

# WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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March 2020

## Special Programming

### Holy Lands Trip

On March 8th, Murray C. will do a presentation on his trip to Israel last year. We will have a pitch-in lunch, and then enjoy the presentation. Please bring a dish to share and your questions!

*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.*



Catching up with the Youth January 5, 2020—Question and Answer Panel



Maya B., Cohen M., Ben R., Aidan B., Zak R., and Alyssa M.

## In This Issue

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

## By the numbers

The Compelling Vision was discerned in a series of conversations, at Annual Conference 2018, in districts and with various constituency groups, and at Annual Conference 2019. Thousands of people participated in these conversations.

Almost **800** people participated in the initial conversations at Annual Conference 2018, responding to **7** questions.



Almost **2600** people participated in the conversations that took place in districts, responding to **8** questions.



Almost **1800** youth and advisors participated in conversations at National Youth Conference 2018, responding to **3** questions.

Around **30** young adults participated in conversations at the 2018 National Young Adult Conference, responding to the same questions as youth at NYC.

**225 non-delegates**  
**675 delegates**  
**900** people participated in conversations at Annual Conference 2019, resulting in **750-1300** responses to each of the questions we asked. (Yes, that means 14,000-24,000 responses!) **19**



Around **30** youth participated in conversations at Annual Conference 2019, responding to **4** of the same questions those in the business session were responding to.

**200-300**

more people participated in conversations with various leadership groups, responding to a varying number of questions. (The Council of District Executives and the Mission and Ministry board and staff engaged in lengthier discussions than the other agency boards and staff.)

Photos by Glenn Riegel

# Church of the Brethren Compelling Vision

## Pastor Doug Veal

Since the 2017 Annual Conference, our denomination has been engaged in a process to discern a new, compelling vision for our life together as a denomination. This process has included conversations at the district level, and throughout last year's annual conference. The compelling vision process was begun as an attempt to find a way to continue our work together as a denomination, while recognizing the diversity that we bring to the table.

In February of this year, the Compelling Vision team published the following vision statement as the culmination of this process:

"Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless." Also released with the vision statement was what I would refer to as a tagline: "Jesus in the Neighborhood."

In the release of this information, the Church of the Brethren Newsline included this important reminder: "A vision statement is not intended to be a statement of belief, nor is it intended to address any particular issue, nor is it intended to reflect specific plans for a particular project. Rather it is a statement about how we are called to embody our beliefs as the people of God, it is about inspiring and shaping our ministry and mission as the body of Christ in these times."

At this year's Annual Conference, continued discussion of this proposed vision statement will be held, and a consensus decision about adopting it will be held. I will be sharing more in the coming weeks and months about this proposed vision statement.

If you would like to learn more, you may visit the following website: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision.html>. There, you will find an explanatory document, as well as some questions to ponder about this proposed vision statement. I am also available to discuss this proposal with anyone who would like further information. I invite all of us to read, reflect, and pray upon this proposed denomination vision statement as we journey towards Annual Conference in July.

In Christ, *Pastor Doug*

## Women's Fellowship

Women fellowship two events coming up!

**MARCH 14**

Breakfast at the church followed by work on GG items on the stage.

**APRIL 18**

Piano concert at the Honeywell Center



## 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 Doug V. to find out how your unique gifts can be of service.

March	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
1	Pastor Doug: Jesus' Temptations	Karen O.	Mikayla G.		Larry J. Chloe B.	Laurie KC	Bonnie H.
8	Pastor Doug Transfigurations?		Mikayla G.		Larry J. Chloe B.	Laurie KC	Bonnie H.
15	Pastor Dough: Love, Jesus, A Woman, and Living Water	Carol H.	Stan M.		Larry J. Chloe B.	Laurie KC	Bonnie H.
22	Pastor Doug: God's Way of Seeing	Laurie KC	Stan M.		Larry J. Chloe B.	Carol H.	Bonnie H.
29	Laura Stone	Leroy S.			Larry J. Chloe B.		Laurie KC

## Reading through the Bible in a year: Daily readings for March

1 Mark 5-6	9 1 Cor. 13-14	17 Exodus 9-12	25 2 Samuel 1-4
2 1 Cor. 11-12	10 Exodus 5-8	18 1 Samuel 26-31	26 Psalms 48-50
3 Exodus 1-4	11 1 Samuel 21-25	19 Psalms 45-47	27 Job 33-34
4 Samuel 16-20	12 Psalms 42-44	20 Job 31-32	28 Jeremiah 22-16
5 Psalms 39-41	13 Job 29-30	21 Jeremiah 17-21	29 Mark 13-14
6 Job 27-28	14 Jeremiah 12-16	22 Mark 11-12	30 2 2 Cor 4-5
7 Jeremiah 7-11	15 Mark 9-10	23 2 Cor. 1-3	
8 Mark 7-8	16 1 Cor. 15-16	24 Exodus 13-16	



