

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

645 Bond St., Wabash, IN 46992  
260-563-5291 • office@wabashcob.org • www.wabashcob.org  
Kay Gaier, pastor



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

Lent is coming early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 10. I knew it was coming quickly, but I think my spirit is still resonating with the fullness of Christmas. The Christmas Eve service was a particularly healing for me this year. January's gathering song was *Joy to the World* and suddenly, we need to shift gears into a darker season of contemplation. Our worship resources remind us that "Lent is that 40-day season when the church commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in solitude, in silence, and in fasting in the wilderness. This time apart was Jesus' season of preparation before beginning his ministry. Every year Christ's followers are encouraged to embark on their own 40 day journey into this darker season as a way of preparing to receive and share more fully in the contrasting resurrection light of Easter Sunday." I'm just not feeling it...at least not the darkness part. I am not feeling it for myself and I am not feeling it for the church. It is not that the problems of the last years are solved or that there are no struggles on the horizon. It is not that the way forward is suddenly clear. It is not. It is more a sense that whatever is ahead on the journey we will, with God's help, find our way.

***So here's what I'm thinking...*** Even though I got a lot of push-back last week in the discussion of Jesus' parable of the "pearl of great price", it was an important thought for me that the focus was not primarily on sacrifice. The focus was on discovering what is ultimate in our lives, and having the courage and presence of heart and mind to pursue it. Rather than using this Lenten season of wandering as a time to wrestle and struggle with the dark, maybe we could be more intentional about learning to walk in the light of God's Spirit.

The imagery for this Lent is *Living Ink*. As we read the stories of Jesus in the coming weeks, we are invited into a grand narrative that includes all of our stories. God calls us to co-authorship, using our very lives to shape Jesus' ongoing kingdom story. In all the ups and downs found in the pages and chapters of our stories, Christ journeys with us. As we come to the end of our own resources, Christ invites us to give up our pens, relinquish full control and acknowledge God's co-authorship. As we do this we catch glimpses of the light that leads us forward. We hear God's "Fear not!" and find ourselves in this grand narrative as individuals and as a church. This is the good news we can trust—and end to the beginning—another new chapter as we live into the resurrection. May it be so.

**February 2016**

***Blessings,***

*Kay*



# *Worship Schedule*

## **February 7 *Outrageous Nonsense***

**Scripture** James 2:14-17

**Message** Youth

Jesus was a pretty radical and outrageous guy. He spoke a great deal of nonsense. Some people found it difficult to listen to what he was saying. Harder yet was actually doing and living what he taught. It is one thing to talk about Jesus and say how much we love, but a completely different thing to do what he actually says. Jesus looks great on the pages of our Bibles, but when we go to do and live what he taught, the difficulty spikes!

## **February 14 *Lent 1 Living Ink: Letting Go of the Pen***

**Scripture** Psalm 90:13-17, 91:1-2, Luke 4:1-13

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

When we acknowledge God as the author of life, “letting go of the pen” becomes possible. There are necessary moments in our stories when we come to the end of ourselves and realize the need to give up control of our pen. This is when we have opportunities to recognize the Word planted in us and rely on the Author to be our provider/daily bread, by allowing God’s hand to write our lives.

## **February 21 *Lent 2 Living Ink: Finding Light in Dark Text***

**Scripture** Psalm 27:1-4, 11-14, Luke 13:31-35

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

There are often dark times in our lives when the things we face cause us to be afraid. As Christ followers we are invited to face these darkest pages and chapters in our lives without fear, knowing that Christ’s light will shine in the dark. What fears do you have for yourself? For the church?

## **February 28 *Lent 3 Living Ink: Leaping off the Page***

**Scripture** Psalm 63:1-8, Isaiah 55:1-9

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

God, the Author of the grand story, invites us to drink in the words of Covenant, the good news that we are part of an abundant narrative. As we do, we become living words that leap off the pages into all aspects of relations: with God, each other, and the earth.

## *Prayers for:*

**Stan Miller** continues to receive therapy for his constant headaches.

**Solomi Titus** is our girl from the group that was abducted from school in Nigeria. Please keep her and her family in your hearts and prayers.

**Wayne Barkey** continues his knee replacement surgery at home and continues his therapy at Wellbrooke.

**Norma Schneider** is currently receiving therapy at The Rehab Place.

**Barb Miller** is home from the hospital and is doing well.

Unfortunately, they still do not know the cause of her illness.

David Waas will be celebrating his 90th birthday on February 20, 2016. In lieu of a party or event to mark this occasion, the Waas family is creating a gift of a compilation of greetings from (hopefully) many corners of his life. They would like it to be a surprise, so please do not pass this information along to David and Becky!

