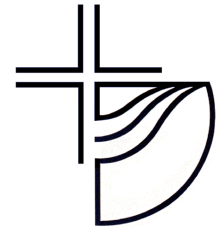


WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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

November
2020

Additional Times for Connections and Study

Sunday School

On Sunday mornings, except for Sundays that I have 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.

Tuesday Bible Studies

Our weekly Bible Study has been on hiatus for much of this year, but will be returning on Tuesday, November 24 at 10AM via Zoom. To connect, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574172976?pwd=ZUhLRnVrZThsWGJTb3pGMVYyMW4vUT09>, or call 312-626-6799, enter meeting ID 895 7417 2976 and passcode 710386. The Bible Study will be starting a new series that week, so even if you have not been joining us before, you will be able to start anew.

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.



Wabash City Schools delivering lunches

In This Issue

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

Putting our Talents to Use

Pastor Doug Veal



Each year, as the days begin to grow longer, and the calendar starts to draw towards a close, we as a congregation take time to begin thinking about financial plans for the new year through

the creation of a church budget. We also take time to think about what it means to be good stewards of the gifts, talents, and financial resources God has granted to each of us. Our stewardship emphasis this year will begin on Sunday, October 25, with sharing from the Commissions of the Church Board. Then, on November 15, we will finish up our emphasis as I will share on our theme scripture, Matthew 25:14-30. This is the well-known Parable of the Talents. Our theme, drawn from this scripture, will be “Putting our talents to use.”

As we consider how to put the gifts, talents, and financial resources God has given to us to use, this parable from Matthew’s Gospel offers us a helpful way forward. How we utilize these resources, and especially how we utilize them in the midst of the congregational community we are building together, is important. In this well-known parable from Jesus, we see the examples of three different people, how they invest the money that is given to them to steward while the master is away. As we think about how to utilize what we have received from God, this parable reminds us that we cannot simply hold onto those skills, talents, and resources God has given to us. No, we are to put them to work, so that they can grow and be used to the glory of God and our neighbor’s good.

Looking forward to our continuing journey together, we can begin to see how this might play out in our shared lives together. Even in the midst of great uncertainty, and yes, even fear, we see that we are called to put what we have been given to use. You are invited, then, to consider how you will commit to utilizing your financial resources to support our work together as a congregation, and as well to think about how you will commit to using your skills and talents to contribute to our ongoing mission.

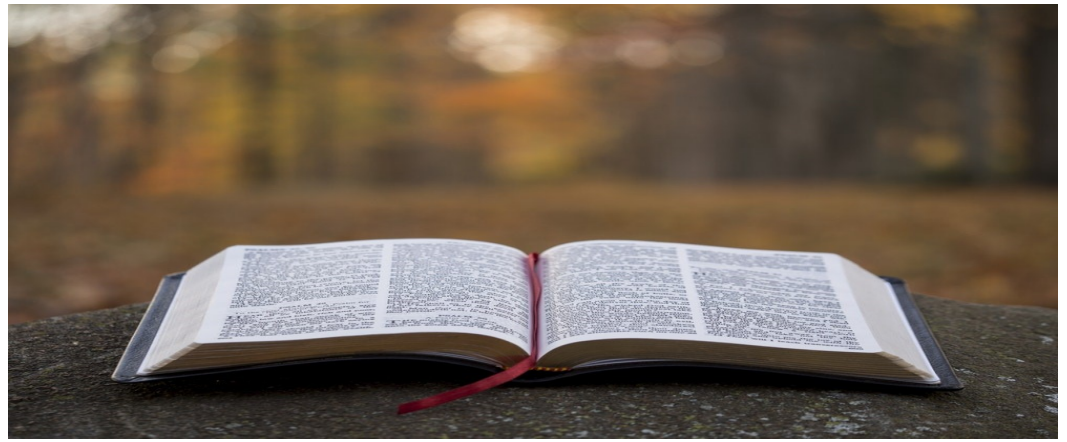
For stewardship, in the end, is about more than just money and financial resources. These are important, and we need to be willing to pledge, and to give, towards the financial needs of our congregation. But that isn’t all that we are called to do. We are also called to give of our skills and talents to the work of God around us.

