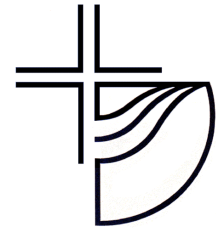


WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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

April 2020

Congregational Connections

Sunday Services

We will continue to gather on Sunday mornings for worship, with the Zoom meeting opening at 10:15AM. To join the worship services on Sunday morning, go to <https://zoom.us/j/393263884>, or call 312-626-6799, and enter meeting ID 393 263 884.

Weekly meet-ups

The second initiative is offering a time during the week for those who are interested to join in a Zoom meeting to chat and socialize with one another. I have set up three recurring meetings per week for this purpose.

The first is on Tuesday afternoons at 4PM. To join, go to <https://zoom.us/j/660520630>, or call 312-626-6799, and enter meeting ID 660 520 630.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday evenings at 7PM. To join, go to <https://zoom.us/j/869664958>, or call 312-626-6799, and enter meeting ID 869 664 958.

The third meeting will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3. To join, please go to <https://zoom.us/j/443578669> or call 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 443 578 669.

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.



In This Issue

- Pastor's Letter
- Women's Fellowship News
- Worship Schedule
- Camp Mack Corner
- District Prayer Concerns
- BLI Update
- Church Calendar
- And more!



Faith in a time of Uncertainty

Pastor Doug Veal

Over these last several weeks, as the circumstances surrounding the ongoing pandemic have continued to grow and

change, I've spent a good bit of time reflecting on how we as a congregation can respond to what is going on. Almost overnight, it seems, our regular routines have been thrown out, and we have to be continually adapting to a new normal, a new way of doing and being in our community, in our congregation, in our world.

In an article published on Time.com, N. T. Wright, Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews, and well-known theologian, reflects on a Christian response to this ongoing pandemic. He argues that rather than trying to explain the why of our current situation, a faithful response is to engage in the Biblical practice of lament. He writes "Lament is what happens when people ask, "Why?" and don't get an answer. It's where we get to when we move beyond our self-centered worry about our sins and failings and look more broadly at the suffering of the world."

I once went on a retreat at Brethren Woods, the church camp near Bridgewater College, with a small group of folks from the college led by our college chaplain, Robbie Miller. At that retreat, we focused on Psalm 13, and learned a good bit about the practice of lament. In that time, I learned about the structure of lament psalms, those psalms that speak to the difficult and dark times in our lives, and that, often, though not always, they end with hope, with trust that God will act.

Lament is a central part of the Biblical tradition, and is especially prominent in the Psalms, as well as the book of Lamentations. Wright comments that "Psalm 89 starts off by celebrating God's goodness and promises, and then suddenly switches and declares that it's all gone horribly wrong. And Psalm 88 starts in misery and ends in darkness: "You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness." A word for our self-isolated times."

Perhaps, then, we ought to take time to lament, to cry out to God, that our lives have been turned up-side down. That we are hurting, we are grieving, we are wondering what comes next. To allow ourselves to grieve, to recognize the loss that we have been and are continuing to undergo.

I'd invite you to take time this month to read through some of the lamentations in the Psalms, and elsewhere in the Bible. You might consider studying some of these passages: Psalms 6, 10, 13, 22, 88, and 89, and reading the book of Lamentations. These can be uncomfortable passages for us to read through, but as we do, we are reminded of an important element of our relationship with God. That is, no matter what is happening in our lives, we can always turn to God to share what is really going on in our hearts and minds. God is big enough to understand, and even laments alongside us.

Wright concludes his article by saying this: "It is no part of the Christian vocation, then, to be able to explain what's happening and why. explain—and to lament instead. Continued Page 8 sidebar...

Women's Fellowship

Women fellowship two events coming up!

APRIL 18

Piano concert at the Honeywell Center—Please note that this event has been **CANCELLED**.



Worship Schedule

There are many roles that bring worship each Sunday; contact a member of the nurture commission (Mikayla G, Bonnie H, Laurie K-C, Linda M, or Doug V. to find out how your unique gifts can be of service.

Please note that at this time, all worship is online. However, as we are able to reconvene the need for participants will also return. Contact the office or Pastor Doug if you are interested in how you can help.

News From the Fish Fry 2020 Committee

2020 Fish Fry Cancelled

It is with sad hearts that we must announce the cancellation of the 2020 Fish Fry. However, in the interest of public health, we believe this to be the best answer.

Reading through the Bible in a year: Daily readings for April

Please note that the readings given for March were actually April's readings. These are the ones that March should have been. My upmost apologies for getting the dates mixed up!

