

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



Here's what I'm thinking...

**January
2018**

At the start of this new year I turned to an old favorite. It is a book by a favorite devotional writer, Joyce Rupp, titled *Fresh Bread; And Other Gifts Of Spiritual Nourishment*. She includes a chapter for each month of the year. Within each monthly chapter she shares reflections, lists short scripture references related to her thoughts, and also includes original prayers and poetry. After many years I was drawn back to this book and as I began reading the chapter for January, it was like a gift hiding in my closet that I had forgotten to unwrap. Her January chapter is about the freshness and the sometimes-unsettling unknown of new beginnings. It is about the glancing back and then moving forward into the invitation to that freshness—God's "Happy New Year!" In John 5:19-30, Jesus speaks of the God who is the "source of new life." It struck me as particularly relevant in my life and the life of our church this year.

So here's what I'm thinking...As we move into this new year and all the changes it may bring into our personal and our church lives let us listen for God's call to new beginnings. Let us stay alert so that we may see and hear and follow that call to freshness and believe in God's presence with us. I want to share Joyce Rupp's January poem; *Welcoming A New Year*.

a new year stands on my doorstep
ready to enter my life's journey.

something in me welcomes this visitor:
the hope of bountiful blessings
the joy of a new beginning
the freshness of unclaimed surprises

something in me rebuffs this visitor:
the swiftness of the coming
the boldness of the entrance
the challenge of a year's good-bye

something in me fears this visitor:
the unnamed events of future days
the wisdom needed to walk love well
the demands of giving away and growing

a new year stands in my doorstep.
with fragile caution I move
to open the door for its entrance.
my heart leaps with surprise,
joy jumps in my eyes,
for there beside this brand-new year
stands my God with outstretched hand!
He smiles at me and gently asks of me:
can we walk this year together?

and I, so overwhelmed with goodness,
can barely whisper my reply:

welcome in!

May your new year be blessed with hope in God's love.

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

Worship Schedule for January 2018

January 7 Seeing: a call
Scripture Matthew 2:1-12, Mark 1:4-11
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Today's scripture readings are more than a celebration of travelers and prophets bringing tribute Jesus—they are a promise of light to those who live in darkness. On Epiphany we celebrate God's love for all—especially those who are most in need of God's light and love. How do we put limits on God's love?

January 14 Hearing: a call
Scripture 1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

God calls us in so many ways. God called young Samuel before he was old enough to understand who was calling him. Jesus called Philip, who called Nathanael. How have we experienced a call in our lives?

January 21 Following: a call
Scripture Jonah 3:1-5, Mark 1:14-20
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

In the story of the three fishermen, they immediately drop their nets as soon as Jesus speaks, leaving everything to follow him into a future they don't know. But Jonah, on the other hand, is perhaps Israel's most resistant prophet. Which do you identify with?

January 28
Scripture
Message Laura Stone

THANK YOU!!

I have used my Message Bible well in the last 12 years and it shows in the wear and tear it now displays. I really appreciate the beautiful new edition that the congregation gifted me with this Christmas. It is almost too lovely to use. The gift cards are also very thoughtful gifts that encourage me to take advantage of the great culinary opportunities in Wabash. Mostly, I am grateful for the love and support that these gifts represent. I am really blessed to serve with you.

Pastor Kay



January Special Offering—

SCN Goals :

- To offer support, resources and opportunities for dialogue among congregations which welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual members;
- To encourage meaningful dialogue at the denominational level;
- To offer support and resources for individuals who are working toward welcome.



From the Kokomo CoB

Pastor Mark invites you to join him on a one day mission trip to Goshen, Indiana where we will join other believers on Mennonite Central Committee's mobile cannery to can meat to provide food for relief in the name of Christ. Let Pastor Mark know if you plan to go. We will meet at the church at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Bring a butcher knife (to cut up turkeys), hat, boots, and warm clothing.

Congregational Profile Surveys

The Search Committee kindly asks that you complete and return your Profile survey no later than Sunday January 7th. Paper copies can be left at the church office; electronic copies need to be completely filled out to be able to submit them.



Important Notice

Please come and join us on Sunday January 7th after service, even if this is your first time. The main course will be provided as well as drinks. Please bring a salad or desert to share. Secret Sisters for this past year will be revealed and new ones drawn for 2018. A short business meeting will follow our lunch. Snow Date January 14, after service.



Thank you! It has always been my pleasure to serve the church through the position of secretary in the office. I appreciate so much your kindness and generosity toward me and my family! I could not have asked for a better church family!



CAMP MACK

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Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:
March 3 Team Leader Training

Camp Rep Meeting

Jan 13—Talking about summer camp and all the programs that happen at Camp Mack throughout the year starts now. We want all camp reps to attend the camp rep meeting on Saturday, January 13, 2018. When you attend, you will have brunch provided for you, you get all the print resources, camp staff will let you know about any important changes, and most important, you get to network with other camp reps to see what special things they are doing within their churches.

Quilt Retreat

Feb 15—18—This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. February 15-18, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$123 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, and \$167 for Thursday evening early arrival.

Scrapbooking Retreat

Feb 22—25—Crop until you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. February 22-25, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$117 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$131 for Friday morning arrival, and \$146 for Thursday evening early arrival.

Annual Dinner

March 9—This is our annual fundraiser dinner to provide support for special projects and operations support. Fee is donation of \$35 per person, \$300 for a table of six or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted. Please contact our office for registrations. Friday, March 9. Appetizers begin at 6:15p. Dinner begins at 7p.