If you would like to participate, you can send notes or cards offering a sentiment of gratitude for David's life and what he has shared with you, in particular, or the world in general. This can be as brief as a happy birthday wish, or as detailed as one would like to share about a specific moment or event in which he impacted you. Pictures of David (and family) would also be wonderful contributions. The collection of these will be compiled into a large book -- a Portfolio of 90 Years, if you will -- and given to David and Becky.

There are two ways you can contribute:

- 1) email: davidwaas90years@gmail.com -- these will be printed to include the sender's name and included as a hard copy in the finished book
- 2) mail: these will be included in the form that they are received  
    % Rachael Waas Shull  
    6908 SE Woodward St  
    Portland, OR 97206

The deadline is February 10th, so that Rachael will have time to put the book together.

Again, the family would like it to be a surprise, so please do not pass this information along to David and Becky!

## *Snow and ice*

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



I want to thank the congregation for the gift to Charley Creek. The boys and I enjoyed having a night off from cooking.  
Michelle

# News from the Pew

## BVS Invitational

Elizabeth Batten will be at the Manchester Church of the Brethren for a Pizza and BVS informational hang out with the youth from churches in the area Sunday, February 21st at 6pm. Come and learn about what BVS does and fellowship with other area youth.

## Youth Service Practice

On February 6 starting at 2pm, the youth will meet to practice one last time before Sunday's service. Anyone ages 5-18 are welcome to come and participate.

**Women's Fellowship** will be gathering at **10AM** on **February 6th** at Not Your Average Joe's for breakfast, followed by sorting Growing Grounds donated items that have accumulated in the Stage area of the Fellowship Hall. We have been very blessed with the amount of donations that we have received, but it has become difficult to find needed items. If you are unable to work after the breakfast, there will be a group meeting before breakfast to work.

## Youth Service

Be sure to come to church on Sunday February 7th to hear the youth speak on Outrageous Nonsense. After the service, from 12:00pm—3:00pm the youth are invited to Carol and Dennis Horn's house for an afternoon of indoor wienie roasting and games. Bring your favorite game to share.

# CAMP MACK

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P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax 574-658-4765

Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

\*\*\* Much of the registration is taking place online now, so we are in a new era. Our church will still pay half of the "before March 20" registration. Be in touch with Dennis and Carol Horn about details of your family's portion of the fee and about scholarships/camperships, if needed. \*\*\*

The 2016 Events, Retreats and Summer Camps Brochure have been mailed. It contains information and registration information for all the 2016 summer camps and retreats. If you did not receive this brochure, please request one from your Camp Rep or the Camp Office. Camp Registration Discount Date is March 20!! Register by 3/20/16 to avoid the late charge of \$30 (\$15 for Beginners & Samplers).

Camp Mack's Annual Dinner is March 11th . Hors d'oeuvres are at 6:15 p.m. Banquet at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a few guest speakers speaking about the impact camp has had on their group and what camp means to them. Cost is \$25/person for undesignated seating; Reserved tables: Table of 6 - \$300; Table of 7 - \$350; Table of 8 - \$400. Watch for your invitation or call the camp office for reservation details.

Applications are being accepted for 2016 Summer Staff, 18 years of age or older, with a heart for the ministry at Camp Mack. Applications are available at the Camp Mack website or call or e-mail camp for an application. [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org) or 574-658-4831.

Camp Mack is hosting a Sweetheart Banquet, whether you met your spouse at Camp Mack, got married here or even just have a love for Camp Mack and your sweetheart; you are invited to a romantic evening of dining, fellowship and dancing. Please register by February 5th . When: February 14th . Time: Hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$70 per couple

Upcoming Get-Away Days are designed to bring you to camp for a day or part of a day for a "mini-retreat." Check the website for a listing of programs, their descriptions, and fees.

February 14 Eagle Watch

LOOKING AHEAD...

February 18-21 Quilt Retreat	February 18-21 Scrapbooking Retreat
March 5 Team Leader Training	March 11 Annual Dinner
March 14-16 Volunteer Work Days	March 19-20 Mother Daughter Retreat

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for: Camp Mack Staff, Counselors & Summer Staff Quiet Place Quote: "Prayer is keeping company with God" – Clement of Alexandria.

\*\*\* Please let Dennis or Carol know if you register and/or pay your 1/2 on-line and expect the church to pay a portion of the camp fee. The church does pay half of the "before March 20" fee. In addition, there are camper scholarships. Also, note that each child in a family, after the first child registered, receives a \$10 discount. \*\*\*



## Christian Citizenship Seminar

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CSS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

This year's theme is Racism and Mass Incarceration. CCS dates are April 23-28, 2016, taking place in New York City and Washington, DC.

