

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

May 2023



Nothing is Impossible

"[Glory] to him who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." Ephesians 3:20

I saw a poster the other day which read, "I've heard that nothing is impossible, but I don't believe it. I've been doing nothing all morning." The poster made me chuckle, but the message is a sobering one for the 21st century church. The time after celebrating the resurrection of Christ and preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church at Pentecost is typically a time when the Church remembers, revisits, and re-evaluates its vision and the mission of God. If we are faithful to our call to be God's people in the world, then [doing] nothing is impossible.



Embodying the mission of God, the *mission Dei*, has always been challenging. At some times in Christian history, and in some places in the world today, Christianity has been illegal or Christians have been persecuted for gathering for worship or reading the Bible. The challenges facing 21st century American Christians are different than that: we live in a country where freedom of religion means people are free to not have any religion at all. More and more Americans are choosing this option. Researchers have dubbed these folks as "Nones" because when they check the box for Religious Affiliation, they mark None. There is also a rising number of folks—of a variety of ages—whom researchers call "Dones". These are folks who used to attend church regularly or occasionally, but do not any longer. They might describe themselves as Christian, or "spiritual, but not religious," but they do not attend or support any church.

These trends accelerated when a global pandemic broke the pattern of people attending weekly worship. Nearly everyone stopped going to church in person—at least for a time—and a significant percentage chose not to go back. At Mission and Ministry Board meetings in March 2023, we heard from religion reporter Bob Smietana who shared these sobering figures: in 2019 average attendance for churches in America was 139 people; in 2022 that average had dropped to 67.

The mission of God has not changed, but we cannot work toward that mission in the same way that the church did 50, 20, or even 10 years ago. I do not believe that the challenge of mission is fundamentally one of financial resources. If we become self-focused to the extent that our mission is maintaining our facilities, we may not be doing *nothing*, but we're not engaged in the mission of God. Doing nothing may be possible, but it is not the faithful option for the church. The world needs what the church has to offer. The world needs the mission of God. Nothing is impossible.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Spring may be my favorite season of the year—unless it's fall, and then fall is my favorite season (!) A lot happens and is still happening in the life of the church this time of year. I am grateful for the many volunteers who contributed to our Holy Week and Easter observances: planning and set-up for Love Feast; media and music and readers for Good Friday; filling and hiding eggs, registering children and hosting the Easter Egg Hunt; shopping for and delivering Easter buckets to the Women's Shelter; setting the chancel for worship and setting the tables for Easter breakfast. A special thanks to David and Lodema Hoke for a busy week as chairs of both Deacons and Outreach Team. My thanks to the deacons who took Easter greetings to shut-in members or sent cards to folks who are out-of-town.

Onions and potatoes are already planted in the Seed to Feed garden. Thanks to your donations, seed for perennial wildflowers has been sowed along the north side of the driveway. These pollinator plants will support our Bee Ministry, apple trees, and vegetables near the fence of Frame Cemetery. Our container garden ministry is in its fourth year, and has gotten attention from Goshen Health Systems who may use a similar model for a 2023 grant project. Container planters/planners are in conversation with a church in downtown Elkhart whom we may partner with. We will continue to supply container gardens to partners from ADEC, folks from the Council on Aging, and friends at the Willows.

I personally had a busy Holy Week, preparing for additional services and taking communion/visiting shut-in members of our congregation. McFaddens had some family events to celebrate, as well, and I have been fortunate to be able to juggle childcare for my grandchildren with Creekside responsibilities. We continue to help Tim's sister, Joy, as she has cancer treatment at Goshen Center for Cancer Care. Tim is anticipating having more work responsibilities added to an already over-stuffed schedule; a physician at Oaklawn is leaving with no replacement as yet. Tim has been a great supporter of my work, and I hope I can return that blessing to him.

Thank you for your prayers, the ways you serve Creekside, and your support of our church family. God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

EVERENCE

We will end our ***Improving Your Credit*** Webinar information by looking at important ways to build your credit: pay your credit on time and use less than 30% of your credit limit. **Even if you pay off your credit card balance each month, you must keep it below 30% to obtain a good score.** It is also important to remember that **co-signing** for a loan affects your credit score as well.

