

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2025

Leaven in the Loaf

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." Matthew 13:33

Anyone who knows me is aware that I am not really a numbers person. I respect folks who see the world in terms of quantifiable data; these people are especially helpful when it comes to putting together a budget for Creekside. I would rather have pictures or graphs. I like pie charts—or better yet, just skip the chart and have pie. So I was happy to meet with our Everence representative, Marlene Kroeker, and have her encourage us to consider a narrative budget for 2026. We will still put together a line item budget with numbers (!) but some of our reporting about the budget will look different.

A narrative budget is a budget document that goes beyond simple line items to tell a story, linking financial resources to the actual mission, values, and vision of an organization. It is important to understand the budget as a story of how our ministries work together, instead of a collection of requests from separate ministry teams. Not every team needs a lot of financial resources, but every team is important to the whole ministry of the church. I couldn't find pie in the Bible, but I like the parable of Jesus recorded in Matthew chapter 13, where he compares the kingdom of heaven to the little bit of yeast which makes loaves of bread. In God's kingdom, small things can make a big difference.

Creekside's mission and vision are about how we use and share what we have to help bring forth God's kingdom. Financial resources are part of that, but few of us are inspired by balance sheets; most of us want to hear and be able to tell stories about how our church is making a difference in our community, and how we are using our leaven to help others rise. Team leaders—and anyone else—will be asked to share the following:

If you were telling a friend why Creekside Church matters, what story would you share?
Where do you see God using your work to create space for growth,
connection, or transformation?

Bread is a rich symbol of nurture, hospitality, communion, and the body of Christ. I hope that as we begin to imagine ministry in 2026, bread will also remind us of the impact we make, the stories we have to share, and how we envision working toward God's mission in the years to come.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

I love late-summer activities at Creekside. It is gratifying to see the fruit (and vegetables) of a season of labor in the Seed to Feed garden. Tomato processing is a lot of work, more for other folks than for me, but it is a reminder of the good companions who are part of Creekside. It was great to assemble and donate 260 MCC school kits; thank you for your generous donations to support children in developing countries and teachers in our own community. It was great to have Creekside Kids as part of the service on August 24, and to recognize the teachers who have been working with them. The Family Jamboree will be here in about two weeks.

The past weeks have brought loss to our congregation with the death of Doris McFarren and Janet Weaver. These friends can never be replaced. I am so grateful to Creekside volunteers from music and media and ushers and fellowship who all share their gifts to support families who are experiencing the death of a family member. I believe that working together helps us to know that we are not alone in our own grief.

Tim and I had a good visit with my mom in California at the beginning of August. She is doing well for 94 years, but has some health concerns which we will need to keep up with. I anticipate having to travel to California more often in the coming year.

I have already begun to prepare for Mission and Ministry Board meetings in October in Elgin, IL. I will be participating in activities at N Indiana District Conference in September. I value these more formal connections with the wider church, as well as the women in ministry and pastor's groups that I meet with when I am able.

I am always grateful for your prayers for me, my family, and the work we do together on behalf of the church and God's kingdom.

God bless you—

Pastor Rosanna

FAMILY JAMBOREE

You and your friends and neighbors are invited to join us for live music, delicious food, kids' activities and fellowship on **Saturday, September 13 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm**. Proceeds from the Jamboree will go to Hearts United for Bristol. Tickets are on sale NOW in the Gathering Area. There is more information on Creekside's website, creeksidecob.com; the best advertisement is your invitation to people you know. Thank you!

Pastor Rosanna for Followers of Faith



OUTDOOR WORSHIP, SEPTEMBER 14

Join us under the big tent, the day after the Jamboree! Worship will begin at 10:00 am, and is being planned and led by Elim Ministries. They will have a translator to share the spoken parts of the service in English for us.

Following worship there will be Mexican/Columbian food, and any food left from the Jamboree. We are excited to share this worship and fellowship with our friends from Elim, and they are excited to invite friends to experience our beautiful property. Thank you for extending a welcome to our friends and guests.

Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team

THANK YOU all for your thoughts, prayers, and cards. It has been a blessing to both Rick and me.
Valerie Rodgers

MEDIA TEAM VOLUNTEERS

The Creekside Media Team is looking for volunteers who would be interested in operating a video camera for Creekside's LiveStream. We're looking for people who are dependable, able to follow directions, and have a willingness to learn. We will train.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS

Christian Ed thanks those who help in the nursery during church: especially Deb Bode for many months of service and our current rotating team: Pauline Arnold, Tim McFadden, Irene Rassi, and Kristen Vance. They make Sunday worship time go so much more smoothly for our young ones.

Christian Ed recognizes and thanks our teachers for Children/Youth Sunday School classes:
Youth Membership Preparation- Pastor Rosanna McFadden; *Upper Elementary (soon to be adding Junior High students)-* Jessica Prah, Gail Vance, Judy De Pue, & Tim Lund; *Lower Elementary-* Deb Kauffman, Valerie Rodgers, & Steve Barton; *Pre-school/Kindergarten-* Katy Carlson, Deana Ward, Judy Gable, Becky Miller, & Judy De Pue. These people are so very important in communicating all about God and His love with our children & youth.

Christian Ed also thanks our Bible School teachers, which include a number of the Sunday School teachers already mentioned plus 4 others: Lisa Vardaman, Karen Kohler, Betty Snyder for snacks, & Gary Arnold on the AV equipment.

COOKIE CANDY WALK



Welcome to September! The weather is cooler, the leaves are beginning to change, the tomatoes keep coming and thoughts turn to....cookies?? Yes!

This is just a reminder that Creekside's annual Cookie-Candy walk is Sat., Dec. 6, just three months away! The proceeds from this event provide funds to support Creekside's many Outreach opportunities.



Start watching the grocery ads for sales on butter. 😊 Let's make this year's event the best ever!

Deb Kauffman and Diane Lund

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Hey, Buddy. Have a million dollars I could borrow? One million dollars is thought to be the comfortable amount needed for retirement. *Say what?* I'm pretty sure I don't know anyone in or out of retirement with a million dollars to their name and apparently the authors of a study of retirement spending couldn't find many either. They say 28% of people have saved nothing for their retirement. The rest have nothing close to a million dollars. If you are in one of those two categories, you are fortunate to be living in Indiana or Michigan. Their study found if you live in Indiana or Michigan, a million dollars would be enough for nearly 21 years of retirement. They looked at the cost of groceries, housing, utilities, healthcare and transportation. The lowest cost of living was W. Virginia at 24.5 years. The highest were Hawaii (7.3 yrs), California (9.2), Massachusetts (10) and New York (13). Advice of the authors of the study: take care of your health through healthy eating and exercise, have friends (like at Creekside), spend wisely and not frivolously, enjoy the occasional splurge, and help others when you can afford to.

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate for Creekside

N. INDIANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

You are welcome and encouraged to come to Camp Mack on Sept. 19 and 20 for a time of gathering, learning, building relationships, and taking care of some district business together as we focus on the theme “Alpha and Omega: In our end is our beginning.” There will be something for everyone.

Join us on Friday evening at 7:00 pm for worship and fellowship (and ice cream treats). Saturday morning will include devotions, singing, informational reports, recognitions, table talk, and some business items. After lunch, there will be three insight sessions offered (Brethren Global Missions, the 2026 Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, and the new Anabaptist Bible). Then we'll finish up the reports, consider our 2026 budget, and consecrate new leadership for the coming year.

Your Creekside representatives are Pastor Rosanna, Steve Barton, Rosemary Pletcher, and Kurt Vardaman. Roger Griffith serves as the treasurer for the district, and Mike Kauffman and Marita Barsoda are on the District Board. Deb Kauffman is coordinating the refreshments table; see sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area if you wish to donate baked goods.

The Bee Line

Bees Hold A Hidden Wisdom



When a beehive loses its Queen—the one life-giver and unifier of their intricate society—it faces a quiet loss of life. The hive is destined to die within a few weeks. The queen is no longer laying 2000 eggs per day. No new eggs means no future, and within weeks, extinction looms.

But the bees don't fall into chaos. They don't wait for rescue. Instead, they act—swiftly, intelligently, instinctively. What follows is one of nature's—*God's (Ron's word)*—most remarkable responses to crisis.

