

At The Center
York Center Church of the Brethren
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July

2010



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Worship Information

July 4

Title: "Who Made this Mess?"

Texts: 2 Samuel 12:1-6; Matthew 26:20-25

Preacher: Dale Roher

Worship Leader: Carolyn DeCoursey

July 11

Title: "Going Up the Mountain"

Texts: Exodus 19:16-20; Matthew 14:22-23

Preacher: Pastor Christy

Worship Leader: Walt Wiltschek, members of
the National Youth Cabinet

July 18

Title: "The Better Part"

Texts: Amos 8:1-12; Luke 10:38-42

Preacher: Elaine Eachus

Brethren Service Offering: Pinecrest Community

July 25

Title: "Just Like John"

Texts: Psalm 85; Luke 11:1-13

Preacher: Elaine Eachus





Announcements

Happy Birthday

- July 2 Lauren Eby, Fred Gunzel
- July 7 Greg Zalewski
- July 8 Melyssa Otake, Mary Stowe
- July 14 Hannah Neher
- July 15 David Groff, Andrew Weaver
- July 16 Tom DeCoursey
- July 17 Israel Zayas
- July 19 Mike Neher
- July 21 Ken Stein



Sound Technicians for July

- July 4 Ken Stein
- July 11 Ken Stein
- July 18 Joe Weaver
- July 15 Joe Weaver



Pastor Christy's July Schedule

- July 3-7 Annual Conference in Pittsburg
- July 14-22 National Youth Conference in Ft. Collins, CO
- July 23-27 Vacation in the Rocky Mountains

If you need pastoral care in Christy's absence, please call your Deacons or the church office. Deacon care groups are listed in the back of our church directory.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE "Taking Jesus Seriously"

The 224th recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be held in Pittsburg, PA July 3-7. Prudy Widlak is our delegate. Pastor Christy is also attending. You can follow the conference at brethren.org. Prudy's Annual Conference report will be shared following worship on Sunday, August 1.



NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

2800 Brethren youth and adult advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO July 17-22. Arbie Karasek and Renee Neher are attending. They will share their speech during the Monday morning worship service. Walt Wiltschek and Pastor Christy are the adult advisors for the planning committee. Christy is also coordinating the service projects for the conference. She has been organizing projects for 700 youth and advisors for three different afternoons. Please keep our NYC folks in your prayers!

Tribute to Elaine Eachus, Interim Pastor, April 5 – June 6, 2010

Elaine:

With your extensive training and experience as an interim pastor, we had high expectations of your time with us during our own pastor's sabbatical. And from the feedback we hear, your leadership in worship, preaching, and teaching went even beyond those high expectations. And we are grateful to you for that.

But what we were not prepared for in our expectations is how in a short nine weeks you would become one of us in heart and soul. You worked very hard in learning not only who we are, but what are our strengths and passions, and maybe some of our shortcomings. For example, you provided insightful comments and observations in our adult Sunday School class struggling with Living the Questions, our children looked forward to your creative Sunday morning stories, you visited our sick, you even drove one of our members over 100 miles to visit her sick son, you encouraged us to share of our faith and how we live it out (daring to use the word "evangelism"), and you shared about the life of our congregation with the local media.

One of the things that was symbolic of your "going the extra mile" was your help with the greening of the church grounds. On the west side of the church we have a row of hostas that you dug up from your personal garden and got your hands dirty helping plant those hostas and other plants. After you are no longer with us, we will have those hostas as a reminder of your time with us.

And as a reminder of the time with us, we have presented you with a hosta to partially fill the gap in your garden created by the hostas you gave to us. As a further symbolic reminder of who we are, the cost of this hosta is being contributed by the grower in Woodstock to a Heifer project in Honduras along with matching funds. You might be interested to know that the official name for the hosta designated by the grower is "Love of Life."

We are hopeful that it will grow for you as you have helped us grow.

Presented to Elaine Eachus, June 6, 2010

NYC Worship Session to be Webcast

Join us live in Colorado! For the first time ever, a part of National Youth Conference (NYC) will be *webcast!* On Monday, July 19, from 9:30-10:55 a.m., streaming video of the worship service from NYC featuring our youth speech and music contest winners will be broadcast live on the internet. All that is needed to view the broadcast is a computer connected to the internet.

This webcast will be produced by Bethany Seminary in collaboration with the NYC Office. Viewers can watch this webcast live, and a recording will also be made so that those unable to tune in live will be able to see the worship later. To view the webcast or access the recording, just go to bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts and click on the National Youth Conference link!



Douglas Park Church Workday

The IL/WI District Leadership Team has planned a workday at the Douglas Park Church on July 31 from 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. The invitation is open to everyone regardless of skill level. Please bring paintbrushes, yard and hand tools, and gloves along with you.



Interim Minister, Elaine Eachus, wrote the following song as a gift to our congregation:

**The Song of Elijah
Written for the
York Center Church of the Brethren
June 6, 2010
Elaine Eachus**

Chorus:

Go to those whose burden makes your own seem slight
Enter darkened households; spend the restless night.
Gather sticks for the fire, share flour for the bread
Mix tenderly with oil, that's how God's people are fed!

Verse 1

Prophets stand on hillsides, point to freedom's door.
Captured in the present, hearts fear as before.
Those faithful to God's vision shout, "It's time you see.
We are God's new community!"

Verse 2

Flowers wither in deserts; dying, drying stems.
As water flows old pains will end; joy springs up again.
Cities buried in refuge, apathy and hate.
Hope fills us now to end this fate.

