



Wabash Church of the Brethren

645 Bond Street Wabash, IN 46992 260-563-5291 office@wabashcob.org

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July 2021

Peacefully, Simply, Together



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.

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1 Corinthians: Our Summer Sermon Focus



Pastor Doug Veal

At the recent Church of the Brethren Minister's Association annual continuing education event, I had the opportunity to hear and learn more about 1 Corinthians, one of Paul's letters that has always been a very special letter for me. As I sat and listened, I was inspired to take some time this summer for us to dive a bit deeper into this letter, and so we will be spending much of July and August with this important letter of Paul as the basis for our worship services.

Now, a few notes about why this is a letter that has been a favorite of mine for a good long time. There are, of course, several passages that are ones that are formative for many of us in our faith journeys. One of these, 1 Corinthians 13, which touches on the idea of what love is all about, is a passage that we often hear in wedding ceremonies (and, in fact, is one of the passages that Tasha and I chose for our own wedding). A chapter earlier, in chapter 12, we hear the familiar story of the church as the body of Christ, including the reminder that every one of us is an important part of the body of Christ. These, among others, are scriptures that speak to us even today.

Another thing that has long drawn me to this particular letter (and also to 2 Corinthians, Paul's other letter to the Corinthian church), has been the setting that Paul addresses. Paul is writing to an early church that is fractious, has many ongoing difficulties, and just generally needs additional guidance. A situation that continues to speak to many ongoing issues in our world today. Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians continues to speak to us, even across the thousands of years dividing us from this particular early congregation.

In preparation for this sermon series, I would like to invite everyone to take the time to read through both 1 and 2 Corinthians (while we are going to focus on 1 Corinthians, it is helpful to remind ourselves of all that goes on between Paul and the Corinthians). Then, as we worship together this summer, we'll explore what we can learn from this important letter of Paul.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

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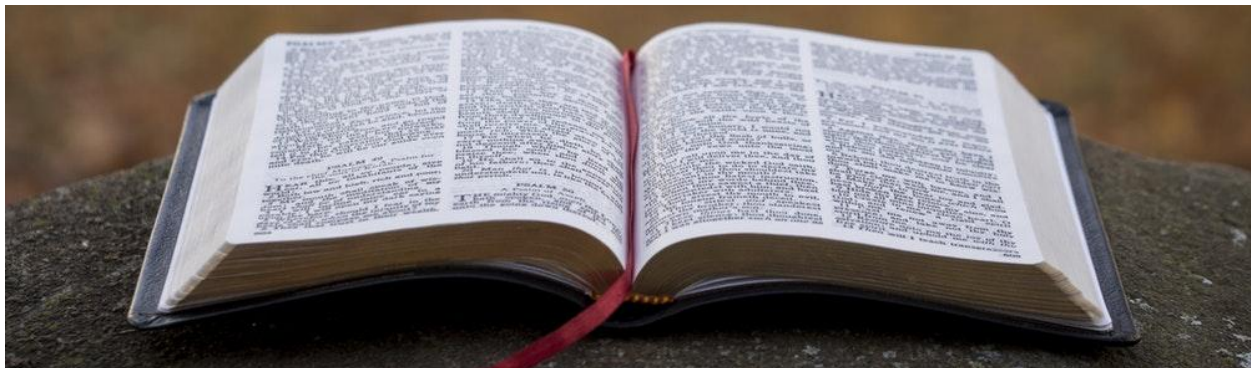
Church Board

The Church Board will take the month of July off and resume in August.

Nurture Commission

Sunday School

We are taking the summer off, and hope to pick up again in the fall.



Worship Schedule - July

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
4	Pastor Doug AC Sunday		Mikayla			No CC	Bonnie
11	Pastor Doug 1 Cor 1:18-31 Foolishness and Wisdom: God's View		Stan			Until further	Laurie
18	Pastor Doug 1 Cor 8:1-13 Idol Fool?		Mikayla			Notice	Audrey
25	TBA		Stan				Bonnie



Women's Fellowship

For July, Brenda penned this wonderful poem.
We welcome CoB women and guests.
Often fellowship involves having a meal.
Meals have been in homes, restaurants, and at church.
Enjoyable activities are also part of the day.
Next time, we hope that you will come join us
See for yourself just how good fellowship is.

