

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



February
2017

Here is what I'm thinking...

In the Winter 2016-2017 issue of *Leader Magazine*, the Worship Resources for Lent and Easter are introduced with these words, *"Our world is filled with many voices and distractions that call us away from God—violence and fear, consumerism and materialism, hectic schedules, and constant busyness, to name just a few. As Christians, we are not immune to the side effects of living in this environment and can feel afraid, filled with doubt and an inner restlessness. So what is an antidote to this perpetual bombardment? Enter the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period to step back and create space, offering opportunities for reflection. It is a time to repent, to renew our commitment to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. Lent is often referred to as a wilderness, a space where the familiar is stripped away and we face our brokenness."* This is where Jesus began his ministry, alone in the wilderness.

So here's what I'm thinking...If nothing else, this past election season has highlighted the broken relationships with neighbors, broken systems in our country and our world, and even our broken hearts. In the three-year lectionary cycle, this year's Scripture texts highlight stories that call us to conversion and new life. These texts call to us to be restored. Even in the midst of wondering in our own wildernesses, we are invited into this Lenten journey of new life where we face both the limits of our humanity and our need for divine transformation. In worship during this season of Lent we will attempt to *empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice*, by each week refocusing on stories of restoration both from the scripture and from everyday followers of Jesus. The following are means of restoration we will consider together on the Sunday of Lent.

Lent 1 *Restored by Love*
Lent 2 *Restored by Faith*
Lent 3 *Restored by Peace*
Lent 4 *Restored by Light*
Lent 5 *Restored by New Life*
Lent 6 *Restored by Hope* **PALM SUNDAY**
Love Feast *Restored by Service*
Easter *Restored for New Beginnings*

But restoration is not just a Sunday Morning event. Our deepest longings; gifts of mercy, love, peace—gifts from God, are sometimes blocked by something in our daily life that needs emptying so that we may be filled with the sustenance that is necessary for our flourishing. So, step back and create space that offers opportunities for reflection. It is a time to repent, to renew our commitment to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. May the prayer that guides us this Lenten season be; **Restore us, O God!**

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

March 5 **Lent 1** *Restored by Love*
Scripture Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Our lives are full of temptations that distract us from living our best lives. How has Love helped you refocus on the things in life that nurture your soul?

March 12 **Lent 2** *Restored by Faith*
Scripture John 3:1-17; Psalm 121
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Many of us have been blessed with good teachers throughout our lives. Who do you go to with questions about religious beliefs? How have your questions been answered?

March 19 **Lent 3** *Restored by Peace*
Scripture John 4:5-42; Psalm 23
Message

What does the way Jesus interacts with enemies in his day teach us about the way to peace. How does this apply to our own experience with cultural and religious differences?

March 26 **Lent 4** *Restored by Light*
Scripture John 9:1-41
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

When we learn to see the world in a way that brings new understanding—new truth, we call it enlightenment. Who has been that light for you? When have you been that light for others?

April 2 **Lent 5** *Restored by New Life*
Scripture John 11:1-45; Psalm 130
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

It has been a revelation to me some of the even the most dedicated Saints have at times felt God's absence. In those times, we may need to depend on the faith of others.

April 9 **Lent 6** *Restored by Hope* **PALM SUNDAY**
Scripture Matthew 21:1-11
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Jesus rode into the dangers of Jerusalem and was greeted by a hopeful crowd. For what were they hoping? What are we hoping Jesus will bring into our own difficult times?

April 13 **Love Feast** *Restored by Service*
Scripture 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Washing feet, sharing a simple meal, taking communion together—may seem like outdated rituals. For Jesus, these simple acts embodied his vision of the Kingdom of God.

April 16 **Easter** *Restored for New Beginnings*
Scripture John 20:1-18
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Alleluia, Christ is risen! May this day be a day of thanksgiving and celebration of newness in our commitment to our faith and in the life of our church community!



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.

CAMP MACK

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P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765

Email: info@campmack.org

Website: www.campmack.org

Summer Camp early registration deadline: Date is March 20!! Register by 3/20/17 to avoid the late charge of \$30 (\$15 for Beginners & Samplers). Please give your completed registration forms and your share of the fee to your Camp Rep by Sunday, March 19th. The discounts offered for many camps ends March 20. After March 20 campers will pay the late fee. Campers not requesting financial assistance from Camp Mack may register online. If your camper registers online, please let your Camp Rep know.

Volunteer Work Camps help prepare Camp Mack for summer. We need volunteers to help March 13-15 and April 3-5. Come for a couple hours or all three days. Call the Camp at 574-658-4831 to volunteer.

Camp Mack's Annual Dinner is March 17th. Hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:15 p.m. with the banquet starting at 7:00 p.m. Guest speakers will share about the impact camp has had on their group and what camp means to them. Dinner music will be provided. Cost is \$25/person for undesignated seating; Reserved tables: Table of 6 - \$300; Table of 7 - \$350; Table of 8 - \$400. Those purchasing a table will be put in a drawing for the Charlewood Quilt, a beautiful quilted king size quilt. Watch for your invitation or call the camp office for reservation details.

Mothers and daughters, ages 5 and up, are invited to the Mother Daughter Retreat, March 18-19. This year's theme is "Camping or Glamping" This is always a popular and fun event. Fee: \$163 for mother and daughter pair, \$72 for each additional person.

Spring Quilt Retreat: April 19-23. Due to its' popularity, we have added a Wednesday evening arrival option for this quilt retreat. (April only) Register today.

