

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

November 2022

Prayer Changes Things

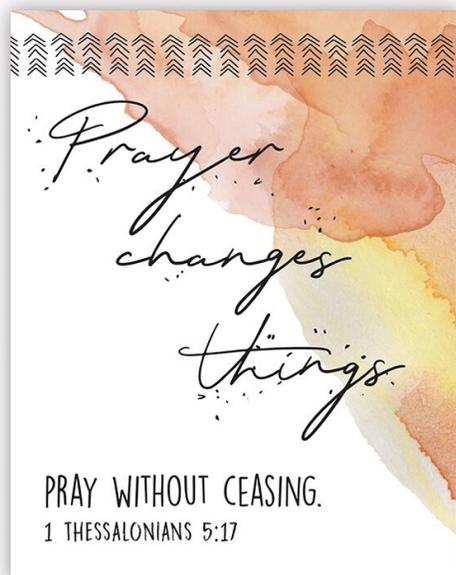
Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you that there are things in this world which need to be changed: global things, political things, personal things. It may feel like these things are out of our control, and in many cases, that is correct. This exhortation from the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians is about changing what we can: our attitude. Giving thanks in all circumstances is something which will change us—unless you are already doing this and it has already changed you.

My favorite definition of gratitude is “wanting what you have”; this is a recipe for contentment. For most of us, though, there are things which we want which we don't have, or things which we have that we would rather not have. That is where prayer comes in. It is how we learn the wisdom and humility to change the things we can and accept the things we can't. It is how we learn God's will for us.

Prayer may not be able to change our circumstances or our health in the way we would wish. Prayer should not keep us from working for change—whether that is supporting global missions, a local food pantry, voting on November 7, or volunteering at Creekside. Prayer is not an excuse to sit back and do nothing. But when we focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer, we may find that things change in ways that we do not expect. Gratitude can lead us to a deeper awareness and appreciation for what God is doing in the world, as well as understanding how we might partner with God.



We will be taking some time in the month of November to focus on prayer and gratitude. Thanksgiving is more than a big turkey dinner with family or friends (although that is something to be grateful for—especially if the Creekside Fellowship Team is doing the cooking!); thanksgiving is a way that we are shaped as the people of God by the will of God. Pick up a magnet in the Gathering Area to remind you that prayer changes things. Take one for a friend who may need encouragement, too. Please take some time in the coming weeks to consider how you can give thanks with a grateful heart and want what you have from God.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

October was a full month! Here were some highlights for me:

- Accepting new members (see Anne Wilson's profile in this *Connection*)
- Attending my first Mission and Ministry Board meeting in Elgin
- Leading a retreat for the women of Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren
- Officiating Mary Schmucker's Celebration of Life service

Thank you to the Church Board, Ted Noffsinger and the Ministry Excellence Project for the recognition and pastor appreciation gift I received on October 23. It is a privilege to serve such a generous congregation.

November will be a time for Advent planning for Worship and Outreach Teams. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27. December 25 is on Sunday this year: plan to join us Saturday evening for Christmas Eve, and for a more informal worship in the Gathering Area on Christmas Day.

Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

As I was looking at our new Peace Pole the other day, its message struck me. "May Peace Prevail on Earth". If you say that seems like a lofty goal, you are probably correct. There are wars happening everyday, mostly in the Middle East, Africa and now in Ukraine in Eastern Europe. Throughout history even churches and religions have brought about wars as they tried to protect their own beliefs or to impose them on others. Even in our own country there is a political war of words now; much worse than normal in modern times. That doesn't mean we can't continue to pray for peace. We should. Every day. I hope we all will add "Peace on Earth" to our daily prayers. Peace is a legacy of the Church of the Brethren. Pray that world leaders would find a way to bring about an end to the war in Ukraine especially, before something really terrible happens. Pray for the victims of wars on all continents. May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Larry Ford, Church Board Chair

MONTHLY MEN'S LUNCH

Creekside men are invited to fellowship for lunch, once a month, at Angel's Pancake House Restaurant in Goshen. The first meal will be on **Tuesday, November 15, at 10:45 am.**

Please RSVP to Roger Neal by Nov. 11 at ranek@yahoo.com or call 574-537-4478.