Verse 3

Prophets wear seamless garments, live integrity.
Imagine the future clothed in humanity.
God calls us as Elijah, listen and recall.
Grace-filled deeds that heal us all.

A FRUITFUL SABBATICAL

By Pastor Christy Waltersdorff

The purpose of a sabbatical is to give the pastor, every seven years, a chance to stop **doing** and start **being**. It is a chance to step away from the responsibilities of this wondrous calling to ministry and listen more closely for the voice of God. It is a chance to study and to rest, to pray and to play, and to stop and take a deep breath.

Being away for nine weeks has given me a new appreciation for who we are as a congregation, for what we have and for where we are going. It has given me a new appreciation for what I have to offer you as your pastor. You know as well as I do that time away helps us appreciate home even more. All pastors and all congregations can get stale and taking time for Sabbath rest helps to renew and refresh us in ways that are hard to put into words.

Sabbatical time also gave you the opportunity to hear a different voice in the pulpit and it gave me a chance to worship in other churches and be fed by the nourishing sermons of others (including our own Audrey DeCoursey). I am so grateful for this gift and I hope you know how much it means to me as a person and as a pastor. I figure anything that is a blessing to me will also be a blessing to you as I minister with you.

The focus for my sabbatical was Faith and Writing. I wanted to look at writing as a spiritual discipline; to think about the meaning of words in our life of faith and what it means for us to say we are people of the Word.

I immersed myself in the world of words and writing. So I read, voraciously - several books at a time. At last count I read 35 books including books with titles like: "Writing the Sacred Journey," "The Soul Tells a Story," and "Novel Preaching." I read memoirs- one about a family living on a remote island off the coast of Alaska and how their faith influenced their lives. I read another by a woman who was raised in a very conservative Mennonite tradition, how she turned away from her faith and one day it found her again. You will love the title, "Mennonite in a little black dress."

I read essays written by writers about the craft of writing. I read fiction and of course, my favorite, mystery novels. I read newspapers and magazines. I read everything with a new eye- looking at how a particular writer puts a sentence together, how they draw you in- or don't. Above all, I wanted to see how people of faith are influenced in their writing by their relationship with God and how they capture that relationship in words.

I attended two terrific conferences- the Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin College in Michigan and the Festival of Homiletics in Nashville. At both I was surrounded by people of faith who love words, books, and writing. I was inspired and a bit intimidated by the wealth of talent all around me.

Marty and I took the train from Chicago to Boston then spent two weeks in Maine where we hiked along the ocean, climbed on the boulders in Acadia National Park, ate delicious seafood, and of course, collected rocks.

I volunteered several days at the General offices in Elgin where I helped out in the National Youth Conference and Workcamp offices. I continue to organize service projects for the youth conference in July.

I met with my spiritual director and enjoyed time with friends. My parents came to spend a few days with us.

My sabbatical was not productive but it was fruitful. And that is the best kind of sabbatical to have. Thank you!

Our July Brethren Service Offering

Our current Witness budget earmarks monies for the operating expenses for our district retirement community in Mount Morris, but we also want to support a different and serious need at Pinecrest Community.

The Good Samaritan Fund or Good Sam Fund was created in 1988 to assist residents of Pinecrest with financial aid for their daily care. Recipients of Good Samaritan Fund residents who have outlived their personal financial resources. Currently, over half of their resident population receives financial assistance from the Good Samaritan Fund. The charitable care given by Pinecrest each year is approximately \$26,660.00 per resident, or almost \$1.8 million per year. COB retirement communities do their utmost in not having to withdraw care to their residents and so rely on the larger church community for a good share of



A Poem about Slavery

by Hannah Neher

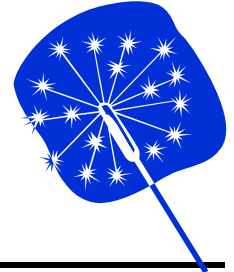
Rip, Scratch, Rip
Nothing ever comes true, no one ever cares.
I never have believed in fairy tales.
All I ever do is work.
I get treated badly.
I get hit in the head.
All my kids are sold. I have to weed and work.
I have to clean or get whipped.
I really have no last name.

It's hard to work, cook and clean. It's hard to be whoever I want to be.
All that ever happens is you work or get hurt.
That's my whole life.

I ran away in 1849, I left my whole life behind.
Before I knew it I was speaking in front of crowds.
Then before I knew it
Blood was shed.
And before I knew it
Lincoln was assassinated.
I was sad
Like all freedmen.
And soon enough I was in my deathbed.
On May 14, 1896
I was gone.



July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Fellowship</p>	<p>York Community Resource Center Summer Hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm</p>			<p>1 7:00 pm Witness Commission</p>	<p>2 Lauren Eby Fred Gunzel</p>	<p>3 7/3 - 7/7 Pastor Christy to Annual Conference</p>
<p>4  Independence Day Fair Trade Grocery Closed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Greg Zalewski</p>	<p>8 Melyssa Otake Mary Stowe 1:00 pm Music Committee</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Hannah Neher 7/14 - 7/27 Pastor Christy to NYC and Vacation</p>	<p>15 David Groff Andrew (Ramos) Weaver 7:00 pm Church Board</p>	<p>16 Tom DeCoursey</p>	<p>17 Israel Zayas</p>
<p>18 Fair Trade Grocery Open</p>	<p>19 Mike Neher</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Ken Stein</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7/23 - 7/27 Pastor Christy on Vacation</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00 pm Christian Education Comm. Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 2010</p>