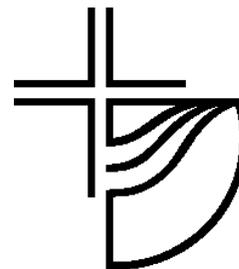


Manchester Church of the Brethren

NEWSLETTER

Week of December 17, 2017

Peacefully, Simply, Together



Prayer Concerns

As we move into this time of prayer I invite you to join me in bringing to awareness all things that we hold in our hearts right now and all the things that have filled our lives in the past week.

Sharing our joys and concerns with one another deepens our relationships within this community of faith and helps us to offer our lives into God's care.

In the spirit of prayer and compassion, please keep these things with you in the coming days.

Within our faith community:

- ◆ We celebrate the birth of daughter **Arianna DeFusco Fonseca** born Sunday, December 10 to **Rico** and **Carmen DeFusco Fonseca**. Arianna's grandparents are **Cindy Rogers** and **Ed DeFusco** and her great grandparents are **David** and **Shirley Rogers**.
- ◆ 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: **Francis Barr**, **John Hamer** and **Miriam Rusher**.
- ◆ We pray for **Jeff Trachsel** and his family on the death of his mother, Mabel Trachsel, Monday morning, December 11. The service will be at a later date.
- ◆ We pray for **Cleona Barr** hospitalized at Wabash Parkview.

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 Worship Team as they lead the congregation through this Advent season, leading up to baptism at Christmas. Membership classes which are going on now prepare both youth and adults for membership.
- ◆ We pray for **Esther Usman** for a sense of peace and hope in this time of Advent. We pray for the **Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, EYN**, as they daily give witness to the power of God's love in their lives.

- ◆ We join the other churches in our District to offer prayers for the **White Branch Church of the Brethren**. We also pray for the **Middle Pennsylvania District** and their District Executive, David Banaszak.
- ◆ We pray for the people of Honduras, as the country is divided over the contested results of the November 26 presidential election. The divisions have led to protests, riots, and destruction of public buildings, and many vital transportation services across the country. We pray for mediation and a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- ◆ We pray for the people of Jerusalem, where tensions are high following President Trump's recognition of the city as the capital of Israel. We also pray for political leaders in the United States to be infused with courage and wisdom so that they may act for the good of global peace and for an end to the illegal and unjust Israeli occupation of Palestine, which threatens the welfare of both Palestinians and Israelis.

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.

The church is open at 9:30 for walkers.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 18

1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC

3:30 p.m. FLC in use until 5:00 - Onderko

5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers - Room 220

Tuesday, December 19 continued

6:30 p.m. Preschool Program - Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Volleyball - FLC

Wednesday, December 20

9:30 a.m. Peace Patch Preschool
1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC

Thursday, December 21

Peace Patch Preschool Winter Break
1:00 p.m. Tennis - FLC
3:30 p.m. FLC in use until 5:00 - Onderko
6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir - Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Ecclesia Choir - Choir Room

Friday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Building in use - Kitchen / Narthex
Brumbaugh-Smith Family
Peace Patch Preschool Winter Break
1:00 p.m. Pickleball - FLC
7:00 p.m. Soccer - FLC

Saturday, December 23

11:00 a.m. Yoga - Room 211

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Advent Pre-service Music
9:30 a.m. Worship; *For you have found favor with God*, Pastor Kurt
Text: Luke 1:26-38; Ecclesia Choir
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. Christian Education
6:45 p.m. Prelude leading up to our
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
AI-Anon will NOT meet

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

Because the office will be closed the next two Mondays, the Newsletter will be published on Tuesday each week.

December 24 ~ The Children's Classes, ATC, Jubilee, Pathfinders, and Questers Classes will NOT meet.

Koinonia Class

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

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.

ALERT! ALERT!! ALERT!!!

Our Junior High Youth are set to serve cookies immediately following the Christmas Eve service. Please bring a dozen, or two, of cookies to the church **by 6:30pm** on **Christmas Eve** and they will be prepared for serving following the service. You're welcome to bring your cookies to the church anytime prior to Christmas Eve and place them in the church kitchen. Please mark them, "Christmas Eve Cookies".
Thank you!

