

Week of February 16

Pastor on Call: Amy Gall Ritchie 765.967.0657
Contact Pastor Amy for an appointment.

We welcome all to join in prayer...

♥ We celebrate the 99th birthday of **David Waas**. David has made an impact, and continues to do so, on so many people.

♥ We give thanks for **those who lead our congregation**, and **everyone** who is imagining God's leading for our life together. Community is a vital aspect of people thriving together.

♥ We lift up Manchester High School music teacher **Sharon Lehman** and our students **Milo Hupp, Katelyn Martynowicz, Lauryn Reichenbach, Maggie Onderko-White, Kaelynn Kamp, Ezra Hendricks, Kai Elliot**, and all that participated yesterday in state vocal solo and ensemble contest.

♥ We continue to hold **Amy Fry-Miller** and **Sonya Yoder-Beery** in our hearts, along with their close family members, for peace that passes understanding in these days.

♥ We remember the life of **David Young**. David died in his home on February 16th. He has been a part of our congregation from New Orleans, participating in many ways online and staying connected. May his spirit be whole and at peace.

♥ We pray for **Pastor Phil Matarese**, Lincolnshire COB, Fort Wayne. His cousin, **Officer Andrew Duarte**, was murdered in the hospital shooting on Saturday in York, Pennsylvania. Pray for all those who were injured.

♥ We hold **Sue and Max Mock, Brent, Ashley, Edie and Julian** in prayer. Sue's mother, **Joy**, is now in hospice and the family is providing close care and attention. May they all have peace.

♥ We pray for **those who have been in the hospital** and are now recovering.

♥ We pray for our **nation**. We pray for the many who are finding themselves without employment, without benefits, without needed medication, services and stabilities. We pray for all as we work together for the strength of community in new ways, looking out for our neighbors' good.

♥ We pray for **Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel** our sister church in El Salvador and their ministries, and we pray with others in our district for **Huntington congregation and the Pacific Northwest District**.

Weekly Calendar

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

1:00-3:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC
5:30-7:30 p.m. Basketball Practice | FLC
6:30-7:30 p.m. Handbell Practice | Sanctuary

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:30-11:30 a.m. Preschool
10:00-11:00 a.m. Pastors' Meeting
1:00-2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
3:30-4:30 p.m. Women's Book Group | Video Conf.
4:30 p.m. Community Meal @ Zion Lutheran Church
6:00 p.m. Pathfinders Room 213 Reserved
7:00-9:00 p.m. Volleyball | FLC

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Midweek Update | YouTube
9:30-11:30 a.m. Preschool
1:00-3:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC
1:30-2:30 p.m. Worship Music Meeting | Sanctuary
7:00-10:30 p.m. FLC Reserved

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:30-11:30 a.m. Preschool
10:30 a.m. CBWF: Relief Sewing | Narthex
12:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 1-800-RED-CROSS
5:30-7:30 p.m. Basketball Practice | FLC
7:00-8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice | Sanctuary

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:30-11:30 a.m. Preschool
1:00-3:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC
4:30-9:00 p.m. FLC, Kitchen, Narthex Reserved

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. FLC, Kitchen, Narthex Reserved
2:00-3:00 p.m. Small Group Spanish Lesson | Chapel

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

9:30 a.m. Worship | Sanctuary
10:45-11:45 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Peace Patch Gathering | Children's Wing
12:00-1:00 p.m. Welcoming Team | Library
1:00 p.m. FLC Reserved
7:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group | FLC & Youth Room

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (March 2nd)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (Room 220)

Kristin Short: The Biology of Sex Determination

KOINONIA (Conference Room) Mark Steury will guide a discussion on Fasting referencing Joel 2 and Isaiah 58

QUESTERS (Chapel) **BOOK DISCUSSION: Love Your Enemies: Chapter 2**

Nurture Nudge: Take some time to journal what "loving your enemy" looks like in your life. What is hardest to step into? How do you act in faith without condoning harmful behavior? What do you think Jesus meant by this teaching?



Camp Mack

Camp Mack Summer Camps!

Registration is now open. The congregation pays 100% for first time campers and 50% for those returning for another year. Carrie Sautter is our Camp Mack Rep this year. Go to campmack.org to register. The code for new campers is 39MA5. The code for returning campers is 39MA1.

SMALL GROUPS

THE NURTURE COMMISSION IS PLANNING NEW SMALL GROUPS FOR THE COMING MONTHS. SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

UPCOMING GROUPS:

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

LED BY BETH BEERY

GRIEF SUPPORT

LEADER TO BE DETERMINED

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

LED BY MARILYN KIEFFABER



Forty-five years compressed into eighteen feet – that's the banner you'll see displayed in the narthex for the next few weeks.

