

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

February 2024



Were not our hearts burning within us while [Jesus] was talking to us on the road? Luke 24:32

Lent is the season of preparation leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection and defeat of death on Easter Sunday. This year, the first day of Lent is February 14, Ash Wednesday. *More about Ash Wed at Creekside later in this [Connection](#).* Our Lent theme at Creekside will be "Travelers on the Road." Taking inspiration from the Church of the Brethren Lenten devotional, *Through Thick and Thin*, we will focus on Jesus' journey to the cross, and on our own journeys and the people whom we have met along the way. The worship song "*Will you let me be your servant*" includes these lines:

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Our journeys are more than a season, of course. Sometimes we are conscious of making a pilgrimage, and sometimes we are just trudging through our daily activities. It is not only the destination which enlightens or changes us, it is the attitude we carry with us and the fellow-travelers whom we meet on the road. Cleopas and his companion spent a Sunday afternoon talking with a stranger as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The gospel of Luke tells us that stranger was the resurrected Christ, who opened the scriptures to them. Tim Morphew will share from the pulpit on January 28 about his pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago, a five hundred mile trek. Some of the travelers on that road may have set out because of a desire to see the cathedral of Santiago, others to see what they would find out about the path and about themselves. Jesus can be a part of all those journeys if he is welcomed to join us.

If we are intentional about the paths we walk and conscious of Jesus as our guide and companion, traveling will change us. It will teach us what we value, the limit of our own strength, and that Christ is with us always, just as he promised. You are invited to share a bit of your journey beginning on February 8, the first Sunday of Lent. If you have a pair of shoes which represent a journey you have taken or are taking, bring them to Creekside for us to include with our chancel setting. These could be walking shoes, athletic shoes, work shoes, or children's shoes—especially if you teach or care for children. Clean soles (and clean souls!) are appreciated; you may put a note inside the shoes with your name and why these shoes are significant to you. These are on loan to Creekside—you may let us use them for one Sunday or longer. Retrieve your shoes whenever you need them back. All shoes will be returned by Palm Sunday, March 24.

Come, walk with us! Blessings for Lent and for all your journeys.

Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Thank you for all the blessings and good wishes as Tim and I travel to Hawaii! We will return on Saturday, February 10. Many thanks to the Worship Team for securing and welcoming guest speakers Tim Morphew and Carrie Eikler who will fill the pulpit in my absence.

It was wonderful to welcome new members Irene and Terry Rassi and Bobbie Newberry on January 21! If you have not had a chance to meet them, I hope you can take that opportunity soon. Rassis were featured in the December *Connection*, and Bobbie is featured in this *Connection*. We are grateful for the experience and the gifts which they bring to our family of faith. The milk and honey cake which our Fellowship Team prepared is a reminder of the promised land which is awaiting all who have committed, and re-committed, their lives to Christ.

I have been studying and preparing for Lent. I am so grateful for the contributions of Beth Sollenberger, who wrote the Lenten devotional (a year ago!) *Through Thick and Thin*, which will be used at Creekside and by congregations across the Church of the Brethren. Beth has brought wonderful ideas and skills to Creekside's Worship Team. Some tall ladders may get pressed into service before we celebrate Easter on March 31. It's exciting stuff.

Your response to our Advent Love offering was amazing and inspiring. We are grateful to Followers of Faith for their matching gift of \$3,000. We want to be a congregation who is visible and makes an impact in our community and in places in need in the world. Our donation to SPA Ministries will allow us to have our church logo displayed on their social media accounts, and at their annual dinner on Saturday, February 10. Members of Creekside's Outreach Team will be attending that dinner event; ladies from SPA have been invited and plan to attend Game Nights at Creekside. We were also able to give additional money—at the beginning of the year!—to our district and denomination. We know there is a need to support the organizations and staff who support us and connect Creekside to a larger family of churches. *If you have questions about specific Love offering figures or gifts, please see Treasurer Roger Griffith, Board chair Scott Harney, or assistant chair Deana Ward.*

Ministry is never without challenges. We feel the loss of members who have passed away, moved away or pulled away. There are always opportunities for people who feel the call to be more involved, and want to explore how their gifts can be used for Christ and the Church.

