

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

November 2024

A Song of Gratitude

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 3:16

My family of origin sat down together for meals any time we ate at home. During the school year, this often included breakfast, typically not lunch, but always supper. I was not allowed to participate in sports in Jr. High because providing transportation for me would interrupt my mother's supper preparation time. Sharon Regina has a sign at her house which reads, "A good meal begins with prayer and ends with dessert." Our family meals always began with prayer, which we called "grace." We invariably sang a grace: we had 5 or 6 different ones which varied according to whim or how hungry the person choosing was. One of my favorite table graces was written by Brethren poet and composer Wilbur Brumbaugh. You can find it in the blue Hymnal supplement; it's called A Song of Gratitude:

Come, sing a song of gratitude, for gift of shelter, home and food,
For will to live as Jesus would, for God and for our neighbor's good.

In that short couplet, Brumbaugh captures significant themes of theology and Brethren history. The reminder to sing songs of gratitude is a biblical one, as we see in the verse above from Colossians; it is relevant any season of the year, but is one we are intentional about revisiting as we enter a season of harvest and Thanksgiving.

Gratitude is a formational practice for Christians, because of the way it shapes our attitude about ourselves and God. We are invited to be grateful for what we have, but more importantly, for whose we are. If we are created by God and have been given the word of Christ, then gratitude is a natural part of our worship and praise. Whether that praise takes the form of speech or prayer or music, it is an expression of thanksgiving for what God has done. Even the motivation to follow Christ, the *will to live as Jesus would*, is a gift from God. We do not have to live out of our own strength, but we rely on God for the grace to be disciples who give thanks to God.



If you have a schedule which keeps you from sharing regular meals with others, or if you live by yourself and mealtime is often a solitary affair, consider what "grace" you need. Is there another time or routine part of the day (waking up, going to sleep perhaps) when you can be intentional about offering a song of gratitude? It doesn't have to be music, it can be spoken or even silent, words you share spontaneously, or words which you have read or a scripture you have learned by heart. Make gratitude a regular part of your life.

Wishing you grace for every day—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

October was a month of opportunities and challenges—some of them simultaneously. Tim and I were grateful to spend a week in the panhandle of Florida, despite having to drive through the remnants of Hurricane Helene. We were grateful that most of the area where we were was undamaged, but tracked with dismay the flooding in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Special thanks to Lodema Hoke and Creekside's Outreach Team for their swift planning, shopping, assembly, and delivery of CWS clean-up buckets. It was great to partner with Rock Run Church of the Brethren; thanks to those of you who helped or donated toward that effort.

I am recently back from Mission and Ministry Board meetings at the General Offices in Elgin, IL. That is great fellowship and an opportunity to connect with staff and hear about ministries across the denomination, but there are sobering realities of diminishing congregational support and resources. I thank God for the good leadership of that Board, and the hard work of our denominational staff.

Thank you for your welcome to members of Ministerio Elim, or Elim Ministries. Pastor Danis Corcho has been positive about the hospitality from Creekside. A small group from Creekside will be meeting regularly with Elim members to check in and address current or potential concerns.

I have been grateful for the work of Worship Team, led by Diane Lund, as we plan for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Worship has ordered Advent devotionals which will be distributed in late November. It is always a joy to see beautiful photos of the Creekside property and to put those together as a yearly calendar. The 2025 calendar will be available in mid-November. Each family/giving unit will receive a calendar; we plan to give any remaining calendars to Elim members and guests at the Cookie Walk.

I appreciate the work of Gary Arnold and Larry Ford to take photos for a new directory, and to Marita Barsoda who supports all of our work with her administrative skill and artist's eye. We are blessed by the many gifts which are shared at Creekside.

With a grateful heart—
Pastor Rosanna

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 17

Creekside's fall congregational business meeting will be Sunday, November 17 following worship. There will be no adult Sunday School classes that day. Everyone is invited to attend, only members may vote in the meeting. Action items include approval of the 2025 budget and affirming new Board members and congregational representatives. Thanks to the Finance and Gifts and Placement teams who have been working to bring these to you. In addition to these items we will have reports on the Raise the Roof! campaign and Walking Path, as well as further conversation about sharing our facility with Elim Ministries.

