

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

October 2023

Autumn Leaves; Christ Remains

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20b

I think I first saw the phrase “Autumn Leaves; Christ Remains” on a church sign. At the time I recall thinking it was a little hokey, but it is a phrase which comes back to me—especially at this time of year. Although craft stores have had Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations out since August (!), most of us begin to mark the change to autumn in late September and into October. We see it in the angle of light in the morning, in trees tinged with red and gold, in the shorter days and cooler nights.

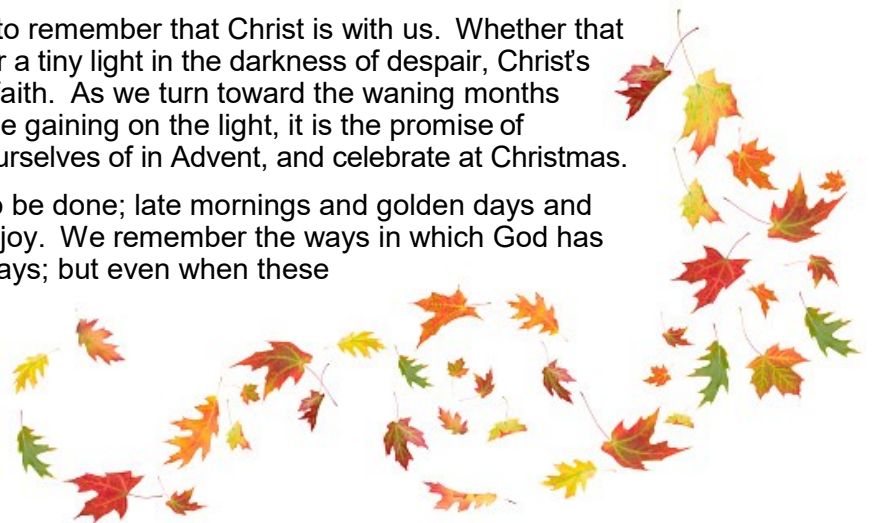
Although autumn is a season of the year, it may also be a season of our lives. It is a season marked by beauty, but also by mortality. It is a season of winding down, coming inward, and preparing for winter. Whatever season you are in—on the calendar or in your life or outlook—Jesus Christ has promised to be there. These words from Matthew are the end of the Great Commission, where Jesus charges his disciples to go to all nations and promises that, although he is ascending to heaven, he will be with them forever. We are still in the age in between Jesus’ life on earth and his return at the end of the age.

Christ remains with us in many ways, perhaps most tangibly in the service we offer and receive from one another. Visiting or simply sitting with someone who is grieving, holding a new baby, weeding a garden, processing tomatoes, putting up drywall in a storm-ravaged home: these are all ways we proclaim that Christ remains. When we participate in communion, we eat bread which is a symbol of the body of Christ, but somehow that participation forms us to become part of the body of Christ. When we engage with the words of the Bible, we gain a deeper understanding of Christ as the Incarnate Word of God. Communion with Christ and community with one another are inseparable parts of our life together.

Whatever season we are in, we need to remember that Christ is with us. Whether that is the full sunlight of joyful affirmation or a tiny light in the darkness of despair, Christ’s presence is the foundation of a life of faith. As we turn toward the waning months of the year when darkness seems to be gaining on the light, it is the promise of Christ’s coming which we will remind ourselves of in Advent, and celebrate at Christmas.

In the meantime, there is harvesting to be done; late mornings and golden days and riches of the season to receive and enjoy. We remember the ways in which God has provided for us and has blessed our days; but even when these things leave, we belong to Christ for eternity. As the people of Christ, we can teach others and demonstrate what it means to belong to Christ and to each other.

Blessings for this season. In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

The author of Ecclesiastes said, "To every thing there is a season." This past month has been the season of tomatoes. There is a lot to be learned from tomatoes— not only about planting and reaping, and the wisdom that if you're rotten, you're of no use to anyone. Tomato processing is also a lesson in faith: we pick the fruit, and hope that workers will come to prepare it for ministry. Miraculously, this has always happened. I am so grateful for the many volunteers who show up, and especially to Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman for their consistent hard work. Please thank them when you are able.

My Women Creating Community retreat group started at Camp Mack in September; I am blessed by that circle of spiritual friends. District Conference was a good weekend; challenging times need strong leaders. My thanks to Mike Kauffman for his leadership of the District Board, Roger Griffith who serves as District Board treasurer, and Diane Lund, who lent her musical skill to Friday worship and Saturday activities.

I have been preparing for Mission and Ministry Board meetings in Elgin in October. I have been asked to chair a Board sub-committee, and to prepare Sunday worship for October 22nd. There is plenty to do closer to home: visiting friends and shut-in members of our congregation, planning for worship, and the regular administrative tasks of meetings and budgets and keeping up with the work of the congregation.

Shalom Team has been conducting interviews for my performance evaluation which they plan to complete by the end of November. My thanks to Cary Kelsey and other members of Shalom who have invested time in interviewing members of the congregation. This feedback is important for me to hear and process with them.

Blessings to you— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The September board meeting found us working through the following topics: current finances, a recommendation for a love offering, progress of the newly remodeled Thee Seekers class room, a report from the committee working with the board goal and a report from Pastor Rosanna concerning the feedback we've received about stained glass.

Roger reported the finances for this year are in good shape even after spending more than we brought in in August. The higher expenses were the result of a third payroll in August (rather than the usual two), a quarterly insurance payment, and the expenses for the completion of the flower bed on the south side of the driveway.