It begins with an unexpected decision. From among the countless ordinary larvae—destined to become ordinary worker bees—a few are chosen. They aren't special. They weren't born different, but their destiny is about to change. These chosen few are fed something extraordinary: royal jelly—a potent, nutrient-rich secretion from specialized nurse bees. It's more than food; it's a signal, a biological switch. Fed exclusively on this substance, one larva's body begins to transform. It grows larger and stronger. It's lifespan extends nearly twentyfold. It will no longer serve, it will reign. The queen is not born, she is made. This isn't about superior genes. It's about nourishment, care and environment. If humans could do the same—take any child and, with the right support, cultivate greatness—imagine the possibilities!

Crisis doesn't end life. It creates leaders. The larva's transformation doesn't just save her; it rescues the entire hive. As a new queen, she restores the colony's order, fertility, and rhythm. A future once threatened is rebuilt—stronger, more resilient. A quiet lesson in resilience.

In their silence, bees teach us that when everything seems lost, what's needed isn't panic, it's vision, choice, compassion, and leadership. Their world reminds us that greatness isn't born, it's nurtured. That even in the darkest times, with the right support, someone ordinary can become extraordinary. Because sometimes, the most powerful leaders rise from the most uncertain moments. *Author unknown*

The moral of the story is the following: Our bees are working hard to give us more yellow sweet gold than last year at this time as organized as they are. They are willing to give us more, but not without our management. To be more successful, we need more individuals working on our Bee Team. We have missed an important treatment for mites; more supers need to be added; special care of the swarm we just caught is necessary; as well as planning for winter feeding, and especially preparing for extraction, bottling, and labeling of the honey extracted, along with plans for marketing and selling any excess honey. The Creekside Team needs more help now. Put out the word. Workers don't need to be members of our Creekside congregation. They just need to have an interest in saving the bee population for our world food supply. Of course we will offer STING FREE TRAINING!

Ron Nicodemus for the Bee Team



2025 NIDCOB WOMEN'S RETREAT

Hope That Thrives

**With Speaker, Singer, Songwriter
Carol Carpenter**

Life's storms are real, but so is lasting hope! When you know how to take hope with you, You'll be ready for life of consistent confidence, resilience, and joyful significance. Come learn how to infuse the truths of who God is into your everyday life in practical ways—

**For a knowable, totable, unsinkable
hope that shows.**

Hungry for hope like that? If you're going through a storm right now, or know somebody who is or even if you're yet to encounter a storm, this event is for you!

**Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 9am-3pm
Agape Church of the Brethren
11610 Lima Rd, Fort Wayne**



Carol is an Encourager Extraordinaire, a lively Bible teacher, trainer of winsome student speakers, and an award-winning speaker herself. Having been through many a storm, she connects

easily with women at the heart level, weaving contagious enthusiasm, wit, and spiritual depth with a delightful complement of original music to equip and inspire women to live a life of hope that thrives, even amidst life's storms.

**Creekside Registration due to Judy De Pue
by Sept. 14, if at all possible, or Oct. 12.**



Sept. 7, 5 pm: Hymn Sing at Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, Osceola. Join us for an evening of music & praising God! Offering will be taken for Faith Mission. Ice Cream and refreshments to follow. 574-679-4519

Sept. 18, 2 pm: 2nd Annual Greencroft Disability Awareness Day Coping with Physical Loss & Disability, speaker Rick Ritter, at Jennings Auditorium

SEPTEMBER

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

- 1 Vance, Carson
- 4 Cooper, Samantha
- 4 Harney, Katelyn
- 6 Ward, Jason
- 8 Lund, Tim
- 8 Mayer, Horst
- 16 Miller, Sandy
- 17 Royer, Kathy
- 20 Carroll, Tony
- 22 Ritzmann, Paulajean
- 26 Miller, Craig

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Morpew, Tim & Beth Sollenberger
- 12 Hendricks, Stephen & Becca
- 21 Ward, Jason & Deana

EVENTS

*Garden work: Mon. & Thurs, 9 am
Tomato processing: Tues. & Fri, 9 am*

- 1 Labor Day, office closed
- 2 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 3 Celebration of Life for Jan Weaver, 11 am (visiting 10 am)
- 9 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 10 Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 12 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 18 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 19 Pathfinder Team, 1:30 pm
- 23 Church reserved, 1:00-5:00 pm

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.