As we make our plans for the year ahead, you are invited in this time to think, and to make commitments, to use your gifts, your talents, and your financial resources to support our congregation’s work in this coming year. While this time looks different than what we are used to, or had expected, we are still called to be faithful stewards of the things we have received from God.

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.



Worship Schedule—November

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
1	Samuel Sarapiya, NYC 2014		No singing			No CC	
8	Pastor Doug: Philippians 4:1-13 All things through Christ		Until further			Until further	
15	Pastor Doug: Matthew 25:14-30 Putting our talents to use		Notice			Notice	
22	AC 2019 Wendy McFadden						
29	Pastor Doug: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Restore us, O Lord, 1st Sunday of Advent						

Moderator's Town Hall

Featuring Mark DeVries is planned for Nov. 19

Annual Conference moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for the next Moderator's Town Hall on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. (Eastern time). The featured resource person will be Mark DeVries, founder and president of Ministry Architects, a nationally acclaimed church resourcing organization. "Innovative Ideas for a Hard Season" will be the focus.



Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/moderators-town-hall-featuring-mark-devries <https://mcusercontent.com/fe053219fdb661c00183423ef/images/9894b4c8-02d9-4513-825e-3bcce120034b.gif>

News from the Director

Connection in Service

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. -Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV) This wonderful affirmation brings me comfort as we all experience separation from the communities that mean so much to us. Even when we gather in worship, we are separated, and our contact is limited to connecting with our eyes and brief conversations. Even before COVID-19, there was discussion about what it meant to be the church. A great deal of research showed that congregations who classified themselves as alive and vibrant were not focused on Sunday morning, but instead the rest of the week. The Sunday morning worship, the business of the church, and the community gathered were celebrations of the real work done in the community. This research goes beyond the church to community organizations as well. In these past several months, I have felt disconnected from the other members of my congregation, from family, from civic groups, and from many of you who make up the community of Camp Mack. The spark, the fire, the physical touch seem to be missing. The early church of Acts was a community that ate together, shared their resources, and worked in their cities to find people who yearned for the Gospel and needed help. Jesus spent a great deal of time in prayer, but he made it clear that acts of worship were completed when his followers addressed the needs of the poor and oppressed. Because the activity in buildings is so limited, how can we be the church or community group in these days? I believe it is in finding opportunities for connection in service. Certainly there are projects your community can do in your location. Outside work or safely distanced inside jobs can provide that chance to be together and experience the joy of accomplishment. We also have ways for your group to connect. Some groups rent cabin or lodge spaces for safely spaced gatherings. Other groups have come to hike together or meet outdoors for an hour or more on an afternoon or evening. Several groups have found service projects they can do together in support of camp, but more importantly as opportunities to serve God. We have even had churches and other organizations contribute both the funds and the labor to meet a particular need. What do they all have in common? They leave refreshed and smiling. If we truly seek to experience God's love in Christ, not even this virus can stop us.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Witness & Nurture Commissions

Lighthouse Mission

They have purchased the old Plain Dealer building on the corner of Canal and Cass and are looking to remodel! They will be providing office space to 85 Hope, FISH, and Advantage Housing, in addition to their storefront.

Their goal is to raise \$200,000 to complete the remodeling. If you are so inclined to assist with their cause, the Community Foundation of Wabash County is administering the fund for them. You can mail in a check and earmark it for them, or you can donate online at www.cfwabash.org.

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
Personal Hygiene items



Zak at Camp, 2016

Camp Mack Corner

Fall Activities

Autumn isn't marked for me by the first orange leaf spotted or pumpkin spice everything being marketed. Autumn begins as I focus on putting sailboats in winter storage and seeing piers stacked on the beach where they will soon be covered in the winter snow. Autumn is a time of transition. Groundhogs rush to their dens with mouthfuls of leaves preparing their dens for hibernation. As I prepare for winter, I do some rushing of my own. Do I have enough yarn? Never! And baking supplies.... It's not unusual to see 20 lbs of cream cheese in my fridge for making cheesecakes or 25 lbs of powdered sugar on my counter for decorating cookies. Stitching and stirring surrounds much of my autumn and winter life. And I love it! It's so satisfying to start with the ingredients for a great project and work hard to see the finished



product. Feeling the urge to stitch and stir? Join me at Camp Mack in the next couple of months and I will help you begin your journey or add to your bag of tricks. I will be offering a Knitting and Crocheting day for all levels of fiber artists including complete beginners. We have a Scrapbooking (and crafting) retreat. And in December, we will offer 3 sessions of

