

# Wabash Church of the Brethren

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Kay Gaier, pastor



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

**LENT ALERT:** I think that maybe I have been looking for Jesus in all the wrong places! Well, not exactly all the wrong places, maybe just not all the right places.

During this season of Lent, every week we ask in one way or another what it means to be a Christian—to follow Jesus. Every week we have been looking at the life of Jesus for some answers. The work is to superimpose, in honest ways, Jesus' example onto the situations in our own lives. Scripture is certainly the *right* place to start. But it has felt like difficult work because week after week, Jesus asks us to do really hard things, like examine our long-held prejudices, defy church leaders, sacrifice our own self-interests, stand up for justice and against oppression, and love our neighbors—even the ones who make us so angry. And right now there is so much in this world that makes us so very angry. It can be discouraging work because we doubt that we can love the way Jesus does and we can't even realistically imagine what that would even look like given some of the situations we face today.

I was contemplating this when, unexpectedly, I heard an interview with comedian Sarah Silverman on the radio. Silverman is known for her sunny, upbeat, silly, delivery of jokes that are often a bit "blue", politically incorrect, and the punchline is often "bleeped." She self-describes as an "R rated Mr. Rogers for adults." It was a wonderful interview in which she, almost immediately, went from being light and funny to being unselfconsciously wise, relationally humble and compassionately understanding while offering a real, culturally relevant, answer to the question; "What would Jesus do?"

Someone attacked her on Twitter using vulgarity. Instead of fighting back or ignoring him, she went to his feed and found so much acting out and pain and felt like he needed a connection. So, she wrote back to him; "*I read your timeline and I see what you are doing. Your rage is very thinly veiled pain, but you know that. I know that feeling. I believe in you. See what happens when you love.*" She immediately heard back from him and they started a real conversation that she says still continues every day. Sarah said, "It didn't take anything from me to be loving to him—in fact it made me feel good. Empathy and compassion are free."

**So here's what I'm thinking...**In my sermon last week I quoted Karoline Lewis—"We who follow Jesus will meet God in him—we will see what God sees—the beauty and the ugliness." How is God calling us to "*harness the power of anger in the work of Love?*" Now I want to share from the words of a new favorite theologian of mine, Sarah Silverman; "*Resist divisiveness. Take up the challenge of seeing ourselves in each other. Find someone who does not deserve your compassion and give it to them.*" Keep your eyes and ears and hearts open this Lent. You never know where you will find Jesus.

**Blessings,**

*Kay*



**March  
2018**

# Worship Schedule

## **March 4      Lent 3      *Me & You & Working it through***

**Scripture** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1::18-25; John 2:12-22

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

We are in relationship with a God whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We need relational guidelines to guide the between, although rigidly adhering to rules has the potential to come in between. How might we seek God each day and tend to the space between, rather than solely on the rules?

## **March 11      Lent 4      *Me & You & Darkness in view***

**Scripture** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2: 1-10; John: 14-21

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier (?)

Allowing darkness and negativity to come in between people or in between people and God is sometimes easier than the vulnerability and humility of being exposed to the light. What are the things that we don't want to see that may be standing between you and me?

## **March 18      Lent 5      *Me & You & Covenant New***

**Scripture** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12: 20-33

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

In the new covenant there are no betweens and no go-betweens. We know longer have need of a go-between mediator; however, like the disciples, we may serve that purpose by drawing people to Christ. God's promise is extended beyond ourselves and our own tribe to all people.

## **March 25      Palm Sunday      *Me & You & an alternative view***

**Scripture** Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; John 12: 12-16

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

The crowds, as informed by Spiritual teaching, have certain expectations of the coming Messiah that come between their understanding and Jesus' lived experience, which defies their expectations. What does our reading of Scripture lead us to believe, and how might our encounters with Jesus challenge our expectations?

## **March 29      Love Feast      6:15pm**

Brethren have symbolized in the Love Feast what the world needs: a fellowship based upon and enriched by our redemption in God's love and forgiveness, and a religious faith which seeks expression in daily living and in meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Please join us in this evening of worship and communion with God and each other.

## **April 1      Easter**

**Scripture** Acts 10: 34-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20: 1-18

**Message** Pastor Kay Gaier

Like Mary, we are so used to something in between me and you that when the stone is rolled away, our expectations keep us from seeing the risen Christ. In his death and resurrection, Jesus has become the between so that there are no more *betweens*.

# The Time changes back to DST

## March 10/11, so make sure you're still at church at the right time!



### March Special Offering—



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, Congregational Life Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Brethren Volunteer Service, workcamps, the Global Food Initiative, and many others.

Camp Mack registration is now open for summer camp. Deadline for early registration is March 19. Who do you know that would like to go that maybe can't afford it? Camperships are available...



### Love Feast

Please join us March 29 at 6:15pm. For some, feet washing is the embodiment of Jesus' statement of a servant's heart and is a traditional part of how Brethren celebrate Love Feast. If you have not participated before, you are invited to watch this powerful expression of "first is last". Hand washing will also be available for those unable to participate in washing of feet.



