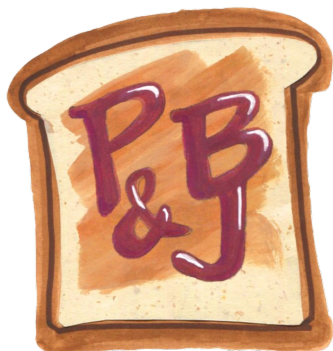


Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

April 2023



Always

*"And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age." Matthew 28:30b*

We are traveling the rough path of Lent and looking toward the cross and the promise of resurrection and new life. The words at the top of the page are the very end of Matthew's gospel, Jesus' last words to his disciples before he returned to his Father. This is the end of a farewell which begins with a charge to "Go, and make disciples of all nations." This Great Commission ends with the promise of Christ's presence with us—now, and until his kingdom comes.

If you have been around Creekside Church for more than five years, you may recognize the PB&J logo pictured here. For many people this brings to mind peanut butter and jelly, a sandwich classic. But thanks to a lot of repetition and some creative writing from Sue Noffsinger, at Creekside, PB&J has an additional meaning: Praise, Blessing and Joy. We're going to see how many ways we can spread PB&J after Easter; it turns out many of you have already begun! We keep re-printing the "Thanks for sharing your gift . . ." notes, and as long as you keep sharing them with friends at Creekside—and beyond—we'll keep making more copies. That is a great way to spread PB&J, and it's OK if you lay it on thick.

Outreach Team will be collecting donations of peanut butter and jelly after Easter through the beginning of May. These will be taken to the food pantry at Church Community Services to be shared with neighbors there. Place your donations on or next to the cross in the Gathering Area; the cross was made by Bill Birr to receive PB&J. Can you think of other ways to spread PB&J? Maybe a phone call or a plate of cookies to a shut-in who is in need of encouragement, or paying for a meal for someone in line behind you. I'd love to hear how you are being Christ in your neighborhood.

Christ's presence with us means that we are not alone, but it also means that there is still work to do. The kingdom of God and the end of the age have not arrived. There are still people in need and people who have not heard the good news that Christ is alive and active in our midst. The Church Board is continuing to challenge us to find ways to spread that good news to families and children who may need a church home. We believe we can offer a caring community and adoptive grandparents that would be a blessing to our neighbors. We need to find our own flavor of PB&J which we can share. Remember those gift notes? Those are ways which we recognize and encourage others to step up and reach out to try something new. We hope you will be part of inviting others to come and be part of expanding what Creekside has to share.

Christ is with us! Always and forever. **Praise** God, **Blessing** to you, and may you experience the **Joy** of the Easter season.

Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Spring is still hiding around some meteorological corner, but that may change by the time you read this. I have been working on services for Holy Week and Easter (see details on the next page). I am grateful for the effort of the Media Team to support these additional services.

I have been enjoying my preparation, and especially the meetings with the Women Creating Community group which I am leading at Camp Mack. It is a lovely group of women. The current session will end in May, and then we hope to meet again September 2023 through May of 2024. I have also been engaged with my work on the CCS Board. Many of you know that Seed to Feed coordinator Gabby Parrish is leaving CCS at the end of April. I have been part of a small group which is planning a farewell recognition to express gratitude for all the work she has done on behalf of that program.

Teams have been busy planning programs, and I meet with many of them. The retreat for District women on March 18 was a highlight of the past month; many thanks to Christian Ed and Judy De Pue for planning the day. We had a dynamic leader, and lots of help from others in the congregation.

I plan to visit local shut-in members between now and Easter. I appreciate David and Lodema and our deacons for the support and leadership they provide for prayer and care, and also for arrangements for Love Feast. We're adding some different things to that service this year!

I am looking forward to a week of vacation at the end of April. Tim and I and our three children and four grandchildren will be at a favorite family spot in Florida. You will be in good hands with our deacons and office manager. District Moderator Don Anderson will be in the pulpit on April 30, joined by District Board chair Mike Kauffman. I am grateful for their service to the District and to Creekside.

Blessings for this Easter! *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

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

First, we continued working toward our goal to be intentional about welcoming children and providing activities for them each Sunday. Tim McFadden from the Hospitality Team joined this meeting to discuss ways that hospitality fits into the overall goal. The following are thoughts from our conversation:

- Tim McFadden is intentional about meeting new guests.
- Cary Kelsey has started delivering cookies to visitors. This had been suspended during COVID.
- Younger families/people are looking for connections or relationships. They want to be involved in something that matters to them.
- Inviting people and families to events may be a good way to make a connection and build a relationship, before inviting them to worship.

Thanks to Tim for joining our meeting and providing insight into the work of the Hospitality team.

