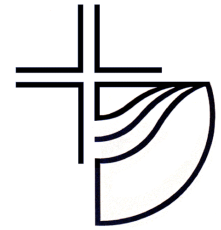


WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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

December 2019

Executive Committee

New Announcement Format

After thoughtful consideration at the November Executive Committee meeting, we are going to implement on a trial basis a new way of sharing announcements during Sunday morning worship for the month of December. Instead of having an open sharing time, all announcements will need to be shared with either Pastor Doug or the worship leader in written form prior to worship. The worship leader will then share the announcements to the congregation. We will have cards available at the usher's table for you to write down any announcements that need to be shared. We will still have an open sharing time for joys and concerns each week. We are implementing this trial change in order to try to keep the service on schedule. This new policy will be re-evaluated after December, and any input you have on how you experience this change will be helpful as we consider whether to make the change permanent.

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.



Wabash CoB Sanctuary

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- And more!

Advent: A Season of Waiting

Pastor Doug Veal



As December looms, I began to think fondly of the annual preparations that began in our house and at church as we moved towards Christmas. Going into our storage area and pulling out all of our Christmas decorations was an exciting moment every time that we did it. One of the things that my family did was to pull out a cutout of Santa's face that my father had made for one of his school classes to count down the days to Christmas. We'd put it up, and each day, get to put a cotton ball on the date to fill up Santa's beard as we approached Christmas. Of course, since it had been made for a school classroom, it skipped over the weekend dates from that year, and so every so often, we'd not have dates to put up a new cotton ball. Still, as a child, it was one of my favorite practices, a way to mark the waiting for Christmas to come.

In the church, we have a practice of waiting and preparing for Christmas each year called Advent. And it comes with its own rituals and practices. The season of Advent, in the church at least, is not only about waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ. It is also a longing, a hoping for, a dreaming of the ultimate culmination of God's work in our world, looking forward to the time when all are gathered in to God's love in Christ.

One of the traditions, that we still continue on, is the lighting of the Advent candles each week as we watch and wait and prepare for the coming of Christ on Christmas. Each week, we pause to light one of the four candles marking the season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This year, as we move through the season of Advent, we will be focusing our worship services on these themes.

These themes serve as reminders of the waiting we continue to do even as we await the celebration of Christmas. We are still waiting, still dreaming, for hope, peace, joy, and love to overflow in our world. As we move through this season, we have the chance to pause and to reflect each week on these themes of the season, to prepare our hearts and minds for not only the celebration of Christ's birth, but also of the culmination of the work of God in the world.

In many Christian traditions, one of the practices of Advent is to refrain from singing any Christmas hymns until either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. When I first became a pastor, I tried to hold to this practice, and it can be a useful one for us. But as I've moved through different congregations, I have come to a slightly different practice, where during Advent I will select one Christmas carol that fits the theme of the week. As we move through this first Advent together since I came, we will be holding to this practice. Then, on Christmas Eve, we will have a service of Lessons and Carols, where we will have the opportunity to sing through many of our favorite Christmas carols together as we fulfill our waiting for the celebration of Christ's birth.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

Women's Fellowship

December 7th—Meet up at the church by 10am. We will carpool to Timbercrest to go to the Festival of Trees.



Worship Schedule

There are many roles that bring worship each Sunday; contact a member of the nurture commission (Mikayla G, Bonnie H, Laurie K-C, Linda M, or Michelle R) to find out how your unique gifts can be of service.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The staff is always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. Have a fun travel story? Read a good book lately? Attended a gathering of friends/family? Don't keep it secret, share it with us. Have questions? See Michelle in the office, or send her a quick email.

Dec	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
1	Pastor Doug The Need for Hope	Karen O.	Mikayla G.		Larry J.	Carol H.	Laurie K-C
8	Pastor Doug The Need for Peace	Linda M.	Mikayla G.		Larry J.	Laurie K-C	Bonnie H.
15	Pastor Doug The Need for Joy	Linda B.	Mikayla G.		Larry J.	Carol H.	Audrey H.
21	Pastor Doug	Longest Night— At Timbercrest					
22	Pastor Doug The Need for Love	Laurie K-C	Mikayla G.		Larry J.	Laurie K-C	Bonnie H.
24	Lessons and Carols	Karen O.	Mikayla G.		Larry J.		Bonnie H.
29	Laurie K-C		Mikayla G.		Larry J.		Bonnie H.



Ben at Camp, 2016

Camp Mack Corner

Upcoming Opportunities at Camp:

- New Year's Eve Retreat
December 31, 2019- January 1, 2020, 2p Tuesday- 12:30p
Wednesday. Youth grades 6-10. \$61 per person (\$71 after 12/9)
- Go to the Camp Mack website: www.campmack.org for
information and to register or call 574-658-4831.



