

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

October 2025



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19

I have been energized by working with the Pathfinder Team; that is a short-term team appointed by the Church Board to explore direction and ministry at Creekside for the next three to five years. *Read more about Pathfinder's work in this Connection.* Like many settings when we are trying to find our way, the work has not been to get on the straight and obvious path, but has meant time for exploration, and some dead ends. Some of you participated in that discernment when you gave us answers to questions about Seeking the Spirit's Direction. Although these efforts have not yielded immediate results, it has been important to orient ourselves before we start tramping off toward our destination.

We feel fortunate to have connected with Colin Saxton as a trail guide. Colin Saxton serves as an Everence Stewardship Theologian and Director of Church Relations. Colin and his wife, Janine, live in Newberg, Oregon, and are the parents of four grown children. Prior to coming to Everence, Colin was a Quaker pastor, superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends and General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. When we met with Colin by Zoom, one of the questions he asked was if the Creekside congregation is familiar with our mission statement. (If you didn't know Creekside had a mission statement, or don't know what it is, see if you can find it!) Our mission should guide what we **do**, but it is also helpful in discerning what is not ours to do. In other words, mission determines where we should be putting our resources—financial, human, and spiritual.

On Sunday, October 12, adult Sunday School classes will be invited into conversation about Creekside's mission and purpose. Pathfinder Team members will lead those discussions; you are warmly invited and encouraged to participate. If you do not regularly participate in a class, there will be a group in the Gathering Area which you can join. Children's classes will meet as usual that day.

It has been helpful—and challenging—for Pathfinders to think of future direction less as what we want to do, and more as who we want to be. It is not difficult to generate a list of worthy programs or projects; some of you have already shared ideas like that with us. It is different to consider who we are called to be through our mission to Seek, Celebrate, and Share God's love in our own location and context. We believe this is vital work and we are grateful to the Church Board for providing us with the charge and the resources to explore Creekside's identity and mission.

Here are some questions to consider as we prepare together: What is our purpose for existing as a faith community? What is God's vision for us as a community? What are the needs of the people around us? We hope to see you on October 12!

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

It is impossible to not feel the losses to our family of faith with the recent deaths of Doris McFarren, Jan Weaver, and Maryann Zerbe. Those have been opportunities for Creekside members to minister to each other and to extended families and friends. I cannot help but be grateful for the care of this congregation, as well as the contributions of these faithful women from Creekside. Thank you to those of you who have reached out to me with your care and concern.

We rejoice in the dedication of children and parents from the Carlson and Metzler families. We will also be accepting a new member who is an old friend, Nelda Ridsen. The Family Jamboree on September 13 was a great day! We were so glad to be able to meet friends and neighbors and to share our beautiful grounds and delicious food with them. Thanks to all the members who participated and helped with planning this event; Followers of Faith will be making a donation to HUB, Hearts United for Bristol. Sunday, September 14 we enjoyed a worship service and Mexican/Columbian food provided by Ministerio Elim. Pastor Danis had an inspiring and timely message, and gracious words about the welcome they have received from Creekside. We continue to pray for our neighbors from immigrant communities in a time of uncertainty and anxiety. Their reliance on God is a witness to all of us.

October is a busy month for me—I have several Zoom meetings to prepare for Mission and Ministry Board meeting at the Church of the Brethren headquarters in Elgin, IL, October 17-19. Thanks to Tim Morpew for filling the pulpit on October 19. I will leave immediately after those meetings to join my family and the Carlson family for a week in Florida. There will be a lot of fishing going on, but I am looking forward to being with my grandsons and their Carlson grandparents. It will be a welcome break. Alex McBride (one of Rosemary Pletcher's grandsons) will be our guest speaker on October 26. I will return on October 28 and am grateful for Marita's capable presence in my absence.

Thanks to Creekside ministry teams who have been engaged in narrative budget planning for 2026. You will be seeing more about that prior to our fall congregational meeting on Sunday, November 16. *See more in this Connection.*

Pastor Rosanna

PATHFINDER TEAM

At the May Congregational Meeting I introduced the existence of the Pathfinder Team and explained the direction we planned to take "for 'Strategic Planning' for ministries and leadership for Creekside and its long-term future."

The group has been meeting regularly to evaluate feedback from the handouts you should have received at the Congregational Meeting and ideas that were submitted to the church. We met again in June and July to evaluate the responses and brainstorm more ideas.

