

MCOB NEWSLETTER

Week of Sunday, November 24, 2024

Pastor on Call: Amy Gall Ritchie 765.967.0657

Deacon on Call: Bob Gross

We welcome all to join in prayer...

♥ We give thanks for all the many ways **each of us, one another**, gives to the life of this church, not only with our financial resources, but with our presence next to one another, online, serving in the kitchen, on the property, with the children, for our neighbors, in meetings, in Sunday school conversations, holding a cup of coffee with a smile in the narthex during fellowship time.

♥ We pray for **Lydia Bucher**, whose surgery was successful! May she continue to heal fully. We pray for **Megan and Robbie** as well, as they learn new routines along with Lydia.

♥ We continue to hold **Sonya Yoder-Beery** in prayer as she and **Robin and the family** keep adapting with creativity, wisdom and courage to the changes that are not working and those that bring comfort.

♥ We hold **Di Wion and the entire family** in prayer as they gathered on Sunday, November 24 to celebrate the life of **Rich Wion**.

♥ We hold **Carol Burkett and her family** in prayer, as they prepare to celebrate the life of Paul Burkett this Saturday, November 30.

♥ We hold the family of **Sharon Kreps** in prayer, as they gather to inter her ashes in the memorial garden this week.

♥ We pray for **those who cannot** yet pray out loud, their journey unknown to others. We walk with **one another** in faith.

♥ Prayers of thanks to **those who work to bring peace and justice** to the world in the form of **music that gathers us in**.

♥ We pray for our sister church in **El Salvador, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel**, the **San Rafael Clinic**, and with others in our district for the **Arcadia congregation and Western Pennsylvania District**.

Weekly Calendar (Office Open Mon - Fri 1 to 3pm)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice | Sanctuary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

10:00 a.m. Pastors Meeting

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. Women's Book Group | Video Conference

7:00 p.m. Volleyball | FLC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Midweek Update on YouTube

9:00 a.m. FLC Reserved

1:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC

1:30 p.m. Worship Music Meeting

6:00 p.m. FLC Reserved

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 Office Closed

11:00 a.m. FLC, Narthex, Kitchen Reserved

4:00 p.m. FLC, Narthex Reserved



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

11:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Reserved

3:30 p.m. Memorial Garden Reserved

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 *First Sunday of Advent*

9:30 a.m. Worship (Jim Chinworth preaching):

["Close to Home: Homesick" \(Hope\)](#)

Text: Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thess. 3:9-13

Special Quarterly Advent Offering

10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Peace Patch Gathering) & Adult Christian Education

12:00 p.m. Immigrant Support | Library

7:00 p.m. Youth Group | FLC Youth Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DEC.1)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (Room 220)

Bob Bowman: *Birth Narratives of the New Testament*

KOINONIA (Conference Room)

"Samuel, Leader for a Different Tomorrow", written & led by **GENE ROOP**

QUESTERS (Chapel)

Book Discussion: *"Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy"* by Anne Lamott

[Click here for Time & Talent Survey](#)



You've heard us talk about the Time and Talent Survey, but still wonder what it is? It is how you assess the ways you can be part of our vibrant community as we live out our values and beliefs together. There are many ways to serve and uphold one another. There are so many kinds of tasks and services to step into.

Do what brings you joy, maybe take on one thing that is an easy challenge. You are gratefully supported in your service!

Nurture Nudge: *This is the week to give thanks, to reflect on what you're grateful for, and be sure to include the difficult challenges and the ways you have grown through them. Happy Thanksgiving.*

Paul C. Burkett
Memorial Service

DeMoney-Grimes Funeral Home

600 COUNTRYSIDE DRIVE

COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA

November 30
2pm



Please start checking your contact information. Printed copies will be available starting next Sunday, November 24th in the Narthex.



Time to Update the Directory!

Please contact the church office if you need any help updating or checking your information!



This year we were given 23 *Angel Tree Tags* to fulfill. They are placed on the round Angel Tree table in the Narthex starting today, Sunday, November 24. Gifts are due back to the church no later than Wednesday, December 11 at 3pm. (We will deliver your wrapped gifts to St. Robert's Catholic Church by December 12 at 7pm).

4th Quarter Special Offering

The 4th quarter special offering will benefit the Church of the Brethren Advent Offering, which focuses on 4 of the denomination's core ministries: Intercultural Ministries, Death Row Support Project, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, DC, and Brethren Volunteer Service.

