



Our Community at Worship

Our worship experiences throughout the remainder of the month of September and into October will continue to draw from the writings of The Letter of James and the Gospel of Mark. You are invited to read along with Pastor Kres as we prepare to gather worship.

- Sept. 17: James 3:1-12 and Mark 8:27-38 (That 8-Letter Word: HUMILITY)
- Sept. 24: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a and Mark 9:30-37 (A Great place to Start) New members will be received through reaffirmation of faith and baptism. A time of greeting and fellowship will follow in the church basement.
- Oct. 1 James 5:13-20 and Mark 9:38-50 (Some Things Which Trip Us Up...Along the Way)

District Conference - 2006

The theme for this year's Illinois and Wisconsin's District Conference, as selected by Moderator Leonard Matheny, is *"Be Still and Know that I am God."* The theme text is Psalm 46:10.

Preparations for the conference are now in place. The dates are November 3-5. We will be hosted by the York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard. Conference opens with Friday evening worship. The service will be led by Canton pastor and moderator-elect Kevin Kessler and will include a message by brother Leonard. Saturday's business session will be divided into two parts. Saturday morning will be a time to receive reports and ask questions of various district leaders. The afternoon session will be an "open" session with a time for prayers by the gathered delegates and participants. A banquet will be offered Saturday evening. District Conference will close on Sunday morning with worship and a message by Annual

Conference Moderator Belita Mitchell.

Registration forms are now available. Many of the forms ask for a response by September 20. Delegate fees are paid for by our congregation. There is no fee for non-delegate registration, but all attendees are required to register for insurance purposes.

The change we have been collecting throughout the past year will be taken to District Conference. The collections will be divided equally between the ministries of the District which are guided by the district Leadership Team and the District's New Church Development Board.

VOS Fall Gathering

Voices for An Open Spirit, a grassroots movement in the Church of the Brethren fostering openness and inclusion, building bridges, and seeking common ground, will hold their 2006 Fall Gathering at Camp Mack (Milford, IN), November 10-12. The theme is "Spiritual Vitality: Sampling, Savoring, Sharing." The gathering will provide opportunities "to be inspired with energy and hope, to be excited by new ideas, to express yourself spiritually in meditation, prayer, artistic forms, and lively worship." Fall Gathering begins on Friday at 6 pmm and concludes on Sunday at 1 pm. Cost is \$135 which covers lodging, meals and all activities. Participants may bring their own linens or for \$7 linens will be provided. There is a sliding fee for those who cannot participate in the whole event. You will find a registration form on the VOS website, www.voicesforanopenspirit, or you may pick-up a form at the church meetinghouse.

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be
praised among the nations, I will be praised
in the earth.

(Psalms 46:10 MKJV)

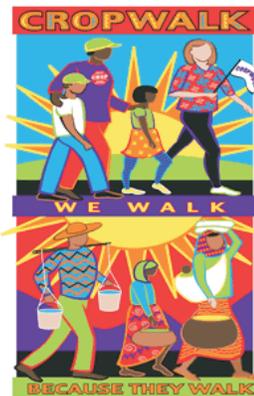
Walking Together

The Annual Springfield Area CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 1. Registration for the six-mile walk will begin at 1 pm on the East Capitol Steps at 2nd and Capitol Streets. The walk will begin at 1:30 pm.

Mary Bushnell is serving as our local CROP Walk recruiter. She has envelopes for those who would like to participate as walkers. Walkers are invited to collect donations from interested individuals. The donations will be divided as follows: 25% of the funds raised will be shared with Grace Lutheran Food Pantry, Holy Family Food Pantry, Kumler UMC Food Pantry, Riverton Food pantry, and St. John's Breadline to help support local hunger needs; 75% of the funds will be used by Church World Service (CWS) and other international agencies for disaster relief and self-help development throughout the world.

Mary will be sharing information, and her enthusiasm, about the Walk during our Sunday worship throughout the month of September. Although it is a 6 mile Walk Against Hunger, she is encouraging all of us, regardless of our ages, to participate. Whether you can Walk six blocks or six miles, you are invited to join the First Church of the Brethren community on Walk day.

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html>



Praying For Peace at the Pole

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating September 21 each year as a day for the world to observe peace and nonviolence. The World Council of Churches proclaimed the same day each year as an "International Day of Prayer for Peace."

First Church of the Brethren will host a Prayer Service for Peace at 6 pm on Thursday, September 21. The service will take place around our "peace pole" located on the boulevard in front of the church meetinghouse. Prayers and readings will be offered and the service is open to anyone. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, reminds us that "praying for peace is an essential part of Christian worship and, indeed, of human existence."

The service will last around 30 minutes. It will take place in the church sanctuary, if it is raining. Please join us.



The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a six-week curriculum on September 24 called Together: Conversations on Being the Church. The class is designed to have several small groups (4-6) come together to talk about what it means to be the church now.

What does scripture have to say about the nature of the church? How do we, as followers of Jesus in the 21st century, understand what it means to belong to each other as well as to God? How can we deal with differences? What do we expect of each other? James Benedict, who wrote the study guide for Together, says, "Answering these questions won't be easy and we may not all agree. Yet, if we are able to talk and listen to each other respectfully and with humility, we may find...the Holy Spirit moving in our midst, leading to a better understanding of God's will and a greater love for one another."

Each small group will stay with one another for the whole six week period. A Together guidebook will be given to each participant. In the sixth and final session each group will be invited to write a paragraph--something you can say together about what it means to be the church. Every group's response will be shared with the wider church (these together groups are happening throughout the denomination) at www.togetherconversations.org.

The Sunday School class and the Together study is open to all interested adults. Let us pray for this series of conversations.

"In him
the whole structure
is joined together
and grows into a
holy temple
in the Lord;
in whom you also
are built together
spiritually
into a dwelling
place for God."
—Ephesians 2:21-22

Fall Family and Friends Gathering

Patty Brockmeyer and Terry Dobbs will host a wiener roast at their home and business in Farmersville on October 14 beginning at 4 pm. Patty and Terry will be providing the hot food and drinks. Those attending are invited to bring a cold dish or a dessert to share. Plans for the evening include the meal and hay rides for those who are interested. Those needing a ride or who are able to assist with the driving are asked to meet at the church meetinghouse at 3 pm. You might want to bring a lawn chair. Thanks to Terry and Patty for hosting this community event.

Bible Study in October

A four-week, small-group, Bible study will be offered in October. Plans are to read and discuss Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The study will be offered on October 3, 10, 17 and 24. A sign-up sheet is posted in the sanctuary.