

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Deb Peterson, interim pastor



## ***RANDOM THOUGHTS.....***

With the coming of December, my thoughts, like many others, turn to the coming Christmas. I'm a list-maker so my list not only includes the name of each person I will buy a gift for, I've been gathering ideas most of the year, to write beside each name. Then there's the busyness of shopping with hundreds of other people. I love to shop and I love giving. I don't like crowded stores, long lines and children either romping in the aisles grabbing things from the shelves or screaming because they need nourishment and naps after a day of so much stimulation. (So do I!)

**December  
2018**

Some people are already dreading the family get-together to "celebrate" because they know that the family tension, arguments, bad relationships and criticisms will come to a head that day. That alone takes away the celebratory atmosphere which even opening the gifts doesn't seem to alleviate.

Christmas has no shortage of strains. It's a holiday that seems perfectly designed for stress--at least, in the way we Westerners celebrate. But my prayer is that you aren't afraid to face the season, and not just face it, but be filled with the mystery of it all. Give yourself time to soak it all in. Advent—this time of waiting—is a time to remember our God added humanity to deity and Jesus giving up the sweet spot in heaven to plop Himself into our world. He came because He didn't hold our sin against us; He wanted to hold it for us. Christmas is a four-letter word: L-O-V-E. Family may still be the hardest people for us to love, but when you keep that perspective that the Gift is love, arguments and stress suddenly seem trivial amid the menagerie of turkey and dressing, hams and yams, red velvet cakes, and pecan pie.

*Pastor Deb*

# ***Worship Schedule***

December 2

Pulpit—Deb Peterson  
Worship Leader—  
Song Leader—Mikayla Genovese  
Greeter—Barb Miller  
Usher—Larry Jamerson  
Children's Church—  
Musician— Bonnie Haughn

December 9

Pulpit—Deb Peterson  
Worship Leader—Linda Miller  
Song Leader—Mikayla Genovese  
Greeter—Barb Miller  
Usher—Larry Jamerson  
Children's Church—  
Musician— Bonnie Haughn

December 16

Pulpit—Deb Peterson  
Worship Leader—  
Song Leader—Mikayla Genovese  
Greeter—Barb Miller  
Usher—Larry Jamerson  
Children's Church—  
Musician— Laurie Kieffaber—  
Cornett

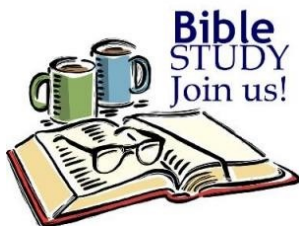
December 23

Pulpit—Deb Peterson  
Worship Leader—  
Song Leader—Mikayla Genovese  
Greeter—  
Usher—Larry Jamerson  
Children's Church—Carol Horn  
Musician— Audrey Hahn

December 30

Pulpit—Laurie Kieffaber— Cornett  
Worship Leader—  
Song Leader—Mikayla Genovese  
Greeter—  
Usher—Larry Jamerson  
Children's Church—Carol Horn  
Musician— Bonnie Haughn

If you feel called to serve in any area of worship, please feel free to contact Michelle, or sign up on the schedule outside the office door.



## **Bible Study Meeting**

For the month of December, we will be taking a more in-depth look at the scriptures Pastor Deb is using during service each week. If you are able, please come join us Tuesday mornings at 10am in the Fireplace Room to learn more about these scriptures.

## **December Special Offering— Advent**

The Church of the Brethren Advent Offering supports ongoing international partnerships with brothers and sisters around the world, the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, the Youth Peace Travel Team, Discipleship Ministries, and many other ministries of the Church of the Brethren.



## Hanging of the Greens!

Sunday December 2, after service. Please stay for some soup and fellowship, and then we can all work to get our space ready for the Advent Season.



Please hold in your hearts the following:

- members of the Executive and Search committees as well as board members for fruitful discernment during this transition period.
- So many have been mentioned each week—Leroy Striker, Stan Miller's sister and brother, Katie and Dave Ply, Bethene Gill's family friend, families surrounding the shootings, families involved in the California Camp Fire, Sharon Singleton, Maxine Singleton, Jim Finnell's family, Tom Tacker and family.
- All those who have not yet given voice to whatever may be troubling them.
- The greater denominational leaders as they listen to hear what local congregations share during the Compelling Vision Process..



## December District Prayer Calendar

December 2 - Please pray with us for the Upper Fall Creek COB and Western Pa. District.

December 9 - Please pray with us for On Earth Peace.

December 16 - Please pray with us for the Wabash COB and the Puerto Rico District.

December 23 - Please pray with us for the West Eel River COB and Shenandoah District.

December 30 - Please pray with us for the White Branch COB and Southeastern District.

## 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.



## Snow and ice

If we ever have to cancel Sunday morning worship this winter because of snow and/or cold, please check WANE-TV (Channel 15), Ft. Wayne, for such an announcement. An attempt will also be made to post this info on the local radio station(s).

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**



December 2—5pm Power Hour—Should the NFL silence freedom of speech? JCY Intercultural Center

December 7—7pm—Lessons and Carols—A Christmas Season worship service, Manchester CoB

December 9—3:00pm—MSO: Holiday Pops Around the World, Cordier Auditorium



## 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!

Anyone who has a cell phone of any kind that is not broken, can donate the phones to Hands of Hope. The phones can be given to abused women who can call 911 without having an account with anyone. It would be good if they also donated the charging cord, too but that is not absolutely necessary. They can contact Brenda Landis (765-833-2141) or Hands of Hope directly at 260-563-4407.



