



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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

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May 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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Reflections on Re-opening for In-Person Services

Pastor Doug Veal

As I sat down to write my newsletter article this month, I thought it would be good to take the opportunity to reflect upon our upcoming re-opening of the sanctuary for in-person worship services this month. Hopefully, you have already seen the information that has gone out in April with our plans for this, beginning May 16, 2021. For many of our congregation, this will be the first time to return to in-person worship services since we closed them down at the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. For others, who had been attending in-person for the few months we had re-opened the sanctuary last year, it will be the first time in several months to return to in-person services. While we have continued to offer opportunities to worship together via Zoom, the experience is not the same as gathering together on Sunday mornings. I also want to remind folks that, while we are re-opening for in-person services, we will continue to offer a live-streamed option for those who are unable or who are not yet ready to return to the sanctuary.

It's important for us to remember that this transition is simply a change in the way that we are living together as a congregation. While in the past year, we've moved between online-only, hybrid in-person/online services, and back to online only services, our congregation itself has never ceased to exist or to function. Our congregation is not simply a gathering on Sunday morning, though that has been and continues to be an important part of our congregational life. No, we, as a congregation, are first and foremost a community of believers who are committed to following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Whether we gather for worship in-person, online, or by other methods, we are still that community. We still hold one another in prayer, we still support each other, we still are a community even in the midst of this tumultuous time.

Some may wonder why we have waited so long to resume in-person services. While at first glance, this might seem like a simple question, it is actually a difficult, and complex, question that has been wrestled with by the board and the executive committee multiple times over the last year. Part of the answer, of course, has been that it has never been clear what course of action would be the best. It seems clear to me, that, while we have struggled with this question over this last year, we have had a few important basic thoughts that have led us. First, that we need to be listening to expert opinions, and second, to keep the safety of our congregation foremost in our thoughts and deliberations. As we've considered these, and other factors, we have come to the conclusion that the time is now ripe for us to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary this month.

We are taking some time to prepare for this return to in-person services. Much as we are taking time to prepare the building for our return to in-person services, it is also important for each of us to take time to prepare spiritually for our return. I would urge all of us to be in prayer in the coming weeks as we prepare for this new phase in our life together. Pray for all that continue to confront this disease in their own lives or the lives of loved ones. Pray for those that have lost loved ones this past year. Pray for one another that we may have the grace and care for one another to come together safely. Pray for our leadership, both myself, our executive committee, and the board, as we continue to make plans and to adapt in preparation for this new shift in our worship together.

I'd like to encourage everyone to take the time to read through the re-opening plan a few times, and to commit to following the safety precautions that we are putting into place. While you may not necessarily agree with each of them, we are asking you to take them seriously so that we are able to move forward together. As followers of Jesus, we are committed to love and to care for one another, and these precautions are an important part of how we plan to do so as we begin to gather together in-person again.

Finally, I'd once again encourage everyone to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This is another, important way that we can show that we care for one another. Tasha and I have recently completed our vaccinations. I am glad to speak with anyone about my experience.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

Church Board

A letter and email detailing the reopening plans of the church building has been sent out. If you did not receive either one, and would like one, please contact the church office to request it be sent to you. If you have questions or concerns regarding the plan, please contact Dennis Horn or Pastor Doug.

Nurture Commission

Updates on Visitation

As we begin to look forward to re-opening the sanctuary for in-person worship services, Pastor Doug would like to provide an update on visitation options for everyone in the congregation. With a return to warmer weather, Pastor Doug is available on his days in the office to visit with you outside of the church building, or outside at your home. Beginning May 10, Pastor Doug will be available to visit with you indoors at home or at the church, as part of the move into Phase 2 of our re-opening plan. As a reminder, in Phase 2 of our plan (currently running through May 31, with a planned transition to Phase 3 beginning in June), we are asking everyone in the building to wear a face covering.

Visits for hospital stays and surgeries will be on a case by case basis, and will depend on the rules at the health facility where you are receiving treatment. For example, the current visitor policy at Parkview Wabash Hospital allows for two adult visitors per day, designated by the patient. You may, at your discretion, designate Pastor Doug as one of the visitors allowed. If hospital or health facility rules do not allow for in-person visits, Pastor Doug will be available to visit by phone.

