



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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

December 2021

Peacefully, Simply, Together



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.

Pastor Doug Veal ~ Christmas Traditions

Each year, as we come towards December, all of us begin to think about the Christmas traditions that we want to hold on for the year. I started thinking about some of the traditions that I had in my own family growing up, as well as some of the ones that Tasha and I follow now. On the first Sunday of Advent, I shared a bit about the tradition my family had of tracking the days until Christmas on a Santa cut-out my father had made one year for his school class (before becoming a pastor later in life). This was a tradition that I absolutely looked forward to each year, and still miss a bit now. Though Tasha and I have a similar tradition, except that it is focused around a candy countdown. Tasha created a crocheted calendar for us a few years ago that has pockets for the twenty-five days in December leading up to and including Christmas. Each year, now, we purchase chocolates to put in the pockets, and use that as our countdown to Christmas. In some ways, I like this even more, as I get to have a bit of a sweet treat each day as we approach Christmas.

Many of us have a tradition of putting up and decorating a Christmas tree at home each year. And whether you do so using an artificial tree (as we do), or use a real tree, this often is a bright highlight in holiday traditions for our homes. I look forward each year to pulling out our tree and ornaments to decorate our home. One thing I don't miss as we do this each year now is having to put lights up on our tree, since we moved to a pre-lit tree several years ago. That was always one of my least favorite aspects of tree decorating, since no matter how carefully I put the lights away each year, they still seemed to find a way to get tangled up. Though I still remember, as well, as a child when we had some of the older Christmas lights that wouldn't turn on if even a single light bulb was out. I really don't miss those!

We also often will find time to visit with our families, traveling to see both Tasha's side of the family and my side of the family. We are hoping to get to do so again this year, since we were unable to do so last year due to COVID-19.

While many of our traditions revolve around decorations and family, we may also have spiritual traditions that we engage upon as we approach Christmas. Of course, here at the church we have our tradition of lighting the Advent Candles each Sunday as we approach Christmas. One of my traditions is to use the Advent devotional that we get each year. I often find that to be a very rewarding spiritual tradition that helps me to focus on the meaning of Advent and Christmas. I also look forward to the opportunity to gather on Christmas Eve for our annual Candlelight service, a special time to hear the Christmas story right before Christmas Day.

As you begin to think and look towards Christmas, I would like to invite you to take time to really think about the traditions you have for Christmas. Ask yourself why these traditions are important to you (or, alternatively, if they are things you do just because you've always done them). How are they helping you to prepare for Christmas this year? I'd love to hear from you about the traditions you have, why you do them, and how they contribute to your own experience of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

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Church Board

Board Reorganization Report:

At the regularly scheduled church board meeting on December 8, the board reorganized itself for 2022. Dennis Horn will continue to serve as our board chairperson, and Dave Hahn will continue to serve as our vice chairperson. Our commission chairs will remain the same, with Laurie Kiefabber Cornett continuing as our Nurture/Witness chair, and Larry Jamerson continuing as our Stewards chair. The Nurture/Witness commission will consist of Laurie Kiefabber Cornett, Audrey Hahn, Sharon Larrowe, Jean Martin, Barb Miller, Linda Miller, and Michelle Roudebush. The Stewards commission will consist of Larry Jamerson, Bethene Gill, Cliff Ross, and Dave Hahn. Carol Horn will be continuing as our clerk, completing the third year of her first term next year. We want to especially thank those board members who completed their sixth year of service in 2021: Linda Barkey, Bonnie Haughn, and Mikayla Stanley.

Actions of the 2021 Church Council Meeting:

On Sunday, November 14, following worship and a meal, the annual Church Council meeting was held. Reports from the various commissions, the board, and the pastor were heard. The slate of officers for 2022 was adopted, including approving three year board terms for Dave Hahn, Michelle Roudebush, and Cliff Ross. Laurie Kiefabber Cornett was approved for a one year term as our Annual Conference delegate, and a two year term as District Conference delegate. Mikayla Stanley was approved to a one year term as District Conference Delegate. Pam Little was approved to a new three year term on the Nominating Committee. Bob Gross was approved to a new three year term as our moderator.

Three people were recognized for concluding six years on the church board: Linda Barkey, Bonnie Haughn, and Mikayla Stanley.

