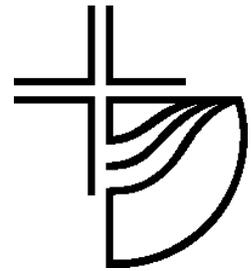


Manchester Church of the Brethren

NEWSLETTER

Week of December 3, 2017
Peacefully, Simply, Together



Prayer Concerns

As we move into a time of prayer, I share with you these joys and concerns - recognizing that as we share them, we build up the body of Christ and we invite God's active presence in our lives and in the lives of others. Then, please continue to keep these things in your hearts and minds in the coming week.

Within our faith community:

- ◆ We pray for those people who aren't able to join us in worship due to their on-going health or physical limitations. They include: **Lois Roop, Helen Farringer** and **Ken Frantz**.
- ◆ We pray a prayer of blessing for **Sarah Hall** and her husband, Mario Aguila Portillo, who were married in El Salvador on Saturday, November 25. Bev and Joel Eikenberry were in attendance at the wedding.
- ◆ We pray for **Niel** and **Sandy Bendsen** on the death of Niel's brother, Donald Bendsen in a bicycle accident in Ohio on Wednesday, November 29. The funeral service for Donald was Saturday, December 2 at the East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren in Canton, Ohio.

May these people know the assurance of God's comforting presence and abiding love.

In the wider community:

- ◆ We pray for our sister church in El Salvador, **Emmanuel Baptist**. We pray for the Bible School that is being led in twelve different communities. Gabriela Cana Castro is the Director. The theme is "Local and World Peace". The school is supported financially by our congregation. This is the second week of a two-week program.
- ◆ We offer prayers of wholeness for **Esther Usman**. We also pray for the women who met November 29 through December 2 for the Women's Theologian Conference of **EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria**.
- ◆ We pray for **Nathan Hosler**, Director of the Office of Public Witness, who traveled to Nigeria to attend the

conference and lead workshops on peacebuilding. Following the conference he will also reconnect with EYN church leaders and work to strengthen relationships with various governmental and civil society organizations in Nigeria. We pray that the visit can further strengthen the Church of the Brethren's Nigeria advocacy work in the United States.

- ◆ This week we join the other churches in our District to pray for the **Wabash Church of the Brethren**. They ask for prayers for guidance through their time of leadership transition and vision for their future ministry. We also pray for the **Pacific Northwest District** and the District Executive, Colleen Michael.
- ◆ We pray for peace in our world.

Pastor On-Call: Karen Eberly

Home: 982-8420; Cell: 578-1247

Pastors' Schedules

Kurt ~ Tuesday through Friday
Karen ~ Monday through Thursday
Jim ~ Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Office Hours

9:30-4:00 Monday-Friday; closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 4

- 1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Program Practice for scheduled children - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Property Commission - Staff Room

Tuesday, December 5

- 9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study - Room 213
- 1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Nurture Commission - Karen's house
- 5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers - Room 220
- 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 5 continued

- 7:00 p.m. Education Commission - Karen's house
- 7:30 p.m. Volleyball - FLC

Wednesday, December 6

- 9:00 a.m. Music Staff Meeting - Conference Rm
- 9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
- 1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Christmas Program Practice for full cast except preschoolers.

Thursday, December 7 Red Cross Blood Drive

- 9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
- 12:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive until 6:00 - FLC
- 7:30 p.m. Ecclesia Choir - Choir Room

Friday, December 8

- 9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
- 1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Soccer - FLC

Saturday, December 9

- 8:30 a.m. Children's Breakfast followed by
- 9:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Program
- 10:00 a.m. Jr High Caramel Corn Making - Kitchen
- 11:00 a.m. Yoga - Room 211

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

- Last day to bring Angel Tree Gifts
- 9:15 a.m. Advent Pre-service Music
- 9:30 a.m. Worship: *The wilderness way*, Pastor Kurt
Text: Isaiah 40:1-11, John 1:6-8, 19-28
Bell & Ecclesia Choirs
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time ~ Jr High selling their delicious Caramel Corn!
- 11:00 a.m. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* presented by our Children - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. All Church Potluck - FLC
- 3:00 p.m. Chapel in use - Hartsough
- 7:00 p.m. AI-Anon - Room 213

December 10 ~ Adult Classes will NOT meet.

December 24 ~ The Children's Classes will NOT meet

Jubilee Class

December 17 ~ Advent Reflections with Elizabeth Struble

Koinonia Class

December 17 ~ Faith and Sight with Dean Kagarise

Questers' Class

December 17 ~ Picking up the Pieces with Al Hohl

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Sunday, December 10 ~ 11:00 am ~ Sanctuary

Presented by our Children

Followed by

12:00 ~ Potluck in the Family Life Center

The Brethren definition of "Potluck":

Everyone brings a dish to share: main course, salad, and or dessert. "If you don't bring it, we can't eat it".