Scholarships are available for any high school aged youth.

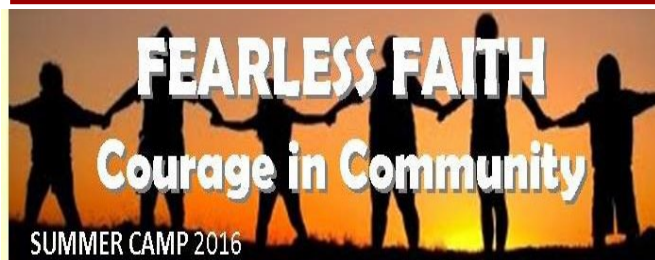
For more information, visit [www.brethren.org/yya/ccs](http://www.brethren.org/yya/ccs) [here](#).



### Retreats & Events

Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 16	5K Run/Walk	TBD
Sweetheart Banquet	Feb 13	Camp Mack Festival	Oct 1
Quilt Retreat	Feb 18-21	Father Son Retreat	Oct 8-9
Scrapbooking Retreat	Feb 18-21	Seasoned Citizen's	Oct 10-13
Team Leader Training	March 5	Quilt Retreat	Oct 13-16
Annual Dinner	March 11	Scrapbooking Retreat	Oct 27-30
Volunteer Work Days	March 14-16	Pastors Sabbath	Nov 1-3
Mother Daughter	March 19-20	Build a Drum	Nov 4-6
Volunteer Work Days	April 4-6	Volunteer Banquet	Nov 5
Pastors Sabbath	April 5-6	Volunteer Work Days	Nov 7-9
Prairie Restoration	April 9	New Years Eve	Dec 31-Jan 1
Volunteer Work Day	April 9	Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 14, 2017
CIT Training	April 15-17		
Quilt Retreat	April 21-24		
Seasoned Citizen's	May 2-5		
Bird Watching Retreat	May 5-7		
Counselor Training	May 13-14		
South Central Women	June 2-4		
Colony Camp	August 12-14		
Golf Outing	August TBD		
Labor Day Family Camp	Sept. 2-5		

Save  
your date  
now!



SUMMER CAMP 2016

Samplers	June 9-11	Youth Camp	July 3-9
Beginners	June 12-14	Culinary	July 5-9
Archery	June 12-16	Seekers	July 10-15
Eco Adventure	June 12-17	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Grand Camp	June 16-18	Sailing	July 10-15
Dune Challenge	June 19-25	Followers	July 10-15
Seekers	June 26-July 1	Creative Arts	July 10-15
Finders	June 26-July 1	Grand Camp	July 31-Aug 2
Survivor	June 26-July 2	Dadirri	July 31-Aug 6
Samplers	July 3-5		
Seekers	July 3-8		
Finders	July 3-8		
Pedal & Paddle	July 3-9		

## New Community Project Learning Tours

Looking for a mission trip? That's not us. But if it's a spirited and spiritually uplifting visit to another part of the world you're seeking, you're at the right place. And these trips aren't just for youth or just for "old people"--they're intergenerational experiences intended to challenge, change and renew us, while building relationships with our neighbors and a better appreciation for our amazing planet.

Additional information regarding each tour can be found on their website on the

[Learning Tours](#) page.

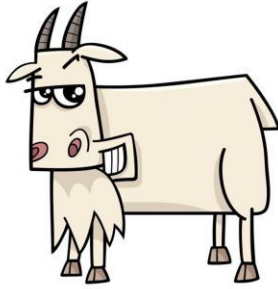
Nepal: January 9-22, 2016

Ecuador: June 8-16, 2016

Dominican Republic: July 8-17, 2016

Denali/Kenai Fjords: July 26 - August 4, 2016

# 12 BASKETS AND A GOAT



South/Central Indiana District Program and Arrangements Committee invites YOU to 12 Baskets and a Goat Friday evening, February 26, at Northview Church of the Brethren beginning at 7:00 p.m.

More than 70 years ago, Dan West, a member of the Elkhart Valley Church of the Brethren, dreamed of a day when all people would have enough to eat. Heifer Project was begun with a load of heifers from Indiana and Ohio that was

sent to Puerto Rico. That means that Heifer International is part of the Church of the Brethren legacy. Heifer International has grown, and today movie stars and children share gifts with Heifer so that people have food

This special evening will include great Biblical comedy by Ted & Co. -- The Jesus Stories: Faith, Forks, and Fettuccini, written and performed by Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught. The drama will be interrupted at two intervals to auction off baskets of breads. It will be an evening filled with humor, laughter, and generous support of Heifer International.