FLYE Weekend

March 9—FLYE weekends (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. FLYE participants will help serve our Annual Dinner this year. These weekends will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor in Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. The first FLYE weekend is Friday–Saturday, March 9–10. Ages: 14–17. Cost: \$25.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance.

February 11—Eagle Watch

Eagle Watch is a program put on by the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. We will meet at camp and then travel to the Salamonie Nature Center for a brief program on Bald eagle restoration in Indiana. From there, we will caravan to popular eagle locations in the area before ending up at the roost site. Dress for the weather. The colder the weather, the better the Bald eagle viewing. Sunday 1p–10p. Cost: \$20 (Includes travel and snacks)

February 24—Scrapbooking

Join the Camp Mack scrapbooking crew for a day of preserving memories. Work on the book you need to finish, catch up on your journaling, scrap a page or two, gain inspiration from the projects surrounding you, and find treasures at the swap table.

Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)

February 24—Board Games

Winter is the perfect time to light up the fireplace, gather up snacks, pull up a table, and bring out your favorite board games of yesteryear and today. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)

Action Alert on Drone Warfare from the Office of Public Witness

Drone strikes by the United States consistently violate the basic human rights of people in targeted regions of the world. Using “signature strikes,” the military kills human beings without a trial--not because they are known threats, but because they fit the profile of someone who may be a threat. Civilians often are killed in the strikes, and the strikes erode the trust between the US and affected populations.

Call your senators and representatives and tell them to end the CIA’s authority to carry out drone strikes.

Sample script: Hello. My name is _____, and I am a constituent from _____. As a person of faith, I believe in the dignity of each human life. The CIA’s drone program lacks transparency, and results in an unacceptable level of civilian deaths. Please work to end the CIA's authority to carry out drone strikes.

You can look up your legislators here: www.brethren.org/publicwitness/legislator-lookup.html

Conversations about Biblical Authority

April 23-25, 2018 at Hueston Woods (College Corner, Ohio)

Sponsored by the Districts of Illinois and Wisconsin, Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio, and South/Central Indiana

Leadership provided by these persons:

Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching; Luther Seminary

Rev. Jason Barnhart, Executive Director Religious Life; Ashland University

Ted Swartz of Ted & Co. performing “The Big Story”

Dan Ulrich, Bethany Theological Seminary

Denise Kettering Lane, Bethany Theological Seminary



January 3—all month—Eulogies of Unrest: Works by Eric Carlson and Justin Johnson

February 1—7pm—50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Location: Cordier Auditorium

February 15th—11am—Blood Drive. Location: Jo Young Switzer Center

February 15th—7pm—Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance. Location: Cordier Auditorium. MU will celebrate the lives of great African—American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay in a unique chamber music theatre work.

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).

Common Prayer Room

They have moved! Their new address is 78 W Hill Street, across from the Court House in the old Life Center building. Opening date and hours of operation will be announced soon.

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.

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES 2018 DATES

January 13-20, 2018 - BDM workcamp in Puerto Rico. Irma damage. Contact Terry Goodger, 410-635-8730

January 21-27 - S/C Indiana needs 7 volunteers to Eureka, Missouri, again (with IL/WI District)

March 11 - S/C Indiana needs 15 volunteers to Eureka, Missouri, again.

April 23 - May 3 - Disaster Project Leader Training for new BDM leaders, Marion County, SC - are you interested?

Any interest in workcamps to Florida, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands? Skilled mason may be needed for three months in Virgin Islands. Contact Cliff soon at kindy@cpt.org.

September 9-15 - fifteen volunteers needed from S/C Indiana for undesignated location

November 25-December 1 - 7-8 volunteers needed from S/C IN, undesignated location (joint with IL/WI District)

Enough spaces for everyone to go! Let's spread some Good News Joy!

Please continue to remember needs for money contributions through the S/C IN COB District Office for BDM transportation costs, ongoing growth of Children's Disaster Services with regular trainings for volunteers and prayers combined with financial support for EYN members and their return home from displacement and trauma brought by Boko Haram and related violence.

Blessings of peace to you! Cliff Kindy, phone: 260-982-2971

Clergy Tax Seminar Saturday, January 27, 2018 10 am - 4 pm

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to attend either in person at Bethany Theological Seminary or online.

- Learn how to file clergy taxes correctly and legally.
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- Earn 0.3 CEUs.

The sessions will cover tax law for clergy, changes for 2017 (the most current tax year to file), and detailed assistance as to how to correctly file the various forms and schedules that pertain to clergy, including housing allowances, self-employment, W-2s clergy reductions, etc.

It 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.

Find more details and register at this link: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What will I be doing at NYC?

Everyday at NYC there are 2 worship services, workshops, recreation time, service projects, hiking, small groups, late night activities and so much more! It will be a week jam packed of fun, fellowship and making new friends!

Who will my roommate be?

You will get to put down who you would like to room with and we do our best to match preferences.

Who will be in my small group?

You will be placed in a small group with youth from all over the country. Small groups can be the place where you make new friends and meet new people!

Do we have to sign up for workshops before we get to NYC?

You will get to choose what workshop you want to attend when you arrive to campus, and you don't sign up for workshops you just attend.

Is there an extra cost to go hiking and do service projects?

No, these memorable parts of NYC are free! When you register you will choose if you want to go hiking and participate in a service project.

What should I pack for NYC?

Bed linens, pillows, a blanket and shower towels will be provided in the dorms. You should pack sunscreen, a Bible, journal and pen, modest comfortable clothes and shoes, toiletries, camera, a reusable water bottle, money and items for offerings, a homemade pillow for worship, and a jacket or sweatshirt.