Christmas Cookie Baking and Wreaths/
Swags making Get-A-Way Days. Camp is

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

Jesse's letter, continued...

a great place to learn a new hobby, do things you enjoy, and gather inspiration from others. I look forward to stitching and stirring with you this autumn. Jessie Kreider, Camp Mack Program Director

November 14—Sandhill Cranes Trip

Travel with us to the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Observe upwards of 10,000+ cranes in the field from the observation platform as they fly in and dance while traveling along their migration route. This event should be on every birders life list. Saturday 2p–10p Meet at the John Kline Welcome Center to then go offsite Cost: FREE Leader: Jess Kreider Come dressed for the weather. Bring binoculars. *Due to social distancing not being an option in vehicles, we will meet at camp and carpool to Jasper-Pulaski. We will travel Highway 6 to view Sandhill Cranes in the field close to Walkerton before heading down to Jasper-Pulaski.

Pastor Doug's letter, continued...

On November 15, you will have an opportunity to make a pledge for the upcoming year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will be trying something a little different with our pledge cards. Our pledge cards this year are in the form of a bookmark, and you will be invited to make your pledge on them as usual. Then, instead of handing them in, you will keep them, and are invited to use them in your Bible as a regular reminder of what you have pledged to support our work as a congregation.

In Christ, *Pastor Doug*

Brethren Disaster Ministries



Slowly Returning

Arlene and I have been here in Dayton on the BDM tornado rebuild site for more than two weeks. Sure we had some reservations about health safety before we came. But BDM is using extreme caution as we gather, live together, eat together and work together. Partners are taking care too and we are protecting home owners while improving their living situation.

This is a very good safe way to do the ministry of Jesus in the midst of Covid.

Yes, volunteers are reluctant to come so numbers are down. But you can come with the knowledge that this is as safe as it gets. Safe for home owners too as one with a new roof said recently, "It is nice for it to rain and not have it rain into my home."

BDM sites in North Carolina and here in Dayton can always use volunteers. I need five more volunteers for the week of November 29—December 4. All I need is your registration form and your willingness to abide by the COVID protocols.

Find the appropriate forms at <https://www.brethren.org/bdm/rebuild/volunteer/> So, many things are happening. BDM needs people for rebuilding and meal preparation. BDM and CDS need folks to make masks and assemble kits. Where would you like to plug into these ministries of our church? Please respond to the email or call me at 260-982-2971.

Blessings of peace to you! Cliff Kindy

District Prayer List

November 1—Please pray with us for the Rossville CoB and staff as well as the Pacific Northwest District staff and congregations.

November 8—Please pray with us for Salamonie CoB congregation and staff and the Puerto Rico District congregations and staff.

November 15—Please pray with us for the Turnpointe Community CoB and the Middle Pennsylvania District congregations and staff.

November 22—Please pray with us for the Union Grove CoB and the Southern Pennsylvania District congregations and staff.

November 29—Please pray with us for the Upper Fall Creek CoB and the Western Pennsylvania District congregations and staff.

Witness & Nurture Commissions

Brethren Press, a letter from Pastor Doug

Our congregation has been using materials from Brethren Press, the publishing house for the Church of the Brethren, for many years. Our bulletin covers, Lenten and Advent devotionals, and some Sunday School materials are a small portion of what we utilize from Brethren Press on a regular basis

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Brethren Press has been enduring ongoing financial difficulties. Recently, we received a letter from Wendy McFadden, head of Brethren Press. In it, she shared some of the following information:

The plain truth is that the pandemic has seriously hurt Brethren Press.

Most of our resources are created for Brethren congregations meeting in person for worship and Sunday school. But ever since March, when congregations could no longer gather, sales have plummeted.

