

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



February  
2017

## *Here is what I'm thinking...*

I recently received an email from a pastor friend. We were connecting around other issues but she also shared about her distress related to world news and the current political atmosphere. She closed her thoughts this way; "I look forward to talking with you especially with what's going on in the political scene...for mutual support and to hear how you are handling all this..." It made me pause and think about that question. How am I handling all this? How could I be handling this better? It brought to mind one of my favorite quotes, *"If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan my day."*

I relate to this quote because each day I wake to both needs and responsibilities. I can get so distressed with the trouble and sadness of the events of the world, our local community and the very real lives of those most at the center of it, that I feel called to act. I try to give comfort, or time or money in an effort to change things somehow—but it is never enough. At the same time, it feeds my soul to take a walk, sit with coffee and watch the birds and squirrels play outside my window, or share a good meal with family or friends—but I always wish for more. It makes it hard to prioritize.

***So here's what I'm thinking...***How we handle balancing these things is important. I am not yet sure what the answer is for me, let alone for anyone else. But I do know that even Jesus took time for retreat (Luke 5:16) and was criticized for taking time to enjoy (maybe too much) wine and bread (Matt. 9:14, 11:19) in the midst of healing, preaching, protesting at the Temple (Matt. 21:12), and in general changing the world. We are living in a world where there is a growing sense of urgency and uncertainty. My hope and prayer is that our work to improve the world will not waver, our commitment to nurture our souls with love and joy will be steadfast, and that together we will continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together.

***Blessings,***

*Kay*



# ***Worship Schedule***

## **February 5      Keep your eyes on the prize**

Scripture      Matthew 5:1-12

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

The wisdom of the world, the power and strength of personal success—these are to be scorned in favor of the blessings that come from humility, peacemaking, and righteous living. These aren't just religious platitudes. These are the keys to the kingdom. Or so Jesus says. Are you convinced? How does this make sense when we have all kinds of examples to the contrary? If we are continuing the work of Jesus, what exactly are we working for?

## **February 12      What do we have to show for it?**

Scripture      Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Matthew 5:13-20

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

We are continuing with the theme of light this week, but today's scriptures are not about twinkling stars or shining faces. The image of light in both Isaiah and in Matthew is directly connected to God's call to justice. How do we hear and how do we live this call to justice in the chaos of today's fearful world?

## **February 19      Follow the yellow brick road**

Scripture      Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, Matthew 5:21-37

Message      Pastor Kay Gaier

In the past few weeks we have read in Matthew how Jesus laid out for us his "Way" to abundant life in God's kingdom here on earth. Now we are confronted in Deuteronomy and encouraged in Psalm 119 with a choice and a promise. Every day we choose. How are these choices made real in our lives? How has the promise been experienced?

## **February 26**

Scripture

Message      Curt Rowland

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.



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)

After 20 months, the mortgage on the John Kline Welcome Center was paid off on January 6th. We will have an open house from **2:00 to 4:00** on **February 19th**, with a special program and mortgage burning at 3:00. This was all made possible through the generosity of our camp family and the hard work of the Board and staff.

The 2017 Events, Retreats and Summer Camp brochures have been mailed out. It contains information and registration information for all the 2017 summer camps and retreats. If you didn't receive the brochure and would like one please request one from your camp rep or the camp office.

-Camp Registration Discounts deadline date is March 20!! Register by 3/20/17 to avoid the late charge of \$30 (\$15 for Beginners and Samplers).

Annual Dinner: This annual fundraiser provides funds for special projects and operations support. We will be having a few guest speakers speaking about what camp means to them and the impact of camp on them and their groups the lead. Fee: A donation of \$25 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 reservations. Date: Friday, March 17, 2017. Appetizers begin at 6:15 p.m., dinner begins at 7 p.m.

Scrapbooking Retreat: Crop 'til 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 and uninterrupted time with fellow scrapper. Bring your extra scraps, paper, stickers and more to trade and swap. February 23-26, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday. \$116 per scrapper (\$130 per scrapper arriving Friday morning, \$145 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening. Fee includes housing and scheduled meals. \*Can't make the entire weekend? Sign up for the scrapbooking Get-a-Way Day February 25 (\$15 for the day, includes lunch).

Quit Retreat: The first quilt retreat of the year 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, and quilting supplies. February 16-19, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday and April 19-23, 6p Wednesday- 3p Sunday. \$122 per quilter (\$137 per quilter arriving Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening) Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days: these days are designed to bring you to camp for a day or part of a day for a "mini retreat". Check out our website for more details

Eagle Watch      February 12  
Scrapbooking      February 25

Looking Ahead:

Team Leader Training	March 4
Annual Dinner	March 17
Volunteer Work Days	March 13-15
Mother Daughter Retreat	March 18-19

Prayer Request: please pray for Camp Mack Staff, 2017 Counselors and Summer Staff

## Volunteer Work Days

Work with Camp Mack staff as we prep for the summer camp season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. March 13-15. Come for a few hours or all three days.

Meals and lodging are available. There is no fee for this event. Please contact the office at 574-658-4831 for reservations.



## Team Leader Training

Is March 4, 9am—3pm and is the first of our leadership trainings for summer programs.

## Team Leaders Needed

Creative Arts (July 9-14)

Pedal Paddle Camp (July 2-8)

Team Leaders are a crucial link in forming the leadership team for each camp.

We also have a few Team Leaders who would appreciate an assistant.

Seekers (June 18-23)

Finders (June 18-23)

Finders (July 2-7)

Dune Challenge (June 25-July 1)

Culinary (July 11-15)

Archery (June 11-15).

Training is scheduled for March 4. Email [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org) if interested or in need of more information.

## Summer Staff and Program Assistants

We are ready to start interviews for 2017 Summer Staff, Summer Photographer, Summer Challenge Course Manager, and the Summer Waterfront Director. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to attend/ be trained as part of their job. Summer staff works in the areas of Facility, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Program, Life-guarding and more. Lodging and meals are part of the summer staff package as well as opportunity for college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) if interested. Applications are available at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) under employment.

## Special Offering — SOUPer Bowl

- Mission Statement—Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.
- Vision Statement—Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.  
We believe:  
The idea for Souper Bowl of Caring is a gift from God
- Young people have the ability to serve and should be given opportunities to lead their communities in helping others
- Every dollar collected through Souper Bowl of Caring should be donated directly to a charity selected by each participating group
- People of all backgrounds and beliefs can work together
- Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need
- The excitement and energy surrounding the Super Bowl can be used to engage young people in service while producing lasting hope for all people



## Cosponsored by Seminary Stewardship Alliance

Living not in the Garden but in the city and country, how can we consume, protect, farm, and care for creation as followers of Jesus? Bethany Theological Seminary invites exploration of these themes at the 2017 Presidential Forum and Young Adult Event. Invited teachers, speakers, and pastors will join Seminary faculty and students in sharing information and views on this multifaceted concern.

Talks and discussions will include a range of topics, such as ethical farming and consuming, protecting biodiversity, responding to climate change, and simple living for today. Throughout the event, participants will be encouraged to engage with the presenters and dialog with each other in affinity discussion groups. Five plenary speakers will inspire and challenge participants' thinking with their words:

- Betty Holley, associate professor of ecological theology – How can we hope to find harmony among the creative tensions of the rights and responsibilities of humans and nature?
- Rachel Lamb, geographical sciences scholar and national activist – Christians must reject despair and skepticism in response to climate change, demonstrating how redemption and reconciliation are fundamental to our story.
- Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament – The book of Revelation and other New Testament visions promise healing for creation, not escape. In a time of ecological crisis, how can we draw on this message?
- Matthew Sleeth, executive director of Blessed Earth – Against the background of a personal spiritual and environmental conversion, join in a journey of simplicity, stewardship, and responsibility.
- A. J. Swoboda, pastor, professor, and author – In a 24/7 culture that is destroying our selves, our society, and the rest of creation, re-embracing sabbath will bring renewal in a way we never imagined.

Dr. Frank Thomas, described as one of the most creative and prominent thought leaders of this generation, will bring the Sunday morning message. Dr. Thomas is the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics and the director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bethany faculty will add their expertise to this varied program, with Nate Inglis speaking about an Anabaptist environmental ethic and Dan Ulrich leading a Bible study on the creation hymn in the Gospel of John. Jonathan Frye, faculty member from McPherson College, will lead an interactive session on how science can inform our ethics of natural resources.

Bethany students are engaging in creation stewardship in forthright ways, and four students will share their experiences: Katie Heishman on a journey of simple living, Chibuzo Petty and Jonathan Stauffer on food justice, and Elizabeth Ullery Swenson on a congregation's creative approach to creation care.

Cost for the full event is discounted to \$125 through February 15. High school, college, graduate, and seminary students can attend any or all sessions for a flat fee of \$25. Contact [forum@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:forum@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1823 for more information.







RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS  
February 15**

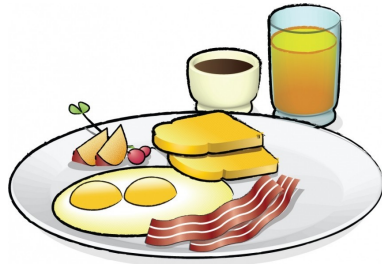
### Women's Fellowship Breakfast

February 25th

Meet at Bob Evans at 9:15am.

Ordering by 9:30. Please RSVP if possible a few days before (to Karen). If you would like a ride please let Karen know. Linda Miller will be bringing the devotions.

Please  
come  
and fel-  
lowship  
together.



**February 18<sup>th</sup> 5pm** – Wabash High School will host a \$5 pork dinner & silent auction to benefit FISH. At 7pm, there will be a free concert by the Bachelor Creek Praise team.

