



Wabash Church of the Brethren

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

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March 2021

Peacefully, Simply, Together



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.

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Waiting for Spring

Pastor Doug Veal

As I sat down to begin to write this month's newsletter article, there was still a good deal of snow on the ground, and more snow in the forecast. At least for myself, I am feeling the desire for spring, for a new time when I'll be able to get outside a bit more, for warmer weather. To get started on our garden for this year.

This time of year is always a bit interesting to me. As we move through the end of winter, and begin to see the first evidence of spring. Some green shoots from flower bulbs beginning to pop out, even as snow still covers the ground. It's a reminder that, even as we continue through the cold days and into perhaps slightly warmer days, the cycle of life continues on. Plants will return, warmer days are coming, and the cold winter days will soon pass into memories for another year.

It's striking to me that we celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in the springtime, in this time of year where we are anticipating new birth, almost a re-birth, of our natural surroundings. Much like Jesus enters the tomb, and rises again to life, our plantings, our bulbs, have gone through a time of darkness and inactivity, to a time when they return to what we see as life above ground. These can help us to remember, and recognize, the rise of Jesus into new life, and the promise that we, like Jesus, will rise again into new life.

In Christ,

Pastor Doug

Church Board

We are meeting this month via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent out prior to Wednesday, March 10.

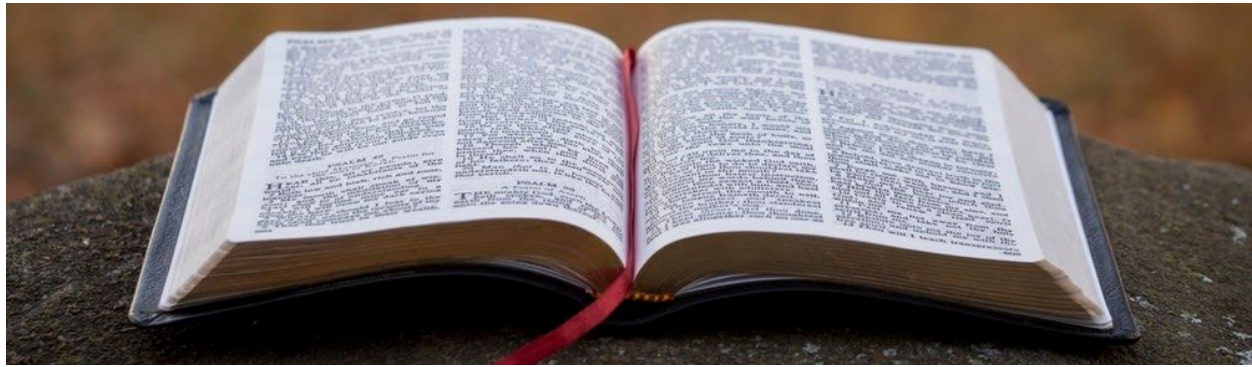
Nurture Commission

Cards and Correspondence

Even though Christmas, and the tradition of sending cards, has passed, let's not forget to stay in contact with one another. Everyone likes to receive "happy" mail - a birthday or thinking of you card, a quick and encouraging text (with or without a funny video), or even just a quick post on a Facebook page.

Virtual Connections

On Sunday mornings, except for Sundays that Pastor Doug has off, we are continuing to offer Sunday School via Zoom. We have been working through a study on the subject of wisdom in the Bible using A Guide for Biblical Studies from the denomination. Even if you do not have a copy of the book, you can still join in the discussions, which are always very insightful. We will soon be finishing up this book, and will provide more information on what will come next soon. To join in Sunday School, simply log into the Sunday Morning Worship Service Zoom link at 9AM. We end the session with enough time that if you would like to join in-person worship, you still can.



Worship Schedule - March

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
7	Pastor Doug Mark 8:27-38 Take up your cross		No singing			No CC	
14	Pastor Doug John 4:1-29 Wells, Conversations, and the Messiah		Until further			Until further	
21	TBA		Notice			Notice	
28	Pastor Doug Mark 11:1-11 The Triumphant Entry						



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship has not been meeting during the pandemic and we need a way to stay in touch with each other. We are going to use the church newsletter to do that so all of you will be able to join in our activity.

The plan is to have a question for each month. Five or six women will be called to answer the question and their answers will be published in the newsletter. The answers will be published without names so that YOU can try to guess who answered a certain way. The names will be published on the last page of the newsletter. Let's go. The question was: What is your favorite OR least favorite holiday and why?