For so long we couldn't get together;
Eventually we'll be more active again.
Let's start now thinking of good ideas.
Lots of good minds here to come up with some plans;
One for each month of the year would be great!
We once made throws for Growing Ground clients.
Some made great paintings with suggestions from Karen.
Holiday Christmas Parade of Trees and bazaar were really great.
If the activity does not suit you, just come to eat and fellowship.
Please join us when we get organized again.

The Question for the AUGUST newsletter will be "what did you do for the Fourth of July or what have you done in the past? "

Upcoming Youth Activities

Junior High

July 23 - 25: National Junior High Conference at Elizabethtown College. Online registration opens in January.

Devotionals - Upper Room

The Upper Room is available in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office and please specify regular or large print. If you would like to pick one up the next time you are here, they are on the back table in the sanctuary.

Reading through the Bible in a year - July

1	Luke 15-16	9	Colossians 1-2	17	Leviticus 16-18	25	2 Kings 16-20
2	Philippians 3-4	10	Leviticus 13-15	18	2 Kings 11-15	26	Psalms 87-89
3	Leviticus 10-12	11	2 Kings 6-10	19	Psalms 84-86	27	Proverbs 13
4	2 Kings 1-5	12	Psalms 81-83	20	Proverbs 11-12	28	Ezekiel 37-42
5	Psalms 78-80	13	Proverbs 10	21	Ezekiel 31-36	29	Luke 23-24
6	Proverbs 8-9	14	Ezekiel 25-30	22	Luke 21-22	30	1 Thes. 4-5
7	Ezekiel 19-24	15	Luke 19-20	23	1 Thessalonians 1-3	31	Lev. 22-24
8	Luke 17-18	16	Colossians 3-4	24	Leviticus 19-21		

Witness Commision

Special Offerings - July and August

July - Growing Grounds

Growing Grounds started at the Wabash Church of the Brethren approximately 13 years ago by a group of women who had a desire to help women while they were incarcerated, and afterwards to reintegrate back to society. The goal has always been to help them become more stable so that they do not find themselves incarcerated again. This led to several of them volunteering time inside the jail to help with educational aspirations, making connections with landlords to find safe, stable housing, identifying childcare resources, mentoring and being a listening ear, finding employment and reliable transportation, and giving small no-interest loans when needed. We have been able to grow that network to include so many other organizations who are also able to provide support which has lead to a more complete "walk with them" experience.

August - Deacon's Helping Hands

This month, our giving goes to Deacon's Helping Hands. We use this funds to help members of our own church family, when they are going through rough patches. This can include anything from housing, to medical, to food.

Little Free Pantry

Our local pantry is looking to supplement what we get from Milford each month. Additional items needed are:

Mac and Cheese boxes	Saltines
Hamburger	Bread
Baked beans	Soups
Hamburger /Tuna/Chicken Helper	Canned fruits and veggies
Peanut butter	Saltines
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)	Cleaning Supplies
Jelly	TP/Tissue
Pasta	Personal Hygiene items

Growing Grounds/Advantage Housing/HAWC

Hi All,

Here are a few updates on the HOST program.

NEW! Advantage Housing has leased the Habitat apartment at 350 State Street. We will add this 2 bedroom apartment to the HOST program. At this time it is the only 2 bedrooms available through HOST. This unit will be available on a first-come-first-served basis to all our partnering agencies. Help will be needed to clean between tenants. I will begin contracts with the exterminator to treat between clients. Also, if you have volunteers who are putting together move-in care packages. I'm ready for our first one!

571 S Wabash. We have been working with Quality Electric on plumbing and electric upgrades. Turns out that we need to upgrade the service from 100 AMP to 225 AMP. Larry is pressing to get it all done, but I don't expect it to be done for another week or more. The A/C is also not functioning properly, so again, Quality Electric to the rescue! Brant Beachler will finish all the interior work. We are ready to paint the exterior and install new solar lighting on the front and rear of the building. Once we get past the interior, we will get the outside painted and backyard cleaned out.