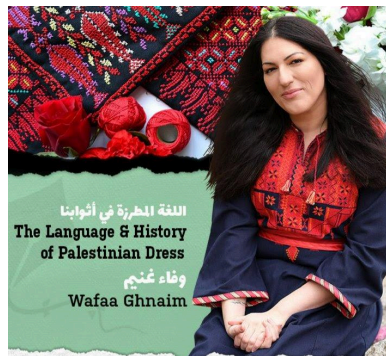
MCOB members Rachel and Bob Gross started the Death Row Support Project (DRSP) in 1978. When Rachel retired from directing the project a year ago, MCOB became the official address for DRSP, in order to support the team of volunteers now running the project. The banner shows some of the other connections DRSP has had with our congregation in the last forty years. You will also find information there about how you can get involved. Check it out!

CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

CREEKSIDE COB IN ELKHART

MARCH 28-29TH

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX. THERE IS A \$55 FEE, BUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE WITNESS COMMISSION IF NEEDED.



WAF A GHNAIM *Tatreez: Palestinian Embroidery, Storytelling, and Resistance*

Thur. March 6, 6:30pm
Plymouth Church, 501
West Berry Street
Ft. Wayne, IN

Wafa Ghnaim is a Palestinian dress historian, author, curator, and educator who learned embroidery from her mother, award-winning artist Feryal Abbasi-Ghnaim. Author of *Tatreez & Tea*, and founder of The Tatreez Institute. teaching courses in Palestinian, Syrian and Jordanian embroidery techniques. She was the first-ever Palestinian embroidery instructor at the **Smithsonian Museum**; Vogue Magazine named her and her mother "**the world's leading guardians of tatreez**". Wafa is currently the Curator for the Museum of the Palestinian People and Research Scholar for the **Metropolitan Museum of Art's** Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

- Food, Fun & Friends (March 7th, May 2nd)
- Fellowship Meal - Chili Cook-off (March 16th)
- Easter Breakfast hosted by Youth (April 20th)
- Fellowship Meal (May 18th)

Executive Board Update

February 19, 2025 meeting

Lila Hammer, Executive Board chair

Reports: Treasurer Katherine Haff presented the 2024 year-end financial report which showed expenses at 94% of the budget and offerings at 84% of expenses – leaving us with a \$53K deficit. The full report will be shared at the Spring Council Meeting. The end-of-January financials were also reviewed. ChrisGood and Seth Hendricks provided the final 2024 Sing Me Home report and financial overview, and a five-year summary which reviewed all the SMH events since its inception in spring 2020.

Business items: After a review of the initial plans for 2025-26 Sing Me Home events, the Festival Services Agreement was approved. The 1st Quarterly Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing was approved for March 16. A Leave of Absence from PMPC Chair responsibilities through the end of 2025 for Paul Fry-Miller was approved, as well as a list of candidates to fill the position.

Discussion: The new Witness Commission Learning, Service, and Faith Enrichment Trips Scholarship Policy and Application were reviewed. Scholarships – primarily for young adults – are designed to empower recipients to grow in their faith, serve others, and deepen their understanding of God's work in the world. The Property Commission is grateful for all the folks who assisted with the recent work day. Everyone had a good time and all projects were completed in record time! The new heater will soon be installed in the dishwasher.

Envisioning Our Future: The Executive Board was pleased with congregational participation in [The Lay of the Land presentation](#) on February 9 and the [2-hour followup Q&A session](#) later that day. How do we use the information included in the report to move forward? The formation of a working group to coordinate the congregation's implementation of the recommendations was approved, as well as a list of candidates for the group. The working group will help the congregation maintain forward movement and ensure that good ideas from the report are not lost along the way. It will interact with the congregation as needed for input, feedback and transparency. This is a facilitating group not one that makes final decisions on implementation of the recommendations and will consult with and report to the board regularly. Hopes are the working group can be formalized in the next few weeks.



During Lent we hear the call to "give something up". This year you are invited to give up something in order to "make room" for love, mercy, justice, kindness,... whatever you'd like to lean into a bit deeper this season. Can I "give up" contempt to "make room" for respect? How about "hesitancy" for "boldness"? On Ash Wednesday, and during the Lenten season may we make room for the values we cherish and seek to live out in the manner of Christ. Let's begin this Lenten journey together beginning on Ash Wednesday as we come face to face with our finitude, but also the deep and abiding promises of God.



Our next Equal Exchange sale starts now. Turn in orders to Dean Beery (dgbeery@gmail.com) and money into the office by March 9. 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 also.

The website for Equal Exchange is: shop.equalexchange.coop where you can find the products and their prices. Because we are into colder weather, there is no surcharge for shipping the chocolate now.

MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

