



Colony Communiqué

Monthly Newsletter
First Brethren Church
South Bend, IN

Volume 9, Issue 4
August / September
2023

From the Pastor's Office . . .



Well, it's time again to write another newsletter article. I sometimes wonder what good is there in writing this article and does anyone really get anything out of it. As I ponder the purpose of the newsletter, I've concluded that it is a written form of communication at FBCSB for information (news), scheduling (events), and encouragement (articles).

As I look back to the first church newsletter that I wrote back in 1985, there has been a considerable change since then (other than I hope I write better now J). It was typed on an IBM typewriter and copied on a Xerox 50 series copier. No computer used, no email delivery and definitely no color print. Everything was black and white until we got a color printer in the late 2000's.

We have changed even since I have been here in South Bend for 9 years. We not only communicate through the printed newsletter and bulletin, but now with a website, Facebook, and streaming our services. Communication at the local church has sure progressed from print that was delivered by a letter carrier, but now delivered electronically in a pdf format.

Enough of my babbling about the newsletter, but I view the newsletter more as a tool for information about events and as I gaze at my calendar, I see 2 main themes: **CHANGE & CONSISTENCY**. We have our regular weekly services and events, but we also have much change, especially in the months of August and September, with vacations and when school is back in session.

Life is full of Change and Consistency. I am so thankful for both, not only in the natural world but also in the spiritual world.

I am so grateful for the consistency of gravity, earth's rotation, electric, speed of light, etc. There is so much in our world that we need consistent or our world would fall apart or be in extreme chaos. We see that our God is faithful and that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). What would we do with a God that we couldn't depend on?

Likewise it is with change. Just think if nothing ever changed. We stayed the same age, only did one thing, never able to be expressive or be artistic, one season, one food (manna?), and not able to think outside of the box.

I'm not trying to be difficult, but God has given us the best of both worlds with **CONSISTANCY AND CHANGE!** I'm so glad that God has called us to gather consistently to worship Him and has also called us to sing new songs to Him. This reminds me of a verse Philippians 1:6, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Notice the consistency of Christ and the changes that He makes in us.

As we view consistency and change in our newsletter calendar, may we always keep our focus on the One that is consistent and desires to makes spiritual changes in our lives. If you have any spiritual questions or needs, please feel free to contact us at our website, firstbrethren.org, 574-291-4909, or email firstbrethren@att.net or me personally at 330-903-1044 or fyoungen@att.net. We are here for you and love you.

Inside this issue:

August Volunteers	2
August B-days, Anniv., Events, youth news	3
August Calendar	4
September Birthdays, Anniv, Volunteers	5
September Calendar	6
Finance Update, Library, News from Benjamin	7

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, August 5, **CHURCH GARAGE SALE, 9am-3pm.**
- Sunday, August 6, Praise Team, 12pm
- Monday, August 7, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, August 18, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Saturday-Sunday, August 19-20, **BIG EVENT** at Brethren Retreat Center
- Monday, August 21, Men's Monday Coffee, 10am
- Friday, August 25, Community Prayer 2-5p
- Saturday, August 26, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Saturday, August 26, Ladies' Special Event, 8:30am-4:00pm
- Sunday, August 27, Trustees' Mtg, 12:00pm
- Friday, September 1, Community Prayer, 2-5p
- Sunday, September 3, **All-Church Picnic, 12pm**
- Monday, September 4, **HAPPY LABOR DAY**
- Tuesday, September 5, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, September 8, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Saturday, September 16, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Sunday, September 17, Deacons Meeting, 12pm
- Monday, September 18, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Monday, September 18, , Blood Drive at FBCSB, 1-4:25pm
- Sunday, September 24, Bonfire at Youngens, 5pm
- Monday, September 25, Nom Comm, 3p
- Friday, September 29, Community Prayer 2-5p

The universe exists only through a constant dance of consistency and change. Through consistency, consciousness finds meaning; through change it finds stimulation and expansion. To find consistency within change is to embrace the unfolding flow.

Blessings. *Pastor Fred*



August Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 8 - 6 Kathi Ginter & Dawn Powers
- 8 - 13 Rich & Kathy Hollister
- 8 - 20 Scott & Suzie Kresca
- 8 - 27 Becky Reynolds & Kim Sherrod

Financial Stewards

- 8 - 6 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
- 8 - 13 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
- 8 - 20 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
- 8 - 27 Angela Scott & Suzie Kresca

Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT) August 18 - 2:30pm



Please join us for a great time of fellowship and good discussion on Haggai. Enjoy this time for added learning from the Word!



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be at 8:00am on Saturday, August 26. Enjoy some great food and fellowship together.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Sunday, August 27, 12:00pm

**TRUSTEE
MINISTRY**

Trustee of the Month - Barry Wright



Men's Monday Coffee Club

We will be meeting at 10:00am on **August 7 & 21**. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.