## 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.

# Foundational Scripture Project

## Update

On January 26, we began a Foundational Scripture Project during worship. Pastor Doug would like to express his thanks for everyone's participation and responses to this new initiative. We received a good number of responses, which have been reviewed, and the following list of 12 scripture passages have been selected as our Foundational Scriptures. There were many other scriptures that came up, and Pastor Doug will be holding on to the lists as possibilities for future sermon use. Several of the scripture passages show multiple references, this is because the stories show up multiple times in the Gospels. These will form the basis of a sermon series beginning in May, and will hopefully encourage us to reflect on our faith, and begin to dream towards the future.

1. Genesis 37:1-11
2. Psalm 23
3. Matthew 6:5-13
4. Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:1-14
5. Matthew 22:37-40
6. Luke 10:25-37
7. John 3:1-17
8. Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20
9. Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-25, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:1-20
10. Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:16-37
11. Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18
12. 1 Corinthians 13

Joseph and the coat of many colors  
The Lord is my Shepherd  
The Lord's Prayer  
Feeding of the 5000  
The Greatest Commandment  
The Good Samaritan  
For God so Loved the World  
The Birth of Jesus  
The Last Supper  
The Death of Jesus  
The Resurrection of Jesus  
The Gift of Love



## Witness Commission

### Local Outreach

We are seeking volunteers to help work in the food pantry. We would like to offer more open hours. We would also like to have a sub list for those who are working and have things come up during their time slot. If someone would like to work evenings, we feel that needs 2 people for safety purposes.

### HOST House Update

The HOST House on Hill Street is being converted to house homeless on a temporary basis.

They need folks to work in the basement tearing out furnace equipment, and then tearing down a back shed. They also need folks to provide food for the volunteers and this could include a crockpot of soup, sandwiches, muffins etc. If you are able to assist, please call Dale Bliss, director of Advantage Housing at 765-271-2435.

## Special Offering

### SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Big Thank You to everyone for their participation in Souper Bowl food collection. Unless things changed the last week of February, The Boxers won with 170 items. Canners came in at 130. Last count on the money was \$470! Way to go everyone!

## 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



## Advisory Board Meeting

Advisory Board meeting is Wednesday March 25th at 6pm.

We also have a meal to share. If you have been curious how the program works, or would like to get involved, then please come and see.



Ben at Camp, 2016

## Camp Mack Corner

### Upcoming Opportunities at Camp:

- March 7 Team Leader Training
- March 9–11 Volunteer Work Days
- March 14–15 Mother Daughter Retreat
- March 20 Annual Dinner (Save the date!)
- March 20–21 FLYE Weekend

March 28—Woodcarving Learn to whittle a little caricature (person) and a face (wood spirit). Saturday 10a–3p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)

## Ted Swartz & Ken Medema

### March 14, 2020 at 7pm

S/C Indiana COB District Board has recommended that 2020 be designated the “Year of Heifer” within the district. Raising funds for Heifer International will be this year’s district-wide service project, comparable to past years’ collection of clean-up buckets and hygiene kits. Offerings collected at the following district events will all be donated to Heifer International: Ken Medema & Ted Swartz Event - March 14.

The goal is to raise enough funds to provide for 3 Heifer Gift Arks (\$5000 each) - a total of \$15,000! “A Gift Ark donation includes two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more.” Donations may be contributed during offerings at the designated district events or be mailed to the district office (604 N. Mill St., N. Manchester, IN 46962) any time during the year with “2020-Heifer” in the memo line.

## This is Our Prayer

**“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (Camp Mack 2020 Summer Curriculum Theme)**



Here are highlights of upcoming events and registration information for Camp Alexander Mack. You can also get information by going to [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org), [www.facebook.com/CampMack](https://www.facebook.com/CampMack), look on the church bulletin board, call 574-658-4831, or contact Carol or Dennis Horn. If you are writing to someone at camp or sending donations, the legal address of the camp is PO Box 158, Milford, IN 46542. Mail that is sent to the Camp Mack road address won't get delivered.

