



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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February 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.

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New Practices in Lent

Pastor Doug Veal

Later this month, the season of Lent will begin. This often leads to opportunities for us to think about spiritual disciplines, which often includes such things as the practice of fasting. I'd like to offer up two possible spiritual disciplines that you can consider trying out during Lent. I encountered the ideas for these two spiritual disciplines in a conference I attended some years ago during a session led by a woman named Lauren Winner. She described four spiritual disciplines, but I'd like to highlight two of them.

The first spiritual discipline is that of reading and/or encountering the Bible in unusual places. That is, taking the time to read scripture in places that we would not normally do so. Most of the time, we read scripture at home, or at church, but not many other places. This spiritual discipline asks of us to read the Bible in other places, perhaps at work, or in a restaurant, or out in nature. It can be either silent or spoken, and can come from any passage in the Bible. When we do so, it can often offer us up new perspectives on what we are reading than we might otherwise have found. To put this into practice for Lent would simply require a commitment to read a bit of scripture every day in a new and different place.

The second spiritual discipline is that of self-knowledge. That is, taking time to think about and reflect upon what really matters to us. This might sound a bit strange, an unusual spiritual discipline. After all, spiritual disciplines are supposed to be activities that offer us opportunities to connect with God. But if we stop and think about it, taking the time to know ourselves better offers us the opportunity to get in deeper contact with our nature as created beings who come from God. Winner put it this way in her description of this practice: "self-knowledge is both a fruit of and a prerequisite of knowledge of God." That is, when we get to know God, we know ourselves better. And, when we know ourselves better, we can better know God.

How, then, can we work at this? One possibility that was lifted up was drawn from some writings by Toni Morrison. First, take some time to write down a list of everything that you have to do on a regular basis. This can be an interesting experience in and of itself, and can help us to understand ourselves a little better. But the second step is just as, or more important than, the first one. It is to go through our list and

find the things that you can not refrain from doing and remain who you are. Then, after identifying these core things, look at your list again and see what is getting in the way of doing those practices that are essential to who you are. Finally, then, you can begin to work towards eliminating those things that are distracting you from your essentials.

These, of course, are not the only spiritual practices out there. But I found that these struck a particular chord with me, and wanted to share them with you all. Whether you try out one of these spiritual practices, or some other, I'd like to invite each of us to commit to doing at least one new spiritual discipline during Lent this year, and, hopefully, continuing with that after Lent is over.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

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Church Board

Due to less activity going on at church lately, it has been decided that the church board will be meeting every other month until further notice. The next scheduled meeting will be March. If you have any questions, please contact Board Chair Dennis Horn or Pastor Doug.

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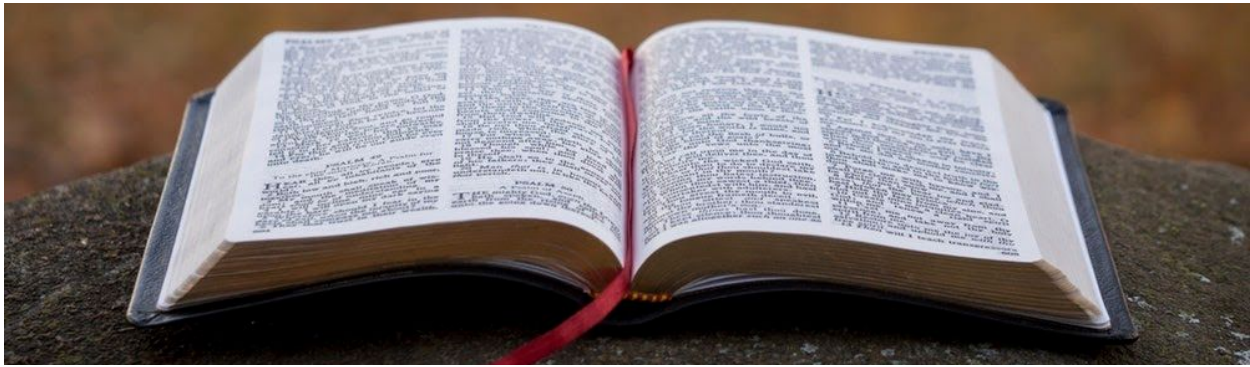
Nurture Commission