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Psalms 24-26 | 9 Job 19-20 | 17 Isaiah 56-61 | 25 Mark 3-4 |
| 2 Job 17-18 | 10 Isaiah 51-55 | 18 Mark 1-2 | 26 1 Cor 9-10 |
| 3 Isaiah 45-50 | 11 Matthew 26-28 | 19 1 Cor 7-8 | 27 Genesis 48-50 |
| 4 Matthew 23-25 | 12 1 Cor 5-6 | 20 Genesis 44-47 | 28 1 Samuel 11-15 |
| 5 1 Cor 3-4 | 13 Genesis 40-43 | 21 1 Samuel 6-10 | 29 Psalms 36-38 |
| 6 Genesis 36-39 | 14 1 Samuel 1-5 | 22 Psalms 33-35 | 30 Job 25-26 |
| 7 Ruth 1-4 | 15 Psalms 3-32 | 23 Job 23-24 | 31 Jeremiah 1-6 |
| 8 Psalms 27-29 | 16 Job 21-22 | 24 Isaiah 62-66 | |

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Now, more than ever, we need stories of what is going on in our lives as we do our best to self-isolate and stay at home.

Have questions? See Michelle in the office, or send her a quick email.



Foundational Scripture Project

Update

On January 26, we began a Foundational Scripture Project during worship. Pastor Doug would like to express his thanks for everyone's participation and responses to this new initiative. We received a good number of responses, which have been reviewed, and the following list of 12 scripture passages have been selected as our Foundational Scriptures. There were many other scriptures that came up, and Pastor Doug will be holding on to the lists as possibilities for future sermon use. Several of the scripture passages show multiple references, this is because the stories show up multiple times in the Gospels. These will form the basis of a sermon series once we are able to return to worshiping in-person. This series will allow us to reflect on our faith, and begin to dream towards the future.

1. Genesis 37:1-11
2. Psalm 23
3. Matthew 6:5-13
4. Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:1-14
5. Matthew 22:37-40
6. Luke 10:25-37
7. John 3:1-17
8. Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20
9. Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-25, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:1-20
10. Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:16-37
11. Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18
12. 1 Corinthians 13

Joseph and the coat of many colors
The Lord is my Shepherd
The Lord's Prayer
Feeding of the 5000
The Greatest Commandment
The Good Samaritan
For God so Loved the World
The Birth of Jesus
The Last Supper
The Death of Jesus
The Resurrection of Jesus
The Gift of Love

Witness & Nurture Commissions

Local Outreach

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, our support of the community is even more needed. Pastor Doug sent out letters last week showing the support groups we have been divided up into. While these times can be trying economically, mentally and even physically, we are hoping that this is one way that we can come together spiritually to support each other. Some ways we can do that:

- Hold each other and our nation's leaders in prayerful support
- Check in with each other to see who needs groceries, or other supplies, if you are going to the store.
- Send each other a letter or card.
- If members of your list text, send a "thinking of you today" text.
- Call each other.
- Check with witness to see how you might be able to help with other areas.

HOST house Update

Advantage Housing, the organization who runs the HOST House, is calling on individuals, families, and churches who could purchase a window for the house for \$300 per window. The house needs approximately 40 windows total. If you would like to make a donation the address is: Advantage Housing 101 W Sycamore Street, Suite 1A Kokomo, IN 46901.

HAWC Meeting

March 18th 2pm

This meeting was cancelled. We hope to resume with the April 15th meeting.

Community Support

Church Food 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



Advisory Board Meeting

Advisory Board meeting was cancelled for March. We will be looking to reconvene when the Stay at Home order has been lifted. In the mean time, we have been communicating via email to see how we can best serve.



Ben at Camp, 2016

Camp Mack Corner

Camp during COVID-19 Outbreak

You can continue to stay connected with Camp Mack through Facebook. Jess will continue her daily Family Focus posts. Gene will post daily during the shutdown. Remember there is another virtual campfire on Sunday. In case you missed the last one, it was great fun! This Sunday we will be live again at 7:00 pm.

We may all be under a limited quarantine at the present time, but Camp Mack is planning on having their summer camps beginning in June. Please check out their wish list below. Camp Mack Wish List We are now recruiting team leaders, counselors, counselors in training, and summer healthcare personnel. All other volunteer needs are at cammack.org/volunteer-opportunities. Please contact Jessica Kreider at jessk@cammack.org if you are interested in joining!

Watch cammack.org and the Camp Mack Facebook page for updates on April activities!

May 3 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run

May 8–9 Counselor/CIT Training

May 11–14 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat

May 28–30 South Central IN Women's Camp

June 4–6 Samplers Camp 1



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831
Fax: 574-658-4765
Email: info@cammack.org
Website: www.cammack.org

**Muddy Waters Song & Story Fest: July 5-11 at Camp Brethren Heights
(MI)**



A Family Camp featuring Brethren musicians and storytellers in the woods and lakelands of central Michigan!

