

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

February 2025



For the
LOVE OF GOD

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7*

God's love for us is a foundational part of our identity as Christians and followers of Jesus Christ. This is a truth which should be remembered and shared and celebrated. There is a corollary to this truth which is also important, and is explicated in 1 John 4: Let us love one another, *because* love is from God (italics mine). Just to be sure that the point is clear, the writer of 1 John states it in the negative: Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. Through the month of February, our worship services will be exploring not only God's love for us, but what we are called to do and how we are called to act toward one another for the love of God.

I found inspiration for this series in what may seem an unlikely place, *The Little Book of Lykke*, by Meik Wiking. Lykke (pronounced Loo-ka) is the Danish word for happiness; Wiking is the CEO of the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen. His book shares things which he believes make people happy. The list bears a startling similarity to things which I believe we are called to practice as Christians: Community, Kindness, and Trust, and it was interesting to read research data about these topics. I do not think that loving one another is prescriptive, "do this, this and this"; we all experience God's love and express God's love in different ways, but those ways have some common patterns. We all know and have experienced patterns which are not loving, and how challenging it can be to embody God's love.

Rather than trying to tell you what to do, I hope we can reflect together on what we yearn for—for ourselves and our family of faith. Consider the following:

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

- Antoine de Saint Exupéry

I believe that sharing God's love should be more than a program or a sermon series; it is an expression of our longing for something immense and beyond ourselves.

February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day. If you have a story of giving or receiving an act of kindness which you'd be willing to share, please contact me or Worship Team chair Diane Lund by February 9 so we can hear your story on Sunday, February 16. You will have other opportunities in the coming months to interact with your church family and your neighbors for the love of God.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

I have been reminded—often—of your kindness and generosity this past month. I am grateful for those of you who have asked about my family in California, have prayed for victims of fires in the LA area, and have given material support to the work of Brethren Disaster Ministries. Thank you for your prayers and offers of assistance to Scott and Angi Harney following a disaster at their home. Thank you for stepping up to put Creekside in the lead with our canned soup collection, and for your overwhelming (and continuing) response to Raise the Roof! and capital needs at Creekside. Generosity takes many forms, but it is a gift which is always appreciated and changes the giver as well as the receiver. God bless you.

I am looking forward to the sermon series for February (see Pastor's Page) and to Maryann Zerbe for all the loving stitches she has put into 100 gifts for Creekside. She has been assisted by Bobbie Newberry and Rita Barnes. Marita Barsoda has contributed as well, and it is a blessing to have folks with their expertise as a part of our congregation.

Generosity came in the form of finding deals on coats and stocking hats and gloves for children in our community. Cheryl Borem and her helpers Jeff and Brandon have done a great job for our Outreach Team. Tim Lund's connection with the food pantry at CCS has raised our awareness of specific needs in our community, so we can respond to them in a timely way.

I am grateful for the work of Creekside's Board, both to Scott Harney for his year of service as chair in 2024, and to Deana Ward for chairing the Board in 2025. All of our Board members—including those currently in Florida—have been engaged in conversation about the future of Creekside and its mission and programs. It is a privilege to work with this group of people.

Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to get out of N Indiana in February! Tim and I will fly to Arizona on February 7, spend a few days with Shelly and Tim Randall, then drive to Las Vegas, where Tim has a medical meeting. We are looking forward to sunshine and seeing friends—not necessarily in that order.

Giving thanks with a grateful heart—
Pastor Rosanna



CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICE TRAINING

As a CDS volunteer, I am pleased and grateful to announce a training will be held on [March 28-29, 2025 \(Friday 4:30pm- Saturday 5:30pm\)](#) at Creekside Church of the Brethren.

An overnight training is scheduled for those considering being a volunteer with Children's Disaster Services. This training is an opportunity to learn about and practice some of the techniques used by CDS. Trainers will prepare registrants by sharing personal experiences, and methods and materials necessary to care for the children affected by disasters. Children Disaster volunteers provide a calming presence, acting as a support to families while dealing with the practical business of recovery from extreme loss.

More information is available at: <https://www.brethren.org/cds/> If you, or someone you know with a heart for children, is interested in attending or hearing more, please contact me. Blessings!

