

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

January 2025

## Tackling Hunger

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35*

Just before Christmas, a neighbor on our short cul-de-sac came to our house to see if we wanted to purchase his chainsaw. We didn't, but further conversation revealed that his daughter and son-in-law, who live at the house with him and his teenage grandsons, were both out of work, and the family was short of darn near everything. Our neighbor was doing what he could to be sure his grandsons had enough to eat. Although I'm aware of the widespread problem of food insecurity in Elkhart County and elsewhere, this interaction brought that challenge into focus for me in a different way.

My past two years serving on the board of Church Community Services provide regular reminder of the needs which CCS is working to address. Food pantry donations typically drop after the holidays, just when many families are experiencing the greatest need. No one can tackle hunger alone, but with strategic partnerships, anyone can help make a difference. This January through Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025 you are invited to bring canned soup to Creekside, which we will donate to CCS. February 9 is the NFL's final game of the season, the Super Bowl. The N. Indiana District, of which Creekside is a part, will have its own Souper Bowl: district churches will be invited to donate soup to the food distribution center of their choice, and the congregation which donates the most cans of soup will receive a Souper Bowl trophy.

Out of curiosity, I did some research to see how many NFL mascots are mentioned in the Bible. The Lions and Eagles are mentioned in the same verse (2 Samuel 1:23), as are the Raiders and the Commanders (1 Chronicles 12:21). The Chiefs are in 1 Kings 9:23; the Giants are mentioned in 2 Samuel 21:16, the Ravens in 1 Kings 17:24, and the Bears in 2 Kings 2:24. The Colts are in Genesis 32:15, as well as gospel accounts of Palm Sunday, and the Saints get a lot of shout-outs; my favorite is Romans 1:7. Although sea creatures, wild animals and birds get general coverage, there is no specific mention of Dolphins, Panthers or Seahawks. No sign of Jets, Buccaneers, Vikings, or 49ers. The Rams show up in Exodus 29:3; no franchise has chosen the Lambs as their mascot, but that would be a winner from a biblical perspective. The Lamb remains the unofficial mascot of the Anabaptist movement, as seen on the front of our blue hymnals.

No matter who you're rooting for this season, I hope you can join Creekside and other Church of the Brethren congregations in N. Indiana in the effort to tackle hunger. If this effort becomes competitive (and we are going to go hard at Creekside), everyone will win, especially the neighbors whom Jesus called us to serve. Thank you for being Jesus in the neighborhood.

*Pastor Rosanna*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

I'm writing this during the breathless rush of the week before Christmas. We're through ¾ of Advent and plans for Christmas Eve are well underway, but there are still family gatherings to host and prepare for, cards to send, and presents to wrap. Thank you for the beautiful Christmas cards, well-wishes, and gifts which have shown up in my office and mailbox. I do my best to thank you individually, but your thoughtfulness and care are hard to keep up with sometimes! You are a wonderful congregation.

I know that care extends to others in our church as well. We have a number of members who have experienced significant loss in the past year, and even in the past month. I know that many of you have reached out to them and continue to hold them in prayer: this is one of the most basic, and most significant things we can do for one another as the body of Christ.

I had extra meetings for Mission & Ministry Board in early December. You will be hearing more about a day of prayer and fasting as requested by Atlantic Southeast District. This will happen around mid-January as we remember that Jesus and his parents fled to Egypt for refuge from King Herod; we will be invited to fast and pray for refugees and immigrants in our Brethren congregations and across our country. I have had several meetings with Ministerio Elim (see more on page 4) as part of Creekside's communication team, and we are grateful to have had them as part of our Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to all of the planners and participants who have been part of Advent and Christmas Eve at Creekside. To our worship team, media team, worship leaders, choristers, and instrumentalists. I owe a debt of gratitude to Diane Lund. Despite a hectic November and December, she has been flexible and gracious about accompanying the choir and the extra preparation for Christmas Eve. Tim and I leave the afternoon of December 25 and will be in California through January 3. Thanks to Steve Ganger, who will be the guest speaker on December 29. I know that others of you will be traveling or have already traveled to Florida or Arizona for some extended time. Go with our blessing, join us on the livestream on Sunday mornings, and keep in touch until you can be with us in person.

