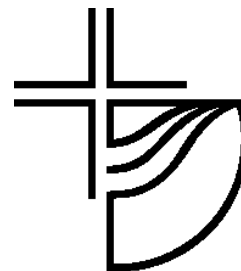


Manchester Church of the Brethren

NEWSLETTER

Week of December 10, 2017

Peacefully, Simply, Together



Prayer Concerns

We hold in our hearts and minds all the thoughts, joys and concerns from the past days. May sharing our joys and our sorrows with each other in this community of faith create deeper bonds of connection within God's presence.

Within our faith community:

- ◆ We offer prayers of gratitude for the children and adults who presented "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*" after worship this past Sunday.
- ◆ We pray for those people who aren't able to join us in worship due to their on-going health or physical limitations including: **Raymond Johnson, Joann Hoover and Doris Miller.**

In the wider community:

- ◆ We pray for our sister church in **El Salvador, Emmanuel Baptist**. Let us be in prayer for the Music Team who prepares special music for Sunday morning worship - Prelude, Hymns and Special Vocal numbers. They write some special hymns and provide meditative music for prayer time.
- ◆ We join the other churches in our District to pray for the **West Eel River Church of the Brethren**. We pray also for the **Pacific Southwest District** and their District Executive, Russ Matteson.
- ◆ We pray for a sense of security and peace for **Esther Usman**. We also pray for the **Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, EYN**. We offer prayers for the EYN Disaster team as they re-roof churches and houses destroyed by fires set by the Boko Haram.
- ◆ We pray for Church of the Brethren volunteers with the Global Food Initiative and agricultural staff of the Church of the Brethren in Haiti as they install a new aquaponics system at the Brethren Guesthouse and Ministry Center. The hope is for this project to lead to greater food production and self-sustainability for Haitian communities.
- ◆ We offer prayers of comfort for those who have been evacuated from their homes or who have had their

homes or businesses destroyed by the wildfires in California. We pray for all the firefighters who continue to work to contain the fire. And we pray for the **Child Disaster Service team** of eight volunteers who are being deployed to California this weekend.

- ◆ Each year on December 10th, the global community recognizes the inherent dignity of each human by celebrating Human Rights Day. The value of human life and the importance of right relationships are central to our faith, and we believe that Christians must earnestly seek to live out these values in our interactions with individuals, groups, and nations. With that understanding, we pray for peace in our hearts and in the hearts of those around the world.

Pastor On-Call: Kurt Borgmann

Home: 901-6110; Cell: 901-1851

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.
The church is open at 9:30 for walkers.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 11

1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC
6:00 p.m. ECR - Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Commission -
Karen's house

Tuesday, December 12

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
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers - Room 220
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 12 continued

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

Wednesday, December 13

9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
12:00 p.m. Pastors' Lunch - Timbercrest
1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC
4:00 p.m. Holden Service - TC Chapel
7:00 p.m. PMPC - Room 213

Thursday, December 14

9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
9:30 a.m. CBWF - Narthex
1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC
6:30 p.m. Allen Feeds Meeting - Narthex/Kitchen
6:30 p.m. Taizé Choir - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Stewards' Commission - Staff Room
7:30 p.m. Ecclesia Choir - Choir Room

Friday, December 15

9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC
2:00 p.m. Building in use - FLC/Narthex/Kitchen - Schmidt

Saturday, December 16

7:00 a.m. Building in use - Schmidt
9:00 a.m. Angel Tree Gifts to St. Robert's Church
11:00 a.m. Yoga - Room 211

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Advent Pre-service Music
9:30 a.m. Worship: *Good news...for the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners those who mourn*, Pastor Kurt
Text: Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11
Taizé & Youth Choirs
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. Christian Education
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon - Room 213

Church Office Hours during the Holidays

Monday, Dec. 25 ~ Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 26 ~ Open all day 9:30-4:00
Wednesday, Dec. 27 ~ Open 9:30-1:00
Thursday, Dec. 28 & Friday, Dec. 29 ~ Closed
Monday, Jan. 1 ~ Closed

Christmas Eve Service

Prelude ~ 6:45; Service ~ 7:00 ~ Sanctuary

Updates on Sunday School Classes

December 24 ~ The Children's Classes will NOT meet

Jubilee Class

December 17 ~ Advent Reflections

with Elizabeth Struble

December 24 ~ The Jubilee Class will not meet

Koinonia Class

December 17 ~ Faith and Sight with Dean Kagarise

December 24 - January 28~ Exploring Salvation in the Bible from the "Good Ground" curriculum "Banking on God" with Marie Willoughby

Questers' Class

December 17 ~ Picking up the Pieces with Al Hohl

December 24, 31 ~ Questers will not meet

Angel Tree Gifts

Angel Tree Gift should be brought to the church office **BEFORE DECEMBER 16** so we can deliver them to St. Robert's church on Saturday.

CBWF is this Thursday!

December 14 ~ 9:30-3:00 ~ Narthex

The Women's Fellowship will meet to make crib comforters for needy children. The following are always needed:

- ◆ Cotton blend and cotton fabric for tops
 - ◆ Old sheets to put between the tops and flannel backs
- Bring a dish to share for lunch...unless this is your first time...you are our guest!

Please join us!

Call Esther Rupel at 982-1410 if you have any questions.

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. 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** in **January** and **February**. 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.

Any extra bicycles sitting around at your house?

Our MIM (Manchester Inmate Ministry) Committee has a request for bicycles for women who don't have a car but need transportation to work. PLEASE contact Ruth Angle if you might have one to donate or know someone who does. 574-658-4966 or myangle@bnin.net Thanks!

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.

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!!

Fridays ~ 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.

Still looking...

We are interested in more information regarding the quilt made under the guidance of Lydia Bowman several years ago during an intergenerational SS class. 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

Senior High Youth...



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

Saturday Evening, December 24 ~ **Crazy for our Kids** campaign...The MELC wants your picture!

The Center would like a group picture of all the youth, and now, young adults, who were part of the **Crazy for our Kids** campaign in order to display it in the new building. So, following the Christmas Eve Service gather in the front of the sanctuary and a group photo will be taken that will then be sent to the Center. They are so very grateful for all the good work.

Thursday, January 18 ~ NYC Registration begins
February 4, 11, 19 ~ Silent Auction held in the Narthex!

Junior High Youth...

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.

Within our Community...

EvenSong

Wednesday, December 13 ~ 4:00 p.m.~ TC Chapel

“Holden Vesper Services”

Led by Sabine Thomas with MCoB

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

Shepherd’s Center Programs

December 13 ~ 9:00 am ~ Town Life Center

CURRENT EVENTS - David Waas, MC History Professor, Retired

AiL - MYSTERY GUEST

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

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 Wise 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.

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. The cost is \$70.00

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.

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