

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

October 2024

Change and Eternity

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51

One of my favorite fall activities is to track the changing trees which I see regularly. Most of these are on my property, on my way to work, or at Creekside. The maple to the east of our building is a perennial favorite, and figures prominently in the October Creekside calendar photo.

I know, of course, that these trees, and everything else in the natural world, are changing in every season, but in the fall, the change of foliage is noticeable, beautiful, and often dramatic. People are part of the process of change—sometimes joyfully, often reluctantly. Babies grow up and start walking, toddlers become school-age children, children—at least if their parents are fortunate—grow up and move out on their own. Older adults may move back in with family, or into independent living or skilled care. These may be changes we encourage, but the conditions which precipitate them are out of our control.

Organizations change, too. People come and go, programs begin and end, new opportunities present themselves. The church is not immune to change, but it is unique in that we position ourselves around a vision of a coming kingdom which will change the world. Forever. This vision is both a comfort and a challenge as the church changes: society is not the same as it was fifty years ago, the church has different people and different resources than it had in the past, and yet our faithful God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Christ's teaching and the New Testament vision of the kingdom of God has not changed; how we respond to that vision in today's reality is what must be flexible and creative.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is talking about mortal death and eternal life. Death is inevitable—unless Christ returns before our allotted days are done. Change is an inevitable part of that process, and how and when that change will happen may be a mystery. We make plans as a church, we listen, we vision, look forward, plan activities and programs, seek to be faithful to our calling, and then go through the whole cycle again. We can anticipate and participate in change, but we cannot control it. Change is in the hands of our faithful and loving God, who walks beside us in every season. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. We are called to follow Jesus Christ today so that we can spend eternity with Him.

Blessings to you in this season, and through all the seasons God has blessed us with. May Creekside continue to change as we follow Jesus' vision for the kingdom.

Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

I am so grateful for new activities and ministries at Creekside, as well as ministries which continue to bless our community. The Family Jamboree on September 7 was a great event; we hope to learn from some of the things we did or didn't do, and make it even better next year. We won't change the great food, or the positive energy of those representing Creekside. The Outdoor Worship service was a happy celebration of ministries; the non-threatening swarm of Creekside bees was a highlight. Lynne Foland has been crocheting a variety of vegetables to represent our Seed to Feed ministry, as well as a beautiful garden afghan. I hope you'll be able to see it in person or on our livestream.

Tim and I plan to be gone September 28 through October 5, and I will return before worship on October 6, in order to celebrate World Communion Sunday (*see more in this Connection*). I will be at Mission and Ministry Board meetings in Elgin the weekend of October 18-20. I am now a member of the Executive Committee and have more responsibilities and an expanded meeting schedule. Please pray for me and for the work of MMB in October. I plan to attend a Pastor's Sabbath event at Camp Mack on October 21 and 22.

I was happy to be at N Indiana District Conference Sept. 20 & 21. Thanks to Ron and Jan Nicodemus for being our delegates, to Mike Kauffman who has just been elected to 3 more years on the District Board, to Marita Barsoda who serves on the Board from Rock Run Church, and to Roger Griffith who is the district treasurer. The Gifts and Placement Team from Creekside is working to fill our slate for fall of 2024; please consider ways which you might serve or represent Creekside in the future.

Creekside's fall congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 17, following worship. Adult Sunday School classes will not meet that day. Part of that meeting will be approving a budget for 2025—team leaders should return budget worksheets to Roger Griffith by October 12, 2024. Another part of the meeting will be to say *Thank you!* for your support of the Raise the Roof! capital campaign, and for your continuing support of ministries at Creekside. Every gift, every person makes a difference. Thank you for all of the gifts you bring to the body of Christ at Creekside.

Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Creekside leadership has been approached by a Spanish-speaking house church, Elim Ministerio, about sharing space at Creekside. They are currently a group of 12-15 people. Pastor Rosanna and assistant Board chair Deana Ward have met with Elim representatives several times. Elim would like to meet in the Thee Seekers room from 9:30-10:30 am on Sunday mornings, join Creekside folks in the Gathering Area for fellowship, then meet in the Worship Center beginning around 10:45 for their worship service.

Before the Board gets into details of any agreement, we'd like to hear from the congregation. Do you think sharing our facility is consistent with Creekside's mission and vision? [You can read copies of these statements on the back of the directory, or summarized in the Gathering Area.] What opportunities might that create, and what would you want to know more about? The Board is sponsoring a Listening Session to consider those questions on Sunday, October 6. There will not be a vote at this meeting. The Board believes there should be a trial period before any long-term agreement is finalized. If the congregation is open to the idea, the Board is willing to invite Elim Ministerio on a trial basis prior to our November 17 Congregational Business Meeting.

