

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

May 2025



There are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one were written down . . . the world could not contain the books. John 21:25

The Easter season is the celebration between Christ's resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, seven weeks later. Some of you will remember the Easter theme, "Jesus is on the Loose" from previous Creekside pastor Janet Shaver. This theme was the catalyst for magnets and even T-shirts which proclaimed the reality that Christ is risen! No tomb, no stone, not even death could hold Jesus down.

All of the gospel accounts of the resurrection include some stories about what Jesus did afterward—the material in Mark is the shortest, and is almost certainly a later addition. There are accounts of Jesus walking with followers who did not recognize him, of Jesus appearing to his disciples in a room with locked doors, and of a miraculous fishing expedition. These are great stories to remember and recount after Easter, but what I am most intrigued by are the ways in which Jesus is still on the loose today. Easter season is a time to celebrate that Christ is still alive and active in the world.

Of course, Christ's activity is something for Christians to celebrate at any time of the year. After the Holy Spirit's coming to Jesus followers at Pentecost, we often focus on the beginning of the church, and the *missio Dei*, God's mission in the world. Easter season is an invitation to consider and re-consider what Christ means on a more personal level: How is my life different because he lives? Does my view of what is possible change if Jesus is on the loose?

After his resurrection, we have no gospel record of Jesus teaching crowds. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, the disciples, two travelers walking the road to Emmaus. He reassured those who already knew him that he had indeed risen, just as he had promised; but this season is a reminder that the work which is yet to be done will have to be done by those of us who remain on earth. In the millennia which have followed that resurrection day Christians have expressed their faith and belief in the work of Christ in many different ways, but the inspiration and the necessity for us to respond have never changed. Jesus is on the loose—what are we going to do about it? What are we going to do with Jesus' help?

I am excited about upcoming opportunities and planning at Creekside. You can read more about some of them in this *Connection*, and I hope you will come to hear more at our congregational meeting on May 18.

Continuing the work of Jesus together—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Christ is risen! I am still rejoicing from our Easter services at Creekside. It was a great day to be together and to share with our friends from Ministerio Elim. Many thanks are in order—this may not be a comprehensive list, but it will give you an idea of who and how much goes into planning for Holy Week and Easter: thanks to the Media Center and especially Gary Arnold for setting up equipment outdoors for Good 'Friday' service, and for additional screens and extra work on the services. Thanks to the deacons for their planning for Love Feast, and to Betty Kelsey for the prayer and Good "Friday" service which followed. Thanks to Outreach Team, Christian Ed members and other volunteers who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to Fellowship Team for the hearty Easter breakfast. Thanks to Worship Team members who set up and passed out Easter flowers. Many thanks to Beth Sollenberger for driving to and from Elgin, IL to secure and return translation equipment to facilitate our worship on Easter. We have plans to do something similar on Pentecost, June 8th: it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the ways the Holy Spirit allows us to hear and understand one another.

I had the opportunity to visit and share communion with some of our members who are not able to attend church in person. Those are meaningful connections for me; the wisdom and experience of our older members is invaluable.

The Board has had some great conversations about upcoming ministry opportunities. See the report from Board chair Deana Ward and articles elsewhere in this *Connection*. You will have a chance to join these conversations at the Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, May 18. More details in this *Connection*.

Sunday, May 4 will be a baby dedication for Devereaux Garcia and his parents Tiara Marcin and Mark Garcia. I am so pleased to have Creekside be a part of their commitment, and that we can share in the joy of that new life. Prayers for Stephen and Heather Kercher who are expecting a boy in May, and for Kyle and Katy Carlson who are expecting a boy in July. It will be wonderful to have these babies as part of our church family.

Tim and I will be gone for a few days, May 9-13, to the Bruce Peninsula and the small town of Tobermory, Ontario. During my 2022 sabbatical we spent a week with family in Tobermory, Scotland; the town in Ontario of the same name was settled by Scottish immigrants. We plan to do some hiking at the national park. Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director of Camp Mack, will be the guest speaker on May 11.

Blessings for this Easter season. Christ is risen, indeed!
Pastor Rosanna

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, May 18, 8:30am

Creekside's spring congregational meeting will be Sunday, May 18 at **8:30 am**. We will have worship and Sunday School as usual that day. Thanks to Fellowship Team who will provide a light breakfast beginning at 8:15. Everyone is encouraged to participate in listening and asking questions about present and proposed ministries at Creekside. Team leaders will have written reports which you can review before the meeting; we will have mid-year financial reports and the opportunity to celebrate the end of a successful Raise the Roof! campaign. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening at Creekside, to ask questions, and to have input on future planning.

Thanks to all of our ministry teams and volunteers who are continuing the work of Jesus at Creekside; we acknowledge and thank you for all that you do.