P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831

Fax: 574-658-4765

Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

Much of the registration is taking place online now, so we are in a new era. Our church will still pay **half of the “before March 15 registration fee”**. Be in touch with Dennis and Carol Horn about details of your family’s portion of the fee and about scholarships/camperships, if needed. Each child in the family, after the first one registered, receives a \$10 discount. Be in touch about registration, whether hard copy or online. Our church code is **6WAB1**, so please use that when registering. This will assure that 50% of the fee will be paid by the church.

**Volunteer Work Days** are March 9, 11 and 19

### **2020 Get-A-Way Events (See the brochure or website for more information.)**

Wood carving on March 28 at Camp Mack

Basic Car Maintenance on April 18 at Camp Mack

Target Sports on April 25 at Camp Mack

Sailing 101 on August 15 at Camp Mack

Cold Process Soap Making on Sept. 12

Knitting & Crocheting on October 17

Fall Nut and Tree Identification Walk on October 18

Sandhill Cranes to Jasper-Polaski on Nov. 21

Christmas Cookies on Dec. 5 at Camp Mack

Pies and Puff Pastries on April 18 at Camp Mack

Wildflower Walk on April 26 at Camp mac

Sailing 201 on August 22 at Lake Michigan

Write Your Story on Sept. 12

Scrapbooking on October 17

Children’s Drum Building on October 24 at Camp

Wreaths and Swags on Dec. 5 at Camp Mack

### **Volunteers**

**Camp Mack is always in great need of volunteer counselors for camps. The Team Leader meeting is March 3, 2020.**

**The Counselors In Training (CIT) session for ages 15 through 18 and the adult Counselor training is May 8-9. The**

**Fun Leadership Youth Events (FLYE) on March 20-21 and October 3-4 for ages 14-17 prepare youth for leadership.**

Volunteers are also needed to get the property ready for camp. Volunteer work camps are: March 9-11, April 6-8, and Oct. 26-28, 2020. Volunteering for even a few hours is also possible. Besides counselors, volunteers are needed in the summer and year-round. Needs include help with food service, facilities and office.

### **General Camp Information for Registration Opening on January 22, 2020**

**There is an early registration discount which means registering and payment submitted by the family/church BEFORE March 15, 2020. We plan to collect all necessary forms and money before that day.** You CAN certainly register for camps after this date, but you would need to pay the late fee.

On-line registration for summer camps and all retreats can follow this process below as one alternative. (Paper registration can still be used and you would give these forms to Carol & Dennis **by Sunday, March 15.**)

1. Go to [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) and click on Register Online. Create a username and password only if you have not registered before. choose the camp(s) you wish to attend. Our **church code is 6WAB1**, so please use that when registering. This will invoice the church for 50% of the camper fee.
2. Follow the steps to register and pay your portion online.

Are there community children/youth we need to send, as well as our own children and youth?

See the Events, Retreats, & Summer Camps booklet for lots of opportunities to attend and assist!

## District Prayer List

March 1—Please pray with us for Burnettsville CoB and the Northern Plains District congregations and staff.

March 8—Please pray with us for the Christ our Shepherd CoB and the Northern Ohio District congregations and staff.

March 15—Please pray with us for the Eel River Community Church and the Southern Ohio District congregations and staff.

March 22—Please pray with us for the Four Mile CoB and the Pacific Northwest District congregations and staff.

## Brethren Leadership Institute

### Upcoming Classes

Old Testament Survey Instructor: Robert Bowman  
Dates: March 7 & 21, April 4, 2020 Location: Marion COB, 2302 S Geneva Ave., Marion, IN Please pre-register by Feb 27, 2020 to avoid \$25 late fee

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>.



## VBS Spring Break Workcamp

### March 3-8 and March 7-12

For the first time, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is offering spring break service trips for college students. Over the weekend in between the two weeks, participants will join together to explore Boston and learn more about the city's rich history. The United Parish of Brookline will host both groups.

All college students are welcome. Cost is \$385 (transportation not included). Registration opens Dec. 4. Visit [www.brethren.org/workcamps](http://www.brethren.org/workcamps) for more information. For questions contact Hannah Shultz at [hshultz@brethren.org](mailto:hshultz@brethren.org) or 847-429-4337.

Join BVS in Massachusetts as we explore what it means to be a just and compassionate global citizen in one of the nation's oldest cities!

