



Re-Membering the Body of Christ

It's not often a book you read is something you still refer to 15 years later. One of those books for me is *Torture and Eucharist*, by William Cavanaugh, a Catholic priest. I know, sounds like a fascinating book, eh?

Here's Cavanaugh's premise: He studied the Pinochet regime in Chile, where people were disappearing, being tortured, and reappearing in their communities. He was looking at what the role of the church was and could have been in response to that reality. Cavanaugh says that torture is not primarily intended on the physical body; torture is intended to rip apart the social body. It creates an environment where no one knows who to trust, everyone is suspicious of everyone else, and fears, sorrows, and weaknesses are silenced. Isolation and increased fear is the result of the dismantling of the social body. And where isolation and fear are prevalent, people cannot work together with creativity, cannot stand up together against the regime causing the torture.

In response, Cavanaugh says, the church is called to be the place where we choose trust over fear, where we choose relationship over isolation, where we choose gathering, eating, storytelling, and laughing together, in direct and radical opposition to the separation that pulls at us in the broader society. Cavanaugh names one particular ritual that re-members the Body of Christ: Communion. We break bread together and recognize Christ in our midst, and we stand together as a direct counter-witness to fragmentation.

I was talking to a psychologist about this, and I said "We don't live in a time of torture, but..." His response was, "I'm not so sure about that." He was pointing to the deep suffering, and psychological, economic, and relational abysses that people live through in our own neighborhoods. We certainly can relate to the sense that we aren't sure who we can or should trust. We certainly can relate to the sense of separation from "those people." And isolation and loneliness are epidemics in our society, together one of the biggest health risks for Americans currently.

So when we gather for worship, for meals, for prayer, for Bible study, for meetings, we can understand ourselves as doing something radical. We are not just creating a nice, friendly space. We are standing as counter-witness against fear. We are not just "doing what we do." We are putting the Body of Christ back together, by the Spirit's power flowing through us. Our world needs us to be the space where we choose trust, love, relationship.

Jesus lived in a time of physical torture. He and his disciples experienced torture and its ripple effects of fear and isolation. And Jesus' answer to that, throughout his life, and especially after his resurrection, was to send people toward one another and to show up in their midst. Food on the beach, Spirit's peace breathed in a place of fear, disciples sent far and wide... The world needs the Body of Christ in its midst. May we be part of mending and healing; may we be part of the Body of Christ.

Laura



Look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District
on our District blog at:

<https://southcentralindianacob.com/blog/>

To subscribe to the blog and get new articles by email,
click the brown gear icon at the top of the website.

Also, follow South/Central Indiana District on Facebook
to see current information and upcoming events.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

February can be an exciting time of year. Along with the ever changing weather, February seems to transition us from the dead of winter to early spring. To start the month out is Groundhog Day on February 2nd with Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog with the forecasting ability as to how long winter will last. Right in the middle of this transition month comes Valentine's Day on February 14th. Lots of red hearts, gold cupids, and chocolate of all sorts, sizes and shapes. This is the time of year to talk about love.

In our conversations, the word love has many meanings. For example, I love that new sandwich at Burger King. Don't you love the new Amy Grant album? That new Chevy truck looks great; I would sure love to have one of those parked in my driveway. Our English language word "love" doesn't separate the feelings between my wife and a new truck. And we often use the word love when we mean fondness, friendship, romantic interest, comrade, great like or appreciation. All those fit within the bounds of love; however lets look at a conversation Jesus has about love.

John 21: 15-17 NIV

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

There are three Greek words for love: Eros-romantic love; Agape-sacrificial love; Phileo- brotherly love. In the first question, Jesus is asking Peter "Do you Agape Me?" Peter answered, "Yes Lord...I Phileo you." In the second question Jesus asked, "Peter do you Agape me?" Peter's reply was, "Yes Lord you know..." In the third question Jesus asked Peter, "Do you Phileo me?" Broken-hearted, Peter declares, "You know all things and you know I do." Jesus gave Peter opportunity to affirm both Agape and Phileo love towards his lord. Peter expressed a deep brotherly affection and a trusting sacrificial love for Jesus and His work in the Kingdom. Where are we in that trust, love relationship with Jesus Christ? Like Peter, may we all say, "Yes, Lord, you know we love you."

I pray that each of us will experience "Eros," "Phileo," and "Agape" love in this Valentine season.

