

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

June 2024

“And you’re . . . IN!”

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body. Colossians 3:15*

Diane Lund shared reflections at a Worship Team meeting this week which led me to do some research on Paul’s letter to the Colossians. I probably found a different text than the one Diane referenced in our meeting, but it led me to some happy wandering through scripture.

May 19 was the day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles in Jerusalem, and the birth of the Church. But Pentecost, of course, is a season. The Spirit does not simply drop in for a Sunday and leave; we must reckon with the Spirit’s presence and power and call on our lives. Pentecost is the season of peonies and poppies—at least if you live in Indiana—and also softball and baseball season. Baseball may seem like an unlikely metaphor for the work of Christ and the Spirit, but Colossians 3:15 makes an interesting connection. The Greek verb used in the phrase “Let the peace of Christ rule . . .” is *brabeuto*, and it means arbitrate, or umpire. In other words, let the peace of Christ make the call. The larger passage reads:

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. *Colossians 3:14-16*

It is reassuring to me that while we may be the ones out in the field—or on the diamond—trying to understand and improve our game and to work together as a team, we are not alone. We are guided by the peace of Christ, even when we’re not too happy about it. Umpires aren’t at the game to make everyone happy—they are there to insure that the game is called fairly, and that’s bound to make all of us unhappy, at least some of the time.

The rest of these verses from Colossians 3 give us some clues about the work of the Spirit and the elements of the game: we in the church are called into one body; we are to be thankful; we are to let the word of Christ dwell in us; we are to teach and admonish one another; we are to sing together. Of course we need folks who can play various positions, but a team functions best when each person is playing to the best of their ability.

As we think about how the Spirit moves us to become one body in Christ, ask yourself: What gift have I been given that I can develop and use at Creekside Church? On which field am I being invited to play? Do I want to be in or out?

Let the Spirit of Christ make the call.

Play ball!
Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

This is an exciting time for ministries in the church, and also a busy time for many individuals and families. We offer prayers for celebrations and for sanity as school is finishing up and members of our church family are celebrating graduations and planning for summer activities. The extended McFadden family will be in Florida the first week of June. I will fly down after worship at Creekside on June 2.

I have heard from many of you how much you appreciated the Pentecost/Stained Glass Dedication service on May 19. We were grateful for the guests, presenters, and for the opportunity to personally thank many of the people who had been involved in the project, and who were part of that service.

Thanks to all of you who participated in our spring congregational meeting on April 28. We had good discussion—and delicious food. I appreciate the planning and leadership from the Board, especially Board chair Scott Harney, and our new moderator, Emilie Blough of Goshen City Church. Your comments have been recorded and shared with the Board and team leaders.

Upcoming activities include Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI the first week of July. It was great to reach the goal of \$500 for fleece for blankets to be knotted by kids grades 3-5. Thank you to Scott & Angi Harney for their planning and leadership at Annual Conference. The theme is “Welcome + Worthy”; we will be sharing moderator Madalyn Metzger’s message at Creekside on Sunday, July 7. Vacation Bible School at Creekside will be in July; thanks to Christian Ed Team and children’s activity coordinator Jessica Prah for their planning. Additional volunteers are always welcome!

Wherever the winds of the Spirit take you this season, go with God and the blessings of Creekside.
Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Church Board continues to pursue and expand on last year’s goal of welcoming families & children and providing programming. It’s great to see kids in church every week during children’s story and participating in children’s activities and Sunday School. A huge THANKS to the Christian Ed team and others who plan and coordinate children’s activities. Based on last month’s congregational meeting, our passion lies in reaching out to families, kids, and seniors. We compiled the answers from your round table discussions and have asked all of our ministry teams to “brainstorm” how they can execute some of the community outreach ideas that you shared. Watch and listen for upcoming events or programs and, most importantly, ask how YOU can be a part of this. Remember, **“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.”** (Pastor Rosanna 4/21/24)

Other ongoing discussion topics include some significant repairs and updates that will need to be made to the church property. After nearly 20 years, there are certain areas that are in need of repair or replacement (the roof, the parking lot etc.) and some items that we know will need replaced in the not-so-distant future (heating and air conditioning etc.). Property Team is already in the process of having these quoted and they, in conjunction with Finance and the Board, will begin to lay out priorities, timelines, and costs and develop a strategy to tackle these projects.

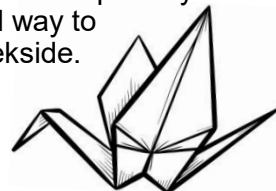
Scott Harney, Church Board chair

PAPER CRANES

The paper crane mobile in the Gathering Area has room for more! The cranes are made of folded paper, the Japanese art of origami. They represent the Holy Spirit which came in the form of a dove, but also as tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost. The cranes and the process of folding them may also be used as prayers for peace and healing; this is also part of the Japanese tradition.

Origami paper in Pentecost colors and printed directions are in the Gathering Area. You are welcome to take them home with you after worship if you are at Creekside in person. We can also send paper to you—there are fine tutorial videos online if you have not folded paper cranes before. Especially if you are not able to be with us in person this Pentecost season, this is a wonderful way to offer a tangible prayer and expression of support and join us in this ministry at Creekside.

We will add to the mobile as we receive more cranes, and plan to keep it up until mid-July. Please share the cranes you have folded no later than the end of June. Thank you, and God bless you. *Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team*



The Bee Line

June's weather is perfect for honey bees to travel up to 5 miles daily to collect their sweet nectar and golden pollen to mix together to make their food called bee bread. Of course, less travel time makes for quicker trips—it's great that we have a garden, orchard, and wild flowers! We typically think of pollen as being yellow, but depending on the flower, pollen could be brown, purple, gray, white, orange, green, or red. God's beauty is everywhere we look and where we often don't look.

We bee keepers are busy managing the hives by opening and carefully inspecting them. We must choose a nice warm day on an early afternoon when many of the bees will be out on their nectar and pollen flights. (Less disturbance in a hive when a lot are gone.) We use a smoker and give a couple of puffs of smoke in the front entrance. Then we lift the top cover from the rear and give a couple more puffs. Smoke helps the bees to be less aggressive. Bees communicate with a pheromone system, and smoke slows this method of communication between the bees. Guard bees are "caught off guard". Some speculate that the bees assume the hive is on fire and are too busy gorging on honey to think about stinging.



In our Langstroth hives there are 10 frames. We carefully remove and look at each one, remembering the order in which we are removing them, as this is the same order that we will reinstall them. We are not only looking for the honey and nectar supply, but also for tiny white dots (kind of like small white rice) in the bottom of the hexagonal wax cells. (These are eggs.) When the eggs hatch, they become young larva filling several of the cells, at just the right time, these lava are covered by worker bees with a waxed capping. Inside the capped cells, the larva will spin a cocoon around themselves and will soon hatch and crawl out of the cells as new young bees. If we see all this happening, we are confident that the queen is alive and well. If these are not found, there is probably not a queen and it is time to requeen the hive or it will soon die.

No queen = no bees = no hive!

Please keep in mind that there is more to bee keeping than just putting a bee hive in your backyard or on church property and expecting to get honey. Better bee management throughout the year means a better honey harvest. Thanks to all who offered to allow us to place swarm boxes on their properties.. Our hope this year is more swarm boxes will mean more free bees.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team



JUNE

| 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

- 3 Carlson, Miles
- 14 Miller, Myron
- 17 Vardaman, Kurt
- 23 Green, Ron
- 24 Behr, Steve
- 29 Noffsinger, Sue

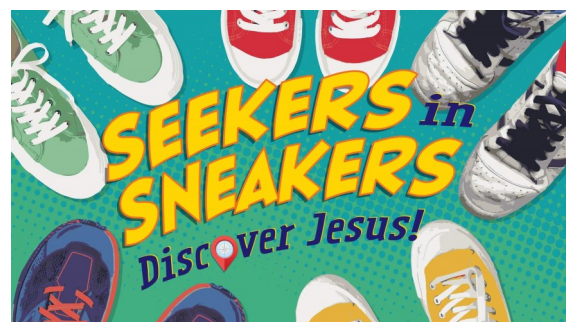
ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Lund, Tim & Diane
- 14 Borem, Jeff & Cheryl
- 17 Nicodemus, Ron & Jan
- 19 Zerbe, John & Maryann

EVENTS

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

- 4 Church reserved, 4-9 pm
- 11 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 12 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 16 Fathers' Day
- 20 Church Board, 6:30 pm



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Details will be announced soon!

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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