If you would like to schedule a time to visit with Pastor Doug, please be in touch with him by phone at the church office, on his cellphone at 260-225-3014, or by email: pastordoug@wabashcob.org.

Virtual Connections

On Sunday mornings, except for Sundays that Pastor Doug has off, we are continuing to offer Sunday School via Zoom. We have been working through a study on the subject of wisdom in the Bible using A Guide for Biblical Studies from the denomination. Even if you do not have a copy of the book, you can still join in the discussions, which are always very insightful. We will soon be finishing up this book, and will provide more information on what will come next soon. To join in Sunday School, simply log into the Sunday Morning Worship Service Zoom link at 9AM. We end the session with enough time that if you would like to join in-person worship, you still can.

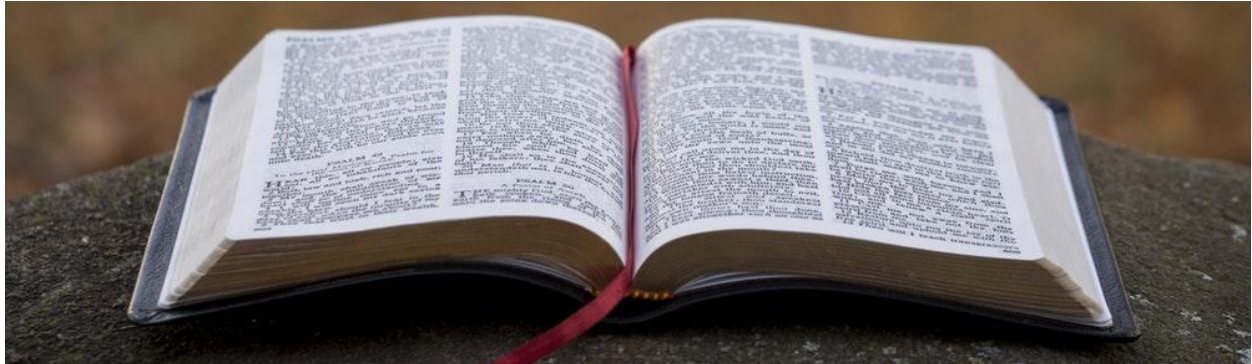
Messenger Subscriptions

It is time to renew or subscribe to *Messenger*, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren. Read, respond, learn, connect with this inspirational and informative monthly resource.

Contact our church representative, Laurie Kieffaber Cornett, NOW with your interest at 260-578-1933 for calling or text, or email at mikisaunt@gmail.com. The payment can be made later by writing a check to the Wabash Church of the Brethren and designating it as Messenger payment.

How about gifting someone else with this ongoing blessing? It could be your children, other relatives, or friends.

Church club rate: \$14.50/year; \$27 for 2 years (contact your congregation's representative Student rate: \$1.25/month



Worship Schedule - May

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
2	Pastor Doug Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Eunuch					No CC	
9	Pastor Doug 1 John 4:7-21 God's Great Love					Until further	
16	Pastor Doug Psalm 1 Meditating on God	IN	PERSON	SERVICES	START	Notice	Laurie KC
23	Pastor Doug Acts 2:1-21 The Coming of the Spirit						Audrey
30	TBA						Bonnie



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship has not been meeting during the pandemic and we need a way to stay in touch with each other. We are going to use the church newsletter to do that so all of you will be able to join in our activity.

The plan is to have a question for each month. Five or six women will be called to answer the question and their answers will be published in the newsletter. The answers will be published without names so that YOU can try to guess who answered a certain way. The names will be published on the last page of the newsletter. Let's go. The question was: If you could take a trip or a vacation to anywhere you wanted to go with no worries about money, age, or physical problems, where would you go? There was quite a diversity of answers.

1. I would go to see various family members that I want to see and haven't been able to see for quite some time.

2. Germany I lived there for a year and a half when I was 18. I was so homesick at first but when it was time to come home, I was homesick for Germany. I'd like to see where I lived there and how things have changed.

3. England My family originally came from there, near Cornwall. I have always been fascinated with things about England. I'd like to see the old castles.

4. All corners of Europe I love learning about new cultures, seeing how they live. I like to see the scenery and try new foods. I would like to learn about their train systems of transportation.

