

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

March 2024

## *Cross Talk*

*If two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.  
For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:19-20*

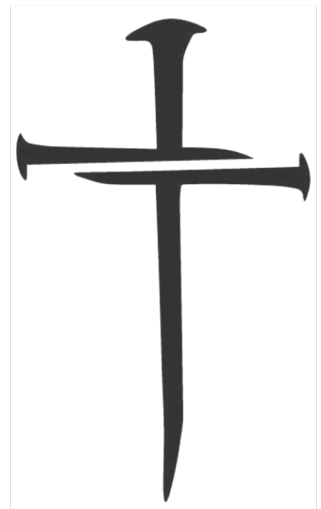
You are no doubt aware that these are tumultuous years for churches, including those in the Church of the Brethren. Congregations, including some in our own N. Indiana District, have left the Church of the Brethren to join another denomination or to become independent. The reasons for these fractures are varied, but they are invariably painful, both for folks who leave and for those who choose to stay.

In my past year on the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren, I have had the opportunity to have a seat at the table. Most often we are hearing reports of conversations, rather than the actual conversations, but occasionally we hear directly from constituents. In October 2023, a group of concerned folks ranging in geography from California to Puerto Rico were guests of the Board on Zoom. Board members were encouraged ahead of time to listen respectfully and not to try to rush in with answers. After our session, we crafted a letter from the Board thanking our guests for their time and letting them know we had heard their concerns. This week, one of those guests sent a lament to ministers throughout the denomination, saying that the conversation with the Board in October was like “talking to a wall”—we didn’t even try to answer their questions!

What happened here? How could two groups of good faith experience the same conversation so differently? I believe that conflict is a fact of life; it can be destructive or it can be transformative, but conflict is present whether we acknowledge it or not. Theologian Bob Bowman had his own tongue-in-cheek version of Matthew 18:20: “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there’s bound to be a disagreement.” Ephesians 4:19 encourages us to “speak the truth in love,” but I believe we also have to listen to others’ truth with love. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, but if we get so focused on promoting our own understanding of that Truth that we cannot hear each other, we have lost our Way.

As we continue to walk through the season of Lent, our stories will take us closer to the cross. When Jesus was brought up on charges before the Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate, he was accused by false witnesses and his testimony was twisted. He did not condemn his accusers, even when he was dying on the cross. Jesus’ actions of love and forgiveness said more than the most eloquent words could have. It is so much easier to speak across one another than it is to embody the message of the cross; we need to speak and to listen with an open heart.

Blessings to you as we travel the road together—  
*Pastor Rosanna*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

If you haven't had the opportunity to hear me say this in person, Hawaii was wonderful! Tim and I had a relaxing and renewing time away. Thanks to Marita, the Worship Team, worship leadership, and Deacons for the planning, leadership, and care you provided in my absence. Thanks to Tim Morpew and Carrie Eikler for their ministry of preaching. I know other members of Creekside have left for or are going to warmer climates through January and April, and I wish you traveling mercies.

Wednesday, February 14 was the first day of Lent. Our theme for the season is "Travelers on the Road." My inspiration is drawn from the Lenten devotionals authored by Beth Sollenberger and published by Brethren Press. Pick up a copy at Creekside, or let the office know that you'd like one delivered or mailed to you if you still need a copy.

Easter is Sunday, March 31 (*more details about Holy Week and Easter in this Connection*). Plans are underway for that celebration. You, your family and friends are welcome to worship at any time, but Easter is an opportunity to share the story which is at the heart of our faith and who we are. I have been glad to be home—especially when it's sunny!—and to catch up with members who have not been able to join us in person, or who have experienced loss in the past few months. Their faith and resolve inspire me, and I am humbled by their hospitality. This is also part of the story of Easter and God's transformative power.

I will be at Mission and Ministry Board meetings the weekend of March 15-17. There is significant preparation before these meetings, and the Board began a 16 hour training in Kingian Nonviolence in October which we'll complete at this March meeting. District Moderator Paul Thomas will be the speaker at Creekside on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with the timely message of "What does it mean to be Brethren?" Paul entered the ministry after a career in public education.

Thank you for sharing your pilgrim journeys with Creekside. May Christ be in our speaking and in our listening with one another—  
*Pastor Rosanna*

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Church board is looking forward to a productive year.