Please continue to pray for our Drive-Thru Prayer Ministry on various Fridays from 2-5pm. This is an important opportunity to be a light in our community.



Brethren Church
General Conference



Grand Rapids, MI

Conference was July 17-20, 2023. Thank you to those that prayed for Conference. Business sessions were productive and we enjoyed the worship, fellowship and encouragement. A key point of the business sessions was to address our vision statement. The new Denominational vision statement is as follows:

The Brethren Church is led by the Word and Spirit as a family of churches creating innovative relational spaces for every tribe, language, people, and nation to encounter God's redemptive Kingdom.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



With all the back-to-school specials going on right now, it is a good time to stock up on school supplies those shoeboxes – pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers. More details will be coming next Newsletter. **We are need of a coordinator for this ministry.**

Please let Janna know if you are interested.



 It's that time of year again and we want to support our students and teachers. Please make sure that you let Janna know in the office the name of your student, what grade they are in and what school they are attending. We also want to know the names and schools of any teachers, aides or workers. It is important that we pray over all of these individuals for their protection and their influence for the glory of God. We never want to forget this important ministry to these individuals in our church family.

As names are collected, an updated list will be listed in the bulletin and posted on the church bulletin board. Thank you for your support of our students and teachers!!



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

8/2 - Robert Heying
 8/5 - Bonnie Campbell
 8/6 - Todd Lange
 8/8 - Elaine Lange
 8/13 - John Bush
 8/15 - Sandy Lehman
 8/22 - Caroline DeMetz
 8/22 - Kathy Hollister
 8/30 - Jan Kary
 8/30 - Debbie Pfender



Anniversaries

8/2 - David & Elaine Lange
 8/11 - Ron & Kathi Ginter

THE BIG EVENT

Midwest Region of the Brethren Church

The Big Event

"Join us for a time of community & inspiration."

August 19-20, 2023

Brethren Retreat at Shipshewana Lake

Events begin at 11:00am on Saturday and conclude by 2:00pm on Sunday.

See the bulletin board for more information.

Attention All Ladies . . .

Going Beyond
 SIMULCAST
 PRISCILLA SHIRER

On August 26, 2023 join thousands of women across the globe in this one-day event where you'll experience whole-hearted teaching straight from God's Word, worship, and prayer to inspire and challenge you to listen for His voice in your life.

Because when we seek Him, we'll find Him.

August 26, 2023 from 9am-4pm

Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.

Lunch will also be provided.

There is a \$30 registration fee. Scholarships are available if this cost is too much for you.

Please see Janna with any questions.



New pictorial directories are now available!! Please be sure to use them as a reminder to stay in touch with our church family and to pray for one another. You'll be glad you did!!



To all our youth . . .

This is certainly a busy time for all of you as you prepare to go back to school. We trust that you had a good summer and had time to rest and relax. We know God has amazing things planned for you in this next year and we will be supporting you with prayer and words of encouragement. Be a bold testimony for God. He will be with you each step of the way.

God bless you all. We are praying for you!

~ your FBC family



"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philipians 1:6 ESV

First Brethren Church of South Bend

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																									
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September Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 9 - 3 Bonnie Swiatkowski & Sally Wagner
9 - 10 Connie Wood & Evelyn Zigler
9 - 17 Suzanne Bush & Dawn Powers
9 - 24 Bonnie Campbell & Cheryl Kisner

Financial Stewards

- 9 - 3 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
9 - 10 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
9 - 17 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
9 - 24 Angela Scott & Suzie Kresca

Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT)
September 8 - 2:30pm

Please join us for a great time of fellowship & good discussion on Micah. Enjoy this time for added learning from the Word!



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, September 16 at 8:00am. This is a great time for the men of our church to connect and encourage one another.



Trustee of the Month - Scott Kreska

Men's Monday Coffee Club

We will be meeting at 10:00am on Tuesday, September 5 & Monday, September 18. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.



All-Church Carry-In Lunch - Sunday, September 3, 12:00pm



Bonfire at the Youngens, Sunday, September 25, 5:00pm.



SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 9/8 - Philip Plaia
9/9 - Charles Smith
9/12 - Judy Rose-Walley
9/13 - Elizabeth Rose Wagers
9/14 - Grace Conley
9/14 - Vickie McCarty
9/20 - Evelyn Zigler
9/21 - Lori Lange
9/22 - Mary Wisniewski
9/23 - Kathy Fox
9/23 - Tim Wisniewski
9/23 - Pastor Fred Youngen
9/24 - Michael Colbert



Anniversaries

- 9/13 - Paul-Michael & Brenda Graf
9/19 - Tyler & Valerie Wagers
9/20 - John & Suzanne Bush
9/21 - Jack & Jennifer Kary

Blood Drive Monday, Sept. 18, 1-4:25pm



Recruit and schedule appointments here: https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/160625



Contact Janna if you have any questions.

