

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

July 2023



Like a Mustard Seed

*He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like?
And to what should I compare it?
It is like a mustard seed that someone took
and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree,
and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.'*
Luke 13:18-19

The season of Pentecost is the time in which the church is invited to consider the mission of God and how we are called to participate in the kingdom of God. These were, of course, things which were part of Jesus' teaching. In particular, Jesus shared parables—stories which revealed something about the kingdom of God—with his disciples, followers, and curious listeners. A mustard seed appears in parables in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and a teaching about as much faith as a mustard seed in Matthew and Luke. What is consistent in all of these teachings is the size of the mustard seed: it's really small! It either grows into a huge shrub and becomes a tree, or it's a measure of faith which can accomplish amazing things. Either way, a mustard seed is a lot of potential in a very small package.

From mid-July to mid-August, our worship theme will focus on the mustard seed, and how it is sown, grows, and provides a haven for the birds. How are mustard seeds like the kingdom of God? How are God's people supposed to be like mustard seeds? You will have an opportunity during this time to share (briefly!) the small gifts from God which have increased and helped you to grow in your faith or in your life. These could be things, acts of kindness, or people who have provided a glimpse of the kingdom of God. You may even find out that something which was insignificant to you made a big impact on someone around you.

Faith is not only the things we see, it is the conviction of what we cannot see: the promise of forgiveness, redemption and salvation in Jesus Christ. The parable of the mustard seed reminds us that even the tiniest things, when rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ, can grow in ways which we could not predict or control. When we grow in Christ, we cannot help but minister to others. There is a lot of preaching potential packed into this short parable! I pray that it will lead us to remember and give thanks for God's faithfulness, yesterday, today and always.

May we be rooted in God's steadfast love, grow in our faith in Jesus Christ, and muster the courage to reach others through the power of the Spirit. God bless you—

Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Thank you for your prayers, support, and caring during a difficult season for the McFadden family. The sudden death of our sister-in-law Renee has been devastating for Tim and me, especially as we walk alongside Dave and his children Rachel and Sam. I can't imagine how much more difficult this would be without a community of friends and our faith in the promises of Christ.

We have also been walking with Tim's sister Joy on her journey with cancer; it has been a rough road. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers for healing and strength for her and the surgery and treatment which lie ahead.

I will be at Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Cincinnati, OH July 3-8. Ted Noffsinger is the delegate from Creekside Church. Please pray for Ted and all the delegates, for their preparation, safe travel, and the leading of the Spirit in their deliberations and decisions. We will schedule a report from Annual Conference—typically in late July or August. Conference is also a time of worship, fellowship, and re-connecting with friends and family; Creekside's leadership is to be commended for supporting this connection with the wider church.

My appreciation to Worship Team for their planning for summer speakers and events—they will be planning a summer vesper service. That date is not yet set. Shalom Team will be conducting a pastoral evaluation this fall; Finance Team is working on interviewing other churches to see what accounting systems they use so that we can make a recommendation to the Board about what would serve us best at Creekside. Property Team has been supporting the effort to make our shared spaces at Creekside more welcoming and functional for all of us. Many people have been helping with this effort. Christian Education Team will be sponsoring "Changemakers Lab" Vacation Bible School on July 16-20 from 6-8:00 pm. Exciting things are happening! Thank you for your work on behalf of God's kingdom.

Pastor Rosanna

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Earlier this year we put out a call for persons who had trouble hearing the worship service to see whether we could help you. We have helped a number of persons, but we want to help others if needed.

If you have a hearing aid which has a T-cel, we can hook you up directly with the church's sound system. If not, we may be able to find head phones which will fit comfortably over your ears and enable you to receive the sound in both ears, even into your existing hearing aids. You would place the earphones in your mailbox so you would have them each week. If you would like to try to improve your ability to hear the service in the sanctuary, contact either Larry Ford or Gary Arnold.

SCHOOL KITS

The Outreach Ministry will once again, this August, be providing necessary school supplies for MCC school kits. We will assemble 200 kits again this year.

Because MCC has asked for very specific types of supplies, we humbly request monetary donations be offered in lieu of actual products. We will purchase in bulk the exact items requested by MCC.

Each kit contains: 4 wide ruled, one subject, 70 page spiral notebooks; 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm); 12 colored pencils (in packaging); 1 large pink eraser; 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens; 1 small metal pencil sharpener.

Blessings and thanks to you in advance for any and all monetary contributions!

David and Lodema Hoke, Outreach chairs



**Join us for Changemakers Lab:
Everyone can make a difference in the world!
Vacation Bible School at Creekside
July 16-20, 6:00-8:00 pm**

The Bee Line

Trials and Tales of a Beekeeper's Wife

“ Living with a beekeeper has its ups and downs. Our biggest argument is the amount of time he spends at the Apiary. His reply is always the same, “During your lifetime you only had to take care of three girls. I have to take care of 250,000 girls and a queen and a few hundred drones.”

You know he doesn't knit, sew, cook, quilt or even walk on the treadmill, and I don't complain. But, what I don't understand is how much he brags about how meek, mild and sweet his girls are. If they are so doggone sweet, why does he sometimes come home with a swelled red nose? Then it's time for me to take the stinger out while he moans, “They found a hole in my netting and it really isn't fun seeing one of my beloved girls circling my nose. I got her out and started running, but I forgot she can fly 15-20 mph or more. Ouch! But, one bad apple (bee) doesn't spoil the whole bushel (hive)”.

Now there is one beekeeping activity I'm glad to help him with. I need to do this to save having a big mess in my kitchen. I don't mind when he says, “My girls are hungry. Can you help me make some sugar water?” And I guess it's all worth it when it comes to extraction time and he comes in with buckets of yellow gold. Then I get out my recipe file and make some of his favorite goodies. The smile on his face is worth it all. ”

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team



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Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

JULY 2023

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Birr, Jan
- 7 Randall, Shelly
- 13 Graber, Cal
- 23 Vance, Kristen
- 24 Nicodemus, Ron
- 25 De Pue, Judy
- 27 Harney, Scott
- 30 Ford, Larry

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Arnold, Brian & Kaylee
- 8 Prael, Ryan & Jessica
- 11 Nowicki, Tom & Kathy
- 14 Carlson, Kyle & Katy
- 25 Barton, Steve & Jean
- 28 Kelsey, Cary & Betty

EVENTS

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

- 4 *Independence Day*
- 9 Hoke's Deacon Group, 12:30 pm
- 11 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to **Steve B.** Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 12 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 19 Church Board, 6:30 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.