Christmas Eve Offering

to support the new Fellowship of Church's building

In the next week the Fellowship of Churches expects to finalize the purchase of the old Hooks/CVS building on North Market Street, across from the library. The services on South Mill Street will move into the new building after renovations are made. Those services include the Thrift Store, Thursday's Child and Reach. The Food Pantry will remain on Front Street directly across from the old Hooks/CVS building. **This Sunday night during the Christmas Eve service an offering will be collected** to support the effort to renovate the building for use by the Fellowship of Churches. This new location will provide much needed space and stability for the FoC's services and locate them in the same neighborhood.

Childcare During Worship

Your help continues to be needed in **Childcare During Worship** in **February** and **March**. 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.

Advent Offering

If you were not able to give an offering this past Sunday and would like to, envelopes are available at the church office or in the Narthex on Christmas Eve morning.

Search Committee Appointed

The Executive Board has appointed a seven-member committee to begin the search for a new Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry and Congregational Life. Julie Garber, Chair of the Executive Board beginning in January, will chair the committee that consists of Kurt Borgmann, Lila Hammer (PMPC), Becky Kreps (member), Jeff Lehman (parent), Nathan Self (youth), and Karly Eichenauer (youth alum).

Over the next four or five months, the Executive Board will call for applications, review and interview candidates, and bring a board approved recommendation to a congregational council meeting for approval. District Executive Beth Sollenberger will assist in the process, helping the committee develop a congregational profile, providing access to the roster of pastors in the denomination seeking positions, and contacting other possible candidates.

While the current position description will be used in the announcement about the opening, the committee is foremost interested in a candidate who is a good fit for the congregation and who brings essential skills to the pastoral team.

The most significant change results from a motion to increase the position to full-time, which passed unanimously. The committee encourages the congregation to bring names of potential candidates to the committee and offer any other suggestions for consideration. Contact any member of the committee with names and concerns.

2018 Church Family Directory

Yes...it's that time of year again! I would "like" to send the 2018 Directory in EARLY January to the printer. That means if you need to update your contact information from last year you will want to do that ASAP!

If you are not in the current directory and would like to be added or you know someone who should be added I will also need that information.

Three ways this can be accomplished:

1. Contact the church office at 982-7523.
2. Check the directory lists on the table in the Narthex on Sunday morning. Put a check by your name if it is correct...make the necessary changes by your name if it is not correct.
3. Respond to the email that will be sent to you in this next week asking if your information is correct or needs to be changed.

Thanks, Peg

Senior High Youth...



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, 18 ~ Silent Auction held in the Narthex!

Junior High Youth ...

Sunday, December 24 ~ Serving cookies after the Christmas Eve Service!

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!!

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. If you prefer NOT to have envelopes but still want your gifts credited to your account, let the office know so we can make changes accordingly...982-7523.

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

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!

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...

Jingle Bell Boutique

The Transitions Classroom at MHS prepares students with intellectual disabilities for vocational experiences after graduation. Students in grades 7-12 partner with local business to learn pre-vocational skills while providing support for local business functions. The class partners with heartland Career Center's *We Can* program to build skill development while producing and manufacturing goods. Students further their academic education with material that is tailored to meet their academic ability.

Tuesday, December 19th you are invited to meet MHS Jr-Sr High Transition students and browse the Jingle Bell Boutique. There will be a JV/Varsity basketball boy-girl doubleheader, beginning at 5:00 pm.

The students will be showcasing their talents and hard work in the High School Commons area. They will be selling some of the wonderful items they have created, such as crafts, handmade goods, Garden Voyage Botanical soaps, as well as hot beverages from their Cup O' Squire enterprise venture!

All proceeds will fund class projects for the continued success of our Transition students.

EvenSong

Wednesday, December 20 ~ 4:00 p.m.~ TC Chapel

A Christmas Drama

Led by Kayla Brumbaugh & Lauren Gray
with Don Fecher

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

Shepherd's Center Programs

December 20 ~ 9:00 am ~ Town Life Center

CURRENT EVENTS - David Waas, MC History Professor, Retired

MEDTALK - Tim McFadden, MD - Psychiatrist, Goshen, IN

Movies at Timbercrest

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

- ◆ **Christmas Day: *The Book Room***
Questions? call Wanda Miller, 982-6189

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.

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 kindly@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.

Camp Mack Corner

UPCOMING EVENTS



New Year's Eve Retreat

2:00 pm, Dec 31 - 12:30 pm, Jan 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

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