Fall Pork Chop Dinner October 7, 2023, 3-6pm



Our Annual Fall Pork Dinner will be here soon, and we need your help! Volunteers are needed for Advertising and Sales, Kitchen & Food prep, Grills, Carry Out & Clean Up.

Tickets will be \$13 each. If you would like to help out with the dinner, please attend the meeting or contact Jen Kary. If you would like to donate money for purchasing the cookies, please see Kathi Ginter. If you would like to donate money for charcoal, please see Rich Hollister. This will be another great event for our community and our FBC Family! See Linda Kohman, Jen Kary or Mary Wisniewski with any questions.

First Brethren Church of South Bend

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team 9:30 AM Worship 10:50 AM MORE 12:00 PM At-church Picnic</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy LABOR DAY</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study 11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Parity 2:00 PM -5:00 PM Community Prayer</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2:30 PM Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team 9:30 AM Worship 10:50 AM MORE 12:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PATRIOT DAY</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study 11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Parity 2:00 PM -5:00 PM Community Prayer</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team 9:30 AM Worship 10:50 AM MORE 12:00 PM Deacons</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study 11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Peace Day</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Autumn Begins</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team 9:30 AM Worship 10:50 AM MORE 5:00 PM BONFIRE</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00 PM Nominating Committee celebrate yom kippur</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study 11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00 PM -5:00 PM Community Prayer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>BRETHREN RETREAT REFRESH YOUR LIFE</p>

Oct 2023

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Aug 2023

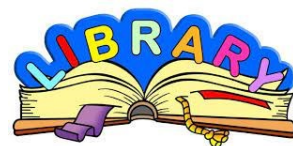
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Our FBC finances remain strong. We have been richly blessed with givers who faithfully provide to cover our financial obligations. Year-to-date through June we have received income of \$83,880 and incurred \$84,877 in expenses, which means our expenses have surpassed our income by about \$1,000. Overall, this is not concerning as the timing of some of our expenses is primarily causing this difference. I'm happy to report that we have not had any extraordinary expenses for the first half of the year. The trustees continue to make minor improvements to our property and equipment but there have been no major repairs or improvements. I want to thank our outstanding treasurer (Mary Wisniewski) and vice-treasurer (Rich Hollister) for their faithfulness in keeping our financial records in order and for their commitment to making sure our bills are paid timely. As you know, we have some major repairs on the horizon (parking lot and roof) so if you feel lead to give towards these projects, please mark your donation as "capital improvements". Financial statements are available upon request – please contact me or Janna to receive a copy.

~ FBC Board President, Jennifer Kary

We have a library that is full of books and videos and for many years Suzanne Bush has faithfully curated and cared for the contents. In the coming months, she will "retire" as the church librarian, which gives us the opportunity to evaluate our path forward. We have a few congregation members that faithfully use the library so we would like to continue to see the library remain in place. But we are also open to new approaches and ideas so a new librarian would have the option of continuing as-is or implementing new ideas.



If anyone is interested in being the new librarian or learning more about the role, please reach out Jennifer Kary to discuss.

BLESSINGS TO ALL!



I made it to the Brethren Church General Conference this year. I enjoyed visiting with my fellow church mice and finding out what is happening with other Brethren Churches. I came back very tired but I am glad I went.

I am planning on being very careful at the church garage sale on Saturday, August 5. I remember all the trouble I got into when I was a younger church mouse at the old church building. Please help in anyway you can to help raise money for the parking lot fund. I am sure you can make a cash donation if you wish.

I am not planning on going to the Big Event on August 19-20 at the Brethren Retreat Center but I hope some of you can go. There will be many special things taking place and many people to see. We will still have service here that day.

The fall Pork Chop Dinner will be Saturday, October 7. I love those chops. Be sure to tell everyone you know about it. Tickets will be available early September. Remember, if everyone volunteers to help, no one will have to work the whole day. It takes a lot of time to prepare and serve the food.

Save the date of Sunday, October 1 for the Brethren 3-fold communion celebration. Please come that day as it is always very meaningful.

It is hard to believe but our children, youth and college students will be back to school soon. Please pray they will have a safe and good year. Remember the teachers and staff, too.

Remember, I only share a very few things that happen so be sure to read the entire newsletter and attend church services regularly.

God bless you,

BENJAMIN



South Bend
FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH

4909 S. Ironwood Dr.
South Bend, IN 46614
(574) 291-4909

E-mail: firstbrethren@att.net

Return Service Requested

We're on the web!
firstbrethren.org

*"The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace."
- Psalm 29:11*

Mark your calendars now for the:

FALL PORK CHOP DINNER

Saturday, October 7, 2023

3:00—6:00pm

Carry-Out Dinners only

**Meal includes: Grilled Pork Chop, Potato Salad,
Baked Beans, Applesauce & Cookies**

Cost is \$13.00/meal.

**You can call the church at
(574) 291-4909 for more information.**