Several of the women gave answers to both. See if you can guess who said what!

1. My favorite is Christmas. It's such a happy time of year and we get together with family and friends. My least favorite – well I guess Valentine's Day or Memorial Day because we don't really do much for them.
2. My favorite is Thanksgiving because I like food and I like to eat. That's what we do at Thanksgiving. My least favorite would be Christmas because of all the rushing around and having to find the right presents for people.
3. My favorite would be Christmas because of what it represents. I like all the pretty decorations and getting together with family. My least favorite would be Thanksgiving. There is so much preparation and then it's all over in such a short time and everyone goes home and you have the clean up to do!
4. My favorite is Christmas because that is when Jesus was born. I like the lights, and the music, and the food. We get together with family and friends and it's just a special time.
5. My least favorite is Halloween. One Halloween my sister and I went to a movie with another girl and saw "The Beast with Five Fingers." We started home and dropped her off at her house and when we got almost home, we thought we saw someone hiding behind a tree. We were so scared but finally we ran home as fast as we could. I've always remembered that and even remember the name of the movie! My favorite would be Easter because of the meaning of it. There is a lot to celebrate. And, there's not a lot of preparation needed.
6. My favorite would be Christmas because of all the family getting together. Thanksgiving would be close but not all of our family comes then. We really don't do anything to celebrate Valentine's Day so that would probably be my least favorite.

The question for March: If you could take a trip or a vacation to anywhere you wanted to go with no worries about money, age, or physical problems, where would you go?

Answers to March's question is at the end of the newsletter.

Upcoming Youth Activities

Junior High

July 23 – 25: National Junior High Conference at Elizabethtown College. Online registration opens in January.

Senior High

December 1: Christian Citizenship Seminar registration opens at www.brethren.org/yya/ccs.

April 24 – 28: Christian Citizenship Seminar 2021 (This year it will be a virtual event.)

May 2: National Youth Sunday. Theme and worship materials will be posted online by March 2021.

Young Adult

January 21: National Young Adult Conference 2021 registration opens at www.brethren.org/YAC

May 28-31: National Young Adult Conference 2021 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina).

Devotionals - Upper Room and Lenten 2021

The Upper Room is available in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office and please specify regular or large print. If you would like to pick one up the next time you are here, they are on the back table in the sanctuary.

The Lenten Devotional *The Wild Way of Jesus* is also on the back table. It was penned by our very own Anna Lisa Gross!

Reading through the Bible in a year - March

1	Psalms 24-26	9	Job 19-20	17	Isaiah 56-61	25	Mark 3-4
2	Job 17-18	10	Isaiah 51-55	18	Mark 1-2	26	1 Cor 9-10
3	Isaiah 45-50	11	Matthew 26-28	19	1 Cor 7-8	27	Gen 48-50
4	Matthew 23-25	12	1 Cor 5-6	20	Genesis 44-47	28	1 Samuel 11-15
5	1 Cor 3-4	13	Genesis 40-43	21	1 Samuel 6-10	29	Psalms 36-38
6	Genesis 36-39	14	1 Samuel 1-5	22	Psalms 33-3	30	Job 25-26
7	Ruth 1-4	15	Psalms 30-32	23	Job 23-24	31	Jeremiah 1-6
8	Psalms 27-29	16	Job 21-22	24	Isaiah 62-66		

Witness Commision

Special Offerings - March and April - update

One Great Hour of Sharing - denomination



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

Wabash CoB Youth at Colorado State University, Fort Collins - Circled - Maya, Mikayla, Michelle, Zach, Ben, and Dan (not shown, Cohen)



The Youth Fund is used for many types of activities - Camperships, National Junior High Conference, and National Youth Conference are the big ones. In previous years we have been able to serve various breakfast and dinner fundraisers in addition to the dessert table at our Annual Fish Fry. Needless to say, the coronavirus pandemic brought those activities to a (temporary, hopefully) halt. Because of this, April's special offering is even more important as we look toward Camp Mack resuming some camping activities, Christian Citizenship Seminar moving to a virtual experience, and NYC 2022 just around the corner (again, hopefully!) These are all activities that help our youth see how they fit within the larger church body, raise awareness of issues, and provide opportunities for them to learn and lead various solutions.

Little Free 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

Lighthouse Mission



They have purchased the old Plain Dealer building on the corner of Canal and Cass and are looking to remodel! They will be providing office space to 85 Hope, FISH, and Advantage Housing, in addition to their storefront.

