

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

March 2023



## *New Things*

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth;  
do you not perceive it?  
Isaiah 43:19*

As we come to the end of February, many of us are preparing to turn over a new leaf: perhaps you made big commitments at the beginning of Lent (which started on Feb 22, Ash Wednesday), but I was thinking more literally of turning the page on the 2023 Creekside calendar. The photo at the top of this page, taken by Larry Ford, is also the photo for the month of March. For me, it captures the character of Lent. Lent means “lengthening of days,” something which many of us are eager for. The first day of spring always happens during Lent. This photo also captures the uncertain progress of the season. Spring may be inevitable, but it is rarely predictable; rain, snow and sunshine are all possibilities—sometimes all on the same day.

Lent began as a time to prepare new converts to Christianity to join the church through baptism on Easter Sunday. Although it now has overtones of confession, penitence, and sacrifice (“What are you giving up for Lent?”), we should not lose sight of the goals of new and abundant life as we prepare to celebrate Easter. The story of the life and death of Jesus remind us that sacrifice is a part of that new life. Giving up habits, ideas, and prejudices which keep us from fully seeing and participating in life with Christ is part of our ongoing work. This season, echoed in the realm of God outside our doors, reminds us not only of what we are called to give up, but what we have to gain. We are invited into a cycle of dying and new life.

I am grateful for the ministries and the people at Creekside who remind us that we need to be looking for new leaves to turn over. For garden planners who have a vision for tomatoes and other vegetables, but also for flowers to feed our bees and nurture our spirits; for the Church Board and its commitment to plan and provide programs to invite and encourage young families and children to visit and join us; for our Outreach Team, and their continuing conversations about how we can be more visible to our neighbors and in our community.

While we hope for success and sunny days, like the changing weather, sometimes our ideas fizzle out in a chilly drizzle. We need to keep our eyes on the prize of new life and new hope in Jesus Christ: brothers and sisters, spring is coming! Easter is on the way; we are a community of resurrection and promise. The measure of our success is our faithfulness to the call to be witnesses to what Christ has done and is doing.

In hope and expectation—  
*Pastor Rosanna*

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Today there is a cold wind blowing, and the bird feeder outside my office window is wreathed with icicles. Although I have been planning for spring, today it seems far away. The forecast for tomorrow is sunny and warm—at least for Indiana in February.

As I meet with friends and members, I know that this season has been difficult for some people with concerns about their own health, or concerns about their family. It is a privilege to have you share with me, and to walk with you and pray with you and for you. I have been blessed by the ways Creekside has reached out with support and encouragement to those in our midst who need prayer and care, including my sister-in-law Joy.

I have approached Lent with some trepidation this year, and am grateful for Sunday School teachers, Media Center folks, and our worship planners and musicians for all the ways they have contributed to accessing and preparing resources. I am glad to be part of a congregation which is willing to engage in potentially difficult conversations about faith and race.

Fellowship activities continue to be a joy—both for those who can attend and partake of the good food in person, and for those who benefit from the food which has been prepared and sent to them. Look for more meal events in the coming months.

I will be in Elgin for Mission and Ministry Board meetings March 10-12. It is a glimpse into the work of the Church of the Brethren in this country, and in our relationships abroad, especially as the church in Nigeria prepares to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brethren continue to sponsor disaster response and other service in the US and abroad.

Thank you for your prayers for me, for our congregation, and for our denomination!  
*Pastor Rosanna*

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Church Board met on Wednesday, Feb. 15. There were two main topics on the agenda.

This month we invited the Christian Education Team to join us for a discussion centered on the board goal to be intentional about welcoming children and providing activities for them each Sunday. The Christian Education team has put thought and work into this goal already. The following ideas came from our joint conversation.

- The monthly show and tell activities will continue. The children enjoy them.
- Having nursery care and Sunday School for children needs to be a whole-church project. Jessica Pahl is modifying the Brethren Shine curriculum to better suit our needs. Lessons will be easy to prepare and teach.
- The Church Board will put together a task-force of 4-5 people to work on details of the implementation plan.

The Board is thankful the Christian Education Team joined our meeting and appreciative for their excellent ideas and work they are doing.

Our second item on the agenda involved a request by persons unaffiliated with Creekside to host a wedding at our facility. We currently do not have a wedding liaison and so Rosanna has asked for guidance on how to proceed with this request. We weighed some concerns of property damage, disregarding guidelines, and leaving the property without cleaning-up. We agreed that the Wedding Guidelines needed to be reviewed and updated, however, we gave Rosanna the approval for further conversation with the couple that made the request.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm.  
*Kurt Vardaman, Church Board Chair*

Tom and Kathy Nowicki are now at their new address: 58622 Fawn River Court, Elkhart 46516

## EASTER FLOWERS

Check your church mailbox in March for an order form for Easter Flowers! Worship Team will place an order for Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, Mums and other plants from you. These plants will be part of our Easter morning worship service; you may take them home after the service.

