

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

June 2025



"The only thing that counts is faith working through love." Galatians 5:6b

There are lots of activities which happen in the summer months: camp, family reunions, vacations, Bible School. One yearly activity which combines many of these is Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. Back when I attended as a child, my family would camp out of our VW bus near the Conference site; thankfully, camping is no longer a part of that experience for me, but there are certainly elements of vacation, family reunion, and Bible study, with some business and worship sessions thrown in.

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus. This year's conference is in Greensboro, North Carolina, and moderator Dava Hensley has chosen the theme which you see at the top of this page. Conference is from July 2-6. Moderator Dava has created a calendar with suggestions for each day of June to prepare us with acts of compassion, care, kindness and service; that calendar is on the back of this newsletter or, if you receive the *Connection* by email, it was included as an attachment in your email. There are also a few copies available on the ushers' table in the Gathering Area. Although most of you will not attend Annual Conference, no act of service for the kingdom of God is wasted. I encourage you to post a copy of this calendar where you will see it every day. Even if you can't follow each day's prompt, or may have to do one on a different day than is listed, it will be time and reflection that will make a difference.

Each Annual Conference includes a Witness to the Host City opportunity—I'm sure you remember last year's donation of fleece blankets through Harney's leadership of the children's activities! This year's benefiting organization is Backpack Beginnings (*see more at backpackbeginnings.org*) Congregations are invited to send school or hygiene supplies listed on the BPB website, or monetary donations. The BPB Family Market is a dignity of choice, "one-stop" shopping experience where parents and children select their basic needs at no cost in a retail-like, welcoming environment. We hope to be a blessing to the families of Greensboro.

Please hold Mike Kauffman in prayer as he prepares to serve as the delegate from Creekside Church. I will attend and have responsibilities as a member of the Mission and Ministry Board, but Mike is the only person who will be voting on business on behalf of our congregation. Deb Kauffman and Tim McFadden will also be attending, and on their behalf, I will express gratitude that camping is no longer part of that experience. Creekside's worship service on Sunday, July 6 will include Moderator Dava's opening sermon.

Blessings for the summer and for acts of compassion, care, kindness and service!
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

I want to echo the words of appreciation which Deana Ward shared at our May 18 congregational meeting: thank you for all of the work you do at Creekside! The stream is flowing in the Prayer Garden, The Seed to Feed garden is (mostly) planted, container gardens have been planned, planted, and delivered, and plans are underway for the Creekside Family Jamboree on Sept. 13. The Gathering Area is piling up with peanut butter and jelly, and our Worship Center is filled with praise, blessing and joy.

We will be sharing local and world outreach opportunities in June worship services. Chris Garner, the Executive Director of Hearts United for Bristol will be our speaker on June 1, and De Pue's daughter will share about her and her husband's work with trauma healing through Wycliffe International. She will speak during the service on June 29, and lead a question and answer session during the Sunday School hour in the Gathering Area. You are warmly invited to come learn more about these ministries.

A baby dedication in May was a highlight of the month for me, and we are holding new moms and their families from our congregation in prayer for the coming months. We know there are members of our congregation who are in need of healing for mind, body, and spirit. Their dignity and perseverance are an inspiration. I am grateful for your prayers and the care of our deacons.

I had a great time away with Tim in Ontario, Canada. A lovely setting, beautiful weather and friendly people. Thanks to those of you who sent birthday greetings my way; I was happy for some days of rest and activity away from home and work. I have finished my retreat leadership at Camp Mack, and will have virtual meetings in June for the Executive Committee and full Mission and Ministry Board in preparation for Annual Conference, July 2-6 in Greensboro, NC. I would ask your prayers for safe travel for all who attend, the business and worship sessions, and our witness to Greensboro, and the spirit of the gathering.

Thank you for all you do for Christ and the church— *Pastor Rosanna*

PATHFINDER TEAM

In January, Cal Graber submitted a written proposal to the Church Board and then met with them in person in March. His proposal was to create a committee to bring ideas to the Board for both new opportunities and future leadership at Creekside. The Board suggested people to be asked to serve on the team, and we met with Pastor Rosanna for the first time on May 1st. Pathfinder Team will present ideas within the next several months, or at least by the end of the year. This group is a sub-committee formed by and reportable to the Board, so we will be keeping them informed as we move forward. We have been authorized to use up to \$5,000 from the Mission & Vision Fund for grant writing, correspondence expenses, consulting, or other expenses related to clarifying our task.

We will be working with the church board to develop detailed plans to consider for strategic planning for ministries and leadership for Creekside and its long-term future. Realizing that new or expanded ministry and staffing will almost certainly need financial resources, we anticipate using money from the Bill Pletcher bequest fund. Some ideas were already suggested by the congregation at the congregational meeting in May 2024 but there were other resources suggested at our first meeting and we've been challenged to come up with new ideas for our June meeting. You are welcome to share ideas with any member of the team.

