

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

January 2023



*If you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish.
Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. Esther 4:14*

The end of an old year and the beginning of a new one invite us to look back at where we have been, and forward to where we would like to go. The verse above from the book of Esther is a quote from Esther's uncle Mordecai to his (secretly) Jewish niece, the queen of Persia. It is an admonition to seize the day, and use where God has placed her to work on behalf of her people, the Jews. You may remember from the story of Esther that she would ultimately be successful, but it would take careful planning and risk to herself.

The church has always had decisions to make about its ministries and its future—this has gone best when the church's mission is closely aligned with God's mission. Here are a few ways in which Creekside members and leaders will have the opportunity to consider our life together in the coming year: Sunday, January 1 will be a worship service in the Gathering Area. As part of her vision and planning for that service, Betty Kelsey will be sharing a video created by artist Paul Grout for National Youth Conference 2008. It is an audio/visual overview of the biblical story of creation, exile, salvation and redemption. It is a wonderful resource which we hope will generate discussion. The video proceeds at a break-neck pace! You may want to watch it more than once.

The Church Board, under the leadership of Kurt Vardaman, will be meeting for an afternoon retreat on Sunday, January 15. This will be a time of review, looking forward, and goal-setting for the coming year. There will also be some good food involved! I am grateful to our Board members and their willingness to uphold the trust of our congregation in business beyond the routine and financial.

As holiday celebrations wind down and members and friends return from travel to be with family, I would remind you of these words from theologian, civil rights leader, and educator Howard Thurman:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins.

Blessings for this time and our work together. In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Advent and Christmas are always a rewarding and tiring time in the church! My warmest thanks to Worship, Fellowship, and Media Teams for their planning and support of services and activities at Creekside. I am looking forward to a week in California to be with family and soak up as much sunshine as I can.

I have some new opportunities coming up in 2023: I have been invited to join the Board of Church Community Services as a clergy representative. As many of you know, Elkhart City was one of the founding congregations of CCS more than 50 years ago. I am planning to lead a Women Creating Community group for several months at Camp Mack. I will be attending the AMBS Leaders Conference in February 2023. I trust that all of these activities will feed my soul and give me more insight into my role as pastor at Creekside.

Thank you for the many lovely Christmas greetings and blessings which you have shared with me and my family. They are treasured. Thank you to all of you who were able to contribute toward our Advent Love Offering; I believe this is part of our work as the church, and I am so grateful that all of those offerings will go toward services for our community and through the Church of the Brethren.

Blessings for a happy new year to you and your families—
Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

For the past few weeks, Gary Arnold and I have been attempting to come up with ways to improve the worship experience at Creekside for those who have hearing problems. We currently have a system which broadcasts an audio signal to a series of personal receivers which some of you have been using. Each receiver has a foam-padded earphone which clips over the ear. It does not seem to help many of you who have trouble hearing, so we will be experimenting with various types of earphones, headphones and a neckloop beginning in January.

We hope to have a meeting after a service in January with those of you who would be helped by a better hearing device. **Disabling** hearing loss affects 25% of persons aged 65-74 and 50% of persons over age 75. Less than disabling hearing loss affects much higher percentages in both age groups, so most of us will be there at one time or another.

Let me talk about the neckloop first. It was used in December by two of our members who said it works well. They were chosen to test it because they have hearing aids which contain a telecoil or "t-coil". If your hearing aid(s) have that capacity built into them, the neckloop will probably be the best answer for you. You wear the lightweight loop around your neck during the service and plug it into one of our receivers. It then broadcasts the audio signal directly into your hearing aids. If you do not know whether your hearing aids have that capability, try to find out prior to the January meeting by referring to your instruction booklet which came with your hearing aids or contacting the person or company from which you obtained them.

Our other solutions involve different types of earphones and headphones. Some earphones or earbuds will fit directly into your ear. Once we find one that works for you, it will be yours to use and you will keep it in your mailbox at Creekside to use each week. Another type of earphone clips over the ear but may have a better speaker than the current earphones do. If that type helps you, we will give you that type to keep for your use. The other choice is a pair of headphones which fit onto your head and sit on the outside of each ear. We currently have eight receivers. If we need more, we will purchase them.

