

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

August 2024



Spirit and Vision

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Joel 2:28

The verse above, from the Old Testament prophet Joel is quoted in the New Testament book of Acts by the apostle Peter. This highlights the continuity of God's message both before and after the life of Jesus; it also speaks to the importance of vision for God's people.

Prophets were people who spoke to the people on behalf of God. This is not a new phenomenon. In Israel, as in the United States during an election year, there are plenty of folks who would like to tell us what to think and what to do; not all of these voices are trustworthy. Visions need to be examined and tested to see if they are consistent with what we know of the past and where we want to be in the future. Biblical visions, especially those reported in the Old Testament, often have an apocalyptic tinge: this is what the end of time is going to look like. It usually isn't pretty.

The Church of the Brethren did a multi-year process of discerning a vision for the church. Here is that vision: Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless. This is not a vision of blood and fire, it is a vision of the work we are to be about as followers of Jesus. Brethren have been hearing and sharing stories of what it means to be Jesus in the Neighborhood; our own local versions of this vision.

At Creekside, we are called to live into and live out our own version of vision: Rooted in God, Growing in Jesus, Bearing Fruit in the Spirit. We do this in myriad ways, including worshipping together, Vacation Bible School, raising vegetables and donating honey to our neighbors. These are ministries to support and celebrate. At our April congregational meeting, the Church Board invited you to consider and discuss how Jesus is continuing to call us to reach out. How does our ministry support our vision? What new thing might God's Spirit be moving in our midst to accomplish? The answers to these questions are never dull, and rarely simple. We will be having opportunity for more information and further discussion on Sunday, August 11. Please stay for the meeting after worship that day, and bring an open mind and an open heart as we listen and discern God's vision for us.

I pray that we would see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.
In Christ—*Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

The month of July has been a full one for me; full of activities, full of gratitude, and full of sorrow. It turns out all of these things can exist at the same time, but it makes for an eventful month.

Annual Conference in Grand Rapids was a good experience, and I was grateful to see so many Creekside folks in attendance. A highlight of the conference was watching the July 6 fireworks display from Nicodemus' eleventh-floor hotel room. We will share the Annual Conference video wrap-up and give you an opportunity to ask questions of our delegate, Mike Kauffman, on Sunday, August 11. Scott and Angi Harney did a wonderful job with third through fifth grade children's activities, and got national denominational coverage for the fleece blanket project which Creekside supported. I have been elected to the executive committee of the Mission and Ministry Board; this will mean additional responsibilities and meeting time for me over the coming year.

Vacation Bible School was a blast! Jessica Prahll does a *wonderful* job of securing curriculum, decorating the church, and inviting friends. The theme was "Seekers in Sneakers," and we collected over 400 pair of socks and many shoes to donate to First Light Mission, a Christian ministry to homeless families in Goshen. Thanks to Creekside volunteers who helped with registration, teaching, snacks, games, media, and other preparation. We had 26 children participate. I was fortunate to visit family in California in July; both to be with them, and that my flights missed the worst days of the Crowd Strike IT shut-down which effected airlines worldwide.

It was difficult to hear the news of Jan Birr's sudden death. She was a life-time member of Elkhart City/Creekside, so like nearly all of you, I have not experienced this congregation without Jan being a part of it. Thank you for holding the Birr family in your prayers as we prepare for Jan's Celebration of Life service at Creekside on August 3.

With praise and thanks to the God who walks with us in joy and in sorrow—
Pastor Rosanna

LISTENING SESSION — SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

The Church Board is considering ideas and proposals which we would like to share with the congregation for consideration and questions. These will not be voted on by the congregation, but as part of the Board's role in communicating the work of the church to you, you are invited to a listening session after worship on Sunday, August 11. We will have three items to share that day:

- Questions/comments for Annual Conference delegate Mike Kauffman, or other Creekside participants. We'll show the video wrap-up during worship this Sunday.
- Proposal for funding and capital campaign to install a new roof on the Creekside building in 2025.
- Question and answer time regarding a walking path at Creekside. There will be a brief survey from the Board to gather your responses.

There is a separate sheet with more information about the roof and walking path attached electronically and with paper copies of this Connection. Additional copies of this information sheet will be available on August 11. We will not be voting on either of these items. If you have questions ahead of time, you may direct those to Board Chair Scott Harney, or Assistant Chair Deana Ward.

Thank you!

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE



Adopting a healthy lifestyle may offset the impact of genetics by more than 60% and add another five years to your life. The results were published in the journal *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*, showing that having an unhealthy lifestyle and shorter lifespan genes more than doubled the risk of early death compared with people with luckier genes and healthy lifestyles. Researchers found that people did appear to have a degree of control over what happened, if an "optimal lifestyle combination" included no smoking, regular physical activity, adequate sleep and a healthy diet.

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS — SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Children who are returning to school this year are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 4th. Students and their backpacks will receive a blessing from Pastor Rosanna. This includes all students, even preschool!

Jessica Prah, Children's Activities Coordinator



MCC SCHOOL KITS — ENDS SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Creekside is sponsoring school kits during the month of August. Outreach Team has committed \$500 to purchase supplies, and is challenging the congregation to contribute at least \$500 more by Sunday, August 25. We hope to assemble at least 200 kits to donate to Mennonite Central Committee.

