

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

December 2022



Simple Gifts

*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,
is from above coming down from the Father of lights. James 1:17a*

It is the season of Advent, and time to prepare for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. We remember and praise God for the gift of Christ, the greatest gift which has ever been given to the world and the gift which each person has the opportunity to receive.

The theme for Advent this year is “Simple Gifts”. If you haven’t already picked up a copy of the Advent devotional of that name published by Brethren Press, there are still copies available in the Gathering Area. The daily readings begin on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, and go through January 6, Epiphany, the coming of the wise men. In her introduction to the devotions, author Kathy Fuller Guisewite writes, “The Christmas story is miraculous, and every tiny part of that story is part of the miracle... If we practice leaning into the simplicity in the holy story and the sacredness of our ordinary lives, we might find pure joy in this season of Advent.” In story and sermon for the season, we’ll be considering how gifts such as perseverance and care for others are blessings to be shared, and how each person can find their own gifts.

We want to proclaim God’s gift in deed as well as in word. Members and friends of Creekside have been invited to make an *over and above* Love Offering which will be shared among ministries and agencies who are serving the homeless, poor, and vulnerable among us. Your gifts will help us support Susanna’s Kitchen, Faith Mission, Elkhart Women’s Shelter, Elkhart Child Development Center, and Children’s Disaster Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. We already heard about some of these organizations, and we will share about each one of them by mid-December. Followers of Faith will match giving from the congregation up to \$2,500. Please make those donations by the end of 2022.

You are also invited to bring hats, mittens, gloves and gently used adult-size coats which our Outreach Team will share at the Women’s Shelter or with homeless people in Elkhart. Thank you for all the ways you share simple gifts for those who have basic needs of shelter, warmth, and safety.

We pray for a safe and happy Christmas for you, your families, our community, and our world. May our simple gifts be used for the glory of God and our neighbor’s good, and may you find pure joy in this Advent season.

God is with us—now and always.

Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

There have been some great things happening in the life of our congregation in the past month! I am so grateful for the many volunteers who have participated in activities such as the Fall Kids' Event, Trunk or Treat, and the Seed to Feed potluck. In addition, many folks have helped with special projects around the church such as landscaping, changing light bulbs and cleaning fixtures in the Worship Center and Gathering Area. As I write this, freezers are filling up with goodies for the Cookie Candy Walk, and the Gathering Area is filled with the aroma of turkey in preparation for Friendsgiving. Most of these activities have happened without input from me, and I am grateful for that, as well.

I have been sidelined for much of the past four weeks with one virus or another. Although I have generally kept up with office hours and meetings, I have not been able to visit as much as I would like. My hope is to see all of our shut-in members between now and Christmas.

I am excited about all the things we have to share at the end of November: 2023 Calendars with beautiful photographs by Larry Ford and Gary Arnold (and photoshopping by Marita Barsoda), new directories and Advent devotionals. I had three beautiful warm November days on retreat in Three Rivers, Michigan. It was a great time to create Advent worship resources, do some hiking, and try to catch up on sleep. The theme for Advent/Christmas 2022 is Simple Gifts. Many people have contributed to planning, preparing, decorating and leading these services; I hope you will have an opportunity to thank them. Our Worship Team does a terrific job.

Tim and I will be leaving on Sunday, December 25 to spend a week in CA with my mom. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers through this busy season. I wish you and your families a safe and joyful Advent—may you know the simple gift of Jesus Christ and his love for every person.

God bless us every one!

Pastor Rosanna

KITCHEN USAGE

Creekside is blessed to have a beautiful kitchen with nice equipment that is licensed by the Indiana Dept. of Health. We are happy when people use it. The past couple of months, the Fellowship Team has been working with Pastor Rosanna, Cary Kelsey and myself to find ways to improve the operation of the kitchen. All of us made suggestions which are being incorporated into guidelines for cleanliness and efficiency.

In summary, if you use the kitchen, please leave it as good or better than you found it. Don't leave a mess for someone else to clean up. If you use kitchen implements or supplies, return them to their original location. If you borrow an item from the kitchen, please return it. Many of the cabinets and drawers are marked, noting their contents. If you aren't able to find something or have a problem or question, contact a member of the Fellowship Team (Becky Miller, Betty Snyder, Deana Ward).

If you are going to hold an event during which you will use the kitchen, let a member of the Fellowship Team know, so they may check against their calendar to be sure it isn't already being used and to provide you with the phone number of a person you may call if you have questions. They can be a wonderful resource to you if they know your plans in advance.

The Fellowship Team will be posting a list of Kitchen Use Guidelines. Please make yourself familiar with them before using the kitchen. There will be much useful information for you there.

