

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

October 2022

Let's Not Get Tired

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9

What comes to mind for you when you read the phrase “harvest of blessing”? I can't help but think of my recent Sabbath Rest and the gift I received from this congregation to have three months to pursue activities which make my heart sing, and the blessing of Pastor Tim Morphew's ministry with you during that time. I'm sure you have experienced your own harvests of blessing.

We talk about tomatoes and squash, School kits for MMC, other donations to Church Community Services, and collections for the Elkhart Women's Shelter. These are all harvests of blessing. But I want to highlight something which I either don't talk about enough or talk about too much—depending on your perspective. That is, financial gifts to Creekside. If you have more than a decade or so of history with Creekside/Elkhart City, you may remember fall stewardship drives and pledge cards where every member or giving unit was asked to fill out a commitment for financial gifts for the next calendar year. Sometimes these were collected and collated; sometimes they were kept as a reminder to whomever filled them out. Some folks loved this system; some folks never participated.

This year, putting together budgets for individual teams in order to come up with a unified budget for the congregation for 2023 has revealed a unique opportunity: we are not short of funds! A more optimistic statement would be, “We have enough money!” but I'm sure a fiscal conservative would take issue with that. The bottom line is that you have been giving generously to the programs of Creekside, and our Board—with consultation from our Finance Team—has managed those funds wisely. This is something to celebrate, for sure, and on behalf of the Church Board and team leaders and myself, I am heartily grateful. I have witnessed the blessings of a harvest of new members and friends, community service, and the involvement of a high percentage of our members in ministries of the church. I have experienced how congenial meetings can be when leaders are not anxious about money.

We have no plans (that I know of) to distribute pledge cards this fall. We do have plans for a Fish Fry, Fellowship events, Advent outreach activities, and a community Christmas Eve service. So let's not get tired of doing what is good! If you have made regular financial gifts to Creekside—whatever their amount—thank you. If you feel like you don't have anything to give, may you realize the harvest of blessings in your own life, so that you are aware of God's faithfulness.

In the abundance of Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*



PASTOR'S REPORT

It is wonderful to be back with my church family! Before my Sabbath Rest was over, I met with Tim Morpew and the Planning Team, and was touched to see the sign at the end of the driveway which read "Welcome Back Pastor Rosanna!" I have felt loved by being able to be away, and upon my return. Thank you.

I can't say enough about my appreciation for Pastor Tim and his pastoral presence. He made me aware of some of the pastoral care issues while I was gone, I met with the Deacons and heard about their work, and there have been other needs for prayer and care since I have returned. I am delighted to be receiving five new members by transfer of letter on October 9, and hope you will have the opportunity to give a personal welcome to Anne Wilson, Jay Ganger, Brynne Spiritoso, and Deb and Mike Kauffman. Thank you to all the team leaders, members, and volunteers who have continued the work of Jesus with your gifts and calling.

I was elected to the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board by the delegates of Annual Conference 2022. This Board meets in person three times per year; I will be away from Creekside one Sunday in October and in March for the next five years of this term. It seems like there is a lot to catch up on before the orientation on October 13. I would appreciate your prayers as I begin volunteer service on this national board of directors.

I will be taking a few days for personal retreat and Advent planning at GilChrist retreat center in Three Rivers, MI. I will be out of the office Nov. 1-3. This has been a grounding and renewing practice for me; I'm grateful that GilChrist is again allowing retreats on their grounds. I look forward to the coming months!

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

As I am writing this article, the weather forecast contains one overnight low of 38° and daytime highs in the low to mid-60s and Fall is officially here. There are some significant things in our Creekside Church life which are dictated or scheduled around this time. Cal Graber and his helpers will begin closing down the gardens by pulling up plants and vines as well as the plastic and irrigation lines. It has been a strange year for gardens; most of the plants seemed to have later maturities than normal, but in the end it all worked out. "*When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen.*" (Isaiah 60:22) Another Creekside Fall event is the Fish Fry (Oct. 8). It is an opportunity to show our congregation's friendliness to those who drive through. I hope you will volunteer to help out (sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area) or just show up and fill a need. With Fall in its name, our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 6**. You will receive your packets of information on Oct. 23. The budgeting process for 2023 has begun among the teams, including the Church Board. As always, thank you for your continued generous support of our church.

Outside of our regular business, the Fellowship Team is working together with Pastor Rosanna, Cary Kelsey and me to develop some guidelines about the use of the kitchen. The goal is to help us all be accountable for seeing that the kitchen remains useable for everyone (more on this later).