Thank you for your prayers, your support, and for making a difference.
Pastor Rosanna

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

All eight of the stained glass windows have been completed and framed! They will be installed by early February. Thank you for your attention and your responses to the windows. We are creating a brochure with photos of the windows, a brief explanation of the overall concept and the design of each window, information about the stained glass artist, and which windows have been sponsored so far.

We will be planning a morning service after Easter to express gratitude and to dedicate the windows. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have been part of this project—not only committee members, but Administrative Assistant and graphics pro Marita Barsoda, and Property Team volunteers who have taken care of pick-up, framing, and installation.

Look up, people of God!

Pastor Rosanna for the Stained Glass Committee:
Cathy Barwick, Jay Ganger, Karen Grant, Deb Kauffman, Beth Sollenberger



SAVE THE DATE

The 2024 district Women's Retreat will be on Saturday, March 16, 9am-3pm at Shepherd's Heart Fellowship (Osceola). **Topic:** The Gratitude Challenge: 41 Days to a Happier, Healthier, More Content Life. **Speaker:** Stephanie L. Jones, motivational speaker & writer of *"The Giving Challenge"*. **Cost:** \$10
Judy De Pue will hand out flyers in February.

PANCAKE SUPPER: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

You and your friends and family are invited to a Pancake Supper at Creekside on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Pancakes, sausage or ham will be served between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. There will be accommodations for dietary needs; if you would like more details contact Becky Miller.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Because Lent traditionally includes fasting from sweet or rich food, the day before—called Pancake Day, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras—is a chance to use up the sweet stuff from the pantry. Various Christian countries or communities have food which is traditional for this day. The word **shrove** is a form of the English word **shrive**, which means to give absolution for someone's sins by way of confession and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

We will not have an Ash Wednesday service and the imposition of ashes, but there will be video resources playing in the Worship Center on Tuesday the 13th between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. After you have eaten supper and had fellowship in the Gathering Area, you are encouraged to take some time for reflection. You may spend as much time in the Worship Center as you wish; please hold conversations elsewhere. Lenten devotionals will be available that evening.

Thanks to our Fellowship and Media Teams for their help. The video resources will *not* be livestreamed. We can't share pancakes virtually, either. Hope you can join us that evening!

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is Sunday, March 31. Worship Team is inviting you to purchase flowers for us to use on the chancel that day. You may take your flowers home after the worship service.

We will be working with Dynamic Landscaping out of Syracuse. The deadline for orders will be Sunday, **FEBRUARY 18**. Look for the order forms on the ushers table by February 4. If you pay through your regular offering, please write "Easter Flowers" on your offering envelope line.

Karen Grant and Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team

A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM:

Our team is looking for continuing Sunday School teachers for our kindergarten/preschool class, and a teacher for our school age children for the month of February. We use a Church of the Brethren curriculum that is loaded with age appropriate ideas for each lesson. Christian Ed team also needs help in the nursery with kindergarten and preschool children during church.

Our congregation is excited that we have 8 regular children at this time, 4 school age, and 4 kindergarten/preschool age. We would love to have the kind of program that would be welcoming to guest children. We expect to grow and are looking for people devoted to Children's Ministry at Creekside.

Let Jessica Prah, our Christian Ed director, or Judy De Pue, chair of CE team, know how you could assist. Thank you in advance for giving this prayerful consideration.

Judy De Pue, for Christian Education Team

HAPPENINGS AROUND CREEKSIDE

If you or your team have an announcement & would like to have a slide created to run during "Happenings Around Creekside", please provide concise details to the Media Team no later than Wednesday of the week. Remember to let us know What, When & Where. You are also welcome to supply an appropriate picture.

Send your Announcement details to creeksidecobmedia@gmail.com.

Lisa Vardaman, for Media Team

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all of your cards, phone calls, texts and prayers for David and myself over his surgery and his death. The love and prayers have been felt and appreciated.

