

To Prepare for Sunday

To prepare for Sunday worship:

Ruth is defined by the three strikes society called on her: gender, nationality and marital status. Ruth will be with us, to share her own reflections! In *Three Strikes and Ruth's Babe*, Ruth is the outsider, who brings Life to the community. God desires to shower grace upon Crest Manor. Our choices can increase or restrict the flow. Please re-read the entire Ruth Story, perhaps in the Contemporary English Version (CEV), along with Romans 12:1-8, and reflect on the following questions.

1. Are there people I tend to call strikes against?
2. Have I ever had a strike called against me?
3. Would I recognize a Ruth or Rahab, if I saw one?
4. Might the Holy Spirit bring us new life, through the folk we tend to call out on strikes?

We will also have an Annual Conference report, with slides, from Linda Colwell.

Transition Update:

Our next phase, discerning vision, begins on Sept. 25. The question we seek to answer: *What is Jesus, the Head of Crest Manor COB, calling us to become and do, in the next two years?* Additional Sessions are October 9 & 23. Please begin preparing now, by reflecting on this challenging question, which most congregations struggle to answer: "What can we learn from the neighborhood surrounding the Crest Manor building? What resources exist in the neighborhood, which will help us grow as Jesus' disciples?" Note: *People to attend "our services"* is not a correct answer to this question!

Summer Sunday Schedule ends this Sunday, Sept. 4. The Fall through Spring schedule will be announced Sunday, and in next week's Herald.

Beginning Monday, September 12, the church office will return to Mon - Fri, 9 am - 2:30 pm.

The Herald

August 31, 2022



**Crest Manor Church
of the Brethren**
1342 Berkshire Drive
South Bend, IN 46614-6018
574-291-3748
Fax: 574-291-5962

Summer Worship Times

Zoom SS: 8:30am

In-person SS: 9:00am

Hybrid Worship: 10:00 am

Masks required in the
church building

Summer Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm
(closed Mondays)

Pastor Gary Martin
574-238-5475 (cell)
gmartin5@comcast.net

Pastor's Office Hours
Tuesdays 9am - 4pm
(Available anytime: cell or email)

**SPECIAL OFFERING
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

**NEW COMMUNITY
PROJECT**

LOOKING AHEAD

September 1

7pm Deacons

September 4

8:30am Biblical Studies (Zoom)

9:00am Reading/Interpreting the
Bible w/ Steve

Intergenerational Youth - w/
Michelle

10am Worship: *Three Strikes and
Ruth's Babe* (Ruth) Ruth 4

3pm Discussion Group (Zoom)

September 11

8:30am Biblical Studies (Zoom)

9:00am Reading/Interpreting the
Bible w/ Steve

Intergenerational Youth - w/
Michelle

10am Worship

3pm Discussion Group (Zoom)

September 12

Church office hours return to:
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2:30 pm

September 15

6:30pm Leadership Team

September 18

8:30am Biblical Studies (Zoom)

9:00am Reading/Interpreting the
Bible w/ Steve

Intergenerational Youth - w/
Michelle

10am Worship

3pm Discussion Group (Zoom)

September 22

7pm Book Club on Zoom



Upcoming Congregational Conversations

Sept. 25 TBD 'Vision'

Oct. 9 & 23 TBD 'Vision'

Deacon Training Opportunity

Saturday, Sept. 24, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, 58362 Beech Rd, Osceola
(574) 679-4519**

A FREE one-day discussion session w/ Discipleship Ministries

Whether you are a mature deacon or new to the call, this seminar is designed to open discussion on service and love. You are invited to join us in growing together in our ministry, and to receive support and insight from fellow experienced brothers and sisters. This event is FREE and open to all Church of the Brethren congregations in the Northern Indiana District. And it is NOT JUST FOR DEACONS: This class is open to all interested individuals who want to learn more about the call and care of shepherding.

Topics will include:

Biblical Background of Deacon Ministry

Purpose & Vision of YOUR Congregation's Deacon Ministry

Participation in Ordinances (anointing, baptism, Love Feast, etc.)

Utilizing Deacons' Spiritual Gifts, as well as Your Congregation

Approaches to Congregational Care (prayer, visitation, hospitality, evangelism)

Helping in Difficult Personal Situations (listening, crisis care)

Practical Application of Relationship Building: Handling Diverse Perspectives & Conflict; Well-being of the Congregation; Ministry of Listening & Presence

Using Social Media as a Relational Tool

Lunch provided, optional goodwill offering. Led by Pastor Stan Dueck from Discipleship Ministries. Please register at www.shfellowship.org/deacons.

Milepost 309

Connecting the Dots, Again

The four-part Ruth series, is designed to invite serious reflection by individuals for our own lives, and for the congregation as a whole. It's preparation for vision work, which begins Sept. 25.

Orpah's story communicated: Joining in what God is doing requires leaving our comfort zone. New vision (direction) for Crest Manor will require most (or all) of us to leave our personal comfort zone, and for the congregation to leave its comfort zone. The alternative, which we are free to choose, is continued decline.

Naomi's story communicated: Being emotionally honest in relating to our brothers and sisters, contributes to our individual and corporate wellbeing (salvation.) While vision work includes cognitive work, i.e. sharing our thoughts and perspectives with each other, such work must also include being emotionally honest in these conversations. It is not hyperbole to say this vision process is about matters of life and death.

Boaz' story communicated: Accountability, humility, and putting the community's wellbeing ahead of our own, enables us to do the right thing when we discover what God is doing among us. We won't come up with an excuse, as Boaz' cousin did. We will recognize we have things to learn which will change our methods and priorities—our direction.

Ruth's story communicated: We are called to go far beyond welcoming and caring for the "outsider." We will realize how much we have to learn from them, because if we look through the surface stuff, we discover that they understand things about God, which we do not.

Let's continue to bathe this vision process in prayer, so that the Holy Spirit moves among us providing Wisdom and encouragement as we work together
- Gary Martin

September Special Offering

New Community Project

2022 Program Highlights

Thank you, Crest Manor, for your ongoing support of the ministries of New Community Project – where would we be without you?!

One of the things your support makes possible are our efforts to empower women and educate girls in our partner areas: Myanmar, South Sudan, Rwanda, Congo, Malawi, and Nepal. From scholarships and hostels and sanitary materials for girls to microloans and training programs for women, we're doing whatever we can to give these sisters a better chance for a better life two hour Give a Girl a Chance program.

One recent highlight has been to begin supporting Chepang hilltribe girls in southern Nepal. When we met them this past year in a mountain community, the five girls graduating from 5th grade had nowhere to go – the next level of education was in the valley below and beyond their reach financially. One consequence of this would have been the very real prospect of early marriage – as young as 13 or 14 years old, or the possibility of being trafficked to India next door. We put this out to our network, and along with some of our existing funds, and came up with the \$20 per girl per month it will take to keep them on a path to a brighter future. Speaking of which, they do their part – walking an hour down the mountain path in the morning, and longer than that back up after school.

(Photo: teacher Rukmini Sharma, the key collaborator, and Ajina Chepang, student).



September Book Club

The next Book Club will meet Thursday, September 22nd from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. This month we will be reading No Cure for Being Human by Kate Bowler.

Everyone is invited to join us on Zoom.

Future Books include:

October: We Came, We Saw, We Left by Charles Wheelan

November: to be announced

December: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

January: Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer