

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

April 2026

Sunday's Coming!

*I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you
and that your joy may be full. John 15:11*

I am writing this as I prepare for the great hinge on which Christianity opens: the events of Holy Week, including Jesus' last supper and communion with his disciples on Thursday, and his arrest, mock trial, condemnation, torture and death on Friday of Holy Week. As creation holds its breath for a few days, the power of God is working to bring about a miraculous reversal of events: Jesus is alive! He is risen just as he said.

I have been listening to (and will share on Easter morning) a Phil Wickham song which says, "Friday's good because Sunday's coming." Easter was the first holy-day celebrated by Christians. Holy Humor Sunday, typically observed the Sunday after Easter, is a more recent observance, but it has long roots in theology and practice.

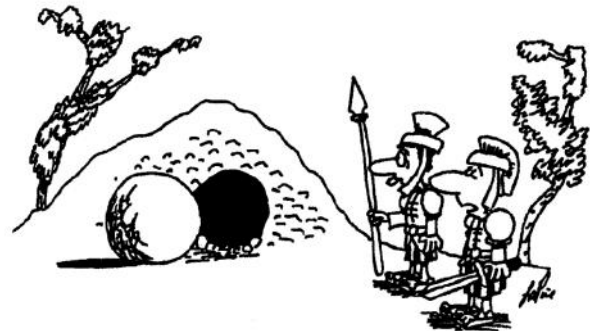
The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis*"--the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

I like the comic below which riffs on Benjamin Franklin's statement that "the only thing certain in life is death and taxes." The month of April reminds us of both death and taxes. For those who believe in Jesus Christ and that his death on a cross accomplished our salvation, our lives have experienced a surprising turn: not only do we not have to pay what we owe, we are given an extension--for eternity. This is the drama, the power, and the humor of Easter; God turns our expectations upside-down. What we thought was evil, God uses for good; what we thought was weakness exhibits God's power; what we thought was the end is a beginning; what we thought was death is eternal life.

So this Easter season, as you are paying your taxes—or preparing someone else's taxes—remember that the things we believe are certain may be subject to change. We won't be paying taxes forever; someday we'll be dead and our children will be paying taxes on whatever we have left to them and we will be in a place where our bank accounts will be empty but our joy will be full.

Wishing you the joy of Christ this Easter season—
Pastor Rosanna



"Well, this leaves only taxes as being certain."

PASTOR'S REPORT

It hardly seems possible that Holy Week is almost upon us. As I have shared from the pulpit, the Lenten season has been fragmented for me this year. I had someone share appreciation for our Lenten devotionals, *The Wondrous Works of God*, and I would heartily concur that those daily readings have been a great way to stay grounded in the season.

It has been lovely to see some of our snowbirds back at Creekside—a sign of spring even better than dead skunks or potholes. We are looking forward to even more members and friends back with us after Easter, and trust that they are enjoying their sojourns in warmer climates. Those of us in Northern Indiana are looking forward to some sustained spring weather.

My thanks to those, especially on Worship, Media, Deacons and Fellowship teams, who have extra responsibilities this season, as well as Outreach for planning the Easter Egg Hunt, and Christian Education for their work with younger adults and summer Sunday School planning, and teams which facilitate our growing ministries of landscaping, container gardens, community garden, and ramp-building. It was great to have Creekside volunteers participate in Brethren Disaster re-build in Kentucky and Children's Disaster Ministry in Michigan.

I remain busy with Creekside meetings and ministries, as well as taking on some additional responsibility with Mission and Ministry Board. We have several short-term teams being formed at Creekside to address risk management, sustainability, and a celebration to retire the mortgage on our building in 2027. If you have said Yes to participating on one of these teams, *thank you!* I want to say my heart-felt thanks to Lisa Vardaman who is stepping down from our Media Team after nearly 20 years of service. The beautiful screens she created for worship and memorial services have been her gift of time, talent, and expertise to this congregation. We look forward to having her participate in other ways in the future.