If you place food in either the freezer or the refrigerator, please label and date the contents. That will help to prevent out-of-date foods and control the space being used.

If you wish to make a donation of items for use in the kitchen, contact a member of the Fellowship Team first. Don't just bring them in and leave them on a counter. The team is attempting to keep counter space clear and they have limited storage space, so they may not be able to accept all donations. If you wish to donate food containers, place them in the blue plastic container in the kitchen so they may be sanitized prior to use.

Thank you for keeping the Creekside kitchen a usable, efficient, clean environment so it may accommodate everyone's use.

Larry Ford, Church Board Chair



CREEKSIDE'S COOKIE CANDY WALK is **Saturday, December 3** from 8 a.m.-noon. You may drop off cookies on Friday, Dec. 2. Please include an ingredient list (especially note with or without nuts). Volunteers can sign up in the Gathering Area. Contact Diane Lund (574-304-7595) with questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us to celebrate our Savior's birth on Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. Creekside's Christmas Eve service includes scripture reading, carols, communion and candlelighting. You and your family, friends, and neighbors are all welcome. The service will be livestreamed, so you may experience Christmas Eve at Creekside from wherever you are.

Thanks to Worship Team and musicians for their preparation! *Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team*

CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

December 25, 2022 and January 1, 2023 are each on Sunday. We will have worship at 9:30 am on both of those Sundays. Each of those services will be in the Creekside Gathering Area, and will include drinks and food. Thanks to our Fellowship Team and Worship Team who are making those preparations for us.

The service on Christmas Day will *not* be livestreamed. Betty Kelsey is preparing a creative service on the theme "For Such A Time As This" on New Year's Day.

Blessings for Christmas and the New Year! *Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team*

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Wintry weather is a part of living in N. Indiana—or SW Michigan! We are grateful to our Property Team for making Creekside's parking lot and sidewalks as safe as possible, but depending on the timing of frozen precipitation, we may need to cancel services on a Sunday morning. If we are canceling services, that decision will be made no later than 8:00 am Sunday morning. We will decide sooner if the forecast allows us to do so. Here's how to get information about a cancellation:

- Check the front page of Creekside's website: creeksidecob.com
- Watch WSBT
- We will send a One Call Now message by phone, text, and email. *If you do not currently receive messages through One Call Now, you must opt in to be included on a weather cancellation list. You may do this by contacting the Creekside office and providing the contact information you want us to use. We can create a list which is used only for weather cancellation notifications.*
- Call Pastor Rosanna at home. *I'd prefer this not be your first option. If we are having worship, I may not be available after 8:30 am.*

If we ARE having worship on a snowy day, here are some things to be aware of:

- We will try to provide valet parking; look for the green flag in front of the stone pillars. Pull up to the front doors and someone will park your car for you.
- If conditions do not seem safe in your area, please do not venture out.
- You are always welcome to watch the livestream at [YouTube.com/CreeksideCoB](https://www.youtube.com/CreeksideCoB) —our Media Team does a great job.

Please contact the office (before the next snowstorm, if possible!) if you have questions.

Thank you, and stay safe! *Pastor Rosanna, for Property Team and office*

MONTHLY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BRUNCH

The monthly brunch for Creekside men and women will continue on second Tuesdays at 10:45 at Angel's Pancake House Restaurant in Goshen. Please RSVP to Roger Neal each month at ranelk@yahoo.com or 574-537-4478. The next brunch will be on Dec. 13 at 10:45 am.

Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y. with Jay Ganger

J

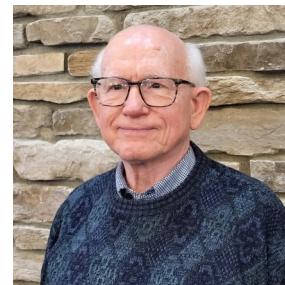
Jesus:

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

Amazing Grace is my favorite song. It was my Dad's favorite, too. As far as Bible verse, I often find myself repeating Psalm 23.

What do you love about Creekside Church?

I like that it's close to my home (in fact, I can see the church from my kitchen window when the leaves are off the trees). The church is physically a beautiful structure on an ideal piece of property, but the people inside the church are what make it special.



What is one prayer you have for Creekside?

That our church will continue to grow and draw in more young people. I know if a few younger people experienced our Sunday worship service, they might want to repeat the experience and invite other young people to join them.

O

Others:

What ministry do you do for others?

Because of my age (88 this month) and health, I find my ministry works best through contributions to many deserving charities. In addition to my contributions to the church, I have particularly tried to help Bashor Children's Home, Faith Mission, and Disabled American Veterans over many years.

What connects you to people at Creekside?

