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## Worship Schedule

### April 30 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture for the day are Luke 24:36b-48 and Acts 3:12-19.

The morning message, "Call the Witnesses."

### May Worship

#### May 7: John 21: 1-17

Message: Do You Love Me?

#### May 14: John 15: 9-17

Message: Paying the Price

#### May 21: Sister Jane C. brings the message.

#### May 28: John 17: 11-19

Message: Listen Closely: Jesus is Praying

## Together: Conversations on Being the Church

Several years ago, the District Executives of our denomination, proposed that the Church of the Brethren find a way to come together in small groups to talk about what it means to be the church. Out of that initial proposal has come a process called, "Together: Conversations on Being the Church." This "Together" process will invite small groups in local congregations (Sunday School classes, mid-week studies), districts, national gatherings, etc. to come together and talk about "how we, as followers of Jesus in the 21st century, understand what it means to belong to each other as well as God."

Back in February, five people (including Pastor Kres) from our Illinois and Wisconsin District traveled to New Windsor, MD. to receive training in the use of the Together...materials. On Saturday, June 10th, Vicki Matheny and Kres Lipscomb will lead a training session for congregations in the central & southern part of our district. The training will be from 9 am until 3:30 pm (tentatively scheduled for Decatur). Three people from each congregation will be asked to receive the training and then to assist small groups in their congregation as they go through the process.

A study guide has been written by James L.

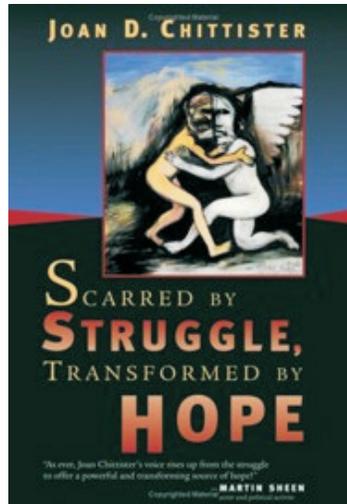
Benedict, a Brethren pastor, which can be used over six sessions or during a one-day event.

These will be available as congregations become prepared to begin the process. At the conclusion of the process each small group is invited to make a written response (something we can say together) and to share it with the wider church.



## Book Discussion Group in May

The Nurture Commission and Pastor Kres are organizing another 4-week book discussion group. The book which has been selected is "Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope." The author is Joan D. Chittister. Chittister is the executive director of Benetvision: A Resource and Research Center for Contemporary Spirituality in Erie, PA.



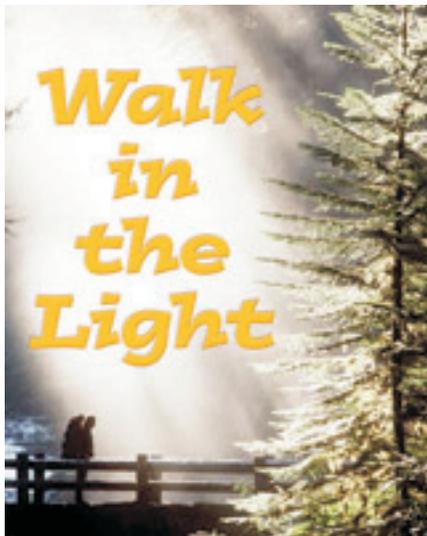
sanctuary. We will meet together four Tuesdays in May: the 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

Please speak to Pastor Kres if you would like to host in your home on one of the Tuesdays.

From the first chapter, Chittister writes, "Struggle is a part of life. In fact, struggle is an unavoidable part of life... We tussle with the dark and the daylight moments of the soul. If we stop struggling, we may die. But if we struggle and lose, we stand to die as well. So how are we to think of struggle? Is it loss or gain?"

Copies of the book have been ordered and a sign-up sheet is posted in the

Please sign-up as soon as possible. We look forward to how we answer these questions and many others!



## National Older Adult Conference

The 8th, biennial National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers will be September 4-8, 2006. NOAC is a Church of the Brethren Conference offering inspiration, renewal and community for adults 50 years and older. It will be held at the Lake Junaluska (NC) Assembly. The theme will be "Walk in the Light." The conference "will encourage people of faith to respond to the insecurities of the world and our own physical realities with the assurance of God's love and to be beacons of light. The theme seeks to remind and inspire older adults that they can and do make a powerful and positive difference when they walk daily in the conviction that God's light in the world is what will make for true and

meaningful security in the world."

The registration cost for NOAC is \$135 per person (before July 9) and \$165 after July 9. Food costs and housing are additional and depend on the type of housing and meal plan selected. A brochure outlining the programming and registration requirements is on the back table.

**National Older Adult Conference**  
September 4-8, 2006  
Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly

Association of Brethren Caregivers  
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120  
(800) 323-8037  
www.brethren-caregivers.org

*A Church of the Brethren conference offering inspiration, renewal and community for adults 50 and older.*