Raise The Roof! We are barely a month into the Raise The Roof campaign and we've already exceeded \$20,000! Creekside members' generosity never ceases to amaze. The board and property team are hard at work on gathering referrals and making decisions on timing for quotes and making initial contact with roofing companies that in many cases were referred to us by our own members. While a new roof is surely not the most exciting event that Creekside has proposed and planned, the results of our capital campaign so far sure does highlight the spirit and passion of our members. One thing I've learned in my years at Creekside: when a need is identified, Creekside members rush to take care of that need. This is a shining example of "Everybody for the Body".

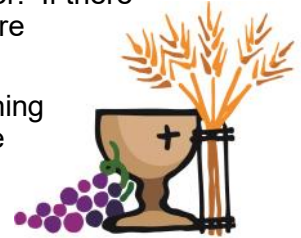
Scott Harney, Church Board Chair

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY October 6

We will be observing World Communion Sunday on October 6 by having bread and cup communion during the worship service. If you are joining us on the livestream that day, you are warmly invited to provide your own bread and grape juice so that you can be part of this remembrance of the body of Christ at Creekside and with Christians around the world. Please take some time prior to the service for self-reflection, and to ask yourself if you are in harmony with God and neighbor. If there are relationships which need to be repaired, consider how you could do this before coming to the Lord's table.

In recognition of Christ's presence around the world, you are invited to wear clothing which represents other cultures, if you have it. Thank you for reminding us of the diversity within the body of Christ!

Pastor Rosanna, for Deacons



CREEKSIDE T-SHIRTS

We are accepting orders for Creekside T-shirts again! If you have an old shirt which needs replaced, or you have never owned a Creekside shirt, this is your chance. Shirts are royal blue. The front says *Creekside* with our logo (see below); the back says *Creekside Church of the Brethren, Continuing the work of Jesus Peacefully, Simply, Together*. They are great to wear at Creekside events, or anywhere you want to be identified as part of our family of faith. The following options are available:



- Short-sleeve T-shirt 50/50 *Kids' size 4T - 12; Adult size S - 3XL* \$10 each
- Long sleeve T-shirt 50/50 *Kids' size 4T - 12; Adult size S - XL* \$15 each
- Crewneck sweatshirt 50/50 (no back print) *Adult sizes S - XL* \$18 each

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area Sept. 29 through Oct. 13, shirts will be delivered in November. Pay at the time you order if you are able; be sure to label cash or check payment "T-shirt," or designate it with your regular giving.

Thank you for making Creekside visible where you go! *Pastor Rosanna*

PHOTO DIRECTORY

We will be printing an updated directory in November. Look for proofs posted in the Gathering Area in October for your changes or corrections. Our newer members and friends have requested an updated photo directory: we will be taking photos before and after worship on Sundays Oct. 20 and Oct. 27. Please sign up for a time slot in advance—your punctuality will help us stay on schedule. Photos will be taken in the 3-5 grade classroom, Room 405, down the hall from the unisex bathroom—signs will direct you there.

If you had a photo taken in 2021 and would like us to use that photo again, please contact the office and let Marita know. This may be especially helpful for shut-in members, or families who are out of the area. If you are able to come to Creekside to have your photo taken, that is the best option. If you are not available those Sundays but can come to the church during the week, call the office and we'll see if we can make an appointment for you. Thank you for your help, and for helping new friends to put names and faces together.

Pastor Rosanna

ALL SAINTS / DAY OF REMEMBRANCE November 3

November 3 will be a Sunday to remember members and friends of Creekside who have passed away since November of 2023. This will happen during the morning worship service. Creekside members will be automatically included; if you have someone you would like included who was not part of our Creekside family, please send their full name, birth date and death date to the Creekside office before Sunday, October 27. Include your name and your relationship to the deceased. You will not have to speak or come forward during the service.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team*

LOVE OFFERING/TITHE OF TIME

The Finance Team and Church Board have discussed a Love Offering for 2024; for the past few years, we have invited a special offering for local service organizations. Because we are currently in the midst of the Raise the Roof! capital campaign, we are proposing an alternative to financial gifts: a Tithe of Time. Outreach team is working with Church Community Services, Susanna's Kitchen, and SPA Ministries to give Creekside friends opportunities to volunteer their time in October, November, and December. Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet. The October event is set:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:30-8:00 pm** Soup of Success volunteer night at CCS on Oakland Ave. We need at least 12 people to assemble dry mixes for soup or dips. You may also shop the SOS store for mittens and candles assembled by this women's empowerment program. *This evening is a great option for folks who have daytime work commitments. Volunteers will be seated indoors.*
- **November:** serving meals at Susanna's Kitchen. 4 people needed per shift (at the mid-day meal)
- **December:** Baking Christmas cookies with SPA Ladies; time TBA

You may volunteer for any or all of these; we know that many of our Creekside members give time to other organizations, but these are opportunities for Creekside to be present with local ministry partners.

