

MCOB Newsletter

Week of Sunday, June 23, 2024

Pastoral Care: Pastor Amy 765.967.0657

Deacon on Call: Paul Fry-Miller 260.704.1442

Timbercrest Host: Marie Willoughby 765.603.7289

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

- ♥ We hold the **McFadden Family** in prayer, after a beautiful day of celebrating the life of Wilbur McFadden. May our memories and stories continue to be told.
- ♥ We pray for **Wilson and Mary Lutz**. Wilson had a fall and broke his hip. Surgery is scheduled for Monday, June 24. We are glad they are in Timbercrest where they receive help so quickly.
- ♥ We pray for **Lynn Blocher**, who was hospitalized with a painful hiatal hernia. He has returned to his apartment to find new ways of eating and being pain free.
- ♥ We pray for **Diana Bucher**, who fell and broke her left wrist last week. Surgery was last Friday. We pray for her recovery, and for the ongoing success and good work at the historical museum's summer program that she has been planning for months.
- ♥ We pray for **those who are packing and moving, downsizing and making new homes**. May they have strength for the physical and emotional process and creativity for the new spaces. May blessings of love fill the new homes.
- ♥ We pray for all **who are adversely affected** by the heatwave last week, and surely what is to come this summer. May we take hydration seriously and curtail outside work by listening to our bodies.
- ♥ We pray for **our planet**, as humanity contributes to climate change. We give thanks for the knowledge in this congregation that has guided us to the use of renewable energy with our solar panels and geothermal heating system.
- ♥ We pray for the **Pastoral Search Committee**, for steadfast hope and work, and for those who God is nudging and calling to do ministry in this setting. Grant us all trust and patience as we all do this together.
- ♥ We pray for our sister church in **El Salvador, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel** and with others in our district for the **Peru Congregation and West Marva District**.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

(Office Hours: 1 to 3 pm Monday - Friday)

MONDAY, JUNE 24

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 (FLC Closed)

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

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

6:30 p.m. Worship Center/Decor | Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Midweek Update | YouTube

9:00 a.m. FLC Reserved

12:00 p.m. Pastors' Luncheon at Timbercrest

1:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Commission Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

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

FRIDAY, JUN 28

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

9:30 a.m. [Worship: "Creativity for Life"](#)

Scripture: Act 16:13-15



Kids' Food Basket

BROWN BAG DECORATING: We'll do this as our Creativity in Community Activity on **June 30**.

NURTURE NUDGE *Go through your trash and see what you can give a second life to. Reflect on things within you that could use God's love and something new to mend what feels broken.*

Deacons

Sustaining Care Deacons

Diana Bucher, Jan Fairchild, Tina Rieman, Diane Sincroft

Immediate Care Deacons

Ruth Barrett, Chuck Bell, Debbie Chinworth, Jim Chinworth, Christine Fisher, Paul Fry-Miller, Bob Gross, Donna Ritchey Martin, Anita Sautter



GROWING HOPE
GLOBALLY

SPECIAL QUARTERLY OFFERING
Through June 30

DONATE ONLINE
Make checks payable to MCOB with "Growing Hope" in the memo line.

WE BELIEVE IN A WORLD OF PLENTY,
NO PERSON SHOULD GO HUNGRY.

WE HELP SUBSISTENCE FARMERS GROW
THEIR OWN FOOD & EARN INCOME.

[DONATE HERE](#)





EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

June 19, 2024 Meeting

Reports: Treasurer Katherine Haff presented end-of-April financial information. Katherine also explained the upcoming regulation changes to the

Fair Labor Standards Act - which go into effect on July 1 - and how those changes might affect our employees. A Church Safety Committee report outlined tasks the group has addressed: emergency medical equipment stored in one place in the Narthex; evacuation maps to be hung in various locations throughout the church; and, locking all doors except the main entrance shortly after worship services begin.

Business items: A request from the Stewardship Commission for the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the Wilt estate gift was approved. A list of people representing various invested groups within the congregation was identified and the Board Chair will call the committee together as soon as possible.

A proposal from the Pastoral Ministry and Personnel Commission for the creation of an Interim Worship Planner position was approved. The Interim Worship Planner will oversee all details related to worship services throughout the Between Time - after Interim Pastor Gwen Gustafson-Zook completes her ministry with us on July 31 and before a new pastor is called.

Discussion items: Two Host City projects for **Annual Conference** were discussed: decorating lunch bags for **Kids Food Basket** is planned for the June 30 Creativity in Community Activity; collecting new bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be announced ASAP. Dates for the Annual Conference wrap-up meeting were discussed. The **Gift Acceptance Policy** was reviewed, and commission chairs were asked to share the info with their commissions. Planners for the **Fall S/C IN District Conference** (Sept. 13-14) are asking congregations to consider providing communion bread and food/craft items for the auction. More details will be provided soon. The **Fall Council Meeting** will be held on September 29, 2024, immediately following worship.



Join us after worship on **July 28** to celebrate Pastor Gwen's ministry among us, and send her on with blessings for the journey. Gwen will lead us in **Dances of Universal Peace** in

the narthex and then we will share fresh fruit salad and tea. Please bring cut up fruit to add to the "stone soup" salad. Cards for you to write notes of **thanks** and **best wishes** to Pastor Gwen will be available on the credenza outside the sanctuary for the next several weeks. ♥



The Manchester Church of the Brethren has been actively involved in helping asylum-seeking people from Central and South America for the last few years. The

Immigration Support Group, with help from the church formally and many individuals within the congregation, has been assisting these asylum seekers with information, some funds, reduced rent, birthday and shower gifts, food cards, and advocacy. The church leadership and the Witness Commission have been active in assisting with support and some financial aid including grant applications.

