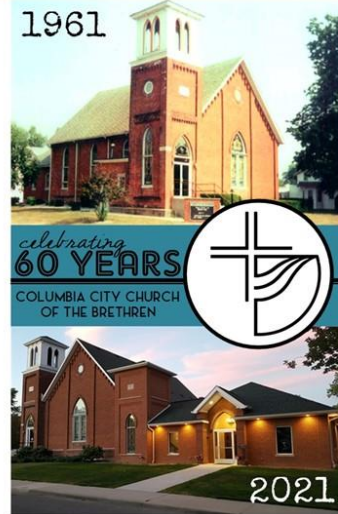


“Worship through the Decades”

Sept. 12, 1965

Sept. 12, 2021

Honoring the
Wyland & Iva
Zumbrun
family



One Sunday each month from June through October of 2021, we are revisiting worship services from all of the first five decades of our church as we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. Today, we revisit September 12, 1965.

Everything printed in the inside of your bulletin is exactly how the bulletin looked on September 12, 1965. Current info, our closing hymn, announcements, and joys & concerns are listed on the inserts. In the 1965 bulletin, you'll see a few familiar places named. We continue to support Camp Mack in many ways and have students at Manchester. President A. Blair Helman is named in the bulletin. He served Manchester for 30 years as president from 1956-1986. On the original bulletin cover from September 12, 1965 is the image of Andrew Cordier, one of a bulletin series of influential Church of the Brethren leaders. Andrew Cordier was a graduate of Manchester, met his wife at Manchester, taught at Manchester, and has the honor of his name being on the 1,100 seat auditorium on campus due to his work in helping to form the charter of the United Nations. You can view this original bulletin cover on our church website. Also on the front of the bulletin is the name of the pastor in 1965, Arthur Heisler, father of Mary Helfrich.

Another aspect of this special series “Worship through the Decades” is highlighting families who have remained active in our church nearly all 60 years. Today we honor the legacy of Wyland & Iva Zumbrun.

To say the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family have been influential in helping this church thrive at the beginning and now is an understatement. However, unlike the other families we have honored during our 60th anniversary, this extended family was absent from the congregation for over 20 years.

This family has been a part of the Church of the Brethren for generations. And for at least four generations there have been ministers as well as licensed and ordained pastors in the family. Iva's grandfather, Jeremiah Gump, was in fact the elder who had the oversight for the original Columbia City Church of the Brethren that started in 1875. We know little about that congregation, but how wonderful to have this tie with families who currently attend our church. The original Columbia City congregation closed in 1910.

Of the 55 people who transferred their membership from the Blue River Church of the Brethren on September 14, 1961, 15 of them were of the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family including Wyland & Iva and their children's families. Those included Paul & Evelyn Zumbrun and their children, Linda, Brent, & Nancy; Mary Esther Shearer and her three sons, Donald, Dick, & Dean; Jack & Betty Rex, and Dale & Doris Van Houten. Later that same year, Jack & Betty's daughter, Sandy, would be among the first group of people to be baptized in the new congregation. But we also can't forget the younger children who were not yet baptized who also were a part of the opening of the church: Pamela Van Houten, Steve Van Houten, and Jane Zumbrun. A total of 19 members of the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family who were involved in the beginning of our congregation.

Elected officers in 1961 included many from the Zumbrun family. Wyland & Paul both served on the Ministerial Commission. Esther Shearer served on the Nominating Committee & Christian Education Board. Jack Rex and Dale Van Houten served on the Finance Committee. Evelyn Zumbrun served on the Music Committee. Dale Van Houten was on the Auditing Committee. Don Shearer was one of the Ushers. Evelyn Zumbrun was elected Primary and Junior Sunday School Superintendent and Paul Zumbrun was the assistant Adult Superintendent.

Other notable firsts among this family are that Evelyn Zumbrun was the first pianist and organist – playing for the opening worship service and afternoon service on May 7, 1961. Also at the afternoon service, the first set of deacons were recognized. Among the first six deacons were Paul & Evelyn Zumbrun and

Wyland & Iva Zumbrun. Don Shearer was one of the first ushers to serve the congregation that same day.

In October of 1961 the Women's Fellowship met for the first time. Again, this family was well represented. Serving were Doris Van Houten and Evelyn Zumbrun as hostesses at that first meeting. Personnel included: Doris Van Houten as assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer, Iva Zumbrun as Spiritual Enrichment, Betty Rex in Temperance, Esther Shearer as the Peace Advocate, and Doris Van Houten served on the food committee.