CIT (Counselor in Training) Training: Counselor in Training is available for those ages 15+ and ready to learn how to be a camp counselor. April 21-23. \$50 registration fee. Application required.

Pastors Sabbath: April 4-5. Mike Overpeck will be the leader for this event. Please encourage your pastor(s) to attend. \$20.

UPCOMING GET AWAY DAYS:

April 1: Primitive Utensils

April 29: Target Sports and Container Gardening

Please visit www.campmack.org for more information

PRAYER REQUESTS: Children making summer camp decisions, Camp Mack staff, those applying for Summer Staff, and program and support volunteers.

Enrollment for **Summer Workcamps** is now open. There are many spots available across the country 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/>



Wabash Church Women United

It is with regret that I inform you that CWU of Wabash needs to be dissolved. No one has stepped forward to take over the leadership of our local group and consensus among the responses I received from Board members was that participation has dwindled to the point that it is time.

As of December 31, 2016, there was \$447.43 in the bank account. I am going to suggest that we dispose of the money like this.

One-third to National CWU (\$149.14)

One-third to State CWU (\$149.14)

One third to a local group called Growing Grounds (\$149.15)

To my knowledge, there is still a CWU unit in N Manchester that women can attend.

The next congregational movie and a meal fellowship time will be Sunday, March 19. We will be watching *Concussion* starring Will Smith.



Special Offering



One Great Hour OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more. To learn more, visit <http://onegreathourofsharing.org>

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 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**

March 15

Annual Conference Briefing

AC Moderator Carol Scheppard will be in our district Sunday, April 23. A briefing on AC issues is being planned for 3pm at the Marion CoB. AC delegates are especially encouraged to attend; anyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend, she will also be at the Bethany CoB on Sunday May 21.

Need to use the **Prayer House**? It has moved to the old WC Mills school building. Hours are Monday 12-4pm, Tuesday 8am-10am, and Thursday 8am—8pm. Called Shirley Neal at 563-0047 to reserve.

DID YOU KNOW...

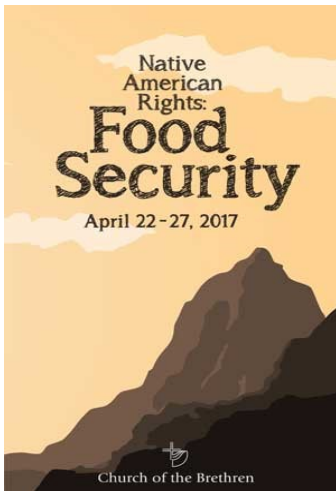
The bulletin board articles get changed out every couple of weeks. Be sure to check it out for all the latest news from:



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

David Steele, the new General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren,

is holding listening sessions around the denomination. This is a way for David to listen closely to people within the church. It's a good opportunity for you to meet our new General Secretary. Two listening sessions will be held in South Central Indiana District. The first will be at **Timbercrest Senior Living Community on Tuesday, March 21, at 2:00 pm.** The second listening session will be held at the **Anderson Church of the Brethren on Wednesday, March 22, at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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

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

Dear Friends at the Church,

Every superlative seems inadequate to describe my appreciation for all that you have done on my behalf. I feel very humble and undeserving of all you've done for me. Thank you for the wonderful dinner following the service. You worked so hard and gave so much. Many church friends have said to me, What can I do? I cherish this strong, network that has been close to me all the way.

Just a year ago, Jim was diagnosed and I was in denial from day one – mistake, not possible, must be a way to cure this. He never once complained and took advice of the doctors all the way. With all the family there and Pastor Kay, he passed in a blessed way. I'm working through giving him up. Love, Bonnie

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).



New Brethren Leadership Class Starting!

I would like to tell you about our next course offered through the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI): Ministerial Leadership and Administration, taught by John Ballinger, March 25, April 8, and April 22 (syllabus attached). Class will be held each of those Saturdays from 9am to 3:30pm at Marion Church of the Brethren (2302 Geneva Ave, Marion, IN 46953). Coffee and light snacks are provided. Please bring your own lunch, and we encourage you to bring your own travel mug to conserve resources.

Anyone can take these classes. You do not need to be licensed, ordained, or pursuing credentials at all. There are no prerequisites. You may audit the course for sheer interest or for CEUs (continuing education units), or you may take it for credit as part of BLI's 3-year program, which you may begin at any time.

Our pre-registration deadline is 3/11/17. Those who register after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25. To register, email Tina at scindcob@gmail.com and indicate whether you'd like to take the course for credit, or audit (with or without CEUs).

Costs:

\$25 to audit the course

\$50 to audit and get 1.6 CEUs

\$75 to take the course for credit (plus \$50 application fee, if not already a BLI student)

\$25 late fee, if registering after 3/11/17

Payment can be mailed to the district office or brought to the first class. Write checks to S/C IN COB District Office with BLI in the memo line.

More information can be found on the Bulletin Board by the Mailbox Room.

Friends With The Weather Concert March 11 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Church Sanctuary

Singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalists Seth Hen-dricks, Chris Good, and David Hupp, are the founders of the new musical project, Friends with the Weather. Their performance March 11 will be the first concert of the church's new concert series. A free-will donation will be accepted at the concert.

Good, Hendricks, and Hupp will be joined by drummer/percussionist Dan Picollo and trumpet player, Ross Huff. For more information check out www.friendswiththeweather.com

