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PASTOR'S DESK

Broken and Beautiful

By Pastor Jonathan Cornell

Sometimes the most beautiful things in this world come not from the unblemished, but the broken.

As I stood in the gift shop at the Christmas Lutheran Church and Diyar Consortium in Bethlehem, I picked up a little cross with a dove in the middle.

"Is this broken glass?" I asked.

"Ah yes," the clerk said, "we began making ornaments from the fragments of broken windows, bottles, and other glass items broken by soldiers after the wall around our city was built. So much of our lives was being torn down and torn away—as the wall was being built—that we had to find a way to remind one another that God was present even in broken places. They remind us that beauty and light is still possible and can still shine through imperfect and broken vessels."

There before me was a basket of ornaments: crosses, fish, angels, and doves, bound together by metal in a collage of blue, green, and red glass. These ornaments



are not only an item to be sold in a gift shop, but are a tangible metaphor of what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7 when he writes:

"We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us... (we) always carry in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."

There in my hand Paul's words were coming to life, brokenness redeemed now declaring light.

What do you have that serves as a reminder that even though things may not be perfect, Christ's light still shines in your life?

As the Church body, we are able to minister to one another in our brokenness. I believe that we are being invited into a new season of discernment and prayer as we seek to live what it means to be Kingdom people in Wabash. We are the clay jars, cracked, broken, patched together, but within us is the light of life. It's through the cracks that others can see that great light.

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Broken and Beautiful (con't)

So what does this mean for us?

Transparency – We desire to be a body who does not protect others from our brokenness and struggle. When a member hurts, when a member is in pain, it is felt by all. Individual members heal not through isolation, but through relocation.

Prayerfulness – When asked what we could do for the Church in Bethlehem, living in a challenging time, their response was so simple and profound we were taken aback: pray. Let us renew our commitment to prayer this summer for our church and for our world.

Faithfulness – As we read this weekend in Hebrews: “do not neglect meeting together as some are in the habit of doing.” Through our worship and community life, small groups and meals together, we practice the disciplines of prayer, community, and Christ’s presence among us.

How will Christ’s light shine through you?

Jonathan
 Pastor Jonathan
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Pentecost Sunday

We are thrilled to welcome the community from Amistad Christiana, a bilingual (Spanish/English) church from Fort Wayne to join us this Pentecost Sunday. Worship will be led by the Amistad Praise Team, word and song will be in Spanish and English, Holy Communion will be celebrated together.

Amistad Christiana is a PCUSA Church plant, and is a part of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities. However, they have been a worshipping body for nearly a decade, meeting at the former Calvary Third Presbyterian Church. They are led by Pastor Leo Pech, his wife Sybel, and their three boys.

After worship all are invited to a pitch-in lunch hosted by Amistad, held at the Wabash City Park. If you plan to attend, please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share. Come worship with the voice of all nations.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1st – Virginia McSpadden
- 3rd – Laura Helm
- 3rd – Coty Leep
- 4th – Denise Leep
- 8th – Susie Jones
- 8th – Kale Sparling
- 10th – Lee Ann George
- 10th – Al Plummer
- 12th – Helen Shanks
- 16th – Emily Sparling
- 19th – Janet Halderman
- 19th – Martha Helm
- 21st – Sandy Mitting
- 22nd – Tim Eubank
- 23rd – Jeremy Wright
- 26th – Andy Maggart
- 26th – Diane Miller
- 26th – Cindy Elliott
- 26th – Brynlie Gouvan

Anniversaries:

- 5th – Al & Pat Plummer
- 7th – Ray & Julie Chowning
- 10th – Steve & Sue Henderson
- 11th – Matt & Jamie Brane
- 11th – Dan & Judy Risk
- 18th – Bill & Jane Skeans
- 22nd – Bill & Tracy Wimberly
- 25th – Steve & Lori Foust
- 26th – Bob & Janet Halderman

Community & Missions

*Loving people
with the heart of Christ
in the heart of Wabash*

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the F.I.S.H. food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting macaroni and cheese.