## DID YOU KNOW...

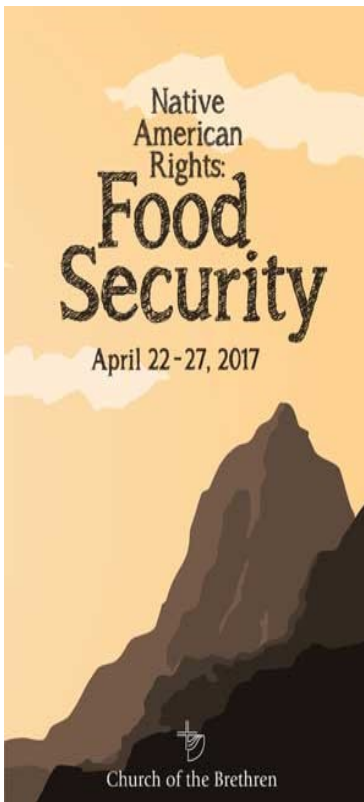
The bulletin board articles get changed out every couple of weeks. Be sure to check it out for all the latest news from:



- ⇒ Manchester University
- ⇒ District Offices
- ⇒ Brethren Disaster Ministries
- ⇒ Global Food Crisis
- ⇒ Church of the Brethren, Nigeria
- ⇒ General Offices
- ⇒ Bethany Seminary
- ⇒ And many more!

### *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).



## **Christian Citizenship Seminar 2017 April 22-27**

Registration for 2017 is now open! This year's theme focuses on Native American rights, particularly related to food security. Register today at

[www.brethren.org/ccs](http://www.brethren.org/ccs)

We already have two youth registered and are hoping more will join us!

### **February 19 at 12:00pm**

Brian Reust will be serving us his award-winning pulled pork and BBQ chicken. This is to give us an opportunity to sample his food and services. We are considering him as a replacement to the Fish Fry. Sides include: Cole Slaw, Red Beans and Rice, Bacon Green Beans, Baked Beans and Pasta Salad. Be sure to bring your appetites! We will take a vote near the end of the event to decide how we want to move forward with this event and choose which 2 sides we will offer. Your participation is greatly needed!



## **Being an offering** *By Lauren Seganos—Our Service Sunday will be February 12*

*“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering” (Romans 12:1-2, The Message).*

What comes to mind when you hear the word “offering”? I think of the offering plates we pass during worship. Children drop in pennies or quarters. Adults write checks to their congregation. And these offerings are collected to pay the pastor’s salary, the church air conditioning bill, or for a rented van so the youth can go to [National Junior High Conference](#).

Now imagine what it would look like if, instead of dropping money into the offering plate, you hopped into the plate yourself? Imagine sitting in the plate, your knees bent to your chest, and grabbing the sides of the plate with each hand. People pass you along, probably giving you strange looks, and the experience reminds you of crowd surfing.

What a ridiculous thing to imagine, being in the offering plate with envelopes and cash. But what might it look like to be an offering to God? How might that work?

Growing up, I loved to sing, and from what I could tell, the people around me enjoyed it too. I grabbed every opportunity to do it—in school and community choirs, in school musicals, at school basketball games, and at church. Singing was something that brought me joy.

But in junior high and high school, a friend always sang better, getting the part whenever we auditioned for musicals or solos in concerts. No matter how hard I tried, she always performed better than me. Once, I was asked to sing at a coffee house, but out of spite or pride, I refused. “I’m not as good as her, so why sing at all?” I thought. I wasn’t special or unique, just an ordinary, average singer.

After college, I realized that even though I won’t sing for a career or be the best, it doesn’t mean I shouldn’t sing at all. Today, you’ll find me singing while I’m doing everything, especially while driving my car or cleaning my apartment. I know now that singing is one of the best ways to nourish my soul and praise God by using my gift.

Maybe you can relate. Is there something that nourishes you and gives you deep joy? Maybe you do it every day: like kicking around a soccer ball, writing stories, or drawing. Maybe you make people laugh, or help others feel included and loved. These are gifts God has given you. And it’s not about being the best. It’s about using those talents every day, in ordinary ways, to bring joy to yourself, to others, and to God. This is what it looks like to be an offering to God.

*Lauren Seganos is a licensed minister at Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, Pa*



# Growing Grounds Meeting



February 15, 5pm

Program afterwards with Vicki Shafer, nutrition specialist with Purdue Extension

Introduction to the program, with a plate lesson.

Surprise cupcake for you to guess the mystery ingredient!



Enrollment in Summer Workcamps is now open. There are many spots available across the county and for many age groups. Please contact Dennis or Carol Horn for additional information, or visit the denomination website at <http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/>

**sayhello**  
3 John 13-14  
2017 Brethren Workcamps

Wabash's "Meals on Wheels" chapter currently delivers 34 meals daily through Parkview Wabash Hospital with volunteer drivers mostly delivering to the elderly or home-bound. The charge is \$2 per meal.

Cheri Mullen is the director/coordinator. Roger and Darlene Holiday, board members, are writing to churches and organizations to solicit donations which can be sent to 123 West Hill Street.