

# MCOB NEWSLETTER

Week of Camp Mack Sunday, August 25, 2024



Pastoral Care: Pastor Amy 765.967.0657

Deacon on Call: Ruth Barrett 612.202.6832

Timbercrest Host: Diana Bucher 612.202.6832

## Prayer Concerns - We welcome all to join in prayer...

♥ It is a joy to witness and welcome 7 persons into baptism: **Ali Barkey, Parker Bonifield, Ayla Cashdollar, Ezra Hendricks, Katelyn Martynowicz, Maggie Onderko-White, and Kayla Plott.** All of us are chosen and belong in this family of faith however we choose to live that out.

♥ We lift up in prayer **Rob and Nancy Cussen and their daughter's family** as they welcome **Maddie** into their lives through adoption. We celebrate this new belonging.

♥ We pray for **Rich Wion**, who has been in the hospital for several days with heart concerns. We hold **Di** in prayer as she travels to Fort Wayne and is at his side. May God provide comfort to them both.

♥ We pray for **Karen Roberts Sare**, who spent several days in the hospital last week with **Randy Sare** at her side. She fights another infection and is now home.

♥ We pray for **all who are working diligently** with physical therapy and beginning to see the results of their hard work. May they see the return of a quality of life they seek. We hold **all** who are managing ongoing conditions that require strength of body and emotions. May we be a source of help to them.

♥ We pray for **our nation**, that despite political rhetoric, we discern what is just and good for our neighbors and live according to our faith. May truth and wisdom rise above it all.

♥ We pray prayers of thanks to **those who support the congregation** by being present in person, building the base for our online and distance connections.

♥ We pray for **our congregation** as God leads us down a holy path into the future, whatever that may be.

♥ We pray for our sister church in **El Salvador, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel**, and with others in our district for the **Roann congregation and Michigan District.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR (Office Open Mon - Fri 1 to 3pm)

### MONDAY, AUGUST 26

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

7:00 p.m. Ethics Follow-Up Gathering | Narthex

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

9:30 a.m. Preschool

10:00 a.m. Pastors' Meeting

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

2:00 p.m. FLC Reserved

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

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Midweek Update on YouTube

9:30 a.m. Preschool

12:00 p.m. Pastors' Timbercrest Luncheon | Timbercrest Assembly Room

*If you signed up and are unable to make it, please let Pastor Amy or Lucy McKinley know.*

1:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC

1:30 p.m. Worship Music Meeting

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Commission Meeting

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

9:30 a.m. Preschool

5:00 p.m. Gun Violence Prevention Meeting | Chapel

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

9:30 a.m. First Day of Preschool

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:30 a.m. **Worship: "Hearers, listeners, then doers"**

Scripture: James 1:17-27

12:00 p.m. Immigrant Support | Library

## ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Join the ATC Class for a 3-part series after worship at 10:45, **Sunday, September 8, 15, and 22.** "God and Country" documentary discussion about Christian Nationalism.

### GOD & COUNTRY

Dictators, Democracy, and the New Documentary on Christian Nationalism



It's time for the Fall season for the Handbell Choir! Everyone interested is invited to meet in the **Sanctuary, Monday, September 16 at 7pm.** (No prior experience is required.) Bring your calendar to check possible times for playing on a Sunday morning. If you are unable to attend on September

16, see Delora Roop or phone/text her at 765-620-7605.

*Nurture Nudge* Engage with God through nature this week. Pause and listen, smell, feel, see and respond.



We have the opportunity to feed our neighbors through the Manchester Fellowship of Churches Community Meal on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10** at **ZION LUTHERAN.**

## SIGN-UP HERE!



Fall Council Meeting & Fellowship Meal  
**Sunday, September 29**

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and let's join together in the Sanctuary immediately following worship. Come hear updates from the pastors, staff, and Executive Board. We will review and vote on the proposed 2025 Budget, elect leaders for our congregation. *After the meeting we will gather in the FLC for a potluck fellowship meal. All are welcome!*

**Reports:** Jim Shively, Chair of the **Pastoral Search Committee**, shared a 6-month report of the committee's activities; at this point no candidates have been identified. Treasurer Katherine Haff presented end-of-July **financial information**; our spending continues to exceed contributions. Seth Hendricks reported that the first **2024 Sing Me Home** event is only three weeks away!

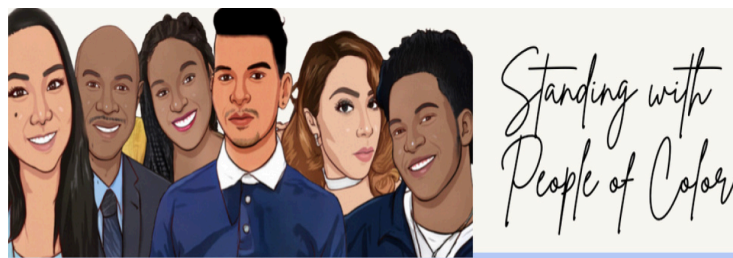
**Business items:** The **slate** for various positions from the Nominating Committee was approved and will be forwarded to the Council. A list of **potential candidates** for the Nominating Committee was approved. A group of seven individuals were approved for **membership through baptism** – to be held at Camp Mack on Sunday, August 25. The **transfer of membership** for Stan Noffsinger to the Quinter Church of the Brethren in Quinter, KS was approved. A designated financial gift for the **Bench Project** was approved. The **proposed 2025 Budget** was approved for recommendation to the Council. A corporate resolution regarding the transfer of an **estate gift** to MCOB was approved – more details will be provided after the gift has been received.