Publishing for a small denomination is a financial challenge every year, but this year we are in dire straits. Back in the spring, we swung into action to help congregations deal with the pandemic. We made a number of resources available free online—to help everyone weather what at the time seemed like a temporary situation. Over the summer we have retooled the Shine children's curriculum to meet this new reality, creating a guide to help teachers use the materials online and a special resource for parents. We also created new products to boost income and made available many books that we would have brought to the Annual Conference bookstore. Despite our efforts, the numbers are sobering. At the end of August, our sales were down by almost \$150,000. That month we had to reduce our staff by two part-time employees. We can't continue this way for long. Without help, we might be looking at the end of Brethren Press.

At our October Board meeting, we approved a donation of \$500 from the 2018 and 2019 Fish Fry funds to help out Brethren Press. We do this as a small way to help out what has been an important resource for our congregation. If you would personally like to donate to Brethren Press, please be in touch with me and I can provide you information on how to do so.

In addition to this, another way that we can help support the ongoing work of Brethren Press is to choose them as a source for Christmas presents for our loved ones this year. Instead of immediately thinking of Amazon or Walmart for our Christmas presents, consider ordering items from Brethren Press. They have many wonderful books, lovely children's Bibles, and other items available. By ordering from Brethren Press, you will be supporting the ongoing work of our denomination's publishing and help to ensure its future.

In Christ,
Pastor Doug

Volunteer Opportunity

85 Hope Clinic

85 HOPE Wabash at Friends Church could use a few medical (RN, LPN, CMA) and non-medical volunteers (office and reception). Schedule is flexible and volunteers do not need to work every week. Interested persons should call 260-274-0011 and leave a message. We will return your call.

An Easy Way to Help! Camp Mack and Amazon Smile

Camp Mack is currently working hard to make up for lost income this year. It is not easy, and we have had limited success. However, there is one way you can help that is easy and simple.

Amazon has been one of the big winners during the pandemic. Mostly because it is able to help people get the things they need in ways that keep them physically distanced and safe. For years now, they have had a program called **Amazon Smile**. Anyone who purchases from Amazon can participate. It's so simple. When you buy something from Amazon, a small donation is made to the charity of your choice.

Camp Mack is one of the charitable organizations that is registered, so you can help us by registering at Amazon Smile and selecting us as the organization, or you can switch to us if you are already registered.

For more information, you can follow this link: https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/?ref=smi_aas_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0, or you can sign in to your Amazon account and click on "Customer Service." Under "Find more solutions," type in "Amazon Smile."

Each individual contribution isn't huge, but together, we can make a difference. If you have any questions, please email todd@campmack.org, or call the Camp Office.

Upcoming Opportunities 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.

February 7, 2021: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. www.souperbowl.org.

April 24 – 28: Christian Citizenship Seminar 2021 (This year it will be a virtual event.)

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

Young Adult

January 8, 2021: Ministry Summer Service applications due. www.brethren.org/mss

January 21: National Young Adult Conference 2021 registration opens at www.brethren.org/YAC

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

Special Offerings

November New Community Project ...turning the world upside down...

Launched in August 2003, NCP is a small nonprofit organization with a big goal: to change the world. We provide resources that challenge us, experiences that change us, and a community that gives us hope. Our focus is environmental sustainability and social justice, both of which are essential for a peaceful human community. NCP considers the spiritual dimension of our lives to be important, and seeks to bring about deep inner change in our personal and societal values. However, we welcome and work with anyone who shares our commitment to a world of peace and justice and sustainability.

For more information, check them out at www.newcommunityproject.org



December—Advent Offering

This is a denominationally sponsored offering that supports many different missions and ministries throughout our global community.



Women's Fellowship

Knowing that we all miss seeing each other, are there alternate ways that we can sit with each other? If you have ideas, please contact Michelle in the office.

Stewards Commission

Video Assistant Needed

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.

Upper Room

November—December Edition

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.

Annual Conference News

Nominations now open

The Nominations & Personnel sub-committee of the Standing Committee is currently accepting nominations for Annual Conference positions on the 2021 ballot. For more information or to make a nomination go to: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/> or contact the S/C IN District Standing Committee Rep. Kurt Borgmann (rkborgmann89@gmail.com).