Angel Tree Gifts

December 10th ~ Please bring your gifts! After the 10th, you will need to either bring them to the church office **BEFORE DECEMBER 16** or take them to St Robert's Church on **Saturday, December 16 from 9am-noon.**

Advent Offering will be collected December 17

The CoB Advent Offering reflects our commitment to share the good news of Jesus and speak peace to all people. It supports Core Ministries that carry the love of God into the world. More information will be provided as an insert in the December 10th Bulletin. Envelopes will be available December 17th and at the church office.

Envelope Boxes for Offerings

Please pick up your offering envelope box after church in the Narthex or at the church office. If you have not previously had envelopes and would like to have a box, please call the church office...982-7523.

Childcare During Worship

Your help continues to be needed in **Childcare During Worship** for one Sunday in **December** any Sunday in **January**. The **February** signup sheet is available as well. Stop by the Nurture table in the Narthex after worship to volunteer an hour of your time for our children. You will enjoy getting to know the children in our congregation.

Longest Night Service on the Solstice

Thursday, December 21 ~ 6pm ~ Chapel

This service contains readings, prayers, lots of singing, and lighting candles on the longest night of the year.

It is time to recognize a season of darkness both from the calendar (the Winter Solstice) and the darkness of our lives that seeks the coming of the light in the Advent and Christmas season.

Laura Stone and Jim Chinworth have again prepared this year's service which will last about 35-40 minutes.

Thank you!

We, the family of Marilyn "Jean" Stone, would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastors, Kurt, Karen and Jim for their eulogies and participation in mom's heartfelt and meaningful funeral service. We would also like to thank them for the countless hours spent with mom in lively conversation both at the hospital and in her home at Timbercrest. The care, love and concern they showed mom over these last few difficult years sustained her in many ways.

Further, we would like to thank Jim Myer for videotaping mom's service and for providing the family with copies; to thank Marilyn Mason and Robert Lynn for providing music that mom would have loved to have heard; to thank Brooklyn Howard and Cory Markstahler for babysitting, and, finally, to thank those who planned, prepared and served the superb family dinner.

Mom was of the third of five generations of members of the Manchester Church of the Brethren, and she thoroughly enjoyed this community of worshipers. We thank you all for your condolences and messages of sympathy.

Edith and Laura, and all the members of the Stone family

Combined Sunday School Classes

Please join us for our upcoming all church combined Sunday School on the following dates:

January 21 ~ Brethren Disaster Ministries

February 25 ~ Nicaragua Medical Practicum -
Jeff Osborne (Manchester University)

March 11 ~ High Toll of Local Imprisonment:
Women speak out on their recovery - Ruth Angle

April 29 ~ Hymnody with Nancy Faus

Indoor Soccer is Back!!

Beginning Friday, December 8 ~ 7:00 ~ FLC

- ◆ Please sign the waiver on the bulletin board inside the Family Life Center the first time you come to play
- ◆ Check the website for calendar updates.

Peabody Retirement 4th Annual Quilt Show

December 1-8 ~ 8am-4pm ~ Peabody

Stop by Peabody Retirement Community at 400 W 7th St. to vote for your favorite quilt. All visitors during the week of December 1-8 will be eligible to vote for their choice...one vote person. The quilt receiving the most votes will win \$1000 for their church. Look for our church's quilt!



Senior High Youth...

Sunday, December 17 ~ Sing in Worship. BE in the Sanctuary that day at 8:30 am.

Thursday, January 18 ~ NYC Registration begins

February 4, 11, 19 ~ Silent Auction held in the narthex!

Junior High Youth...

December 9 ~ 10am-1:30 ~ Caramel Corn making in the church kitchen

December 10 ~ Caramel Corn Sales (right after Worship)!! Proceeds will be seed money for either a summer workcamp or another service project.

Friday, January 19 ~ Game night ~ Timbercrest ~ 6:30pm

Friday, February 9 ~ Karaoke ~ Leckrone's home

Get on our Bucket List!

The 4th and 5th grade SS class along with the Jr. High Youth invite you to join with them in replenishing the empty shelves at the Church World Service warehouse with cleanup buckets. On the bulletin board and credenza in the narthex is information on how you can help. The group asks you to take a card, any card, and purchase the item or items on the card that help assemble clean up buckets. Bring them to church any Sunday and the group will place them in the storage room (just off the FLC on the kitchen side). If you have questions contact Ann Hartsough or Jim Chinworth.

Financial donations are also welcome, but remember...

we don't drive!

Silent Auction Items...

Many questions about the silent auction...keeping checking the newsletter...information coming soon!!

Holiday Stress?

Consider joining us for Yoga...

Saturdays ~ 11:00 am ~ Room 211

A healing way of connecting with and listening to your body, while building balance, flexibility, and strength. We do a different 25-45 minute "Yoga with Adriene" video routine together.

- ◆ No experience needed
- ◆ All levels welcome - routines can be modified
- ◆ Bring a mat; wear comfortable workout clothes; and bare feet.

Call or text Laura Stone (413-885-9196) or Kristen Short (513-319-4778) ahead to confirm that Yoga will meet.