From your Moderator
Bruce Dunk
Lower Deer Creek COB

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of December 31, 2023

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$14,238.75	\$87,231.97
Restricted Income	\$0.00	\$7,050.00
Other Income	\$71,789.56	\$218,094.72
Total Income	\$86,028.31	\$312,376.69
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$12,796.10	\$146,815.39
Restricted Expenses	\$0.00	\$22,618.62
Total Expenses	\$12,796.10	\$169,434.01
Net	\$73,232.21	\$142,942.68
District Fund Balance	\$1,130,968.79	

FEBRUARY 2024 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

- February 7 - BLI Task Team Meeting - 11:00 am - District Office
- February 10 - Camp Mack Board Meeting - Camp Mack
- February 15 - Ministry Credentialing Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm—District Office
- February 25 - Mark Cripe Licensing Service - 1:00 pm - Lafayette CoB

2024 District Directory Updates

Its that time of year again!! 2024 District Directory Update Forms are being sent to all churches this week.

Please take a few moments to review your church's form and make any changes; then send it back to the district office by e-mail or USPS mail or online at: <https://forms.gle/QnUvgkogbjDnUFdx6> .

If there are no changes, a quick e-mail or phone call to let us know that would be greatly appreciated! Please have all changes in by January 31.

FEBRUARY DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

February 4 - Join us as we lift up Burnettsville CoB and the Northern Indiana District.

February 11 - Join us as we lift up Christ Our Shepherd CoB and the Mid-Atlantic District.

February 18 - Join us as we lift up Eel River Community CoB and the Missouri & Arkansas District.

February 25 - Join us as we lift up Four Mile CoB and the Northern Plains District.



Thank you for Stamps!!

Thanks to all who brought canceled stamps to the district office or district conference! Because there were more than usual, this round netted \$35 that is being sent to Compañeros en Ministerio for their work in Mexico.

DISTRICT CHURCH UPDATES

- **Anderson** - Is currently in the search process to fill a new part-time ministry position, Leader for Growth and Community Engagement. For more information about this position, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a7uN41DD7o8pDfI0J_cp-3b6B-cfDeIsJr6gRs4bj5s/edit?usp=sharing
- **Eel River Community**—Is seeking to fill a part-time position on their ministry team.
- **Guernsey** - Is beginning the search process.
- **Manchester** - Is in the search process.

HELP NEEDED



(First Church of the Brethren Cemetery in Indiana)

Lybrook Cemetery Workday

(sadly the cemetery has fallen into disrepair. We need to preserve our history. Some of the graves are of children that only lived a short time and this is the only record of their existence)

Saturday, March 9 🗝 Starting at 8 AM

Gather at:

Four Mile Church of the Brethren
5022 E Kitchel Rd
Liberty, IN 47353

(shuttle provided due to limit parking at site)

Lunch provided by the church

MOST NEEDED:

Pick-up trucks
shuttle drivers

Chain Saws
clippers for weeds

Weed eaters
kitchen help

Laborers to carry wood and debris

RSVP by March 1

Anitra Kraus

440-444-7017 or akraushouse@gmail.com

(If unable to attend but would love to volunteer to help contact Anitra)
This is more than a one day project.

The Brethren Academy will offer the in-person course, *Polarization as an Opportunity for Ministry*, at Bethany Theological Seminary (Richmond, IN) from April 11-13 2024, with an additional Zoom session before and after. Russell Haitch, Professor of Theology and Human Science, will be the instructor. This course fulfills a required Biblical/Historical/Theological course and fulfills the Bethany Theological Seminary Experience. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course.

The deadline to register for this course is March 7, 2023.

This course will examine ways that politics, evolving media, AI, and other forces are driving divisions. At the same time, it will explore how leaders can help people find common ground—and higher ground—in situations of strife.

For more information, see this brochure:

<https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Revised-Polarization-brochure.pdf>

POWERHOUSE REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Greetings from DYSCO - District Youth Serving Christ Openly - the district youth cabinet for the Northern Indiana district of the Church of the Brethren! We are coordinating Powerhouse, the regional youth conference, for this school year. It has been planned by Manchester University in the past. This year, it is February 16-18. (The schedule is on the second page). It will be at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana.

While Manchester University is not taking on the full planning, we will still have Church of the Brethren students from Manchester come and help us out. We will also have some similar things from the past as well. There will be workshops from Brethren Volunteer Service and Faith X. There will also be other workshop opportunities and worship services.

Our main speaker this year will be David Radcliff, director of the New Community Project in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The theme will be "Caring for Others and Caring for God's Creation." (The scripture theme verses will be announced later-we wanted to get this "save the date" out there).

