

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



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

This Spring has been full of changes and new beginnings in our congregation. There have been graduations, a wedding, new relationships, job changes, recoveries from surgery. We now have a food pantry and we officially received ten new friends into our congregation. Not all change in our lives is for the better, but overall the change that has been happening in the church has been very positive. I am glad we have had opportunities to celebrate that and hope it will continue. In that vein, I just read an introduction to this year's Denominational Stewardship packet in which there is a quote that I would like to share; *"The common denominator in church vitality is passion. Congregations who possess passion know they can make a difference in their community and around the world. They know no matter how small, they can do big things for God. The secret is purposeful, mission-driven, congregational life."*

**So, here's what I'm thinking...**Beyond celebrating this new life, we can make time and space in our church life for nurturing the opportunities for growth that come with newness and change. We are in a place that invites us to reassess who we are as a congregation and where we feel we are being called as we move forward. Our lives are always changing, and as a result, what we have to share and where we want to put our energies changes too. It has been suggested that a good start would be to do an update on the **"TIME AND TALENT (I would add energy) INTEREST FINDER ."** I am especially interested in the space to share your dreams for the church that you would be willing to help plan and implement. We could use this tool to realistically evaluate where our gifts and interests are and develop our ministry emphasis based on this information rather than on what we think we should do or have always done. It is really taking a stewardship approach to our life together. I know that the hardest part of ministry for me is feeling that I can't do enough and when I try to do it all I end up doing little of it well. Maybe together we can take a fresh look and find both new and old places where our interest, energy, and resources intersect. These sweet spots could be the places around which we focus our attention as we plan for the future.

I am grateful for this congregation and for the commitment and dedication of the each one here to the care for our life together. I feel the Spirit moving in our midst. With open hearts and minds to this movement we may step confidently into the future knowing a loving God goes with us.

June & July  
2017

*Blessings,*

*Kay*



# Worship Schedule

June 18	Preaching to the Choir
Scripture	Matthew 9:35-10:8
Message	Pastor Kay Gaier
June 25	Counting the Cost
Scripture	Matthew 10:24-39
Message	Pastor Kay Gaier
July 2	Risk Hope
Scripture	Hebrews 10:23
Message	Laurie Kieffaber-Cornett
July 9	The theme song of our faith
Scripture	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Message	Pastor Kay Gaier
July 16	Farming for the Kingdom
Scripture	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Message	Pastor Kay Gaier
July 23	Scrappy faith
Scripture	Matthew 13:24-43
Message	Pastor Kay Gaier
July 30	With sighs too deep for words
Scripture	Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
Message	Laurie Kieffaber-Cornett
August 6	A Tale of Two Kingdoms - Part 1
Scripture	Matthew 14:13-21
Message	Al Hohl
August 13	A Tale of Two Kingdoms - Part 2
Scripture	Matthew 14:22-36
Message	Al Hohl

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

ORNER



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542  
 Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765  
 Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)  
 Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

Laird, Keegan	Survivor	June 18 - 24
Torres, Jazier	Survivor	June 18 - 24
Bisher, Ava	Seekers	July 2 - 7
Bishir, Chloe	Finders	July 2 - 7
Allen, Keauna	Youth	July 2 - 8
Cervera, CJ	Youth	July 2 - 8
Genovese, Mikayla	Youth	July 2 - 8
Marvel, Cohen	Youth	July 2 - 8
Roudebush, Ben	Youth	July 2 - 8
Gentry, Levi	Samplers	July 9 - 11
Marvel, Alyssa	Followers	July 9 - 14
Roudebush, Zak	Followers	July 9 - 14
Laird, Aubrey	Splash	July 9 - 14
Larrowe, Isis	Splash	July 9 - 14
Larrowe, Bradlee	Splash	July 9 - 14
Katie Mullett goes as a Counselor	July 9 - 11	

Several grandparents will attend Grand Camp

Volunteers are essential to the summer camp program. You can go online and fill out an application. Call camp to see where we have openings. Can't counsel? Consider being a support staff volunteer. You are needed!

Camp registrations are still open. Summer campers may now register with an additional late fee applied.

