

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



Here's what I'm thinking...

May
2018

I am feeling a little like I am Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz* when the wind picks up and the world seems to spin. I am being lifted from my place and routine and my familiar world is beginning to spin faster and faster through time and space toward an unknown tomorrow. I try to control time and emotions by making lists and plans, sorting, clearing out my office, and focusing on routine. But the truth is—evidence of my life as “pastor” permeates my home, my car, my phone, my calendar, my thoughts, my dreams—everywhere I turn I am reminded of the significance of this change in my life. Yesterday, while on line, I found myself browsing new books on ministry and I inadvertently ordered one just when I am wondering what I will do with all the books I have collected over the years. It is difficult to not get involved in future planning for programs and events for which I will have no future role or responsibility. Sitting in hospital rooms this week with folks I care about reminds me that for important reasons my relationships will need to change and be redefined to make room for a new pastor. I will not be with you on Sunday's in the months ahead and will need to respect the boundaries of our changed relationship.

So here's what I am thinking... This will in many ways be very hard for me. You are the congregation which allowed me to become a Pastor. You laughed with (and sometimes at) me. You cried with (and sometimes for) me. You shared your lives with me in very deep ways. You honored me by sharing your grief, your fears and doubts, as well as your joys, your committed faith, your successes and your hopes and dreams. It is only because of your willingness to trust me with your stories, even in the midst of my imperfections, that I was able in any real way to be your pastor. You allowed me to follow my calling. I will always love this congregation for that and it will be hard to redefine my relationship with you. I guess that is why they have the rules they do when a pastor leaves—to give the internal feelings and responses time to catch up with the external realities. Please know how much I care about you all and how grateful I am to have been your Pastor for over thirteen years.

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

May 6 Burning Hearts
Scripture Luke 24: 13-35
Message Gene Hollenburger

May 13 “Here is your mother.”
Scripture Psalm 112; John 19: 24-27
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

One of Jesus last concerns as he hung from the cross was to call his disciple John and his mother Mary into intentional relationship. Jesus taught us that being in relationship—in community was vital to our calling as disciples and as members of his church. Our relationships are formed and defined by more than our biological connections.

May 20 Pentecost Sunday
Scripture Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-21
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

The Holy Spirit comes to help, and the spirit is noisy and messy. The Spirit’s presence makes itself known in many ways: howling winds, trembling earth, groaning disciples, and truth proclaimed. The Spirit comes to help. If we pay attention, we will receive the messages of help we need. The gift of the Spirit.

May 27 This is Holy Ground
Scripture Exodus 3:1-5, Deuteronomy 31:1-2,6-8
Message Pastor Kay Gaier

God said, “Don’t come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You’re standing on holy ground.” Thomas Merton says you will know your true vocation when you are filled with confidence, gratitude, and self-forgetfulness—this is more than vocation it is Holy Ground.

Notes from the Clerk...

Approved board minutes, as well as the financial report are hanging on the bulletin board by the mailbox.

Our website has audio recordings again of Sunday’s message.



We are still gathering money and supplies for the Church World Service Disaster Relief buckets. They will be taken to District Conference in September. If you would like to donate supplies, please see the display and list in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to donate money in memory/honor of a loved one, please see Karen or Michelle for more information.

Fellowship Meal and Celebration

Please mark your calendars so that you can attend the celebration for Kay and Jim on Saturday, May 19th in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a carry-in at 5:00 p.m., followed by a brief program. Ham and scalloped potatoes will be provided, so please bring other vegetables, fruit, salads, desserts, etc.

District Women's Camp

Women's Camp is just around the corner and the committee of Deb Hood, Jenny and Gerri Lantz and Carolyn Mosson are already planning for our special time together. Verna Davis will again be our guest speaker with the Theme: Sisters of Faith II. Verna is a very inspirational and entertaining woman of God. Dates are May 31st, June 1 and 2, 2018. Cost is \$120 full time, part time \$75 (1 night, 3 meals), one day \$40 (3 meals). Registration forms will be available in your church office after March 31 or can be obtained by emailing cjmosson@geetel.net or calling calling 765-379-2166. Deadline for registration is preferred by April 20th. Refunds are available until May 14th. Hope to see you there!