Brethren Volunteer Service

## SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIP

### BOSTON, MA

Dates: March 3-8, 2020 **OR**  
March 7-12, 2020

Cost: \$385 (Transportation not included)

Housing: United Parish of Brookline



### SERVE

at food banks and soup kitchens

### EXPLORE

what it means to be a just and compassionate global citizen



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HANNAH SHULTZ WITH BVS  
([HSHULTZ@BRETHREN.ORG](mailto:HSHULTZ@BRETHREN.ORG))  
REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 4, 2019 [WWW.BRETHREN.ORG/WORKCAMPS](http://WWW.BRETHREN.ORG/WORKCAMPS)

## “Come & See” Solidarity Tour:

### Palestine & Israel July 19-31, 2020

Join Dr. Michael Spath on his 15th tour of Palestine and Israel, meeting with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious, political, and NGO leaders, as well as visiting the holy sites of the three Abrahamic religions.



### Sites:

**Bethlehem** – Nativity Church, Manger Square

**Jerusalem** – Holy Sepulchre; ‘Wailing’ Wall; Mount of Olives; Al Aqsa Mosque & Dome of the Rock, Garden of Gethsemane Optional: Yad Vashem

**Judean Desert** – Jericho; Qumran; Dead Sea; Jordan River

**Galilee** – Annunciation Basilica, Capernaum; Tabgha; Mount of Beatitudes; ‘Jesus Boat’

**Ramallah** – Nelson Mandela Square

**Hebron** – Ibrahim Mosque; Old City; Shuhada Street “ghost town”

### Land Cost of Tour Package:

The cost of our tour decreases as we add more!

15+ travelers: \$2445 10-14 travelers: \$2895 9 travelers: \$3195 8 travelers: \$3395

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Average of 2 meals daily
- Hotel - double occupancy
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees to listed sites
- Guide - Jericho & Qumran, Hebron, Al-Aqsa
- All tips and gratuities

Please contact Dr. Michael Spath [Lmichaelspath@gmail.com](mailto:Lmichaelspath@gmail.com) or 260-515-9300

## Patience, persistence, and peacemaking

### By Nathan Hosler, director of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

We live in a time of great urgency. Turmoil grips our communities and the communities of our sisters and brothers around the world. This isn't news nor is it new. However, the persistence of injustice is not a reason to despair but to recognize that our calling to be peacemakers is all the more essential.

I grew up in Chiques Church of the Brethren in Manheim, Pa., and my grandfather and his brothers were conscientious objectors. I grew up believing that to follow Jesus meant serving others and being against war. In college, as my vocational call to ministry took shape, I realized that, even beyond opposing war, I needed to work for peace. Through experiences of tutoring Somali refugees in English and building relationships with homeless people on the streets of Chicago and Baltimore, I learned about systemic violence and racism. Through this education, the call to peacemaking began to sprout.

In Washington, D.C., “peacemaking” is an odd word. Even for organizations whose work would be considered peacemaking, the term is unusual.

“Peacebuilding” is much more common, and while I use the terms interchangeably, peacemaking comes from the biblical text, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).



Nathan Hosler, front right, talking with community leaders on delegation with Churches for Middle East Peace in Iraqi Kurdistan.

*Photo by Weldon Nisly of Christian Peacemaker Teams*



## 85 Hope

85 Hope is in need of the following items (box on back table):

- Laundry pods (we will split large containers into baggies)
- Dish soap (small)
- Toilet paper & Kleenexes
- Stamps

## Patience, persistence, and peacemaking

In Luke's gospel, the prophecy of Zechariah proclaims the coming of Christ our savior and how we will continue his mission: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).

Guide our feet into the way of peace. We know that the awaited Jesus became the teacher who declared that peacemakers are the children of God and said, "Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). This Lord guides our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of Christ cannot be forced. We



## Workcamps

### Registration starts January 16, 2020

Theme: Voices for Peace Theme Scripture: Romans 15:1-6 (The Message) Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir - not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

### Jr. High - completed 6th - 8th grade

June 7-11 Rodney, MI - Camp Brethren Heights  
June 14-18 Harrisburg, PA  
June 27-July 1 Philadelphia, PA  
July 8 -12 Brooklyn, NY  
July 22-26 Roanoke, VA  
July 29-August 2 South Bend, IN

### Sr. High - completed 9th grade - age 19

June 7 -13 Miami, FL  
June 14-20 Boston, MA  
June 20-28 BFR- Haiti  
June 20-26 Cle Elum, WA - Camp Koinonia  
July 5 -11 Kalamazoo, MI  
July 12 -18 Palmyra, PA  
July 12-18 Waco, TX - Family Abuse Center  
July 19-25 Santa Ana - California  
July 26 - August 1 Knoxville, TN  
August 3-9 Littleton, CO