Last year, MCC shipped 81,048 school kits to communities in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, the U.S. and Zambia. Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to access or afford school supplies. MCC school kits are often requested after disasters as they help bring a sense of normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.

Each kit contains

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all-metal pencil sharpener
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler
- 12 colored pencils
- 1 large eraser

There are specific requirements for some of these items; Outreach Team shopper-extraordinaire Cheryl Borem will buy in bulk and find the best prices for us. We hope to keep costs to \$5.00 per kit; bags are sewn and donated by MCC volunteers. You are invited to help us assemble the kits at Creekside on Sunday, August 25th.

Because of your generous donations last year, we were able to donate over 200 kits to MCC and purchase gift cards for teachers in our congregation to use to supply their local classrooms.

Anything you give toward school kits will be used to support teachers and students at home or abroad.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach Team



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Followers of Faith, Hospitality and Fellowship Teams are sponsoring an evening of family fun at Creekside on Saturday, September 7 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. This end-of-the-summer event will feature live music, free activities for kids, and a great meal. This will be an alternative to the Fish Fry; we will not be having Dan's Fish Fry this year. The focus of the Fam Jam will be a chance to visit with our guests in-person on our property. We will have a tent with tables and chairs for outdoor seating.

The meal will be pulled pork and BBQ sauce, buns, coleslaw, baked beans and chips. There will be soft-serve ice cream for dessert and cold drinks. The cost of the meal will be \$10 pre-sale for adults and \$5 for children. Day-of tickets will be \$11 for adults. All other activities are free.

Pre-sale tickets will be available beginning Sunday, August 4. We will be creating flyers for you to post or share with your friends. Many volunteers from Creekside have already contributed to planning for this event; we are very excited about the possibilities for this new venture to reach out to families and invite them to let Creekside be their neighborhood church. If you'd like to share your ideas and your help, the next planning meeting is Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 pm at Creekside.

Thanks for your help! We are looking forward to a great evening of being Jesus in the neighborhood.

Pastor Rosanna, for Followers of Faith and others

The Bee Line

More trivia...



Did you know that honey contains a substance that helps your brain work better?

Did you know that there are living enzymes in honey?

Did you know that bees have saved people in Africa from starvation?

I hope many of you were able to see the bees at work on "**Bee Sunday**" at the end of July, building new comb and busily filling the cells. Those were "brood cells." Did anyone spot the queen? (...We didn't the week before when we inspected the hives.)

The team opened all of the hives and we were encouraged by the robust condition of all of the new hives. Even the two that were "captured" from swarm boxes are thriving and should make it through the winter. We are always encouraging people to come and learn more about bees and how important they are for humans and the environment. Having delicious honey to enjoy and share is nice but the members of the bee team also think that educating others about the importance of bees and the environment is a big part of our mission.

In the June *Connection*, Ron described the process of "smoking" the hive before we open it up to inspect for problems. It is truly inspiring to be able to work around an open hive and watch the bees clustered around each other going about their business. Usually, there will be a few curious ones wanting to know what we're up to. If we've followed the 'rules'—we've got our suits on, and we're gentle—they don't pay much attention to our presence. Last month, I went out one morning in a short-sleeve shirt and tried to pry open the cover to check on one of the hives. (I wasn't following the rules!) One of the "guard bees" Ron mentioned was there to greet me. (FYI; It's usually not a good idea to try and swat a bee!)

When we received the new packages of bees this spring, we were wearing our suits and hats and it was amazing how little attention the thousands of bees paid us while we were getting them into their new home.



As Fall approaches, we need to think about harvesting the honey that these hard-working bees have created.

If you're uncomfortable being around the bee hives, consider helping strain and bottle the raw honey. That's a **major** job by itself and the help would be much appreciated.

Remember to "**Bee Kind**"!
Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

AUGUST

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

- 5 Grant, Karen
- 16 Schmucker, Chris
- 18 McFadden, Tim
- 19 Kohler, Joe
- 20 Foland, Lynne
- 20 Gable, Judy
- 23 Stutsman, Roger
- 25 Barsoda, Marita
- 28 Kauffman, Mike
- 29 Foland, Ted
- 30 Heeter, Garnett

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ehret, Larry & Vicki
- 9 Neal, Roger & Bonnie
- 9 Noffsinger, Ted & Sue
- 20 McFadden, Tim & Rosanna
- 23 De Pue, Stephen & Judy
- 27 Vance, Jim & Kristen
- 29 Vardaman, Kurt & Lisa

EVENTS

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

- 4 Blessing of the Backpacks
- 6 *Church reserved, 6:00-9:00 pm*
Outreach meeting, 6:00 pm
- 9 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 11 Listening session, after worship
- 13 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 14 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 15 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 31 *Church reserved, noon-3:00 pm*

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.

The logo for Creekside Church of the Brethren, featuring a stylized blue wave above the word "Creekside" in a serif font, with "Church of the Brethren" in a smaller sans-serif font below it.
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