Blessings to each one of you for the new year! *Pastor Rosanna*

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Greetings and Happy New Year from Church Board! It's hard to believe that 2024 is past us and it's nearly the year 2025. As of this writing, Angi and I are still on the edge of our seats waiting for Baby Garcia to be born! Will he be a Christmas baby; New Year's baby; or will he come and disrupt one of our family Christmas celebrations? – this would totally NOT be a disruption! I could go on about baby stuff, but The Connection usually doesn't exceed 3 or 4 pages. Papa Harney will be sure to submit a picture to be included with the Board's February Connection article.

December was a relatively quiet month for the board as we traditionally do not meet in the month of December. We did, however, meet virtually to discuss some of the details of the Use Agreement with Elim Ministries and to talk about the quotes for a new electronic Creekside sign to replace the old marquis sign next to the driveway. Property team is gathering quotes and proposals for the board to review, and we expect to have this much-needed upgrade installed early next year. 2025 is going to be a great year for some much-needed repairs and upgrades, so a huge thank you for your ongoing support of the church and get ready to Raise the Roof and share Jesus' message with our community.

*Scott Harney, Church Board chair*

P.S. Did I mention that we're expecting a Grandbaby?!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you, everyone, for your prayers and cards. Kudos to the Fellowship Team for their supply of frozen foods. This really helped Roger with meal prep! *Bonnie Neal*

Thanks very much for the cards and good wishes for my recent birthday. You are a wonderful church family. *Esther Buchanan*

Thank you all for your contributions to the staff gift at Christmas. It's been an especially rough year for both of us, and we appreciate your generosity! *Marita Barsoda and Crystal Waggy*



## RAISE THE ROOF AND OTHER PROPERTY UPDATES

Creekside's Property Team has been hard at work at the direction of the Church Board. Here are some reports as well as projects which are under consideration.

**November:** Hill T Construction made an initial cut in the parking lot, and on November 21 they were able to dig a trench for a new drain from the front of the church below the parking lot to the retention area by the river birch trees. Unseasonably warm weather allowed asphalt work to be completed that day (!) The soil erosion under the asphalt by the front pillars was less than we'd anticipated, which was great news. Final cost of \$5,700 has been paid from Capital Improvements Fund.

As prep work for the asphalt project, we had to have power and gas line locations on the property marked—many of these flags are still visible. It turns out there are lines running under where we had discussed putting the walking path, particularly the stretch of the path along the cemetery fence. Moving the path past the apple trees would run it through our garden plot, moving it to the other side of the garden would put it on ground which has significant elevation change. Putting the path over a gas line is a risk for puncturing the plastic conduit, which would be both a bad outcome and an expensive fix. The Church Board is respectfully returning Ron Nicodemus' request to install a walking path on the Creekside property. Neighbors and friends are always welcome to walk on the property as it is; we know that many of them do this already. Thanks to Ron for his research and passion for this project, and for his vision to reach out to our neighbors in this way.

**December:** Giving to Raise the Roof! has been robust: we can't say "thank you" often enough. Donations as of December 23<sup>rd</sup> are \$45,430.65, which is very close to our \$50,000 goal. This assures that we will not need to use funds from the William Pletcher Bequest in order to complete the roof project. We heard sharing at the congregational meeting about the need for Capital Improvement Funds; these are valid concerns. If we have no further donations to Raise the Roof! we can pay for the roof in 2025, but we will have very little left in reserve for future needs or emergencies. If you were planning a gift in 2025, or have been giving a regular weekly or monthly amount to Raise the Roof! we encourage you to continue with that giving. New gifts are welcome, too. 100% of these gifts will go to Creekside's Capital Improvement Fund and be used for the new roof or for future projects.