Second, we updated our Wedding Policy. We were prodded into action by a request from persons unaffiliated with Creekside to host a wedding at our facility. Although the couple has chosen another facility, Creekside will be ready when a request occurs. Major changes involved the fee structure:

- Deposit – To hold the date, will be credited to other fees when balance is paid – \$150
- Worship Center – Ceremony – \$350
- Gathering Area & Kitchen – Rehearsal – \$250
- Gathering Area & Kitchen – Reception – \$450
- Pastor – Ceremony & pre-marital counseling, rehearsal – \$150
- If the building is left clean, a portion of these fees may be returned.

We next looked at the position summary for the Wedding Coordinator. This position will be filled as needed and appointed/requested by the Board. The coordinator will report to the property team and pastor. This person will work directly with the couple and communicate with all the appropriate teams and individuals at church. *Full copies of the Wedding Policy and Wedding Coordinator Position Summary are available through the church office.*

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm at Creekside.

Kurt Vardaman, Church Board Chair

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ACTIVITIES

April 2, Palm Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. The worship service on April 2 will begin with a palm processional—we'll try to have a representative group of ages, with children leading the way. You are invited to help Outreach Team after worship that day by filling Easter eggs for our Egg Hunt. You may do this as a part of a Sunday School Class.

April 6, Maundy Thursday Love Feast 6:00 pm, Gathering Area. This service will include traditional readings and singing, and a meal of beef and bread. NEW this year we will have stations for service activities: you may put together a hygiene kit for Church World Service, fill Easter Eggs for the Community Egg Hunt, sign cards for shut-in members, or share footwashing. There won't be time to do every one, but you may choose the option or two which fit you best.

April 6, "Good Friday" Service, around 7:15 pm in Worship Center. Following Love Feast, we will transition to a service of scripture reading and music to remember the events of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death. This service will conclude by 8:00 pm. If you need a ride, please call a friend from Creekside or contact the church office.

April 8, Community Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am. Children 3 to 12 years old are invited to participate. Volunteers are needed at 9:00 am to hide eggs. Thank you for your donations of candy. Christian Ed and Outreach have gotten great gifts and special prizes for the kids!

April 9, Sunrise Service, 8:00 am. Our first celebration of the resurrection will be followed by a hot breakfast in the Gathering Area. Thanks to our Fellowship Team for making this special.

April 9, Morning Worship, 10:00 am (*note change of time*) Christ is Risen! Family, friends, and neighbors are invited to worship with us. There will be no Sunday School; we will return to our regular Sunday schedule on April 16. Remember to take your Easter flower order home after worship. Happy Easter!

Pastor Rosanna for Worship, Deacons, and Outreach

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the many thoughts, prayers, calls, cards, and hugs following the death of my brother Dennis. He was loved and will be missed.
Love, *Jan Weaver*

I would like to thank my church family for the card shower! It was so thoughtful. We watch you each week and miss all of you.
Sincerely, *Karen Snyder*

People say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it takes a whole church to host a retreat for 96 women! The Retreat for Women in the District worked out so well with the help of so many of you: the Media Team for all their AV work; Christian Education Team for setting up and working registration; Fellowship Team for the food/beverage prep and clean-up; Property Team for setting up tables and chairs; Outreach Team for helping with funds; Pastor Rosanna, Marita, and Roger for their administrative help; food servers; Small Group leaders; Creekside attendees; and those who invited guests.

My heartfelt thanks to each of you!

Judy De Pue -CE team retreat organizer



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Christian Education team is seeking volunteers to staff the Creekside nursery during Sunday worship services. This would be only on Sundays when there are young children at the church. You can use your help even if you aren't able to lift young children.

See Kathy Royer or Jan Weaver to see if you can sign up for a regular time to help. Thank you!



CAMP MACK NEWS

Registration is open for summer residential camps at Camp Mack. Do you know a child who would love to attend and benefit from a week of community and spiritual growth at camp? Children who have completed 1st or 2nd grade can attend a 2-day Samplers camp. Beginning after 3rd grade, campers can attend for a week. Youth & Dandirri (survival) Camps include youth who have completed 9th – 12th grades.

There are options for each age group. You can find more details in the Camp Mack brochure, online at www.campmack.org or ask Lisa Vardaman for assistance.

Now is also the time when camp is busy preparing for all these campers and retreat guests. Just like many households do spring cleaning, it's the same for camp. There are some upcoming options for all activity & skill levels if you are available to assist.

"Shine all over Camp Mack" is the theme for Camp Mack's Giving Day on April 15. Volunteers are requested to help from 9:00 am until noon. Lunch will be provided and an ice cream social will be held at 1:00 pm. Camp needs help with cataloguing three decades of picture slides, completing the finishing touches at Ulrich, scooping cookie dough to be frozen so cookies can be fresh-baked for arriving campers this summer. There are leaves to rake and sticks to be picked-up at camp (just like at my house), fresh mulch needs to be spread and hiking trails need trimming. Are you available for the morning of April 15th to help make camp shine? Kurt & I plan to go. Contact me if you can help, also.