- We welcome Deana Ward to the board and appreciate that she jumped right into the role of Assistant Board Chair for 2024. We look forward to her input, insight, participation and of course the snacks!
- As we welcome Deana to the board we couldn't help but recognize the service and commitment of David Hoke. David served two 3 year terms on the board recently (as well as having served on the board in the past) and was a consistent and loyal participant to our monthly meetings and retreats. He offered great insight into the workings of the church. A special "thank you" to Lodema for her assistance the last few months in driving David to our meetings. David will be missed by us all.
- The stained glass windows are fully installed in the Worship Center and look fantastic. The board got an up-close look at two of the windows prior to installation during our January meeting, and they look even better up close.
- We look forward to expanding the work being done on our 2023 goal of welcoming children and providing Sunday school and children's programs at Creekside. We are expanding on that goal this year and beyond to discern what Creekside's vision and mission is for ministry, growth, and sustainment. We will be inviting all of our team leaders to the March board meeting to begin that discussion. As always, anyone and everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.
- The board approved a proposal to replace the church phone system which was very outdated and cumbersome in many ways. Timing on that installation is not yet determined but it should be seamless and a refreshing upgrade including a couple of wireless handsets.

*Scott Harney, Church Board Chair*

## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, just before Easter. Here are activities you can anticipate, and are warmly welcome to attend.

- **Palm Sunday** (Sunday, March 24) Palm Processional during 9:30 am service
- **Maundy Thursday** (Thursday, March 28)  
6:00 pm Love Feast service, meal, communion in Gathering Area  
7:15-7:30 pm Good "Friday" service in Worship Center
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt** (Saturday, March 30, 11:00 am) Volunteers are needed to help with both set-up and clean-up
- **EASTER** (Sunday, March 31)  
8:00 am Sunrise Service and breakfast in Gathering Area  
**10:00 am** Morning Worship  
*There will be no Sunday School this day; we'll return to regular time and schedule on April 7.*

Christ is risen, indeed!

## EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you for your generous response to ordering flowers for Easter! That order has been submitted, and the flowers will be delivered on Saturday, March 30. They will be part of our worship service on Easter morning, and you may take them home with you after worship on Easter Sunday.

Please wait for a member of the Worship Team to help you with your order that day—it will help us keep track of the total so that everyone can get what they ordered. Thank you!

*Karen Grant and Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team*



## EASTER CANDY

Followers of Faith will be accepting donations of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30. Bring candy donations to Creekside between March 3 and March 25. Volunteers who can fill eggs in the Gathering Area on Sunday, March 25th are welcome! You may also make a monetary donation through your offering: write "Easter Candy" on your giving envelope.

Candy must be individually wrapped, and short enough to fit inside a plastic egg. Twix or other candy which is too long will be eaten by the Creekside staff (!)

Thanks for your donations!

*Lodema Hoke, Outreach Team*

## 2024 NORTHERN INDIANA DISTRICT WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to the Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The retreat is at Shepherd's Heart Fellowship - 58362 Beech Rd., Osceola, IN 46561. Cost: \$10 A light breakfast, as well as a Baked Potato/Salad Bar lunch will be provided. (Vegan & Gluten-Free options available.)

**Topic: "Giving Your Best Life"** The power of giving and gratitude in helping you get unstuck, taking a step of faith, and letting God write your story.

**Speaker:** Stephanie L. Jones, motivational speaker & writer of *The Giving Challenge*. *Stephanie is an award-winning author, speaker, podcaster, and coach from Valparaiso, IN.*

Register with Judy De Pue by **Wed, Feb. 28, if possible**, or by March 10 at the absolute latest. (Judy's cell: 574-215-3298; email [jdepue@maplenet.net](mailto:jdepue@maplenet.net)) Your registration & \$10 (cash preferred) can be turned in to Judy at church. Attendees can meet at Creekside on March 16 and carpool together to the retreat.



# Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y.

with John Hemminger



## Jesus:

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

The CD by Emmylou Harris "Angelband".

**What do you love about Creekside Church?** The friendliness of the members.

**What is one prayer you have for Creekside?** To see more young families join the congregation.

## Others:

**What ministry do you do for others?** Pray for healing for the ill and blessings for those facing difficulties.

**What connects you to people at Creekside?** Renewing acquaintances from prior years.

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

Have faith in the fact that Jesus loves you.

## Yourself:

**What would you like to share about yourself?** I like most sports and enjoy going to local high school athletic events.