Deb Kauffman, 574-312-8251

DISTRICT WOMEN'S RETREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unavoidable situations encountered by the sponsoring host church, the Cedar Lake planning committee is unable to proceed with the March 22nd retreat date. The speaker they had reserved is willing to postpone until a later date. In the near future, the retreat planners will meet virtually and work at next steps. In the meantime, the search for a new host church will take place and hopefully we can establish a great connection between the Cedar Lake committee and the new host church and have a super 2025 retreat, just later than originally planned!

Look for more details coming soon,
Judy De Pue

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Church Board has affirmed leadership for the new year; officers for 2025 are Board chair Deana Ward, Assistant chair Mike Kauffman, and Treasurer Roger Griffith. Our thanks to Scott Harney for his leadership in 2024, during challenges with his parents' care.

We are grateful for your giving to Raise the Roof! since September of 2024. By January 15 we reached and exceeded our goal of \$50,000—and we're still counting. Thank you! Work on the roof will begin in mid-May 2025.

We now have a signed Use Agreement with Elim Ministries (Ministerio Elim). The most challenging part of the process was getting insurance coverage in place for Elim, and that is almost done. The Communication Team (Deana Ward, Mike and Deb Kauffman, Pastor Rosanna) will continue to meet regularly with Elim representatives. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to one of these team members so we can share with the appropriate parties. A copy of the Use Agreement is available in the office.

The Board has received three quotes for an EMC (Electronic Messaging Center) sign insert which would replace the movable letter portion of the permanent sign at the end of the driveway. The total cost would be about \$20,500, including permits and variances. We already have 20% of the needed funds from a gift for a previous project which was re-assigned by the donor. We are considering other funds, including a grant from the Creekside Mission and Vision fund. We do not plan to use Capital Improvements funds for this project. If you'd like to know more about the proposed sign, talk to Mike Kauffman or Roger Griffith. This has been a wish-list item for Creekside Church since the building was constructed in 2006; we think it will help increase our visibility in the neighborhood, and allow us to publicize several events at once, including Elim Ministry worship.

The Board has begun conversations about longer-range planning (3-5 years or more); this includes considering the best use of Pletcher bequest funds. Please be in prayer for those ongoing conversations and planning, and let a Board member know if you have ideas. Anyone is welcome to attend Board meetings; they are typically the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm.

We have a great board, including our newest members, Karen Snyder and Mike Kauffman, who were elected in November. Scott Harney, Tim Morphew, and Kurt Vardaman are continuing as board members, and Pastor Rosanna is an ex officio member. These leaders are committed using their gifts at Creekside Church. Thanks for encouraging them in their work.

Pastor Rosanna, for Board chair Deana Ward

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Everence is a financial partner Creekside uses in several ways. They offer consumer services to members of Anabaptist churches such as Brethren, Mennonite and others. Below is information about two upcoming webinars (Zoom sessions) they are offering. They are free, and if you are interested, just enter: everence.com/partners in your browser and sign up— or see me if you need more information. I have some flyers on each session. --Larry Ford

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate

Webinar: 55 and Counting – Six questions to ask as you prepare for retirement: When is the right time? Will I have enough? Will I be OK? These are the types of questions we ask as we prepare for retirement. Join Stewardship Consultants Lynette Morales and Lyle Miller and other Everence experts at 8 pm on Thursday, March 13, for a webinar that explores these topics and more. Register at everence.com/partners.

Webinar with Financial Choice: Stop making a resolution: Turn your goals into reality. Changing behaviors around money is never easy but to reach your goals it's necessary. In this workshop you will learn strategies to organize your finances, set goals, and improve financial habits. Steve Bustos, Everence Stewardship Consultant will host this webinar presented by Kim Miller on Feb. 11 at 2 pm or 8 pm. Sign up at everence.com/partners.



CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM SUPPORTS CAMP MACK

Camp Mack offers many vital ministry opportunities for our church community. Because we want to make sure the children who attend Creekside Church have the opportunity to enjoy Camp Mack, our church has paid 50% of the Summer Camp fees for our children and youth for many years. CE team will continue that 50% sponsorship for each child and youth who attends Creekside. Please contact our camp representative, Lisa Vardaman, for registration assistance.

Registration for summer camps will open Feb. 1. “Spring into line to hold your place at camp!”

Questions have come up about sponsorship discounts at Camp Mack for adults who attend Creekside. To assist in this new venture, CE team is developing the following option:

- If adults from our congregation need financial assistance in order to attend a Camp Mack event, we ask that interested parties contact one of the Christian Ed chairs: Judy De Pue, Deb Kauffman, or Roger Neal, PRIOR to seeking registration. *The CE chairperson will help them locate the application form and will present their completed request to the CE team for consideration.*
- If Creekside attendees have a request for financial assistance to Camp Mack for a child, youth, or adult who is not a Creekside attender, speaking to one of the CE team co-chairs listed above, will start the process of asking for that assistance. Each application will be evaluated individually with consideration given to available funds.