**Discussion items:** Fellowship and Pastoral Ministry and Personnel Commissions reported on the reviews and revisions to position descriptions within each commission. Three areas for specific review and **policy updates/procedures regarding ethics violations** were discussed: financial support providing counseling/therapy for aggrieved persons after an ethics violation within our congregation; policies/procedures for reporting an ethics violation, how violations will be investigated, and the consequences of substantiated violations; a plan to provide training for staff and congregants regarding healthy and appropriate behavior.

**Pastoral Search and Envisioning Our Future:** *Reading the times and the seasons of ministry* an article by Nancy Sollenberger Heishman in the June 2024 Messenger issue was discussed. The article highlights the decreasing number of ordained ministers in the denomination, and the need for congregations to be creative in finding ways to fulfill their ministerial leadership needs. Our discussion focused on brainstorming ideas for moving forward from our past and looking into who we will be in the future. Perhaps we could use some outside help to assist us in an "Envisioning Our Future" process which would involve the entire congregation. Executive Board Chair Lila Hammer was asked to investigate the cost and timeline for securing an outside consultant.



Women's Book Study: A new book has been started, Fierce Love by Dr. Jacquie Lewis. All are welcome to join in. Contact Pastor Amy.



In 2022 the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference initiated a three year denomination wide study/action process to help us to better understand how we can stand with people of color. They are asking us to engage in conversation in various settings using a series of discussion prompts. They have also provided a model for conversation which emphasizes good communication skills and support for all who participate. To see a list of the conversation prompts and the model, you can click [HERE](#). You can also read more about the program on the denominational website [HERE](#).

The Witness commission of our church is organizing a time for us to have this discussion. We would like to invite you to stay after church and Sunday School on two successive Sundays in September, the 15th and 22nd. We are encouraging you to bring a sack lunch which we will eat before we begin our discussion. The discussion time should be under 90 minutes.

We would like to have an idea of how many to prepare for, so please sign up to declare your intention. You can do that by clicking [HERE](#). We will also have a signup sheet in the Narthex at church if that would be better for you. There will also be copies of the discussion prompts available if you can't access the PDF online. If the Sunday School time works better for you (10:45am), there will also be an opportunity for a similar SWPOC discussion in October with the All Things Considered (ATC) class. You are welcome to attend one or both!



Our next Equal Exchange sale starts now. Turn in orders to [Dean Beery](#) and money into the church by Sept. 8.

Equal Exchange is a fair-trade organization that pays partners around the world a fair price for goods, so their workers are paid appropriately, and can sell the product to us at a very competitive price.

The main products are coffee, tea and chocolate, but they offer several other items like olive oil, nuts dates and dried mango. You can find all products and their normal prices on the [Equal Exchange Website](#).

Dear Church Family,  
*Thank you so much for holding me in prayer these last three weeks. My surgery went well. Pathology reports were clear, and recovery has gone well. I'm especially grateful to all those who have reached out to me - through cards, texts, emails, visits, phone calls, and gifts of food and transportation. Many more have quietly kept me in your thoughts and prayers, and I appreciate that also. I feel loved, supported, and grateful.*

-Tina Rieman

# 2024 District Conference

Camp Alexander Mack

September 13-14, 2024

CAMP MACKL, MILFORD, INDIANA

Unity not uniformity!  
Moderator: Bruce Dunk

Fellowship, service, and learning activities for everyone on Friday; worship, business and insight sessions on Saturday. Plan to come for the whole weekend and have a staycation at Camp Mack! Click [HERE](#) for the schedule and registration forms.

**DESSERT AND HANDMADE ITEMS AUCTION**  
*All funds raised go to Brethren Disaster Ministries.*

This year's auction at the District Conference may look a little different. In addition to bringing your best desserts to auction, folks can bring handmade items such as woodworking, crafts, or produce. All we ask is that items are made by someone in your congregation.



## New Community Project

*...turning the world upside down...*

**2025 New Community Project Learning Tours – Go. Meet. Learn. Grow. Change yourself – and your world.** These trips will take participants of all ages to: Nepal in mid-January (human trafficking, Himalaya, a wildlife park, NCP support of girls and women); Rwanda/Congo in February (women's projects, girls' education, reforestation, wildlife reserve); Borneo in mid-May (orangutans & sun bears, tropical forests, mangrove restoration); the Ecuadorian Amazon in early June (amazing wildlife, inspiring native leaders, threats from palm oil and oil drilling); Lybrook, NM in late June (native Dineh craftspeople and traditional healers, work projects, Chaco Culture historical ruins, impacts of fracking); Denali/Kenai Fjords National Parks in early August (big mountains, big critters, climate impacts, seacoast experience).

For more information click [HERE](#).

[dradcliffncp@yahoo.com](mailto:dradcliffncp@yahoo.com); 540 855 1199 - David Radcliff

**SING ME HOME**  
**SEPTEMBER 14**  
**5-9PM FREE!**  
**FOOD TRUCKS! ALL AGES!**

**FRIENDS WITH THE WEATHER**  
**UZIMA!**

**SADIE GUSTAFSON-ZOOK**  
**MAY ERLEWINE**

**MORE INFO + RSVP AT**  
**SINGMEHOME.ORG**

MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 

1306 Beckley Street | PO BOX 349

North Manchester IN | 46962

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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.