

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



**December  
2016**

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

As we enter the season of Advent, the worship committee has been making plans and choosing materials that will guide our worship. We will be drawing from a resource published in a Mennonite publication called Leader. We will be using their suggested framework but making many adaptations for our own style and creative ideas. The material is titled; The Holy Way, Walking in the way of God's heart. They offer this introduction as an invitation to this year's journey into Advent.

"Advent 2016 celebrates the arrival of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's heart. Our invitation this year is to walk in the way of God's heart. The "way of God" has a double meaning of walking like someone else walks and walking as a journey or pilgrimage. Either usage invites worshipers to consider God's heart as the emanating energy which create the kingdom of God. When we walk in the way of God's heart, we are co-creating the reign of God here on earth."

Here's what I'm thinking...The creators of this guide to worship this season remind us that the scriptures will once again "bring us face-to-face with the reality of the situation at the time of Jesus coming, which took place in the midst of struggle and tension, a stark contrast to traditional, quaint images of a sleepy, cozy little Bethlehem" that we so often associate with the Christmas story. Our minds may understand the terror of the world into which Jesus was born. As much as ever, we will recognize the conflict, fear, poverty and injustice that was part of the religious, political, and social environment of Jesus time. Still, our hearts will find comfort in the prophet's words of hope and trust, in the sweet songs of love and joy we sing together, in the renewal of the embrace of friends, family, and tradition, and ultimately in recommitment in the presence of unity and courage in the communities of faith at work to continue working toward Christ's vision of God's kingdom on earth. Now, as then, God is at work amidst the brokenness of the world. We will continue to strive to be part of that work.

We will be called together in many ways for worship, play, and celebration during the weeks ahead. Each person's presence is a gift of love and support to this community during this season. Please plan to be part of our community life and celebrations of faith.

**Blessings,**

*Kay*



# Worship Schedule

Our focus for Advent 2016 is celebrating the arrival of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's heart. The "way of God" has a double meaning of walking like someone else walks and walking as a journey or pilgrimage. Either usage invites worshipers to consider God's heart as the emanating energy which creates the "way of God." When we walk in the way of God's heart, we are co-creating the community of God here on earth. Let us make that our journey this Advent.

## **November 27    Advent 1: Carrying the Light**

Scripture        Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14

Message        Pastor Kay Gaier

Isaiah lays before us a beautiful image of people from across the world gathering at the mountain of the Lord, the house of God. Here they will lay aside their weapons and learn to live in the way of God's light. How do we carry the light of God on the way with us in our journey in the world today?

## **December 4        Advent 2: Turning toward the light**

Scripture        Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Isaiah 11:1-5, Romans 15:4-13, Mathew 3:1-12

Message        Pastor Kay Gaier

Growth and change is an inevitable part of walking in the light of God. John the Baptist came to get us headed in the right direction to turn us around to face the light. How might our hearts grow and change as individuals and as a church community as we turn toward the light?

## **December 11      Advent 3: Stumbling in the light**

Scripture        Psalm 146:5-10 and Luke 1:47-55

Message        Pastor Kay Gaier

The scriptures today speak of the world as God created it to be—God's dream to replace the nightmare that things have become. Advent is a time of expectation, but it is also a time to become part of the reality we hope and wait for. How will we work while we wait?

## **December 18      Advent 4: Longing for the light**

Scripture        Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19, Matthew 1:18-24

Message        Pastor Kay Gaier

On this Sunday before Christmas, our emotions may be mixed. We long for the promises of the day, but we've put our hope in twinkling lights rather than the light that shines from God's loving face. We know we have put our faith in the wrong things. How do we find our way home to God's heart this Christmas.

## **December 20      The Longest Night Service**

## **December 24      Christmas Eve**

## **December 25      Christmas Day**

Scripture        Psalm 148, Luke 2:1-20

Message        Pastor Kay Gaier

When we walk in the way of God's heart, we are co-creating the community of God here on earth. Let us remember how that happened within us and among us this season and let us continue to walk in the way of God's heart as we journey together into our tomorrows.

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.

## MANY THANKS!

I was surprised and deeply touched by the basketful of thoughtful notes from so many of the congregation on Sunday. I am so grateful for the support and encouragement you give to me in so many ways. The gift of \$300.00 was also appreciated. I will give much thought to spending it in some way that will enhance our ministry together. Blessings to All!

Pastor Kay

Special thanks to Tom DeArmond for his generous donation to the church in honor and memory of Jill.

## Register to ring those bells!

Salvation Army of Wabash County once again will be ringing the bells this Christmas season between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This will take place at both doors at the Walmart Store and at the Kroger Store and also at New Market in North Manchester.

All money raised during this time is used for the year 2017 to help families of Wabash County who are up for disconnect on utilities, eviction for back rent, prescriptions, gasoline, and hotel stay due to fire or other disaster. So far this year, we have helped 100 families.

You may sign up online by going to [registertoring.com](http://registertoring.com) or by calling Deborah at 260-563-8970 for Wabash or Susie at 715-965-7511 for N. Manchester. Any church or organization may sign up for a whole or half day and will be credited for money raised during that time. Individuals are also needed.

Wabash Area Ministerial Association is a United Fund agency.

Contact: Mary Ellen Clark, WAMA 260-571-1818

## Brethren Leadership Institute

Pre-registration deadline is **12/31/16!**

Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) is offering a course on **Old Testament**, taught by Bob Bowman, **January 14, January 28, and February 11, 2017**. Class will be held each of those Saturdays from 9am to 4pm at Marion Church of the Brethren (2302 Geneva Ave, Marion, IN 46953). Coffee and light snacks are provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Pre-registration deadline is **12/31/16**. Those who register after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25.