Enjoy the transition to a new season and all that it holds for us. *Larry Ford, Church Board Chair*

THANK YOU to sisters, brothers and friends of Creekside COB for your many expressions of love and support during my summer of service with you! Thanks especially to Marita Barsoda for so ably managing the many administrative details. And deep appreciation to the Sabbath Rest committee (and Pastor Rosanna) for the beautiful Roundel of the Seasons artwork which reminds me of the many ways you have graced my life. - with gratitude, *Tim Morpew*

EVERENCE

Everence and its members are showing support for the people of Ukraine. They have distributed more than \$815,000 from Everence Foundation charitable accounts to 50+ nonprofits in support of Ukraine relief efforts. They feel called to channel their faith and values to care for each other in challenging and uncertain times. Are you interested in seeking growth for your financial life using tools rooted in your faith values? Contact Everence at [Everence.com](https://www.everence.com) or 574-533-9511. *Jan N., Creekside Advocate*

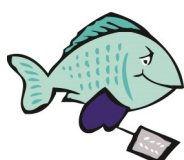
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCT. 2: We will observe this international celebration with bread and cup communion during morning worship. This year, we will focus on solidarity with and prayer for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. Please consider if there is anything you need to do to be in fellowship and harmony with each other or with God, so that you may come to the Lord's table without estrangement or resentment.

All who are in fellowship with God and neighbor are invited to participate in the communion service. There will be an alternative snack and a blessing for children who wish to come forward.



Pastor Rosanna for Worship and Deacon Teams

FISH FRY, OCT. 8: Enjoy drive-through dinner (fish or chicken) from 4:30-7:30 pm. Contact Kohlers if you have questions about pre-sale tickets. Yard signs are still available. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area if you'd like to volunteer to help.



CHILDREN'S FALL PARTY, OCT. 23: Children ages 3-10 are invited to a Fall Party on Sunday, October 23rd from 2:00-4:00 pm. Contact Jessica Prah with questions or to volunteer.

ALL SAINTS' DAY, OCT. 30: This is the day which we will share the names of members and friends of our congregation who have joined the company of saints in the past year. If there is someone you would like to have remembered as a part of this service, please contact Pastor Rosanna no later than Sunday, Oct. 23. You will need to provide full name, birth date, and death date of the person you wish us to remember; this is for those who have passed away between Oct. 2021 and Oct. 2022. You will not need to come forward or speak during the worship service.

Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team

TRUNK OR TREAT, OCT. 31:

We will be celebrating Halloween with children and families in our community on Monday, Oct. 31, 4-6 pm. Creekside's parking lot is a great place for us to set up and for neighborhood children to gather safely. Watch for more details coming up!

Come pass out candy and greet the kids, or donate Halloween candy for others to pass out for you. Bring individually wrapped candy to Creekside Oct. 9 – 30.



OCTOBER 2022

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Graber, Sharon
- 1 Weaver, Janet
- 3 Rohrer, Diana
- 3 Vance, Gail
- 10 Arnold, Zane
- 10 Walters, Doris
- 11 Hadley, Addilyn
- 12 Lund, Andrew
- 12 Rohrer, Isabela
- 13 Borem, Cheryl
- 13 Nicodemus, Jan
- 16 Longenbaugh, John
- 19 Barton, Steve
- 19 Vance, Jim
- 22 Hadley, Noah
- 25 Spiritoso, Brynne
- 29 Snyder, Leonard
- 29 Sowles, Marcia

EVENTS

- 2 World Communion Sunday
- 2 Birthday celebration for Bruce Barwick, after worship
- 4 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 pm
- 12 Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 16 Pletcher Deacon Group lunch
- 18 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 23 Kids' Fall Party, 2:00-4:00 pm
- 30 All Saints' Day
- 31 Trunk or Treat, 4:00-6:00 pm

Look for proofs of an updated directory in the Gathering Area this month.

CIS is no longer collecting plastic caps; the facility that recycles caps into benches is closing. Thank you to everyone who helped to collect caps to make several benches for Concord students to enjoy!

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



Address:
60455 CR 113
Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

Phone:
574-875-7800

Website:
www.CreeksideCoB.com

Interim Pastor:
Tim Morpew: CreeksidePastor@gmail.com
Pastor Rosanna McFadden is on Sabbatical until August 28, 2022.

Administrative Assistant & Editor:
Marita Barsoda: CreeksideCoB@gmail.com

The Creekside Connection is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.



60455 CR 113
Elkhart, IN 46517-9183