### Intergenerational - completed 6th grade & older

July 6-10 Keezletown, VA - Brethren Woods Camp & Retreat Center

### Adult - ages 18+

May 28-June 8 Rwanda  
June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able Companions

### We Are Able - ages 16-30

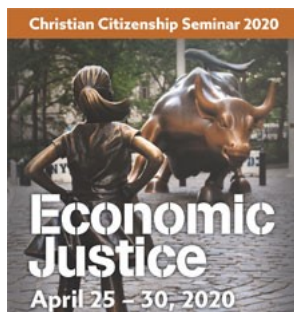
June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able

# Christian Citizenship Seminar

April 25—30, 2020

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

This year's Christian Citizenship Seminar will focus on pursuing economic justice.



## Who is eligible to attend?

All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Churches are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend. Churches are required to send one advisor for every four youth.

Registration is limited to the first 60 participants. Registration opens 12/2 at 10 a.m. central time.

## What is the cost?

The \$450 registration fee includes:

- Event programming
  - Lodging for five nights
  - 2 dinner meals, one in New York City and one in Washington D.C.
- Transportation from New York to Washington D.C.

Note: Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares.

## What if I have questions?

If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at [nmcbride@brethren.org](mailto:nmcbride@brethren.org) or 847-429-4385.

# HAWC Meeting

March 18th 2pm

If you are interested in what we can all do to help homelessness in Wabash County, then this is for you. The Housing Action of Wabash County meets monthly to discuss ways that we can not only support those who are homeless or nearing eviction, but also the landlords who provide the homes. This coalition is comprised of: local government officials, missions, churches, and other assistance agencies.



# National Young Adult Conference

May 22-25, 2020

Montreat Conference Center, Montreat,  
North Carolina

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information, go to: <http://www.brethren.org/yac/> Questions? Contact Nolan McBride, [nmcbride@brethren.org](mailto:nmcbride@brethren.org), 847-429-4376.

Patience, persistence, and peacemaking

cannot impose a peace that is both global and personal, of inward reconciliation and outward wellbeing, and that brings reconciliation with God and neighbor and even our enemy. We cannot—nor should we try to—force peace. We bear witness to it and proclaim it. We must struggle for it and dedicate ourselves to it. While peace is a gift of God, it is also a process built.

In *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*, Mennonite Alan Kreider writes of the prominent role of patience in the writing and thinking of the early church. Specifically, he asks why is it that, with no documented focus on church expansion, the church grew in remarkable ways. He highlights the virtue of

God is in control, and a recurring theme of bearing witness through

## Patience, persistence, and peacemaking

how one lives. Patience makes way for the freedom to do the slow work of peacemaking and not force an outcome.

This work is slow. Preaching the gospel of peace in a war-torn world is difficult. It is only through patience that we may persist in the slow and difficult work of nonviolent resistance to all oppression, injustice, and violence. We cannot impose peace but it is urgent that we work for it, train for it, prepare our youth for it, and build up institutions and organizations that add heft to our words.

Thank you for the ways you proclaim the gospel of peace and for your support of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy. Though we live in a time of great urgency and the work before us is slow, the Lord is faithful and will surely guide our feet into the way of peace.

# Annual Conference Moderator's Forum

## "Historical Themes Impacting Today's Church"

Saturday, April 18, 2020, 1 - 9 p.m. Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College

From Newsline: "The forum will feature leading Brethren historians who will address a variety of historical themes affecting present-day congregations, districts, and national structures. Particular attention will be given to Brethren history and themes relevant to the current reality of Brethren communions, with special emphasis on the Church of the Brethren. Themes to be addressed include accountability, compelling vision, division, forbearance, and nationalism." The forum is open to both clergy and laity. Registration cost, which includes dinner, is \$30. This event also will be available via live stream for a registration fee of \$15. Those attending the entire event may earn 0.6 continuing education units for an additional cost of \$10. The evening worship, beginning with hymn singing at 7 p.m., is open to the public without cost or registration and will be held in the Gibble Auditorium at Elizabethtown College. To register or for a brochure go to: [tinyurl.com/modforum2020](http://tinyurl.com/modforum2020)