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
Email: info@campmack.org Website:
www.campmack.org

Community Support

Church Food 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

Hanging of the Greens

December 1, after service

Please stay after service and enjoy a bagged lunch/snack together before we decorate the church for Advent.

Congregational Caroling

December 14—Time to be announced

Let us all join voices and visit those of our dear family who cannot always attend. Please see Linda M. or Pastor Doug if you are interested. We will be assembling treat baskets of some sort prior to singing.

Longest Night Service

Winter Solstice—December 21

On Saturday, December 21, Pastor Doug will be leading a Longest Night service at the chapel at Timbercrest. This service is designed to reflect the reality that while Christmas is often experienced as a joyful, happy time, many of us struggle with loss and grief at this time of the year. We will have the opportunity to share in our struggles, to acknowledge that life can be difficult, and to turn to scripture for support in this time. Anyone who has difficulty at this time of year will benefit from this service. If you have experienced loss, grief, frustration, anger, sadness, or other troubles, this service will allow a space to express these feelings, and to draw strength from our faith tradition. The service will be held at 7PM. Any one who would like to carpool to the service can meet in the church parking lot at 6:15 that evening.

Christmas Open House

December 22

Pastor Doug and Tasha are inviting the congregation to visit their new home at 745 Linlawn Drive for a Christmas Open House from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 22. Drinks and snacks will be available. Feel free to stop in for five minutes or for the entire time. Pastor Doug and Tasha are looking forward to hosting everyone for this event!

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6:30pm

Please come to our Lessons and Carols service December 24 at 6:30pm. Pastor Doug has prepared a delightful service centered around music and scripture.

Faithful stewardship

By Matt DeBall, coordinator of Mission Advancement Communications

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly.”
~Luke 16:8

The call to be a faithful steward can seem like a daunting task. Thankfully, the Lord Jesus not only calls us but also empowers us and equips us for the task. The parable shared in Luke 16 is one such exhortation.

As a master declared job termination and requested a final financial report, a dishonest manager threw a going-out-of-business sale—as in, he was going out of business and he cut deals with as many indebted partners as possible. Though, at first, it appeared his actions were merely for selfish gain, the manager was commended by the master for shrewdness.

This parable is interesting, to say the least, and may cause us to scratch our heads. Surely it is not an invitation to use dishonest financial practices or to fix the books. However, if a dishonest manager can be an effective example of stewardship, we can do even better. The dishonest yet shrewd manager exemplifies three important aspects of being a faithful steward.

Being generous. When the manager met with each debtor, he canceled almost a year and half worth of wages for a common laborer. How blessed each one must have felt! Many of us will never be able to give such a generous gift, but we can make a difference in the lives of people around us by giving faithfully of what we have received from God. Whenever we share, we prove to be good stewards when we do so generously.

Honoring others. As the manager canceled debts, he honored everyone involved. The debtors received generous pardons and the master was honored for being generous. To reinstate the canceled debts would harm the master’s reputation, and thus, by confirming the manager’s maneuvers, honor was maintained for all. Faithful stewardship honors others, and this also includes the Lord.

Preparing for the future. The manager was preparing to be out of a job and needing the help of others. Though our stewardship does not include consideration of selfish gain, we are called to look beyond the circumstances of today and, with God’s help, chart a course for the future. Again, this need not involve grand means or measures. It can involve doing simple but purposeful acts boldly and faithfully. Consider water: over time, even a gentle and persistent trickle can wear away the face of a rock. Trusting God with the results, we can act simply and boldly now while working toward a future that we cannot yet see.

It’s a privilege and honor to witness all who give generously of themselves to the ministries of the Church of the Brethren—whether staff, volunteers, board members, or supporters like you. Thank you for using your gifts generously, honoring one another and the Lord. Thank you for investing what you have been given now, and preparing for the future with hope. As you practice faithful stewardship, may the Lord continue to bless you.

District Prayer List

December 1—Please pray with us for the On Earth Peace staff.

December 8—Please pray with us for the Wabash CoB.

December 15—Please pray with us for the West Eel River CoB.

December 22—Please pray with us for the White Branch CoB.