Dale Bliss

Executive Director

New Community Project


VBS Project Opportunity We've just launched a campaign to purchase bunkbeds and mattresses for schoolgirls in Malawi attending high school 30 and 50 miles from home. Last fall we raised funds to build hostels for them; now they have requested help purchasing these bedding supplies. 20 beds and 40 mattresses are needed, at a cost of \$147 and \$45 each – but of course any amount is welcomed. And a donor has offered to match any gifts, doubling the love! The project is highlighted on [this page](#) of our website and on the [NCP Facebook page](#). This could perhaps be a good option for VBS or other summer focus. Malawi is also the site of our [A Girl and A Bike campaign](#), and we always welcome support for this as well.

Host Families Needed


Wabash High School is accepting foreign exchange students for the 2021/22 academic year. It will be a missed opportunity if these international exchange students do not have a host family to stay with for the school year.

Below are some students that might interest you. Our website is the best resource to learn more about the AFS program, our students, and the eligibility and responsibilities of hosting an international exchange student: <https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/>

	Meet Azzahra from Indonesia Gender: Female Age (at arrival): 17 years Program length: Year
<p>Azzahra is a respectful, diligent, mature, and helpful young lady from Indonesia. She loves watching movies and enjoys traditional dance. Azzahra also likes basketball and has been playing for five years. At her high school, she is majoring in science and aspires to become a doctor. She is part of the English club at school and wants to learn more about American culture. Azzahra's teacher praises how helpful she is to other students and that her leadership skills are outstanding. She can't wait to meet her host family and learn their traditions! Would you welcome Azzahra into your family?</p>	
Service Ref: 21-00002	

	Meet Abbas from Lebanon Gender: Male Age (at arrival): 15 years Program length: Year
<p>A self-proclaimed future physicist, Abbas both studies physics and does mental calculations every day. His goal is to be a university professor after majoring in quantum mechanics and particle physics. Recently, Abbas was awarded 1st place world champion in the international mental math competition. He enjoys playing board games, watching movies and skateboarding. He loves playing video games, listening to music and having deep conversations with his friends. He both reads and writes poetry. Abbas seeks to make a great bond with his host family while learning about the American culture.</p>	
Service Ref: 21-00011	

	Meet INGNISA from Thailand Gender: Female Age (at arrival): 16 years Program length: Year
<p>Meet Gam from Thailand who is described by friends as funny, cheerful, and social. She is an independent girl who attends an English-Japanese school. This means that not only can she speak English, but that she is learning Japanese as well. After school, Gam likes to hang out with her friends, sing karaoke or go shopping. When she's not studying, her favorite hobbies are dancing, listening to music, traveling with her family, and playing with her pets. Gam takes care of her dog and 3 cats that her family adopted. She is part of a close loving family and can't wait to become a part of yours!</p>	
Service Ref: 20-01410	

	Meet Medyen from West Bank Gender: Male Age (at arrival): 15 Program length: Year
<p>Please welcome Medyen. One of his teachers states, "He shows an aptitude for reaching beyond his comfort zone into new areas and ideas." Medyen is a very generous individual who enjoys volunteering and takes pride in his community. His favorite hobby is debate with a love of Model United Nations. He enjoys reading and being out with his friends, playing basketball, going for walks and hikes, playing 8-ball pool, and participating in after-school clubs. He describes himself as organized, collaborative, honest, friendly, and kind. His teachers say he is a leader, respectful, and responsible.</p>	
Service Ref: 21-00003	



Stewards Commission

Looking at a new and exciting way you can help the church? We are in need of a volunteer (or two or three) to help run the video streaming. A very positive outcome to sheltering in place is that we've been able to improve our ability to include family members who aren't normally able to worship with us, as well as reach beyond our community.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact Pastor Doug at pastordoug@wabashcob.org or Michelle at office@wabashcob.org.

Many thanks to Larry who has been putting in screens to keep us comfortable during the summer now that we are back together in the sanctuary.

Around the District

A Letter from Beth

This morning while visiting my mother we heard a strange bawl. A small search led to the discovery of a neighbor's black Angus calf expressing his lostness down by the calf pens all holding brown Jerseys. My sister, with minimal help from me, got him through the barnyard, sorted from the cows and into his own private calf pen pending pick up by his owners. She just texted that he does not belong to the farm she expected him to belong to and has had no luck finding his owner. She is out making a circle to see who else around might be missing an Angus calf.

