

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



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

In the calendar of the church, the period between New Year's Day and the beginning of Lent is a season of Epiphany. The dictionary says an epiphany is a "perception of the essential nature or meaning of something". This is the liturgical season of epiphany, the revelation of the essential nature and meaning, of Jesus and his mission to teach us the about God and God's vision for creation. Much of this teaching came in the form of parables. Mark puts it this way; "With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples." He explained these stories to his disciples, but the other listeners had to figure it out for themselves. And since these explanations were never recorded, so do we. This was probably wise. It allows every individual and generation to wrestle with the meaning for their time and place.

So here's what I'm thinking...As we meet together during these weeks of epiphany and preparing for Easter, it seems a perfect time to struggle with Jesus' stories, his revelatory parables—lessons in understanding the essential nature of God. We know through scripture that even with Jesus' private instruction the disciples were constantly misunderstanding Jesus, who then would correct them. I think we would also benefit from some instruction along the way. One such resource that will offer us some insight is the book, *Short Stories by Jesus; The Enigmatic Parable of a Controversial Rabbi*. The author, Amy-Jill Levine, is a University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies. She brings new and at times challenging insights into the hidden meanings Jesus, as a Jewish man and wise teacher, would have imparted through his story-telling. She disturbs us with the cultural and structural implications of the stories we thought we already knew--and she means to. She says, "The parable should disturb. If we hear it and are not disturbed, there is something seriously amiss with our moral compass." The scripture says that Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. As we move through Epiphany into Lent, let us open our hearts and mind to Jesus' disturbing "Good News!!" Come and participate in this conversation about the essence and meaning of Jesus revelation of God's "kingdom on earth as it is in heaven."

January 2016

*Blessings,*

*Kay*



# Worship Schedule

## January 10 *Jesus' lost and found*

**Scripture** Luke 10:25-37

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

This section of Luke has Jesus telling one parable after another. The lost coin, the lost sheep, the lost son. What was his point? Who was he talking to? Look at the story again from the perspective of the pre-cross and pre-resurrection people that Jesus was speaking to.

## January 17 *The Good Samaritan*

**Scripture** Luke 15:4-32

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

This story is so familiar and domesticated that few Christians can even hear what is being said to the Jewish listeners of the day. Given Jewish history with the Samaritans, for some Jews it would be like saying, "the good terrorist." What is Jesus trying to say? Maybe it is more complicated than we realize.

## January 24 *The Kingdom of Heaven is like Yeast*

**Scripture** Matthew 13:33

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

According to the Jesus Seminar's website: "...the parable of the leaven makes light of an established symbol. Leaven was customarily regarded as a symbol for corruption and evil. Jesus here employs it in a positive sense." What might Jesus be doing here?

## January 31 *The Pearl of Great Price*

**Scripture** Matthew 13:45-46

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

In most of my experience this story is treated as an allegory opening it up to a variety of viable interpretations. What if Jesus did not tell it as an allegory but as a parable—his stated preferred way of teaching? How would this change our hearing and understanding?



I want to thank the congregation for the gift certificates and the contributions to the matching fund from the Excellence in Ministry Program. Your generosity continues to humble and encourage me in this work we do together. Kay

## Prayers for:

**Stan Miller** continues to receive therapy for his constant headaches.

**Solomi Titus** is our girl from the group that was abducted from school in Nigeria. Please keep her and her family in your hearts and prayers.

**Kenny Larrowe** as he recovers from his disc replacement surgery on December 31.

**Wayne Barkey** as he has his knee replacement surgery on January 11. The surgery will be done in Huntington.

**Terry Copeland** as he recovers from pacemaker replacement surgery.

## New Jersey - Hurricane Sandy A new home in Spotswood

"Super Storm" Sandy was formed when a monster-sized hurricane merged with a Nor'easter blizzard in October of 2012, crippling New Jersey coastal communities for weeks. The attempts of many storm survivors to recover have been filled with frustration, delays, and red tape. Hurricane Sandy recovery is now in its third year, and many families still need help to restore their homes.

Since January 2014, Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers have been working on home repair and rebuilding around Spotswood, N.J. and other parts of Monmouth County. BDM's assistance will be needed in Spotswood through the end of 2015.

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Working this week, which is also the last week for BDM to be on the project is a small delegation from the Pleasant Hill CoB including one of our own, Kevin Poole.

### *Snow and ice*

If we ever have to cancel Sunday morning worship this winter because of snow and/or cold, please check WANE-TV, Ft. Wayne, for such an announcement. An attempt will also be made to post this info on the local radio station(s).

### Special Offering— Supportive Community Network January 10

SCN is a part of the Brethren Mennonite Council and seeks to:

- To offer support, resources and opportunities for dialogue among congregations which welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual members
- To encourage meaningful dialogue at the denominational level
- To offer support and resources for individuals who are working toward welcome





# CAMP MACK

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Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765  
Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

The camp rep meeting, scheduled for Saturday morning, January 16 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., is the only Camp Rep meeting scheduled in 2016. All Camp Reps are urged to make it a priority! Be Camp's guests for brunch. Get your new materials and learn what's happening at Camp Mack! Prepare to share the news!

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP:

Sweetheart Banquet	Feb. 13
February Quilt Retreat	Feb. 18-21
Scrapbooking Retreat	Feb. 18-21
Team Leader Training	March 5
Annual Dinner	March 11
Volunteer Work Days	March 14-16
Mother Daughter Retreat	March 19-20

Go to the Camp Mack website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) for information and to register or call 574-658-4831.