This year you may also make a donation toward seeds for native perennial wildflowers. They will be planted in the garden plot along the north side of our driveway. Growing flowers will benefit our bee ministry and decrease the amount of garden space which volunteers need to tend and harvest. Thanks to Cal Graber and Karen Grant who have been discussing this plot with Nature Conservancy planners. We hope to plant these seeds this spring.

See the order form for cost of flowers; please plan to place your order or make your donation no later than **Sunday, March 26**. Please pay when you order (you may include cash or check with your order, or mark your offering envelope with a payment for "Easter Flowers").

Thank you! *Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team*



### Let's Gather Again!

*The registration deadline is Sunday, Feb. 26 for our preliminary count. Please get slips to Judy De Pue. (We can accept last-minute registrations until Sunday, March 12.)*

**Join us for a Women's Retreat on Sat. March 18, 9:30-3:00 at Creekside!**

Women from the N. Indiana District of the Church of the Brethren, and their friends and family members, are invited. The **\$10 cost** covers a light breakfast (hard-boiled eggs, muffins & beverages) and a catered box lunch.

**Topic:** "Undoing the Barriers: Understanding the Dividing Wall of Racism"

Creekside's Christian Education Team and Pastor Rosanna McFadden have been encouraging members of our church to learn more about the impacts of race in our communities. We chose to extend this learning opportunity to women in the district.

Nekeisha Alayna Alexis from AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana will lead us.

Creekside Church is looking forward to seeing your smiling faces as we connect and learn together!

## EVERENCE

The next few months, I will be sharing information from a January Webinar on *Improving Your Credit*. **Credit scores** are often important in obtaining credit cards, cell phones, renting, utilities and even determining your car insurance premium. A credit score is a 3-digit number running from 300 to 850. It is based on how likely lenders feel you are to repay your credit. The numbers range as follows: **300–629 Poor, 630–689 Fair, 690–719 Good, 720–850 Excellent**. Your goal is to have your credit score trending upward every six months.

Credit scores are based on the following: **Payment History** (Have you paid your credit on time over the past 2 years?) and **Credit Utilization** (How much debt is on your card compared to your debt limit? It is very important to keep your debt below 30% of your credit limit. If you *really* want to work on your credit score, you should only charge **10%** of your credit limit.)

Look for more info on Credit Scores and Credit Reports in the April newsletter, or at *Everence.com*.  
*Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate*



## CAMP MACK NEWS

### Upcoming Events:

Mar 4 Volunteer Celebration

Mar 20–22 & Apr 3–5 Volunteer Work Days

Mar 11–12 Mother Daughter Retreat

Mar 25 Woodcarving Get-A-Way Day

*More information & summer camp registration at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org)!*

**Thank you** for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray. **Please pray** for new hires; we have 3 positions open. May we be a great fit for each other.

# Praise, Blessing & JOY

with Mike & Deb Kauffman



## Jesus:

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

**D:** Phil Wickham's "Angels We Have Heard on High", and Mercy Me's "Best News Ever" **M:** Phil. 4:4-8, and "Give me Jesus" by Fernando Ortego because it is all about Jesus.

**What do you love about Creekside Church?**

**D:** Oh my, let me count the ways! The warmth of your welcome, the heart for service to those in need. Members who genuinely love our Lord and care for one another. The concern for our global sisters & brothers in crisis. Our Pastor Rosanna. **M:** I love Creekside people and their heart for ministry to others. I love the servant heart of the people. I love the Pastoral leadership of Rosanna. It was the first place I wanted to visit when we left Maple Grove and it has exceeded my expectations!

**What is one prayer you have for Creekside?**

**D:** I pray that God will bless us with the ability to expand our territories to bless others. That we may seek the path He has in mind for us and not our own. "Lean not on your own understanding, but in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5-6 KJV) **M:** My prayer is the same as the warning in Revelations to the Church in Ephesus, "do not abandon your first love".

## Others:

**What ministry do you do for others?**

**D:** If I can show cheerfulness and kindness to others to brighten a moment of their day, that's probably my favorite ministry. I am also a volunteer for Children's Disaster Ministries. I have not been called out as yet but ready to go! I am a new member of the Outreach Ministry Team. **M:** I am involved with the Seed to Feed garden at Creekside and I am on the District Board for the COB.

**What connects you to people at Creekside?**

**D:** My love for Jesus, my love of serving others. **M:** A variety of ways: my many years at Camp Mack; working in the garden, on landscaping, and at the fish fry; Sunday School and worship.

