

IN THE CHURCH

WEATHER RELATED CLOSING

Updated weather related closing process:

We will no longer send closing information to TV stations. When weather is bad, **please watch your e-mail early Sunday morning.** An email message will be sent to everyone. The few who do not have email, will receive a phone call.

Just 1 more person

A new small group focused on **Spiritual Gift Discernment**, needs one more to start. It will begin in early January, meet 7-8 times, and end. If interested, please contact Gary Martin as soon as possible.

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS

On Earth Peace

December Special Offering
\$350 was given

Food Bank of N IN

In December, 96#
food/household products given



January 11, 2023



Crest Manor Church of the Brethren

1342 Berkshire Drive
South Bend, IN 46614-6018
574-291-3748

Fax: 574-291-5962

Web: crestmanorcob@org

FB: CrestManorChurchOfTheBrethren

Email: crestmanor@sbcglobal.net

Zoom SS: 9:00am

In-person SS: 9:30am

Hybrid Worship: 10:30 am

**Masks are optional
in the building.**

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am - 2:30pm

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 JANUARY
CAMP MACK**

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 15

9am SS - Zoom

9:30am SS - In-person

10:30am An Epiphany Worship
Celebration: *Stand Up!*
Isaiah 60:1-6

3pm Discuss Group - Zoom

Thursday, 19

6:30pm Leadership Team

Sunday, January 22

9am SS - Zoom

9:30am SS - In-person

10:30am Worship

3pm Discuss Group - Zoom

Thursday, 26

7pm Book Club

Saturday, January 28

11am D.Y.S.C.O. meeting at Rulli's
Pizza, Elkhart then to:

- Bonneyville Mill, Bristol - sledding, skating
- Eby's Family Fun Center, Bristol

Sunday, January 29

9am SS - Zoom

9:30am SS - In-person

10:30am Worship: *The God Who Sees*
Genesis 16:1-10 (Hagar)
Frances Ringenberg

3pm Discuss Group - Zoom

Thursday, February 2

7pm Deacons meeting

To Prepare for Sunday

To prepare for worship:

Isaiah's prophesy (Is. 60), is good news for a discouraged Israel. The listener has only two things to do: stand up, and look around at what God is doing. The rest of the action is done by God. Israel was sitting in the rubble, and could not see what God was doing. Standing up requires changing our position. Getting out of our comfort zone enables us to see what God is doing. The story of the magi (Mt 2), revealed that Jesus came for the world, not just Israel. Please re-read our new vision, and reflect on a specific area in which you feel God's call to stand up.

Transition Update: We celebrate the congregation's approval of the proposed Vision Statement last Sunday. Some objectives will be pursued immediately. **Please read the Herald faithfully each week, since it is the primary source for vision implementation information.**

The last step in the Transition Process is evaluating the organizational structure, in light of the new vision: will it help or hinder vision achievement? "Structure" refers to all decision-making groups and committees—and how individuals are selected for these roles, as well as forum, and how pastoral leadership fits into the structure. Leadership Team has appointed a Structural Evaluation Task Group. It meets on January 16, and will report its initial findings to Leadership Team and the Congregation by the end of February. It will likely have information to report at the next Forum, on February 4.) Please support the work of the Task Group, in prayer.

IN THE COB

Anabaptism turns 500 in 2025. A first-ever Anabaptist bible is being produced, which is described as "an approach to Scripture that is Jesus-centered, interpreted together, and transforms our lives." The five hundredth anniversary in 2025 gives the church a unique opportunity to celebrate and dream. We can contribute to this endeavor, by participating in bible study groups of 4-6 individuals, for four sessions. The goal is to have 500 such groups among Anabaptist related denominations. There is some interest at Crest Manor—contact Harriet Hamer if you are interested. More details are available at [Anabaptism at 500](http://anabaptismat500.com) (<http://anabaptismat500.com>), or 1-800-245-7894.

@ CAMP MACK

"Reaching Higher and Deeper,"

a retreat at Camp Mack, Jan. 27-29, is an opportunity to contemplate our personal spiritual growth, through worship, workshops, spiritual practices and sacred play.

Dr. Cheryl Thomas, along with camp program staff, will lead the retreat. The goal is greater spiritual maturity, obtained by exploring the Word of God and understanding who we are in Christ, as well as who Christ is. Register on line: [Camper Account Login Page \(campwise.com\)](http://campwise.com), Or call: 574 658 4831.

For more details: [Home - Camp Mack](#).

This retreat is an example of experiential learning opportunities which are referenced in Crest Manor's new vision!

Milepost 442 *Hearing, or Using God's Word*

One of the issues Jonah had with the Lord, was the Lord's (spoken) Word. Jonah thought the Lord's Word should conform to Jonah's beliefs. If God's Word always supports our beliefs, we are *using* God's Word, instead of *hearing* God's Word. Ironically, the sailors and people of Nineveh, *heard* God's Word through God's Prophet Jonah, who himself, refused to *hear* God's Word.

One of the characteristics I admire in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was his unapologetic integration of his Christian faith based in God's Word, with his political agenda. His calls for civil rights, justice for those on the margins of society, and an end to the Vietnam War, were consistently grounded in his faith and God's Word.

In King's *I have a dream* speech (Aug 28, 1963, Washington, DC), he appealed to the OT prophets Amos (5:24), *But let justice roll down...*, and Isaiah (40:4-5), *Every valley shall be exalted....* He encouraged his listeners by quoting Psalm 30:5, *weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.* The gospel came through clearly in Galatians 3:28, *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

As Christians, I believe it is both possible and necessary, for our justice efforts to be grounded in the good news of God's Kingdom, as revealed in Jesus. It can be done in a way that is both effective, and at the same time respectful of other faith traditions. Jesus demonstrated that way, which has little, if anything, in common with what most Christians associate with evangelism today.

The third priority in our new Vision is: *Trusting God's grace and the Spirit's leading each day, the Crest Manor congregation extends a shalom presence, shaped by our Anabaptist/Pietist understanding of the Gospel, in our local and global neighborhoods.*

Let's *listen to the word that God has spoken*, and hear even greater clarity for living into the new direction.

-Gary Martin