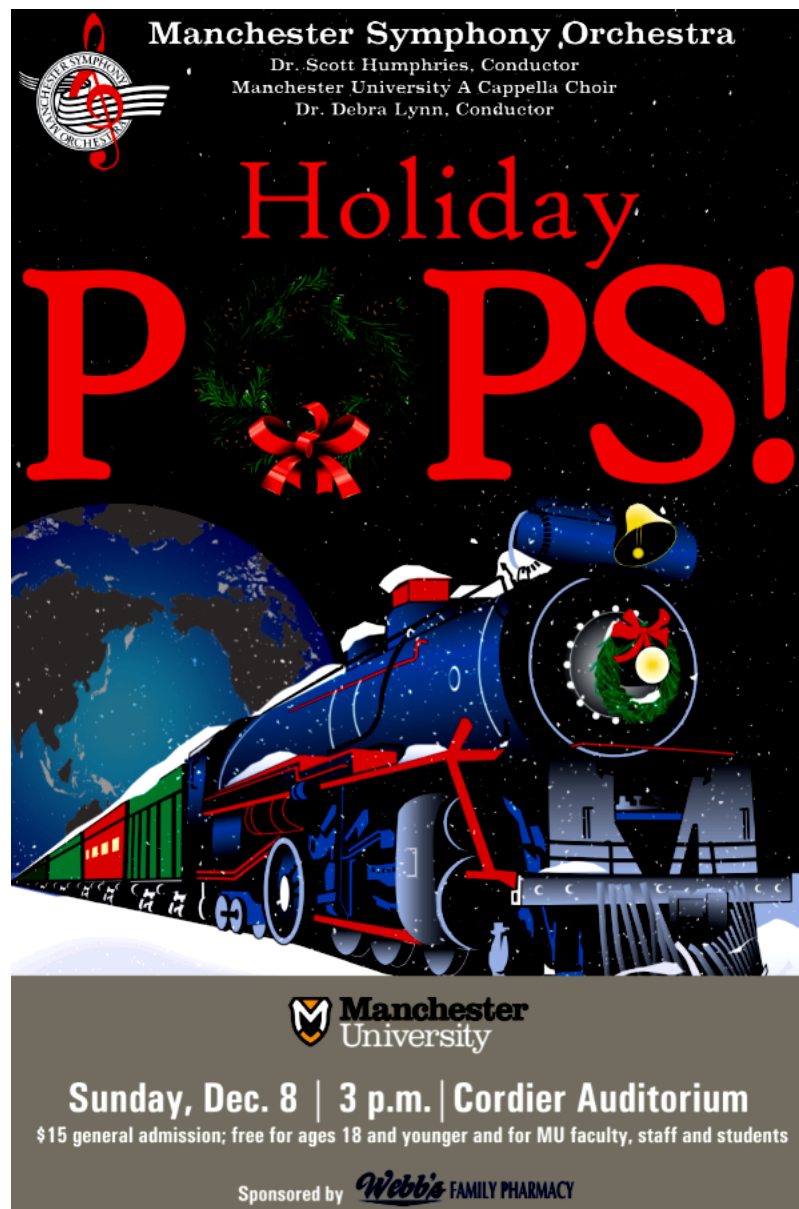
December 29—Please pray with us for a peaceful 2020.

The Art of Hope

Mental Health America of NE
Indiana partnership with MU.
Fort Wayne Campus, Gallery
101.

University Bands Concert

Wednesday December 4 ♦
7pm ♦ Cordier Auditorium



Compañeros el Ministerios

Cancelled Stamp Project

We have a new stamp collector for our congregation! Thank you Larry Landis for stepping into this role. The stamps are sold through the District Office, and proceeds are donated to Compañeros, based out of Galveston, IN. If you would like to help support them, it is very easy to do. When you receive mail with a cancelled stamp on it, cut it out (leaving 1/4" margin) and bring it in to church to put in the basket.

Larry will then collect them up, make sure they are in the correct condition, and then send them off to the District Office.



Volunteers Needed

A Note from Cliff



Friends,

All of the present BDM rebuild project sites are hurricane-related.

December 1-7 our district is to have seven volunteers join seven volunteers from IL/WI District to work in Lumberton, NC with job sites in both North and South Carolina. What would enable you to be part of that Jesus ministry? Who else might enjoy being part of that effort with you?

Next year our district is only scheduled for two weeks. The first is February 2-8 in the Carolinas again with IL/WI. We need seven volunteers. Then at the end of the year we travel again with the IL/WI District November 29-December 5 to a yet-to-be-determined location and need seven volunteers.

BDM has extended the rebuilding project in Puerto Rico into May, 2020.

If you have interest in going there be in touch with me. In addition, if you are interested in going at other times to any of the BDM sites we can assist you by working through the BDM office in New Windsor, MD.

Thank you for your support of Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Cliff Kindy

phone: 260-982-2971