

JOURNAL

Brethren Press

Wednesday it's a book signing doubleheader. 1-1:30 p.m. Robert Johansen, professor emeritus of Political Science and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, will sign copies of his new book *Where the Evidence Leads: A Realistic Strategy for Peace and Human Security*.

Then, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. meet Bill Kostlevy and Jay Wittmeyer, co-editors of the new Brethren Press book *Hoosier Prophet: Selected writings of Dan West*. In this book of selected essays, letters, and speeches, you will see a glimpse of West's prophetic vision for Brethren and for the world. (P.S.: It's just possible that Thursday morning's Brethren history skit during worship may have something to do with needing a cow, not a cup.)

Tim Curtis of Ottumwa, Iowa, was selected in the Brethren Press drawing, winning \$250 worth of books for the Pickwick Community Church library. Stop by Brethren Press every day to enter the drawing for your church.

Preorder your Wrap-Up DVD at the Brethren Press bookstore for only \$19.99, a \$10 discount. This is a great way to report to your congregation.



Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – Omaha, Nebraska

Anna Lisa Gross: 'The Joy of Little Deaths'

Anna Lisa Gross, pastor of Faith Formation at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind., as well as interim co-district executive minister for South Central Indiana, explores the paradoxical encounter between death and joy in Luke 15:11-32, known popularly as the parable of the Prodigal Son.

"I'm looking at the deaths in the story. The father says that his son has been dead. When that son asks for his inheritance he is in effect calling his father dead. And there are others. I'm looking at all these deaths. But it is through death and complete self-sacrifice we come to abundant life." Gross likened our recent experiences to the deaths in the Prodigal's story. "We are in a time that feels like death. Church conflict, split, through membership loss, and all of that, the church is experiencing institutional death. But if we give ourselves a way to God's resurrection, what abundant life awaits us?"

Gross and her husband, Phillip Zink, recently moved to Joyfield Farm and built a home "with help from my father Bob Gross and our neighbor Cliff Kindy." Their new puppy Kairoi, "a live-stock guardian dog," is eight months old and weighs over 100 pounds. She enjoys walking, knitting, and audio books, "usually at the same time."



Anna Lisa Gross

Tuesday's Offering

Tuesday's offering will support Girls, Inc. of Omaha. They have been serving girls ages 5-18 for over 45 years. Committed to nurturing girls to be strong, smart, and bold, they equip girls with basic life skills. Your generous gifts of supplies and money will support this ongoing work. Thank you for supporting our Witness to the Host City. Please write checks out to Girls, Inc. of Omaha.

Monday's offering for ministerial training for international leaders totaled \$6,952.48.

"We were really brave, as a little church of eight. I didn't realize we were willing to risk arrest, or maybe death to do what we did. These first eight drew strength from each other, they drew strength from their faith in Christ. We could use a lot of that right now, today."



For those experiencing emotional feelings or having challenges processing disagreements, the Listening Team is available at the back of the delegate tables, or call the Conference office at 420-599-6374.

Election Results

Moderator-elect: Madalyn Metzger

Conference secretary: David K. Shumate

Program and Arrangements Committee: Jacob Crouse

Mission and Ministry Board,
Area 1: Joel Gibbel

Mission and Ministry Board,
Area 2: Rosanna Eller McFadden

Bethany Theological Seminary
Trustee, representing colleges:
Jonathan Paul Frye

Bethany Theological Seminary
Trustee, representing clergy:
Laura Stone

Eder Financial Board:
Kevin R. Boyer

On Earth Peace Board:
Doug Richard

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits
Advisory Committee: Angela Finet

Want a little history?

Brethren Benefit Trust has changed their name to Eder Financial! They've brought along BBT pens and pads and you can take some home with you. Drop by the Eder Financial booth and pick up some history. **And while you're there,** why not take a selfie at the Eder River, where the first Brethren baptism took place in 1708? It's easier than you think. Take four shots (free) by yourself or with a friend at the special photo booth, self-serve, or representatives of Eder will be glad to help!

The Blood Drive continues tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is still time to sign up.

The Conference Journal is edited by Frank Ramirez, with help from the press team, and is sponsored by the Conference Office.

Tonight after Worship



**Bittersweet Gospel Band 8:30-9:30
Peter Klewit Grand Ballroom**

Even if you've never heard the Bittersweet Gospel Band, you'll see a lot of familiar faces tonight. That's because music coordinator Scott Duffey brought together the band to form the core of the worship.

You'll see a lot of familiar faces at tonight's concert because the core of the worship ensemble this week is drawn from the group's membership, which is pretty fluid, and always includes new faces. This eclectic group was founded by Gilbert Romero as a response to a family tragedy. The band has performed all over the world—in churches, jails, rehab shelters, schools, concert venues, almost every situation imaginable.

Their latest CD, *When Grandma Prays*, includes the title song, written by Duffey, as well as a remastered version of Romero's classic "Beans and Rice and Jesus Christ." The band performs in English and Spanish, and has traveled all over the United States as well as Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

Come join the party as they sing, "*We're on a journey of life; it's a journey of love; a journey of joy.*"

Here is now our Brethren
landmark. We are we
again. With joy.

*When grandma prays, the doors
of heaven open.*

*My grandma prays and I don't
understand.*

*Cause when grandma prays,
God hears her every petition,
and responds with love's com-
passion,
and gives me some new direc-
tion.*

When grandma prays.



By the Numbers

Registration as of noon. Delegates 425; nondelegates 748; total 1,173. Virtual registrations 142.

Worship attendance: 867 in person; virtual English stream 325; virtual Spanish stream 9; YouTube 32; Facebook 47.



Photo: Donna Parcell