Brethren Leadership Institute

Upcoming Classes

Evangelism & Outreach

Instructor: Brian Mackie

Dates: November 7 & 21, December 5

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

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>.



Step Out: Seeking New Paths

2021 Workcamp Options



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workcamp Office has developed alternative workcamp options for summer 2021 workcamps. Our top priority is the health and safety of workcamp participants and the communities we serve, and we hope to offer workcamp options that reflect this priority while also providing a meaningful workcamp experience. We are grateful for those who participated in our informational survey; your feedback has been valuable as we continue planning for next summer! At this time, we would like to officially announce that we will be offering four different options for 2021 workcamps. This fall, we'd like to begin planning with individuals and groups who are interested in attending a workcamp next summer. If you are interested in participating in 2021 workcamps please be in

touch with us with your Tier preference by December 1, 2020. You can either fill out this preference survey and we will contact you or you can contact us directly by emailing cobworkcamps@brethren.org or calling 847-429-4337. This will allow us to best plan for your group but will not constitute your workcamp registration. 2021 Workcamp registration dates will be announced soon – stay tuned!

The four 2021 workcamp options, and their cost, are as follows:

Tier 1 – \$75: In this tier, participants will serve in their local communities during the day, either individually or with other members of their congregation. In the evening, participants will gather virtually for devotions and activities. Participants will be expected to bring their own lunch while serving. The Workcamp Office will work with individuals and congregations to coordinate service opportunities within their local context. The Workcamp team will also provide leadership during the virtual evening meetings.

Tier 2 – \$235: In this tier, participants will serve in their local area with other members of their congregation during the day. In the evening, they will gather together physically, in a socially-distant manner, for dinner, devotions, and activities. Participants will return home to sleep each night and be expected to bring their own lunch while serving. The Workcamp Office will work with the congregation to plan local service and will provide leadership and participate in-person during the week.

Tier 3 – \$285: In this tier, participants will serve locally with other congregations in their region during the day. In the evening, they will gather together physically, in a socially-distant manner, for dinner, devotions, and activities. Participants will return home to sleep each night and be expected to bring their own lunch while serving. The Workcamp Office will work with each congregation interested in participating to plan local service and will provide leadership and participate in-person during the week.

Tier 4 – \$350: In this tier, participants will participate in a “normal” workcamp. Workcamp participants from around the country will travel to a workcamp location, stay together in local housing accommodations (church or camp), and serve together for the week. The Workcamp Office will plan and lead all service work, meals, devotions, and recreational activities.

***Please note that Tier 4 workcamps are presented as an option pending the distribution of a safe vaccine in Spring 2021. We expect to make a decision about Tier 4 workcamps by February 15th, 2021.

Please note: Tier 1-3 workcamps will start on a Sunday evening and run through Friday evening. Tier 4 workcamps will begin Sunday evening and run through Saturday morning.

This year, all workcamps will be intergenerational and open to individuals who have completed 6th grade and older. As usual, adult advisors are required to attend with groups of youth and are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the workcamp. Advisors will register at the same time as their youth and pay the same registration fee.

The Workcamp Office asks that congregations send at least one adult advisor for every two to four youth participants, keeping gender in mind (i.e. if youth are all male, there should be at least one male advisor). All adults who attend a workcamp will be required to go through a background check administered by the denominational office.





Advisory Board Meeting

Advisory Board meeting has been cancelled since April. 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.

Global Prayer Update

Nigeria

There has been considerable unrest in Nigeria over the past week. It began Oct. 20 with the police shooting of civilians at an #EndSARS protest near Lagos, in the south of Nigeria. The movement using the hashtag #EndSARS is seeking to abolish a federal police unit called the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) that is accused of multiple abuses. "Amnesty International said it has recorded 82 cases of SARS abuses over the past three years, including beatings, hangings, mock executions, sexual assault, and waterboarding," reports the Washington Post.

This sparked more protests and looting around the country, and 24-hour curfews have been put in place in 20 states across Nigeria (including Plateau State – where Bethany student Sharon Flaten resides, and Adamawa State – the headquarters of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren In Nigeria).