My connection to the people of Creekside starts with their friendliness and caring spirit. Further, I feel a strong connection to the history and people of this church, including my parents and grandparents. I started attending this church as a small child in the 1930's.

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

Everyone experiences difficulties and regrets throughout their lives. I know, however, from my own recent experience of losing my wife of 63 years, that the void left in my life since her passing has been tempered by my family, including my church family and my faith. I find myself praying more now because it brings both peace and comfort.

Y

Yourself:

What would you like to share about yourself?

Those who know me best know that I have played golf most of my adult life (70 years). The most enjoyment is not only the scenic beauty of golf courses all over the country, but more importantly, the excitement of teaching and playing with my sons and grandsons because playing the game of golf teaches many important and beneficial life lessons. I also enjoy the plaques on my wall representing my 2 holes-in-one which occurred in Arizona at age 63 and at Bent Oak in Elkhart at age 69.

What gives you joy?

Nothing gives me more joy than interactions with my extended family during holiday celebrations and weekly visits with smaller family groups. I even enjoy cooking for some of these events, which often includes baking my Grandmother's famous "Lemon Sponge" pie.

EVERENCE

Everence encourages us to be generous givers. 2021 was a record year for charitable giving, with Everence members donating \$180 million into Everence charitable giving accounts and distributing \$72 million to some 3,000 nonprofits. As we end 2022, let's consider ways we may generously share our finances as an act of love and appreciation for the costly love Jesus has given to each of us.

As you consider New Year's resolutions, cultivate a spirit of generosity and remember, our money is God's resource to reach the world! Everence can help you meet your financial goals.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

The Bee Line



Brrrr, It's getting cold outside.

I'm sure you've prepared yourself for a long winter's night and so have the bees and their keepers.

Long ago the nectar collection slowed down and the bees began to bring propolis into the hive to seal up any cracks that would allow cold air to leak into the hive. The number of bees in the hive has decreased. The drone bees have been killed or driven out of the hive so there are less mouths to feed. The queen lays fewer and fewer eggs and then stops. The bees begin to cluster and the queen is surrounded by thousands of her workers. The cluster begins in the brood chamber when the temperature gets between 54-57 degrees. The bees generate heat by shivering their wing muscles. (Remarkable, isn't it?) The center of the winter cluster remains a constant 92 degrees where the queen is snug as a bug in a rug. The cluster moves around the hive to maintain a source of food. The bees will consume about 50-60 pounds of honey in the winter. Bees won't defecate in the hive. Instead, they hold off until the temperature is 45-50 degrees and then take a cleansing flight.

We as bee keepers have also prepared our bees for the cold weather. We must examine the hive and determine if the bees will have enough food to make it through the winter. We will feed them sugar water to help them store enough food. The keepers must be sure the hive is properly ventilated. Warm air from the cluster rises and will condense on the cold hive cover and drip cold water if the hive is not properly vented.

We may wrap the hive in black tar paper. The black tar paper absorbs heat from the sun. Our hives have been carefully placed along a tree line so the trees can be a wind breaker. The front entrance is narrowed and a metal mouse guard is placed on the hive.

We remember that bees are living creatures created by God. They have lived in the wild for thousands of years and when we put them in hives in an apiary, life becomes different for them and we as bee keepers must make several preparations to get them through the winter. Then we hope and pray that our girls will be healthy when Spring arrives.

This concludes our third year as Creekside Bee Keepers. It's been a lot of fun and offers good eating, too... this year we were able to harvest around 225 pounds of honey! Talk to Ron Nicodemus or Deana Ward if you would like some Creekside honey (a great Christmas gift!)—the suggested donation is \$8 for 1½ pounds or \$15 for 3 pounds.

Ron Nicodemus for the Bee Team

DECEMBER 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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 Ellis, Donald
- 10 Metcalf, Bryce
- 12 De Pue, Stephen
- 12 Kauffman, Deb
- 13 Ehret, Vicki
- 16 Hostetler, Doris
- 22 Neal, Roger
- 25 Bollinger, Grace

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Kauffman, Mike & Deb
- 20 Foland, Ted & Lynne
- 28 Rodgers, Rick & Valerie

EVENTS

- 2 Set up for Cookie Walk, 9-noon
- 3 Cookie Candy Walk, 8-noon
- 6 *Church reserved*, 4:30-9:30 pm
- 8 Fellowship Team, 6:30 pm
- 9 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 17 *Church reserved*
- 23 *Office closed*
- 24 Christmas Eve service, 7:00 pm
- 25 Christmas, in-person worship at 9:30, no livestream
- 27 *Office closed*
- 28 *Office closed*



The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



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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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