We need your help to make the evening memorable. We invite you to attend and to support the auction. You can provide a basket (we will be sending instructions about baskets next week). You can be a bidder (other events have donated in the neighborhood of \$5000.00 to Heifer). You can be a driver: gather up 2 or 3 friends and join the fun (we will send a list of restaurants you might want to enjoy on your way to the play). You can help underwrite this opportunity to strengthen our connections across the district (the district office has details).

Heifer International is a part of my Church of the Brethren legacy. The world still needs what Heifer International does and I want to be a part of continuing that legacy until food security prevails

## Grant of \$50,000 will send aid for Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon

Church of the Brethren Newsline  
January 23, 2016

A Christian aid worker holds a Syrian refugee's newborn baby during a visit inside the family's makeshift shelter in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where a large number of displaced Syrians have fled.

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries have directed an allocation of \$50,000 from the Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to support the Syrian refugee relief programs of Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD).

For the latest Brethren news go to the main Newsline page

"The now six-year Syrian civil war has displaced nearly 10 million Syrians, even as the other conflicts in the Middle East have displaced millions more," said the grant request. "Lebanon, which shares a long border with Syria, now has 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and another half million Palestinian refugees.

"Public officials are very reluctant to provide support to these groups, and the government is unwilling to allow large-scale international relief or the development of Syrian refugee camps. Most refugees live in substandard housing with several other families and without enough food, little medical care, and poor sanitation, and the children are not able to attend school."

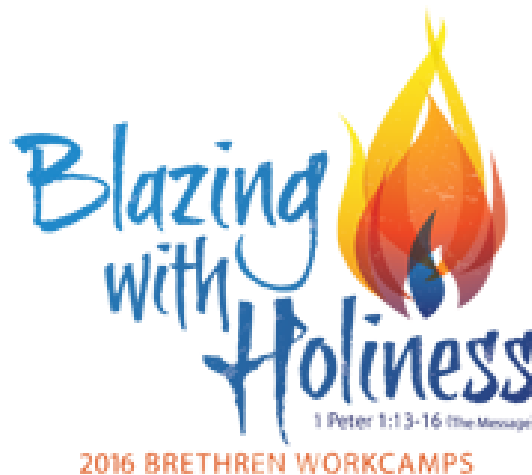
Partner organization LSESD currently has more than 20 relief projects across Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Through support from LSESD, many schools and educational programs have been started for Syrian refugees. The organization's monthly feeding programs, medical care, winterization supplies, and trauma recovery programming are reaching many in need.

This initial grant will provide monthly food packages for displaced people in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, along with health care, milk and diapers for families with small children, bedding, education for Syrian refugee children, trauma recovery, social and psychological support programs, and drinking water.

## 2016 Work Camps

### Blazing with Holiness

So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, 'I am holy; you be holy.' *1 Peter 1:13-16 The Message*



### Jr. High

#### Completed 6th – 8th grade

June 15-19 South Bend, Indiana

June 15-19 Brooklyn, New York (CLOSED)

July 4-8 Camp Brethren Woods - Keezletown, Virginia (CLOSED)

July 14-18 New Community Project - Harrisonburg, Virginia (CLOSED)

July 20-24 Elgin, Illinois

July 27-31 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

July 27-31 Roanoke, Virginia

### Sr. High

#### Completed 9th grade – age 19

June 6-12 Washington, D.C.

June 13-19 New Orleans, Louisiana

June 19-25 Crossnore, North Carolina (CLOSED)

June 21-28 Puerto Rico (CLOSED)

June 21-27 Knox Area Rescue Ministries - Knoxville, Tennessee

July 3-9 Family Abuse Center - Waco, Texas (CLOSED)

July 10-16 Pine Ridge Reservation - Kyle, South Dakota

July 10-17 BRF - Puerto Rico (CLOSED)

July 18-24 Portland, Oregon (CLOSED)

July 19-25 Santa Ana, California

July 31-August 6 ECHO - N. Fort Myers, Florida

August 8-14 Koinonia Farm - Americus, Georgia



## Brethren funds distribute \$77,958, Brethren Disaster Ministries starts new project in West Virginia

Church of the Brethren Newsline

January 15, 2016

A total of \$77,958 has been distributed in recent grants from two funds of the Church of the Brethren, the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) and the Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF). The grants provide funding for the completion of a Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project in New Jersey and the start up of a new rebuilding project in West Virginia, as well as a rabbit project in Haiti and assessment of GFCF-sponsored projects in the Africa Great Lakes region.