FRIENDSGIVING AT CREEKSIDE

The Fellowship Team is planning to be busy during November:

Join us for Friendsgiving at Creekside on **Friday, November 25**. The meal will be at 12:00 noon, with carry-out available after the meal or before the meal at 11:30 am. The basic menu will be Thanksgiving Fare with all the fixin's.

Please sign up for Friendsgiving in the Gathering Area. We hope this will be a wonderful fellowship time for family, friends and neighbors. Please reach out to those you know who would benefit from attending the meal or receiving a carry-out meal.

On November 14th the Fellowship team will be baking Doris Walter's famous buttermilk cookies; you are welcome to join us.

On November 16th the Fellowship team will be helping with the annual Seed to feed banquet at Creekside. If you are available to assist with clean up please see Becky Miller.

Thank you for your continued support!

Becky Miller, Betty Snyder & Deana Ward

CREEKSIDE CALENDARS

The layout for the 2023 Creekside Calendar is complete. Calendars will be available by Sunday, November 13. New this year: a free calendar for each family or giving unit. We will order enough to give away to our guests at the Cookie/Candy Walk; if there are still calendars left after December 3, you may take additional copies until they are gone.

Thanks to Larry Ford and Gary Arnold for the great photographs, and to Marita Barsoda for her photo-editing and layout skills to pull the calendar together.

Pastor Rosanna



CREEKSIDE'S COOKIE CANDY WALK

It is time to pull out your favorite holiday recipes! Creekside's Cookie Candy Walk is **Saturday, December 3** from 8 a.m.- noon. We will welcome guests to come inside to shop. If requested, we will also offer a limited drive-thru option: these guests may choose from a 1 or 2 dozen pre-packaged cookie assortment.

New this year: We will have Creekside honey available to sell; Christmas gift bags and tissue will be included with purchase.

A few reminders:

- Cookies/Candy need to be at church on Friday, December 3 or no later than 7:30 a.m on Saturday, December 4.
- Make sure your name is on your containers
- For each cookie/candy type you contribute, please indicate whether or not the item contains nuts and, if possible, include an ingredient list.
- Packaging is available for specialty items, i.e. gluten-free, dairy-free, etc.

Here are some important dates to know:

- Monday, November 14, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.—Making/Baking Buttermilk Cookies
- Thursday, November 17, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.—Buckeye Making
- Monday, November 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.—Kitchen available for baking
- Friday, December 2, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.—Set up for Cookie Candy Walk: set-up and cover tables, icing and packaging buttermilk cookies.

Stay tuned for other dates on which you may be of help.

Sign-up sheets will be posted Sunday, November 6.

Contact Diane Lund--574.304.7595--regarding use of the kitchen during the day or available church freezer space for your baked goods.

Thank you, in advance, for your part in making this year's Cookie-Candy Walk a wonderful event!

EVERENCE

Are you facing a difficult financial situation or need basic financial counsel about a mortgage, your credit report, or even your household budget? Everence offers confidential budget and debt counseling from a certified credit counselor at **no cost**. Everence has teamed up with **LSS Financial Counseling** to offer their *Financial Choice service* with up to six free sessions. LSS can help you with money management, debt repayment options, preventing and resolving identity theft, vehicle loan issues, and mortgage foreclosure.

Get free debt and budget counseling at (877) 809-0039. Go to [everence.com](https://www.everence.com) for faith-based banking, insurance, and financial services.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

Praise, Blessing & **J.O.Y.** with Anne Wilson

J

Jesus:

What song or Bible verse brings praise to mind for you?

The Hallelujah Chorus is my favorite song. My parents always took my brother and me to hear The Messiah every year. This song is the most praiseworthy one I've ever heard.

What do you love about Creekside Church?

It's a peace church. I could feel it the first time I visited.

What is one prayer you have for Creekside?

I pray that it will continue to grow and minister to others in such a fractured world and continue to set a loving example to people of how Jesus would act.

O

Others:

What ministry do you do for others?

I often volunteer to help out other people, whether it be running errands, providing meals, helping in their yards, etc. I firmly believe in the passage which says faith without works is dead. If someone is drowning you shouldn't just sit on the shore and pray, you also jump in and pull the person out of the water.

What connects you to people at Creekside?

The people seem to be humble and hard working. Many people help in the work of the church. Sometimes it's only a few who do all of the work but that's not true at Creekside. It seems to be a combined effort shared by all.

What words of blessing or encouragement do you have to share with others?