Finance team brought a recommendation to have a Love offering this year, with the proceeds given entirely to outreach—50% to International charity groups and 50% to domestic or local ones. The board approved the recommendation and are researching which agencies to support.

The wall between Overcomers and Jr. High classrooms is down and the wiring is complete so that the overhead lights work correctly. On the floor there is a strip of bare concrete where the wall was. The carpet in the room is no longer available, so there will be a strip of vinyl flooring in its place. We welcome Thee Seekers to begin using this room on October 1; the room will not be finished, yet, but this will allow for adjustments as needed.

Scott reported that the committee working on the board goal has met a couple of times. They plan on having a presence at the Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot on October 28. They will have a few booths to hand out candy and highlight several ministries here at Creekside—the gardens, the bees, information from the Christian Education team, etc.

Finally, we reviewed the Stained Glass report Pastor Rosanna compiled the survey and from her conversations with the people who expressed reservations about stained glass (those who held up red or yellow cards in response to the question "Would you like to have stained glass at church?"). After a lengthy discussion, the board decided to form a committee to continue discussing the stained glass project. We anticipate that the committee will bring a proposal for design, placement, etc. to a future congregational meeting for further discussion.

Kurt Vardaman, Church Board Chair

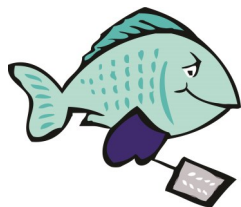
WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

The first Sunday of October is observed as World Wide Communion Sunday by many Protestant denominations and congregations—including Creekside. Anyone who is a member of the body of Christ and is in fellowship with God and neighbor is invited to the Lord's table. Communion will be during morning worship that day.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team



FISH FRY, OCTOBER 14 (Pre-sale ends October 8!)



The annual Fish Fry will be held on **Saturday, October 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.) Sign up to volunteer in the Gathering Area. Cash and any remaining tickets from the pre-sale need to be returned to David or Lodema Hoke by **Sunday, October 8**.

ALL SAINTS OBSERVANCE, OCTOBER 29

Creekside's observance of All Saints' Day will be Sunday, October 29. During this service we will speak the name and light a candle in remembrance of members and friends of Creekside who have passed from this life into the company of saints in the past year.

If there is someone important to you whom you would like to have remembered in this service, please provide Pastor Rosanna in writing their full name, birth date and death date, no later than October 20. You do not have to come forward or speak during that time of remembrance.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*



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 activities happening at Camp during October: Seasoned Citizens Camp, the Father/Son Retreat, a prairie restoration work day, and get-a-way days for crafts, scrapbooking, knitting/crocheting, and tree/nut identification. Get more details at cammack.org, from the camp office (574-658-4831), or from Lisa Vardaman.

Lisa Vardaman, Camp Mack Representative

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Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

The Bee Line

IT'S FALL, Y'ALL! The weather is often dreary and depressing. The days get shorter and darker. But, for some of us, it's a magical time of the year. It brings brisk, cool days and an abundance of colored leaves and cozy sweaters.

Let's not forget the frost that is on those beautiful orange pumpkins. Here at Creekside, autumn may be the busiest time of the year: harvesting and processing tomatoes; picking vegetables from our garden and apples from our orchard; the closing of our greenhouse and the salvaging of our container gardens; and, of course, harvesting and extracting the honey from our bees! Completing all of these activities is just a part of what the Christian Life at Creekside is all about.

We do all of these things for the glory of God. But when I view those beautiful, round, plump, orange pumpkins, it also reminds me that we are God's people in that patch.

Imagine with me that God has gone into the pumpkin patch and selected you, his chosen pumpkin. It doesn't make any difference to God if the color is perfect or how perfectly symmetrical it is. He can make something beautiful out of any of these pumpkins. He takes and removes the ugly slime and icky insides. He then carves out that unique, special face. Next, he places inside of the pumpkin a brightly lit candle... a candle that shines a light for all the world to see. This pumpkin is you and it's me. Being Christian, I am to shine God's light wherever I go.

This year, the Bee Team is going to give you an opportunity to spread God's light. Each harvest, 10% of our honey is tithed. This year, we have chosen to give each of you one pint of our tithed sweet liquid gold. We are asking you to be kind to someone by shining your light and sharing this honey. You can show them that God — and Creekside, and you! — love and care for them. Get your honey to share before our tithe is gone.

Remember, you can also put that sweetness on your own table for only **\$9.00 a pint or \$18.00 a quart.** Get some before it's all gone!

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team



The new COVID vaccine booster is now available in this area. You can get it at CVS or Walgreens. —Tim Lund

OCTOBER 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 Graber, Sharon
- 1 Weaver, Janet
- 3 Vance, Gail
- 10 Arnold, Zane
- 10 Walters, Doris
- 12 Lund, Andrew
- 13 Borem, Cheryl
- 13 Nicodemus, Jan
- 16 Longenbaugh, John
- 19 Barton, Steve
- 19 Vance, Jim
- 23 Ellis, Vicki
- 25 Spiritoso, Brynne
- 28 Carroll, Julie
- 29 Snyder, Leonard
- 29 Sowles, Marcia

EVENTS

Garden work on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 am or as announced.

- 1 Nicodemus' deacon group lunch, noon
- 3 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 7 Camp Mack Festival, 10:00-2:00
- 8 Pre-sale for Fish Fry ends
- 10 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to **Roger N.**
- 11 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 13 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 14 Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 pm
- 18 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 29 All Saints' Day

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.