The cost will be \$99 for youth, and \$79 for advisors. If you need financial assistance, please reach out to Val Kline or Lucas Kauffman. Stay tuned about how to register as well. It will be open through Friday, February 2nd. In the meantime, before registration, if you would like to email us and let us know how many youth may be coming from your churches, please do, and then we can also email you to let you know when registration officially opens.

Thank you!

Lucas Kauffman - lmkauffman@spartans.manchester.edu or lucaskauffman1210@gmail.com; 574-312-0225 (Feel free to send a text)

Val Kline- v3kline@hotmail.com; 765-606-8541

POWERHOUSE 2024 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 16

- 7:00-8:00pm-Registration
- 8:00-8:45pm-Get to Know You activity/games
- 9:00pm-9:30pm-Opening session
- 9:30-11:30pm-Free time/snacks (movie option for two hours)? Games?
- 11:45pm-Get ready for bed
- 12:00am-In rooms and lights out (Room checks by advisors)

Saturday, Feb. 17

- 8:30am-9:15am-Breakfast
- 9:30am-10:30am-Service project
- 10:45am-11:45am-Worship service
- 12:00pm-1:00pm-Lunch
- 1:00pm-2:00pm-1st Workshop option
- 2:15pm-3:15pm-2nd Workshop option
- 3:15-5:15pm-free time (Free time options)
- 5:30pm-6:30pm-Supper
- 7:00pm-8:00pm-Worship service

- 8:00pm-8:45pm-Small group worship reflection from first two worship services
- 8:45pm-11:30pm-Free time/snacks (movie option, games)
- 11:45pm-Get ready for bed
- 12:00am-In rooms and lights out (room checks by advisors)

Sunday, Feb. 18

- 8:30am-Breakfast
- 9:30am-10:30am-Clean-up/pack up/feedback
- 10:30am-11:30am-Closing worship

Camp Mack Upcoming Events



- **February 11 Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day:** Travel between Salamonie and Mississinewa to view migrating bald eagles and end your day at the roost. Learn about their reintroduction and comeback in Indiana and how to age an eagle that you see. Cost: \$35, snacks and transportation. Saturday from 1p–9p. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then travel offsite. Dress for the weather.
- **February 12 or 14 CSI/Forensics Homeschool Outdoor Education Day**
- **February 15–18 Quilt Retreat:** Arrival on Thursday or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival (3 p.m. or after). Bring sewing supplies and projects, sewing machine, table light, show and tell items, bedding for a twin bed, towel, toiletries, etc.
- **February 23–26 Scrap and Craft Retreat:** 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday with arrival options. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival. Each participant will have a 7– or 8-foot table, power strip access, Wi-Fi, and trash can.
- **February 24, Scrap and Craft Get-A-Way Day:** 9a to 4p. \$25 includes lunch. February 24 Knitting and Crocheting Get-A-Way Day: 9a to 4p. \$25 and includes lunch. This is for all levels of experience.

To register or for more information go to: www.campmack.org or call (574) 658-4831.

Summer Camp registration is open! Go to <https://www.campmack.org/summer-camp/> to find out more.

The poster for Song & Story Fest 2024 features a scenic background of a lake surrounded by green trees. The text is centered and reads: "SONG & STORY FEST 2024", "JULY 7 - 13", "CAMP BRETHERN HEIGHTS", "RODNEY, MICHIGAN". Below this, it lists "FEATURING MUSICIANS:" followed by names: GREG & RHONDA BAKER, BRIAN KRUSCHWITZ, ERIN & CODY FLORY ROBERTSON, HANNAH BUTTON-HARRISON, TIM & BYRON JOSEPH & MARLENE WOOD, LOUISE BRODIE, JENNY & JEFFREY FAUS FAMILY, CHRIS GOOD, PEG LEHMAN, MIKE STERN. It also lists "FEATURING STORYTELLERS:" followed by names: SUSAN BOYER, DEBBIE EISENBISE, ANNA LISA GROSS, KATHY GUISEWITE, JIM LEHMAN, JONATHAN HUNTER. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "On Earth Peace" featuring a globe. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "CAMP BRETHERN HEIGHTS" featuring a stylized tree and the letters "ftr".

Song and Story Fest is close by this summer and features these musicians from our district:
Brian Kruschwitz and Greg and Rhonda Baker.

More information can be found at: https://www.onearthpeace.org/song_and_story_fest_2024

Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

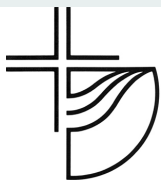
District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

South/Central Indiana District
Church of the Brethren
PO Box 32
North Manchester, IN 46962



Church of the Brethren

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