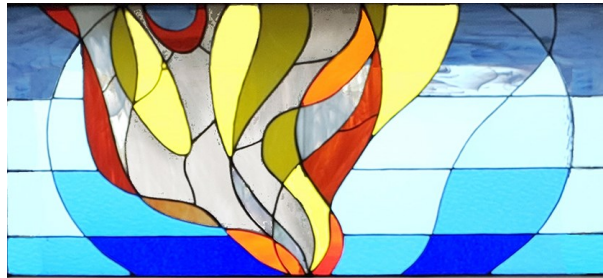


# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

May 2024



## *Wind and Fire*

*Because Jesus has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,  
he has poured out this day that you both see and hear. Acts 2:33*

Pentecost is seven weeks after Easter, it is the Sunday when Christians all around the world celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. We remember how a mighty wind swept through a prayer meeting of the first believers in Jerusalem, and how divided tongues, as of fire, rested above their heads. This has inspired beautiful art in the Church, portraying the Spirit as both dove and flame—sometimes both at the same time. Pentecost was an historical event, but it is also inspiration for the church today: this was the moment when the Jewish sect of believers in Jesus Christ went international and multi-cultural. It was the moment when the terrified and traumatized became the inspired and empowered. It was a turning point for believers and is marked as the birth of the Church.

Pentecost is a moment, but it is also a season. For the season of Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time, the church is specifically called to focus on its mission and vision. In doing so, we follow the example of the first believers in the early church, but we also join with them in proclaiming that Christ is raised from the dead and has shared with us the promise of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit which inspired and empowered disciples nearly two millennia ago, continues to move in our midst to partner with God in mission and ministry.

As I write this, the Church Board has been preparing to hear from members and friends of Creekside about what inspires you to invest yourself in ministry. This is ongoing discernment and conversation which will set the course for what we do and what resources we put toward that work in the coming years. I am grateful to Board members and team leaders who have already given time and consideration to this conversation. We hope as many people as possible can participate as we consider creative and credible ways to Seek, Celebrate, and Share God's love with our neighbors, community, and world.

Wind and flame are notoriously difficult to pin down. This is one of the reasons they are such potent symbols of the power of the Holy Spirit. We can move in the direction of the wind, and even use its power, but it is always more than we can contain or control. Wherever we plan to go, it is the Spirit which guides us, and the mission of God which sets our course.

May the wind of the Spirit kindle our hearts to burn with passion for God's mission and purpose.  
In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Holy Week and Easter is a special time in the life of the church. I am grateful for members and friends of Creekside who were able to participate in our Sunrise Service and breakfast, and could be in-person or on the livestream for morning worship.

Post-Easter activities have meant a week of some traveling and visiting friends and family for me. Thanks to Becky Miller for hosting guests who came to Creekside to view the eclipse on April 8! I'm aware of some of the work which has been going into preparing our Seed to Feed garden, getting the Prayer Garden and landscaped beds cleaned up, mowing the lawn, and preparing for our container garden ministry. We have been blessed to have assistance from Xavier Rosales, a friend of Creekside and English and Spanish speaker, to do some translation and interpretation for us as we share container gardens at Concord Intermediate School and with neighbors through Church Community Services. Outreach Team is using small change funds (we have been saving your donations of small change!) to compensate Xavier for his time and expertise. *See article below about container planting on Saturday, May 11.*

The Bee Team has been as busy as . . . well, you know. They have cleaned up from last year, and replaced hives which were lost over the winter. Apple trees are blossoming, wildflowers are growing; this is a season of promise. Thanks to the many volunteers who make these ministries possible.

I am looking forward to the Stained Glass Dedication on May 19, and have been planning for other May and June services with Worship Team. Christian Ed Team has been working on Sunday School activities and Vacation Bible School coming up in July. We are supporting kids going to Camp Mack for summer activities. I will be at Church of the Brethren Annual Conference the first week in July; Outreach is supporting fleece blankets to make for an organization in the host city, Grand Rapids. MI.

Blessings for a season of growth and flourishing!  
*Pastor Rosanna*

## CONTAINER GARDENS

Creekside will again be sharing container gardens with our neighbors in the community. These round pots and rectangular boxes are planted with small or full-sized tomatoes, lettuce, or peppers. We will be delivering containers to ADEC homes in Goshen, and are hoping to expand this ministry to families at Concord Intermediate School, and to Hispanic neighbors from Church Community Services. Judy De Pue, Ryan Prah, Tim Lund, and Cary Kelsey have all been part of planning. Expansion of this ministry will be paid for by funds from the David Hoke Memorial. We are blessed to have this opportunity to honor David and remember his dedication to Outreach and his work in our greenhouse.