Cards and Correspondence

Even though Christmas, and the tradition of sending cards, has passed, let's not forget to stay in contact with one another. Everyone likes to receive "happy" mail - a birthday or thinking of you card, a quick and encouraging text (with or without a funny video), or even just a quick post on a Facebook page.

Virtual Connections

On Sunday mornings, except for Sundays that Pastor Doug has 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.



Worship Schedule

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
7	Pastor Doug 1 Cor 8:1-13 Idol Fools		No singing			No CC	
14	Pastor Doug 2 Kings 5:1-14 Namaan's Healing		Until further			Until further	
21	Pastor Doug Mark 9:2-9 The Transfiguration		Notice			Notice	
28	Venturing Forth Boldly as a Faith Family - AC						



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship has not been meeting during the pandemic and we need a way to stay in touch with each other. We are going to use the church newsletter to do that so all of you will be able to join in our activity.

The plan is to have a question for each month. Five or six women will be called to answer the question and their answers will be published in the newsletter. The answers will be published without names so that YOU can try to guess who answered a certain way. The names will be published on a different page of the newsletter. Let's go. The question was: Did you ever get in trouble in school?

1) I didn't get in trouble in school. I was part of a group of girls in the class who were so good that we were on the fringe of everything. We called ourselves the Wallflowers.

2) I lived in a small community and this was back when McDonalds was opening stores in small communities. One had just opened in the small town nearby and four of us decided to go there during lunch period even though we were not supposed to leave the school grounds. On the way, we met the principal! When we got back to school, everyone said “they’ve been calling you to the principal’s office!” We were good kids so he gave us a lecture and told us not to do that again.

3) I can’t remember ever getting in trouble. Of course that has been a long time ago. I was pretty shy so I can’t imagine I would have gotten in trouble.

4) I got in trouble a lot of times and it was usually for talking. I remember one time I got in trouble for writing notes. I had written one to my girlfriend and the teacher told me to give it to him. I tore it up instead. I was sent to the principal’s office but not sure what the consequence was.

5) I didn’t get in trouble in school but I did in places outside of school. It was usually from following someone else’s ideas which I shouldn’t have.

6) I got caught smoking in the restroom by a teacher and was expelled. I was also expelled for smoking another time when I wasn’t smoking! I would have been if the teacher hadn’t come in but another girl was and she threw her cigarette down and it landed by me.

The question for March: What is your favorite OR least favorite holiday and why?

Answers to February’s question is at the end of the newsletter.

Please add Phyllis Singleton for cards and letters. Her address is 18 Broadmoor Dr., Wabash and her birthday is 12/21



From Michelle in the office

Thank you so much for the very generous financial gift and the beautiful poinsettia. As you know, it has certainly been a crazy year, but it has been so comforting for me knowing that you are all there and always have the best in mind for me.

Upcoming Youth Activities

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).

Devotionals - Upper Room and Lenten 2021

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.

The Lenten Devotional *The Wild Way of Jesus* is also on the back table. It was penned by our very own Anna Lisa Gross!

Directory Updates

It's that time of year again! Help us to keep our records current - Karen has been contacting everyone in the directory for updated information and has been sending it into the office. If, for some reason, you do not get an email/call please go ahead and send your current: address, phone number and email address to the office, even if you think we have it already.

For those of you who may not be in the directory, but still getting newsletters by print or email, please contact the office if you no longer wish to keep receiving it. This helps us keep costs and environmental wastes down.