5. Japan. They have a cool culture. The people there are special. They have cool stores and cool candy.

6. Ireland It is so beautiful and green. I visited there when my granddaughter lived there for a while. I'd take her and her husband who is from Ireland along with me. His mom and siblings live there and he doesn't get to see them often.

Answers to April's question are at the end of the newsletter.

Peabody Tulip Festival Update - Karen Odiorne

Brenda asked me to send something from the outing on Saturday. There were 5 ladies in two cars that visited the Tulip Festive at Peabody. It was a drive thru affair, receiving part of our picnic lunch at three stops. The tulips and trees were wonderful, despite the snow earlier. We ate our lunch at the park before going back to Wabash. It was a nice outing and great to visit for a short time. Thanks to Brenda for putting this together and then not being able to go due to a broken foot on Friday!!

South/Central Indiana Women's Camp

Our Refuge Between Rocks and Hard Places

June 3 -5, 2021

Camp Mack, Milford, IN

Key Speaker: Kris Seward

Registration forms are available - we have them in the church office. Contact Michelle or Pastor Doug if you would like a copy. They are due to DeEtta Balser by April 23, 2021.

Upcoming Youth Activities

Junior High

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

Senior High

December 1: Christian Citizenship Seminar registration opens at www.brethren.org/yya/ccs.

May 2: National Youth Sunday. Theme and worship materials will be posted online by March 2021.

Young Adult

May 28-31: National Young Adult Conference 2021 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina).

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 - May

1	Exodus 17-20	9	2 Samuel 10-14	17	Psalms 57-59	25	Job 41-42
2	2 Samuel 5-9	10	Psalms 54-56	18	Job 39-40	26	Jer. 42-46
3	Psalms 51-53	11	Job 37-38	19	Jeremiah 37-41	27	Luke 5-6
4	Job 35-36	12	Jeremiah 32-36	20	Luke 3-4	28	Galatians 1-3
5	Jeremiah 27-31	13	Luke 1-2	21	2 Corinthians 11-13	29	Exodus 33-36
6	Mark 15-16	14	2 Corinthians 9-10	22	Exodus 29-32	30	1 Kings 1-4
7	2 Corinthians 6-8	15	Exodus 25-28	23	2 Samuel 20-24	31	Psalms 63-65
8	Exodus 21-24	16	2 Samuel 15-19	24	Psalms 60-62		

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Witness Commision

Special Offerings - May and June



May - Global Women's Project

Rooted in the Church of the Brethren, GWP seeks to educate about wealth, power and oppression, encouraging one another to live more simply, being mindful of our luxuries, and join in empowerment with women around the world, sharing resources with women's initiatives. Read more about GWP and our founding in 1978.

Celebrate Mother's Day by Honoring Women

Global Women's Project invites you to honor your mother and other women who have nurtured you through the Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Instead of buying more stuff, express your gratitude as you support women's empowerment throughout the world. Your chosen recipients receive lovely, hand-written cards indicating that gifts have been made in their honor, with a brief description of GWP.

Locally, GWP partners with Growing Grounds to help provide transportation, housing, education, and employment for women exiting incarceration. It has been shown that if a person has access to these, they are able to become more stable and live healthier lives. Growing Grounds is the only US-based operation that GWP works alongside.

June - Church World Service



Church World Service was born in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless.

Now 75 years later the mission remains, though where and how we accomplish it has changed dramatically.

In 1946-47, U.S. churches opened their hearts and provided more than 11 million pounds of food, clothing, and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia. Protestants and Catholics pooled talent and resources to meet a

staggering refugee crisis. Today the Immigration and Refugee Program of CWS is a vital, internationally-recognized operation, having resettled nearly half a million refugees since its inception.

Also in 1947, CWS, Lutheran World Relief, and the National Catholic Welfare Program created a joint community hunger appeal, the Christian Rural Overseas Program, also known as CROP. The acronym is gone but the name and life-saving work remains as CROP Hunger Walks in some 800+ communities across the United States.