Made me wonder how many people in this world feel lost without any obvious characteristics to label them lost. Earlier this morning I learned a neighbor's son was arrested and imprisoned on another drug charge last night. I am well aware that many children in our town are hungry these days when school is not in session and free lunches not so easily available. Our food pantry is a busy place. Sometimes lost is obvious and sometimes it is more difficult to recognize.

Jesus had words to say about looking for the lost and lonely, the downtrodden and needy. They are to be searched for. They are to be cared for; fed, visited, clothed, healed. And they are to be prayed for. I know the congregations of our district have a heart for those who need a helping hand. Across our district there are food pantries, day care programs, free clothing closets, prison ministries, diaper giveaways, and community meals. Bless you! For the ways you reach out to neighbors in need. I give thanks for the commitment I see across our congregations to care for neighbors in need of care and prayer.

The challenge is to see those in need and do the caring, to actively look for those who are lost and to pray that each might learn to know the welcoming grace of Jesus Christ in their lives. Blessings upon all who share in the task of finding the lost and welcoming the stranger.

Blessings,

Beth

2021 District Conference

Abundant Hope, Joy, and Peace by the Power of the Holy Spirit, Romans 15:13

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Manchester Church of the Brethren

A shortened in-person session for delegates and presenters only, all others are invited to join by livestream. More details will be coming soon, watch for updates in future newsletters and e-mail notes. For this year's service project, the Program & Arrangements Committee is asking congregations to collect monetary donations for Brethren Disaster Ministries.

District Prayer List

July 4 – Please pray with us for the Church of the Brethren, Inc.

July 11- Please join us in lifting up Manchester CoB congregation and staff and the West Marva District congregations and staff.

July 18 – Please join us in lifting up Marion CoB congregation and staff and the Atlantic Northeast District congregations and staff.

July 25 – Please join us in lifting up Mexico CoB congregation and staff and the Atlantic Southeast District congregations and staff.

Camp Mack - Creation Speaks: Exploring the Summer Camp Theme

Genesis 1 is the biblical narrative of God's creative power and love. In it, we understand that God brings the world into being by speaking. Over six days, God takes what is formless through the processes of being, separating, shaping, placing, filling, growing, and forming. At the end of each day, God proclaims it good.

God speaks in Creation, and if we listen, Creation speaks of God. This is the basis of the theme for summer camp. Each daily focus challenges our campers to look more closely at the incredible world around them. Campers discover they are Invited by Light and Refreshed by Water. They learn about how God, the potter (Jeremiah 18), forms us as we are Shaped Like Earth. The rhythm of life and the process of growth are developed as campers explore Moving through Seasons. Kinship with Animals explores our interdependence with the world around us. God's unique call to us as humans drives our understanding in Purpose for Humanity and Inspired by Creation.

Our summer curriculum challenges us all to take the time to recognize God's continuing creative work. We connect with Creation when we stop to observe, to listen, and to feel the power and love it represents.

This is the heart of camping ministry. What a blessing it is for us to welcome children, youth, and adults to this place of sanctuary.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31a, NRSV)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director





Camp Mack Counselor Immediate Need

Please share these counselor needs with Wabash Church of the Brethren. Camp Mack has immediate need for counselors for the following camps:

July 7-9-1 Male counselor for Beginners/Samplers. 1st-3rd grade campers that arrive Wednesday at 3p and leave Friday at 10:30a.

July 11-16-1 Male counselor for Finders Camp. 5th and 6th grade campers

July 18-23-1 Male counselor for Followers Camp. 7th-9th grade campers

July 25-30-1 Female Counselor for Finder Camp. 5th and 6th grade campers.

Additional volunteers can be used each week for double coverage, crafts, and helping provide supervision during counselor breaks.

Email Jessie Kreider at jessk@campmack.org to learn how you can join us this summer!

Campers

Register now for summer camps! Spaces are filling up quickly, especially for these camps: Beginners/Samplers, July 7-9 only has 5 female spots left but several male spots; Culinary Camp male spots are FULL and only has 1 female spot left; and Splash Camp female spots are FULL and only has 1 male spot left. Call or email camp for a brochure. Register online at campmack.org. Click "Online Registration" at the top of the page. Contact camp for assistance. Use your Church Transfer Code.