Reading through the Bible in a year

1	Psalms 12-14	9	Job 11-12	17	Isaiah 34-39	25	Matt 20-22	
2	Job 9-10	10	Isaiah 29-33	18	Matthew 17-19	26	1 Cor 1-2	
3	Isaiah 23-28	11	Matthew 14-16	19	Romans 15-16	27	Gen 32-35	
4	Matthew 11-13 17-21		12	Romans 13-14	20	Genesis 28-31	28	Judges
5	Romans 11-12	13	Genesis 24-27	21	Judges 12-16			
6	Genesis 20-23	14	Judges 7-11	22	Psalms 21-23			
7	Judges 1-6	15	Psalms 18-20	23	Job 15-16			
8	Psalms 15-17	16	Job 13-14	24	Isaiah 40-44			

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Witness Commission

Special Offerings - February and March



SOUPER Bowl of Caring is a food drive that can support any local food pantry. Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 7th. We will NOT be collecting food items at this time, only money. We will send 50% of that collected to FISH and use 50% to purchase food items for our local church food pantry. You may begin sending your offerings to the church at any time, be sure to indicate Souper Bowl when sending. We will extend this offering until Feb. 21st.



One Great Hour of Sharing - denomination

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in need of our compassion. God provides the resources so that we can give back. It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's that we give of what we have. We're simply giving back to God what is already God's—and that means everyone has a gift to bring!

Gifts given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission and Service, Discipleship Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Brethren Volunteer Service, workcamps, the Global Food Initiative, and many others.

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

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.

Growing Grounds

Growing Grounds continues to serve many households throughout the county. Even with current elevated government support and moratoriums on rent and utility cut-offs, the needs remain high. Work continues on the HOST House on Hill St. and the apartments on Wabash. If you would like to volunteer to help with either renovation project, please contact Carol or Dennis Horn

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 Michelle at office@wabashcob.org.

Many thanks to:

Leroy who does so much work behind the scenes that keeps everything running smoothly - taking the recycling and filling up the water are top of my list of activities I'm grateful for!

Karen for tirelessly cleaning the church, and making sure it is "dressed" for the season, even very few ever see it!

Larry who still does so much to make sure the building is in good working order, and faithfully stocks the food pantry.

Around the District

District Prayer List

February 7 – Please join us in lifting up Buck Creek CoB congregation and staff and the Michigan District congregations and staff.

February 14- Please join us in lifting up Buffalo CoB congregation and staff and the Mid-Atlantic District congregations and staff.

February 21 – Please join us in lifting up Burnettsville CoB congregation and staff and the Missouri & Arkansas District congregations and staff.

February 28 – Please join us in lifting up Christ Our Shepherd CoB congregation and staff and the Northern Plains District congregations and staff.

District Executive Letter

For yesterday, today, and the days ahead.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46 NRSV

My prayer for this day and for the year before us: May we be collectively still and together know: God is, God is with us, God is indeed, our refuge.

Blessings,

Beth Sollenberger

Camp Mack Winter Spiritual Retreat – In Search of Joy

“These days, joy can feel elusive and hidden behind pain and isolation. Somewhere amid God's blessing and our daily reality, I hope there is joy. Let us search for joy together.”

–Beth Sollenberger

Join us at Camp Mack this winter for a spiritual retreat, In Search of Joy. This weekend will be filled with Bible study, outdoor activities, camp programming, reflection, active sharing, worship, and prayer, all in a safe space.

Beth Sollenberger, an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, will lead us through our search, making use of the special places and activities that can only be found at Camp Mack. You will be refreshed and renewed, ready to find joy once again.

This special retreat begins on Friday, February 5th at 7:00 pm and ends at 1:00 on Sunday, February 7th. Your package includes all activities and materials, Friday and Saturday evening snacks; breakfast, lunch, and dinner, on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday, and two nights lodging. Participants will stay in Ulrich House with private rooms for singles or couples. Bathrooms in Ulrich House are shared.

Cost of the retreat is \$125 per person or \$225 per couple. Linens can be provided for an additional \$10 per person.

