

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

April 2025



The Last Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Matthew 26:26

As we prepare for the end of Lent and Holy Week, there is an understandable focus on Jesus' last supper with his disciples. It is an event which is narrated in all four gospels—the accounts in the first three gospels are pretty similar (see *Matthew 26:26-28*, *Mark 14:22-24*, and *Luke 22:17:20*) and a greater length with different emphasis in *John 13:1-30*. This is clearly an important event in biblical terms to be presented and repeated in each account of Jesus' life.

This year, it is an event in cinematic terms, too. There are two major-release films, both titled *The Last Supper*, out in theatres now. The Chosen series has divided Season 5 into three feature-length films, the third of which, *The Chosen Last Supper Part 3* portrays the Thursday of Holy Week, also known as Maundy Thursday. Pinnacle Films *The Last Supper* spans Holy Week and Jesus' arrest and crucifixion—I won't share any spoiler alerts about what happens after the crucifixion; I trust that you already know. I have not seen either of these films yet, but I have plans to change that soon. (See *more about April 13 on the next page of this Connection.*)

I've watched trailers for both films, and am relieved that neither set looks much like the iconic and inaccurate painting by Leonardo DaVinci pictured above. I was intrigued by a slogan on the Pinnacle *Last Supper* which read, "Experience What You Believe." I am inclined to think that this is good counsel. Belief is more than abstract thinking, it is something we need to put into practice. Watching a movie about Jesus may be one way to experience what we believe; how about living what we believe?

You are no doubt aware that Creekside has a long history of a Maundy Thursday Love Feast service. This is because of the even longer history of the Church of the Brethren observing Jesus' institution of the bread and cup of communion (Matthew, Mark, Luke) along with Jesus washing his disciples' feet (John). This service is more than a re-enactment of Jesus' service to his disciples; it is a commitment for those of us who follow Jesus' command, "I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Although Maundy Thursday has traditionally focused on footwashing, it is not that literal action, but the humility and service which it represents which gives us the opportunity to live what we believe about Jesus Christ.

See you on Maundy Thursday, April 17—and maybe at the movies, too.
God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

PALM SUNDAY, MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD 'FRIDAY' April 13 & 17

Holy Week activities begin on Sunday, April 13. Children—and a few adults—will be invited to lead a palm processional at the beginning of the 9:30 worship service. Thanks to Becky Miller and Irene Rassi for organizing this. Ministerio Elim children and friends have been invited to join us, if they wish.

Love Feast is on Thursday, April 17 at 6 pm. This includes footwashing and other service opportunities, a light supper, and bread and cup communion. Thanks to Creekside's deacons for their planning.

Following Love Feast, we will have an opportunity for guided prayer in the Prayer Garden and using the labyrinth. There will be an indoor option for those who wish to stay indoors, or in case of inclement weather. This Good "Friday" portion of the evening will begin at about 7:15, and will be mostly self-guided. Thanks to Worship and Media Teams for coordinating this devotional opportunity.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship, Deacons, and Media

THE CHOSEN LAST SUPPER PART 3 Sunday, April 13, 1:30 pm

If that movie title seems a little tedious, it is. If you have been following the Dallas Jenkins series, *The Chosen*, you know that Season 5 is being released in three feature films. Part 1 opens March 28, Part 2 opens April 4, and Part 3 opens April 11. All will be shown at Linway Cinemas in Goshen.

A group from Creekside will be going to see Part 3 at 1:30 pm on Sunday, April 13. Part 3 portrays Thursday of Holy Week. Twenty tickets have been reserved—sign up in the Gathering Area if you would like to take one of those seats. Tickets are \$8.00 each; pay Pastor Rosanna at the theatre that afternoon. Make checks out to Creekside Church. If those 20 reserved spots are taken, you are still warmly encouraged to join us at the movie. Pay for your own ticket at the box office and sit in whatever seats are available—it may be a full house.

EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, April 19

Creekside's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be the day before Easter, April 19. There will be separate areas for kids age preschool - kindergarten, 1st - 3rd grade, and 4th - 6th grade with a grand prize winner in each area. Every child will be able to find eggs, candy, and prizes.

Thanks to Creekside's Outreach Team for ordering eggs and prizes, and to Christian Ed Team for helping with registration. You may donate candy (small sizes, please) and help stuff the eggs on Sunday, April 13. Volunteers are welcome to help "hide" eggs at 9:00 am that Saturday morning. Children should arrive no later than 10:45 to register; the egg hunt will begin at 11:00 am sharp.

Thanks for your help and for your prayers as we welcome children at Creekside.

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach and Christian Education

EASTER SUNDAY April 20

Christ is risen! Halleluia! We will be celebrating the resurrection at Creekside on April 20; we hope you will invite your family and friends to join us. Many of you were positive about participation from Ministerio Elim as part of Christmas Eve 2024. We are working together on Easter services. Those plans are not entirely set, but here is what we anticipate:

8:00 am Sunrise Service in Gathering Area

8:30 am Breakfast in Gathering Area

10:00 am Worship in Worship Center

There will be no Sunday School. We will return to our normal schedule on April 27.