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
- 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
- Personal Hygiene items



Lighthouse Mission

Lighthouse Missions of Wabash is very close to opening! I'm sure you've all seen the construction going on, and the new sidewalks and access crossings the city has been installing make it look so great!
-Michelle

We will be giving space to:
F.I.S.H of Wabash - food pantry
85 Hope free medical clinic
Advantage Housing- help with housing needs

Again, thank you for considering helping out not only our building, but all 4 Non-Profits, and the thousands that will enter our building in need of food, shelter, clothing, and free medical care.

Sincerely,
Kristi Clark
Lighthouse Mission Board President
email @ kclarkalex@hotmail.com

Growing Grounds

Growing Grounds continues to serve many households throughout the county. Even with current elevated government support and moratoriums on rent and utility cut-offs, the needs remain high. Work continues on the HOST House on Hill St. and the apartments on Wabash. If you would like to volunteer to help with either renovation project, please contact Carol or Dennis Horn. Work continues at the 571 Apartments. New wall paint really brightens up the rooms, repairs to the sewer systems have made a huge improvement, and new flooring has been installed throughout. We expect appliances soon!



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.

Spring is fast approaching and the grounds will need some tending to after the winter. Please contact Leroy if you'd like to assist in some way.

Around the District

District Prayer List

May 2 – Please join us in lifting up Lafayette CoB congregation and staff and the Shenandoah District congregations and staff.

May 9- Please join us in lifting up Liberty Mills CoB congregation and staff and the South/Central Indiana District congregations and staff.

May 16 – Please join us in lifting up Living Faith CoB congregation and staff and the Southeastern District congregations and staff.

May 23 – Please join us in lifting up Logansport CoB congregation and staff and the Southern Ohio District congregations and staff.

May 30 – Please join us in lifting up Lower Deer Creek CoB congregation and staff and the Southern Plains District congregations and staff.

Camp Mack – COVID-19 Response

Recently, there has been an uptick in infections in this area. While they have not reached an urgent state, it is worth noting that our ability to serve people and to bring the community together is dependent on our ability to hold off the virus. For now, that means having people get vaccinations, wearing masks in indoor and public settings, and following good health practices.

Some of the new recommendations being considered by the CDC and our local and state health departments may include some easing of mask-wearing outdoors. However, these decisions have not been made, and as before, we will follow those official recommendations as well as those provided by the American Camp Association. If there is a change, we will inform all campers, parents, and user groups.

It is important for us to remember that our first goal is to protect campers and their families. Our second goal is to provide the best possible camp experience, combining fun, faith, and fellowship.

For now, we can expect Camp Mack 2021 will include:

- Hired summer counselors to limit outside exposure
- Activities scheduled in small groups who will remain together for most of camp
- Adjustments to community activities such as campfires and worship that honor the purpose of the activities as well as safety recommendations
- Emphasis on outdoor activities
- Changes to mealtime routines
- Mask usage for staff and campers in indoor spaces and when in close contact
- Cabin and sleeping areas limited to only individuals who are assigned to those spaces.

There will be a different screening and sign-in/drop-off procedure this summer. It will be communicated to parents of campers registered. If you have any questions, please contact our camp office or email us at info@campmack.org.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Camp News

Order Camp's Take and Bake Meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays! Order by the Sunday prior at 5 p.m.



CREATION SPEAKS
Summer Camp 2021
CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

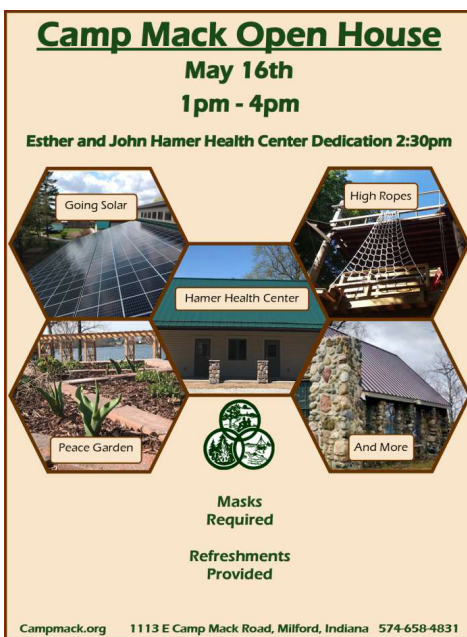
Week 1 June 27–July 3
Youth Camp

Week 2 July 4–9
Beginners/Samplers July 4–6 and July 7–9
Seekers
Survivor (July 4–10)