Since then, Pastor Rosanna talked by phone with Janeen Betsche, from AMBS, and the team later met for a Zoom call where we pursued conversations to discover leadership opportunities that might be available. It provided several insights for the team and the context of that meeting was then presented to the church board.

In September, we met, again by Zoom, with Colin (pronounced KOH-lin) Saxton, a consultant from Everence, and talked about a discussion outline that he had provided us with prior to the call. Colin suggests that the focus of the discussions is intended to be, **"not what we DO, but rather what we should BE, in light of our mission as a congregation."**

The team will meet the first of October to formulate "concrete ideas and questions" for Colin for when we meet with him in person in mid-October to have a deeper conversation about our direction and suggestions we present to the church board.

Steve Barton for **The Pathfinder Team**: *Pauline Arnold, Steve Barton, Larry Ford, Karen Grant, Anne Griffith, Rosanna McFadden, Tim Morpew*

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

You are invited to share in bread and cup communion on Oct. 5 as part of Creekside's observance of World Communion Sunday. Thanks to our deacons who will be serving communion during the worship service that day. Please take time before Oct. 5 to consider if you are right with God and neighbor. All who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to the Lord's table.



ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE, NOVEMBER 2

Creekside's service of remembrance will be Sunday, November 2. This is for members and friends of Creekside who have joined the company of saints since November 1, 2024. If you have someone you would like to have mentioned in the service that Sunday, please contact Pastor Rosanna with their full name, birth date and death date no later than Tuesday, October 28, 2025. Creekside members will automatically be included. You do not have to be up front as part of this service. This morning worship service will be livestreamed and saved on Creekside's YouTube channel as usual.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16

Creekside's fall business meeting will be Sunday, November 16 following worship. It will include discussion and approval of the 2026 budget, electing a slate of nominations, and a report from Pathfinder Team. It might also include some tasty food from our Fellowship Team. Come and see. Everyone is invited! There will be no adult Sunday School classes that day.

October 5 is the deadline for ministry team budgets, if they are different from last year. Please share stories with Pastor Rosanna of how your team has made a difference for someone!

LOVE OFFERING 2025

You are invited to make a Love Offering over and above your regular giving before the end of 2025. 100% of these gifts will be shared with local and international organizations. Church Board and Outreach Team will determine those organizations; we will share that information as soon as it has been determined.

Thank you for your generosity to Creekside Church, towards needs in our community, and to help world ministries. God bless you.

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD CHAIR:

Friends, it's been a rough season with the losses of our dear sisters in Christ, Doris, Jan, and Maryann. Our hearts ache but their hearts rejoice in seeing our Lord. We will see them again in God's time.

Our church has had some wonderful events recently, too. The Family Jamboree was loads of fun with good food. It was so nice to see so many of you there, whether you were helping or just coming for the food and music. I heard many compliments about the band and Jason received compliments about "his" pork. And to round off the weekend, Ministerio Elim did the Sunday service and I loved hearing how they got their name. I also loved the feast they prepared for us. We are blessed.

Fall is showing itself in the colorful trees and cooler weather at night. The garden is finishing up, too. The last tomato processing was Sept. 22. God bless Diane Lund for all she does and everyone who helps pick, clean, cut, and bag tomatoes! It's a big job and you helpers do it with smiles on your faces.

We are also building another ramp with SAWs this weekend. Not everyone can make cookies or smoke pork as well as Jason, but put a hammer in their hand and they are all in. God gives us so many talents, and I am glad they are not the same.

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair

DEACON ANNOUNCEMENT

After years of loving service, Ron and Jan Nicodemus have stepped down as Deacons. We thank them for their dedication. Mike and Deb Kauffman have now been welcomed to the team. Current Deacons are printed below. A complete list of each Deacon group, is also posted on the standing bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Lodema Hoke, Team Leader for the Deacons: Steve & Jean Barton, Stephen & Judy DePue, Lodema Hoke, Mike & Deb Kauffman, Cary & Betty Kelsey, Joe & Karen Kohler, Rosemary Pletcher

N. INDIANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE SUMMARY

On Friday and Saturday, September 19th & 20th, Rosemary Pletcher, Kurt Vardaman and I attended the 166th Northern Indiana Church of the Brethren District Conference at Camp Alexander Mack, in Milford, Indiana. This year's moderator was Herman Kauffman.

Paul Munday delivered the message for the Friday worship service and Moderator Elect Anna Lisa Gross (Beacon Heights COB) offered devotions to begin Saturday's business meeting.