Steve Barton for Pathfinder Team: Pauline Arnold, Larry Ford, Karen Grant, Anne Griffith, Tim Morphew, Pastor Rosanna

PENTECOST JUNE 8



Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, and the birth of the church; Pentecost is observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter. The biblical account of that day is Acts chapter 2. Pentecost colors are red, orange or yellow for the tongues of fire which rested above the disciples' heads, and white for the dove of the Holy Spirit. You are invited to wear these colors on June 8 as a sign of the Spirit's presence which is still with those who believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

It has been a busy month! Congregational Business Meeting, a new roof, and a new sign—all thanks to you. We expect the roof and sign to both be replaced by the end of May, and what a game changer that sign will be! We can let folks know about more than one upcoming event at a time. A big thanks to all who contributed to the Raise the Roof campaign, and those who helped upgrade our sign.

The congregational meeting went well. Thanks to everyone who contributed a report for a team. The reports remind everyone of all we've accomplished since the congregational meeting in the fall, and boy, can we do a lot in six months! If you are interested in helping out a team, look over what each one does and find your passion. In the meeting, we discussed allowing the Red Cross to use our building as a shelter site for those who need a place to stay for a few days after a disaster (tornado, flood, house fire, etc.). The conversation was mainly positive, but some have concerns about having pets in the building—both because of allergies and possible damage to the building. We will take these issues seriously as we have further discussion with the Red Cross. We also discussed allowing another congregation to meet in our building on Sunday afternoons; we heard fewer positive responses to this request. I felt that the general vibe was that we have enough on our plate right now, and tying up our church building every Sunday afternoon might infringe on our occasional Sunday afternoon activities (baby showers, deacon lunches, etc.).

Work has begun on the garden and we will soon be seeing the fruits (and vegetables!) of our labor. If interested in helping out, see Cal Graber or Mike Kauffman. Get your green thumbs on! And let's not forget our bee friends: we have 5 hives total; 3 were installed this month. Ron Nicodemus' bee test on May 18 was a fun and informative activity, with a bonus of delicious honey popcorn (thanks, Jan!)

Once again, a big thank you to all who contribute time, resources, or both in order to make our church run so smoothly and allow us to do all of these wonderful things.

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, June 29 will be an opportunity for you to learn more about a ministry which Creekside has supported for years. Judy and Stephen De Pue's daughter will be our guest speaker for morning worship, and will host a question and answer time in the Gathering Area during the Sunday School time. Everyone is invited to attend; there will be no adult Sunday School classes that day.

Here is some background on the ministry from De Pue's daughter M and her husband J. We are abbreviating their names because of the sensitive nature of their work and some of the countries to which they travel: M is the coordinator for Asiam countries, and J works in the Middle East:

M & J work for SIL Global, a sister organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators, founded to work internationally. M & J serve on SIL's Global Trauma Healing Leadership Team. They are on the International Core Leadership/Advisory Team within SIL's larger Global Team. They lead healing groups, Initial and Advanced Equipplings to train others, and mentor facilitators and trainers into more advanced positions in their areas and organizations. They are also key mentors and trainers for organizations in North America who seek to come alongside refugees who are resettled in this part of the globe. M is the International Coordinator of SIL's Story-Based Trauma Healing program.

They see Bible-based Trauma Healing as a continuation of Jesus's ministry to bind up the broken hearted. They love seeing breakthroughs, witnessing release, and seeing people taking steps on their journey of healing to the glory of God. It is a joy to watch people grasp the depth of God's desire to be in full relationship and that God cares about our whole being. He wants to be fully known for who he is and he wants to fully know us and care for us. Their ministry extends Jesus's work, both near and far.

M & J live in Dallas, Texas where they are raising 4 children elementary through high school age. M grew up in the Elkhart City Church and will be here to reconnect with our church family, give us the opportunity to learn more about Bible-based Trauma Healing, and raise support for their international ministry. Outreach Team and Thee Seekers Class are the current supporting groups from Creekside.

You are invited to come on June 29 to have your eyes and your heart opened.

Rosanna, for Outreach Team

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christian Education Team is doing a new thing this summer! Students will be learning some foundational lessons regarding things such as –

The Bible Its construction, books, poetry, psalms and vocabulary

Jesus and his Disciples from gathering, names of, events and writings

The Birth of the Church what happened after Jesus went to Heaven? Who, What, Why, How?

Prayers and Scripture How to pray, memorizing parts of or entire prayers such as: The Lord's Prayer, 23 Psalm; Scripture verses such as John 3:16. The Beatitudes, the 10 Commandments

What's a Parable?