Container gardens will be planted at Creekside on **Saturday, May 11.** Volunteers are needed to plant containers between 9:30 and 11:30am. We will have deliveries to make when the planting is done. Dress to work outside and expect to get your hands dirty!

Thank you for helping us with this ministry!  
*Pastor Rosanna for Container Garden planners*



## EVERENCE

**It's OK to say "no" sometimes!** The next time you don't feel like accepting an invitation to a movie or a lunch from your friend, just say no!...

People often overestimate the negative ramifications that arise after declining, according to a study published by the American Psychological Association... Drawing from other studies, the researchers suggest inviters are capable of understanding what goes through the mind of invitees that leads them to decline. The researchers felt the timing was important for this study, as it has been reported recently that people, now more than ever, feel burned out and that their time is stretched too thin.

*Larry Ford, Everence Advocate*



## STAINED GLASS DEDICATION MAY 19



Members and friends of Creekside are invited to celebrate the completion of our stained-glass windows during worship on Sunday, May 19. We expect guests of families, and maybe members of the press this day; artists Don and Carol Burling will be present. Updated brochures about the windows are available on the ushers' table; please take as many as you wish. Thanks to Marita Barsoda for her work on these brochures, and to all those who sponsored windows.

Thanks again to Brynne Spiritoso for her vision for this project, to members of the stained-glass committee, and others who helped with the project.

*Correction to Stained Glass Report in April Connection:* The total raised at the beginning of the project was \$8500 and the cost of the windows was \$8551. Sponsorships of \$4949 went to the Capital Improvements Fund.

*Pastor Rosanna for Stained Glass Committee*

*Deb Kauffman, Jay Ganger, Karen Grant, Cathy Barwick, Beth Sollenberger*

### FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Church Board has focused on a number of items this year: a new phone system, The Willows' use of our building, welcoming Deanna Ward to the board, the Pletcher bequest, a review of last year's goal and preparation for the Spring Congregational Business Meeting to name just a few. More importantly, we have expanded on the 2023 goal and have begun the process of identifying Creekside's vision for the future. Team leaders attended a brainstorming session in March, and they are working with their teams on how each team and individual can and will work toward this vision. These are exciting times for Creekside, and we are thrilled to invite everyone to join in on our vision. Years ago, Elkhart City sold the building at Wolf and Benham and the "Building for Christ" campaign was born. This was not just a capital campaign, but more importantly a STEWARDSHIP campaign. We identified and utilized the vast resources of talent and knowledge within our congregation and in a matter of just a few years (and a ton of work) we built the brand-new church that we all attend and enjoy today. We could have set out a basket to collect money and hoped that it would materialize into a new building—but that is not how it happened. This was a campaign that dozens of people made happen. The Board, Property Team, Cornerstone Committee, Finance, Worship, Fellowship, Christian Ed, and everyone in the congregation worked hard and it was an exciting time in our history. You are probably asking yourself "What does this have to do with now?" The answer is "everything"! We're not building a physical building but we are building a VISION of the future of Creekside and that process requires your talent, knowledge and commitment. There is a famous quote that I believe needs to be displayed in our church (it might just sound familiar to you). Read and ponder the message below and let us join together and make our vision a reality.

**"A wonderful part of being the body of Christ is that no single member has to do everything; but a reality of the body of Christ is that everyone is called to do something."**

*Rosanna McFadden, 4/21/24*

During the spring Congregational Business meeting you were asked to consider and answer these two questions:

1. In what capacity do you want to invest yourself in Creekside's ministry?
2. What is Jesus calling us to do, and how might we reach out in our community?

Thank you for considering these important questions and thank you for your stewardship and your commitment to our vision.

*Scott Harney, Church Board chair*

### THANK YOU!

The Outreach team thanks you for the generous donation of peanut butter! Outreach has purchased 100 jars of peanut butter to match your 100 jars. We have given over 200 jars of peanut butter to CCS.  
*Lodema Hoke for Outreach*



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 — SERVICE PROJECT

This year the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders attending Annual Conference in Grand Rapids will be making fleece blankets to donate to the Helen Devos Children's Hospital, in support of Children with Cancer. **We are asking for donations for the purchase of the fleece for these blankets.** In June we will be planning a cutting "party" to cut the fleece and prepare the blankets for the children to tie them. If you are willing to donate towards the purchase of fleece, please make your donation to Creekside with the designation "Fleece". If you are interested in the cutting party in June, please let Angi Harney know. The children will be studying many Bible verses related to the Annual Conference Theme: "Welcome and Worthy". On the day they deliver blankets to the hospital we will study 1 Peter 4:8-10: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Thank you in advance for supporting the children of Annual Conference!  
*Angi Harney*

## The Bee Line



Why did we lose 4 hives this past winter? We may never know. Maybe it was the crazy weather – one hot day and the next day cold; perhaps mites; or possibly mice using the hive for a winter home. The result, unfortunately, was the loss of 4 hives. However, we are back in business with the purchase of 4 packages of bees and the recent installation of these packages. (See pictures below.) Each new package has a few thousand worker bees and one Queen. The Queen is caged to allow the bees to accept her. The worker bees remove a candy plug to release her, and she begins laying eggs.