Roger Griffith, Cal Graber, Mike Kauffman and Jason Ward reviewed quotes for the roof and have decided on a contractor. On December 11 they met with Jerry Martin to sign a contract. We have purchased the shingles for \$28,203 and they will be held until the work begins in May. Roofing will begin after May 12 and be completed before the end of May; we anticipate about two weeks or ten days of work. Jerry has guaranteed his current labor rate for May 2025.

**Under consideration:** When Creekside's facility was built in 2006, we got a quote on an electronic sign for the end of the driveway, and determined it was not feasible at that time, but would be something to look at in the future. We've revisited this periodically on Worship Team; our current sign limits us to publicizing a very limited amount of information for only one event at a time. The advent of another group meeting in our building makes this even more challenging. The Board discussed a new sign at the November meeting and authorized Property Team to get quotes on an electronic sign which would be the same size in the same place on the same base as the current sign. We already have electricity run to this area. Early estimates for an electronic sign are around \$18,000. The Board will be having further discussion about this project, and would be happy to hear your input or opinions.

*Pastor Rosanna for Property Team Roger Griffith, chair*

## A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Everence Federal Credit Union recently partnered with Greenlight to offer its services to Everence Federal Credit Union members for free. Greenlight is a money management app and debit card built with families in mind and for kids of all ages. With the Greenlight debit card, parents can give allowance, assign chores, and set up financial goals while helping kids learn to earn, save, and spend wisely. The app also includes features like real-time spending notifications, savings goals, and even a financial wellness game called Greenlight Level Up™, which helps kids understand key financial concepts. To try it out, visit [everence.com/greenlight](https://everence.com/greenlight) on your phone to download the app.



*Larry Ford, Everence Advocate*

## ELIM / CREEKSIDE REPORT

Ministerio Elim, or Elim Ministries, is the Spanish-speaking independent congregation which has been meeting at Creekside on an interim basis since October of 2024. At the November congregational meeting, we agreed to invite Elim to worship at Creekside for 2025, with the option to extend that invitation each year as needed.

A communication team was appointed by Creekside's Church Board to work out the details of a Use Agreement, and to check in regularly with Elim folks to hear how it's going for them, and to share input from Creekside. That team is Mike Kauffman (Property, new member of Board), Deb Kauffman (Christian Education), Deana Ward (Board, Fellowship, Finance) and Pastor Rosanna (Worship, etc.). We have drafted and shared a Use Agreement which has been approved by the Board. We are hoping to have the agreements signed before the end of 2024 to go into effect Jan-Dec of 2025. We are requesting an offering of \$50/month from Elim for use of the building; Elim has agreed to this. Elim needs to carry its own liability insurance, and their presence will have a modest impact on Creekside's liability coverage. These details have taken a while to work out, and are still in process as I write this. Elim friends have been very gracious and appreciative through all our interactions.

Elim has been invited to reserve space outside of Sunday mornings at no charge with the same process and restrictions which apply to Creekside members. This process depends on events being noted on the master calendar in the Gathering Area—if you need to consult the master calendar remotely, there is a calendar which can be viewed, but not altered, through the website. Team meetings and church events do not need to have a Room Reservation Request filled out, but they should be written on the master calendar, especially recurring ones. Family or other gatherings **must** have a completed Room Request Form. These forms are on the right end of the Creekside mailboxes. As soon as you fill out the form and return it to Property chair Roger Griffith, write your reserved times (beginning with set-up and ending with clean-up time) on the master calendar. Reservations will be first come, first served. In some cases, such as two team meetings on the same evening, we can accommodate more than one group at a time. It all goes more smoothly if we are aware in advance of who will be here.

If you have questions or want to see a copy of the Elim/Creekside Use Agreement, contact any of the team members listed below. May God bless our shared ministries!