Pastor Rosanna

CELEBRATE WORLD HONEY BEE DAY Sunday, May 18

Join the Creekside Bee Team in Celebrating **World Honey Bee Day**, Sunday, May 18. During the fellowship time, we will have a fun quiz about bees you can work on together while enjoying some HONEY-VANILLA CARAMEL CORN. Finish your worksheet and turn it in for a drawing for a pint of honey!

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team



FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Ladies and gentlemen, we are having a busy spring and it's all thanks to you.

Blessings and thank you regarding the Raise the Roof campaign! Our congregation comes to the call, wherever it may be. The campaign raised over \$70,000, so we will not have to use any funds besides our existing Capital Improvements fund and your donations. We expect to have about \$18,000 left in Capital Improvements when the roof is done. Work will begin the week of May 12.

The electronic sign for the end of the driveway was approved by County Council on April 18. A representative from the sign company spoke at the meeting and Roger Griffith and Deana Ward attended. The sign and variances will cost about \$20,000. We are paying for the sign with \$5,000 from the Mission & Vision Fund, \$1500 from Followers of Faith, and individual donations, including one for another project which was re-assigned by the donor. Any balance will be made up with interest from the Pletcher Bequest. The interest from the last year was \$9,650. Money left over from this interest after the sign is paid for will go to the Mission & Vision Grant fund.

The newly formed Talents Team will be presented at the Congregational Business Meeting. Their task will be to help with the direction the church should go in the future. An initial allowance of \$5,000 for administration or consulting will come from the Mission & Vision Fund. The team may request more as needed. They will report regularly to the Board. Members are Larry Ford, Tim Morphey, Pauline Arnold, Karen Grant, Anne Griffith, and Pastor Rosanna (ex-officio).

Anne Griffith, Deana Ward, Marita Barsoda, and her parents (Norm & Carol Waggy) attended the Children's Disaster training at the end of March, hosted by Deb Kauffman. My personal reaction was, "Wow, I can't wait to go!" What a blessing we can be to children during a terrible time.

Steve Barton and Ron Nicodemus have been at it with the bees. Steve has been working with CCS on their Teen Growers who are interested in working with bees. We have some smaller bee suits and if they are larger we possibly can loan them ours if everyone is not in attendance. Ron has a little game to share at the Congregational Meeting. No live bees, but lots of fun and knowledge!

We have received a request from a second Spanish-speaking congregation to use the Creekside building for their weekly worship service. They have asked to use the building from 12:30-3:00 pm on Sundays. You will have a chance to discuss this further at the Congregational Meeting on May 18. We would have a trial period and assign a small group to communicate with them regularly.

We will soon have a sign-up for a trip to go see the Ark in Kentucky. I know I'm going; it sounds like a blast. I hope as many as possible can go.

We changed our internet provider to Surf Internet, which has higher speeds and costs less money.

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair



PB & J IN MAY

Creekside's Outreach Team is inviting you to donate jars of peanut butter and jars of jelly for Church Community Services during the month of May. Smaller jars, 15 oz or comparable, are simpler to give to guests at the food pantry. We'll do our best to track and report your donations. Thank you for sharing Praise, Blessing and Joy with our neighbors in need!

Pastor Rosanna for Outreach Team

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

Creekside Folks: Planting time is coming up on Saturday, May 17, 9:30-noon. Please come 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.

Tim Lund and Judy De Pue, for the Container Garden Ministry Team



RED CROSS AT CREEKSIDE?

We have had an inquiry from the local Red Cross to see if Creekside would be willing to be a disaster shelter. Local Coordinator Richard Marquis was here to deliver cots for the Children's Disaster Ministry training, and was impressed by the parking accessibility and layout of the church. You will have an opportunity to ask questions at the May 18 Congregational Meeting. Here is some basic information:

- This would be a short-term stay for people displaced by disasters such as storm damage or flooding. Most stays are 2-4 days until insurance carriers can make longer-term arrangements.
- Creekside would not have more than 20 people at a time, probably fewer. Family groups could sleep together in classrooms; individuals would have their own classroom space for sleeping.
- Red Cross provides cots, bedding, and food
- Creekside can decline to take displaced people if there is a conflict with an event on the church calendar, such as a wedding or memorial service.

Creekside's Property Team is exploring converting a space in the church for a shower. This is not a requirement for short-term stays, but it is helpful for guests.

Please consider questions you might have about entering an agreement with the Red Cross. If you let me know your questions before May 18, I can try to get answers to share with the group at the congregational meeting. Thank you!

Pastor Rosanna

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE:

Have you considered including Creekside in your estate plan as part of your final act of stewardship? Look for the flyer "Inspiring Giving" in the Gathering Area for more information. You may also name the Everence Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement account and have a Charitable Gift Recommendation Form on file with them, or work with your own financial advisor. By doing it now, you will be sure your wishes are carried out when the time comes and it helps our church plan for the future. Thank you for all you already do in time, treasure, and talents for Creekside.