Summer Theme: "Branching Out" Daily scripture based themes include: *The Place where We Camp, I am the Vine, Love One Another, I Chose You, I have Spoken to You, Abide with Me, and I Abide in You.*

Campers love to get mail! Please mail early and address your mail following this sample:

Chris Camper  
 Program Name (i.e. Samplers, Seekers, etc.)  
 Camp Mack  
 P.O. Box 158  
 Milford, IN 46542

Grand Camps: The two Grand Camps for this season are June 15-17 (which is full) and July 30-August 1. Spend quality time with your grandchildren, ages 5-10, and make memories that will last their lifetimes. Fee \$122 per Grandparent and \$92 per Grandchild

Colony Family Camp: a great opportunity to experience some summer fun with your family before everyone heads back to school. August 18-20, \$85 per family, Camp lodging if needed, No meals provided.

## CAMPS OFFERED IN JUNE:

Samplers	June 4-6
Beginners	June 11-13
Archery	June 11-15
Grand Camp	June 15-17 (Full)
Seekers	June 18-23
Finders	June 18-23
Survivor	June 18-24
Eco Adventure	June 25-30
Finders	June 26- July 1



It is time to start thinking about the Camp Mack Festival on October 7, 2017. Please contact camp if you have items to donate to the auction or want to participate in the demos and displays or set up a food booth. Email Deb Roe at [Debra@campmack.org](mailto:Debra@campmack.org)

*Please pray for:* campers, all summer camp leadership, and staff.

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>



### Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship did not have a May meeting/event due to the church dinner and Mother's Day and a wedding! But please plan to join others to once again attend the plays done by students on Sat. June 24, in the Ford Theater.

At 5:30 grades 3-6 will be doing "Let Your Hair Down, Rapunzel" and at 7:30 grades 7-12 will be doing "Disney's High School Musical". We will plan to eat together between the two performances. Our meeting place will be at the conversation area in front of the restrooms. Eating place has not been determined yet, but if you want to eat with the group, please call the office so we know ahead of time the size of the group.

### Retirement Party

Mike Kauffman has announced his retirement after serving Camp Mack for 38+ years. August 31, 2017 will be his last day. An open house to honor Mike and his ministry at Camp Mack will be held in the John Kline building on August 27th from 2-4:30pm.

## Special Offering—Church World Service

CWS has worked for seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. We affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. We meet them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life. Or someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity.



# Inspiration 2017

## Generations



Please don't forget that there are other lodging options available on-campus and off, including bed and breakfast options and rental properties.

The camp ground across the road from the entrance to the conference center has many spots open for RV and tent camping and several cabins available as well.

For complete information about lodging and dining options, please see the registration brochure or information on-line at [www.brethren.org/noac](http://www.brethren.org/noac).

Additional information about lodging / accessibility amenities, and room sharing is also available online.

If you are a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation that is mostly aged 50+, please let your pastor know of a special pre-conference opportunity hosted by the Office of Ministry.

Pastors are invited to arrive on Sunday evening Sept. 3, spend the night and then attend a day-long professional growth event focusing on congregational vitality. Please encourage your pastor to come and then stay for the week. More information is available from the Office of Ministry: 1-800-323-8039 x381 or [jdetrick@brethren.org](mailto:jdetrick@brethren.org).

Registrations for this year's conference are well underway and numbers are up from 2015. Please register, if you have not yet done so, and remind family, friends, fellow college alumni, and members of your congregation that the early bird registration discount ends on July 20. And there is an additional discount for those attending for the first time! If you have registered, thank you!

As mentioned in the registration brochure, NOAC has come of age! We've past a generational milestone. In the brochure, I wrote that this was the 21st year of our older adult (50+) conference, and several NOAC participants corrected my math, for which I am sincerely grateful! This is actually our 25th year! Begun with "Say Yes to Years" in 1992, we are now a quarter-century in. Wow! Looking forward to another great time of inspiration in September!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS  
15th of every month**

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!