WPC MISSION PARTNERS

- Peabody Retirement Community
- Kemmerer Village
- Meals on Wheels
- City of Refuge (Ghana)
- Thammavongsa Family Mission
- Wabash Ministerial Association's Assistance Program
- Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
- White's Family Residential Service
- Winchester Community Center
- 85 Hope
- Arc of Wabash County
- The Access
- Campus Life
- F.I.S.H.
- Character Building of Wabash County

OUR CUBA TRIP

Four Presbyterians left Wabash on February 3, 2017, for a trip we will always remember—we were on our way to Cuba! The sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the country were strange and wonderful. We traveled to 8 Presbyterian churches and saw how God's love reaches far beyond the borders of the United States. We learned these small congregations provide food, do laundry, minister, and maintain the Living Water systems for their neighbors. The churches are a place where youth can gather, seniors can attend exercise classes, doctors can provide care to diabetic children, and where musicians perform free community concerts. The ministers serving these congregations receive their education from the *Seminario Evangelico de Teologia* (SET) of Matanzas, Cuba.



We saw several opportunities to partner with our Cuban neighbors—building projects, kitchen remodeling, roof repairs, etc. Our group and Mission committee agree that if we can finance the education for one seminary student, the effects will be far reaching. We learned that the cost to provide that education to one student is \$400 per month for 4 years. If you would like to commit to one month for a four-year period, please let Pastor Jonathan or Kari know. We have 3 months covered to date and ask for prayers and consideration for this mission. One minister = 20 to 30 parishioners = up to 200 people in the community!

Blessings,
Sandy Mitting
Mission Co-chair

INTERESTED IN GOING TO CUBA?

Did you hear about WPC's trip to Cuba and feel God's tug? Would you like to see for yourself how the Church is serving and leading in Jesus' name in Cuba?

Mark your calendars: February 2-12, 2018 we are exploring a return trip to Cuba. See Pastor Jonathan for details.

June Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Parents, just a reminder that there is no Godly Play on June 4th or 11th so children can participate in the service with their families. Enjoy!</p>				1	2 Friday Book Study (11am)	3
4 PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) Special Offering: Pentecost Offering	5	6	7	8 Kari Out of Office Missions Team (6:30pm) Buildings & Grounds Team (7pm) Worship Team (7pm)	9 Friday Book Study (11am)	10
11 Church in the Park and Church Picnic (10am @ City Park) Loose Offering: Gas Vouchers	12	13 ROMEO Men's Lunch (12:30pm @ Michael's Diner)	14 Kari Out of Office	15 Session (7pm)	16 Friday Book Study (11am)	17
18 FATHER'S DAY Father's Day Breakfast (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	19 Helping Hands Ministry	20	21	22	23 Friday Book Study (11am)	24
25 Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	26	27 JULIET Women's Breakfast (8am @ Fried Egg)	28	29	30 Friday Book Study (11am)	



The **Pentecost Offering** helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Our 40% of the offering will go toward the Access Youth Center.

Business Notes

May Session Minutes

- Session did not meet in May.
- Next Session meeting is scheduled for June 15th.

Loose Offering | WPC's Gas Voucher Program

The loose cash that is collected on June 11th will help provide gas vouchers to those in our community who come to the church for aid.

So far this year, you've helped 26 individuals get to important doctor's appointments and job interviews, or be with families during times of emergency. Thank you!

Financial Report

	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Total 2017</u>
Income:	\$27,062	\$90,656
Expenses:	<u>26,987</u>	<u>92,499</u>
Balance:	\$75	-\$1,843

**We pulled \$6,000 from the Endowment Account to cover our expenses.*

[Give online.](#) Use our secure site to set up recurring gifts (like pledges) or for one-time gifts (like paying for a Bible study book or supporting our Mission Partners).

Worship & Connect

Church in the Park

On Sunday, June 11th, 10am, we will gather for worship and fellowship in the park. **Please note that we are changing the location back to Wabash City Park.** Families are encouraged to worship together during service. We will provide the meat and beverages and ask that families provide salads, sides, and desserts. During this time, we will also celebrate graduations, and we will accept our Loose Offering for the gas vouchers this day.