May Special Offering— Global Women's Project



Global Women's Project announces our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project! Rather than buying more material gifts for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects focused on women's health, education, and employment. In return, your chosen recipient(s) will receive a lovely, hand-written card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor, with a brief description of GWP.

If you would like to honor a woman in your life by a gift to GWP, please mail it to

Global Women's Project

c/o Tina Rieman

508 Miami St North Manchester IN 46962

(make checks payable to GWP)

More information about GWP can be found at www.globalwomensproject.wordpress.com.

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

Earlybird registration has passed, but it is not too late if you would still like to summer camp. Please see Dennis or Carol for more information.

Upcoming Events Calendar

May 3-5 Birdwatcher's Retreat
May 5 Canoe the St. Joe Get-a-Way Day
May 5 Dutch Oven Cooking Get-a-Way Day
May 6 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run
May 7-10 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat
May 11-12 Counselor/CIT Training
May 31-June 2 South Central IN Women's Retreat
May 5 Canoe the St Joe River
May 5 Dutch Oven Cooking
June 2 Campfire Jam

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events, and we hope to see you at Camp Mack soon!

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION continues. Summer campers may now register with an additional late fee applied.

Prayer Requests: Please pray daily for:
Camp Staff, Counselors, Campers

The Camp Mack 5K is coming up! On Sunday, May 6th, the annual Camp Mack 5K Run/Walk begins with registration at 12:30. The Kid's Fun Run starts at 2:30 with the 5K beginning at 3:00. The church with the most participants gets the traveling trophy to keep through the year. This honor has been won by Bethany Church of the Brethren the last two years. Adult registrations are \$25.00. Registrations for the Fun Run are \$15.00. Race shirts are provided, but are only guaranteed for those who register by April 17th.

See if your congregation can be the winner of this year's trophy and have fun together at the same time. The proceeds go toward the programming at Camp Mack, so you know it is an important event. If you need more information, call Deb at Camp Mack. 574-658-4831.

THINKING AHEAD: The Camp Mack Festival is a little over 5 months away, but it is time to start thinking with your church or community groups about food booths that you can bring to the festival. If interested, please email Sue Freel at suefreel@kampco.com

Immerse!

June 21-26, 2018 Bible immersion and Brethren history program

For students who have completed grades 6-8

On the Bethany Seminary campus in Richmond, IN

"If you are thinking of going, just go because it is amazing and you learn so much!"

What is it all about?

- Studying the book of James deeply to see how it can change your life
- Learning from professors and asking questions that matter to you
- Visiting the Brethren Heritage Center
- Playing games together
- Planning closing worship
- Finding new friends who share your interests and excitement for learning

Listening for where God is calling you

What does it cost?

Due to a generous grant, all participants will receive a full scholarship. Students pay only for their transportation to and from the event and a \$25 registration fee.

Prayers needed...

Please continue to lift up members of the executive and search committees as well as board members for fruitful discernment during this transition period.

Please also keep Pastor Kay and Jim in your prayers as they transition to a new, exciting chapter in their life.

District Conference Information

We hope you all have your calendars marked for District Conference on Saturday, September 15, at the Grandview Church of the Brethren. Please be praying for Moderator Cindy Dunk, as she prepares to lead us with the theme "Love is a Command," based on John 13:34.

Working with Cindy to plan District Conference is the Program and Arrangements Committee: Tom Allbaugh, Lorie Bowman, Debbie Craig, Mike Fry, Erin Huiras, Gerry Longenbaugh, and Flora Williams.



