

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2024

## *Practicing Tomato Presence*

*'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'*  
Matthew 11:28

I am not a contemplative person by nature. There may be variety of reasons for this, including character and formation in a family which put high value on accomplishment. I have aspired to more prayer and quiet time over the years, with varied success, but have stumbled across it at work—of all places. Of course, I work at a church, which should make this simpler, but doesn't necessarily. Most people want their pastor to have quiet time, but they also want their pastor to keep up on administrative tasks, visitation, sermon preparation and meetings. I find it challenging to resist the lure of a long to-do list and the call of parishioners' expectations.

Fortunately, each season through late July into early September, I get to wash tomatoes. I show up to Creekside and stand outside the kitchen for an hour or so and watch the morning light spill across the meadow toward the beehives and down the sidewalk to the Prayer Garden. I listen to the hum of the air conditioner and the clatter of folks inside in the kitchen and the occasional call of hawks hunting on the property. I stand shoulder to shoulder with Ron Green in conversation or companionable non-conversation, and it is well with my soul. Not every day is sunny, not every situation is simple, but washing tomatoes creates a space for me to be mindful of my surroundings and of God's goodness.

Thee Seekers Class has been studying the classic *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. He was given that name when he entered a Carmelite monastery at the age of 55, where he worked in the kitchen for 15 years. After his death in 1691, his writings were published. His writing reveals his conviction that the purpose of his life was to do the work of God, and that he found that work wherever he found himself. He wrote:

The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clutter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament.

As we approach Labor Day, I encourage you to consider the intersection of work and worship. If you are retired, does the work you do at Creekside or elsewhere connect you to God's presence and goodness? If you are paid for your work, can you use your skills in ways that affirm God's work in your work? Resting in God may not be the same as collapsing on the sofa at the end of the day.

May you find God's work and God's rest, and remember God's goodness.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

August is a new year of sorts—new school year, new sports season. In the McFadden family, August includes several birthdays and an anniversary. It was great to get away for a weekend, be with our son and his girlfriend in Indianapolis, and celebrate that Tim has gone to a four-day week at Oaklawn and now has Mondays off. We won't go out of town every week, but the prospect of a day off together is wonderful.

I have several church-related activities coming up, including another season of leading Women Creating Community at Camp Mack, expanded commitments and responsibilities on Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee, preaching at Timbercrest chapel, and District Conference and continuing education opportunities. I am excited about the Family Jamboree on September 7 (*see more in this Connection*) and have appreciated all the volunteers who have helped us to imagine and plan for a new thing. Join us in praying for good weather and a chance to welcome guests to our beautiful church and property in Jesus' name. Thanks to all those who are sharing their gifts!

In the midst of the promise of this summer, we have experienced the grief of losing long-time, life-time, members of this congregation. I am so grateful for Doris Walters, Jan Birr, and Betty Yoder, and for friends from Creekside who have helped with ushering, media, music, and fellowship as we have gathered to celebrate their lives. We hold their families in prayer, and give thanks for lives which were well-lived in service to God, church, and family.

We continue to pray for members and friends of Creekside who have struggled with their health. I have experienced first-hand the prayers, cards, and good wishes of deacons and caring members of this congregation. It is a gift which anyone can give, and it is invaluable. Thank you for your prayers in joy and in sorrow.

God bless you—  
*Pastor Rosanna*

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Lots of things are happening here at Creekside. As you know, the Family Jamboree is coming up fast and promises to be a great event. The planning team has been hard at work organizing activities and recruiting volunteers – I hope YOU are one of those volunteers as this is a fantastic opportunity to interact with and serve the community. ***“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.”*** (PR 4/21/24).

Speaking of inviting the community, we were recently contacted by a pastor of a local home-based church who is looking for a space to gather for worship. There are not many details about this yet, but the board decided that we should carefully consider this idea as a way to open ourselves up to the community. Of course there are details to consider, questions to be answered, and agreements to be made before we agree to this. More to come on this topic.

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about our fall Congregational Business meeting. We are targeting the second or third Sunday in November depending on our moderator Emilie Blough's availability.

Finally, the Raise the Roof campaign began before it officially began. We are kicking off this campaign in September but already over \$3,000 has been given! Those of you who were with us 20 plus years ago surely have fond memories of the Building for Christ campaign and while a new roof is not quite as exciting, it is the reality that we are all called to participate in. Remember, every dollar makes an impact on this effort – ***“everybody for the body.”*** (PR)

*Scott Harney, Church Board Chair*

## MCC SCHOOL KITS — ENDS SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Thank you for your generous support for international students and local teachers! With their own funds and your contributions, Outreach Team was able to purchase supplies for 200 school kits which will be shared internationally through Mennonite Central Committee. This kits will be assembled in the Gathering Area following worship on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Cheryl Borem for doing the purchasing for us! She was able to get the supplies for less than \$5.00 per kit; this allows us to use more additional funds to purchase gift cards for local teachers.

