

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

♥ We pray with gratitude for the opportunity to gather together to worship, to place ourselves in the midst of a community, founded and grounded in love; love made known to us through in and through Jesus Christ. And for our sister church in El Salvador, **Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel** - and **all the churches** who gather to grow in Your love.

♥ We pray with gratitude for the creativity of the **people who make up this community** and for the efforts extended to work together for a better day; a day where justice and peace for all people is realized.

♥ We pray with gratitude for the **folks among us** who add beauty to our surroundings by tending to the memorial garden, the flowers and plantings in the parking lot, the courtyard, the trees and the prairie.

♥ We pray with gratitude for the ways that love flows through this congregation when pain and loss hover close; for the love and care extended to **Max and Sue Mock** in recent weeks as they have absorbed the reality of the death of Max's sister, **Lana**.

♥ We pray with concern for all **those in the midst** of challenging health situations. In addition to **those that are unspoken**, we are mindful of **Lynn Blocher** who continues to manage a medical condition that put him in the hospital again last week. We pray for Lynn and for his **caring family** who surround him.

♥ We pray with concern for **all who live each day** consumed by fear; replace the fear with something more akin to **love**. Revolutionary Love. Life-giving Love.

♥ We pray with concern during this season of political strife in our country; give us **wisdom** to know what is ours to do - and **courage** to tend to that which is ours to do with **love**, so that **justice** might flow like rivers and righteousness like an ever flowing stream in our weary and fearful land.

♥ We pray with concern for **those who are famished** around the world - for the half a million **Gazans** who face catastrophic hunger - give them food. And if not food; relieve the gnawing pain in their stomach and give them courage to face another day.

♥ We pray with hopeful expectation for **Seth Hendricks** and our **youth** who have been living together at youth camp, engaging friendships and exploring their growing faith. May Seth be fortified as he directs the camp, and may the youth feel God's closeness and leading in surprising ways.

♥ We pray with hopeful expectation for the gathering of the **Church of the Brethren Annual Conference**. We pray for the wellbeing and calm wisdom of moderator **Madalyn Metzger**, moderator-elect **Dava Hensley**, and for all the **conference officers**. We pray for spirit-led listening and prophetic speaking from the **delegate body** and **all who gather**. We pray for the alternative worship services and vigils held to raise awareness of our world and to urge faithful action for justice. May we together make decisions and declarations that reflect God's love.

♥ We pray with hopeful expectation, **Loving God**, asking that you surround us and sustain us this day - and every day - so that we might embody your love and share it freely with those around us. For the sake of all that is good and holy and just and life-giving we pray.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

*(Holiday Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 1 to 3 pm)*

MONDAY, JULY 1

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

7:00 p.m. Education Commission | Conference Room

TUESDAY, JULY 2

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. Property Commission | Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Midweek Update | YouTube

1:00 p.m. Tennis | FLC

THURSDAY, JULY 4 Office Closed

9:00 a.m. FLC Reserved

9:00 a.m. Kitchen Reserved

1:00 p.m. SMH Working Session | Video Conference

FRIDAY, JULY 5 Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Kitchen Reserved

1:00 p.m. Pickleball | FLC

5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Reserved

SUNDAY, JULY 7 Annual Conference Sunday

9:30 a.m. [Preacher Leonard Dow](#) (provided from Annual Conference)

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

**Creativity in Community Activity: Photo Haiku**



Worship next Sunday (July 7) will provide us with an opportunity to connect with Annual Conference while being gathered in North Manchester (and beyond!). We will have our regular worship service, focused on Creativity in Community, and will stream the sermon preached by Leonard Dow from the Saturday evening worship at Annual Conference. Leonard is a vibrant preacher, graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, and the vice-president of community and church development for Everence, the Mennonite/Anabaptist financial planning organization.

