

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, November/ December Issue, 2022

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF DISCOMFORT

Pastor Mike

Yesterday, Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church celebrated our Centennial, our 100-year anniversary. Many long-time and new friends gathered to rejoice in God's faithfulness throughout these 100 years. I learned about our church's history. And both Pastor David and Pastor Matt encouraged us to get naked.

For context, Pastor David was preaching from Hebrews 12, the Great Cloud of Witnesses. The Olympians from those early Olympic games competed naked. They believed it made them faster.

Pastor Matt described Mary going to visit Elizabeth "in Luke 1" after Mary received the news that she was pregnant, carrying the baby who is Jesus. The final twist of this story, as Pastor Matt pointed out, is that Elizabeth, in her advanced years, is also pregnant, carrying the baby who is John the Baptist! Matt reminded WBBC that in his analogy—Elizabeth receiving Mary and offering hospitality, as WBBC has done for Trinity—our congregation is also expecting!

I have not been pregnant, but I have walked beside Kim through six pregnancies. You all know we have four children (three of whom are young adults now) and I have shared in a sermon that baby Isaac died in the eighth hour of his life. Kim also suffered a miscarriage.

Analogies only go so far—I hope none of us are throwing up the way Kim did in her first trimesters—but a woman who is pregnant is looking ahead, because there is so much coming for her in her journey!

Whether as a teenager like Mary or in her advanced years, like Elizabeth, a woman who will give birth to a child is living in the present—how do I help this baby grow and be well?—while preparing for the future.

When God works in our lives, one of the constants we can count on is discomfort. Running naked and carrying a baby are both profoundly uncomfortable experiences!

Discomfort doesn't kill us. But some of us, when we're honest, will admit that we often don't like discomfort and will do a lot—sometimes anything—to avoid it. I think that's human nature.

It's also one of our biggest barriers to spiritual growth.

When Jesus calls us, he leads us to change, and change is inherently uncomfortable for us. We must learn new things, unlearn old things that harmed us (as sin does!), and make different decisions with our time, money, relationships, possessions...almost everything. Jesus leads us to change throughout our lives, not only when he first calls us. Jesus leads us to change *because* he loves us.

Comfort, in itself, is not bad, and taken in moderation comfort is a wonderful gift from God. When we've worked hard in freezing sleet, the hot soup afterward tastes better than soup ever tasted before!

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Spiritual Gift of Discomfort continued

But if we decide “You know, I'm going to skip that uncomfortable work part and just eat the hot soup,” we can make comfort an idol. Like any gift from God, when we focus too much on comfort and decide this gift is more important to us than the Giver, we can start down the path to idolatry. A simple description of idolatry is “I don't want to follow Jesus, I want to seek this gift and do whatever it takes to get—and keep—this gift.” Another word for that can be “addiction.”

Why do we choose discomfort? We believe Jesus is faithful and loves us. I'm not actually encouraging you to get pregnant or run naked. I am reminding you that, as Pastor David said, we are *all* running the race of faith, we are not spectators. The spectators are those who have gone on before us. All of us who are alive are still in the race!

Here are some examples of actions that might make us uncomfortable: transferring stewardship (ownership) of a beloved building where we have met as a church body. Calling and installing a new pastor. Starting as the new pastor at a church with a 100-year-old history. Following Jesus on this next step of our journey together!



CHURCH COUNCIL

The Fall Church Council meeting will be on Sunday, December 4 immediately following worship.

The topics will include:

- ✓ Approval of the 2023 Budget
- ✓ Looking at a new style of leadership team as opposed to commissions
- ✓ Revising the Constitution

Joe Roy & Colleen Michael, Co-Moderators

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

Carolyn Storme
Darlene Uhrich

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8th Tanya Zaytsev
9th Keith Madsen
15th Joyce Briggs

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Colleen Michael
9th Alexis Vickery
11th Jo Anne Cox
17th Joe Roy
22nd Barbara Dryden
Caleb Vickery
29th Pam Hannah



**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
No Anniversaries**

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd Joe & Merry Roy
27th Maurice & Joyce Briggs



THANK YOU!

Thank you for handing in your pledge cards for next year. All donations are very important for the church to operate. The finance committee has met with the church board and the budget for next year will be presented to council on December 4.

Many blessing to everyone.
Connie Mitchell, Treasurer

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:00pm on Saturday, December 24.

The service will include carol singing, a short message, Communion, and candle-lighting.



This is an excellent opportunity to bring friends and family home for the holidays to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

ADVENT PROGRAM AND CAROL SING

Sunday, December 11, we will celebrate Advent with carols and story. If you would like to be part of the planning, please contact Merry (509-881-1083)



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What we eat affects the earth. What we eat is within our control. These two sentences are extremely important for addressing climate change. Reducing meat and dairy in our diet decreases the impact on water, land use, animal feed, and on the soil. Many climate scientists say that reducing food waste and adopting a more plant-based diet are the best actions we can take to protect the earth, and these actions can start right away.

Bonus: they also save us money!

Creation Care Team

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to prepare the program, fix the picture boards and serve the snacks. We had a great turn out from former pastors to friends from the Sunnyslope Church and relatives who were from pioneer families. Thank you to Betty Radke who helped copying pictures and queuing the power point. It was a labor of love for many of us. Now we have truly moved forward having given Trinity our love and support. And, having said a proper goodbye, figuratively, to our grand old building. But don't forget, 11:15 next Sunday morning, we are ready to move on with great things in our future.

Work begins on Anabaptist Bible project, with involvement from Brethren Press Church of the Brethren Newline September 16, 2022

Work has begun on a first-ever Anabaptist Bible, according to a release from MennoMedia. Brethren Press publisher Wendy McFadden, who attended an August 26-28 event gathering some 45 "Bible Ambassadors" from various Anabaptist communities, confirmed Church of the Brethren participation in the project. Also at the event was Josh Brockway, co-coordinator of Discipleship Ministries for the Church of the Brethren.

The gathering at the Casa Iskali retreat center in Des Plaines, Illinois, kicked off the historic project, convened by John Roth, Director of the "Anabaptism at 500" project of MennoMedia. The Anabaptist groups represented at the meeting included Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Church USA, Brethren in Christ, Evana, Lancaster Mennonite Conference, the Bruderhof, and the Church of the Brethren.

Participants worked in table groups to review the plan for inviting 500 Bible study groups from across the Anabaptist community in North America to participate in the project and to consider what other components might be included in the Bible. These study groups will be assigned portions of scripture and asked to share their insights with the project. Volunteers can register their study groups at www.mennomedia.org/reading-scripture-together.

CAMP KOINONIA A Summer We Will Never Forget

This past summer was incredible. We served over 1,600 people and recorded over 10,000 camper nights. Melissa and our staff in the kitchen served over 22,000 meals. We hired 22 summer staff to help offer swimming, archery, mountain biking, fishing, kayaking, team building and more. At the end of the summer Donna Duck and her team hosted over 50 kids for swim lessons.

One of the weeks this summer, you could hear the worship music rising up from the meeting hall and echoing all around camp. Jesus was being lifted and lives were changed.

Thank you to our staff and awesome volunteers that helped to give us an amazing summer!

Kevin Eichhorn, Director

Happy Thanksgiving! 



Merry Christmas!