The following persons will continue on the church board as they complete three year terms: Laurie Kiefabber Cornett (1st term, 2023), Bethene Gill (2nd term – 2023), Audrey Hahn (1st term – 2023) Dennis Horn (2nd term – 2022), Larry Jamerson (2nd term – 2022), Sharon Larrowe (2nd term – 2023), Jean Martin (1st term – 2022), Barb Miller (2nd term – 2023), and Linda Miller (2nd term – 2022).

The 2022 Church Budget was adopted, with projected spending totaling \$90,570 for 2022. This represents a decrease of 6.25% from the 2021 Budget. A portion of this savings comes from a revised contract with Pastor Doug, who will be on an 11 month contract for 2022. Tentatively, the plan is for him to take a month off from mid-September to mid-October next year. Copies of the 2022 budget are available through the church office.

Commissions and Board will be at 6:30pm on Wednesday December, 8. Commissions meet at 6:30 and the Board meeting will start at 7. All new members of the board who start in 2022 are invited to attend the board meeting, as we will be re-organizing the board for 2022.

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Nurture Commission

Christmas Eve Service ~ December 24, 2021

Every year on Christmas Eve we gather together to prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Please join us as we worship on this beautiful night before our saviour's birth!



Sunday School

Sunday School will take place at 9AM, before worship. We will be meeting downstairs in the Fellowship Hall initially. For Advent, we will be discussing a weekly small group guide that goes along with the Advent Devotional for Brethren Press.



Worship Schedule - December

If you are interested in participating in the service please contact the office, or talk to pastor Doug!

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician

5	Pastor Doug Luke 1:68-79 “Dare to imagine God’s embrace!” 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Linda Miller	Stan Miller	Larry Jamerson	?	Audrey Hahn
12	Pastor Doug Isaiah 12:2-6 “Dare to imagine God’s song!” 3 rd Sunday of Advent	?	Stan Miller	Larry Jamerson	?	Bonnie Haughn
19	Pastor Doug Luke 1:39-55 “Dare to imagine God’s face!” 4 th Sunday of Advent	?	Stan Miller	Larry Jamerson	?	Bonnie Haughn
24	Christmas Eve Service (Friday)	Doug	Mikayla/ Stan	Larry Jamerson	NA	All Musicians
26	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett		Mikayla Stanley	Larry	?	Bonnie

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December 19 will be gathering for a carry in, making ornaments, and christmas cards.

Sometimes a Women’s Fellowship meeting has an educational aspect in addition to fellowship. This month the WF article is going to be slightly educational.

Poetry is one way of expressing thoughts and there are many different types.

One of the most common well known is the couplet. The words at the ends of the 2 lines rhyme . The July newsletter article was an acrostic poem where the first letters of the lines spell out a word. This poem is a type of cinquain, which at one time was a 5 line poem. Nowadays there are different types of cinquains with more formal rules and guidelines. This follows a 1 word, 2 words, 3 words, 2 words, 1 word format with the first and last word being synonyms.

Females,
All ages,
Missing fellowship with
Many wonderful
Women

Cause
Of our
Missing this fellowship
Known as
Pandemic

Someday
We will
be able to
Fellowship again
Future

Upcoming Youth Activities

Children's Christmas Party Saturday, December 11:

Parents, drop off your kids at Camp Mack, and then head out for a day of shopping, dining, and relaxing while your children have the time of their lives. We provide them with two meals and a snack while playing games, singing Christmas carols, hearing the Christmas story, doing crafts, decorating cookies, and more. Saturday 11a–7p. Ages 5–12.

Cost: \$25.

NATIONAL
YOUTH
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
OPENS
DECEMBER 1,
2021!

Register in December
to receive a FREE
T-SHIRT!

Registration costs \$550 for all
...ning. A
n two



Dates:
Nov. 13-14, 2021

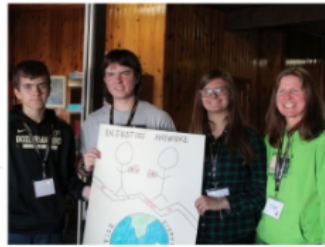
Location:
Camp Alexander Mack

Who:
All youth in grades 9-12 and advisors

Cost:
\$90

Theme:
Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
Psalm 139

Speaker:
Manchester University
Religious Life Staff



National Youth Conference

"Foundational"

Colossians 2:5-7

July 23 – 28, 2022 in Fort Collins, Colorado

The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their adult advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. Online registration will open in early 2022 on www.brethren.org.