Silvia Montecinos Alvarez and two of her young children - Cristian and Daniela - walked from Guatemala to the U.S. border and were the first immigrants to arrive here in January of 2019.

Beth Beery worked through Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) to bring the family here. Silvia and the children lived with Beth Berry and Jim Bennett nearly a year before moving into their own place. Silvia received asylum just before the COVID pandemic hit. Since arriving she has had numerous jobs and added Melany and Alvaro to her family. Silvia now has her residency and Social Security number. The older children, Cristian and Daniela, are quite active in our Sunday School.

Sebastian and Jhenifer Carrillo arrived in March 2022 from Colombia. They are still in the process of getting accepted for asylum but have taken steps along the way, including obtaining work permits. They have two children, Danna and Jacksen. Danna has participated intermittently in Sunday School. The Carillos came through contacts Russ and Amber Mynhier made at Unitarian Universalist's Community Accompaniment Program with Asylum-Seekers (UU CAPA) and lived at the Mynhier address for a while. The family is now living in a house they rent from the Chinworths. Sebastian and Jhenifer are both currently working. -Joel Eikenberry, Immigrant Support Group

FRIDAY SEPT 13
HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL
FEATURING SON CHIGUITOS

SATURDAY SEPT 14
UZIMA!
SABIE GUSTAFSON-ZOOK
MAY ERLEWINE

SAT-SUN, OCT 19-20
JOE REILLY
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

SATURDAY NOV 23
ARTISAN MARKETPLACE
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY JAZZ COMBO
KELSI COTE
SETH BERNARD + JORDAN HAMILTON

ALL EVENTS FREE + ALL AGES
MORE INFO AT SINGMEHOME.ORG
PRESENTED BY FRIENDS WITH THE WEATHER + MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

SING ME HOME 2024 Line-up Announcement!!

We are excited to welcome new and familiar faces this fall. More information and RSVPs: www.singmehome.org



Manchester Church of the Brethren Delegates:
Nan Erbaugh, David Kreps

Annual Conference 2024
DeVos Place Convention Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan
July 3-7

Annual Conference is Next Week...

Our denominational Annual Conference will be held July 3-7 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. All of the conference information is at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/>. Grand Rapids is less than 3 hours away, and conference-goers can attend for one or two days, or the whole conference. If you are going to be there, you will see lots of friends from our congregation.

Business items include a report from the Standing with People of Color working group, and several proposals which may eventually lead to important changes in denominational structure. Worship, music, age-group activities, local tours, informative break-out sessions, a hall full of booths and exhibits, and a service project to benefit children in Grand Rapids are all part of the conference schedule.

Our congregation will show up this year in several important ways:

- Madalyn Metzger, who will moderate this year's business sessions, is the daughter of Van and Dennis Metzger, members of our church;
- Friends with the Weather (David Hupp, Seth Hendricks and Chris Good) will be in concert on Saturday evening, July 6;
- Rachel Gross and the Death Row Support Project will be recognized at the Office of Peacemaking and Public Policy exhibit booth and in a gathering at 4:15 pm on Friday, July 5;
- Lunch bags decorated by our church in our Creativity in Community art activity will be part of the conference service project for children in the host city.

Nan Erbaugh and David Kreps are our voting delegates to this year's conference, and will bring us a report a few weeks after the conference concludes.



Our Communal "Creativity in Community" Art Project is taking shape. We invite those near and at a distance to join in the project. Design as many quarter circle sheets as the spirit leads. We will see it come to life on the wall in the narthex throughout the summer. Contact the church office if you have questions.



See any familiar items here? Please stop by the kitchen to reclaim what's yours, or let Kitchen Coordinator Rachel Gross know if your intention was to donate the item(s) (e.g., the vases). Whatever is not claimed by mid-July will be put on a "help yourself" table in the narthex. Items remaining at the

end of the month will go to the thrift store. Thanks for your help in decluttering the kitchen! -Rachel Gross, Kitchen Coordinator



Annual Conference Service Projects



**Kids' Food
Basket**

BROWN BAG DECORATING: We'll do this as our Creativity in Community Activity on **June 30**.



**SLEEP IN
HEAVENLY
PEACE**

- ❖ **Bed in a Bag** (twin beds)
- ❖ **Pillows**
- ❖ **New Quilts/Blankets** (quilts can be handmade)
- ❖ **New Stuffed Animals**


Annual Conference Host City project: All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. We have the opportunity to help! The donations (listed below) will be collected in our Narthex by July 2.

Donations:

- **Bed in a Bag** for twin beds (the sets that include sheets, pillowcase, and comforter – this is easier for them than trying to match random donations of individual sheets, pillowcases, and comforters)
- **Pillows**
- **New quilts and blankets for twin beds** (quilts can be handmade)
- **New stuffed animals**

Amy Gall Ritchie has offered to deliver our donations to the Annual Conference worship service on July 4. Monetary contributions can be made on the AC website offering page.

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/activities/host-city-witness/>

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