## DECEMBER 9 IS ON EARTH PEACE SUNDAY

On Earth Peace has designated the second Sunday of December as a time for congregations to focus on the gospel message of peace. This usually coincides with the 2nd Sunday of Advent, which is considered Peace Sunday.



## UPCOMING BLI CLASSES

**This winter's class, Introduction to Pastoral Care, will be taught by Tara Hornbacker.**

**The class dates are as follows:**

**Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9am-4pm**

**Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9am-4pm**

Register by sending an email to [BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com](mailto:BrethrenLeadershipInstitute@gmail.com) or calling 260-982-8805. 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](http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html).

BDM is making assignments for the year 2019. Our district is scheduled for these dates:

- 1) Feb. 3-9 we need seven volunteers. We will be working with Ill./Wis. District.
- 2) March 10-16 we need fifteen volunteers.
- 3) Sept. 8-14 we need fifteen volunteers.
- 4) Dec. 1-7 we need seven volunteers. Again we will be working with Ill./Wis. District.

The February and March dates we are likely to be located in Lumberton, N. Car.

As a congregation or other group, would you be willing to serve one of these weeks? Or are you willing individually to be part of a group coming together from our district? Let me know of your interest by sending an email to [kindy@cpt.org](mailto:kindy@cpt.org) or by calling 260-982-2971.

In addition, Puerto Rico is taking disaster volunteers. There is a need for construction leaders and household managers (cooks). Conditions will be challenging and flexibility will be required. BDM will be starting with getting homes livable before doing building to withstand future hurricane-force winds. First BDM will work with Brethren families, then with neighbors and community members. What would free you up to join this rebuilding effort that may continue for many months or years?

If you have questions feel free to email or call. Thank you for your support of Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Cliff Kindy, South/Central Indiana Disaster Response Coordinator

Please note that Cliff will be serving in North Carolina from Nov. 23 - Dec. 23; if you wish to contact him during that time, please do so by emailing [kindy@cpt.org](mailto:kindy@cpt.org).





## CAMP MACK

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

Just before Thanksgiving, our annual appeal for end-of-the-year gifts went out to our friends list. These gifts make a big difference in the lives of many who find sanctuary in this holy place. If you did not receive a letter, you can still share in this ministry by sending your donation to the address above. We thank you for your kind support of Camp Mack!

**Christmas Get-a-Way Days**, December 1 and 2. Join us on December 1 for Christmas cookie baking/decorating, Christmas ornament making on the lathe, and wreath making with fresh greens. The Christmas cookie day has a morning and afternoon session on Dec 1 and an afternoon session on Dec 2. These are popular events and do fill up.

**Children's Christmas Party**, NEW this winter.

Saturday, December 8, from 11a-7p, for all children ages 5-12. We will have a full day of fun activities with the kids while you relax, shop, or go on the date you have been waiting for. Camp will provide the activities, supervision, and yummy meals for your kids. Program is \$20 per child. Register today by calling the camp at 574-658-4831 or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).

There is limited space for this event.

**Camp Reps, mark your calendars!** Plan to attend the Camp Rep Meeting on Saturday, January 12, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m at either Camp Mack or the Union Grove Church of the Brethren in Muncie, Indiana. Enjoy a breakfast and receive 2019 program information and materials. RSVP to [Jessk@campmack.org](mailto:Jessk@campmack.org) to let us know which site you will attend. Please send a substitute if you are unable to attend.

PRAYER REQUESTS and NEEDS:

Camp Mack staff and volunteers as we welcome and host groups new and old.

## 1 Corinthians 13, Christmas Style

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

(© Written by Sharon Jaynes, international conference speaker and author of twenty books. Printed with permission)

## Help save the Land and Water Conservation Fund!

This past summer, junior high students from the Church of the Brethren spent several days working in an urban garden in Washington, D.C. After they had the chance to see the impact that open space can have on a community, they met with staff members from their Senators' offices to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This fund, America's most important conservation and recreation program, has saved places in nearly every state and every county in the United States. The LWCF is an important tool to protect God's creation and should be fully funded.

Unfortunately, this valuable conservation tool, which was in its 52nd year of conservation and recreation success, expired on September 30, 2018.

In a 1985 statement, the Church of the Brethren affirmed that, "land is central to God's covenant with people, central to the shaping of human community, and central to justice among all peoples who dwell on earth." The Brethren youth who met with their Congressional staff spoke to this point eloquently, sharing why public lands matter to them, their families and their communities.

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation and the LWCF helps us fulfill our stewardship mandate. Our political leaders on both sides of the aisle have supported the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is because of Teddy Roosevelt's vision to start protecting our recreational opportunities, Dwight D. Eisenhower's instinct for conservation action, John F. Kennedy's commitment to the outdoors, and Lyndon B. Johnson's creation of LWCF that we now have the most extensive network of open spaces in the world to hunt, fish, hike, swim, and play.

We need your voice to urge Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Please call and email your legislators to take action and reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

You can find your Representative [here](#), and your Senators [here](#).

**\*\*Sample Script\*\***

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_. At the end of September, the Land and Water Conservation Fund expired. I urge you to reauthorize this fund, which protects public spaces for conservation and recreation. These open spaces are important to me and my community, as we seek to be good stewards of God's creation. Can you commit to reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

Interested in learning more about creation care? Visit the Brethren Creation Care Network website.

Peace,

Tori Bateman

Associate, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Church of the Brethren

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