



Theme Statement

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost amidst tongues of fire and miracles of speaking and hearing, the people were amazed and perplexed. Peter explained to them that the words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled:

*¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18 NRSVUE)*

Scholar Walter Brueggemann in his classic work *The Prophetic Imagination* argued that the role of a prophet is to imagine new possibilities. Perhaps one reason the church remains mired in the same old patterns is that we have lost our ability to envision anything better.

Paradoxically, Brueggemann suggested that a prophet's visions and dreams for a hopeful future often reappropriate themes and symbols from the past that are rooted in God's call and faithfulness—a newness that is so old, he wrote, that it has been forgotten.

When I was a young man leaving for a year abroad, a mentor encouraged me to “remember who you are.” Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we've come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking.

The second verse of the hymn “What is this place” (HWB 1) suggests that “dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.” What's old can be new again. “What a commission it is,” wrote Brueggemann, “to express a future that none think imaginable!”

Imagine!

—Don Fitzkee, Moderator

Daily Themes

Each worship service will focus on a theme and symbol from our denomination's biblical heritage. Speakers will be asked to reexamine and reappropriate historic Brethren themes for our time.

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Preacher: Don Fitzkee

Symbol: Cross

Theme: Radical Discipleship

Suggested Scriptures: Luke 9:23-27, 14:25-33

Summary: In their quest to be faithful to Jesus, our spiritual ancestors made great sacrifices. What is the cost of being a follower of Jesus today? Is the cross just about what Jesus did for us, or are we still called to take up our cross and follow him?

Monday, June 29, 2026

Preacher: Beth Jarrett

Symbol: Bible

Theme: A New Testament Church

Suggested Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 1:1-5, 14

Summary: What does it mean to be “a people of the Book” who accept the New Testament as our creed? And how does God's authoritative written Word relate to Jesus, the Living Word?

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Preacher: James Washington

Symbol: Dove

Theme: Peace

Suggested Scriptures: Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Romans 12:14-21

Summary: Can we be “blessed peacemakers” in the world if we can't get along with children of God in our own church? What does it mean to be ministers of reconciliation? How do we overcome evil with good?

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Preacher: Becky Zapata

Symbol: Table

Theme: Community

Suggested Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:9-10

Summary: Our church's somewhat archaic-sounding name claims we are family. We greet each other as “brother” and “sister” at Annual Conference. How do we “love one another with mutual affection” in a deeply polarized church and world? How do we honor all parts of “one body with many members”?

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Preacher: Caleb Kragt

Symbol: Basin & Towel

Theme: Service

Suggested Scriptures: John 13:1-17; Luke 22:24-27

Summary: Does performing the symbolic act of feetwashing make any practical difference in how we treat other people? Jesus was among us as one who serves. Are we still known by the manner of our exemplary living and serving?