Ways to build credit: (1) Open a secured credit card. (2) Get a credit builder (small) loan. (3) Have someone add you as an authorized user. (assuming you trust them to pay on time) (4) Get federal student loans out of default. (5) Review your spending plan based on the last 24 months. (6) Use an "auto-pay" with a bank for a small bill you pay monthly.

Everence offers a financial choice benefit through ***Issmn.org*** or by calling **877-809-0039**. **Six free sessions** may be accessed for: (1) Budget counseling (2) Debt management plans (3) Housing counseling (4) Student loan repayment (5) Credit reports. Rebuilding credit and cleaning up from the past can be done at the same time. More information on Credit Scores and Credit Reports may be found at *Everence.com*.



EVERENCE MEDICARE MONDAY EVENTS

Everence offers **FREE Medicare Monday** events (virtual & in-person) to discuss important information about retirement income and transitioning to Medicare. Go to ***everence.com/Medicare-Mondays***, see the poster in the Narthex, or make an appointment with Talia Bauer at 800-222-5054, ext. 3506.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate



PB&J DONATIONS Thank you for your donations of peanut butter and jelly! These will be delivered to CCS after May 7. Keep spreading praise, blessing, and joy to our neighbors in need. *Pastor Rosanna for Outreach Team*

The Bee Line

Bee keepers wait in anticipation for Spring to come around. Did our hives make it through the winter? (It's not unusual for 50% of our hives to die, and we did lose 1 hive.) Hives must be carefully monitored in the Spring for mites and hive collapse (the bees abscond with all the honey) and make sure there is enough food until the bees can find a source of pollen.

For bees, pollen is their source for life sustaining fat, protein, and vitamins. Pollen is fed to both the adult bees and the developing larvae. Because the queen can lay as many as 1500 eggs a day in the summer, there can be as many as 30 thousand larvae to feed.

In one year, a hive of bees consumes as much as 75 pounds of pollen. This takes approximately one million collection trips out of the hive foraging for pollen. On each trip, the foraging bee visits between 10 and 100 flowers and makes up to 20 trips a day.

House bees in the hive help unload the pollen, mix it with saliva (enzymes from the bees' stomachs), and store it in the cells where it ferments. This "beebread" is the staple of a honey bees' diet.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team



SEED TO FEED GARDEN

Garden work has already begun on the Creekside property! We are scheduling regular workdays for anyone who is able to help. Come as you are able on **Tuesdays or Thursday mornings, 9:00 - 10:30 am.**

Thanks to Cal Graber and Mike Kauffman who will organize volunteers on these days. We have less area to manage this season, but we can still use your help.

Children are invited out to the garden on Sundays after worship. Beginning May 21, kids will have their own seeds to plant and tend. Watch what God can do with sun, rain, and our help.

THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone for their cards and prayers while I was in the hospital with my heart problem and then at home. *Jan Birr*

I'd like to say thank you for the food, the signed card (with messages), and the beautiful flowers. I miss being in church, but I appreciate the YouTube service. With love, *Garnett Heeter*

Thank you all so much for your cards and gifts during Admin. Professionals Appreciation week! It was such a great surprise, and I certainly feel appreciated! *Marita Barsoda*

MAY 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

- 2 Grant, Doug
- 6 Prah, Ryan
- 10 Justiniano, Myrtis
- 13 McFadden, Rosanna
- 18 Arnold, Gary
- 20 Morphew, Tim
- 20 Rodgers, Rick
- 24 Bode, Ray
- 24 Miller, Becky
- 26 Ehret, Larry
- 26 Griffith, Roger
- 27 Schmucker, Leonard

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Arnold, Gary & Pauline
- 14 Kohler, Joe & Karen
- 14 Schmucker, Chris & Beth
- 27 Griffith, Roger & Anne

EVENTS

Garden work day every Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00-10:30 am

- 6 Church reserved, 5:00-10:00 pm
- 7 Show & Tell with Tim Morphew
- 9 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to Roger N.
- 10 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 11 Fellowship Team, 6:30 pm
- 12 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Kids' Crafts, 2:00-3:30 pm
- 14 Mother's Day
- 17 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 28 Pentecost Sunday
- 29 Memorial Day, *office closed*

The Creekside Connection

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