By the summer of 1962, the congregation held its first Vacation Bible School of which Esther Shearer and Evelyn Zumbrun were on the planning committee. So many firsts and so much involvement made for what would happen in the summer of 1963 very painful for all involved.

The 1958 Annual Conference had passed a statement that would allow those who had been baptized other than by trine immersion to enter into full fellowship into Church of the Brethren congregations. The Columbia City congregation officially voted in March 1963 to adopt this Annual Conference statement. But Wyland & Iva Zumbrun were not supportive of this move. And in the summer of 1963, the entire family moved back to the Blue River congregation which left a huge void in our church.

Twenty-two years passed.

Then in September 1985 Jane Zumbrun, who was only 5 when the family left in 1963, returned to the Columbia City congregation with her 3 children: Luke, Matthew, & Shiloh Sherman. Throughout the next ten years, each part of the extended Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family would transfer their memberships back to the Columbia City congregation. Evelyn Zumbrun in February 1994, Mike & Pam Hoppe and their children – Scott, Seth, Stephanie, and Sherlynn – in April 1994, Jack & Betty Rex in October 1994, Doris Van Houten in February 1995, and Dean & Cindy Shearer in December 1995.

Not only did this family slowly return to this congregation, but they also stepped into leadership roles once again. Dean Shearer, Mike Hoppe, and Doris Van Houten served on the pastoral search committee that brought me here as your pastor in 1999. Cindy Shearer served as newsletter editor for many years. And

various members of the family have served on the church board the past 25 years including Doris Van Houten, Evelyn Zumbrun, Mike & Pam Hoppe, Dean & Cindy Shearer, Mike & Stephanie Bradbury, and Sherri Sims. Doris Van Houten and Pam Hoppe were instrumental in helping our Wednesday Evening Fellowship program thrive as Doris did all of the cooking for Wednesday evening meals for several years. Doris Van Houten, Dean Shearer, Mike & Pam Hoppe, and Mike & Stephanie Bradbury served in various capacities during the discernment process which eventually culminated in our new addition in 2017. Most of these family members have also served as Sunday School teachers. Mike & Pam Hoppe have also served the congregation as deacons for many years, joined by daughter Stephanie and her husband, Michael in 2017. Evelyn Zumbrun chaired the 50th anniversary committee in 2011.

More recently other extended members of the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family returned to worship with us. Nancy Zumbrun Ford and her husband, Larry, and Nancy's son, Nathan Leichty, would attend during the time that Evelyn's health was waning. Nancy along with siblings Brent Zumbrun & Linda Zumbrun have offered special music throughout recent years. Luke Sherman reassociated with the youth group in 1999.

And in the past 3 years, other members of the extended Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family have joined us: Steve & Lisa Van Houten and their daughter Erin became members in March 2019 following Steve's retirement from the ministry, Ryan & Sarah Mayer became members in October 2020 (Sarah is the great-granddaughter of Esther Shearer), and in early 2021 the Clay & Sandy (Rex) Geiger family with their three sons' families – Ryan & Darcy Geiger, Todd & Stacy Geiger, and Adam & Jessica Geiger – began attending here. Today, 37 members of the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun extended family are a part of our congregation and by the end of the year, that will be 38 when JJ & Sherri Sims have their fourth child.

Not only has this family been instrumental in the ongoing life of this congregation they have left a mark of Christian love and service. The music of the church is one aspect where this family has made a permanent mark. Evelyn Zumbrun's musical talents were a God given talent. Although she played for years at the Grace Lutheran Church and at Smith & Son's Funeral Home, she shared her musical talents with us over and over again as well as with piano students through the

years. That tradition has continued with Pam Hoppe serving as one of our amazing organists and song leaders – leading both the adult and children’s choirs. Pam also teaches piano lessons and has taught many in our congregation how to play the piano.

Pam shared with me recently that her mother, Doris Van Houten, often said that leaving the congregation in ’63 was a heartbreaking time for all involved. There were hurt feelings and lots of tears. Doris also said when she came back to the Columbia City congregation that she felt like in her heart she was home!

We might not be the church we are today without the presence and service of the Wyland & Iva Zumbrun family. Today, we celebrate their ongoing legacy.

- *Written by Pastor Dennis Beckner, with info from “Columbia City Church of the Brethren - Celebrating 50 Years: 1961-2011” Church History, written by Mary Helfrich, 2012.*