

Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



September
2016

Here is what I'm thinking...

There was an article in a recent The Economist magazine titled, "The State of the World: Better and better." I was intrigued about this because there is so much lamenting about how bad things are that I was curious as to how the author, Johan Norberg, a Swedish economic historian and author of a new book called Progress, came to that conclusion.

He begins by making the observation that "Humans are a gloomy species...People are predisposed to think things are worse than they are, and they overestimate the likelihood of calamity." He goes on to say that, "This is because they rely not on data, but on how easy it is to recall an example. And bad things are more memorable."

In his book, Norberg gives a ton of data as evidence that the world is actually getting better. He draws his evidence from a wide variety of statistics related to health, economics, education, gender issues, safety and more. An example is how quickly poverty has diminished. "In 1820, 94% of humanity subsisted on less than \$2.00 a day in modern money. That fell to 37% in 1990 and less than 10% in 2015. When the swine flu pandemic threatened to become catastrophic in 2009, scientists sequenced the genome of the virus within a day and were producing a vaccine in less than six months. Due to the spread of basic technology allowing for clean water and indoor plumbing, now 68% of the world's population have modern sanitation...up from 24% in 1980."

The good news goes on and on, but Norberg admits, "That life is improving for most people does not mean it is improving for everyone," or that there are not lots of important problems, such as global warming, yet to be solved. Still, he does help put things in perspective and offer support for a more positive and hopeful outlook.

So here's what I'm thinking...We will gather the first Sunday of this month to celebrate World Communion Sunday, a celebration of Christian unity around the world. In the present moment in the life of our denomination, our country and our world, there appears to be more attention given to our different religious understandings and the political and social expressions of those differences than to our unity in Christ. It can be tempting to become one of those "gloomy humans" that Norberg talks about. But there is good news in the church as well. The church in Nigeria has shown incredible faith and resiliency in the face of persecution. Churches have done wonderful things together through Church World Service and other ecumenical agencies. Perhaps the best news for the world church in recent history was the selection of Pope Francis to lead the Catholic church and the powerful impact he has had on unity in the world. Let's get some perspective. The God of love and justice is still at work in the world through the followers of Christ. Let us join together to celebrate and worship!

Blessings,

Kay



Worship Schedule

October 2 Community of Christ, World Communion Sunday

Scripture John 15:9-17, Matthew 22:15-22

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

Through the power of the Spirit, we respond to Christ by being steadfast in hope, as we labor in love, revealing Christ's love to all people. Jesus reveals that the ways of God are not narrow but, rather, broad and all-encompassing. Jesus is all about building community.

October 9

Scripture

Message Rev. Daniel Poole

October 16 Turning kingdom thinking upside down

Scripture Mark 10:35-45

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

We tend to want to be on the side of those who have the power. Jesus turns this thinking around. He reminds us that true power is found in service and love. Following Jesus calls us to live in counter-culture ways. It can be a tough calling.

October 23 God's Final Word

Scripture Joel 2:23-32

Message Al Hohl

October 30 Faithfulness—more than faith

Scripture Psalm 119:1-8, 33-40

Message Pastor Kay Gaier

The theme of God's guidance emerges from today's scriptures. Such guidance may come through scripture, through prayer, or through the spiritual wisdom we gain on our journeys of faith. But what is important is not just what we learn, but what we do with what we learn.

Would you like to participate in the worship service sometime? If so, you'll find a sign-up sheet outside the office for various positions.

Prayers for:

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. Also pray for those that have been returned, that they may receive the care they need and acceptance back into their communities.

Please keep the following in your prayers in an ongoing way: **Norma Schneider, Brian Genovese, Wayne Barkey, Danika Landis and family.**

Linda Barkey is making progress from hip replacement surgery and will have two more weeks of PT. There was lots of pain with the removal of the bandage, and there is lots of hip area soreness. Please remember Wayne also as he has his own pain issues.

Sharon Larrowe is still at Wellbrooke where she is gradually recuperating from back surgery. Her staples were taken out this week-with pain. Sharon's house north of Wabash has sold and has to be vacated by October 10, so various church folk and family members are packing and moving items to a storage unit. She will need to find a new home in Wabash.

Norma Schneider had a foot injury this week, but thankfully it was not broken. She is in a stirrup that will stabilize the foot during her month of healing. This accident means that she cannot continue with her PT now.

Willie Cornett is healing from his cataract surgeries and will need new glasses now.

Raymond Singleton also had cataract surgery.

To relieve swelling and blurred vision in his left eye, **Dennis Horn** will have Split-thickness Corneal Transplant surgery on October 4th at the Midwest Eye Institute in Indy.

