

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



February  
2018

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

The first Sunday of Lent this year is February 18. I think that might surprise many of you so I want to share a little of our planning to gently nudge you into the spirit of the season. We are again drawing, in part, from resources shared in "Leader" magazine as we plan for worship. Our theme this year is built on the covenant relationship we have with God and with each other. "Leader" authors introduce our focus this way: "Covenants of various kinds are found throughout the Old and New Testaments, and are highlighted in the Lenten Scriptures assigned in the Lectionary for this year. Promises are made and broken, narrowed, expanded, and reimagined. The covenants that God makes with the people of God provide hints at the nature of the relationship intended between God and creation, as well as guidelines for how we are to relate to God and to one another. We start the Lenten journey discovering how vastly inclusive God's covenant is and that it is extended from generation to generation. As humans, though, we struggle with barriers getting in the way and are in need of guidelines and eventually a new covenant." As we approach Holy Week, we are invited to lay down the barrier of preconceived understandings and expectations, and to realize the good news that is Jesus' life, teaching, death and resurrection—that there is nothing that can come between us and the love of God.

"The theme "Between Me & You" is multifaceted. It refers to the relationship between us and God; it also refers to the relationship between people, and the relationship between people and the rest of creation. Covenants are made between two or more parties, and things also come in-between those parties. As humans, we struggle with maintaining our relationships and commitments. We bind and blind ourselves with limitations and barriers. Like Mary standing at the empty tomb on Easter morning, we find ourselves confused and disoriented at the new reality of "nothing between us."

***So here is what I'm thinking...*** We are currently experiencing a process of separation and redefining relationships that will excite and challenge us, but we are doing this important work together. Maybe, we need to take this opportunity to take more seriously the Lenten call to reflection, to give more focused attention to our covenants with each other and with God. To this end, you are invited to begin Lent by coming together for a simple soup supper on Ash Wednesday (February 14th) which will be followed by a short time of worship and reflection before we move into the work of the church board. May this unusual beginning to the Lenten and Easter Season signal our openness to a renewed and re-envisioned commitment to God and to each other.

***Blessings,***

*Kay*



# *Worship Schedule*

February 4 The power of touch

Scripture Mark 1:29-39

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Jesus utilized the power of God to perform mighty acts of love. God's power is experienced in Jesus' healing touch reminding us of love's ability to give power to us in our weakness and healing to us in our brokenness. How may we offer the healing touch of Christ?

February 11 The outcome of faith

Scripture 2 Kings 5:1-14, Mark 1:40-45

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Mark continues with stories of healing. Today's scriptures are a contrast between two different recipients of healing; an army commander and a leper. Both, in the end are healed because of their faith, but faith takes on a different role in each case. Which do you identify with?

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service

Scripture Psalm 51

Meditation and Prayer Pastor Kay Gaier

Ash Wednesday is an invitation to look within—to honestly examine our hearts, our relationships with God and one another. May we heed Ash Wednesday's invitation to return, repent and place our trust in God's grace.

February 18 The Rainbow Promise (First Sunday in Lent)

Scripture Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15

Message Laura Helm

February 25 The Promise of Faith (Second Sunday in Lent)

Scripture Genesis 17:1-7, Mark 8:31-38

Message Pastor Kay

In today's scriptures new names are symbolic of new journeys, proclamations of faith, and promises of covenantal relationships. These texts invite us to remain steadfast in faith during spiritual journeys with God, even as we are transformed by God's call and covenant.

## *Ash Wednesday Service*

We will be gathering Wednesday the 14th from 5:00-5:45pm for a simple soup supper, followed by an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary from 5:45-6:30pm. The Commissions and Board will meet following the service and all are invited to join in if you wish. Come and as we spiritually prepare for the Lenten and Easter season. (See Here's What I'm Thinking Letter on front of newsletter.)

### January Special Offering—

#### SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.



Come out and support our local chapter, fellowship and get some good food! The Main View in North Manchester is sponsoring a fundraiser lunch February 18th from 11:30 to 1:30pm.

### Touching Lives Lending A Home - Become a Host Home

The Youth Services Bureau out of Huntington IN coordinates the Host Home Program that provides an opportunity for caring families to offer youth ages 7-17 with temporary emergency shelter. The length of stay ranges from 1 to 21 days. During that time Youth services Bureau provides assistance for both the Host Homes and youth during placement. Contact the Safe Place/Host Coordinator at 260-356-9681 or email [adm@ysbofhuntington.org](mailto:adm@ysbofhuntington.org)



### Come Join the Kokomo Youth! 17th Annual Walk a Mile in my Shoes

February 10 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Our youth group will be walking at 9:00 a.m. on February 10. We will be meeting at the entrance to Kokomo Rescue Mission at 9:00. Just look for the big pink shoe! We will walk from KRM to the Open Arms Shelter and have a tour. Then we will walk back to the mission. Total distance is one mile. If anyone wants to join in, please come and walk with us. There will also be a breakfast offered at Grace United Methodist (across from KRM). A free will offering will be taken at breakfast.



Open Arms ministry is Kokomo Rescue Mission's shelter for homeless women and families. Open Arms provides safe shelter, nutritious meals and Bible-based programs addressing the underlying causes of homelessness, such as substance abuse, incomplete education and lack of adequate life skills. Open Arms holds the "Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes" every year to raise awareness and money to help with their ministry to the homeless.

# CAMP MACK

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## Annual Dinner

March 9—This is our annual fundraiser dinner to provide support for special projects and operations support. Fee is donation of \$35 per person, \$300 for a table of six or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted. Please contact our office for registrations. Friday, March 9. Appetizers begin at 6:15p. Dinner begins at 7p.

## FLYE Weekend

March 9—FLYE weekends (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. FLYE participants will help serve our Annual Dinner this year. These weekends will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor in Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. The first FLYE weekend is Friday–Saturday, March 9–10. Ages: 14–17. Cost: \$25.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance.

### February 11—Eagle Watch

Eagle Watch is a program put on by the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. We will meet at camp and then travel to the Salamonie Nature Center for a brief program on Bald eagle restoration in Indiana. From there, we will caravan to popular eagle locations in the area before ending up at the roost site. Dress for the weather. The colder the weather, the better the Bald eagle viewing. Sunday 1p–10p. Cost: \$20 (Includes travel and snacks)

### February 24—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: \$15 (Includes lunch)

### February 24—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: \$15 (Includes lunch)

### Action Alert on Drone Warfare from the Office of Public Witness

Drone strikes by the United States consistently violate the basic human rights of people in targeted regions of the world. Using “signature strikes,” the military kills human beings without a trial--not because they are known threats, but because they fit the profile of someone who may be a threat. Civilians often are killed in the strikes, and the strikes erode the trust between the US and affected populations.

Call your senators and representatives and tell them to end the CIA’s authority to carry out drone strikes.

Sample script: Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_. As a person of faith, I believe in the dignity of each human life. The CIA’s drone program lacks transparency, and results in an unacceptable level of civilian deaths. Please work to end the CIA’s authority to carry out drone strikes.

You can look up your legislators here: [www.brethren.org/publicwitness/legislator-lookup.html](http://www.brethren.org/publicwitness/legislator-lookup.html)

### Conversations about Biblical Authority

April 23-25, 2018 at Hueston Woods (College Corner, Ohio)

Sponsored by the Districts of Illinois and Wisconsin, Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio, and South/Central Indiana

Leadership provided by these persons:

Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching; Luther Seminary

Rev. Jason Barnhart, Executive Director Religious Life; Ashland University

Ted Swartz of Ted & Co. performing “The Big Story”

Dan Ulrich, Bethany Theological Seminary

Denise Kettering Lane, Bethany Theological Seminary



February 1—7pm—50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Location: Cordier Auditorium

February 6th—3:30pm—President Dave McFadden presents the VIA convocation. Open to public. In “Fly, Run, Walk, Crawl - Keep Moving Forward,” he will reflect on the need for perseverance, resilience, dogged-ness, grit and passion in pursuit of those things we value most. The title is based on a quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

February 15th—11am—Blood Drive. Location: Jo Young Switzer Center

February 15th—7pm—Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance. Location: Cordier Auditorium. MU will celebrate the lives of great African—American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay in a unique chamber music theatre work.

