

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2023

## *“A Festival to the Lord”*

*On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. You shall celebrate a festival to the Lord for seven days. Numbers 29:12*

As we approach the end of August, many of us are making plans for Labor Day, the unofficial end of summer. Families may be headed out camping or even to Labor Day Family Camp at Camp Mack. Some older adults from Creekside will be attending the biennial Church of the Brethren National Older Adult Conference in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Even if you are no longer employed, Labor Day is an opportunity to pause from your regular routine and have a day to rest from labor.

Most of us are familiar with the biblical concept of sabbath, a seventh day when God instituted rest. I more recently became aware of the Jewish holiday Sukkot (or Succoth). It appears in the New Testament as the Feast of Booths, which Jesus attends incognito as a practicing Jew. The following definition is from [toriavey.com](http://toriavey.com), a website of Mediterranean culture and cuisine:

Sukkot (Feast of Booths or Tabernacles) is one of the three biblically based pilgrimage holidays known as the *shalosh regalim*. It is an agricultural festival that originally was considered a thanksgiving for the fruit harvest. Sukkot are hut-like structures that the Jews lived in during the 40 years of travel through the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt. As a temporary dwelling, the sukkah also represents the fact that all existence is fragile, and therefore Sukkot is a time to appreciate the shelter of our homes and our bodies.

Sukkot is celebrated by, first of all, building a sukkah. Jews are required to eat in the sukkah for eight days (seven days in Israel), and some even sleep in the sukkah for the duration of the holiday.

In 2023, Sukkot is September 29 through October 6—the fruit harvest in Elkhart County should be well underway by then. A Christian friend who has celebrated Sukkot and slept in an outdoor shelter through the week shared how meaningful (and how chilly!) it was to make the connection between a fruitful harvest, Creation, and the need for shelter.

This may be the first year since Creekside's apples trees were planted in spring of 2020 that we have a measurable fruit harvest. I may pitch a tent out among the tomato plants and take some time away from the insistent rhythm of text messages, email, meetings, and other work responsibilities. If you see me out by the trees some mellow afternoon or cool evening, I hope you'll come join me. We can talk about God's goodness, the importance of rest, or maybe just sit and enjoy the sounds of God's sacred world.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

August, as anticipated, has brought a sense of abundance, verging on the “enough already!” The tomato harvest and tomato processing are in full swing. If you have never participated in this ministry, I encourage you to see if there’s a way you could help; it is an opportunity to fellowship with friends from Creekside and help our community at the same time.

The Church Board has been busy considering how best to re-configure classrooms and next steps with stained glass [more on each of these elsewhere in the *Connection*]. Worship Team has been planning for our Vesper Service, and making decisions about Christmas Eve (!) I am grateful for the work of ministry teams at Creekside, and especially for the opportunities I’ve had for some much-needed rest. Tim and I were able to celebrate our anniversary on August 20, and we will be gone the week of September 18-24. Tim’s sister Joy has had a rough recovery from surgery; thank you for all your prayers and concern for her and for us.

Creekside/Elkhart City was named the 2023 centennial church by the Elkhart County Agricultural Society. This year is our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We received a lovely wooden recognition plaque at a banquet on August 21. David and Lodema Hoke, Jason and Deana Ward, and John and Maryann Zerbe were able to attend that banquet with me.

I will be leading a nine-month session of Women Creating Community at Camp Mack beginning in September. Many of the participants have been attending WCC for years, but there is room for new faces as well. I will be chairing a sub-committee of the Mission and Ministry Board, and will have the opportunity to meet with denominational leaders at Northern IN District Conference on September 16 in preparation for Mission & Ministry Board meetings in Elgin in October.

Autumn has many riches to share as the season turns to prepare for harvest. On October 1, we will celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday, and October 29 will be Creekside’s celebration of All Saints’ Day, and recognition of loved ones who have passed away in the last year.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at Creekside: we value your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to bringing forth God’s kingdom in Elkhart County!

*Pastor Rosanna*

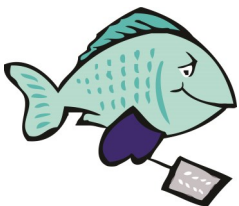
## VESPER SERVICE, AUGUST 27

Sunday evening, August 27 is Creekside’s vesper service. We will begin in the Gathering Area with dessert at 6:00 pm, and move outside (weather permitting) toward the Prayer Garden for evening worship. If the weather is wet, we will remain indoors.

Betty Kelsey has planned a service around the theme of “Journey”. Tim Morphew will share about his upcoming hike on the Camino Français in Spain. Anyone who wishes will be invited to walk Creekside’s labyrinth at the end of the service.

We hope to see you there! Please bring lawn chairs if you have them (we’ll have extra chairs if you don’t), blankets, bug spray, or anything else you need to be comfortable outside. And bring your appetite—dessert will be homemade pie and ice cream!

*Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team*



## FISH FRY, OCTOBER 14

The annual Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 4:30-7:30 pm. It will be drive-through / carry-out only again this year. Cost is \$11 in advance for those over the age of 13 (\$12 at the door), and \$6 for ages 6-12. (Ages 5 and younger eat for free.) Pre-sale tickets are available from David or Lodema Hoke.

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

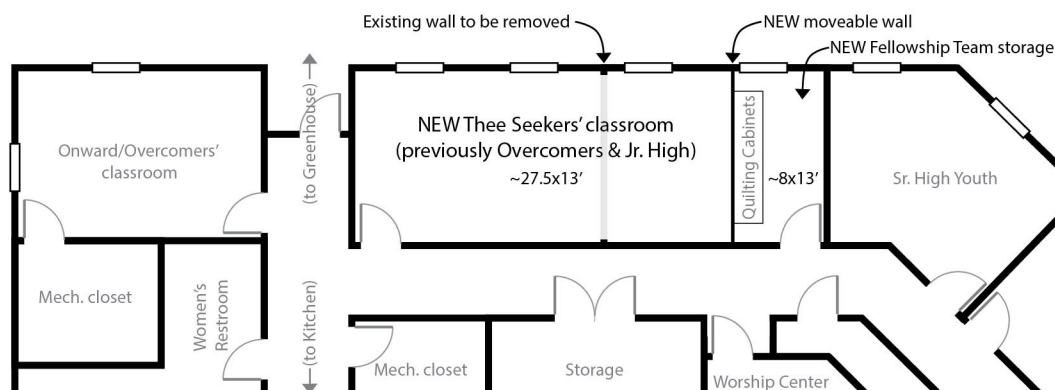
In August, the Church Board meeting was a long one. The agenda included the usual items plus updates from the committee working on the board goal, a proposal for wall removal, stained glass, an insurance coverage issue, and shalom team brought a recommendation for kitchen use.

Scott Harney, assistant board chair, updated us on the progress of the committee working on the board goal, "Be intentional about welcoming children and providing activities for them". Their group has met twice and for starters they are planning to take advantage of the currently scheduled events, such as the Fish Fry, to promote the activities and ministries of Creekside.

Roger brought a recommendation from the Property Team to increase our insurance policy by \$60.00 per year to cover the "Bee shed". This resulted from a walk around our property with our insurance agent, who noticed the "Bee shed" was not currently covered on our policy. The board approved this additional expense.

Cary Kelsey brought a recommendation from Shalom team. The recommendation is to have posted in the kitchen a list of all areas to be cleaned after each use of the kitchen, as well as where the supplies are kept and instructions for their use.

We had a lengthy discussion regarding the wall removal proposal from Thee Seekers. The result of our discussion is as follows. The Board will direct the Property Team to convert the Overcomers/ Jr. High classrooms to a large classroom for use by Thee Seekers and storage space for use by Fellowship Team. The Fellowship room will be the farthest away from the bathrooms. The existing wall between the two rooms will be removed and the Cabinets will be turned into the Fellowship space with a freestanding wall attached to the back so it can be moved in the future, if necessary. We expect that disruptions from the Fellowship Team during Sunday school classes will be rare. For now the two existing doors will be used. Please see the included diagram. The room vacated by Thee Seekers will be available for use.



Lastly, Pastor Rosanna updated us on her progress with the stained glass project. A person in the congregation has asked to pay for stained glass in our church as a memorial project. Pastor Rosanna is in the process of contacting each person that held up a red or yellow card at the Aug. 6 meeting (these are people who had concerns or questions). Once she has spoken to all the individuals, she will compile the results and present them to the board to determine the next steps for the project.

*Kurt Vardaman, Church Board Chair*

## THANK YOU!

The Outreach team thanks you for all your willingness to give to our Outreach projects. Your support for Outreach is greatly appreciated.

*David & Lodema Hoke, Outreach Team leaders*

I have been blessed by the calls, cards, and prayers given to me by my brothers and sisters here at Creekside. Thank you.

*Ron Nicodemus*

## STAINED GLASS REPORT

Thanks to those of you who were able to participate in the conversation about stained glass on August 6. There were 50 people present at the meeting: 24-30 people held up green cards indicating they are willing to have conversation about stained glass at Creekside move forward, 10-12 people held up yellow cards indicating that they have questions or concerns, and 2 people held up red cards indicating they are not comfortable with stained glass at Creekside.

I am talking to as many red and yellow card folks as I can, and compiling their responses to share with the Church Board.

If you were not present on August 6 or have questions, concerns, or objections which you would like to have shared, please contact me before Sunday, September 3, and I will include your input in my report. Thank you!