I make it a point to say at least one positive thing every day to someone, whether I know them or not. The smallest positive comment can make such a big difference in someone's life.

Y

Yourself:

What would you like to share about yourself?

I love being outside and working in my flowers and garden. It's difficult for me to sit still. I like running, biking, playing pickleball, hiking in the mountains, etc. I often listen to books on tape while being outside so I can accomplish two things at once. I also have a good sense of humor and don't mind making fun of myself.

What gives you joy?

I love spending times with family and friends and getting to know other people. I'm not a loner. I love to laugh.



MEET OUR NEW CUSTODIAN

My name is Crystal Waggy and I started working at Creekside as a custodian September 1, 2022. Everyone in the building here has been wonderfully welcoming and helpful. I attend Sunnyside Mennonite Church nearby with my husband of 8 years, Joseph, and our two daughters, Zia (Z-eye-ah) & Arlie, who are 7 and 5. They are both in kindergarten at Concord South Side Elementary. I'm thankful to have flexible employment so close to home that allows me to prioritize parenting. It's fun to have my sister, Marita, in the building, too.



I graduated from Fairfield, completed a bachelor's in Social Work at Manchester, and also a master's in Social Work at Jane Addams. I've worked on summer staff at Camp Mack and for the Church of the Brethren organizing youth work camps. I worked for 10 years in child protection, foster care and adoptions—first in Chicago, then in Elkhart—before staying home to be with my kids.

I look forward to continuing to be here in this space with you, and hope to keep it clean and comfortable for your many events and activities.

Picture: Crystal and daughter Arlie.

The Bee Line



Most dedicated Bee Keepers find visiting their bee yard and watching the bees a relaxing and serene experience. To see bees flying in with their pollen sacks bulging with bright yellow pollen and the bees recognizing which hive in the row is theirs, Bee Keepers know it's a job well done.

But this time of year, the scene has changed!! The bees are buzzing in and out of the hives in a frenzy. They circle the hive and dive bomb into the open door.

Then I remember, it's house cleaning time. Winter is a short time away and there are mouths to feed. Somehow, Mother Nature has made an announcement: the male drone bees who don't collect nectar, or add to the productivity of the hive by making wax cells, or serve as guards or nurses, must be forced out of the hive. This time of the year there are no Queens to mate with. Drone bees just pace around the hive begging for food as they can't even feed themselves. Mother Nature says, "Out they go!" Worker bees begin starving drones by not feeding them and often sting them to death and then drag them outside and push them over the precipice. When Spring comes and drones are once again needed to mate, the queen lays unfertilized eggs. Then the worker bees enlarge the cells and feed them special food. In about 10 to 15 days, a newly hatched drone matures and is ready to do his job of going on a mating flight high in the air and mating with the queen. (But remember, if the drone is successful with catching the queen and mates, HE DIES!)

When house cleaning is done, the bees are ready to cluster around the queen to keep her warm and snug with a temperature in the middle of the cluster between 95-97 degrees throughout the long winter.

I guess I understand that the drones must go, but don't the bees know that they are Brethren Bees and we Brethren are pacifists?

P.S. Don't forget to read the article we have in the October Messenger Magazine; Ron can help you find a copy if you don't know where to read it!

Ron Nicodemus for the Bee Team

NOVEMBER 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Schmucker, Beth
- 7 Arnold, Maddison
- 7 Buchanan, Esther
- 7 Hoke, Lodema
- 7 Marcin, Tiara
- 7 Shultz, Wylan
- 8 Prah, Jessica
- 12 Griffith, Anne
- 16 Vardaman, Lisa
- 17 McFarren, Doris
- 19 Carlson, Kyle
- 20 Arnold, Brian
- 24 Barwick, Cathy
- 28 Rodgers, Valerie

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Miller, Myron & Sandy
- 12 Pletcher, Bill & Rosemary
- 27 Ellis, Donald & Vicki

EVENTS

- 6 *DST ends*, CBM, 10:40 am
- 9 Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 10 Fellowship Team, 6:30 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 14 Cookie making, 6:00-9:00 pm
- 15 Men's lunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 15 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 17 Buckeye making, 1:00-4:00 pm
- 24 *Thanksgiving Day, office closed*
- 25 *Friendsgiving, noon, office closed*
- 27 First Sunday of Advent

The Creekside Connection

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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.



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