Reports from Rev. Yuguda Mdurvwa, director of EYN Disaster Relief Ministry, said warehouses across the country which contained COVID-19 relief supplies had been broken into, items taken, and buildings destroyed. While the rural areas have not experienced this looting and destruction, they remain targets of Boko Haram attacks and many locals are afraid to sleep in their villages at night. Flaten reported from Plateau State: "The first curfew was relaxed Friday morning but then people discovered several large warehouses that were full of palliatives that (we think) were meant to be distributed as aid months ago for COVID-19 relief. On Saturday thousands of people went to these warehouses to take any/all food that they could carry. As a result, the governor reinstated the 24-hour curfew which we are still under now. And while it seems that many people are obeying the curfew, some still are not. As for me, I'm doing okay, I am just so thankful for this house, and this compound, and the people who live here. I was able to find some small food stuffs close to the compound here on Friday and one of my closest friends helped me on Saturday to get some supplies. Today we are waiting to hear what will happen next." Please pray for Nigeria and the members of EYN.

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

1	Psalms 125-127	9	Ecclesiastes 5-6	17	Zechariah 1-7	25	Acts 17-18
2	Ecclesiastes 3-5	10	Haggai	18	Acts 15-16	26	1 John 1-3
3	Zephaniah	11	Acts 13-14	19	2 Peter	27	Deut 20-22
4	Acts 11-12	12	Peter 4-5	20	Deut 16-19	28	Nehemiah 1-4
5	1 Peter 1-3	13	Deut 13-15	21	Ezra 6-10	29	Psalms 137-139
6	Deut 10-12	14	Ezra 1-5	22	Psalms 134-136	30	Ecclesiastes 11-12
7	2 Chron 33-36	15	Psalms 131-133	23	Ecclesiastes 9-10		
8	Psalms 128-130	16	Ecclesiastes 7-8	24	Zechariah 8-14		

Letter from the District Executive

Beth Sollenberger

Yesterday I sat in our family room with a fire in the fireplace watching the leaves blow around the yard and the snowflakes settle on the deck chairs. It was warm and cozy but felt too early for snowflakes! Those of us from a certain generation can remember back to grade school days and those tiny little booklets of poetry that we had to memorize for in-school recitation. One of those strange ones from my past that often comes to mind on crispy fall days is from James Whitcomb Riley's "When the frost is on the punkin." The second verse came to mind proclaiming the beauty of a fall day: "They's something kindo' harty-like about the atmsufere When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here— Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossums on the trees, And the mumble of the hummin'-birds and buzzin' of the bees; But the air's so appetizin'; and the landscape through the haze Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock— When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock." These days it is so easy to feel nostalgic for other times! We miss being together for worship and hearty hymn singing followed by potlucks and good visiting without masks. We miss being able to go shopping for the entertainment value and not be limited to dashing in and out with the necessities. We miss being able to just go out to eat at any restaurant on a whim with friends or to celebrate a big day or because we do not feel like cooking. We miss making plans for holiday get togethers and debating whether to make mince meat pie or just stick with pumpkin. Riley's poem is a good reminder to look further than our list of limitations and savor the view. It is indeed a "pictur' no painter has the colorin' to mock." God is good to us and we see it in the beauty of our Creator made surroundings, the caring words of a friend during yet another Zoom meeting, the ability to worship while sitting in a church parking lot with the radio tuned, the surprise of finding a rose tucked back too far into the corner to freeze. The God we love and serve has blessed us with the gift of adaptability and surprises us with grace even during this strange fall when the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock. Blessings, Beth



Manchester University Church Relations presents

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2020

Free & Virtual

POWERHOUSE

"Do not let them be afraid"

John 14:27

11/13 @ 7PM (ET)
VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE

11/14 @ 2PM (ET)
ONLINE GAMES

11/14 @ 7PM (ET)
WORSHIP

Keynote Speaker:
JODY GUNN,
Pastor of Bethany Church of the Brethren in Farmington, DE

GO HERE TO REGISTER

WWW.MANCHESTER.EDU/POWERHOUSE