### Celebrate Resurrection by becoming part of it!!

It has been our tradition to make donations for Easter Flowers as a way to remember or honor or thank someone in our lives. This year we are so aware of those who continue to live in crisis in our country because of the losses they have experienced due to natural disasters. This year, in lieu of flowers, we are inviting you to recognize and celebrate folks who are or have been significant in your lives through a donation to be collected by the Witness Commission. It will then be used to help those still recovering from those losses. We will then recognize those gifts on Easter Sunday on an insert in our bulletin. Thank you for your willingness to share in this way.

## CAMP MACK

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Email: [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)  
Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

Summer camp early registration deadline is March 19th! Registration is due to your church's camp representative by March 18th (or whenever they request it ahead of time). March 3 is Team Leader Training. If you're a team leader for this next summer, join us for a day of fun and important information. The annual fundraising dinner is fast approaching. RSVP to attend on March 9. Please be in touch if you would like more information.

Ages 14 to 17? Come FLYE at camp from March 9-10 as you come together in fellowship, fun, learning, and so much more. March 12-14 Volunteer Work Days--we'd love to see you. There will be projects for a variety of ages and abilities. There's no place like home! (But Camp Mack comes pretty close.) If you are a mother, daughter, grandmother, or granddaughter, join us at camp from March 17-18 for the Mother Daughter Retreat.

Please consider participating at camp as a summer staffer, counselor, or team leader. Your time and talents are valued. We are now accepting applications.

Other upcoming events:

Spring Quilt Retreat April 18-22

Pastor's Sabbath April 24-25

Container Gardening Get-a-way Day April 28

Target Sports Get-a-way Day April 28

Wildflower Walk Get-a-way Day April 29

### 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



Friday March 9th—7:30pm Mid Winter, A University Bands Concert. Cordier Auditorium

Tuesday March 13—3:30pm Supporting Re-Entry and Preventing Recidivism in Indiana. Cordier Auditorium

Thursday March 15—7pm Poverty’s Law Past and Future. Jo Young Switzer Center, Upper Level

Thursday March 15—7:30pm Choral Ensemble Concert. Cordier Auditorium

Tuesday March 27—3:30pm The Power of Local People Building Peace. Jo Young Switzer Center, Upper Level

Thursday March 29— 7pm Choosing Peace: Insights from Local Peacebuilding Research and Practice Jo Young Switzer Center, Upper Level



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.

### *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)



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 DISASTER MINISTRIES 2018 DATES

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

### District Youth Rally!

Friday, April 13 - Sunday, April 15

Who: High School Age Youth

What: CoB Youth Rally

When: Friday evening registration 6-7 until after worship Sunday morning (fee \$20 before April 9 / \$24 by April 12)

Where: Anderson Church of the Brethren

Why: To connect with other youth, while having fun, considering our faith, and thinking about how we can love one another.

Contact Pastor Brian Mackie (765) 465-5960,  
[pastor@whitebranchcob.org](mailto:pastor@whitebranchcob.org), for more information.

Registration form can be found on the S/C IN District web.

### Manchester Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 11, 3:00 pm at the Honeywell Center

The Bohemians - Dvořák, Smetana, Janáček

(Patron reception following the concert)

The youth will be preparing for us a scrumptious breakfast in lieu of our 5th Sunday Breakfast. We will start seating at 9am. Please RSVP to the office (phone or email or note on the desk) if you plan on attending so we know how many to cook for. This will be a fundraiser to help offset NYC costs.



**Elks help Special Olympics:** Keith Walters (front row, from left), exalted ruler of the Wabash Elks Lodge No.471, presents a \$1,000 check to Joel Makin, Wabash County Special Olympics assistant county coordinator. Looking on are Special Olympians and supporters (back row, from



(back row, from left) Sharon Larrowe, Kenith Larrowe, Buddy Ireland and Sean Larrowe. The funds come from a grant the local lodge received from the Elks National Foundation. The Wabash lodge has contributed more than \$70,000 to various community projects or individuals in need during the past fiscal year.

The Honeywell House welcomes Jenny Wilson, director of [Blessings in a Backpack](#), to speak on Tues., March 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. Ms. Wilson established the program in Wabash County in 2011.

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization that feeds school children in the United States who currently are fed during the week on the federally funded Free and Reduced Meal Program and are at risk of going hungry on the weekends. Statistics show that 1 out of 5 children living in the United States struggles with hunger.

Blessings in a Backpack prepare bags of food for more than 500 children in kindergarten through sixth grade during the school year in the Wabash City Schools District and the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County.

For more information about this presentation, please call (260) 563-2326 ext. 1, or check the Honeywell House website at <http://www.honeywellhouse.org>.

The Honeywell Foundation is a public charity in Wabash, Indiana. The organization and its venues - Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Charley Creek Gardens, Dr. Ford Historic Home, Eagles Theatre, and 13-24 Drive In - provide artistic, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for all. For more information about The Honeywell Foundation, please visit <http://www.honeywellfoundation.org>.

### **Homemade chicken noodle dinner—Sunday March 25, 2018**

Noon to 2PM Carry outs available

Menu: Chicken and noodles, Mashed potatoes, Green Beans

Dessert and drink

Adults \$8 12 and under \$4

Proceeds go to Jayson Hall for financial help. (He was hit by a semi and is still recuperating.)

Peru Church of the Brethren

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