Seems like we've been here before!

Yes, we're back in central Michigan for the 24th Song & Story Fest.

But we're also still floundering in the muddy waters of national and denominational turmoil. Three years ago the brochure read:

"It seems like we are coursing down a raging river of ignorance and regression. Bouncing around and over big and dangerous rapids that threaten to capsize us, we are in the midst of deep waters on all sides: religious, political, and economic differences that divide and conquer any unity we might experience as one people, under God's care and guidance."

Actually, today we are more mired in muddy waters than bouncing down rapids.

And I don't know about you, but my sense of community seems to be getting smaller and more limited than ever, at least domestically. Brethren, Christian, American – Do you even want to claim to be part of these communities?

But maybe these are the hard and muddy times in which we are called to witness and proclaim the values that we have learned from Jesus and these very same communities.

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves that being community isn't easy, that it carries highs and lows. So, you are invited to join us in Exploring the Heights and Depths of Community!

Together we'll find some islands of hope and understanding to rest upon and regroup, and to re-engage with the muddy waters and the exasperating/beautiful people around us.

Come and muck about with us in the 2020 Swamp! For more information and to register visit www.OnEarthPeace.org/events.

Stewardship

March 29

General Offerings—\$1780

Special Offerings—2915



Special Offering

Heifer International

The Witness commission is pleased to announce that a total of \$335 dollars was collected for Heifer. We will be able to purchase 1 goat, 1 pig, a hive of bees, 3 groups of chickens and \$5 cash. Thanks to everyone for your giving!

District Prayer List

April 5—Please pray with us for Bethany Theological Seminary staff, faculty and students.

April 12—Please pray with us for the Grandview CoB and the Pacific Southwest District congregations and staff.

April 19—Please pray with us for the Brethren Benefit Trust staff.

April 26—Please pray with us for the Guernsey CoB and the Middle Pennsylvania District congregations and staff.

Brethren Leadership Institute

Upcoming Classes

Brethren Academy & Bethany Theological Seminary classes have moved online: All classes will be conducted online through the end of the semester. <https://bethanyseminary.edu/about/bethany-seminary-responds-to-coronavirus-concerns/>



The Year Of Heifer

In The S/C IN District

The South/Central Indiana COB District Board has recommended that 2020 be designated the "Year of Heifer" within the district. Raising funds for Heifer International will be this year's district-wide service project, comparable to past years' collection of clean-up buckets and hygiene kits. Offerings collected at the following district events will all be donated to Heifer International:

District 50th Anniversary Celebration - July

District Conference - September 19

The goal is to raise enough funds to provide for 3 Heifer Gift Arks (\$5000 each) - a total of \$15,000! "A Gift Ark donation includes two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more." Donations may be contributed during offerings at the designated district events or be mailed to the district office (604 N. Mill St., N. Manchester, IN 46962) any time during the year with "2020-Heifer" in the memo line.

National Young Adult Conference



May 22-25, 2020

Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, North Carolina

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information, go to: <http://www.brethren.org/yac/> Questions? Contact Nolan McBride, nmcbride@brethren.org, 847-429-4376.

“Come & See” Solidarity Tour:

Palestine & Israel July 19-31, 2020

Join Dr. Michael Spath on his 15th tour of Palestine and Israel, meeting with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious, political, and NGO leaders, as well as visiting the holy sites of the three Abrahamic religions.



Sites:

Bethlehem – Nativity Church, Manger Square

Jerusalem – Holy Sepulchre; ‘Wailing’ Wall; Mount of Olives; Al Aqsa Mosque & Dome of the Rock, Garden of Gethsemane Optional: Yad Vashem

Judean Desert – Jericho; Qumran; Dead Sea; Jordan River

Galilee – Annunciation Basilica, Capernaum; Tabgha; Mount of Beatitudes; ‘Jesus Boat’

Ramallah – Nelson Mandela Square

Hebron – Ibrahimi Mosque; Old City; Shuhada Street “ghost town”

Land Cost of Tour Package:

The cost of our tour decreases as we add more!

15+ travelers: \$2445 10-14 travelers: \$2895 9 travelers: \$3195 8 travelers: \$3395

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Average of 2 meals daily
- Hotel - double occupancy
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees to listed sites
- Guide - Jericho & Qumran, Hebron, Al-Aqsa
- All tips and gratuities

Please contact Dr. Michael Spath lmichaelspath@gmail.com or 260-515-9300

In fact, it is part of the Christian vocation not to be able to

As the Spirit laments within us, so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding, new hope. New wisdom for our leaders? Now there’s a thought.” Wright’s reminder of the necessity and indeed appropriateness of lament is a timely reminder of this part of our faith lives. I would highly recommend his entire article

Continued Page 9 sidebar...