Survivor Camp changed dates! This adventurous, outdoor-focused camp will be held July 4-10, 2021.

Camp is hiring staff for the summer! Contact us for job postings and information. Please share with college-age friends, teachers looking for a summer job, and others.

Opportunities at Camp

Rent space at camp: Bring your family or others to camp! Contact camp for rates and to book. Share information about camp with your friends.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Giving Day, August 7, Colony Camp, August 13-15, Labor Day Family Camp, September 3-6

August 1-3—Grand Camps

Spend quality time bonding with your grandkids and making memories that will last a lifetime. This camp will provide a time for grandparents to make connections with their grandchildren through a variety of activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, games, campfires, crafts, story times, Bible studies and maybe even a nap! Due to supervision limitations, we ask that you bring no more than three grandchildren to this event. Space is limited and spots are almost filled! Age: Grandparents of all ages and grandchildren ages 5-10 (11-year-olds are eligible this year only) Fee: \$160 per grandparent and \$110 per grandchild. <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>

Brethren Disaster Ministries

- S/C Indiana District is on tab for the week of Nov 28 - Dec 4, in Dayton, Ohio, rebuilding after tornadoes. We need seven volunteers and maybe a cook. Let me know if you want to volunteer.
- Texas needs plumbers and folks who can work with pipes. Freezing temps burst water lines. BDM can connect you with partners tackling these problems. Call 1-800-451-4407.
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- Throughout this summer and fall there are open times in Dayton when volunteers are needed to fill out teams. Contact me if you are available - 260-982-2971 or email.



Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, Brethren Disaster Ministries, District Disaster Coordinator

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Ancient & Medieval Church History

August 25-October 19, 2021. Participants will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion, along with a Bethany Experience. The instructor for this online course will be Ken Rogers, Professor of Historical Studies at Bethany Seminary.

This online course provides a brief overview of the history of Christianity from the close of the New Testament era to the eve of the Reformation (approximately 150 CE to 1450 CE). Topics include early Christianity, the beginning of Christian theology, and issues in the study of church history. The course focuses on the development of Christian thought....Ken Rogers

The deadline to register is July 21.

Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820.



Brethren Leadership Institute

Due to current gathering restrictions, please contact the district office to confirm class schedule and method of delivery.

History of the Church

Instructor: Doug Veal

Dates: August 7, 21 and September 18

Location: Marion CoB

A tentative syllabus with booklist & discussion guide is available at:

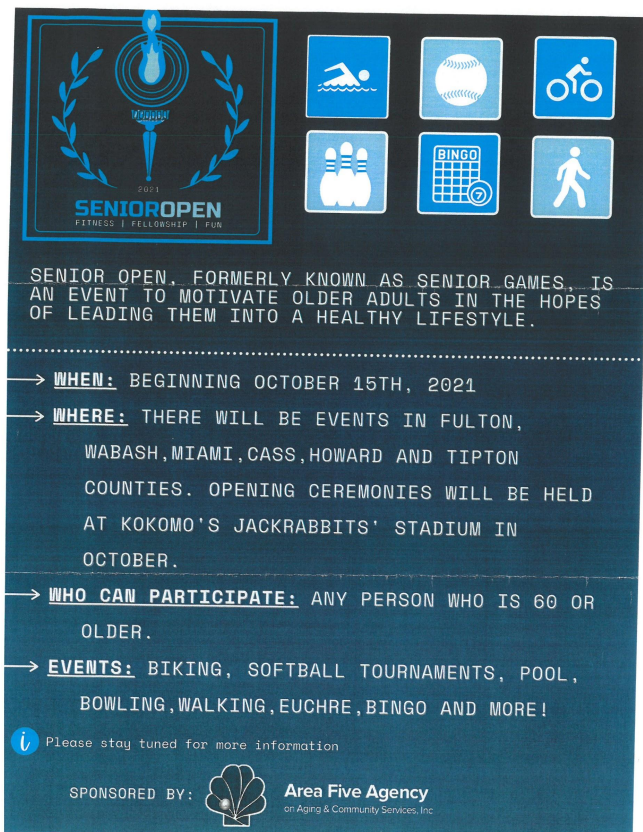
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pnSejCv9w_Yv-plPy2Oe7ke30iXJHOld/view?usp=sharing

Course credit is \$75, to receive CEU's is \$50 and to audit the course is \$40.