Concepts of Baptism and Salvation and a look at our baptistery

Each teacher will create activities, crafts, drama, and stories that best suit their grade level. We hope to present subjects that spark questions from our students and encourage engagement.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025 JULY 13 -17, 6-8 PM

WAVES of WONDER! is this years' Vacation Bible School theme (from Shine Curriculum). Children will explore scriptures in which God provides water for plants and animals. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource. We invite all our Creekside kiddos and those from the community to attend. Grades K-6.



[A Wish List](#) *The Christian Education team has a list of items that will supplement the supplies used for Sunday school and the Nursery. If you feel lead to donate any of these items it would be a blessing. This Amazon link or QR code will direct you to Creekside's Wish List. Thank you!*

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1VRJUB5YAADC0?ref_=wl_share

ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP

Please complete the survey about the church trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum as soon as possible. Knowing the number of participants attending is necessary to plan transportation and make reservations. This will allow us to provide an accurate cost of the trip.

Any questions for clarification or thoughts may also be passed along to Deb Kauffman or Betty Snyder in person, or by texting/calling Deb: 574-312-8251.

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE:

Everence, our financial partner for Creekside, recently shared its new mission statement in a webinar with Everence stewards various member churches they serve throughout the United States. The statement is: "Together we empower financial well-being for faith-inspired living." The Everence Foundation has made \$104 million in contributions to over 4300 organizations with profits from their various financial products such as banking, savings, credit cards and health insurance. Although Everence has offices across the country, it is headquartered in Goshen. As a member of Creekside, you can take advantage of Everence products. For more information, see Larry Ford.

Larry Ford, Creekside Everence Advocate

MESSENGER

Now is the time to subscribe or re-subscribe to the Church of the Brethren's magazine, Messenger. Messenger publishes 10 issues/year. The cost is \$14.50 for one year, or \$27 for two years.

Let Marita know **by Monday, June 9** if you would like to begin a Messenger subscription (send her an email at creeksidecob@gmail.com or leave a note on her desk). *If you already have a subscription, check your email for info from the Creekside office about re-subscribing.*

The Bee Line



I hope you learned a little something about the honeybees during the *World Honeybee Day* recognition in May. How did you do with Ron's quiz? If you didn't know all the answers, don't feel badly. I didn't know some of them either. Since I started "googling" information about bees, my smart phone must know that I need to know more about them because I get newsfeeds (I guess that's what they're called) from all over the world with stories about honeybees. Ninety percent of them are disastrous reports about hive losses.

While the Bee Team at Creekside feels badly about losing sixty percent of our bees over the winter, I think we can take solace in knowing that we're no worse off than experienced or professional beekeepers worldwide. Even better... we have two **very healthy** hives that survived! We didn't see signs of a massive die-off in the hives so I'd like to imagine that at least one colony was able to relocate and survived elsewhere.

The season is off to a good start now with our three new colonies and we have a good feeling about the coming months. We have a couple new people who are interested in helping and learning more about bees and beekeeping. We can still use more help!

By the time you read this, we should have a few swarm boxes hung and waiting in case a swarm somewhere decides to relocate. (I hope Ron was able to tell you more about *swarms* and *swarm boxes* as well.) Did you volunteer to host one?

Until next time... **"Bee Kind"**
Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

FAMILY JAMBOREE

Creekside's end-of-the-summer music, hog roast, and family fun event will be on Saturday, Sept. 13. Anyone who is interested in learning more and participating in planning this all-church event is invited to meet on Tuesday, June 3 at 6:00 pm at Creekside. Jason and Deana Ward have agreed to roast the hog, and we have already secured Beez and the Rockers for live music.

Last year was our first Family Jamboree; that was a great event and we're hoping it will be even better in 2025. Your ideas are welcome, especially suggestions for advertising and how we can get the word out to families about this ministry fund-raiser. All 2025 proceeds will be donated to Hearts United for Bristol.

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach / Followers of Faith.

JUNE

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					

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Carlson, Miles
- 14 Miller, Myron
- 17 Vardaman, Kurt
- 23 Green, Ron
- 23 Vance, Blaire
- 24 Behr, Steve
- 29 Noffsinger, Sue

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Krull, Lester & Carolyn
- 13 Lund, Tim & Diane
- 14 Borem, Jeff & Cheryl
- 17 Nicodemus, Ron & Jan
- 19 Zerbe, John & Maryann

EVENTS

*Garden workdays are
Thursdays, 9-11 am*

- 3 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 4 Pathfinder Team, 1:30 pm
- 8 Pentecost Sunday
- 10 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 11 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 13 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 17 Christian Ed, 6:00 pm
- 19 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 25 Worship Team, 9:30 am



GAME NIGHT: Everyone welcome - **June 13, 7 pm.** Bring a snack to share!
Contact: Betty Snyder

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.