A Bit of Trivia

Some years ago our congregation had a month of inter-generational Sunday School Classes. One of the options during that month was learning how to quilt with Lydia Bowman. The resulting whole cloth quilt was donated to a silent auction in the church. Ed and Sandy Cable have donated that quilt back to our congregation for the silent auction in February. The quilt has no label. If you remember the date this quilt was made and/or names of those who quilted, PLEASE let me know so I can label it for the auction.

Thanks, Ann Hartsough

Within our Community...

EvenSong

Wednesday, December 6 ~ 4:00 p.m.~ TC Chapel

“A Taste of Handel”

Led by Brian Daniels & Liz Hoffman Bauer with musicians Dwight Beery, Diana Bucher, Wanda Miller, Laura Stone, Debbie Chinworth & Carol Streater

Questions? Call Liz Hoffman Bauer, 260-306-169

Shepherd's Center Programs

December 6 ~ 9:00 am ~ Town Life Center

CURRENT EVENTS - David Waas, MC History Professor, Retired

AiL - Leonard Williams - “Trumpism and Conservatism: Elective Affinities”

Movies at Timbercrest

You're invited to join Timbercrest residents for their FREE monthly movies at 7pm in the Assembly Room:

- ◆ **Friday, December 15:** *Me Before You*
- ◆ **Christmas Day:** *The Book Room*

Questions? call Wanda Miller, 982-6189

N Manchester Historical Society Presents:

Christmas with Market Street Beat

Monday, December 11 ~ 6:30pm ~ TC Assembly Rm

The 14 talented Market Street Beat performers from the Wabash Area Community Theater will present Christmas music and a short skit about the three Wisem Men. They close the evening with a Sing-a-Long of traditional Christmas Carols.

Every year the Historical Society's December program is a celebration designed to thank Timbercrest for hosting our monthly programs and to thank the public for supporting NMHS's programs and our museum.

The 14 talented Market Street Beat performers from the Wabash Area Community Theater will present Christmas music and a short skit about the three Wisem Men. They close the evening with a Sing-a-Long of traditional Christmas Carols.

The is no admission for the program
We invite all to enjoy the holidays with us!

Within our District...

Friends,

Here is an update to give you the opportunity to present your energy and skills to BDM as a Christmas gift to those impacted by the increasing severity of disasters. Please share with others who might be convinced to join you! Give a special emphasis right now on the seven volunteers needed for **January 21-27** in Eureka, Missouri. Arlene and I are in Eureka for three weeks finding it a very good BDM project.

December 10-16, 2017 - cook and skilled roofers needed in Daytona Beach, FL. Contact Paul, [717-229-2068](tel:717-229-2068)

January 13-20, 2018 - BDM workcamp in Puerto Rico. Contact Terry Goodger, [410-635-8730](tel:410-635-8730)

January 21-27 - S/C Indiana needs 7 volunteers to Eureka, MO again (with IL/WI District)

March 11 - S/C Indiana needs 15 volunteers to Eureka, MO again :-)

April 23 - May 3 - Disaster Project Leader Training for new BDM leaders, Marion County, SC - Are you interested? We need more leadership. Contact me soon.

Is there interest in workcamps to Florida, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands? Skilled mason may be needed for three months in Virgin Islands. Contact Cliff soon. Email best.

September 9-15 - fifteen volunteers needed from S/C Indiana for yet undesignated location.

November 25-December 1 - 7-8 volunteers needed from S/C IN, yet 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 kindy@cpt.org

Brethren Leadership Institute News

The next BLI class is *Preaching*, taught by Aaron Gross, pastor of the Logansport Church of the Brethren. Class sessions are the following Saturdays: January 20, February 3, and February 17. Back-up date in case of a weather cancellation is February 24. Register by January 3 to avoid a late fee. Registration forms are on the S/C District website.

Spring Class will be *History of the Church* taught by Mark Flory Steury.

Tina Rieman will be ending her tenure with the Brethren Leadership Institute in December. Many thanks to Tina for her administrative skills that have been integral to launching BLI in our district.

2018 District Conference

Saturday, September 15, 2018 ~ Grandview CoB

Moderator Cindy Dunk has announced the theme will be
Love is a Command - John 13:34

Camp Mack Corner

UPCOMING EVENTS



New Year's Eve Retreat

2:00 pm, December 31 - 12:30 pm, January 1

Why bring in the new year sitting at home when you can be a Camp Mack reuniting with friends from summer introducing someone new to camp? Camp Mack is the place to be on New Year's Eve as you count down the minutes until the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. This overnight event is filled with awesome activities indoors and out, live DJs, dancing, pizza, games, Bible studies, workshops...the list goes on!

The event is for all youth 6th-12th grades. Be sure to register before December 5 to pay the early registration price of \$60 and to be guaranteed a one of a kind event t-shirt. A scholarship of \$10 is available during the early registration period. After December 5, the price goes up to \$70.

www.campmack.org or 574-658-4831

From Christmas parties to holiday banquets, let Camp Mack host you this season! We can serve groups of 25-300 people. Give us a call today.