There were the normal reports from numerous committees as well as "Table Talk"—time to discuss various topics suggested by Brother Kauffman. One of the more somber items of business was the disorganization of two congregations. The **Pine Creek** Church of the Brethren and the **Cedar Creek** Church of the Brethren. Ryan McBride expressed his sincere "disappointment and grief," having grown up in the Pine Creek Church.

The budget for 2026 was passed without dissent and several ministers were recognized for their years of service. We were also reminded that October is Pastor Appreciation Month and encouraged to make our congregations aware of that. To wrap up the day, Anna Lisa Gross was consecrated as the new moderator for the District Conference in 2026.

Deb Kauffman was a gracious hostess and made sure that there was plenty of coffee, water, cookies, pastries, and muffins available to attendees throughout the day. Thanks to Deb and the bakers at Creekside Church for all their hard work!

We look forward to giving an oral report to the congregation later in the month or early next month.
Submitted by Steve Barton

NEW OR UPDATED DIRECTORY INFORMATION

*We don't publish directory information in the online version of the newsletter.
If you need updated information for Peggy Emeis, Jake & Becky Metzler,
Ted & Sue Noffsinger, or Kristie Yoder, please contact the church office at 574-875-7800.*

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Everence is now launching a Student Checking account, for members ages 13-22, this account supports financial independence with no opening deposit, no monthly fees, and automatic conversion to Relationship Checking at age 23. Student Checking gives teens hands-on experience with budgeting, direct deposit, and digital banking. Contact Everence at (574) 533-9511 or visit in person at 1110 N. Main St. in Goshen. You are eligible as a member of Creekside to do business at Everence.

The Bee Line



Paulajeann Ritzmann invited Ron to give a presentation about honeybees to the **Owls Club** in Elkhart in mid-September. The people there were very interested in what he presented and enjoyed a taste of the honey samples from the apiary that he offered.

But about our bees... Even though we feel that the hives are healthy, the heat this summer has, once again, taken its toll. We still hope to have honey for sale but it's too early to predict how much we'll have. With harvest time rapidly approaching and our volunteers rapidly disappearing, a few members of the Bee Team met with our friend and "advisor" Tom Keb. He and his brother-in-law have agreed to help our group care for the hives and we even talked about a plan for harvesting honey this year. They are both professional bee keepers and Tom is also very active with both the state and St. Joe County beekeeper's associations. He also happens to be a minister. He is willing to help Creekside free of charge because he believes in what we're doing and is also passionate about saving bees. We hope that with their help, we can keep the bee ministry going until we can recruit more help and gain more experience for ourselves.

Finally... Last week, we said farewell to an important and knowledgeable member of the Bee Team: Peggy Emeis. She has been very supportive, through some difficult months for her and Tim. Saying "goodbye" was bittersweet and I know all of you will miss her as well.

Remember to Bee Kind. *Steve Barton, Bee Team*

THANK YOU

Creekside congregation,
Thank you for remembering my 90th birthday with phone calls, cards, and flowers. My family surprised me with a party even though I didn't want the fuss!
Thank you. *Garnett Heeter*



Other dates to note:

Oct. 1, 17, & 22—Creekside office closed
Oct. 17-28—Pastor Rosanna out of town
Nov. 16—Congregational Meeting

The holiday season will be here before long and we are already dreaming of sugarplums!



Please mark your calendars for the

COOKIE - CANDY WALK

Saturday, December 6, 2025 8:00 -11:30 am

More details to follow!



OCTOBER

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

- 1 Graber, Sharon
- 3 Vance, Gail
- 5 Hendricks, Stephen
- 5 Waggy, Crystal
- 6 Mayer, Robin Wentworth
- 10 Arnold, Zane
- 12 Lund, Andrew
- 12 Sollenberger, Beth
- 13 Borem, Cheryl
- 13 Nicodemus, Jan
- 16 Longenbaugh, John
- 19 Barton, Steve
- 19 Vance, Jim
- 20 Hendricks, Anna
- 20 Houser, Sharon
- 23 Ellis, Vicki
- 25 Spiritoso, Brynne
- 28 Carroll, Julie
- 29 Snyder, Leonard
- 29 Sowles, Marcia

EVENTS

- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 7 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Finance Team, 2:00 pm
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 14 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- Christian Ed Team, 6:00 pm
- 16 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.