Lodema Hoke

Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y.

with Bobbie Newberry



Jesus:

What song or Bible verse brings praise to mind for you?

“In the Garden”, “I Need Thee Every Hour”, and “Just a Closer Walk”

What do you love about Creekside Church? The friendliness, music, and Pastor Rosanna’s messages.

What is one prayer you have for Creekside? Young people growth

Others:

What ministry do you do for others? Caring, helping, listening

What connects you to people at Creekside? Warmness, caring

What words of blessing or encouragement do you have to share with others?

Remember God is always with you, though he may not give the answer you want.



Yourself:

What would you like to share about yourself? I’m a listener.

What gives you joy? Smiles

EVERENCE

Because our church has a partnership with Everence, there are benefits that are available to you as a member of Creekside. Everence also offers banking, investment and insurance services which you qualify for. See their website at everence.com.

Everence offers college scholarship opportunities for you or your children. Eligible students can be chosen to receive scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 for the coming academic year. Applications are accepted through Feb. 28. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships to download the application.

Financial issues? Start to tackle debt or other money issues by getting counsel. Financial Choice, a free service because of our church’s partnership with Everence, connects you with a counselor who walks with you in addressing financial difficulties. Learn more at: everence.com/Financial-Choice or call 877-809-0039.

Larry Ford, Creekside Advocate



CAMP MACK NEWS

Camp Mack is in its prime at 99 years young. There are many activities and events happening in 2024 within the Sanctuary where people can connect with God. Near the end of this year, camp will begin its centennial celebration. If you are able, plan to be active and involved at Camp Mack.

Summer Camp Registration begins February 1st! Camp has condensed its residential camps into five weeks each summer. There are overnight “Samplers” camps for children who have finished 1st or 2nd grade, and full-week camps for children and youth from 3rd to 12th grade. There are also specialty activity-focused camps available including Splash Camp, Target Sports, Creative Arts, Eco

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Adventure, Survivor, and Culinary Camps.

You'll want to get your children, grandchildren and every child you know registered for camp. Creekside helps offset the cost of camp, so contact me for the "Church Sponsorship Code".

Camp is not just for children! Grand Camp is a 3-day (2 night) opportunity for grandparents and up to three grandchildren ages 5-10. Women's Camp is held 2 days in May and Seasoned Citizens Camp for those 55+ is in October.

Camp has a new online registration system to make the process smoother. Go to <https://www.campmack.org> and click Register. If you have registered for camp before, click "Forgot your log-in information?" to help get you set-up in this new software.

Get-A-Way Days have already started. These are one day activities.

- February 3, 9a to 4p - **Snow Camp** for youth grades 6-10. Games, crafts, snacks, and outdoor play. \$35 includes lunch, a snack, and all activities.
- February 11, 1p to 9p - **Eagle Watch** gives you a bird's eye view of migrating bald eagles between Salamonie and Mississinewa. Cost: \$35 includes transportation and snacks.
- February 24, 9a-4p - **Knitting & Crocheting**. Bring your project or learn how. \$25, includes lunch.
- February 24, 9a-4p - **Scrapbooking and Crafting**. Get-A-Way and bring your project. Learn from and swap extras with other crafters. \$25, includes lunch.

Camp offers longer opportunities for retreats.

- Feb. 15-18 **Quilt Retreat**: Arrival on Thursday (3p) or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. Bring projects to work on and enjoy great fellowship sewing by the lake.
- Feb. 22-25 **Scrap and Craft Retreat**: Arrive anytime after 6p Thursday and Scrapbook or craft until 3p on Sunday. Meals begin Friday evening. Bring your projects! Cost varies by duration, but includes housing and meals.
- March 1-3 **Board Games Retreat**: This is a new retreat for adults to play strategy &/or board games. \$160 for 2 nights and meals. This is being led by Bryan & Jill Vance.
- March 9-10 **Mother Daughter Retreat**: Everything old is new again during this '80s throwback weekend for mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmas, and women of all ages. \$63 per child ages 5-8, \$110 per person age 9 through adult. Includes lodging and meals.

