

Our Sunday Worship

April 13: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Texts: John 10: 1-10 and John 21: 1-17
Message: What the Shepherd Asks of Us

April 20: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Texts: Acts 7: 55-60 and 1 Peter 2: 2-10
Message: Like Bent Nails

April 27: Sixth Sunday of Easter
Text: John 14: 15-21
Message: What's More Important than Rules?

May 4: Seventh Sunday of Easter
Staff and members of On Earth Peace will share with us during our morning

A Sunday with OEP

Several staff and board members of the Church of the Brethren On Earth Peace will be in Springfield for meetings the first weekend of May. Plans are being made to have them share in both the Church school and worship times. Madalyn Metzger, a daughter of Van and Dennis Metzger and an On Earth Peace board member, will be one of those visiting with us.

The mission of On Earth Peace is: developing leadership for peace in each new generation; nurturing spirit-filled discipleship and active response to violence; and teaching and leading healthy, faithful responses to conflict. Please mark this date and share this opportunity with others.

2008 Preview of Annual Conference



The 222nd recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be held July 12-16 in Richmond, VA. The conference will focus on the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Brethren movement, and is a joint annual meeting with the Brethren Church. The conference theme is "Surrendered to God—Transformed in Christ—Empowered by the Spirit" (John 12:24-26a).

Main events on Saturday, July 12 include opening worship at 6:15 p.m., and an 8 p.m. worship concert by the National Christian Choir.

Based in the area of Washington, D.C., the choir of 200 includes members representing a variety of denominations including the Church of the Brethren.

On Sunday, July 13, morning worship will be a joint service of the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Church. A "Global Celebration" is planned for Sunday evening celebrating our Brethren presence and mission around the world.

Annual Conference business sessions will be held on July 14 & 15. Business to be addressed includes two unfinished items, the "Review and Evaluation Implementation Committee Recommendation" and the "Process Committee for Doing Church Business." Included among the six items of new business is a "Resolution on Slavery in the 21st Century," a "Resolution Urging Forbearance," and a "Query—Conference Witness to Host City."

The Annual Conference offers the usual features of daily Bible studies, meal events, insight sessions, hearings on business items, age group activities and an exhibit area. Cost of registration for adult non-delegates is \$75 for the full conference if pre-registered, or \$100 onsite. Weekend and daily registrations are also available. For details go to www.brethren.org/ac.

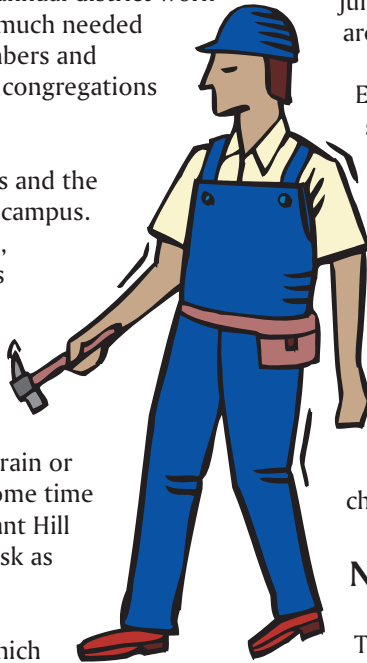
Terry Link will be attending this conference as our delegate. This is his second year as our delegate. Please keep Terry in your thoughts and prayers as he prepares to attend this special annual meeting.

District Work Day – May 17

Cleaning flower beds, painting lawn furniture, washing windows, roof repair, etc., are just of the tasks lined up for us at the **Third Annual District Work Day** on May 17 at Pleasant Hill Village in Girard. The annual district work day is an opportunity to provide a much needed service while getting to know members and volunteers from some of our other congregations in the district.

The Home will furnish refreshments and the noon meal, plus offer a tour of the campus. Workers should bring gloves, rakes, shovels, paint brushes, paint rollers and trays, and putty knives. There is a need for power washers. A small roofing job could be done if enough roofers show up. There is also plenty of inside work to be done. Work will go on, rain or shine. Those who want to spend some time visiting with the residents of Pleasant Hill Village will find that a rewarding task as well.

The District Leadership Team, of which Fletcher Farrar is a member, sponsors the Work Day. Please let Fletcher you are coming by signing up in advance. Sign-up sheets are at the church.



Junior High Get M. A. D.

Junior high youth from the Illinois and Wisconsin District will be retreating at the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren on April 18 and 19. The theme, "Let's Get M. A. D." (Making A Difference), will explore how junior high youth can make a difference to their neighbors next door and around the world.

Ellis Boughton, Pastor of the Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren, will share about mission work that he has been involved with in Honduras. A community work project is planned, as well. Participants should bring clothes and shoes for work.

2008 Camp Emmanuel Schedule

The 2008 summer camp schedule is out. There are camps for age groups kindergarten through adults including a women's camp, a men's camp and a family camp. Please pick up a schedule if interested. In addition, we are attempting to find a couple of days and nights when we as a congregation can use the camp for a church outing. More information on this will be shared later.

National Older Adult Conference

The National Older Adult Conference (NOAC), held every two years, is scheduled for September 1-5 in North Carolina. This conference is organized by the Association of Brethren Caregivers and is designed for people fifty and over. Brochures and registration information are available at the church. The District will likely organize bus travel for those who are interested.

PROGRESSIVE BRETHREN SUMMIT MEETING - NOVEMBER 7-9, 2008

Under the banner **Faithful & Just: Progressive Brethren Speak**, a variety of Brethren will gather on November 7-9, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN. Planners expect over 150 persons to attend this first general gathering of persons who see themselves as "progressive" and currently, or formerly, participating in the Church of the Brethren.

The event will begin Friday evening with worship. Audrey deCoursey of Womaen's Caucus and Ken Kline Smeltzer of Voices for an Open Spirit will address the difficulties facing progressive Christians in "A Challenged Church." Saturday morning Bob Miller, Chair of Christian and Religious Studies at Juniata College and member of The Jesus Seminar, will encourage us to be "A Grounded Church" through study of The Historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

Saturday afternoon will offer a variety of workshops in two times slots, such as: Creating Change through Strategic Storytelling, the impact of Silent and Undecided Friends, Learnings from the 2008 Election, Greening Our Faith, A Progressive Evangelism, LGBT Justice, Worship and Culture, Insisting on Non-violence and Peacemaking, Embracing other Faith Traditions, Developing Women Leaders, Leaving?-Frustration and Change in the COB, and more. Saturday evening worship will feature Susan Boyer, Pastor of the

LaVerne Church of the Brethren (a Supportive Communities Network congregation), speaking on being "A Welcoming Church." A concert featuring Mutual Kumquat, Lee Krähenbühl, and others will round out the evening.

Sunday will present several models of progressive Bible studies and the weekend will conclude with worship and celebration on being "A Courageous Church.," with Kurt Borgmann, Pastor of the Manchester Church of the Brethren (SCN), speaking.

The weekend will be hosted by the Northview Church of the Brethren and is sponsored by Voices for an Open Spirit (VOS), Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC), Womaen's Caucus, Christian Community and by a number of congregations and individuals. Additional sponsors and financial supporters are welcome. Please send any contributions to the VOS Treasurer.

Details on workshop leaders, costs (~\$100 plus housing) and how to register will be available on the sponsoring organizations' websites (www.voicesforanopenspirit.org, www.bmclgbt.org, and www.womaenscaucus.org) around May 1, 2008.