Applications are being accepted for 2016 Summer Staff, 18 years of age or older, with a heart for the ministry at Camp Mack. Applications are available at the Camp Mack website or persons may call or e-mail camp for an application.

Camp Mack Festival Committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee in the following areas: Banking, Facility, Food and Crafts Coordinator and Demonstrations and Displays Coordinator. Contact Lauren Carrick 574-658-4831 or [lauren@campmack.org](mailto:lauren@campmack.org).

Please consider being a Team Leader or counselor this summer to enrich the young lives at Camp Mack. Contact Jessica Kreider to check needs and dates 574-658-4831 or [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org)

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for committed summer staff and camp counselors.

Quiet Place Quote: "If we fall in love with Jesus, not only will nothing on this earth attract us, nothing on this earth will intimidate us." St. Ignatius



In November, Growing Grounds volunteers moved a new young woman into the apartment that we rent from Habitat, and so another journey begins. Actually, the interaction with KB began in jail when she participated in the GED/TASC classes that we help teach. When she went on to prison, she finished her degree, and is now taking a full load of classes at the local Ivy Tech Community College. What motivation! She tries to combine this endeavor with required classes for drug offenders, counseling, regular check-ins with Probation, working, studying, and more. She gets to see one out of her four children on occasion, but otherwise needs to be away from family-certainly not living with them. This is why Community Corrections called us to suggest we take in this basically homeless client who was trying to find a bed each night anywhere she could. When taking her to the church to choose free needed personal items, and additional household items that were not already at the apartment, she commented that she really never had a mother. She expressed interest in learning to cook and is starting with the crockpot. She is also willing to meet with a resource person who will assist her with budgeting and tracking expenses and income. We will keep in close contact, plus see her at Narcotics Anonymous which is held at our church each Tuesday evening. We never know what a new person will bring, but it is always a learning experience with moments of disbelief at actions and decisions, yet moments of joy and growth. The person whose place she was taking in the apartment had been with us for a year. In that time period, she stayed "clean" for the first time in her teen and adult life, did not let other drug-using family members and friends influence her, started higher education, got a job and worked consistently. She told us that she never could have done it without a place to stay, a home that was away from family-and just not being homeless. She is working hard to build a new life, and we are proud of her. We also have these high hopes for our new relationship.

## Christian Citizenship Seminar

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CSS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

This year's theme is Racism and Mass Incarceration. CCS dates are April 23-28, 2016, taking place in New York City and Washington, DC.

Scholarships are available for any high school aged youth.

For more information, visit [www.brethren.org/yya/ccs](http://www.brethren.org/yya/ccs) [here](#).



### Retreats & Events

Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 16	5K Run/Walk	TBD
Sweetheart Banquet	Feb 13	Camp Mack Festival	Oct 1
Quilt Retreat	Feb 18-21	Father Son Retreat	Oct 8-9
Scrapbooking Retreat	Feb 18-21	Seasoned Citizen's	Oct 10-13
Team Leader Training	March 5	Quilt Retreat	Oct 13-16
Annual Dinner	March 11	Scrapbooking Retreat	Oct 27-30
Volunteer Work Days	March 14-16	Pastors Sabbath	Nov 1-3
Mother Daughter	March 19-20	Build a Drum	Nov 4-6
Volunteer Work Days	April 4-6	Volunteer Banquet	Nov 5
Pastors Sabbath	April 5-6	Volunteer Work Days	Nov 7-9
Prairie Restoration	April 9	New Years Eve	Dec 31-Jan 1
Volunteer Work Day	April 9	Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 14, 2017
CIT Training	April 15-17		
Quilt Retreat	April 21-24		
Seasoned Citizen's	May 2-5		
Bird Watching Retreat	May 5-7		
Counselor Training	May 13-14		
South Central Women	June 2-4		
Colony Camp	August 12-14		
Golf Outing	August TBD		
Labor Day Family Camp	Sept. 2-5		

Save  
your date  
now!



SUMMER CAMP 2016

Samplers	June 9-11	Youth Camp	July 3-9
Beginners	June 12-14	Culinary	July 5-9
Archery	June 12-16	Seekers	July 10-15
Eco Adventure	June 12-17	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Grand Camp	June 16-18	Sailing	July 10-15
Dune Challenge	June 19-25	Followers	July 10-15
Seekers	June 26-July 1	Creative Arts	July 10-15
Finders	June 26-July 1	Grand Camp	July 31-Aug 2
Survivor	June 26-July 2	Dadirri	July 31- Aug 6
Samplers	July 3-5		
Seekers	July 3-8		
Finders	July 3-8		
Pedal & Paddle	July 3-9		

## New Community Project Learning Tours

Looking for a mission trip? That's not us. But if it's a spirited and spiritually uplifting visit to another part of the world you're seeking, you're at the right place. And these trips aren't just for youth or just for "old people"--they're intergenerational experiences intended to challenge, change and renew us, while building relationships with our neighbors and a better appreciation for our amazing planet.

Additional information regarding each tour can be found on their website on the

[Learning Tours](#) page.

Nepal: January 9-22, 2016

Ecuador: June 8-16, 2016

Dominican Republic: July 8-17, 2016

Denali/Kenai Fjords: July 26 - August 4, 2016