Father's Day Breakfast

Men, it's your turn! The ladies of the church will be preparing breakfast for you, Sunday, June 18th at 9am. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

Arts Camp – Almost Full!

We are partnering with local artists to show kids how to use the arts to worship God. For kids ages 4-12. Saturday mornings in July. Cost is \$25/camper. Scholarships available. Space is limited. Contact Kari to register.

Connect & Serve

Bibles for Godly Play

This summer, kids will get the chance to dig into some of the great spiritual practices that help them explore how they like to "be" with God. One of these practices is reading the Bible on their own. We need at least 15 Bibles so each child can follow along with the story in their own Bible this summer. Can you help buy them? Simply write "Bibles" or "Godly Play" on your offering envelope or the memo section of your check. Thanks!

WPC Men's Softball

Mark your calendars, men: July 17th is the first game for our summer softball league. If you would like to play and haven't let Pastor Jonathan know, please do so soon. Cost per person will be around \$40.

Study Guides Available

Each week, Pastor Jonathan creates a study guide, including discussion questions for deeper reflection on that week's Sunday message. These are great resources for Thumbtack group conversation or personal devotion time, and can be found at the back of the sanctuary or on the Sermon page of the website.

DIG DEEPER

What Do You Expect?

By Kari Bartkus

"Are you ready to hear what God might have to say to you today?" It's one of the questions the kids hear every week as they enter the Godly Play classroom, and frankly, it's not always one that I can say "yes" to.

Am I ready to hear what God has to say to me? Sure. I'd love to hear His words of reassurance, love, and compassion. My soul needs to be revived, my spirit refreshed, my heart encouraged. But on those days when I'm upset or frustrated, I really don't want to hear God say, "Forgive" or "Try again" or "Keep loving them." I'm not ready for it. I know very well what He wants me to do, but by golly, I'm not in a place to accept it yet.

Have you ever been there? Times when you've shied away from reading His Word or singing Him songs or coming to the gathering on Sunday mornings because you *know* He's going to show up and nudge you in a direction you don't want to go?

Or perhaps, you have a different experience. Perhaps you show up *hoping* to hear from God, yet not sensing Him, not hearing Him.

My friends, I have an incredible truth to share with you. God has promised to always be with us, and yet, in some mysterious way, He has also said that He will always meet us in some special ways:

- When you read the Bible, God is there.
- When you gather with others in His name, God is there.
- When you serve another person, God is there.
- When you open your home, open your heart to another person, God is there.
- When you share communion with another believer, God is there.

Here's the deeper question: Do you *expect* Him to be there? Or have these things become dead, empty, and meaningless to you?

People in the Bible *expected* to hear from God. "When Moses went into the Tabernacle, he knew he was entering the presence of God. The same is true of the early Church. It was not surprising to them that the building in which they met shook with the power of God. It had happened before (Acts 2:2, 4:31)" (Richard Foster). We should expect to hear from Him, too.

And so, we're left with my original question: Are you *ready* to hear what God might have to say to you today?

Maybe you can go to bed Saturday night with a few minutes in your Bible and a prayer, asking God to help you get ready to hear His voice. Maybe you can leave the electronics off Sunday morning as you're getting ready for church, or listen to some worship music to get your mind focused and heart ready. Come to church early and pray for your leaders and others who come in before the service begins. When you sit down to read the Bible, maybe you can begin with a simple prayer: "God, help me to hear You in Your Word." When you serve in the soup kitchen, you can look around for signs of God's presence. Learn to listen for His voice throughout the week as you go about your day.

Whatever it looks like, take time to get ready. Because when God speaks, I'm pretty sure it's something you want to hear... even when it isn't.

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**Loving people with the
heart of Christ in the
heart of Wabash**



**Worship in the Park
& Church Picnic**

The graphic features the text "Worship in the Park & Church Picnic" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the text is a photograph of vibrant green grass.

**WORSHIP IN
THE PARK**

**Sunday, June 11th
10:00am
Wabash City Park**

See more details on
page 5.



ARTS CAMP

**Saturday
mornings in July**

See more details on
page 5.

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