Christian Citizenship Seminar

Has been cancelled

The denominational offices have cancelled this year’s Christian Citizenship Seminar in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at nmcbride@brethren.org or 847-429-4385.



BDM Update

A Note from Cliff

Brethren Disaster Ministries has announced an extended suspension of its rebuilding sites. This will temporarily move the reopening date of the Carolinas site to May 3 and the Puerto Rico site to April 25, extending the current suspension for two additional weeks.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/brethren-disaster-ministries-extends-suspension.html

for your reading and reflection. You can find it here: <https://time.com/5808495/coronavirus-christianity/>

As we continue to journey together while remaining physically separated, let us continue to lift up our prayers, our concerns, our laments to God's care. God continues to walk with us through this time, as the 23rd psalm puts it, lightly adapted, even as we walk through the valley of darkness, God is with us, comforting us with God's presence.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug



Workcamps

Registration starts January 16, 2020

Theme: Voices for Peace Theme Scripture: Romans 15:1-6 (The Message) Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir - not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

Jr. High - completed 6th - 8th grade

June 7-11 Rodney, MI - Camp Brethren Heights

June 14-18 Harrisburg, PA

June 27-July 1 Philadelphia, PA

July 8 -12 Brooklyn, NY

July 22-26 Roanoke, VA

July 29-August 2 South Bend, IN

Sr. High - completed 9th grade - age 19

June 7 -13 Miami, FL

June 14-20 Boston, MA

June 20-28 BFR- Haiti

June 20-26 Cle Elum, WA - Camp Koinonia

July 5 -11 Kalamazoo, MI

July 12 -18 Palmyra, PA

July 12-18 Waco, TX - Family Abuse Center

July 19-25 Santa Ana - California

July 26 - August 1 Knoxville, TN

August 3-9 Littleton, CO

Intergenerational - completed 6th grade & older

July 6-10 Keezletown, VA - Brethren Woods Camp & Retreat Center

Adult - ages 18+

May 28-June 8 Rwanda

June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able Companions

We Are Able - ages 16-30

June 22-25 Bethel, PA - We Are Able

Annual Conference Ballot for 2020 is Announced

Church of the Brethren Newline - January 31, 2020

The Annual Conference office has announced the ballot to be presented at this summer's Conference on July 1-5 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Topping the ballot are two candidates for Annual Conference moderator elect: Paul Liepelt and Tim McElwee. Candidates for numerous additional offices also have been announced.

Paul Liepelt is a pastor at Annville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, and lives in Annville. He is on the executive committee of the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board; his term ends during the 2020 Conference. In past experience on the denominational staff, he taught at Kulp Bible College in Nigeria for three years 2004-2007. He is an ordained minister and holds a master of divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary..

Tim McElwee is retired and lives in Wolcottville, Ind. His leadership experience in the Church of the Brethren includes a number of roles at Manchester University over more than 30 years, including vice president for advancement, vice president for academic resources, and associate professor of peace studies. While an ordained minister he served as Manchester's campus pastor and later as a chaplain at Timbercrest, a Church of the Brethren retirement community. In the 1990s he was denominational staff in Washington, D.C. He also has worked as senior director of development for Heifer International. He holds a master of divinity degree from Bethany Seminary and a master's degree and doctorate from Purdue University. Additional nominations:

Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee: Beth Jarrett of Harrisonburg, Va., and Walt Wiltschek of Easton, Md.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, representing laity: Richard E. Allison of Claysburg, Pa., and Arthur Fourman of Dayton, Ohio.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 1: Josiah Ludwick of Harrisburg, Pa., and Mandy North of Manassas, Va. Area 4: Daniel L. Butler of Grundy Center, Iowa, and Kathy A. Mack of Rochester, Minn.

Bethany Seminary trustees representing clergy: Chris Bowman of Manassas, Va., and Frances R. Townsend of Onkama, Mich. Representing laity: Irene Beltran of Pomona, Calif., and Jacki Hartley of Elgin, Ill.

Brethren Benefit Trust board: Janis Fahs of North Manchester, Ind., and David L. Shissler of Hummelstown, Pa.

On Earth Peace board: Erick Flores of Hermitage, Tenn., and Drew G. I. Hart of Harrisburg, Pa.

For more information about the Annual Conference go to www.brethren.org/ac .



April

- Due to COVID-19 outbreak, all functions on both campuses have been cancelled. Please check their website, www.manchester.edu for more information.