The S/C Indiana District has locations for which volunteers are needed. November 25-December 1 there are seven or eight positions to fill as we share the week with the Illinois/Wisconsin District. Work is in both North and South Carolina doing rebuilding after Hurricane Matthew passed through a couple years ago. Volunteers will be assigned as needed that week to either or both locations though all volunteers will be staying at a Presbyterian Church in Lumberton, N. Carolina. An assistant cook/household volunteer will be needed for both dates.

Questions? Contact Cliff Kindy at 260-982-2971 or [kindy@cpt.org](mailto:kindy@cpt.org)



# CAMP MACK

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Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)  
Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

FLYE Weekend: October 5-6, FLYE (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth ages 14-17 to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership and may lead them to serving as CIT's and counselors at Camp Mack in the future. \$25.

Camp Mack Festival: Save the date for our 20th annual Camp Mack Festival on Saturday, October 6. There will be plenty of food, demonstrations, tournaments, and the live auction. Contact the camp is you have quality items for the auction you would like to donate. Watch for information coming soon!

Father/Son Retreat, Let the Games Begin: Oct. 13-14, \$135 for father and son (\$63 for each additional person). Share experiences through time in the woodshop, building yard games, and survival style competition.

Quilt Retreat: Oct. 17-21. \$191 for arrival Wednesday evening, \$167 for Thursday evening, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, and \$123 for Friday evening arrival.

Scrapbooking Retreat: Oct. 18-21. \$146 for arrival Thursday evening, \$131 for Friday morning arrival, and \$117 for Friday evening arrival. Sign up for the Scrapbooking Get-a-Way Day for a 1 day Saturday option.

Seasoned Citizen Retreat: Oct. 22-25. \$172 per person or \$116 if not staying overnight. Join this group of life-experienced people for a refreshing time of meeting friends new and old, programs, and more.

## Upcoming Events:

September 8 Pallet Crafts & Sailing 201 Get-Away-Days  
(Bible Art Journaling- CANCELLED for 2018)  
October 5-6 FLYE Weekend  
October 6 Camp Mack Festival  
October 13-14 Father Son Weekend  
October 17-21 Quilt Retreat  
October 18-21 Scrapbooking Retreat  
October 20 Scrapbooking, Knitting and Crocheting,  
Beginner Quilting Get-a-Way Days  
October 21 Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk  
October 22-25 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat  
October 27 Children's Drum Building Get-a-Way Day  
October 27 Pumpkin Carving Get-a-Way Day

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for:  
The Camp Staff & Indiana Camp Board



## DISTRICT CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

- 131 in attendance
- 34 congregations represented
- \$905 morning offering for Brethren Leadership Institute
- 18 desserts donated for auction
- \$1600 raised in Dessert Auction
- \$260 highest price for dessert item (fruit kuchen, p. 6, Inglenook Desserts) (thank you, Beth Baker, for photo)
- 126 emergency clean-up buckets and 8 hygiene kits delivered to Church World Service
- \$684.80 given for additional buckets and processing costs
- uncounted cancelled stamps brought to be sold for Compañeros en Ministerio



## SLATE AND APPOINTMENTS

- Moderator-Elect: Spencer Spaulding, Anderson
- District Board
  - North Section: Diana Bucher, Manchester
  - East Section: Alyssa Fortriede, Union Grove
- Standing Committee: Kurt Borgmann, Manchester
- Indiana Camp Board:
  - Steve Egolf, Northview
  - Jim Shively, Manchester
- Ind. Youth Camp Council: Garrett Tomson, Living Faith
- Ministry Interview Committee:
  - West Section: Steve Crain, Lafayette
  - Central Section: Martha Cory, Kokomo
- Nominating and Personnel Committee:
  - East Section: Barb Wood, Huntington
  - Central Section: Laurie Kieffaber-Cornett, Wabash
  - West Section: Geraldine Lantz, Pike Creek
- Program and Arrangements Committee:
  - North Section: Theresa Sites, Liberty Mills
- Historical Committee:
  - Kevin Whitmore, Buck Creek
  - Bonnie Haughn, Wabash

## DESSERT AUCTION PROCEEDS

Moderator Cindy Dunk invited delegates to discuss where they would like the proceeds from the dessert auction to go. Each table was asked to agree on one thing; then all suggestions were put in a basket, from which Cindy drew one. The “winners” were Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Global Mission and Service Office (evidently that table couldn’t agree on just one!). Checks for \$800 are being sent to each of those entities; thank you all for your generosity in bidding!

