

A Ministry Update

Boulevard News

September 2008

see our webpage at 1stcob.net

First Church of the Brethren



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Our Sunday Worship

If it has been awhile since you have done some reading in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, now is an opportunity for such reading. A five-week series on Exodus (the book of deliverance) will begin September 7th and conclude on World Communion Sunday, October 5. You are specifically invited to read through chapter 20.

God Comes in the Ordinary (September 7)

Our series on Exodus begins with a re-introduction to Moses. We'll remember his birth and early years, but will take a closer look at his call to bring the Israelites out of bondage.

Please read: Exodus chapters 1-3

Do Not Be Afraid (September 14)

Repeatedly, Moses (and Aaron) tells Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Finally, Pharaoh relents, only to change his mind. We pick up the story in chapter 14 with the crossing of the Red Sea. In 14: 13 Moses tells the people "Do not be afraid..." That is a sentiment we have heard before.

Please read: Exodus 14 (extended reading: chapters 4-13)

Fussin' with God (September 21)

The Israelites are facing a long time of wandering before entering the promise land, some forty years total. The journey has just begun. So have the complaints. We'll use this manna story to explore God's response.

Please read: Exodus 16

Massah and Meribah (September 28)

You'll need to read the first seven verses of chapter 17 to be reminded about the title. It is safe to say that the people's quarreling and testing are not over.

Please read: John 14: 15-31 and Romans 8: 12-17

Not in Stone, But in the Heart (World Communion Day – CROP Walk) (October 5)

We will observe bread and cup communion on the day designated "World Communion Sunday." Many of us will either walk in the Springfield Area CROP Walk or support those who are walking. The message will invite another look at the Ten Commandments in light of these two activities.

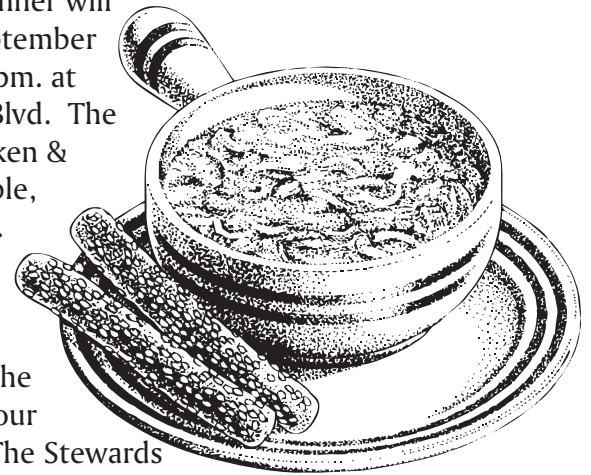
Please read: Exodus 20: 1- 21

It's What's for Dinner

A Chicken & Noodle Dinner will be held on Sunday, September 21st from 4 pm until 6pm. at the church, 2115 Yale Blvd. The menu will include chicken & noodles, salad, vegetable, roll, drink, and dessert.

The cost for dinner is \$6 per person.

Proceeds from the dinner will go toward the remodeling project of our main floor restroom. The Stewards Commission is sponsoring this event. Dessert donations would be appreciated.



Praying for Peace on 9. 21. 08

First Church of the Brethren will hold a "prayer service for peace" on September 21, 2008 at 6:30 pm. The service is being held on the day designated International Day of Prayer for Peace. The prayer service offers an opportunity to join religious communities all over the world in praying for lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and nations, and societies.

The International Day of Peace was first begun by the United Nations in 1981. The hope was to have the entire world observe a day of peace. In 2004 the head of the World Council Churches proposed the Day of Prayer for Peace and September 21 was chosen so as to coincide with the U.N. Day of Peace.

Last year thousands of religious communities, including over 150 Church of the Brethren congregations, held some type of prayer service on September 21. On Earth Peace, a Brethren peace organization, is attempting to recruit 300 congregations for this year's observance.

First Church's service will begin in the sanctuary and conclude (weather permitting) with a processional to the boulevard.



Camp Emmanuel Fish Fry

The 4th Annual camp Emmanuel Fish Fry will be held on September 27. An open house will be held from 10 am until 3 pm. Lunch will be served from 11 am through 2 pm. In addition to the lunch there will be a fishing derby (for children 12 and under) from 11 am until noon and an RC Aircraft demonstration. For more information call 309-329-2291.

Brethren Gatherings in November

There are two wonderful opportunities for brethren to gather for worship, fellowship, education and inspiration in November. Both events are taking place the weekend of November 7-9.

"Love One Another...by this everyone will know you are my disciples" is the theme of this year's Illinois and Wisconsin Church of the Brethren District Conference. The conference, hosted by the Peoria congregation, will begin with a Friday evening worship service. Moderator Jerry sales will share the message. A business session on Saturday will be followed by a Saturday afternoon service, which will feature the sharing of baptismal waters brought to the conference by each of the congregations in the district. Sunday our 2009 Annual Conference moderator,

David Shumate, will share morning's message. This is a wonderful time to be with brothers and sisters from throughout the district.

Also, that weekend a Brethren conference sponsored by Women's Caucus, Voices for An Open Spirit, and Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests will take place in Indianapolis, IN. The conference is titled, Faithful and Just: Progressive Brethren Speak. There will be worship services on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. A variety of workshop opportunities will take place during the day on Saturday. Cost for this event is \$100. Lodging is additional.

Registration materials for both events are at the church

Supper With James to Begin

Pastor Kres will be leading a small-group Bible study on the Letter of James in September and October.

Participants are invited to share a simple soup supper along with the study and conversation. The small group study will begin on September 18 at 6:30 pm and continue until at least October 9. A sign-up sheet is posted at the church.

Hearts and Soles

The 2008 Springfield Area CROP Walk (10k) will be held on October 5, 2008. The Walk will start around 1 pm at the east side of the State Capitol building. Proceeds from the Walk will support a wide-range of poverty fighting projects in some 80 countries; as well as offering much needed help to a number of Springfield area food pantries. Church World Service, a relief, development, and refugee assistance agency supported by 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the U.S. receives 75% of the funds raised. Local food pantries receive the remaining twenty-five percent.

Mary Bushnell is serving as our local CROP Walk coordinator. Mary has registration forms and collection envelopes for those wishing to walk. First Church of the Brethren raised around \$1000 a year ago. Please support our walkers in this annual event.