The cabinet discussed theme ideas relevant to senior high youth. Ultimately, the theme that emerged was "Foundational," based on scripture from Colossians 2:5-7, "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

We talked about all of the ways that God is revealed as the foundation for our lives throughout the Bible. Some examples of this are the cornerstone, the way that God can be seen as an anchor for our lives, and how we remain rooted in God in all circumstances.

Isabella Torres noted, "Picking the theme was difficult at first because we had so many different ideas, but all of our ideas always intertwined with having a foundation in God. To me, it is a great theme, and it is also something I find to be very important as a youth today."

Luke Schweitzer shared, "I am really excited about this theme and I cannot wait to see what the speakers and youth do with it next summer."

Watch for NYC 2022 updates at www.brethren.org and social media of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

— Erika Clary will serve as coordinator of National Youth Conference 2022, working in the Church of the Brethren's Youth and Young Adult Ministries through Brethren Volunteer Service.

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Devotionals - Upper Room

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.

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Altar and Sanctuary Staging

We are looking for either a dedicated individual who would enjoy changing out the altar and window setups on a regular basis, or a small group who would like to rotate assignments. Please contact the office if you are interested.

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Directory Updates

There is a mock version of the directory on the back table. Please check to see if your info is correct and see if any of your family's info needs updated. You may write those updates in. Or you can tell Mikayla Stanley (office@wabashcob.org), or Brenda Landis.

Sharon Larrowe's new cell number is 260-571-6754.

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Reading through the Bible in a year - November

1	Malachi	9	Acts 21-22	17	3 John	24	Jude
2	Acts 19-20	10	2 John	18	Deu 29-31	26	Deu 32-34
3	1 John 4-5	11	Deu 26-28	19	Esther 1-5	27	Esther 6-10
4	Deuteronomy 23-25	12	Nehemiah 10-13	20	Psalms 146-148	28	Ps 149-50
5	Nehemiah 5-9	13	Psalms 143-145	21	Song of Solomon 5-6	29	So of Sol 7-8
6	Psalms 140-142	14	Song of Solomon 3-4	22	Revelation 12-17	30	Rev 18-22
7	Song of Solomon 1-2	15	Revelation 7-11	23	Acts 25-26	31	Acts 27-28
8	Revelation 1-6	16	Acts 23-24				

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Witness Commision

Special Offerings - November and December

December - Advent Offering

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

Growing Grounds News

Grateful to be a part of GWP

I will be completing my term on the Global Women's Project Steering Committee following our Fall Meeting September 24th-26th. While the Steering Committee was hoping to meet in person in McPherson, KS for this semiannual meeting, we elected to continue to meet via Zoom in an effort to keep ourselves and others with whom we would have come in contact healthy. Our greetings to those of you in McPherson who we were planning to visit. Hopefully, the Steering Committee will be able to meet there again soon.

As I step down from the Steering Committee, I am ever grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the truly wonderful women on the Steering Committee as well as in our Partner Projects around the globe. It is easy for me to become myopically focused on the day to day happenings in my life. Being part of GWP has been a reminder to look up and out at the world – and to see our precious interconnectedness with others.

As treasurer, I have been heartened by your steadfast financial support for GWP and can assure you that each dollar you give is thoughtfully distributed. I have been and will continue to be a financial supporter of GWP, knowing that a U.S. dollar goes a long way to fund the good, life-giving, justice-focused work of our Partner Projects throughout the world. Karlene Tyler will serve as GWP's new treasurer. Checks (made out to "GWP") can be sent to her at: 333 South Lakeside Drive, Unit I, McPherson, KS 67460. You can also send checks to: GWP c/o Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 or donate on-line at www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject.

With gratitude for GWP and for you,

Kim Hill Smith
Minneapolis, MN

This and That from Growing Grounds

Thanks to all who have contributed to the household, bedding, and furniture supplies that will furnish the apartments for homeless women and children at 571 South Wabash.