## VIDEO AVAILABLE

Copies of Congregations in Mission, the video prepared by David Sollenberger (with help from many of you), are available from the district office. It can also be accessed at <https://youtu.be/oJtG1g-j75Y> (there is a link on the district website’s home page). Many thanks to Dave for driving all over the district and doing a great job of editing to produce this inspiring video.



Many thanks to all those whose efforts contributed to District Conference. We are especially grateful to the Grandview Church of the Brethren for the hours put into set-up, cooking, and welcoming hospitality, particularly Gerry Longenbaugh for the vision of hosting; Kathy Young, on-site coordinator; Phil Stewart, AV coordinator; Gwen Strouth, child care; and all those who prepared lunch.

Huge thanks also to Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren for getting up early Saturday morning to provide a delicious breakfast.

And thank you to Timbercrest for cookies, to One World Handcrafts for coffee, and to Mary Berkebile for gathering music.

And then there’s Erin Huiras, who once again entertained us all with his auctioneering skill.

## ACTION ALERT

### Tell Congress: Protect Aid to Palestinian Refugees

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 the U.S. announced it would be withholding \$65 million from a \$125 million scheduled payment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the sole UN agency working with Palestinian refugees. Since its inception, the US has been a strong financial supporter of UNRWA, giving over \$350 million dollars in support in 2017. This announcement followed a recent decision made by the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Central Council to consider the Oslo Peace Accord no longer valid and their intention to suspend their recognition of the state of Israel. Even prior to this decision, the U.S. Administration threatened to cut US aid to the Palestinian people.



The Church of the Brethren has urged the U.S. government to seek a "just solution and compensation for those persons uprooted by the conflict," and in 2006, the church recommitted itself "to follow the teachings of Jesus that prompt our loving response to the poor and hungry." As a member organization of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), the Church of the Brethren has advocated for a just solution for those impacted by conflict in Israel-Palestine. Providing education, healthcare and other humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees is one way that we can live out this call to seek justice and take care of the marginalized.

Humanitarian aid matters, and we urge Congress to oppose the withdrawal of U.S. humanitarian support from the Palestinians.

UNRWA offers medical, humanitarian, and educational support to over five million Palestinian refugees, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. In Gaza, UNRWA provides emergency food support to one million residents. As the primary financial supporter of UNRWA, the decision to significantly cut off aid will have an immediate and profound impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable Palestinians. Already, UNRWA has been forced to lay off over 100 employees, including teachers and other aid workers in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Jordan.

Cuts to aid to Palestinian refugees also threatens to destabilize the region and further foment violence. UNRWA General Commissioner Pierre Krahenbuhl writes, "The reduced contribution also impacts regional security at a time when the Middle East faces multiple risks and threats, notably that of further radicalization."

Call Congress today! Every Palestinian refugee deserves access to education, medical treatment, and emergency support. Tell Congress cutting humanitarian aid will not bring us closer to just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

You can find your Senators here, and your Representative here.

Sample phone script:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_. As a person of faith, I believe strongly in providing humanitarian aid for refugees. I am very concerned about the withholding of money from United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the sole U.N. agency providing aid to Palestinian refugees. Every Palestinian refugee deserves access to education, medical treatment, and emergency support. I urge you to speak out against this cut in funding, and to work towards a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

This action alert was adapted from a Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) action alert. CMEP is a long-term partner of the Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy. You can learn more about their work here.