Ministry team leaders have been invited to write reports from their teams. That information, along with the proposed budget and slate will be distributed by Sunday, November 3. As in past few years, that information will be sent electronically to Creekside's email list. Paper copies may be picked up at Creekside beginning November 3. Please read through the materials prior to the meeting on November 17. If you have questions, we'll do our best to answer them prior to the meeting. Your preparation will help us make the best use of our time together.

With gratitude for your support of Creekside and its ministries—
Scott Harney, Board chair
Roger Griffith, treasurer
Pastor Rosanna



Calling all cookie bakers, candy and treat makers:

Creekside's annual **Cookie-Candy Walk** is **Saturday, December 7 from 8:00 am - noon**

The proceeds from this fun, well-attended event support outreach ministries of our church.

We need your help to make this our best event ever! How?

- Bake holiday cookies; make candy or other treats. *Consider making an extra item this year. Bring those items to Creekside on Friday, December 6 (from 9-12 or 3-6) or by 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, December 7.*
- We will once again have a 'Kids Korner' in honor and memory of David Hoke; *think of what you might bake or make that a young person might choose to purchase.*
- In honor and memory of Doris Walters, the originator of Creekside's Cookie-Candy Walk, we will be making her Buttermilk Cookies. *We will need help making and baking these cookies ahead of time; date to be determined. They will be iced and packaged on December 6.*
- Invite friends and family

Other details and dates:

- Packaging will be available for guests to create gift boxes or trays.
- **New this year:** Guests will be able to use credit cards to purchase their items.
- *Buckeye-making: Thursday, November 21 from 1 - 4 pm.*
- *Cookie-Candy Walk Set-up: Friday, December 6 from 9 am - noon.*
- Listen for announcements and watch for sign-up sheets in November.



Thank-you, in advance, for your support of this event!
Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman



ESTHER BUCHANAN IS TURNING 100!

Join us in celebrating Esther Buchanan's 100th birthday! An open house will be held at Creekside on Sunday, Nov. 10, from noon to 2:00 pm. *No gifts, please. If you're not feeling well, Esther would love to visit with you another time.*

SEED TO FEED POTLUCK, NOVEMBER 7

Creekside is hosting a potluck for CCS Seed to Feed program on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 pm. Meat dish and drinks will be provided, guests should bring a side dish or dessert to share and your own table service. Anyone who has volunteered in Creekside's Seed to Feed garden or would like to learn more about the Seed to Feed program is invited. Please wear your green Seed to Feed shirt, if you have one.

There are currently more than 20 gardens in Elkhart County, and one Seed to Feed garden in Kosciusko County. These gardens provide locally grown produce to the food pantry at Church Community Services. This potluck is a celebration of the program, participants, and the gift of another harvest to share with our neighbors.



NORTHERN INDIANA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Thank you for allowing Ron and Jan Nicodemus to be your 2024 Alternate District Conference Delegates. The 165th conference was held at Camp Mack on September 20-21. The main portion of our worship service in the evening honored Brethren gone before us by actors portraying their lives. Some of the stories shared were from Alexander Mack, John Kline and Anna Mow. The illustrations given in the portrayals challenged each of us to become better Brethren leaders. The evening ended with dessert – peach crisp topped with ice cream!

All day Saturday was filled with business and reports with a mid-day lunch served in the John Kline Hall. Torin Eikler, the Northern Indiana Executive gave his report. During Torin's 10 years of service as the Executive of our Northern Indiana District, he has had 43 pastoral placements, 3 of those being in 2024. A time of blessing was offered to the Blissville Church, the most recent church to leave the Northern Indiana District and the Denomination. Most churches deciding to leave have already made up their minds and refused to meet with the District Board. An additional two more churches are making plans to leave.

Reports were also given by Camp Mack, Manchester University and Timbercrest. An interesting side note is that Camp Mack is actually owned by the Northern and Southern Indiana Districts. Denominational reports were given by the Brotherhood, On Earth Peace, Eder Financial and Bethany Seminary.

The 2025 District Budget in the amount of \$95,676.78 was approved. Due to the loss of contributions from churches, and loss of congregations, some cuts have had to be made, including having our District Executive work fewer hours. We appreciate Mike Kauffman's leadership as Board Chairman and Roger Griffith's role as District Treasurer. Some difficult decisions will need to be made in 2025.