Growing Grounds was pleased to be selected as a recipient of the 2021 Chili for Charity funds. Leroy Striker “volunteered” his many Vocational School students, besides himself, to help, so Kay, Jim, Dennis, and Carol got to relate as we all worked together.

At the event, it was also good to see women, men, and their families, who we knew were struggling in the past, and now seemed to be on a positive trajectory in life.

Rental help, gas cards, food, and furniture distribution continue

Advantage Housing, Inc. is pleased to provide HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Services to all of IHDA Region V, which includes Miami County. This counseling includes Pre-Purchase (homebuyer), Post-Purchase (homeowner), Financial Fitness (budgeting and banking), Mortgage Delinquency (forbearance and foreclosure).

Stephanie Bedford is our Sr. Housing Counselor and is fully HUD-certified. Our HUD Housing Counseling Agency # is 90387.

We provide mostly one-to-one counseling. Meetings can be in person, by phone, or online. Fees are based on income. Most have a minimal fee of \$0.00 to \$90.00. Group Counseling sessions are also available. These are typically sponsored by a realtor, a local bank, or a national bank branch. Please contact Stephanie Bedford at 765-210-7708 or sbedford@advantagehousing.org for more information or to refer a client.

Little Free 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

Stewards Commission

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 Mikayla at office@wabashcob.org.

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Around the District

From the DE's Pen

As seasons and whatever else in your life continues to shift and change, you are in my prayers that God's power and presence will sustain you.

Blessings,

Beth

Camp Mack

News from the Director

Tradition Transitions

On the day after Thanksgiving, our daughter and granddaughter came over after lunch to help us decorate the house for Christmas. Although it doesn't happen every year, this is becoming a welcome tradition.

A few years ago, when both our daughters were living nearby, we started decorating on Thanksgiving Friday. Both girls, our son-in-law, and eventually our granddaughter were involved. Typically, my son-in-law would help carry items upstairs and then take a nap in the midst of the ensuing chaos. (No judgment here. He is a teacher, and I readily support his time to refresh!) The girls, Pam, and I would then decorate.

Last year, for a number of reasons, decorating together didn't work out. This year, our older daughter had responsibilities in Indianapolis, where she has moved, and our son-in-law had a paper to finish for a graduate class. All of this is good, because it represents how each one of us is growing and changing. New growth was also evident as our granddaughter, who is now six years old, did much more of the decision-making about where the decorations were to go. It was fun to see her excitement as she placed the nativity pieces and arranged various areas of the house.

You know, traditions are important. We recognize many of them during this time of year especially. Camp Mack is full of traditions, and we want to continue to faithfully honor those that help us meet our mission. But, there are times when we have to be thoughtful and consider how the growth and change of our community and the people who create it impacts what we do. After all, when a tradition is no longer fun, inspiring, or meeting its objectives, it is also no longer valuable. Perhaps, new ideas that change elements of the tradition will put us back on the right track. Perhaps, we need to honor what that tradition has meant to us, and end it, in order to start a new one.

There was so much energy in the decorating this year as my granddaughter put things in places they had never been before. And while, in my mind's eye, I may always see the fireplace decorated as it has always been, I celebrate the new look because it was created with love and a child's experience of delight and joy. May we always maintain and create traditions at Camp Mack for the purpose of love, delight, and joy!



Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Friends,

BDM is active and desires your participation. Children's Disaster Services has training scheduled in Roaring Spring, PA , November 5-6. CDS has been active person this year on the US/Mexico border with migrant children and presently with children of families immigrating from Afghanistan. Call New Windsor, 800-451-4407 to ask questions or to register for one of the training sessions.



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And remember Nov 28 - Dec 4 our district with the IL/WI District is to provide volunteers for rebuilding from hurricane damage in the coastal North Carolina region. Respond to this email or call me at 260-982-2971.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of BDM activities. Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, District Disaster Coordinator

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Clergy Tax Seminar—January 29, 2022

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

- Morning Session, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only. According to the new webinar policy, CEUs may also be earned by viewing the recording and filling out the report form. (Registration is required to receive the recording.)
- Afternoon Session, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

Registration and Cost: Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons.

Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 19, 2022.

Brethren Leadership Institute

Due to current gathering restrictions, please contact the district office to confirm class schedule and method of delivery.