### EDF: Spotswood, N.J.

Brethren Disaster Ministries staff have directed \$25,000 from the EDF to close out its rebuilding project in Spotswood, N.J. Since January 2014, volunteers have been working on home repair and rebuilding in various areas of Monmouth County, N.J., most recently with Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group serving as primary response partner. Until the end of March 2015, this project was funded by a grant from the American Red Cross. Although the recovery work in Monmouth County is still needed, with outside funding options no longer available the local recovery group had to close at the end of 2015. Brethren Disaster Ministries will be working to close out the current project site during the last week of January 2016, preparing to move to a new location in southern West Virginia at the beginning of February for a new flood response project. This grant funds the completion of the rebuilding project in New Jersey.

### EDF: Harts, W.Va.

Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed an EDF allocation of \$45,000 to begin a new rebuilding project site following flooding in West Virginia in March, April, and July of 2015. More than 1,400 families in 32 counties were affected, in an area with high unemployment rates and a nearly 37 percent poverty rate in many counties, and FEMA assistance was denied for all three events, said the grant request. "An additional challenge is the record number of bridges and water crossing that were damaged or destroyed. A collaborative effort among National VOAD member organizations and committees, state and federal officials, the Army Corp of Engineers, and other public engineering and business sectors has resulted in a pilot project of 20 water crossings to be built in 4 counties." Brethren Disaster Ministries reported that after monitoring the situation, enough unmet needs were discovered to justify a rebuilding response. Volunteers working on the West Virginia project are expected to help with traditional home repair and rebuilding, but will likely be providing assistance for a bridge project as well. This initial grant will open a new rebuilding project site in Harts, in Lincoln County, W.Va.



Growing Grounds (GG) continues to work with individuals and families going through transition from jail or prison back into our community. We know some folks through volunteering at the jail GED/TASC classes, some who attend the monthly meal and program, or NA meetings, held here at the church, or by just getting letters coming to the church from persons who are soon to be released and have no job, no income, and no person to help. We received one of those letters over Christmas. The woman had no one to meet her upon release. GG continues to try to be a resource for transportation, food, and shelter during stressful and starting-over times.

In this season of bitter cold, it is especially comforting to know that a person with a name, face, and story of years of chaos, is being housed, usually through help with rent payment. In the case of the women at the apartment that we rent from Habitat, it is a longer commitment.

The two women currently living in the GG apartment were both successful in getting jobs recently, and that is not an easy journey in a society bent on punishment. Any positions that can be found are very part-time and minimum wage, though, which does not provide for apartment rent, utilities, and the thousands of dollars in court and system fees that are usually owed. But, it is a start, and they always are elated to be working and forging a new path. This first step is possible because they have shelter, an address, and someone to “walk with” them. (Mentors needed!!)

These folks do not have cars, so we try to provide at least a bicycle, and lock. Recently, a bike shop donated some bike repair items to a struggling family we have been helping in many ways. It was just one of the many gestures and donations that give hope. This same family had a medical emergency, ultimately minor surgery, on Christmas Day which meant transportation needs. Transportation remains a huge need for the stability of work, getting clothes to a laundromat, hauling groceries, and just car use that we take for granted.

Days before Christmas, one mother came to the GG’s “closet” that was full of great clothes donated by families in our congregation, or by other individuals or congregations. She was delighted to find clothes that her kids loved. We have been distributing other coats and sweaters on these wintry days.

Several days after Christmas, members of our congregation moved furniture donated by a Timbercrest couple, and early in January a man from NM used his Saturday to bring to Wabash donated mattresses and box springs, taking them to a woman with absolutely nothing. At the same time we placed a library-donated couch and two chairs in an apartment, and earlier had taken another chair and household items to another family.

The Manchester Church of the Brethren folks are helping GG in various ways, and recently have donated \$300 to help with the outreach. It is encouraging to know that the Wabash Church of the Brethren, which has helped in many ways, has another partner. Thanks to all!

## Special Offering— SOUPer Bowl of Caring—February 7

Dedicated to tackling all of the issues that exist in your communities, including poverty, hunger and homelessness.

- 48 million Americans live in poverty?
- 1 in 7 Americans face hunger every day?
- More than 630,000 people in the United States are homeless?
- 23% of those struggling went to college?
- Or that 16 million children live in food insecure households?

We believe:

- The idea for Souper Bowl of Caring is a gift from God
- Young people have the ability to serve and should be given opportunities to lead their communities in helping others
- Every dollar collected through Souper Bowl of Caring should be donated directly to a charity selected by each participating group
- People of all backgrounds and beliefs can work together
- Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need
- The excitement and energy surrounding the Super Bowl can be used to engage young people in service while producing lasting hope for all people