The designated day of giving is Sunday, December 1. Click [HERE](#) to donate online. Thank you in advance!

Close to Home



Our theme for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, is Close to Home. When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, we are find ourselves wandering far from home. May God come close to each of this season.

Advent Devotionals

The Brethren Press devotionals, entitled, "Sing Gloria!" by Laura Stone are available.

Food, Fun, & Friends (Hanging of the Greens)

December 6th at 6pm

Come for fellowship, pizza and stay to help prepare the church for the Advent season.

Angel Tree Ministry

December 11th by 3pm

Gifts to be returned by December 11th to the church narthex or office.

Wear Purple for Worship

December 15th at 9:30am

A visual reminder of the Advent season, we hope purple will act as a stoplight to remind us to slow down and pay attention.

Caroling at Timbercrest

December 17th at 6:30pm

All ages and singing voices welcome as we gather at Timbercrest.

Sounds & Tastes of Christmas

December 22nd at 6:30pm

An intergenerational variety show that celebrates the Advent & Christmas seasons. Refreshments will follow.

Christmas Eve Night Service

December 24th at 7:00pm

We gather for our traditional candlelight service.



Executive Board Update

November 20, 2024

Lila Hammer, Executive Board chair

REPORTS:

Max Mock, Stewardship Commission chair, presented end-of-October financial information; our spending continues to exceed contributions. After ten months, our expenditures are running at 78% of the approved 2024 budget. Max is investigating ways to streamline the voucher and bill paying system with our accounting firm Himes & Krull. The final 2024 Sing Me Home Festival event, an alternative gift fair with various musical acts, will be held at the church on Nov. 24. Commission chairs announced new members for 2025: Education, Judy Myers-Walls; Fellowship, Brenda Self; Stewardship, Gary Eberly.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Ruth Barrett from PMPC presented revisions to the current employees' Corrective Action and Grievance Policies and introduced a new Employment Policies document. The Commission is also beginning work on Sexual Harassment and Risk Management policies. Pastoral housing allowance amounts for 2025 tax purposes presented by PMPC were approved. Changes to Education and Stewardship commissions' job descriptions were approved. The Education Commission also presented changes to the Mentor and Nursery coordinators' job descriptions. The Stewardship Commission presented the new Eder Financial Withdrawal Policy which gives guidance about when and how monies can be withdrawn from our investment funds; the policy was approved.

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE:

Plans are being finalized for the first visit from Greg Laszakovits, our consultant, on December 15 & 16. The Board agreed to inform Greg that our hope is to identify who we are now as a post-Covid congregation, and what God is calling us to do (our ministry/mission), and describe how we can be better equipped/structured to fulfill our ministry/mission. Greg will conduct individual interviews centered around questions addressing these topics. In preparation for his visit, Greg is reviewing 23 documents including all the Congregational Profile Survey data, all the Wild Hopes & Dreams information, our pastors' position descriptions, and 13 years of attendance, budget/expenditures and contributions. All this information together (documents and interviews) will help Greg prepare recommendations for envisioning and planning our way forward.



Looking Ahead in Worship...



First Sunday in Advent

December 1

Preacher: Jim Chinworth

Text: Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thess.3:9-13

Theme: Close to Home:

Homesick (Hope)

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8

Preacher: Jim Chinworth

Text: Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thess.3:9-13

Theme: Laying the Foundation (Peace)

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15

Preacher: Greg Davidson Laszakovits

Text: Luke 3:1-18; Zephaniah 3:14-20

Theme: Close to Home: A home for all (Joy)

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22

Text: Luke 1:39-55

Theme: Close to Home: Laying the Foundation (Peace)

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

December 24 at 7pm

Traditional Candlelight Service

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Theme: Close to Home: Invited Home

Christmastide (First Sunday after Christmas)

December 29

Text: Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

Theme: Close to Home: Chosen Home




SHEPHERD'S CENTER FALL PROGRAMS

All programs at NM Library in the Blocher Room at 9:30am. (AiL means *Adventures in Learning*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

CURRENT EVENTS in AGRICULTURE: **JOHN HARTSOUGH** - Local Farmer

AiL: **Vision for El Salvador** - **Brian Daniels**, Retired Timbercrest Director of Programs & Services - **Lin Metzger**, Pastor of Peoria Church

MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 
1306 Beckley Street | PO BOX 349
North Manchester IN | 46962

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.
*Please make sure your contact information is correct
for our upcoming 2025 Church Directory!*