## Annual Conference Speakers Announced

### Dr. Tod Bolsinger and Dr. Michael Gorman

ELGIN, IL – Dr. Tod Bolsinger and Dr. Michael J. Gorman, two nationally acclaimed church leaders, will be featured resource persons at the 2020 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference to be held July 1-5, 2020, at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Bolsinger will be the featured speaker at an all-conference equipping session on Friday, July 3, where he will address "Doing Church in Uncharted Territory." On Thursday, July 2, he will speak at the Moderator's Dinner on the topic of "Adventure or Die" and lead an insight session themed "Standing the Heat, Surviving the Sabotage." He will also speak at a breakfast event Friday morning, July 3, on "The Fire and the Anvil." Dr. Gorman will resource the Church of the Brethren Minister's Association pre-conference on June 30 and July 1. His focus will be "1 Corinthians: Challenges for Today's Church." He will also serve as Bible study leader each morning for the entire Annual Conference on selected passages from the book of Revelation. In addition, Dr. Gorman will lead an insight session on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings on the topic "Reading the Bible Missionally." On Saturday, he will speak at a luncheon on the theme "Non-Violence in the Writings of Paul." Dr. Tod Bolsinger serves as Vice President and Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Previously, he served the seminary as Vice President of Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. Holding both a PhD in Theology and Master of Divinity from Fuller, Dr. Bolsinger also serves as an executive coach for corporate, nonprofit, educational, and church organizations in transformational leadership. He has authored three books, including his most recent, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. For seventeen years, he was the senior pastor of San Clemente Presbyterian Church in San Clemente, California, after serving for ten years at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Dr. Bolsinger and his wife Beth have two children. Dr. Michael J. Gorman holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland. He has taught at St. Mary's since 1991, as well as serving as the Dean of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute from 1995 to 2012. Dr. Gorman is the author of nearly twenty books and scores of articles, including several books on Paul; books on Revelation, the Gospel of John, and the atonement; volumes on biblical interpretation; and short books on topics in Christian ethics. Dr. Gorman received his B.A. in French from Gordon College and his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he taught Greek. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and an elected member of the Society for New Testament Studies. A United Methodist layperson, Dr. Gorman is a frequent lecturer at churches, institutions of higher education, and clergy gatherings of many traditions in the U.S. and abroad. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Nancy, and they have three adult children. For more information on the 2020 Annual Conference, entitled "God's Adventurous Future," visit the Annual Conference website at [www.brethren.org/ac/](http://www.brethren.org/ac/).

# Volunteers Needed

## A Note from Cliff



Friends,

Several items of interest to you this Prince of Peace season.

- Children's Disaster Services is beginning the year with several training possibilities, perhaps near you. Encourage others to join you to prepare to serve the children of disasters in the trauma that catastrophes carry into their lives. See the BDM web site: [www.brethren.org/bdm/](http://www.brethren.org/bdm/)
- Puerto Rico had 30,000 roofs still tarped with blue plastic when Arlene and I arrived there with a BDM team at the end of October. There are still probably 29,000+. So your help is needed to replace roofs and do other repairs. The project is accepting volunteers through next May and does expect volunteers to stay at least for two weeks. Volunteers should expect hard physical work and hot temperatures. To sign up check the above web site or call BDM in New Windsor at 1-800-451-4407.
- the BDM rebuild projects are continuing in the Carolinas, Florida, and, maybe soon, Ohio. An off and on project in Nebraska with flood response is available. To volunteer for these possibilities please email me, [kindy@cpt.org](mailto:kindy@cpt.org), and I will work to get you on the project
- As always, disaster cleanup kits are always in short supply, our S/C Indiana district disaster travel fund is being used regularly and would welcome replenishment,
- and the denominational BDM welcomes contributions for Nigeria, other international disaster sites and its ongoing support of the regular rebuilding program.

Thank you for your support of Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Cliff Kindy

phone: 260-982-2971



## March Events

- March 1, 1pm Tazzeka (VIA Film). Cordier Auditorium.  
<https://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/tazzeka/>
- March 3, 3:30pm BPM (VIA Film) Cordier Auditorium  
<https://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/120-batt...>
- March 5, 7pm Entertaining Peace in Youth Cultures: From Harry Potter to the Hunger Games (VIA lecture) Jo Young Switzer Center, Upper Level
- March 7, 6:00pm Taste of Africa. Jo Young Switzer Center, Lahman
- March 12, 7pm Kinshasa Makambo. Cordier Auditorium  
<https://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/kinshasa...>
- March 27, 7:30pm University Bands Concert. Cordier Auditorium, \$5.
- March 29, 3:00pm Hailey Schneider Recital. Wine Recital Hall