There are limited spaces available to provide appropriate physical distancing, so make your reservation soon.

Register at <https://cwngui.campwise.com/Apps/OnlineReg/Pages/Login.html> or call Camp Mack at 574-658-4831.

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Church of the Brethren Polity

March 10-May 4, 2021, Instructor: Torin Eikler

This is an online course and Academy students will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. In this course, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”

The registration deadline is February 3. You may register online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy>.

Online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy provides each student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. They will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed.

New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for continuing education credit (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE) may enroll as a student and select their category (CEU or PE) upon registration.

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

April 7 - June 1, 2021, Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.

Multivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling, but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation.

The deadline to register is March 3, 2021.

Doing Church Differently: Ministry in Times of Crisis

May 5 - June 29, 2021, Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.

This course examines how pastors are called to lead and assist congregations in adapting to maintain organizational integrity, pastoral viability, and foster spiritual growth in the midst of corporate/community crises (natural disasters, active shooter incidents, pandemics, climate crises, etc.).

The deadline to register for this course is March 31, 2021

Camp Mack - Seeing More Than Expected in 2020

I recently saw a class picture from my year in kindergarten (1963-64). Except for my teacher and the principal, I was the only one wearing glasses. That's not even the worst of it. I had been wearing glasses for at least a year before the picture. Needless to say, I have never experienced twenty-twenty vision.



We use that phrase to describe "perfect" vision, but what it really means is that the person who has it is able to see what he or she is expected to see. That concept really hit me as I started to think about the year 2020.

As the world came crashing down around us in March, we saw much that we hoped would not happen, but they were expected. We saw cancellations of retreats and events, camps, programs, and long-held traditions. We postponed our annual dinner, and we, like everyone else, experienced isolation.

We asked ourselves how we would manage to provide a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community. That mission was clear. What was not clear was how we could connect people when people were not supposed to be together. How could we continue to be in ministry when our main sources of revenue had vanished?

It was time to challenge ourselves to live out our faith. We began by reminding ourselves daily that we are in God's hands and so our response should be to pray faithfully and work diligently. That simple concept

became the foundation of our work through this year. The result is that we saw incredible things happen. A mission from Warsaw became a new ministry for us. A Peace Garden and high ropes course were built using truly dedicated volunteers and money that had been raised for those purposes. Roofs were replaced; cabins were painted; important repair and maintenance was completed. We developed new relationships. The capital campaign had raised the money for a long overdue health center, and construction of that center will be completed early in the new year. We met new people. We learned to do new things. We found smiling generous people who gave us time and money, so we could survive.

In 2020, we saw what we expected to see, but we truly saw so much more. We have seen the power of love and the strength of Christian community in ways we had never dreamed of. We have experienced the wonder of faith and trust in God.

Twenty-twenty vision is a good thing, but it has boundaries. As this new year begins, we are hopeful that we can return to the mission of Holy Hospitality, but we are also mindful that there is more. We have seen what happens when we stop looking only at what is before us and allow God to give us the vision of what is possible.

We still have many struggles ahead of us as we emerge from the pandemic, but I have faith in the community of Camp Mack, because that community is a community of God.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Upcoming Camp Mack Events

February 1—Registration Opens for Pre-Registered Campers from 2020!

February 7—Eagle Watch Fill up your gas tank and dress for the weather as Jess leads an eagle adventure. We will meet at Camp at 1p and caravan to some well-known bald eagle locations near Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes before ending the day at the roost. Sunday, 1p, returning to camp by 7p. Cost: \$10 (Includes snacks)

February 13—Snow Camp, NEW! Saturday from 9a-4p. Snow Camp is a day program for 6th-10th graders. Enjoy a day with friends at camp. Play outdoors, reverse tie dye a mask, sip and paint, get warm around the campfire, and much more. \$35, lunch and snacks included.

February 15—Registration Opens for All Campers!