Peace, Tina Rieman, Administrative Assistant

Brethren Leadership Institute, S/C Indiana District COB Office, 260-982-8805

## Special Offering — Advent Offering

The Church of the Brethren Advent Offering supports ongoing international partnerships with brothers and sisters in Nigeria, Haiti, South Sudan, and many other places around the world. It also helps fund the Office of Public Witness, the Youth Peace Travel Team, Youth and Young Adult Ministry events like Christian Citizenship Seminar, and many other ministries that provide opportunities for people of all ages to give voice to the fulfilled promises of God through action.



## Women's Fellowship Breakfast December 3

We will meet at the newly opened restaurant, The Fried Egg (where Ponderosa used to be) at 8:45am to order and eat together. We hope many of you will then join us for the Hanging of the Greens at the church at 10am.

## Hanging of the Greens December 3rd 10 AM

Join in the fun of preparing our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. If you are not available for that day, please call Karen Odiorne for ideas of how you could be helpful at other times or in other ways. Our time of worship is enriched by the ways we prepare our hearts and also our physical environment. Both happen as we work together to create a meaningful worship space for this season.

## Progressive Dinner December 4th

Start your Christmas season with your church family as we travel together to bless the new homes of some of our members. On December 4th at 4:15pm we will meet at the church to share rides to the Roudebush home for hors d'oeuvres. From there we will continue through the courses of our meal as we visit Jean and Kelly Martin, Bethene Gill, and Tom DeArmond. Join us for an evening of great food, holiday fun, and community house warming!

## Preparation of Advent

This year, we will be decorating the tree in the sanctuary to follow the Advent theme of *God's Heart*. If you have a special heart-shaped ornament you would like to loan to the church, or if you would like to make some, that can be used on our tree, please see Karen to make arrangements.

## The Longest Night   December 20th   7:00   A service of worship

As we struggle to find our footing in a world full of changes, we will pause together for a service of reflection and healing. In this time, we will name the darkness in our lives, but we will also be comforted with the reassurance that no matter how long the night, the light can never be extinguished. Join us as we make way for the Light of Christ to enter into this season of renewed hope.

## Christmas Eve Service   December 24th   7:00pm

In all the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations we can lose our focus on the birth of Christ. Christmas Eve is the ultimate pause of faith. We come together as a community of believers to be present to the gift of love that came to us in the birth of Jesus into our broken and weary world. We gather together to acknowledge that our need for healing continues and our source of hope, peace, and joy is in Christ. May we find comfort and courage in being together this night.

## Community Christmas Dinner

Many of us will have family gatherings on various days throughout the season but no particular plans for Christmas day. If this applies to you, please join us for a Christmas carry-in immediately following our worship service. A ham and drinks will be provided and your favorite additions for the meal will be thoroughly enjoyed by all. If you want to sign up for something specific, that will help us plan, but is not mandatory.





## DID YOU KNOW...

IWU Concert "Joy to the World"

December 10 at 7:30pm

Chapel Auditorium in Marion

IWU Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, University Singers, Chorale, Jazz Band and Heart of Indiana Children's Choir

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 9 7:00 pm

Hosted by the Manchester CoB and featuring the Manchester University Chamber Singers. Bake sale and stuffed stocking silent auction as fundraiser for the spring tours.

A Glorious Holiday Pops

December 4 3:00pm Cordier Auditorium

Presented by the Manchester Symphony Orchestra

University Bands Concert

December 2 7:30pm Cordier Auditorium

Peabody's 3rd Annual Quilt Show December 1-8

Peabody invites you to enter your beloved quilt in their 3rd Annual Quilt Show and Contest. This is a wonderful way to share your love of quilts.

Contact Angie Wollard, 578-3219, if you have questions.

Helping Hands Coat Giveaway December 1

### **Timbercrest** Senior Living Community *Festival of Trees*

Saturday, DECEMBER 3rd  
10am - 2pm

- ❖ Shop at the Christmas Bazaar to help fulfill your Christmas gifting needs!
- ❖ Tour nearly 100 beautifully decorated trees throughout Timbercrest's campus
- ❖ Visit and take pictures with Santa
- ❖ Live Reindeer by Animal Grams
- ❖ FREE Hot Cocoa Bar & Cookies
- ❖ Bring in a canned food item to donate to the local food pantry



#### PARTICIPATING BAZAAR VENDORS

Timbercrest Neighborhood Market • Lulaloe •  
 JamBerry Nails • CocomKnot Shop • Usborne Books • Tri Kappa Cheese Balls  
 Rise'n Roll • Paparazzi Jewelry • Baskets by Shelley and Peg  
 • N. Manchester Lions Club Polinettas • Kelly's Design Studio • Mary Kay • Timbercrest Ceramics  
 Manchester Soap Company • Chrissy's Rustic Relics • Handmade doll Clothes by Phyllis  
 • Premier Designs Jewelry • A Full Hand • Pink Zebra • Perfectly Posh • KenapocoMocha •  
 Graber's Baked Goods • Origami Owl • Jordan Essentials • Knit Happenings • Thirty-One Gifts  
 • Diane's Crafts • Grandma Becky's Pretty's • Esther and Alice's Gifts • Gene's Woodworking • Barbara's Handcrafts

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YOUR ARTICLES  
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R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**December 15**

### *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).