Week 3 July 11–16
Seekers
Finders

Week 4 July 18–23
Followers
Culinary Camp **MALE FULL**
Archery Camp

Week 5 July 25–30
Finders
CIT (Counselor in Training)
Splash Camp **FULL**



Camp Mack Open House
May 16th
1pm - 4pm
Esther and John Hamer Health Center Dedication 2:30pm

Going Solar
High Ropes
Hamer Health Center
Peace Garden
And More

Masks Required
Refreshments Provided

Campmack.org 1113 E Camp Mack Road, Milford, Indiana 574-658-4831

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

May 10–13—Seasoned Citizens Retreat Join this group of life-experienced people who gather twice a year to meet old friends and make new ones. Special program, craft, vespers and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, “joke time,” indoor and outdoor games, hiking, puzzles and naps, too! Our facility offers handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as dining options for those on special diets. Bring your special talent, humor, Bible, bedding, and games... and be refreshed at Camp Mack! Age: Older adults Fee: \$185 per person (\$125 if not staying overnight) Future Dates: October 18–21, 2021. 3p Monday–1p Thursday <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>

May 16—Camp Mack Open House See page 5. Join us for this special event. <https://fb.me/e/NIEZNcFm>

June 3–5—South Central Indiana Women's Camp Gather with Church of the Brethren women from South Central Indiana for a time of worship, reflection and fellowship. 4p Thursday–1:30p Saturday Age: Women of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For registration and more info, contact the South/Central District office at 260-982-8805. <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>

June 10-12 or 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! 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>

Save the Date: Giving Day, August 7

The Manchester University Department of Music and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra present

Magical Melodies

A concert of songs and arias featuring operatic guest artists in residence.

Nathan Granner
Tenor

Jamie Chamberlin
Soprano

Assisted by Dr. Pamela Haynes, piano




Friday, May 14 | 7 p.m. | Free
Performing Arts Center
Manchester Junior-Senior High School



Manchester Symphony Orchestra Presents

Around the World in 80 Minutes



World premiere of "Songs of the Islands" orchestrations by Dominique Le Gendre and Debra Lynn

Conductor:
Dr. Debra Lynn

Pre-concert talk with Maegan Pollonais begins at 2:30 p.m. in Wine Recital Hall

Guest Artists-in-Residence

Maegan Pollonais
mezzo-soprano


Nathan Granner
tenor

Jamie Chamberlin
soprano

Manchester University

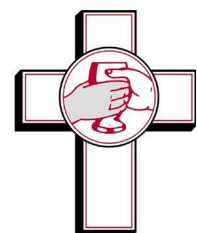
Sunday, May 16 | 3 p.m. | Cordier Auditorium
\$15 general admission; free for ages 18 and younger and for MU faculty, staff and students

Masks are required and social distance seating will be implemented.
Livestream this performance and find updates at manchestersymphonyorchestra.com.



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.



- Remember the derecho, straight line wind? Northern Plains District is open to volunteers, probably April or May, for rebuilding with a VOAD grant thanks to Lowes. call 1-800-451-4407.
- 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.
- Homeland Security and Justice Dept are holding a webinar next Thursday, March 11, to present tips to apply for a security grant and to share resources to prevent or deal with hate-inspired conflicts at houses of worship. Interested? Contact me by email or phone.

Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, Brethren Disaster Ministries, District Disaster Coordinator

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Church of the Brethren Polity

March 10-May 4, 2021, Instructor: Torin Eikler

This is an online course and Academy students will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. In this course, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”

The registration deadline is February 3. You may register online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy>.

Online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy provides each student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. They will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed.

New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for continuing education credit (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE) may enroll as a student and select their category (CEU or PE) upon registration.

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

April 7 - June 1, 2021, Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.

Multivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling, but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation.

The deadline to register is March 3, 2021.



Doing Church Differently: Ministry in Times of Crisis

May 5 - June 29, 2021, Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.

This course examines how pastors are called to lead and assist congregations in adapting to maintain organizational integrity, pastoral viability, and foster spiritual growth in the midst of corporate/community crises (natural disasters, active shooter incidents, pandemics, climate crises, etc.).