To register for a BLI course or for questions, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com.

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>.

The Practice of Ministry Day Zoom on May 22nd was recorded, so you still have a chance to earn CEU's. You will need to view the recording, complete a CEU recording report, and send it in with your CEU/course fee (\$50) to the District Office. For the link to the recording or for more details call (260) 982-8805 or reply to this e-mail (scindcob@gmail.com).



The poster features a central logo for 'SENIOR OPEN' with the tagline 'FITNESS | FELLOWSHIP | FUN'. To the right of the logo are six icons representing different activities: swimming, softball, bicycling, bowling, bingo, and walking. Below the icons, the text reads: 'SENIOR OPEN. FORMERLY KNOWN AS SENIOR GAMES, IS AN EVENT TO MOTIVATE OLDER ADULTS IN THE HOPES OF LEADING THEM INTO A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.' The poster lists event details: 'WHEN: BEGINNING OCTOBER 15TH, 2021', 'WHERE: THERE WILL BE EVENTS IN FULTON, WABASH, MIAMI, CASS, HOWARD AND TIPTON COUNTIES. OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD AT KOKOMO'S JACKRABBITS' STADIUM IN OCTOBER.', 'WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: ANY PERSON WHO IS 60 OR OLDER.', and 'EVENTS: BIKING, SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS, POOL, BOWLING, WALKING, EUCHRE, BINGO AND MORE!'. At the bottom, it says 'Please stay tuned for more information' and 'SPONSORED BY: Area Five Agency on Aging & Community Services, Inc.' with the agency's logo.

More information for the Senior Open will be made available in the future. They are also looking for those under 60 to volunteer to help. You can email Steve Gwin at sgwin@areafive.com

Denominational News

Trekking Toward God's Adventurous Future

A quarterly pastoral letter from Paul Munday, Moderator of the Church of the Brethren

Spring/Summer 2021

HOPE

GREETINGS IN THE STRONG NAME OF JESUS!

Will Willmon tells of an Episcopal friend committed to eradicating apartheid in South Africa. After months of intense effort, including weeks of lobbying in Washington, D.C., a breakthrough felt distant and dim. Commiserating with colleagues at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City, Willmon's friend was discouraged along with her compatriots; all seemed for naught. But then, unexpectedly, the door to their meeting room flung open, and in walked famed anti-apartheid leader Bishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu sensed the anguish in the room but didn't drop his customary exuberant countenance; instead, he accentuated it. "Well, chappies," Tutu exclaimed, "Why the cast-down faces? Why are you looking so sad? Come on; we've got the resurrection. Let's get busy!"

During my two years as Moderator, I've encountered any number of cast-down faces. It's been a difficult season, marked by an onslaught of pandemic, schism, racism, and violence. But I'm with Tutu: the heart of the Gospel is a Jesus who rises above despair. Such a response doesn't minimize strain and sorrow but keeps it in perspective; lament does not cancel resurrection. As Glenn Packiam notes:

"Lament is not our final prayer. It is a prayer in the meantime. Most of the lament psalms end with a 'vow to praise'... Because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, we know that sorrow is not how the story ends. The song may be in a minor motif now, but one day it will resolve in a major chord." 1

I challenge us to sound God's major chord, even as we muddle through a minor motif. The Anabaptists, key influencers of our faith tradition, spoke of "walking in the resurrection." Though there's a future element to resurrection, our forerunners believed there's also a present-tense reality—now. The Apostle Paul concurs.

"It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!" (Romans 8:11 MSG, emphasis added)

Our current season of life and faith is arduous, taxing us in compound ways. But Paul is on to something: God is breathing into us, nevertheless. Can you sense God's breath moving...animating? The classic evidence is God's encounter with the prophet Ezekiel.