Starting at 1:00 pm on April 15th the focus of the Giving Day will shift from volunteering to sharing camp stories and ice cream. This event will also be livestreamed, so you can participate from home. I'll get that livestream link closer to the event; let me know if you need it. Money raised on this day will be used to purchase generators, batteries, and lighting so that camp can shine even when the power is out. Last year camp experienced 8 major outages. Power continuity will prevent campers and retreat-goers from being sent home because of a lengthy power outage. Keeping the water running, lights on, and the ability to prepare and safely store food are essential.

Camp has openings for two full-time positions: A Kitchen Supervisor for evenings & weekends, and an Office Manager working 8-5 Monday-Friday who would answer the phone and handle Accounts Payable. They additionally are looking for summer staff.

Additional upcoming events include:

- April 3-5 Volunteer Work Days—meals & lodging provided. Work for an hour or a few days.
- April 19-23 Spring Quilt Retreat—just 1 spot available.
- April 29 Target Sports Get-A-Way Day—bow & arrow, sling shot, paintballs, darts, & atlatl.
- April 30 Wildflower Walk Get-A-Way Day—free! 2-4pm

Lisa Vardaman, Camp Mack Representative

EVERENCE

We are continuing to glean information from the Everence January Webinar on *Improving Your Credit*.

Credit Reports are available for your review. These include actual data based on your credit and loan account history. The following 3 companies collect our data: Equifax, Trans Union, Experian.

Presently, federal law states that we each have the right to see our information once a year. Go to annualcreditreport.com to access your personal credit record. **Negative** information on your report is kept for **7 years** while **positive** information is maintained for **10 years**.

Credit Scores may often be accessed for free from your bank or the actual credit card company. Credit scores may also be obtained for free from Credit Karma or Credit Sesame. These two companies, however, lack privacy and like to push their financial products.

Next month we will look at ways to build our credit. More at Everence.com

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate



The Bee Line



The more I work with and study the lives of honey bees, the more remarkable I find them to be! Bees are often thought to be creatures with simple brains. Their brains are only the size of a sesame seed, but scientific studies show they can do many things with this tiny brain.

Of course, we know they can communicate with each other by doing the “waggle dance.” This dance tells the other bees where the best nectar is found; how far and the direction the nectar is from the hive; and even the kind of flower to look for by smell. But scientific studies have also shown that honey bees can recognize the person who takes care of them, too.

A recent article in the Washington Post noted that scientists have explored the learning abilities of honey bees by using drops of sugar water. An experiment was set up with black and white pictures of human faces. Only one picture had drops of sugar placed in front of it. Bees were released into a room where they soon found the sugar water. The next part of the experiment had different photos placed and rearranged with the one that previously had sugar drops in front of it. This time there was no reward in front of any of the pictures. When the bees were once again released, miraculously, they found the correct face that previously had the sugar treat and presumed it to be their caretaker 80% of the time—lending credence to the common beekeeper's assertion that bees can recognize the person who takes care of them.

You can read about many more experiments found in the July 29, 2022 Washington Post article. This article has indicated that bees, like humans, are able to think, enjoy, and even suffer. Realizing that honey bees are living creatures created by God, we bee keepers have learned that we care for and are able to participate in one of God's wonders.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team

PS: Can you help the Bee Team find pint mason jars? We can sterilize them and they'll be good as new! Thanks!

The Creekside office is closed on April 6 & 7, the Thursday and Friday before Easter. If you have things to be printed for Easter, please contact Marita or Rosanna by **Monday, April 3.**

APRIL 2023

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Randall, Tim
- 5 Regina, Sharon
- 6 Arnold, Kaylee
- 11 Carlson, Connor
- 11 Nowicki, Tom
- 12 Zerbe, Maryann
- 16 Neal, Bonnie
- 16 Snyder, Betty
- 26 Harney, Angi
- 27 Kelsey, Cary
- 27 Lund, Diane
- 27 Prah, Eloise

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Hoke, David & Lodema
- 6 Grant, Doug & Karen
- 30 Bode, Ray & Deb

EVENTS

- 2 Palm Sunday
- 6 *Office closed, Maundy Thursday*
Love Feast, 6:00 pm
“Good Friday” Service , 7:15 pm
- 7 *Office closed, Good Friday*
- 8 Set-up for egg hunt, 9:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am
- 9 Sunrise Service, 8:00 am
Easter Worship, 10:00 am
- 11 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to Roger N.
- 12 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 19 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 27 *Church reserved, Prahls*

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.