A note about Easter flowers: thank you for your orders, and for sharing them in our Easter worship. The deadline for orders is April 6; please pay for your order by April 13. Orders which are not paid for by April 20 cannot be filled.

Worship Team will do its best to honor your requests for tulip colors—there will be enough flowers for everyone who ordered and paid for them. Please wait for someone to fill your order after the service; we will have a list of what everyone ordered. Your patience will be a gift to the folks who have worked hard to make our chancel beautiful. Thank you.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team

HOLY HUMOR WITH TED SWARTZ Friday, April 25, 7:00 pm



Creekside is pleased to offer a one-person, one-night performance of “Laughter as a Place of Belonging” by actor/comedian Ted Swartz of Ted & Co. It will be Friday, April 25 at 7:00 pm. Creekside is paying for booking costs, so admission is FREE. Seating is limited and we will be publicizing this widely, so plan to arrive early for a good seat.

We will collect a free-will offering at the performance: 100% of that offering will go where most needed at Church Community Services. We can all use some humor in our lives, but the needs in the Elkhart community are no laughing matter. Thanks for your support.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team and Church Board

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Wow, this spring weather! It was nice for a few days, and it got a lot of things moving, Steve's been out with our bees planning for the new year and our gardeners are busy planning a new planting season. Outreach has paired with the congregation to raise over \$1,500 for CCS Home Together, helping families avoid eviction and stay in their homes. Thank you so much for all your giving. This congregation does not cease to amaze me on how much you open your hearts to others. There has been some planning on the Jamboree for this year. Hopefully everyone can lend a hand. Some outside projects will be starting soon, including the new roof. (Speaking of the roof, WOW! You have given 40% over our goal for the roof!)

Plans for a new electronic sign (Electronic Messaging Center, or EMC) at the end of the driveway are underway. Will have to wait for results of a county variance meeting in mid-April before we can move forward. We might have a new sign by early June! The Board has approved \$5,000 from the Creekside Mission and Vision Grant Fund and members have given over \$6,000 toward this project so far. This congregation is unbelievable; thank you so much for opening your hearts and wallets to needs at the church. I'm blessed to be part of Creekside.

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair

CONTAINER GARDEN PLANTING Saturday, May 17, 9:30-noon

Creekside Folks: Planting time is coming up on Saturday, May 17, 9:30-12. Please save the date on your calendar and come to help plant tomato pots and veggie boxes for sharing with others in our community. We will also need vehicles to help make deliveries afterward. Covered vehicles, like vans are especially helpful to protect the young plants.



*Thanks in advance, from the Container Garden Ministry Team
(co-chairs: Tim Lund and Judy De Pue)*

PRAYER VIGIL Thursday, April 3, 6:30 pm

'Sensitive Locations, Sacred Spaces' nationwide prayer vigil supports lawsuit to protect sanctuaries.

An interfaith prayer vigil on the evening of Thursday, April 3, at 6:30 pm (Eastern time), held both in-person at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C. and online via livestream, will support a court hearing in the sensitive locations lawsuit. “Join us for an interfaith prayer vigil on the eve of the first hearing of our historic lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security's rescission of the sensitive locations memo,” said an announcement from those organizing the prayer vigil.

The Church of the Brethren is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Contact Pastor Rosanna if you would like more information about how to participate in this event. You may register online at <https://publicwitness.my.canva.site/sensitive-locations-sacred-spaces-prayer-vigil>

YOU'RE WELCOME AT CAMP MACK

Camp Mack is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with many activities and opportunities to enjoy the beauty of its location and create a closer relationship with God. Creekside is fortunate that Camp, located near Milford on Lake Waubee, is a short 21 mile drive from the church.

Summer Camp Registration is open! Students who have completed the 1st or 2nd grades can participate in Samplers Camp which is a 3-day, 2-night introduction to summer camp. For students who have completed the 3rd grade through 12th grade, week-long camp experiences are offered based upon age. Additionally, for youth, specialty camps are also options. Specialty camps include Eco-Adventure, Splash, Target Sports, Creative Arts, Culinary and Survivors. If you regularly attend Creekside, Creekside's Christian Education Team will pay for half of your camping fee. See myself, Judy De Pue, Deb Kauffman or Roger Neal for details. If you're interested in summer camps, plan to attend the open house at Camp Mack on May 4th for a fun introduction & tour.

Camp offers opportunities for families to attend Camp together:

- Women's Camp - May 29-31
- Grand Camp - June 25-27 or August 3-5 - Grandparents & Grandchildren ages 5-10
- Colony Camp - August 15-17 - Independent & group activities, prepare your own meals
- Labor Day Family Camp - Aug. 29-Sept. 1 - Classes for all ages, camp activities, lodging, meals.