Their goal is to raise \$200,000 to complete the remodeling. If you are so inclined to assist with their cause, the Community Foundation of Wabash County is administering the fund for them. You can mail in a check and earmark it for them, or you can donate online at www.cfwabash.org.

Growing Grounds

Growing Grounds continues to serve many households throughout the county. Even with current elevated government support and moratoriums on rent and utility cut-offs, the needs remain high. Work continues on the HOST House on Hill St. and the apartments on Wabash. If you would like to volunteer to help with either renovation project, please contact Carol or Dennis Horn.



Stewards Commission

Looking at a new and exciting way you can help the church? We are in need of a volunteer (or two or three) to help run the video streaming. A very positive outcome to sheltering in place is that we've been able to improve our ability to include family members who aren't normally able to worship with us, as well as reach beyond our community.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact Pastor Doug at pastordoug@wabashcob.org or Michelle at office@wabashcob.org.

Spring is fast approaching and the grounds will need some tending to after the winter. Please contact Leroy if you'd like to assist in some way.

Around the District

District Prayer List

February 7 – Please join us in lifting up Four Mile CoB congregation and staff and the Northern Ohio District congregations and staff.

February 14- Please join us in lifting up Grandview CoB congregation and staff and the Southern Ohio District congregations and staff.

February 21 – Please join us in lifting up Guernesey CoB congregation and staff and the Pacific Northwest District congregations and staff.

February 28 – Please join us in lifting up Hickory Grove CoB congregation and staff and the Western Pennsylvania District congregations and staff.

District Lenten Services

All services (except the Denomination-wide Service on Feb. 28) will be posted on the District YouTube page (see link below), set to premier at 7:00 pm each Sunday. We encourage you to join others from around the district in a time of worship & prayer. We hope you will please share this information and publicize through your congregation's information sharing bulletins, newsletters, Facebook, etc.

March 7 – Pastor Mark Stahl – Kokomo – Central Section

March 14 – Ben Poole – Arcadia – South Section

March 21 – Pastor Olinda Barnes – Pleasant Dale – East Section

District YouTube Channel Address: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaEgAtr49qv2TAXjNel4Mzw>

Also linked through the District Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/477805769901711>

Camp Mack - Planning for a safe future

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time.”

Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)



Last summer, we celebrated 95 years of ministry here at Camp Mack. That is quite an accomplishment, but our recognition was muted and difficult because in all of those 95 years, we had never missed an opportunity to minister to children at our wonderful sanctuary on Lake Waubee. That awful result in 2020 gave us the resolve as a staff and Camp Board to do everything we can to make sure we never have to close our spaces to summer camp again.

Since August, the staff has been working to develop a camp experience for this summer that will be meaningful, exciting, fun, and safe. In November, a committee of summer camp leaders and participants began meeting with me to share their thoughts about what that camp might look like if we still have COVID to deal with. As the staff continues to plan, that committee continues to provide important feedback.

Brochures with information about 2021 programs go out this week, and we hope you will carefully consider programs for you and your family. Camp Mack has developed protocols and purchased equipment to provide as safe an experience as possible, and we are anxious to see you in our lodges, dining hall, and outdoor spaces. If you have questions, you can always call us in the office, email us at info@campmack.org, or visit our website: campmack.org/covid.

With all that being said, there is much that is out of our control. The biggest threat to our ability to provide programs and a 2021 summer camp is the development of more contagious strains of the virus beginning to spread. Vaccinations increase our optimism, but if there are any slowdowns or large groups refusing to be vaccinated, tight restrictions are likely to continue. If the virus cannot be controlled in Kosciusko County, our surrounding counties, or even throughout the state, choices given to us by health agencies may be limited.

This is where you can help. First, please follow the guidelines from the health department where you live. Among these guidelines: wear a cloth mask whenever you are in a public space, indoors with people you do not live with, or anywhere you cannot maintain physical distancing; be careful to create that space when you are with people you don't live with; wash your hands frequently; avoid touching your face; and get vaccinated when you have the opportunity.

Your generosity and faith in this ministry has kept us going when we did not have revenue from programs or rentals. We are truly grateful for these. In addition, we need people to carefully fight the virus with every tool available. We hope you are as anxious to come to camp as we are to welcome you. Paul asks us, “...let us not grow weary...” And, he follows up with verse 10: “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those of the family of faith.”

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Upcoming Camp Mack Events

March 8–10—Volunteer Work Days Volunteers will work with Camp Mack’s staff as we make preparations for the summer season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No charge. Come for part or all of these days. Meals and lodging are available—contact Camp’s office for reservations.