In Support of the district, please include the following congregations in your prayers this month:

Oct. 2: Pymont Church of the Brethren

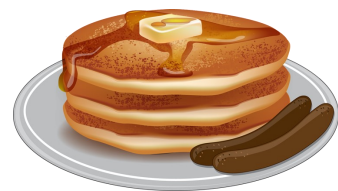
Oct. 9: Richmond Church of the Brethren

Oct. 16: Bethany Seminary

Oct. 23: Roann Church of the Brethren

Oct. 30: Rossville Church of the Brethren

Come early on October 30—the youth will be serving a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast in place of our usual 5th Sunday Breakfast. Lighthouse Mission items to be gathered will be announced in the bulletin.



Special Offering October — South/Central District

The South/Central Indiana District is composed of 45 Church of the Brethren congregations located across Indiana.

We are continuing the work of Jesus:

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Mission Statements

District Board

Serving the Body of Christ, we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together:

Peacefully . . . by nurturing faith, peace, wholeness, and reconciliation;

Simply . . . by calling leadership and sharing our resources to empower local congregations; and

Together . . . by encouraging all congregations to grow in discipleship, denominational identity, and unity.

Staff

To empower congregations for mission;

To support District Board ministries;

To nurture South/Central Indiana ministers and families;

To encourage a broader vision for the church.

Bethany Seminary named as a “Seminary that Changes the World:” -- An announcement from Bethany Seminary president Jeff Carter. This year’s is the fourth annual list of “Seminaries that Change the World” issued by the Center for Faith and Service, according to the Huffington Post. The article, “What We Love About This Year’s Seminaries That Change the World,” has this to say about Bethany: “The Bethany Neighborhood is an intentional community based on mutuality and simplicity where students live and learn together sharing resources. The Peace Forum offers a weekly lunch and speaker series focusing on diverse peace and justice topics.”

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

Volunteer Banquet: Everyone who served as a 2016 summer camp leader or volunteer since last year's November recognition is invited to be camp's guest at a recognition dinner at Camp Mack on Saturday, November 5th. Registration and hors d'oeuvres begin at 4:15 p.m. with the dinner served at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment will follow the dinner. Call camp to make your reservation.

Father Son Retreat: Fathers, sons and grandpas are invited to a Father-Son Weekend at Camp Mack on October 8-9. The theme is "Building Blocks". A firm foundation in Christ is the base for building relationships between father and son. Have fun creating in the woodshop, playing with Legos and Lincoln logs, singing around the camp fire, and spending time building memories. I Corinthians 20.

Camp Mack's Fall Seasoned Citizen's Retreat is October 10-13. It's full of fun, laughter, fellowship, and inspiration. Go to camp's website or call Camp today for registration forms. Fee: \$168 per person or \$113 if not staying overnight.

Fall Scrapbooking Retreat: Oct. 27-30,. Come Crop 'til you drop with a weekend of scrapbooking therapy. Bring scrapbooks you need to finish and spread out your supplies and swap your extras at the swap table. Fee: \$115, \$126 if arriving Friday morning, \$143 if arriving Thursday evening.

Fall Quilting Retreat is October 13-16. Quilters gather to quilt, build wonderful friendships, and enjoy the peace and tranquility of Camp Mack. Go to camp's website or call camp today for registration forms.

Build a Drum Workshop at Camp Mack is November 4-6. Choose from many sizes and styles of drums. Register now so that materials will be available for your drum. Sign up the kids for the "kids' day" drum building session from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday where kids and parents build, decorate, and assemble a youth Ashiko drum.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pastors Sabbath –November 8-9, Jeff Carter, guest leader

October 15: Knitting and Crocheting Day, Wooden Pen Turing, Beginning Quilting

October 16 Fall Nut and Tree Identification Walk

PRAYER REQUESTS: Camp Staff and Volunteers



DID YOU KNOW...

Our 32nd Annual Heifer Project International Walk (Kokomo CoB)

Sunday, October 9th

Mark your calendar now to participate in this worthwhile event! The walk will be held at Jackson Morrow Park starting at 1:30. Registration will start at 1:00. The walk is a 5K or 3.1 miles. Pray that God will bless us with a beautiful fall day. There are many ways for you to participate. You can obtain pledges and be a walker! If you cannot walk, you can pledge money for a walker. Also, we have Arks that you can fill with your loose change. Take a look at the HPI display in the fellowship hall. You can sign up to be a walker and/or a pledger. Help is needed the day of the walk along with food & drink donations. There are pledge cards and sign-up sheets to participate on the table.

Remember, we raised over \$5000 last year! Let's do it again.