"The hand of the Lord was on me...and placed me in the midst of the valley, and it was full of bones... He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said to him, 'Sovereign Lord, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy over these bones.'... So I prophesied...I heard a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to bone. As I watched, I saw tendons on them, then muscles appeared, and skin covered over them from above, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath'... So I prophesied as I was commanded, and the breath came into them; they lived and stood on their feet." (Ezekiel 37:1-10 NET)

I challenge us to "prophesy to the breath," believing God not only rattles but infuses with the Spirit, empowering us to stand. Jurgen Moltmann is best known for his theology of hope, a belief system



advancing God's resurrection ability today. Among Moltmann's resurrection convictions is a revisualization of the church as a fellowship of friends.

"Friendship [in Christ] is a new relationship, which goes beyond the social roles of those involved... The community of brethren is really the fellowship of friends who live in the friendship of Jesus and spread friendliness...by meeting the forsaken with affection and the despised with respect. Its brothers and sisters cannot choose each other." (emphasis added)²

Continuing, Moltmann concludes: "The church will not overcome its present crisis through reform of...its ministries. It will overcome this crisis through the rebirth...of fellowship and friendship among the rank and file"³ (emphasis added). I call us to a rebirth of friendship in Christ, a resurrection of affection and respect. For as brothers and sisters in Jesus, we don't choose each other; Christ chooses us, calling us to live together, even amid our diversity.

The Human Library is a European movement promoting understanding among diverse persons.⁴ The concept is bold and innovative but straightforward: "borrow" a person much like you borrow a book. The purpose: to learn from someone you normally wouldn't engage with, especially persons you tend to minimize or normally don't encounter. For example, you might borrow a single parent if you've always lived within a traditional family, or a homeless person if you've always had food and shelter. This approach got me thinking: how might a Human Library be "stocked" in the church; what "books," what categories of people would be eye-opening to have on our "shelves"? Certainly, single parents and the homeless—but I'd love for a progressive believer to be able to borrow a conservative believer; a person puzzled by women in ministry to be able to borrow a woman preacher. You catch my drift. The purpose of "borrowing" and listening is not necessarily to change our convictions but to soften harsh or indifferent hearts, becoming newly awash in understanding—even empathy—for those we don't know or tend to disregard.

And so, I call us to walk in newness of life, in resurrection, calling forth dry bones and hearts to live! For "If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ has been raised, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries" (1 Corinthians 15:19-20 MSG). Where is life deadened for you, cast down, sad? Where is your spirit eroded, thin, and limping? Christ has left the cemetery. Life can be raised. Hope is alive. Let's get busy!

With expectation,

Paul Munday, Moderator, Church of the Brethren

Discussion Starters / Questions

Glenn Packiam notes: "Lament is not our final prayer. It is a prayer in the meantime...Because Jesus is risen from the dead." How do you keep honesty (lament) and hope (resurrection) in proper balance, avoiding being either too naïve or too pessimistic?

Reread Romans 8:11. Have you experienced God bringing you alive to himself through the resurrection power of Jesus? Describe the experience and the difference it made/makes.

Jurgen Moltmann believes we must reimagine the church as a fellowship of friends meeting "the forsaken with affection and the despised with respect." What steps can your congregation take to become a fuller fellowship of friends?

Moderator Paul tells of the Human Library. Imagine such a library existed in your congregation, district, denomination. Who's a person you'd be open to "borrowing" and learning from? Who would be difficult for you to "borrow" and learn from? Why?

To dig deeper

Timothy Keller. Hope In Times of Fear. New York: Viking, 2021.

N.T. Wright. Surprised by Hope. New York: Harper One, 2008.

1Glenn Packiam. "Five Things to Know About Lament," N.T. Wright Online. <https://www.ntwrightonline.org/five-things-to-know-about-lament/>

2Jurgen Moltmann. The Church in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993, p. 316.

3Ibid. p. 317.

4humanlibrary.org

National Older Adult Conference

SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2021 - ONLINE/VIRTUAL ONLY

\$100 per person, \$150 for couples

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.



To register, go to: <https://churchofthebrethren.regfox.com/noac2021>

Conference information: <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/noac/>

Interview with Conference coordinator: <https://tinyurl.com/bw6cp9n3>

Answers to Women's Fellowship question

1. Bonnie Haughn
4. Barb Miller

2. Jean Martin
5. Nancy Jamerson

3. Marti Striker
6. Megan Bishir