

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

August 2025



Growing Edges

Live lives that are worthy of the Lord . . . by producing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10

I started planning for a sermon series on the book of Colossians before I went to Church of the Brethren Annual Conference at the beginning of July. Conference is a chance for worship, connection, and recognition of ministry; there is usually ample opportunity for forbearance and humility, as well. This was certainly the case after the report from the Brethren agency On Earth Peace, highlighting OEP's work with deportation defense and immigrant members of the Church of the Brethren. An individual came to a microphone to ask a negative and challenging question, and the mood of the room immediately became charged.

I confess my reaction was not the most charitable. I thought of a number of responses, well-supported (in my opinion) by biblical material and church history. It was not until the dust had settled a bit and the group was adjourned for dinner that I heard someone say, "I hope that speaker gets some care—he seemed very upset." Before the conference was over I talked to someone I know well who had the opportunity to listen and hear some of that speaker's story. He was relatively new to the faith and had been anxious, unsettled and struggling for several days. I still didn't agree with him, but I could have compassion for his situation.

That is my growing edge—or at least one of them—the place where I am being challenged to live a life worthy of the Lord and grow in the knowledge of God. It is a fine thing to have knowledge of the Bible and of church history, but if that knowledge is used to hammer home my convictions without compassion or concern for my "opponent," that interaction will probably not be fruitful. It may even be harmful to both parties.

Growing edges don't have to be big and dramatic, but they always represent change of some kind. My convictions about immigrants may not change (because of that Bible and church history thing), but I will be a better version of a follower of Jesus Christ if I can recognize and curtail my first response of being reactive and verbally attacking people who disagree with me. I am blessed with many opportunities to practice a more compassionate response to others, which acknowledges their humanity and their perspective. I do this imperfectly, but putting biblical principles into practice is a goal worth working toward.

I encourage you to consider what is a growing edge for you. What could you do—or do better—which would be pleasing to God? What would you need to give up or lay aside to grow in faith? May God's grace grow in us and in the whole world.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

July has been an eventful month for me and my family!

The month began with Annual Conference in Greensboro. Tim and I traveled out a day early so I could attend Mission and Ministry Board meetings. I served on the Executive Committee for the past year, and am no longer on that committee. It is a talented and committed group with some significant work ahead of them, and I wish them the best. I will chair the Finance and Sustainability Committee for 2025-26.

We were delighted to welcome Rory McFadden Carlson on July 15, and are so grateful that the whole family is doing well. This happened during the happy chaos of Vacation Bible School at Creekside, and the same week that our son Joel and his girlfriend had an offer accepted on a house in Indianapolis. July 14 was the memorial service for Ray Bode. Our sympathies to Deb and her family; we will be making plans to scatter Ray's ashes on the Creekside property. I was able to visit Tim Emeis several times before his quiet passing in mid-July. Our sympathies to Peggy and their daughter Rachel. Congratulations to the Metzler family! Delilah Hope was born on July 20; two healthy babies and thriving families is a blessing for those families and for Creekside.

Tim and I will be traveling to California the first week of August. We will visit my mother and take her to a memorial gathering for a cousin in San Marcos. It is the first death in my generation of the family, and I will be able to see my uncle Eldon and his children. Mike Kauffman will be sharing a report from Annual Conference on August 10. Thanks to Mike for representing Creekside, and I am grateful that he and Deb could return to Elkhart in time to say their good-byes to Deb's mother and be with family for her services.

A group of about a dozen Creekside volunteers worked with SAWs to build an accessibility ramp for a neighbor in Elkhart. We hope to have more builds before the end of October. The Seed to Feed garden has started producing beets and cabbage and onions and carrots and green beans and cucumbers and summer squash! We are a few weeks away from the Tomato Apocalypse, but God has been sending the growth, and all our volunteers are much appreciated.

Thank you for all the ways that you serve and support and pray. God bless you—
Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Another month goes by... and so quickly, I might add. Bible school has come to a close for 2025. We had so many young faces, eager to learn about our Lord and Savior. I was pleased to include my two grandkids, Bear and Lettie. They came home daily with big smiles and stories to tell Mom and Dad about their time at church.

