

March 15, 2023



**Crest Manor Church
of the Brethren**

**1342 Berkshire Drive
South Bend, IN 46614-6018
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Web: crestmanorcob@org

FB: [CrestManorChurchOfTheBrethren](https://www.facebook.com/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 MARCH
ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING**

LOOKING AHEAD

Lent: *Created in the Image of God,
Shaped by Jesus*

Sunday, 19th

**9:00am Proposed Structure
Presentation (no SS)**

10:30am Lent 4: *Called to the Light*

3pm Discussion Group - Zoom

Thursday, 23rd

7pm Book Club on Zoom

March 24 - 26

Gary Martin will be away, visiting
family in Ontario

Sunday, 26th

**9:00am Proposed Structure
Discussion (no SS)**

10:30am Lent 5: Abe Bergen-sermon

3pm Discussion Group - Zoom

Monday, 27th

Church office closed

Tuesday, 28th

10:30am Church office opens

Friday, 31st

6pm Movie Night: 'Chocolat'

Sunday, April 2

**9:00am Proposed Structure
Action (no SS)**

10:30am Palm Sunday

3pm Discussion Group - Zoom

Thursday, 6th

7pm Maundy Thursday: Love Feast,
Foot Washing, Communion

To prepare for worship:

John's story of Jesus healing the man born blind (9:1-41) is both delightful and sobering. When the healed beggar is interrogated by the Pharisees, he demonstrated both physical and emotional healing, in boldly pointing out flaws in their line of questioning. They are the ones groping in the dark. In 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Samuel needs Light to see God's direction for regime change in Israel. Reflect: Has Jesus reversed my blindness into sight?

Transition Update:

Please plan to participate in the congregational meeting on March 19, at 9:00am, when the proposed structure changes will be presented. There will be adequate time for clarification questions. The meeting will be available on zoom. There will be a repeat presentation for those who cannot participate on March 19. If you are interested, please contact Gary Martin immediately. A date will be set which works for those who are interested.

On March 26, at 9:00am, we will discuss the proposal in circle groups. A third meeting takes place on April 2, for additional discussion, and if ready, action on the proposal. The proposal offers a viable way forward, to effectively implement our new Vision. Congregational ownership of the proposal, is required to make it viable.

An Entertaining Transition Event!

'Chocolat', a 2002 movie featuring Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, and Johnny Depp, will be shown at 6:00pm, Friday, March 31. The story is set in a French village, during Lent, 1959. It is an intriguing metaphor for what can happen in a congregational transition period. Treats (and a study guide) will be provided.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

March 19 has been designated as a special day of giving for "One Great Hour". You are invited to share as you are able. OGHS works through many different program opportunities, including

- Intercultural Ministries
- New and Renew (church planting & revitalization)
- Older Adult Ministries
- Organizational Leadership, Spiritual formation and congregational care
- Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- and much more.

From Union Center COB

Union Center Church has a new email address:
office@unioncenterchurch.org

Camp Mack is Now Hiring **Year-round & Seasonal Positions**

Go to the following link to find all the opportunities!!
<https://www.campmack.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Milepost 505 Repurposed

Change does not mean the former was wrong!

When we moved 13 years ago, to an old house with a number of big old trees, I built a compost bin out of repurposed concrete blocks, amply spaced for air circulation. They came from our son's farm where he was removing an obsolete milk-tank room in a barn. The bin has helped to repurpose leaves into tons of compost over the years, until one of the massive trees crushed it a year ago.

Some of the massive Studebaker buildings in South Bend, have been repurposed. Historically, resourceful Brethren, women and men, have excelled at repurposing things, great and small. Most of us have a repurposing story or two.

Crest Manor faces an opportunity to repurpose itself, as a faith community. Let's not be distracted by thoughts of repurposing the building. That may or may not be considered down the road. For now, we are called to stay laser focused on repurposing the congregation! That means repurposing us! The new vision, and proposed structure, are all about repurposing who we are, and what we do.

The repurposing image addresses one point which has often become a stumbling block when congregations face change: Change does not mean the former was wrong. The former was right for that time, like the Studebaker buildings were. But that time is past. Something new is needed.

In preparation for the Proposed Structure presentation this Sunday, please prayerfully review our Mission and Summary Vision Statements. -Gary Martin

Mission Statement

As a Christian community and part of the family of God, we reach out to welcome all people and extend God's love by continuing the liberating work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.

Vision Statement Summary, 2023-2024

Trusting God's grace and the Spirit's leading each day, the Crest Manor congregation

Embraces God's transforming presence to deepen our spiritual lives;

Welcomes, includes, and connects all people, building friendships and valuing each person's gifts;

Extends a *shalom* presence, shaped by our Anabaptist/Pietist understanding of the Gospel, in our local and global neighborhoods.

March Book Club

The next Book Club will meet this Thursday evening, March 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Zoom. This month we will be reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.

Everyone is invited to join us!



Love Feast

Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm
Crest Manor Chapel