Timbercrest free movies

You're invited to join Timbercrest residents for their October Movies in the Assembly Room

Friday, October 7 - The Pianist

Friday, October 21 - The Imitation Game

Questions? call
Wanda Miller,
982-6189



October 7 at 7:30 PM **Homecoming Concert** Location Cordier Auditorium
Ensembles performing: Symphonic Band
Jazz Ensemble A Capella Choir Chamber Singers \$5 general admission; free for MU students, faculty and staff

Enjoy a wonderful dinner at Main View Inn Sunday, October 9, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Choice of Chicken n' Noodles or Swiss Steak with mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and drink. Dinner price for adults is \$7 and only \$4 for children. Top it off with a slice of pie for \$2. Proceeds will benefit the **Manchester Early Learning Center** Current Operations, a Wabash County United Fund organization.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

October 15

Local Farmers' Markets

North Manchester hosts one Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Roann has one Friday evening.

Wabash has one Saturday mornings.

Books for Nigeria! - through October 16, 2016

This new initiative is focused on helping schools recover (and improve) as EYN rebuilds its education programs. One of the best ways to combat terrorism is to provide good education. Boko Haram, meaning “western education is forbidden,” is trying to stop education, especially of girls. This book drive is part of a larger plan supporting education for the children of NE Nigeria. There are two focuses of this book drive: child education and pastoral education. The books will be shipped in December 2016, so all books must be to the Brethren Service Center by November 20, 2016.

There will be two collection boxes, one inside the main doors and one in the west wing, at Manchester Church of the Brethren to receive books up until the morning of October 16, 2016. Kathy Fry-Miller will be traveling by car to New Windsor and can take books with her. She will pick them up from our church Sunday morning, October 16.

Books for Children

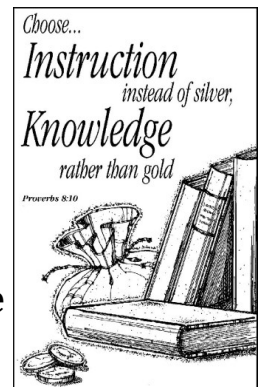
EYN-related schools are in need of books for their school libraries and classrooms. Please collect new or used books in good condition for children ages 6 to 16 years old. Specifically requested are paper-back chapter books for children, such as those recognized by the Newberry Award (easily found online). Non-fiction books and children’s encyclopedias are also requested. All books should be in good condition and published in the last 20 years.

Books for Kulp Bible College

EYN’s Kulp Bible College is requesting help sup-plying their library. They are in need of materials for training pastors including Bible commentaries, reference books, and resource books for pastors as well as books on Christian education, theology, preaching resources, Hebrew and Greek languages, pastoral counseling and ethics. All books should be in good condition and published in the last 20 years.

If you miss the October 16 deadline at our church, you may send books to arrive in New Windsor by November 20 to:
Books for Nigeria, Brethren Service Center Annex, 601 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776

For Kathy to take them, please make sure all books arrive at the church by the morning of October 16, 2016.



Special

By Deanna Beckner, assistant workcamp coordinator

As Rachel Berry from the hit Fox television show *Glee* proclaimed when she received her Tony Award, explicating a lesson she learned from her high school choir teacher Mr. Schuester, “Being a part of something special does not make you special. Something is special because you are a part of it.” That is how I see each of the participants and directors who came to Church of the Brethren workcamps this summer. Their enthusiasm, beautiful personalities, and tenacious willingness to serve in the Lord’s name coalesced at each and every workcamp as they grew as individuals and as newly-gathered communities. Workcamps provide unique opportunities, but it is the participants who come and serve who make the time together special.

Now that the workcamp season is over, I miss the workcampers every day. In looking through pictures, all of the memories of bumps in the road are juxtaposed with the fantastically fun and silly moments, the incredibly meaningful moments, and the insightful faith moments. And somehow, amidst everything that happened this summer, it is the good stuff that stands out the most.

Getting stuck in the rain after a dinner cookout but spending time getting to know one another, or playing hacky sack in the courtyard of a homeless shelter with a new friend, or playing group games that bring out the deepest laughter, or singing songs in the van together as we ride along to the evening activity—these are the moments that warm my heart, that flit through my mind as I prepare for a new year of workcamps.

I could tell you about all of the work that went into this past summer, the ways I have changed, and the many places I have traveled to, but really, I could jabber on and on about the lasting memories that I spent having fun and learning with the workcampers and directors. I feel blessed to be on this journey, to have God leading me through these workcamps, and picking me up when I make mistakes. I feel blessed to be a part of this body of believers who spend time at a workcamp to serve and to be served, to meet new friends and rekindle previous friendships, to grow in faith and to share faith with others. And because of all of this, I feel special.

Deanna Beckner served as an assistant workcamp coordinator with Amanda McLearn-Montz for the 2016 workcamp season, and will continue serving for the 2017 season with Shelley Weachter.

Gardening in Alaska

Bill & Penny Gay went to Circle, Alaska, for the tenth summer, at the beginning of April, to again encourage, teach, and promote vegetable gardening. Bill experimented with different seed varieties early on, then started several thousand plants. More homes had gardens, small and large, than ever before. Entire groups of plants changed ownership from the Gays to the residents as more vegetables would be grown than last year--an answer to prayer! The May weather allowed for some earlier than usual planting. This allowed them to show that proper planning could result in two or more plantings of various vegetables. One such benefit was the use of the greens from turnips, beets, and carrots being boiled as part of the food for sled dogs. They even had a third planting just for the greens, even though the vegetables would not mature. Circle resident Albert Carroll won the

dog sled race at the Spring Carnival because his dogs "ate their veggies"! Other mushers are planning to have gardens next year.

Being somewhat centrally located on the Yukon River, Circle is a place where people "float" into your life, from around the globe. Canoers and other adventurers have become friends, and stories have been shared of adventure and far-off places. Many have expressed how beautiful the gardens are, not believing the sight of apple trees. Thanks to two professors from Fairbanks, Circle has apple trees growing also.

In 2009, Bill coined the phrase, "The seeds we were sent there to plant are far more important than the planting of the seeds for the gardens." Things are truly growing in Circle, including the presence of the Church of the Brethren! (for the complete story go to:

www.brethren.org/news2016/gardening-project-continues-in-Alaska.html) COB Newsline, Sept. 16, 2016

Brethren Leadership Institute

The next Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) course is Worship and will be taught by Laura Stone. The dates are October 8, 22 and Nov. 5

(all Saturdays, 9am – 4pm); the location is the Marion Church of the Brethren. Pre-registration is helpful, but not necessary, and may be done by calling or emailing the District Office.

Another opportunity to get CEUs is the event on the Friday before District Conference, Sep-tember 16, Mexico Church of the Brethren, 12:30 pm - Registration and snacks. 1:00 pm - "Biblical Story-Telling" with Robert Alley, Retired Pastor and 2011 Annual Conference Moderator.

Peace, Tina Rieman, Administrative Assistant, Brethren Leadership Institute, 982-8805

Letter from Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director Camp Mack

I'm sitting in my office on a Sunday morning, the sun is shining through a perfectly blue sky and the air is crisp with the hint of fall. Some of the reminders of the Northern Indiana District Conference are waiting for a facility crew to set them right again. I just finished a phone call asking about a jacket left in the gathering room the day before. And in the midst of this, the harmony and lyrics of *As a Deer* quietly drift through the doorways and to my desk. Our ministry involves all that any church ministry provides. We do programming for our Church of the Brethren owners: summer camps, educational and recreational programs throughout the year, and teaming with our church partners for retreats and outreach. We also provide educational opportunities to nearby schools and other secular groups. While we can't openly evangelize, we are modeling a Christian community that advocates for peace and justice. Multiple groups of faith, churches and organizations, use our spaces in their own ways to become more in tune with God and to build their communities. People who are tired find rest here. People who need them will always find a warm cup of coffee, hugs, and the love of Christ here.

We don't talk enough about the kind of comprehensive ministry Camp Mack provides, and we don't acknowledge enough the full participation of the volunteers and donors who make that ministry possible. This is a vital ministry that God has called to do incredible work in the world. You, as volunteers, donors, and long-time supporters are the hands and feet of that ministry. For most people, spending a day or an evening washing dishes is not the activity they find meaningful, but many of you realize you are being Jesus in that moment. Giving money for every day expenses and maintenance is not as much fun as seeing something concrete that one can visit and revisit frequently, unless you keep in mind that the general gift is what makes the whole of the ministry possible.

During both district conferences, the District Executive Ministers challenged conference-goers to contribute generously to the 400 Club, a fund used to eliminate the mortgage on the John Kline Center. The gifts were to honor the service of Galen Jay as interim executive director. Together, the districts raised over \$10,000.00 and two generous donors matched those figures to bring the final one day total to over \$20,000.00! What an awesome show of faith and support that requires our response as a ministry to provide even more!

We are not going to be hesitant to ask for your help. There are still some steep hills we must climb before we can reach a more level course. As we climb, we will need continued substantial financial support and volunteers who can help us get through this challenging period with limited funds for staff. We will need the voices and consideration of everyone to help us fill our buildings to capacity with retreats, reunions, and programs so we can begin growing again. Think about how you or your church can use camp. Talk to others you know about this great place to get away.

This has been hallowed ground – a sanctuary – for ninety-one years. We are now in a position to do more in providing God's love and community to a world desperately needing it. Thank you for your support.

I have the best job in the world, because I get to work with you, and I get to do it from an office that sees the wonders of creation and hears the joyful sounds of Christian Community.