March 13–14—Mother Daughter Retreat, “Place in This World” Storytelling and themes of family, friendship, identity, and belonging will fill this weekend of crafting and creativity. Join us for an “Under the Sea” tea and fun with your favorite clown fish and friends. For females of all ages; Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$52 per child ages 5–8, \$90 per person age 9 through adult. Includes lodging and meals. 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.

March 27 - Woodcarving Get-A-Way Day, learn to whittle a little caricature (person) and a face (wood spirit).

Upcoming Brethren Academy Courses

Church of the Brethren Polity

March 10–May 4, 2021, Instructor: Torin Eikler

This is an online course and Academy students will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. In this course, we will engage the current and past polity of the Church of the Brethren in order to understand how it has, and continues to, shape “another way of living.”

The registration deadline is February 3. You may register online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy>.

Online classes “meet” for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy provides each student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. They will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed.

New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for continuing education credit (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE) may enroll as a student and select their category (CEU or PE) upon registration.

Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality

April 7 - June 1, 2021, Instructor: Sandra Jenkins

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.



Multivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling, but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation.

The deadline to register is March 3, 2021.

Doing Church Differently: Ministry in Times of Crisis

May 5 - June 29, 2021, Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion.

This course examines how pastors are called to lead and assist congregations in adapting to maintain organizational integrity, pastoral viability, and foster spiritual growth in the midst of corporate/community crises (natural disasters, active shooter incidents, pandemics, climate crises, etc.).

The deadline to register for this course is March 31, 2021

Brethren Leadership Institute

Due to current gathering restrictions, please contact the district office to confirm class schedule and method of delivery.

Preaching - Instructor: Aaron Gross **Delayed until springtime**

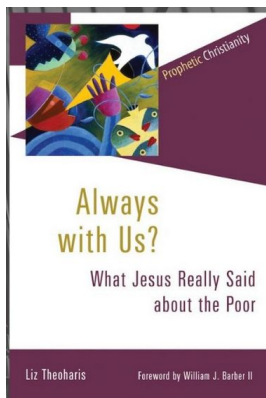
Dates: January 16 & 30, and February 13; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, 12:30 -3:30 pm

To register, contact the District Office (260) 982-8805, scindcob@gmail.com. Please pre-register by Monday, January 4, 2021.

Classes are open to all: You may be exploring ministry, answering a call to ministry, and/or seeking further education. CEUs are available.

For more information on the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI) and fees, visit <http://www.scindcob.org/BLI.html>.

District and Denominational Webinars

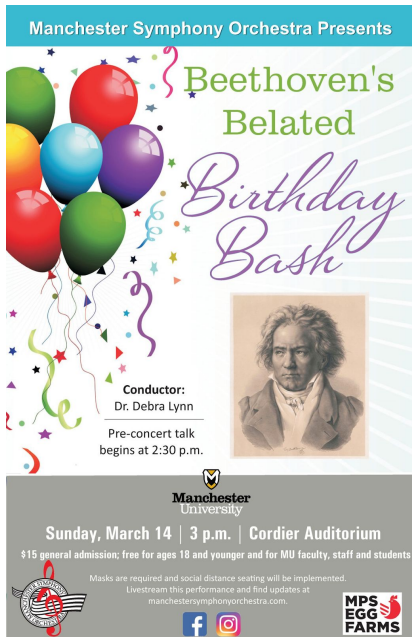


In this book, Liz Theoharis examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor to show how that passage is taken out of context, distorted, and politicized to justify theories about the inevitability of inequality.

Click the link below to sign up, Thursday's at 7pm, March 18-May 27, excluding Maundy Thursday.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP!](#) Hosted by On Earth Peace

Around the Community



Manchester Symphony Orchestra Presents

Beethoven's
Belated
*Birthday
Bash*

Conductor:
Dr. Debra Lynn

Pre-concert talk
begins at 2:30 p.m.

Manchester
University

Sunday, March 14 | 3 p.m. | Cordier Auditorium

\$15 general admission; free for ages 18 and younger and for MU faculty, staff and students

Masks are required and social distance seating will be implemented.
Livestream this performance and find updates at
manchestersymphonyorchestra.com.

MPS
EGG
FARMS

Answers to March's question

1. Pam Little
2. Tasha Veal
3. Linda Miller
4. Linda Barkey
5. Bethene Gill
6. Deb Mills

The question for April : If you could take a trip or a vacation to anywhere you wanted to go with no worries about money, age, or physical problems, where would you go?