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**

### *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).

### *Common Prayer Room*

They have moved! Their new address is 78 W Hill Street, across from the Court House in the old Life Center building. Opening date and hours of operation will be announced soon.

## 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!

### Brethren Leadership Institute

#### BRETHREN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The next BLI class is Preaching, taught by Aaron Gross, pastor of the Logansport Church of the Brethren. Class sessions are these dates:

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Back-up date in case of a weather cancellation of another day: February 24.

Register by January 3 to avoid a late fee.

The spring class will be History of the Church, taught by Mark Flory Steury.

More information about the Brethren Leadership Institute can be found at the district website.



## BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES 2018 DATES

March 11 - S/C Indiana needs 15 volunteers to Eureka, Missouri, again.

April 23 - May 3 - Disaster Project Leader Training for new BDM leaders, Marion County, SC - are you interested?

Any interest in workcamps to Florida, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands? Skilled mason may be needed for three months in Virgin Islands. Contact Cliff soon at [kindy@cpt.org](mailto:kindy@cpt.org).

September 9-15 - fifteen volunteers needed from S/C Indiana for undesignated location

November 25-December 1 - 7-8 volunteers needed from S/C IN, undesignated location (joint with IL/WI District)

Enough spaces for everyone to go! Let's spread some Good News Joy!

Please continue to remember needs for money contributions through the S/C IN COB District Office for BDM transportation costs, ongoing growth of Children's Disaster Services with regular trainings for volunteers and prayers combined with financial support for EYN members and their return home from displacement and trauma brought by Boko Haram and related violence.

Blessings of peace to you! Cliff Kindy, phone: 260-982-2971

### News from Indiana Center for Middle East Peace

Dear friends of ICMEP,

We are very excited to be hosting the Mohammed Al-Hamwi family for our next program at Plymouth Congregational Church UCC, 501 West Berry St, on Thursday, February 8, at 6:30 pm.

The Al-Hamwi's had a thriving handbag business in Syria. But then the chaos arrived, and they fled Syria, eventually arriving in Indianapolis, when a federal judge blocked then-governor Mike Pence's order banning Syri-ans from seeking asylum in Indiana. With assistance from the Presbyterian Church and Exodus International, they are living and working in Indianapolis.

They will be discussing their story, one of a family of refugees seeking to start a new life in a new land. Come and hear their story, and support them in their new life in Indiana.

The article in the Indianapolis Star is about their story:

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2017/04/08/more-than-purse-way-help-refugees/100128028/> L. Michael Spath, DMin, PHD

The Global Mission and Service office has shared prayers of thanksgiving for the rescue of Salomi Pogu, one of 276 girls and young women abducted from their school in Chibok in April 2014. "Pray for the physical, emotional, and spiritual recovery of Salomi as well as that of the 14-year old girl who was discovered with her," said the prayer request. "Pray that they may be reunited with their families and re-welcomed into their communities. Pray for the Chibok girls and other victims who remain in captivity."

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The age requirement for NYC is that youth completed 9th grade through 1 year of college or the age equivalent. If you have a special situation and would like to request an age exception, please contact Becky Ullom Naugle.

No.

You can reach out to churches in your area and your district office to see if there is a possibility that your youth may go with another youth group. All youth attending must have an advisor.

The policy for advisors is that they be a minimum of 22 years old at the time of NYC.

The youth to adult ratio is for every 5 youth there must be 1 adult from each church.

Yes, there is a specific NYC shuttle that runs to and from the airport at a cost per person. Details and information will be available at a later date.

There will be about 5 offerings during the week, not all are monetary-there will be a list of the offerings posted. District photos, NYC shirts, sweatshirts, etc., a wrap up DVD will all be available for purchase and there will also be a Brethren Press booth with books and other things for optional. A \$20 cash key deposit is required at the time of check in.

We have a full medical team on staff for the whole week and they have on record any medical information listed at the time of registration. Anyone who gets ill during the week is to report to the medical staff.

During your time at CSU, bed linens, pillows, a blanket and shower towels will be provided in the dorms. You should pack sunscreen, Bible, journal and pen, modest comfortable clothes and shoes, toiletries, camera, reusable water bottle, money and items for offerings, homemade pillow for worship, and a jacket or sweatshirt.