February 18-21—Winter Quilt Retreat This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$140 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$150 for Friday morning arrival, and \$186 for Thursday evening early arrival.

February 25-28—Scrapbooking Retreat Crop until you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$134 per person arriving Friday night, \$148 for Friday morning arrival, and \$168 for Thursday evening early arrival.

February 27—Scrapbooking Join the Camp Mack scrapbooking crew for a day of preserving memories. Work on the book you need to finish, catch up on your journaling, scrap a page or two, gain inspiration

from the projects surrounding you, and find treasures at the swap table. Saturday 9a-4p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)

February 27—Knitting and Crocheting Everything you love about this October favorite, now in February, too! Get your daily dose of fiber at camp. Whether a beginner or advanced in the world of knitting/crocheting, bring along your yarn and needles/hooks, and share a relaxing winter day at camp. Learn how to knit/crochet, learn a new stitch, finish a project, or learn about knitting for charity. John Kline Welcome Center, Saturday 9a-4p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch).

February 27—Board Games Winter is the perfect time to light up the fireplace, gather up snacks, pull up a table, and bring out your favorite board games of yesteryear and today. Saturday 9a-3p. Cost: \$25 (Includes lunch)

March 8-10—Volunteer Work Days Volunteers will work with Camp Mack's staff as we make preparations for the summer season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No charge. Come for part or all of these days. Meals and lodging are available—contact Camp's office for reservations.

March 13-14—Mother Daughter Retreat, "Place in This World" Storytelling and themes of family, friendship, identity, and belonging will fill this weekend of crafting and creativity. Join us for an "Under the Sea" tea and fun with your favorite clown fish and friends. For females of all ages; Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$52 per child ages 5-8, \$90 per person age 9 through adult. Includes lodging and meals. 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.

Brethren Leadership Institute

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

Preaching - Instructor: Aaron Gross **Delayed until springtime**
Dates: January 16 & 30, and February 13; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, 12:30 -3:30 pm

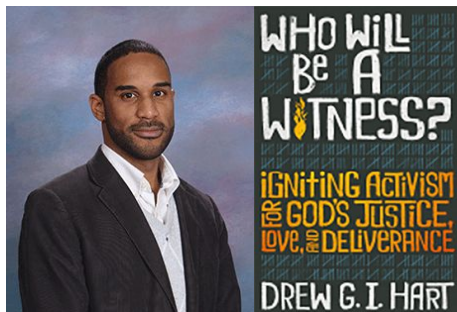
To register, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com. Please pre-register by Monday, January 4, 2021.

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>.



Denominational Webinars



On Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 12:30-2 p.m. (Eastern time), the ministry plans a webinar with Hart titled "Who Will Be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance." Register at

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_t9nIs9nYRE2BH9ENXFKZ7Q. A recording also will be available after the event.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, from 4:30-6 p.m. (Eastern time), the ministry is inviting participation in an online #ConversationsTogether with Hart. "Join us for a time of conversation, Q&A, and dialogue about how we can be faithful witnesses toward healing racism in our communities and times," said the announcement. Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkcu-qrDkpGtP8U27V9wGF7FXpHj7CLrpt>.

Hart is assistant professor of theology at Messiah University and has 10 years of pastoral experience. He is director of the university's Thriving Together: Congregations for Racial Justice program and co-host of Inverse Podcast. He is the author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* (2016) and *Who Will Be a Witness?: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance* (2020). He was the recipient of bcmPEACE's 2017 Peacemaker Award, the 2019 W. E. B. Du Bois Award in Harrisburg, Pa., and was Elizabethtown (Pa.) College's 2019 Peace Fellow.

Answers to February's question

- 1) Phyllis Singleton
- 2) Audrey Hahn
- 3) Karen Odiorne
- 4) Katie Ply
- 5) Michelle Roudebush
- 6) Barb Brown

The question for March: What is your favorite OR least favorite holiday and why?