We need to prayerfully consider Creekside's 2025 proposed budget. In 2024 Creekside's commitment to the District was \$3,000. Ten churches support the District with much larger donations. We are a blessed congregation. We might again look at revising the amount of our pledge to the District. In addition, being Church of the Brethren is a heritage many protestant churches cannot proclaim. Being part of the COB allows us to be part of a worldwide ministry. This year, when preparing the 2025 budget, we should also carefully consider our commitment to our denomination's agencies: (Brotherhood, Bethany, and On Earth Peace).

The afternoon meeting ended with the passing of the gavel to the Moderator-Elect, Anna Lisa Gross, from the Beacon Heights Church in Fort Wayne.

Ron and Jan Nicodemus



A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

When it comes to teaching kids about faith and finances, there is a wonderful opportunity to do both in the same manner. With that in mind, here are a few thoughts:

It might start with a goal jar where you put money in on a consistent basis. Then, kids can start creating their own goals as they get older.

Guiding kids through how decisions are made can help them see their options, weigh pros and cons, and evaluate the outcome at the end. It can be things like going out to eat vs. making a meal at home or buying a toy now vs. saving money for a bigger item later.

Talk about what it means to be generous. When was something given to you? When did you share something with a friend? Did it involve money or time? This could lead to the idea that there was extra to give, and money was set aside. This paves the way for additional money lessons down the road. The good news is we can proceed with confidence in these faith and finance conversations at home because grace abounds! It does not mean mistakes will not happen, in fact our kids benefit from seeing those ups and downs in life, and realizing there is grace to learn and grow.

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate

THANK YOU!

Outreach thanks all of you for the donation you gave for the clean-up buckets. Also for your help filling the buckets. We want to thank Rock Run for partnering with us for 10 buckets. The Outreach team divided 10 of the 15 items so no one had to do all the shopping. Rock Run purchased 5 of the items. We filled 30 buckets and have taken them to CWS to ship where they are needed.

Thank you for sharing your time with SOS on October 22nd, and the time you shared at Susanna's Kitchen on October 11th and (coming up) on October 29th. We need several more volunteers on the 29th of November to serve at Susanna's Kitchen. The date for baking cookies with the SPA ladies is yet to be decided.

Lodema Hoke for Outreach



Raise the Roof!

Thank you for your donations to Creekside's Raise the Roof! fund. As of October 23, you have donated more than \$25,000, which is half-way to our goal. Thank you for these contributions--we know that each one represents a sacrifice, and is a sign of your commitment to Creekside. Every gift, every person makes a difference.

Gifts received by the end of November 2024 will help us to lock in prices and get on the schedule with a contractor by the end of 2024. Gifts received by April 30, 2025 will give us the funds we need to have a new roof on our church and garage in late spring or early summer.

You are awesome! Thanks for your generosity.

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Schmucker, Beth
- 7 Arnold, Maddison
- 7 Buchanan, Esther
- 7 Hoke, Lodema
- 7 Marcin, Tiara
- 7 Shultz, Wylan
- 8 Prah, Jessica
- 12 Griffith, Anne
- 13 Rassi, Irene
- 16 Vardaman, Lisa
- 16 Ganger, Jay
- 17 McFarren, Doris
- 19 Carlson, Kyle
- 20 Arnold, Brian
- 24 Barwick, Cathy
- 26 Stutsman, Kathy
- 28 Rodgers, Valerie

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Miller, Myron & Sandy
- 27 Ellis, Donald & Vicki

EVENTS

- 3 *DST ends: "fall back"*
Church reserved, 1:00-5:00 pm
- 7 Seed to Feed Potluck, 6:00 pm
- 8 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 9 *Church reserved, 11:00-5:00*
- 10 100th Birthday Party for Esther Buchanan, noon-2:00 pm
- 12 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 13 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 17 Congregational Meeting, 11 am
- 21 Buckeye making 1:00-4:00 pm
Church Board, 6:30 pm

FALL BACK!

Sunday, November 3 is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks **back** one hour, and join us in person or on the livestream for worship at 9:30 am.

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

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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