*Pastor Rosanna*

## The Bee Line

Last month's Beeline featured a writer, a first time guest, who visited our apiary. We dressed her up in a bee suit that allowed her to get a close-up view of the inside of our hives. Her important job was to operate the smoker. Other guests are always welcome. Our bee suits will make your visit sting-free.

Our apiary is small compared to commercial ones. We know a commercial bee keeper, Ethan Mitchell, on County Road 50 in New Paris. We purchased our first hives from Ethan. He started raising honey bees in 2015. Today he has over 1500 hives containing more than fifty million honey bees. Although we have 300,000 bees in our 5 hives, we are considered to be hobby bee keepers. The Mitchell's Honey Co. has become the second largest bee company in the state of Indiana.

Along with honey, Ethan sells beeswax candles, produces queen bees to sell and small colonies of bees called nucs. A nuc consists of 5 frames filled with drawn comb in a small box that holds about 3 pounds of bees plus an egg-laying queen.

Ethan has become an expert in breeding queens. He chooses a 3-day-old larvae developed from a fertilized egg laid by a queen. Remember a bees' life cycle has four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Ethan must harvest the queen cell 3 days after it's laid. If you're going to raise queens, you better be a good bookkeeper!

Each November, Ethan rents out his bees and sends thousands of bees to California on flat-bed trucks. These bees are used to pollinate almonds. (At this time, almonds can only be pollinated by honey bees. Scientists are working to find another method of pollination.)

Last year our 5 hives produced about 120 pounds of honey... but Mitchell's Honey Co. produced between 100 to 120 barrels of honey. If a 55 gallon barrel holds about 660 pounds of honey, how much honey did Ethan's bees produce? (You do the math!)

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, honey bees pollinate about \$15 billion worth of crops in the U.S. each year.

Albert Einstein once said, "If the honey bee disappeared from the surface of the globe, then man would have only 4 years left. No bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

With our bees, vegetable gardens, and wildflower garden, we are adding a tiny, tiny bit to the life span of man. Keep up the good work, Creekside.

*Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team*



Information for this Beeline was taken from a Goshen News article written by Lila Fierek.

**NOTICE: WE STILL NEED MASON JARS. THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED!**



## CAMP MACK NEWS

Mark your calendar for October 7 to attend the Camp Mack Festival. There will be food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family. Enjoy entertainment, demonstrations, crafts, and activities. Shop the auction for artisan crafts and unique experiences. Proceeds support the ministries of Camp Mack. Free admission and parking.

There are many more activities happening at Camp during October. Check out this great list:

- Oct 9-12 Seasoned Citizens Camp
- Oct 14-15 Father / Son Retreat - "Around The Fire" is the theme of the weekend.
- Oct 19-23 Scrapbooking & Craft Retreat.
- Oct 21 Scrapbooking Get-a-way Day
- Oct 21 Knit and Crochet Get-a-way Day
- Oct. 22 Fall Nut & Tree ID Walk
- Oct. 28 Prairie Restoration Work Day

Find more details or cost of these events at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org). You can RSVP to the camp office at 574-658-4831. If you have questions about camp or need assistance, see Lisa Vardaman.

*Lisa Vardaman, Camp Mack Representative*

## EVERENCE

The MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union is different from other cards. Many of us have credit cards on which we earn gasoline points or cash back. Both of these basically just benefit us.

The MyNeighbor card allows us to choose the charitable organization or church we want to support. Everence donates 1.50 percent of MyNeighbor transaction totals to the organization we, the cardholders, choose.

You may apply for the MyNeighbor personal credit card online or through the mobile app. You can also download the application from the website or pick one up at their local office located at: 1110 North Main Street, Goshen, IN; (574) 533-9511; [everence.com](http://everence.com)

*Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate*

## MONTHLY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Brunch will continue on second Tuesdays at 10:45 at Angel's Pancake House Restaurant in Goshen. Please RSVP to Roger Neal at [ranek@yahoo.com](mailto:ranek@yahoo.com) or 574-537-4478.

## SEPTEMBER 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

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vance, Carson
- 4 Cooper, Samantha
- 4 Harney, Katelyn
- 6 Ward, Jason
- 8 Lund, Tim
- 16 Miller, Sandy
- 17 Royer, Kathy
- 20 Carroll, Tony
- 22 Ritzmann, Paulajean
- 26 Miller, Craig
- 26 Miller, Curt
- 29 Barwick, Bruce

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Morphew, Tim & Beth Sollenberger
- 12 Hendricks, Stephen & Becca
- 21 Ward, Jason & Deana

## EVENTS

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

- 8 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 10 Kohler's deacon group lunch, noon
- 12 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to **Roger N.**
- 13 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 20 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 26 Christian Ed, 6:00 pm
- 27 Deacon meeting, 1:30 pm
- 29 Kitchen reserved, Bee Team, 9-4



# *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.*