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

**D:** Love one another as God loves us. Forgive even if it's hard. Seek joy in every day. **M:** From my years at Camp, serving in a number of District capacities, and experiencing other churches: Creekside has something very special going on and they are being talked about in good ways about their variety of ministries to a variety of people. I encourage Creekside to continue to be leaders and examples of what Jesus would do. My blessing is for you to be the best example of Jesus you can be as Christians in this show room window we live in.

## Yourself:

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

**D:** My sister and brother and I were raised in a loving home by hardworking middle class parents. I love people, music, the beauty of this earth, animals, art, reading, making pie ;) and a relaxing good cup of coffee. I am blessed beyond measure as a cancer survivor, mother to three sons, a step-daughter and step-son, grandma to 15, and as an answer to prayers, the wife of a godly man these past 10 years. **M:** I remember as a young boy walking into the Dining area at Becker Lodge; by the stone staircase there was a large wooden sign that spelled JOY: Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last. That has always been engraved in my mind as the way we should live. I love Jesus and, because of the relationship I have with Him, life is great. I enjoy life and most problems that come along are not as big as they would be if I did not have Jesus always there. Jesus said we are to "love God with our whole heart, mind and soul" and our neighbor (that's the O: Others) as ourselves. I enjoy serving others and I believe our neighborhoods stretch a long way to the many people we come in contact with. Lastly, ourselves: love yourself and give yourself some grace when you are part of the family of God.

**What gives you joy?**

**D:** It's often the small things: watching the sunset over the gulf with Mike, the sweet little birds coming to eat on our deck, my children and grandchildren's laughter. The best, is knowing that I will be in heaven someday with Jesus! (certainly not a small thing!) **M:** Life brings me JOY if I keep my priorities in check. I have a Savior who loves me and will never leave me nor forsake me. I have a lovely wife who spoils me and 5 kids and 15 wonderful grandchildren. I have great siblings. I have a great Church family. I am blessed in so many ways. Yes, life brings me JOY, and knowing it just gets better when we leave this earth is JOY.



# The Bee Line



The “talk of the town” in these post-pandemic days is, “Have you been vaccinated?” Vaccinations, when taken, protect your health from many varied diseases.

Some of the vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control are: flu, pneumonia, shingles tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and most recently 4 Covid vaccinations.

How do you measure up? Vaccines prompt our bodies to make and store antibodies that will fight particular diseases when exposed.

What does this all have to do with bee keeping? Until recently, it was believed that insects could not store antibodies. But in 2015, scientist, Dr. Frecidtak, discovered that honey bees could acquire immunity and develop antibodies in their small bodies. So, honey bees can be vaccinated against several diseases, the most serious of which is American Foul Brood. American Foul Brood is a bacterial disease that turns a hive dark brown. All the bees in the hive die and make a rotten smelling slimy mess. There is no cure for this disease. When a hive is infected with American Foul Brood, it is destroyed by burning the boxes, frames, wax, and bees. This disease is very contagious to the other hives in the apiary and must be stopped immediately.

In most hives there are more than 40,000 bees. Can you envision a bee keeper taking a small needle and vaccinating each bee? It isn't going to happen! BUT, it was found that if the vaccine was placed in royal jelly, a food fed to the queen by worker bees, she would become immune to the disease and would pass the immunity along with each egg laid. With the Queen laying up to 2000 eggs per day, soon the whole hive would be immune from this disease. Thank you, science.

Bees are a livestock that are controlled by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), just like beef and chicken. On December 29, 2022, the USDA approved this vaccine for bees by a bio-tech company in Georgia. Dalan Animal Health can make and distribute this drug.

Will we soon be vaccinating our Creekside Bees along with the other disease treatments we already use? Probably not! As with most new drugs, the cost will likely be prohibitive.

*Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team*

## MARCH 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 Arnold, Pauline
- 1 Ward, Deana
- 2 Martin, Mary Lou
- 3 Noffsinger, Ted
- 5 Snyder, Karen
- 8 Carlson, Katy
- 14 Nowicki, Kathy
- 21 Yoder, Betty
- 23 Gilliland, Walt
- 27 Hoke, David
- 30 Barton, Jean
- 31 Emeis, Peggy

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Graber, Cal & Sharon
- 10 Behr, Steve & Becky Miller
- 31 Harney, Scott & Angi

### EVENTS

- 7 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 9 Fellowship Team, 6:30 pm
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 DST: “spring forward” 1 hour
- 14 Brunch at Angel’s, RSVP to Roger N.
- 15 Worship Team, 10:00 am  
Deacons, 1:30 pm  
Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 17 Set-up for Women’s Retreat
- 18 Women’s Retreat, 9:30-3:00
- 21 Christian Ed Team, 6:00 pm

# *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.*