Additional Retreats and Get-A-Way days are sprinkled throughout the year. You can check these out in the camp brochure, and I'll try to keep you updated via the connection and announcement slides. Here's a few that are upcoming soon:

- Adventure Day - April 26 - Free - Enjoy archery, zip line, rock wall, high ropes, hiking and more.
- School Break Day Camps - April 7-11 - K-5th grade - \$150 - Exploring, crafts, games.
- Birdwatchers Retreat - May 1-3 - \$185 - Field trips for spring migration birding.
- Pastor's Sabbath - May 12-13 - \$35 - Reflection, fellowship, meditation, recreation,

Camp Mack Brochures have arrived and are available on the table in the fellowship area. More details can be found on the website <https://www.campmack.org/> Follow camp on Facebook for the latest updates: www.facebook.com/CampMack.

Volunteers are often needed at camp. Contact them at (574) 658-4831 to match your skills to their needs. I'm glad to answer your questions and help you find the right activity for you to enjoy Camp Mack.

Hope to see you at camp, *Lisa Vardaman*



A NOTE FROM EVERENCE:

Knowing what to look for in potential fraud can help save your livelihood and that of your loved ones. Here are some tips from Everence to help protect your Medicare. Scammers may try to steal your identity or charge Medicare for equipment in your name, only for you to never receive the item.

Fake Genetic Testing Scam: Medicare rarely covers genetic testing; however, scammers will use this scheme to obtain a person's Medicare number so they can apply false charges to Medicare.

Upgraded Medicare Card Scheme: Individuals posing as Medicare reps call offering upgraded, hard plastic Medicare cards with a chip in them. The scammer asks for payment and your Medicare number.

Keep the following rules in mind when faced with suspicious communication: Medicare will not call you unless you've made a previous appointment with them. Treat your Medicare card like a credit card—don't share your Medicare card number with someone you don't trust. Record appointments and services, so you have a ready resource to double-check if you are suspicious of a provider bill or a charge. Pay attention to your Medicare summary notices and your Everence Explanations of Benefits.

Be suspicious if a doctor, health care provider or supplier tells you that an equipment or service is free, and they only need your Medicare number for their records. Don't take advice or offers of medical services from unknown callers.

Larry Ford, Creekside Everence Advocate

The Bee Line



Last month, I reported that the Bee Team was hoping to get together and begin planning for warm weather ahead. We were able to do that on the first of March and we had a very positive meeting. (Now all we need is the warm weather.) Not everyone was able to be at the meeting because of the date but we needed to make some tough decisions as soon as possible.

One of the decisions was whether or not to continue tending bees here at Creekside.

I also mentioned in the March *Connection* that we would soon know which of the hives survived. We accomplished that as well that Saturday. We discovered activity in two of the hives. We had a “professional beekeeper” visit with us and give us some valuable insight on things we need to be doing in the future. He reassured us that beekeepers throughout the area have experienced similar losses over the winter.

Knowing that, the group decided to continue supporting the Creekside Apiary and ordered two more packages of bees for delivery this spring. There will be some extra work to do in preparation for the ‘newcomers’ but we left feeling optimistic about what we can accomplish. I hope to become more proficient at caring for the bees this year and I’d also like to thank the members of the bee team for their willingness to continue.

I have also been in contact with Erica Lint, from Church Community Service, about some of their summer interns visiting Creekside to learn about beekeeping and possibly helping tend to our bees. I look forward to that opportunity. Stay tuned for more information in the next month or two... and remember to **“Bee Kind!”**

Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

MEDIA TEAM VOLUNTEERS

The Creekside Media Team is looking for volunteers to help with various areas of the Media Team Ministry. We need help with: running the sound board; operating a video camera for the livestream; operating the screens computer; creating computer screens for Worship; and other areas as needed. You don’t need to be proficient in any of these areas. We’re looking for people who are dependable and have a willingness to learn. We will train you.

If you are interested or would like more information, see Gary Arnold AFTER Worship on Sunday mornings, or email Gary at: mediacentercob@gmail.com

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Randall, Tim
- 5 Regina, Sharon
- 6 Arnold, Kaylee
- 11 Carlson, Connor
- 11 Newberry, Bobbie
- 11 Nowicki, Tom
- 12 Zerbe, Maryann
- 15 Krull, Lester
- 16 Neal, Bonnie
- 16 Snyder, Betty
- 26 Harney, Angi
- 27 Kelsey, Cary
- 27 Lund, Diane
- 27 Prael, Eloise

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Grant, Doug & Karen
- 11 Stutsman, Mike & Kathy
- 30 Bode, Ray & Deb

EVENTS

- 2 Deacons, 2:00 pm
- 6 Worship Team, after worship
- 8 Brunch at Angel’s, 10:45 am
Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 9 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 10 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 Services for Diana Rohrer
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Love Feast & Good “Friday”, 6 pm
- 19 Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am
- 20 Sunrise Service, 8:00 am
Easter Breakfast, 8:30 am
Worship, 10:00 am
- 25 “Laughter as a Place of
Belonging” by Ted & Co.
- 27 *Church reserved, 2:00-4:00 pm*
- 29 Christian Ed Team, 6:00 pm

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



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