The deadline to register for this course is March 31, 2021

Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry; Basic Course

June 5 - Created by James Benedict. This training using Zoom, an online conferencing platform, is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. Registration deadline is May 21.

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Ancient & Medieval Church History from 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.

Preaching

Instructor: Aaron Gross – Logansport COB

Dates: April 17, May 1 & 15, 2021, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Marion COB

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

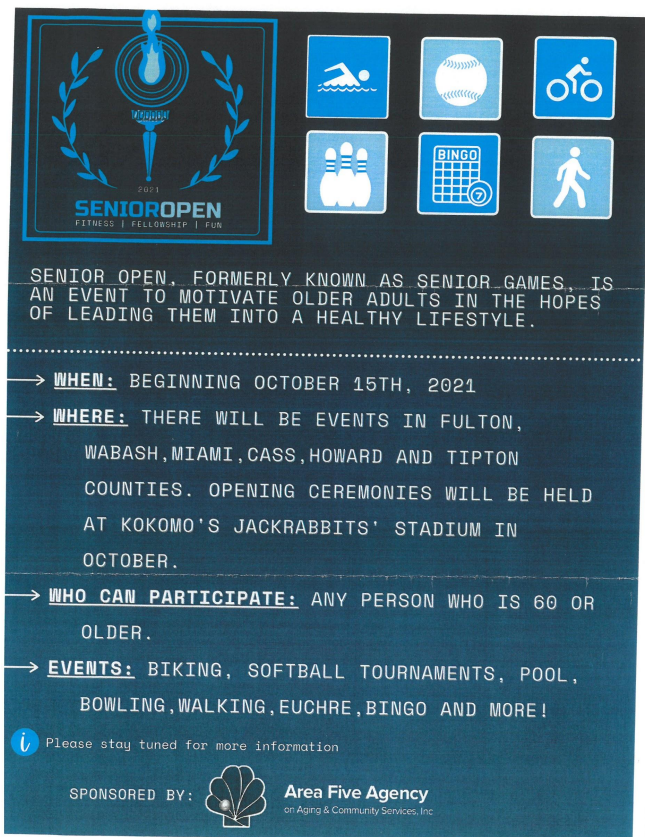
Classes are open to all: You may be exploring ministry, answering a call to ministry, and/or seeking further education. CEUs are available.

For more information on the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) and fees, visit <http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html>.

To register, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com. Please pre-register by Monday, January 4, 2021.

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 poster for the Senior Open event features a central logo with a stylized figure and the text "SENIOR OPEN FITNESS | FELLOWSHIP | FUN". To the right of the logo are six icons representing different activities: swimming, softball, cycling, 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 the following 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.
- **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."

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

Annual Conference Registration Now Open

Annual conference registration opened for all, both delegates and non-delegates on March 2.

To register or for more details about Annual Conference, go to:

<https://www.brethren.org/ac/>

Conference Newsletters

April:

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/02/AC-Newsletter-2021.pdf>

May: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/04/AC-newsletter-2.pdf>



Registration Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.brethren.org/ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/03/FAQ-AC-online.pdf>

Delegate Briefing Video: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/>

Conference Schedule: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/activities/schedule/>

Compelling Vision Bible Study series now available

The complete 13-session Compelling Vision Bible Study Series is now available

at www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/bible-studies.

“The sessions were written to be used in either a face-to-face or virtual environment. Congregations and other groups are encouraged to use these Bible studies in the months leading up to Annual Conference, to both prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference, and,

inspired by the Holy Spirit, to imagine what it might look like to live into the vision and become

“Jesus in the Neighborhood.” (Newsline - February 12, 2021)

Listening and Learning from Brethren Leaders of Asian-American Heritage

Wednesday, May 5th at 7:30 pm (EDT) via Zoom

An upcoming virtual conversation sponsored by the Office of Ministry will feature three Brethren leaders of Asian-American heritage hosted by Dave Shetler, District Executive Minister of Southern Ohio/Kentucky district. The event will focus on the current concern for the safety, needs, and valuing of Asian-American and Pacific Islander members of American society in light of recent instances of violence directed toward them. Insights, experiences, and wisdom will be offered by Wendy McFadden, publisher of Brethren Press and Communications; Madalyn Metzger, Vice President of Marketing at Everence Financial, and Lin Reish, Associate Research Analyst at Healthline Media. CEUs (0.1) will be offered.