We will attempt to help each of you find something that enables you to better hear the music and the spoken words of each service. If you have another idea to improve the audio, please let Gary or me know.

Larry Ford, Church Board Chair



ADVENT LOVE OFFERING

We have been overwhelmed by your generous response to Outreach Team's request for over and above giving in Advent. As of Sunday, December 18 we have collected contributions of more than \$7500(!) When Followers of Faith adds an additional \$2500, we will have more than \$10,000 to share with local and Church of the Brethren ministries and agencies. Here's a reminder of the groups your Love Offering will support:

- Susanna's Kitchen *remodeling new location to provide daily meals for the homeless in Elkhart*
- Faith Mission *housing for homeless men, women and families in Elkhart*
- Elkhart Women's Shelter *safe and anonymous location for victims of domestic abuse*
- Elkhart Child Development Center *high-quality pre-school education and childcare for low-income families in Elkhart*
- Children's Disaster Services *equips Church of the Brethren volunteers who offer comfort and care to children in the aftermath of disasters across the US*

Outreach Team will distribute these funds as soon as we learn the greatest need for each of these five groups. Cheryl Borem has already purchased and delivered gifts for the 15 mothers and 21 children who will spend Christmas at the Women's Shelter. David and Lodema Hoke purchased and delivered 30 bath towels to Faith Mission when they saw an article in the *Goshen News* about that need. Your donations of hats and mittens and scarves have been taken to the Women's Shelter, and coats will go to the homeless in downtown Elkhart.

We will let you know how much money is collected by the end of 2022, and how and when those funds are spent or distributed. THANK YOU for helping Creekside Church make a difference in our community.

God bless you—

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach Team

FELLOWSHIP TEAM NOTES AND EVENTS

Thank you for your donations of clean used containers for packaging food from Creekside to go to friends or shut-in members. Those containers need to be cleaned in our dishwasher to be sure they are ready to use. Please place all incoming containers in the gray basket on the table in the kitchen. We appreciate your donations!

Mark your calendars:



- Sunday, January 8 Epiphany Sunday *Three Kings' cake for fellowship time following worship*
- Sunday, January 29 SOUPER Sunday and Potato Bar Fundraiser *Homemade Soups, Baked Potato Bar - This will be in the gathering area directly following the Sunday School hour. Carry out will be available.*
- March 12 - Italian Lunch *Watch for more details in the Feb. & March Connections*

Fellowship team: Becky Miller, Betty Snyder, Deana Ward

THANK YOU!

Thank you very much for all the lovely birthday cards and sentiments. They played a large part in making my day great! You are the best!

Esther Buchanan

Thank you so much for your gifts and cards. They are always appreciated! I wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year!

Marita Barsoda

MONTHLY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BRUNCH

The monthly brunch for Creekside men & 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 ranek@yahoo.com or 574-537-4478. The next brunch will be on Jan. 10 at 10:45 am.

Save the Date! RETREAT FOR WOMEN IN THE DISTRICT Saturday, March 25th

What: A retreat for women and their friends and family members in the N. IN District of the Church of the Brethren. (Because of COVID we haven't met the last 3 springs. It's time to gather again!)

Where: Creekside Church of the Brethren

When: Saturday, March 25, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

There will be more information sent out in January to women in each of the churches so they can help get the word out. If you have questions, you may contact Judy De Pue.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces as we connect and learn together! Please invite your female family and friends to join us.

EVERENCE

Just as the Church of the Brethren denomination, and, of course, Creekside as well, has been supportive of Ukraine, Everence has also joined their members in supporting Ukraine relief.

Everence members have distributed more than \$815,000 to over 50 nonprofits in support of Ukraine relief efforts. In walking alongside their members, Everence has contributed an additional \$75,000 to nonprofits working to help the people of Ukraine.