Friday May 4th—7:30pm University Bands Concert. Location: Cordier Auditorium, \$5

Friday May 11th—4:30pm Lockie and Augustus Chinworth Center Groundbreaking. Location: North of Jo Young Switzer Center

125th Anniversary Celebration

The Anderson Church of the Brethren will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on Friday, June 22 with a musical evening, and other events on Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24. Please watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

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**

May District Prayer Calendar

May 6 - Please pray with us for Huntington COB and the Western Pennsylvania District.

May 13 - Please pray with us for the Church Planting Conference May 17-19 at Bethany Seminary.

May 20 - Please pray with us for Kokomo COB and the Puerto Rico District.

May 28 - Please pray with us for Camp Mack as they begin their summer season.

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
- ⇒ BVS The Volunteer
- ⇒ And many more!

Rotary Pancake Day

Tuesday, May 8th—6am-1pm at Scout Hall (North Manchester)

Pancakes

sausage or scrambled eggs

coffee, juice, or milk

(free applesauce 11-1)

\$7 Adults, \$4 children,
under 5 free

Carry out available

Proceeds benefit community
projects

Manchester CoB VBS

Time to Register & Sign up to help for VBS!

Monday, June 11- Friday, 15

Registrations are available

Sign up for helpers will soon be posted.

Contact Megan Sarber for more information.

megsarb@gmail.com



Video Series about the Apostle Paul

Friday May 11, & May 25 at 10:35am

Timbercrest Chapel

The Manchester CoB Nurture Commission is showing a video series about Paul, a very influential force in shaping Christianity.

Some see him as a saint. Others feel he abandoned the teachings of Jesus to form a theology *about* Jesus. In this video series, John Dominic Crossan puts Paul in his own time and reflects on his work and influence. Crossan is a theologian and scholar of early Christianity, with extensive work in anthropology and early Christian sources.

All are welcome for this hour of video and discussion.

Church Planting Conference

Registrations are still being accepted for the church planting conference, May 16-19, at Bethany Seminary. Information can be found at www.brethren.org. This event is planned by the following:

New Church Advisory Committee: Rudy Amaya, Ryan Braught, Steve Gregory, Don Mitchell, Deb Oskin, Nate Polzin, Cesia Salcedo, Doug Veal.

Discipleship Ministries staff:
Gimbiya Kettering, Randi Rowan, Stan Dueck.



First, some details for continental US BDM: Eureka, Mo., project is now closed; it is moved to Lumberton, North Carolina, for a rebuilding project after Hurricane Matthew. S/C Indiana District is responsible for 15 volunteers September 9-15. Then, November 25-December 1 we share the fifteen positions with the Illinois/Wisconsin District. Are there congregations interested in these two weeks or willing to join with others to form a team?

Secondly, projects are coming together in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated those islands; it may be at least another year before government organizations can begin the rebuilding process on family homes. BDM is jumpstarting the case management stage and hopes to begin rebuilding soon. Cleanup may start during April in the Virgin Islands with rebuilding shortly after. Puerto Rico will open initially with Church of the Brethren families and then expand into those communities but it will be a slower start. Are you willing to volunteer? What about neighbors, co-workers, family?

Housing, lodging and tools will be provided for the volunteers who travel down to PR or the VI. It is hoped that volunteers going for just one week will pay their own transportation and those willing to stay at least two weeks to a month will have help with costs as needed.

Spanish language will be helpful, not required, and masonry/concrete skills would be much appreciated. Do you have masons in your circles who would be willing to join this major effort?

With questions or willingness to volunteer, call Cliff at 260-982-2971.



BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries

Song and Story Fest

If you would like to help make bowls, you can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4bafa728abfe3-createabowl1>.

This year's **Song & Story Fest**, sponsored by On Earth Peace, is at the Northern Ohio camp, immediately following Annual Conference.

Swing State Song and Story Fest: Becoming the Beloved Community

Inspiration Hills, Burbank, Ohio

July 8-14, 2018

For more information, visit

http://www.onearthpeace.org/song_and_story_fest_2018