Thank you, and God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna for Church Board and Outreach*

RAISE THE ROOF!

If you are thinking about (and I hope you are) making a donation to the Raise the Roof campaign to replace the roof of the church next year, I have some information which may make your donation more attractive. If you are at least 70½ years old and are still required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from any IRAs that you own, you probably understand that each time you take a distribution like that you will pay taxes on it when you file the following year. But if you take any part of your (RMD) as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you will not pay a tax on that amount. Depending on the amount you choose, that could mean a difference of hundreds of dollars in taxes! Creekside Church is a qualified charity under the umbrella of the Church of the Brethren, so it qualifies as a recipient. If you have not taken your RMD for this year, you can still use part of the RMD amount for a donation in 2024. If you already have taken your 2024 RMD, you can wait until January to make your donation so it will count for 2025. To qualify, you cannot just write a check to Creekside; the check must come from the company which holds your IRA. If you have an investment adviser, he or she can help you with this. Otherwise, call the company where your IRAs are located and they will help you with the process. If you have any questions, see me. Roger Griffith is trying to arrange a session during the Sunday School hour in the next few weeks with an investment adviser from Everence who will be able to answer questions.

Larry Ford

THANK YOU

Thanks so much for all the cards, prayers and hugs after my grandson Zane Stoll's untimely death. We really appreciate all of Creekside's concerns for us. *Terry & Irene Rassi*

Thank you for the many birthday cards; I felt very loved! *Marita Barsoda*

Followers of Faith thanks you for your help with our first Family Jamboree. We served 199 adults and 19 children. This was a way of showing what Creekside has to offer those in our community. Thank you for making it successful. *Outreach chair Lodema Hoke*

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Retirement may be a dream for many, but a recent study suggests it's not as joyful for everyone. A survey from insurance company MassMutual found a third of retired adults aren't happier since retiring. The survey gave insight into some patterns, including how 61% of the happier retirees said they had paid off all their debt at least five years before retiring, or how nearly half of the happier crowd said they prepared for retirement by taking steps to improve their health. Those much happier in retirement also fill their free time with activities, with 76% saying they spend their time with loved ones, 70% making sure they exercise and 63% pursuing hobbies.

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate

The Bee Line

The harvest season is almost over. Much like the Creekside gardens, the “last fruits” of the Bee Team’s labors have been realized. (Or should I say, “The fruits of our bees’ labors” have been realized.) If you were able to attend the outdoor worship service on the 8th of September, you heard **Autumn Bee** (*represented by Madison Arnold*) express her frustration after working so hard all summer, just to have (us) “decimate” the hives. OUCH!

The Bee Team started to “spin the honey” in mid-September but we ran into resistance from the bees. I guess they talked to *Autumn Bee* and decided to fight back. Seriously though, they had gotten into the shed and occupied the boxes that were there so we brought them with us and the rest of them followed (see picture below of the bees swarming near the recycling at the kitchen door). To put a positive *buzz* on the experience, this year has been a year of learning. The harvest won’t compare with previous years’ results but we hope there will be some good things that come from what we’ve learned.

On still another positive note, it appears that the hives are all in very good shape. That is especially encouraging considering that all but one of them were new colonies. Two of them even originated from swarms that were captured and relocated. We’ll treat the hives for mites and begin feeding them during the next few weeks so they have enough reserves for winter. It should also be of no surprise to anyone that our winters are not as severe as some have been in the past and our experience last year suggested that we may have “overprotected” our hives. As I described in January, we wrapped the hives snugly last year to prepare them for the frigid temperatures of winter but winter temperatures were on a roller coaster. It seems the hives got too warm during the day and the bees abruptly froze overnight.

There is still a lot of work to come for the Bee Team before bad weather hits. There is always room for more helpers.



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



OCTOBER

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 Graber, Sharon
- 1 Weaver, Janet
- 3 Vance, Gail
- 5 Hendricks, Stephen
- 10 Arnold, Zane
- 12 Lund, Andrew
- 12 Sollenberger, Beth
- 13 Borem, Cheryl
- 13 Nicodemus, Jan
- 16 Longenbaugh, John
- 19 Barton, Steve
- 19 Vance, Jim
- 20 Hendricks, Anna
- 25 Spiritoso, Brynne
- 28 Carroll, Julie
- 29 Snyder, Leonard
- 29 Sowles, Marcia

EVENTS

- 6 World Communion Sunday
- 8 Brunch at Angel’s, 10:45 am, RSVP to Roger N. or Steve B.
- 9 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 *Team budgets due to Roger G.*
- 17 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 20 Directory Photos taken
- 22 Volunteering at CCS, 6:30-8 pm
- 23 Shalom Team, 7:00 pm
- 27 Directory Photos taken
Kohler deacon group dinner

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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