**NURTURE NUDGE** *What are the crafts of your hands that you use to provide care for another?*



*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

*The Deacons will be contacting all households listed in our directory. This is a friendly contact for care and checking in. This is a special contact to continue to nurture a healthy and vibrant faith community. These calls will take place in July, August, and September. Everyone in the church from preschool to our greatest elders can be in contact with any of the deacons or pastors at any time.*



### The Witness Commission

wholeheartedly supports Camp Mack with a budgeted \$4300 donation yearly. I am sure many of us have great memories of being summer campers and/or counselors. In addition, there are family camps and other adult camps throughout the year, with the annual Camp Mack festival in early October being a highlight. Camp touches hearts and changes lives, not to mention the lifelong friends made along the way. Besides the donation, the church pays 100% of a first time camper's fee and 50% of the camper's fee in successive years. We are blessed to have Camp Mack.  
*-Nan Erbaugh, Witness Chair*

We all know our local food pantry does a great job serving our neighbors' food needs. However, the 100 people served monthly have critical needs beyond food—toilet paper and shampoo for instance. The Witness Commission is declaring July "shampoo and toilet paper month." Let's bring in 400 rolls of toilet paper and 100 bottles of shampoo to serve 100 neighbors. Please place the items on the credenza in the narthex. Thanks in advance for your generosity!  
*-Nan Erbaugh*



*Sue and I would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the church for wrapping around our family with your love. The prayers, emails and cards have been felt and appreciated during the last couple of weeks with the passing of my sister.*  
*-Max & Sue Mock*



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. ♥

Many members of our congregation know part of Denis Garcia's story. Denis, a trained veterinarian, is from Nicaragua and was arrested for helping students demonstrating against the government in 2018. He spent almost 3 ½ years in prison under harsh conditions. The U.S. State Department arranged for the release of 220 political prisoners in February 2023 – including Denis. The prisoners knew nothing about the arrangements until they were taken to an airport and told they would be taken to another country. They were afraid they would be taken someplace and shot, but instead they were flown to Washington, DC. They did not know until they were on the plane that their Nicaraguan citizenship had been revoked and they would never be allowed to return. Denis loves and misses his country, especially no longer having the opportunity to even visit.



Jeff and Maria Osborne knew Denis from their work in Nicaragua as part of the Manchester University Medical Practicum. Jeff and Maria graciously sponsored Denis when he arrived in the U.S. Even though the processing for Denis' asylum was fast tracked he has not yet received his final asylum papers. He is currently working at MPS. Denis' wife, Kimberly, and their children, Keytlin and Cristopher, were left behind when Denis was flown from Nicaragua. Because of his political prisoner status there were clear pathways to apply for asylum for his immediate family. Jeff and Maria did the paperwork to sponsor them and after approval, they arrived in July 2023. Their processing is not fast tracked, but they are slowly getting through the steps toward formal asylum status. Kimberly is in the process of securing a work permit to allow formal employment. Keytlin and Cristopher, ages 9 and 12 when they arrived, excelled in the Manchester Community Schools system last year. The family is currently living in a basement apartment at the Osborne home and are actively looking for a new place to rent or buy.

-Joel Eikenberry, Immigrant Support Group

**FRIDAY SEPT 13**  
HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL  
FEATURING SON CHIQUITOS

**SATURDAY SEPT 14**  
UZIMA!  
SADIE GUSTAFSON-ZOOK  
MAY ERLEWINE

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

**SATURDAY NO**  
ARTISAN MARKET  
MANCHESTER UNIVER  
JAZZ COMBO  
KELVICOTE  
SETH BERNARD  
JORDAN HAMIL

ALL EVENTS FREE + ALL AGES  
MORE INFO AT [SINGMEHOME.ORG](http://SINGMEHOME.ORG)

PRESENTED BY  
FRIENDS WITH THE WEATHER +  
MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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.

## 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](http://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 *THIS* 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.



*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



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




- ❖ 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/>

MANCHESTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN   
1306 Beckley Street | PO BOX 349  
North Manchester IN | 46962

---

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