Larry Ford, Creekside Everence Advocate



CAMP MACK CORNER

Upcoming Events:

May 1–3 Birdwatching Retreat and Get-A-Way Day: Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. New and seasoned birdwatchers will experience the various habitats and birds at camp. We will also travel to other locations to see birds not usually found at camp. \$185 for 2 nights and 4 meals, or \$140 for 1 night and 2 meals (Fri. to Sat.). Bring money for a

restaurant meal on Friday evening. 6p Thursday to 5p Saturday at Wampler. Dress for the weather. If only attending on Saturday, the **Get-A-Way Day** is from 9a to 5p and includes a sack lunch: \$40.

Sun., May 4 Summer Camp Open House: From wagon rides, to face paint, to s'mores, to the Kona Ice truck, and from classics like nametag burning, lanyard making, and candle dipping, this event will be a blast! There will also be stations for parents and campers to ask questions and another station for campers to get signed up for camp. Bring your friends to have fun and explore! 2 to 4 pm.

May 29–31 Women's Camp: Enjoy time at the campfire, sessions led by guest speakers, Love Feast, and camp fun. Leave feeling refreshed and recharged together with other women. \$190 for 2 nights and 5 meals (arrival Thursday 4p), \$120 for 1 night and 3 meals (includes Friday lunch/dinner & Saturday breakfast), and \$82 for 1 day and 3 meals (Saturday meals & activities). 4p Thursday to 12:30p Saturday. Women of all ages are welcome. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Thank you for your support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray.

Prayer Request: Please pray for summer campers and that the last summer staff positions fill up.

The Bee Line

It seems like spring time is a time to get lots of freebees anywhere you go. Let's see where we can find FREEBEES. Some of these might need coupons. Stop by Arby's (In April)) for a free sandwich and you need nothing, just ask. Culver's has some freebees in their ad each week. Be sure to check out McDonalds. A more popular freebee would be a free ice cream cone. How about a free fishing day in Indiana and free entrance to our National Parks? The Dunes National Park on Lake Michigan is not far from here. Of course, you may have to get there early and stand in line to get some of these FREEBEES.

Well, I have a FREEBEE that does not need a coupon or require you to stand in line. And, it will just take a few minutes a week of watching your FREEBEE! What the Bee Team is talking about is finding a place in your yard for us to hang a Swarmbox to catch free bees.

A Swarmbox is the Bee Team's way of attracting swarms of bees that have left their hives looking for a new home. If you have a special place, out of the way a little bit, we will place a box on a tree about 6' high. In that box, we'll place five empty frames. No bees!! Placed in the opening will be a dab of lemon grass oil. From a distance every two weeks, you will replenish this oil with a small dab in the front hole of this box. (For some reason, the scent of this oil will attract swarms looking for a new home.)

Alert us when you see a few bees coming in and out of the Swarm box. You say, "Bees are not for me, I'm afraid of them." We promise you the Bees are more interested in finding a new home than in finding you. Now, I don't suggest you take a stick and bang on the box to see if any bees have selected it as their home. Just stand back and watch for bees going in and out of the Swarmbox. When this happens, contact Ron Nicodemus at 574-340-0201.

Each Swarm we catch saves the Bee Team around \$150. We will take the bees from the Swarm box and place them into an empty hive in the Apiary at Church. If you have an active Swarmbox and we place it in our Apiary, it will be a win/win for both of us! We get some honey and you get honey, too.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: World Honey Bee Day is on May 20, 2025. Look for Creekside's Bee Team to have our own celebration for everyone during Fellowship Time on Sunday, May 18.

Ron Nicodemus for the Bee Team



MAY

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

- 2 Grant, Doug
- 6 Prah, Ryan
- 10 Justiniano, Myrtis
- 11 Krull, Carolyn
- 13 McFadden, Rosanna
- 13 Rassi, Terry
- 18 Arnold, Gary
- 20 Morphew, Tim
- 20 Rodgers, Rick
- 24 Bode, Ray
- 24 Miller, Becky
- 26 Griffith, Roger
- 27 Schmucker, Leonard

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mayer, Horst & Robin Wentworth
- 14 Arnold, Gary & Pauline
- 14 Kohler, Joe & Karen
- 14 Schmucker, Chris & Beth
- 27 Griffith, Roger & Anne

EVENTS

- 3 Church reserved, 8:00-3:00 pm
- 6 Church reserved, 5:30-10:00 pm
- 9 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 Roofing begins (done by May 30)
- 13 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 14 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 15 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 16 Worship Team, 9:30 am
- 17 Container Garden planting, 9:30
- 18 Congregational Business Meeting, 8:30 am — and Honey Bee day

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



Address:
60455 CR 113
Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

Phone:
574-875-7800

Website:
www.CreeksideCoB.com

Pastor:
Rosanna McFadden: CreeksidePastor@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant & Editor:
Marita Barsoda: CreeksideCoB@gmail.com

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.