As of August 21, the total of combined Outreach and congregational donations was \$1765.50. Your generosity is a gift at home and abroad. God bless you.

*Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach Team*



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

It's almost here! Creekside's Family Jamboree is Saturday, September 7 from 4:30-7:00. The pre-sale ticket price of \$10 for an adult meal is good through the end of August. After September 1, the price of an adult meal is \$11. Creekside volunteers must have a paid ticket in order to have a meal. The last day to purchase tickets at the pre-sale prices is Sunday, September 1. See Lodema Hoke for tickets.

We are excited about the variety of opportunities for neighbors and families to enjoy fellowship with one another and activities on our property: live music, delicious food, kids' activities, and an introduction to our labyrinth and Prayer Garden. A sign-up sheet for volunteer positions is available in the Gathering Area. We hope you can come to enjoy yourself and tell others about Creekside.

God bless you!

*Pastor Rosanna, for Followers of Faith and others*

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP, SEPTEMBER 8

We will worship outside on Sunday, September 8 at 9:30am. We'll put the tent and tables and chairs from the Jamboree to good use by re-purposing them for worship before they are picked up the next day. There will be hot drinks and muffins, and our service will be a celebration of ministries at Creekside. We will have Sunday School as usual that day.

Worship on Sunday, September 1—Labor Day weekend—will be in the worship center as usual, and Sunday School classes will meet that day as well.

*Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team*

## WALKING PATH SURVEY

Thanks to those who turned in surveys regarding a proposed walking path at Creekside. As of August 20 we had 44 responses. The average of the scale 0-4, (0-I have objections, 1- I have concerns, 2-no strong feelings, 3-generally positive, 4-let's go!) was 2.65, indicating general support. Many of you affirmed this outreach to our neighbors. You also raised a number of concerns, and the Board has appointed a small group to get answers for those concerns before we make a final decision about whether to go ahead with this project.

Thank you for your listening and for your input!

*Pastor Rosanna and Larry Ford, for the Church Board*

## TOMATO PROCESSING

Our garden has been producing well—green beans, onions, peppers, squash, and especially tomatoes! Thanks to Cal Graber, Mike Kauffman, and other volunteers who have been working in the garden since May.

Unless announced differently, tomato processing is on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9:00 am. Arrive whenever you are able and stay as long as you can; wear short sleeves and a shirt which can get messy—the tomatoes are juicy (!) We have had GREAT help for the past two weeks, and expect at least two more weeks of tomatoes to cut and freeze for the Church Community Services food pantry. We have donated over 500 lbs of processed tomatoes so far this season! Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman have done a terrific job of preparation and clean-up for processing. It's a great opportunity to come to Creekside, visit with old friends, make some new ones, and provide a service to our community.

## A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Everence is again offering "FreedUp" sessions to member congregations. The "FreedUp" program is a way for everyone in a congregation to get their finances in order at any economic level – and gain a deeper faith perspective on their money. "FreedUp" is an app-based lesson series that includes a workbook and opportunities to share with others over seven weeks. Each person or couple completes lessons on their app and follows up for discussion with interactive small group sessions. Everence facilitators will lead the sessions, including the first get-acquainted session.

After signing up for the group sessions, you'll receive an email from Everence with the discount code and instructions to register and access the FreedUp app and workbook. Everence has a discount code to get the sessions for \$19 instead of the regular price of \$99. Session is Oct. 7 – Nov. 18: Mondays at 8 p.m. ET (Register by Oct. 3)

I (Larry) took the "Freed Up" course in Jan-Feb and thoroughly enjoyed it. Each session is one hour and are conducted via Zoom. You download the "Freed Up" app onto your smartphone to follow along. There is some reading and some watching of videos. I met so many inspiring fellow members of Mennonite and Brethren churches from Maine to Kansas in my class. You are welcome to look at the "Freed Up" booklet I used if think you might be interested in this.

*Larry Ford, Everence Advocate*

## SEPTEMBER

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

- 4 Harney, Katelyn
- 6 Ward, Jason
- 8 Lund, Tim
- 16 Miller, Sandy
- 17 Royer, Kathy
- 20 Carroll, Tony
- 22 Ritzmann, Paulajean
- 26 Miller, Craig

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Morphey, Tim & Beth S.
- 12 Hendricks, Stephen & Becca
- 21 Ward, Jason & Deana

## EVENTS

*Garden work days:  
Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 am  
RSVP for Angel's brunches to  
Steve Barton*

- 2 Labor Day, office closed
- 7 Family Jamboree, 4:30-7:00 pm
- 8 Outdoor worship
- 10 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am  
Church reserved, 7:00 pm
- 11 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 13 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 18 Deacon meeting, 2:00 pm
- 19 Church Board, 6:30 pm

# The Creekside Connection

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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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