None of these activities and tasks around camp happen without staff. Camp is hiring for 2 year-round positions: a full-time Kitchen Shift Supervisor and part-time Facility Staff member. Paid Summer Staff positions run from May 19-Aug 4. Summer Staff is a wonderful opportunity for a college student.

Volunteers are also necessary to help continue the ministries at Camp. Opportunities might include anything from helping to stuff envelopes in the office, scooping cookies in the kitchen, mowing lawn, craft time, "Camp Grandparents" or Counselors, or helping with a project. The Healthcare office needs nurses (or above). Call Camp to see where you could be of help.

You may remember seeing pictures of all the work that went into the renovation at Ulrich this last year, but just this week, a new floor was completed in the basement which will also have new furniture. This building also has a working elevator. Central A/C and laundry facilities have been installed at Wampler. Camp has a new generator to keep lights on and water flowing when the power is out.

Like many places, the budget is tight at Camp Mack. They did finish 2023 narrowly in the green but cash flow is still a challenge. Having more people participate in the activities, attend retreats or summer camps are ways to help. Consider Camp Mack to host your family reunion, a wedding or company banquet, and of course financial donations.

If you are still reading, thank you, because I hope that means you love Camp Mack as much as I do. There are many more activities happening yet this year that I'll share with you in coming months. Watch "Happenings Around Creekside" for reminders of what is upcoming.

More details on all these events can be found at <https://www.campmack.org> or by calling 574-658-4831. Please contact me if you have questions or need information. I'll be setting out flyers and booklets for you as soon as they arrive.

Lisa Vardaman, Camp Mack Representative

The Bee Line



Sometimes I think, "Well, maybe we ought to think about raising another kind of honey producing insect." Because of the Indiana winters, raising honey bees is a risky business. We aren't surprised if, when spring comes, we have lost 50% of our hives, especially when the temperature nears zero.

How about raising the Honey Pot Ant? Like honey bees, they are social insects. They live in a nest and have a queen that lays thousands of eggs that hatch into worker ants. They spend most of their time in the ground and only forage for food at night. Deep in the earth they are protected from the environment and can have a life span of up to 8 years. (In the summer the life span of a foraging bee is 6 weeks.)

Like honey bees, the food of this ant is nectar. Worker ants travel from flower to flower, suck up nectar and take it back to the nest. This nectar is processed by other ants and made into honey which is stored in the worker's crop, located in their abdomen.



The ants, with stored globes of honey, hang from the top of the nest, where other ants can come along and extract the honey to nourish the ant family. (See pictures.)

These ants are also known as "Candy Ants," and only found in Mexico, Southern Africa, and Australia. They are a delicacy for those living there. Natives dig down into a nest to find jugs of golden sweets. If you are brave enough, you could just pick one ant up, place it in your mouth and suck out the sweetness.

The consistency of the syrup is similar to Maple Syrup. It is less sweet and thicker than honey. Can you imagine placing an ant in your mouth, rolling it around with your tongue and sucking out the honey from its abdomen? Oh, don't chew it up, as you can put it back into the nest and it will go on with it's life as a worker ant and store more honey.

The Honey Pot Ant's production of honey is so miniscule compared to the honey produced by 50,000 honey bees in a hive, but you won't get stung when harvesting their honey. Are you ready to bite into one?

I am amazed how creative God is in the creatures he has put in our world— he even thought of me.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team

FEBRUARY

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		

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Zerbe, John
- 9 Bode, Deb
- 9 Hendricks, Graham
- 10 Borem, Brandon

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Randall, Tim & Shelly

EVENTS

- 6 Outreach Team meeting, 6:00 pm
- 9 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 10 Kids' Event, 2:00-4:00 pm
- 11 Show & Tell with Deb Kauffman
- 13 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Pancake Supper, 4:30-6:30 pm
Ash "Wed" reflection, 5:00-7:00 pm
- 14 *Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent*
Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 15 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 27 Worship Team zoom, 1:30 pm
Church reserved



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.



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