The swarming season is upon us. It is natural, when the hive gets overcrowded, that the bees will look for a new home by sending out scout bees to look for their new residence. We must manage our hives by checking on the number of Queen cells our worker bees might be making. But eventually, swarms will happen. Thousands of bees and the old Queen will leave the hive and stop for a rest almost anywhere—on a tree branch; a post; or maybe an empty hive box in our apiary. It is our opportunity to catch free bees. If you see thousands of bees hanging on a branch, do not fear... just call us! We will come and remove them for free. At this time, the bees are very docile and are only interested in finding a new home and protecting their Queen. In the meantime, worker bees have prepared Queen cells in the old hive for a new young Queen. When she hatches, she will take over the job of laying eggs.

Since it's swarming season, we are preparing swarm boxes to set out and hopefully catch some free bees—perhaps our own or another beekeeper's bees. A swarm box has 5 specially prepared frames. We prepare a cotton swab with lemon grass oil or Storm Commander and drop it in the box. This box is hung on a tree. Then we wait for the scout bees to select our box for a new home. Once our box is chosen, we then transport it to our apiary and place the swarm in a brood box. (We are still looking for places to hang these boxes.)

The Bee Team is always looking for help with this ministry. You will find honey bees to be fascinating animals. Without bees, 2/3 of our food supply would disappear. All fruits and vegetables that need pollination in their growing cycle would disappear. How would you like to eat only oats, wheat, or barley?

Come help us; a spot is being saved for you!  
*Ron Nicodemus*





## CAMP MACK NEWS

**Summer camp registration is open!**  
**Campmack.org**  
**Upcoming Events:**

**May 2–4 Birdwatching Retreat:** Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. New and seasoned birdwatchers will experience the various habitats and birds at camp. We will also travel to other locations to see birds not usually found at camp. \$161 for 2 nights and 4 meals, or \$112 for 1 night and 2 meals. Bring money for a restaurant meal on Friday evening. 6:30p Thursday to 2p Saturday. Wampler Retreat Center. Come dressed for the weather. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Sun., May 5 Summer Camp Open House:** Visit camp, meet staff, pick up materials, get a feel for what campers experience and where they will stay, make a s'more, and ask questions. Join us! And, get \$50 off of the summer camp registration fee when you register for summer camp at the open house! 2 to 4 p.m.

**May 6–7 Pastor's Sabbath:** A time of reflection, fellowship, meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. Amy Gall Ritchie is leading this event! \$35 (includes CEUs, lodging, and meals). Come for a few hours or both days.

**May 30–June 1 Women's Camp:** Enjoy time at the campfire, sessions led by guest speakers, Love Feast, and camp fun. Leave feeling refreshed and recharged together with other women. \$170 for 2 nights and 5 meals (arrival Thursday 4p), \$97 for 1 night and 3 meals (includes Friday lunch/dinner & Saturday breakfast), and \$56 for 1 day and 3 meals (Saturday meals & activities). 4p Thursday to 12:30p Saturday. Women of all ages are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Thank you** for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, & pray.  
**Prayer Request:** Please pray for summer campers and that more lifeguards and a summer photographer/videographer make their way to us.

## MAY

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

- 2 Grant, Doug
- 6 Prael, Ryan
- 10 Justiniano, Myrtis
- 13 McFadden, Rosanna
- 13 Rassi, Terry
- 18 Arnold, Gary
- 20 Morpew, Tim
- 24 Bode, Ray
- 24 Miller, Becky
- 26 Ehret, Larry
- 26 Griffith, Roger
- 27 Schmucker, Leonard

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Arnold, Gary & Pauline
- 14 Kohler, Joe & Karen
- 14 Schmucker, Chris & Beth
- 27 Griffith, Roger & Anne

## EVENTS

*Garden work days are  
 Mondays 4-6pm & Thursdays 9-11am*

- 8 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 11 Container planting, 9:30-11:30
- 12 Mothers' Day
- 14 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 16 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 18 *Church reserved, 9:00-3:00*
- 19 Memorial - Beth Ann Thompson:  
 Visitation 4 pm, Service 5 pm
- 27 Memorial 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.*



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