Congratulations to our graduates:

**CJ Cevera**, graduating from Manchester High School and continuing on to Manchester University.

**Joetta George**, graduating from Wabash High School and continuing on to IU—Kokomo.

**Finn Haughn**, graduating from Liberty Center High School and continuing on to The Ohio State University to study mechanical engineering.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Annual Conference 2017 is almost upon us! I trust that you all are keeping well and turning your thoughts, study and prayers to the worship and work before us in June. Grand Rapids, with its natural beauty, history, art and culture is an exciting and enriching place for us to gather, and our worship plans, programming and business agenda promise a meaningful experience as we come together as the Body of Christ.

**Risk  
Hope**  
—HEBREWS 10:23

Our theme for this year's conference is Risk Hope. It emerges as a recurring chorus from the story of Israel's progressive descent into and return from exile, even as it speaks Christ's call to us in our world today. In the words of the writer of Hebrews, Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful. We hope that this theme, and its related monthly Bible studies, provide wisdom and guidance for us as we prepare for our gathering, and that it will permeate our time together in Grand Rapids.

Worship this year draws inspiration from our theme, as each preacher will identify a particular lesson learned by God's people in exile and illuminate its instruction and encouragement for us today. The Worship Team has done a fabulous job of crafting ways for us to engage in praise and meaningful reflection as we enter into God's presence together. Annual Conference worship is often a highlight for conference attendees, and this year promises another series of rich, uplifting expressions of reverence and adoration.

The Program and Arrangements Committee has been hard at work all year long preparing activities and opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and relevant learning. After last year's smashing success, the Friday Jubilee Afternoon is back, with its focused time for special programs and music, service projects, community engagement, and equipping workshops. The exhibit hall will have some exciting new exhibitors interspersed among some returning favorites.

This year's business agenda is robust, and calls on delegates to enter prayerfully and thoughtfully into the hard work of being the Body of Christ. We ask all of our brothers and sisters to be in prayer that we engage one another and the matters before us in humility, discernment, and love. Our business time represents more than the task of completing the agenda - it offers us one more opportunity to join together in worship.

May God's blessing be upon you and with us in the weeks ahead as we prepare for our time together in Grand Rapids. Indeed, made bold by the eternal presence and steadfast love of Jesus Christ, let us Risk Hope without wavering, confident that He who has promised is faithful.



In Christ,

Carol Scheppard  
2017 Annual Conference Moderator

The Moderator's May Bible Study is posted at: [www.brethren.org/ac/2017/bible-study](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/bible-study)

Go to [www.brethren.org/ac/2017](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017) to register for Annual Conference in Grand Rapids this summer. Registration ends June 5!

- ◆ General secretary signs letter to new administration calling for defense of dignity of all people

Church of the Brethren general secretary David Steele is one of the American faith leaders who have sign a letter to president-elect Donald Trump calling on the incoming administration to robustly defend the dignity of all people. The letter also was copied to the members of the 115th Congress.

The letter was created with leadership from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). “In advance of confirmation hearings on executive branch nominations, national faith leaders sent a letter to President-elect Trump sharing their hopes and prayers that he would advance American values and defend all people from torture, genocide, and other assaults on human dignity,” said an NRCAT release about the letter.

Read the full story at [www.brethren.org/news/2017/general-secretary-signs-letter.html](http://www.brethren.org/news/2017/general-secretary-signs-letter.html)

### Annual Conference 2017 business

A full listing of business and reports with links to the text of each item is

at [www.brethren.org/ac/2017/business](http://www.brethren.org/ac/2017/business)

Important for Delegates:

Two delegate briefing videos are viewable at the same link.

The following new business items will be presented to the 2017 delegate body:

- ◆ Polity for Agencies
- ◆ Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience
- ◆ Brethren Values Investing
- ◆ Polity for Electing BBT Board Directors
- ◆ The unfinished business items include:
  - ◆ A Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century
  - ◆ Review and Evaluation
  - ◆ Vitality and Viability
  - ◆ Authority and Accountability
  - ◆ Creation Care



Reports will be received from the Annual Conference agencies--the Church of the Brethren, On Earth Peace, Bethany Theological Seminary, and Brethren Benefit Trust--and from the Program and Arrangements Committee and the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee. Ecumenical organizations to which the denomination relates also will report to the delegate body.