*Pastor Rosanna, Mike Kauffman, Deb Kauffman, Deana Ward*



### CAMP MACK CORNER

**Happy New Year! We can't wait to spend 2025 with you.  
Camp Mack is celebrating 100 years this year!**

#### Upcoming Events:

**Dec 30–Jan 3 Winter Break Day Camp:** Spend your school breaks with Camp Mack. Your day will be filled with fun exploring nature, doing crafts, enjoying free play, making new friends, playing games, and enjoying what camp has to offer.

Adult to child ratio, 1:10. Grades K–5. \$150 with additional fees for before and after care. 8:30a–3:30p with options for before & after care.

**January 25 Snow Camp Jr.** (ages 5-12) & **Snow Camp** (grades 6-10): Enjoy all things snow related through games, crafts, snacks, and outdoor play. Please dress for the weather and bring a change of clothes. \$35/child (includes lunch, a snack, and all activities). 9a to 4p.

**Feb 15–16 Couples Retreat:** A new event this year! Sign up with you and your significant other and celebrate Camp Mack's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be activities to do together, time to get to know other couples, a candlelit dinner, and more. \$250/couple for private retreat room, activities, meals.

**Join us for an online meeting at 10 a.m. on January 11<sup>th</sup> to ask questions about summer camp and learn more about upcoming events.**

**Thank you** for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, & pray.  
**Prayer Request:** Please pray for positive guest experiences throughout retreat season and for wonderful centennial celebrations this year!

## COOKIE CANDY WALK

It is said 'variety is the spice of life,' or that 'laughter is brightest in the place where the food is.' Both of these were certainly true for this year's Cookie-Candy Walk. There were at least 60 different types of cookies available and at least 13 types of candy and other treats! And smiles and laughter were ever-present, both from our guests and from all of you.

A special word of thanks goes to Cheryl & Brandon Borem, who made purchases by credit card an option this year; we could not have done that without you! And to Marita for her patience with our ever-changing label needs (even after hours!)

We are deeply grateful to God and to all of you.  
*Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman*

## The Bee Line

### Trials and Tales of a Beekeeper's Wife



“ Living with a beekeeper has its ups and downs. Our biggest argument is the amount of time he spends at the Apiary. His reply is always the same, “During your lifetime you only had to take care of three girls. I have to take care of 250,000 girls and a queen and a few hundred drones.”

You know he doesn't knit, sew, cook, quilt or even walk on the treadmill, and I don't complain. But, what I don't understand is how much he brags about how meek, mild and sweet his girls are. If they are so doggone sweet, why does he sometimes come home with a swelled red nose? Then it's time for me to take the stinger out while he moans, “They found a hole in my netting and it really isn't fun seeing one of my beloved girls circling my nose. I got her out and started running, but I forgot she can fly 15-20 mph or more. Ouch! But, one bad apple (bee) doesn't spoil the whole bushel (hive)”.

Now there is one beekeeping activity I'm glad to help him with. I need to do this to save having a big mess in my kitchen. I don't mind when he says, “My girls are hungry. Can you help me make some sugar water?” And I guess it's all worth it when it comes to extraction time and he comes in with buckets of yellow gold. Then I get out my recipe file and make some of his favorite goodies. The smile on his face is worth it all. ”

*Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team*



**GAME NIGHT:** Everyone is welcome at Game Night on **Friday, Jan. 10, 7 pm.** Bring a snack to share! *Contact Betty Snyder with questions.*

2025  
JANUARY

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 Kohler, Karen
- 2 Pahl, Benjamin
- 8 Cooper, Jenny
- 10 Borem, Jeff
- 12 Rodriguez, Zoey
- 13 Pletcher, Rosemary
- 14 Supancik, Shirley
- 23 Colver, Carolyn
- 27 Kelsey, Betty
- 30 Mishler, Grace
- 31 Walters, Reid

## EVENTS

- 1 *New Year's Day*
- 7 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 14 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 16 Church Board, 6:30 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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