To register, go to: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAoduutrz8uHt1zeyywWpfJfS2c4JITWkj5>

Moderator's Town Hall - What will be the 'New Normal'? Anticipating a Post-pandemic World

Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 PM (EDT)

Resource persons: Mark DeVries and Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen

To register for the Town Hall, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ModTownHallMay2021>. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

You can email questions about registering for this event or any other administrative matters to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

Moderator's District Q & A Sessions Frequently Asked Questions Available

Between October 2020 and February 2021, the Annual Conference Moderator, Paul Munday, hosted the “Moderator's District Q&A” sessions in partnership with the Annual Conference Moderator-Elect, Dave Sollenberger, and the Annual Conference Secretary, Jim Beckwith.

Resulting from these Q&A sessions was a set of frequently asked questions (FAQ's) specifically related to the discussion that arose from those gatherings.

The questions are not exhaustive of every question on the hearts and minds of our constituency. Rather, they are representative of inquiries posed by both clergy and laity in a variety of districts. The responses to each question also are not exhaustive; additional detail, however, is found in the endnotes.

A link to the FAQs follows:

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/State-of-the-Church-FAQs.pdf>

Additional questions are welcome.

It is hoped the FAQs will help respond to questions related to information needed, and questions related to concerns, surfacing from our constituency.

For additional information on the Moderator's District Q&A sessions or the FAQs, please contact Moderator Paul Munday directly at moderator@brethren.org.

New and Renew Virtual Conference



Don't miss the opportunity to register and attend the New and Renew Virtual Conference next week, from May 13-15, focused on The Reward of Risk. New and Renew is an excellent opportunity for pastors of new church plants and established churches to fellowship through worship, learning, and networking. The conference will feature over 20 workshop sessions, inspirational worship, and keynote speakers, all of which will broaden participants' knowledge of church planting and renewal and will recharge passion for ministry.

Keynote speakers José Humphreys and Christiana Rice, as well as preachers Samuel Sarpiya, Leonor Ochoa, and Aaron Reyes will dive deep into The Reward of Risk, developed from Matthew 25: 28-29a. Key scripture from Matthew 25: 28 (MSG) reads, "Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most..." Conversations around church planting and congregational renewal often include discussion about the possibility of failure regarding risk. Many times, we do not stop to ponder the possibility of the reward amid risk. What might it look like to celebrate those who have taken the risk for the Kingdom of God? We would be glad for you to join us as we contemplate and celebrate this theme.

Unable to attend live sessions during the conference? Registration includes recordings of all sessions, which will be available to watch to earn 2.0 CEUs until December 15, 2021. Registration costs \$79 per person, plus \$10 for those wishing to earn CEUs.

To find more information and to register go to www.brethren.org/newandrenew

PRACTICE OF MINISTRY DAY

WITH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR PAUL MUNDEY

WHEN

May 22nd, 2021
9:00 am - 2:30 pm (EST)

WHERE

via Zoom

Sessions:

- 9:00 am - "Warmth and Force:
Preaching with the Spirit's
Power and Prophetic Edge"
- 12:30 pm - "State of the Church"
with Q & A session

WHO:

BLI Students
Pastors
Interested Folks

CREDITS

AVAILABLE:

- BLI Practice of Ministry Day
- CEU's (0.5 for whole day)

COSTS:

\$50 BLI Students
\$40 Morning Session only
\$10 Afternoon Session CEU's
\$0 Afternoon Session no credit

SPONSORED BY:

The Brethren Leadership
Institute

TO REGISTER:

[https://forms.gle/
bBLPu1UwWhQQ1Qo69](https://forms.gle/bBLPu1UwWhQQ1Qo69)

QUESTIONS??

260.982.8805
or scindcob@gmail.com



Church of the Brethren

Answers to April's question

1. Laurie Kieffaber Cornett (I'd really choose Annual Conference!)
2. Roberta Eubank
3. Kelly Martin
4. Carol Horn
5. Chloe Bisher
6. Laurale Kreps

Brenda says, "The question for May : If you were having guests for a meal, what would your menu be?
We will have answers will be in the June newsletter. All this hopping around on 1 foot wears me out! "