We are excited to work with an organization that lives out their love for Christ!

Contact Everence for guidance in growing your financial life using tools that are rooted in your faith values. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence will assist you in integrating your finances with your faith. Go to everence.com or call 574-533-9511.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

This article was written by Ron Nicodemus and published this fall in Messenger. What great recognition for Creekside and Creekside's Bee Team!

Creekside creates a buzz with bee ministry

This year the Indiana Bee Team of Creekside Church of the Brethren (Elkhart, Ind.) has raised more than honeybees. They have also tried to raise awareness regarding the problem of food insecurity.

As part of sharing honeybee education, the Bee Team explained why this tiny, six-legged insect is so important. Earlier this year, the team sponsored a pollination workshop highlighting the important role of honeybees in food production. Did you know, for example, that every third bite of food eaten is a direct result of honeybees and other pollinators?

In May, Creekside's Bee Team also provided a program for the Camp Mack Garden Club, sharing how the sunflower serves as an important source of pollen and nectar. Marcia Sowles, a member from Arlington, Va., noted that a sunflower is also the national flower of Ukraine and talked about how the war there has affected the children's lives in that country. Sunflower seed were supplied for each participant to take home and plant in honor of the Ukrainian children.

As for its ongoing work, the Bee Team says to plant more flowers and remember to "bee kind."

Ron Nicodemus



The Bee Line



What's happening in our apiary as a cold harsh Indiana winter is upon us? Like some animals, honey bees do not hibernate. They are animals that need to stay warm and eat... and what goes in must sometime come out.

First of all, foraging stops when there are no flowers blooming with a source of nectar and pollen. As bee keepers, we try to do our part, by making sure we have allowed them to store enough honey for a needed food source. This year we harvested over 100 pounds of honey that we felt was more than our hives needed for winter food. A hive, depending on the number of bees, needs 40 to 50 pounds of honey to survive an Indiana winter. Our rule of thumb is to leave one brood box with an extra brood box or super full of honey available for them. In addition, we may provide a sugar patty or add dry sugar on top of the frames.

Activity will stop on the outside of the hive, but inside a frenzy is taking place. The most precious member of a hive is the queen, and she must be protected from winter's cold. The bees will cluster around the queen to keep the needed 95 degree temperature for her to survive.

Bees begin to cluster around the queen when the outside temperature gets around 55 degrees. Now, on the outside of this ball of bees the temperature is much cooler than on the inside. The bees will rotate their position in the cluster, from outside to inside to keep warm enough. This heat energy is produced by the shivering of their bodies and the flapping of their wings. The cluster will remain together and move around the hive to use the honey that was stored.

We bee keepers do our part by wrapping each hive with black tar paper. The color black absorbs the sunlight to provide some heat. We also must help with the amount of water that is produced by the 95 degree heated cluster. Heat produced will rise to the top of the hive and cause moisture to condense on the inside of the cold top cover. The bees use this condensation as their water source, but too much moisture will drown the bees. We arrange the hive cover to allow the air to circulate. One other thing we do is narrow the hive entrance to keep the mice out.

Bee keepers don't disturb the hives during winter. We might tap on the hive occasionally and listen for a buzzing sound, which offers us reassurance that our bees are safe and sound.

Ron Nicodemus for the Bee Team

JANUARY 2023

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

- 1 Kohler, Karen
- 2 Prael, Benjamin
- 8 Cooper, Jenny
- 10 Borem, Jeff
- 12 Rodriguez, Zoey
- 13 Pletcher, Rosemary
- 14 Supancik, Shirley
- 23 Colver, Carolyn
- 23 Vardaman, Janet
- 27 Kelsey, Betty
- 30 Mishler, Grace
- 31 Walters, Reid

EVENTS

- 1 New Year's Day, in-person worship at 9:30, *no livestream*
- 2 Memorial service for Bill Pletcher, time TBD
- 10 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 11 Finance Team, 2:30 pm
- 12 Fellowship Team, 6:30 pm
- 13 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 15 Church Board retreat, noon



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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