**What gives you joy?** Listening to music and finding the energy to complete tasks.

## The Bee Line



Did we make the right decisions in preparing our girls for this nasty winter? Remember, our honey bees are living creatures that are affected by the cold, cold weather. During the cold snap, I got out my heaviest winter coat, insulated the crawl space of our Michigan Basement, turned up the thermostat, and let the water trickle. So far so good!

Our bees need to maintain a 92 degree temperature in the hive. As Steve Barton said in the January newsletter, we wrapped each hive in black tar paper roofing felt. Why did we chose something that was black and not another color? To understand, we must learn a little about light.

The light from the sun reaches us in waves of different colors. Red waves are the longest; violet waves are the shortest. When the rays reach us they are all mixed up and we see white light. We can use a prism to separate light into its different colors (or let God do that when he gives us a rainbow).

When light shines on an object, some of these wavelengths [colors] are absorbed and others are reflected. To see the color red, all the colors *except* red (orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet) are absorbed by the object. The red wavelength of the light is reflected and that is what we see. (I'm not sure how God manages this, but He does.) When *all* the colors of the light are absorbed, we see the color black.

Now back to our hives. When they are covered with black roofing paper, all the sunlight with its heat is absorbed into the hive. So if the sun is shining on our hives in the middle of winter, our honey bees are warmed—at least a little bit.

Another factor is insulation: the better the insulation, the more heat will be retained by the hive. We perhaps should've installed better insulation on the hives this winter. Hive Blankets to insulate all 5 of our hives would've cost about \$150, but the replacement cost for one hive is about \$200. Time will tell if we made the correct decisions; we will "live and learn". (Remember, it's not unusual to lose 50% of the apiary.) Let this "Bee" the lesson: Honey Bees need all the wise help bee keepers can give.

Of course, we could use a few more "wise thinkers" as bee keepers here at Creekside.

*Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team*



## CAMP MACK NEWS

**Summer camp registration is open!**  
Register today at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org).

### Upcoming Events:

**March 1–3 Board Games Retreat:** New! This is an adult gathering for a weekend of strategy, late nights, and your favorite board games. \$160 for 2 nights and meals. Ages 18+.

**March 2 Volunteer Celebration:** We celebrate the many volunteers that make Camp Mack possible. Our guests enjoy fellowship, entertainment, and great food. Appetizers begin at 4:15p. Dinner begins at 5p.

**March 9–10 Mother Daughter Retreat:** "'80s Throwback:" a weekend of neon, big hair, leg warmers, and new memories. Ages: girls and women of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9a Sat–1p Sun. \$63/child age 5-8, \$110/age 9 through adult.

**March 11&13 Homeschool Outdoor Ed Days:** Primitive Tools & Skills—connect with the earth through learning cordage making, weaving, clay work, fishing, flintknapping basics, etc. Ages: 7–14. 10a–5p. \$25/session (optional \$5 sack lunch).

**March 11–13 & April 1–3 Volunteer Work Days:** Volunteers will work with Camp Mack's staff as we prepare for summer camp. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Come for a few hours or all 6 days. No charge for meals and lodging. Please contact the office for reservations.

**April 1–5 Spring Break Day Camp:** Grades K–5. 9a–3p, with options for before and after care at an additional charge. \$150 (some scholarships may be available). Fun, nature, crafts, free play, community, games, and more!

**Thank you** for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray. **Prayer Request:** Please pray for new hires!

### 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](mailto:creeksidecobmedia@gmail.com).

*Lisa Vardaman, for Media Team*

## MARCH

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 Arnold, Pauline
- 1 Ward, Deana
- 2 Martin, Mary Lou
- 3 Noffsinger, Ted
- 5 Snyder, Karen
- 8 Carlson, Katy
- 14 Nowicki, Kathy
- 21 Yoder, Betty
- 30 Barton, Jean
- 31 Emeis, Peggy

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Graber, Cal & Sharon
- 10 Behr, Steve & Becky Miller
- 28 Rassi, Terry & Irene
- 31 Harney, Scott & Angi

### EVENTS

- 3 Birthday party for Mary Lou, 1-3 pm
- 5 Church reserved, 4:00-9:00 pm  
Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am  
Christian Ed Team, 6:00 pm
- 13 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 20 Deacon meeting, 1:30 pm
- 21 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 28 Maundy Thursday Love Feast, 6 pm  
Good "Friday" service, 7:15 pm
- 30 Community Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am
- 31 Sunrise service & breakfast, 8 am  
Easter morning Worship, **10:00 am**



# 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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