The CE team looks forward to assisting our congregation as they plan for 2025 events at Camp Mack!
Judy De Pue, for Christian Education Team



CAMP MACK CORNER

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 10 or 12 Homeschool Outdoor Ed Days: *You Wood Not Believe It!*

Marvel at the amazing trees we have around camp, play fun games, and find out how to measure a tree. Ages 7 to 14. \$25 (optional sack lunch provided by Camp for \$5). 10a to 5p.

Feb. 13–16 Quilt Retreat: Arrival on Thursday (3p) or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. Bring projects to work on and enjoy great fellowship sewing by the lake.

Feb. 15–16 Couples Retreat and Dinner: This is for any couple! Come spend some quality time together—getaway and enjoy activities, fellowship, and more. Grow closer together during a candlelit dinner. \$250/couple (includes meals, lodging, and activities).

February 16 Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day: Travel around Salamonie and Mississinewa to view migrating bald eagles. Learn about reintroduction and recovery efforts, along with how to age an eagle you see. \$40 (snacks and transportation included, bring money for dinner). 1p–9p. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then travel offsite. Dress for the weather.

Feb. 20–23 Scrap and Craft Retreat: 6p Thursday or Friday arrival options until 3p Sunday. Meals begin Friday evening. Bring your scrap and craft projects!

February 22 Scrap & Craft Get-A-Way Day and Knit and Crochet Get-A-Way Day: Each is \$35 and includes lunch. 9a–4p.

Feb. 28–Mar 2 Board Games Retreat: This is an adult gathering for friends, new and old, for a weekend of strategy, late nights, snacks, and your favorite board games. \$160 for 2 nights and meals. Ages 18+.

Thank you for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray. Stay safe and warm this winter.

Prayer Request: Please pray for positive guest experiences throughout retreat season. Pray for lots of campers to sign up for camp this summer!

The Bee Line



It's a **cold** morning in January and I just finished the last few drops of our delicious *Creekside* honey this morning. Jean and I only had one jar this year and I hope those of you who wanted honey were able to get some. Our bees worked awfully hard this year to provide us with what we got. We also want to thank Peggy Emeis for her donation to the cause.

As I sat in our warm house and gazed outside at the snow, I couldn't help but think of our bees huddled together in their hive to keep warm. The drones have all been driven out or died by now because the colony is in survival mode for the winter. Beekeepers have differing opinions on what to do for the bees during the winter but many sources agree that bees are very good at taking care of themselves. They form a cluster and maintain a temperature of about 90 degrees (F) in the center of the colony. We hope that our girls can do that.

I mentioned in October's Connection that wrapping the hives the previous year may have caused problems when the temperatures went up and down. We didn't do that this fall and so far, the temperatures have been about what we would expect for this time of year. I also mentioned last year that it was a year of learning. I hope that what we learned will help our bees.

Like farmers do in the wintertime, beekeepers think ahead to warmer weather and the work ahead. Ron has already ordered frames for the top of the hive boxes designed to allow us to provide food for the bees late in the winter months when their food supply is depleted. If we have a few good days in February or March, we'll place the frames on top and add a generous layer of sugar for the bees to take back into the hive. We have to be careful that we don't open the hive too soon and expose the hive to freezing temperatures.

There is work still to come for the Bee Team but I personally am looking forward to getting back out and having them greet me on a sunny day. Consider joining one of us and get acquainted with the girls this year. There is always room for more helpers.

Remember to "Bee Kind"

Steve Barton, *For the Bee Team*



GAME NIGHT: Everyone is welcome at Game Night on **Friday, Feb. 14, 7 pm.** Bring a snack to share! *Contact Betty Snyder with questions.*



FEBRUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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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	

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Zerbe, John
- 9 Bode, Deb
- 9 Hendricks, Graham
- 10 Borem, Brandon
- 12 Blacka, Barry
- 12 Blacka, Daisy
- 15 Vance, Christi
- 16 Magers, Deanna
- 21 Vance, Cody

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Randall, Tim & Shelly

EVENTS

- 11 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 12 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 19 Worship Team, 10:00 am
- 20 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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