



THE GATHERING

A transformational initiative of the
Church of the Brethren in Western Plains

*Jesus requests your presence
and participation with him
in the abundant life . . .*

Dear Beloved One,

Receiving a personal invitation to a grand celebration—what can be better than this? Whether a birthday, wedding, or anniversary, a celebration is to be anticipated. Oh, how good it is to be invited to such an event! Such celebrations remind us that the good things of life are worth our partaking.

More than an invitation, Jesus has issued a request for you to be part of his celebration of his abundant life. This request means you are no afterthought. You are deeply wanted by our Lord to be both present and participating in the life of his kingdom. This life is not for “pew potatoes.” This life can be rigorous, challenging, and even demanding. Yet, in all of this, the abundant life of God’s kingdom is to be celebrated because it is life lived in the presence of Jesus himself.

This is what we will be about at The Gathering 2012—as sisters and brothers, celebrating together the abundant life of God’s kingdom and what this can mean for our lives and the life of our congregations. So, “Get Off your Pew—Join the Celebration!” Jesus requests your presence and participation with him in the abundant life.

You won’t want to miss it!

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
—Revelation 19:7-8 (NRSV)



Registration The registration fee includes all conference meals, programs, activities, and on-campus lodging. A motel list with special conference rates is available for those preferring off-campus lodging. Persons choosing to stay in motels pay their own housing and are charged the same conference fee, still a subsidized rate.

	By Oct. 8	After Oct. 8
Adult	\$60	\$70
Youth	\$60	\$70
Family max.	\$150	\$180

Visit www.wpcob.org or call
620-241-4240 for registration forms
and more information.

Location The Gathering is held at Webster Conference Center at the north edge of Salina just north of I-70, exit 253 (Ohio St.)—about two miles east of the junction with I-135.

On-campus housing is “winterized camp style,” with single beds, decent mattresses, and some handicapped accessible rooms. Most lodgings have bath facilities in the room. Normally 4-5 persons of the same gender share a room, although a limited number of family rooms are available. Bring your own bedding (including pillows) and towels. RV hook-ups are also available.



THE GATHERING

October 26-28, 2012

Webster Conference Center Salina, Kansas



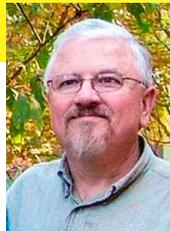
Speakers



Keith Funk



June Alliman Yoder



Robert Krouse

Keith Funk serves as pastor of the Quinter (Kan.) Church of the Brethren. He is currently serving on the Gathering Planning Committee and the New Church Development Vision Fulfillment Team. Keith will preach at opening worship—his infectious exuberance for life and passion for Christ will lead us into this the Celebration!

June Alliman Yoder recently retired from a 27-year career as professor of communication and preaching at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind. Her teaching and her preaching are valued among her students and throughout the church as she often is called upon to speak in congregations and at conferences. June pursues her calling with wit, grace, and passion, and we anticipate with excitement her sharing with us!

Robert Krouse is pastor of the Little Swatara Church of the Brethren in Bethel, Pa. and the 2013 Moderator of Annual Conference. Bob has a strong concern for reaching new persons for Christ. He has served as a church planter in Maryland and Pennsylvania and as a church development leader for the church in Nigeria. With his present congregation he has founded a community coffeehouse as a way to engage new persons. We look forward to Bob's leadership!

Youth Retreat



District Youth Coordinators Shawn Flory Replogle (Sr. High) and Lois Grummert (Jr. High) have planned another fun-filled, Spirit-driven, jam-packed weekend! Youth will be challenged to consider what the Gathering theme ("Get Off Your Pew: Join the Celebration") has to do with them. What does an "off-the-pew" faith look like anyway?

Youth will have the opportunity to participate in a service project, the ropes course, participate in Worship, and much, much more!

Schedule

Friday, October 26

- 3:00-6:00 Registration
- 5:30-6:15 Dinner
- 6:15-7:00 Coffeehouse fun & fellowship!
- 7:00-8:00 "Get Ready to Party!"
- 8:15-9:15 Opening Worship: Keith Funk, preacher
- 9:30-10:15 Campfire

Saturday, October 27

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast
- 8:30-9:30 "Stories: The Building Blocks of our Lives"
- 10:00-11:30 Workshop Block #1
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:45 Shared Interest Groups
- 2:00-2:50 "Food, Fellowship, and Faith Sharing"
- 3:00-4:30 Workshop Block #2
- 4:45-6:00 Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 "The Celebration Goes On!"
- 7:45-8:45 Worship: June Alliman Yoder, preacher
- 8:45-9:45 Party, Brethren Style—Ice cream!
- 9:45-10:45 Talent Show

Sunday, October 28

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:30 Workshop Block #3
- 11:00-12:00 Worship: Robert Krouse, preacher
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch & Depart

Children's Activities

The Gathering features program and care for children from infants through 5th grade. Several blocks of care are provided for infants through three-year-olds. Children four years through 5th grade participate in Bible School activities during much of the time adult activities are scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. For more information and the children's registration form, go to www.wpcob.org.



Workshops



Open Conversation

Robert Krouse

Come together to share your dreams and concerns with one another.

Building Community

Jenny Stover-Brown & Sarah Stover Sackett

Learn ways to be intentional in building community with people from church, work, school and the neighborhood.

Churches Fighting Poverty

Kristen Reynolds

STEPMC (Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County) strives to end poverty one family at a time through the CIRCLES Initiative. CIRCLES is a high impact strategy that will change the mindset of the community so that it wants to end poverty and empower people in poverty to help solve community problems while transitioning out of poverty themselves. Come learn more about poverty and how churches and individuals can help make a difference!

Get Off your Pew: Join the Celebration!

Von Hunn

Explore biblical insights on the theme of The Gathering 2012.

Haiti Medical Project

Paul Ullom-Minnich

Learn about a new Brethren response to medical needs in earthquake-torn Haiti in partnership with budding new congregations there. This response has an important Western Plains connection.

Overcoming Adversity through Faith

Roy Unruh & Mildred Martens-Unruh

Roy and Mildred share from their life experiences as recorded in their book "Two Feet Apart at the Alter."

So What Do Deacons Do, Anyway?

Donna Kline

What are the four functions of deacons, what do they really mean, and how can you make them come alive as you work with your congregation? From Advocacy to Unity, this workshop will offer ideas on how you can apply these functions in today's church.

Waiting for God, Within and All Around

Ken Holderread

Explore the mystery and richness of abundant living through the help of spiritual direction/partnering.