The garden is producing and pounds of vegetables are being donated to Church Community Services. How nice it is to have fresh produce again! The tomatoes are starting to show us their red faces, but we all know green ones are just as good. There might have been a couple of green tomatoes that made it to the Ward household for fried green tomatoes... the first of the season are the best!

Our congregation has grown by a little—or should I say *two littles*? Congratulations to Katy and Kyle and Becky and Jake on their new additions. Our congregation is blessed to have another two little ones to love.

Our bank account is lower this month but for a good cause; the balances of the roof and sign have been paid. We borrowed no money to complete these very large projects. As an accountant, I know that if you can pay for something without borrowing, it's a good thing.

The Family Jamboree is coming up soon. If you haven't signed up to help, I urge you to pray and think about what you can do to help. I'll be running the kitchen with some great help, but there is always more needed. It will be a great event; the pastor from my last church will be the musical entertainment, and he is terrific. So many kinds of music, and you may hear some ukulele, too!

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair

TOMATO PROCESSING STARTS SOON!

The tomatoes are ripening, which means tomato processing is just around the corner. As in the past, we will wash, prep, weigh and bag tomatoes at Creekside which will be frozen at Church Community Services. The tomatoes are then distributed to food pantry guests over the winter to be used for sauces and in soups and stews.

We are tentatively looking at the week of August 18 as our starting point; this is subject to change. Processing will take place twice a week, most likely Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9-noon and 1-3.

Your help is needed with the following tasks:

- Picking tomatoes (takes place the day before processing)
- Washing tomatoes outdoors (starting at 7 or 7:30 a.m. on processing days)
- Washing tomatoes indoors
- Help with set-up (starting at 7:30 a.m. on processing days)
- Cutters (may be done seated)
- Weighing/bagging (may be done seated on a stool)
- Wiping bags and placing them in boxes
- Runners: This position involves keeping cutters supplied with tomatoes; emptying scrap bowls; transferring cut tomatoes to weighing/bagging station, etc.
- Clean-up (on-going and at end of each processing session)
- Gloves will be required for all direct handling of cut tomatoes; shoulder-length (or longer) hair must be tied back; watches and bracelets will need to be removed; short-sleeves are best.

This is another aspect of Creekside's outreach to our community. Plan for tomato juice on your clothes and some terrific fellowship. :-)

Stay tuned!

Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman



PATHFINDER TEAM

Thank you for your responses to the "Seeking the Spirit's Direction" questions. Pathfinder Team will meet the last week of July to consider your answers as we craft proposals for new or expanded ministries to share with the Church Board.

Pastor Rosanna, for Pathfinder Team

MEAL TRAIN

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized.



MealTrain.com is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy.

This is the Meal Train for The Carlson Family: <https://mealtrain.com/13zdv5>

This is the Meal Train for the Metzler Family: <https://mealtrain.com/53q11k>

Contact Becky Miller with questions, or if you need help signing up. Thanks for supporting these families!



FAMILY JAMBOREE

Creekside's Family Jamboree is **Saturday, Sept. 13** and includes a hog roast meal, live music, and kids' activities. *Tickets will go on sale in August, and we'll need lots of volunteers on Sept. 12 and 13. Save the date!*

THANK YOU

Thank you for your cards and coming to my birthday party. Thanks to kitchen crew and SHARON for planning and helping me celebrate. *Cal Graber*

Thank you for the beautiful cards, prayers and words of comfort with the passing of my Mom. It means a great deal to me and my family. God Bless, *Deb Kauffman*

SERVANTS AT WORK

On July 11 & 12, Creekside volunteers partnered with SAWs to build a ramp for a neighbor in need.



BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES PROJECTS

Norm Waggy (Northern Indiana District Coordinator for Rebuild -Brethren Disaster Ministries) tells us there will be two locations for the upcoming projects this year:

Work will continue on Hurricane Helene recovery in the Southeastern district at the current site, Letcher County, Kentucky, and a new site will be opened in Johnson County, Eastern Tennessee. The work partner will be International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) who have been a longtime partner of BDM and a fellow Church World Service (CWS) member. Clients will be identified through Johnson County Long Term Recovery Group (JCLTRG). They have 21 cases ready to be worked on and will have many more by the time we arrive. Eighteen of these cases are stick builds and the rest are repairs. The volunteer housing facility will be at First Christian Church in Mountain City, TN.

If you wish to learn more about becoming a volunteer with Brethren Disaster Ministries, check out their websites: <https://www.brethren.org/bdm/rebuild/> or <https://www.brethren.org/bdm/rebuild/schedules/> You may also contact Norm Waggy at ncwaggy@gmail.com.

Deb Kauffman

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

By Colin Saxton, Stewardship Theologian and Director of Church Relations

I view faithful stewardship as a journey of growth. None of us have likely reached a state of absolute perfection when it comes to integrating our faith with our finances. Regardless of where we are in our life journey, there are opportunities for us to continue growing in stewardship and generosity.

In my own life, I have been reflecting on Hebrews 12:1-3. In this letter of exhortation, we are invited to “fix our eyes on Jesus, lay aside hindrances, and run together” in a race that encompasses every moment of our lives. The path of discipleship, including the faithful management of all the resources entrusted to our care, goes beyond what we do in any particular moment. It represents the life-sized direction and daily choices we make to align ourselves with the will of God.

The Bee Line



The Bee Team members have often talked or written about the benefits that bees provide humans and the environment. Their honey has shown to provide health benefits and their tireless work pollinating food crops helps to sustain our food supply.

Last month, an article from **Sci.News** (formerly Sci-News.com), about *Australian Stingless bees* sounded fascinating to me. I thought I'd share part of that article.

Honey from Australian Stingless Bees Has Unique Antimicrobial Properties, Study Shows Jun 23, 2025



Antimicrobial resistance poses a critical global health challenge. Various natural products have evolved as a defense against microbial attack and can be exploited as novel therapeutic agents.

Image credit: Tobias Smith

Honey from Australian stingless bees, commonly referred to as **sugarbag bees**, has historically served as a food source. It is also a traditional remedy for ailments like itchy skin and sores among Indigenous communities in Australia. In new research, scientists evaluated the antimicrobial properties and chemical profiles of honey produced by the Australian stingless bee species: *Tetragonula carbonaria*, *Tetragonula hockingsi*, and *Austroplebeia australis*. Their findings revealed a high antimicrobial potential of these honeys against diverse human pathogens, equivalent to or greater than that observed in most European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) honeys.

While honey from the European honey bee is well studied, the medicinal potential of Australian stingless bee honey remains underexplored.

"Given the growing medical challenge of antimicrobial resistance, our findings suggest stingless bee honey could complement, or provide a valuable alternative to, synthetic antibiotics," said University of Sydney researcher Kenya Fernandes.

(These findings were published May 21 in the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology.)

The article went into much more detail but it is just one more example of how nature helps us and how important it is for us to do our part to help nature.

Remember to Bee Kind.

Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

AUGUST

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

- 5 Grant, Karen
- 9 McFadden, Joel
- 12 Marcin, Alysia
- 16 Schmucker, Chris
- 18 Houser, Eric
- 18 McFadden, Tim
- 19 Kohler, Joe
- 20 Foland, Lynne
- 23 Stutsman, Roger
- 25 Barsoda, Marita
- 28 Kauffman, Mike
- 29 Foland, Ted
- 30 Heeter, Garnett
- 20 Gable, Judy

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ehret, Larry & Vicki
- 9 Neal, Roger & Bonnie
- 9 Noffsinger, Ted & Sue
- 20 McFadden, Tim & Rosanna
- 23 De Pue, Stephen & Judy
- 27 Vance, Jim & Kristen
- 29 Vardaman, Kurt & Lisa

EVENTS

- Garden work: Thursdays, 9-11 am
- 8 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 20 Worship Team, 9:30 am
- 21 Church Board, 6:30 pm

The Creekside Connection

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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.