Thank you for your participation in Creekside's mission; thank you for your prayers and contribution to our ministries, and for your prayers for me and my family. God bless you—

Pastor Rosanna

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE

We're approaching a busy week in the church schedule! Here's what and when to plan for:

- Thursday, April 2** 6:00 pm Love Feast in Gathering Area
After Love Feast (around 7:15 pm) Good 'Friday'
- Friday, April 3** Set-up in Worship Center. Creekside office may be closed
- Saturday, April 4** 9:00 am Easter eggs put out *Volunteers welcome*
Set-up in Worship Center
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 5** 8:00 am Sunrise service in Gathering Area
8:30 am Breakfast
10:00 am Worship *No Sunday School*



Do you enjoy working with kids and delight in the unexpected answers they might give? Worship Team is looking for more people to provide the Children's story during the Worship Service. It is an opportunity to share the focus of the message for the day in a way kids can understand. You would serve approximately 6 times a year.

Interested? Please contact Diane Lund. 574.304.7595 Thank you!

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD

The Church Board meeting on March 19 started with a time of conversation with members of the Christian Ed Team. The board had asked them to work on a recommendation from the Pathfinder Team regarding opportunities for Bible Study and CE Team returned with helpful follow-up. On Palm Sunday while stuffing Easter eggs, you will be able to hear more about an adult intergenerational Bible Study opportunity at Creekside. We hope to gauge your interest; this would be an optional class during the Sunday School time, June-August 2026.

Roger Griffith (treasurer) reported that our mortgage is now under \$51,000 which has prompted the Finance Team to recommend putting together a group to plan for a celebration to retire the mortgage in 2027. We are looking at the date of Saturday, June 26, 2027.

The Risk Management Team brought 4 recommendations for us to consider. One of them is to form a group of 8-10 Safety Facilitators who will be knowledgeable about responding to crises at Creekside. The board made a list of possible persons and will begin contacting them. We also have begun researching that team's recommendation of installing cameras that focus on the parking lot and each exit door.

The Worship Team brought a recommendation for Sunday, June 28 that we organize a group to attend Annual Conference worship in Ft. Wayne. We would not have Sunday morning worship at Creekside and instead would gather at 6:30 on Sunday evening for a livestream of the 7:00 pm Annual Conference worship service.

We have scheduled the Congregational Business Meeting for April 26 at 8:30 am; a continental breakfast will be available prior to the meeting. (See more information about the spring CBM in the article below.)

We heard updates on the 7 recommendations given to us from the Pathfinder Team. We are excited about the progress of the Young Adults (see a report later in this newsletter) and the help from Christian Ed to organize care for their children. The Board heard the 5 goals of the new Sustainability Team and listed possible members for a Sustainability Team; we will begin contacting those persons. Colin Saxton will be with us on May 3rd to meet with this team in the afternoon.

Rosanna shared a bit of her travels and time at the recent Mission and Ministry board meeting.

For the good of Creekside, we heard some of Julie's experience at Camp Ithiel in Florida for a FaithX service trip. We heard of the need for more help with landscaping and the possibility of hiring someone to fill that need. There is much appreciation to Marita for the use of her building for future SAWs pre-builds.

Mike Kauffman, Church Board Chair

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, April 26 will be Creekside's Spring congregational meeting. Business will begin at 8:30 am. You may serve yourself a light breakfast beginning at 8:15 and be seated around tables in the Gathering Area. We will move into the Worship Center around 9:30 am. The meeting will be led by moderator Norm Waggy of Rock Run, and we will be hearing about the work of Creekside's Church Board, including an update on our risk management policy.

Written reports from other ministry teams are welcome: if you would like information from your team included in the meeting packet it needs to be sent to Marita at creeksidecob@gmail.com no later than Thursday, April 9. We do not anticipate time for individual teams to share verbally. If you have questions for a specific team, feel free to contact that team leader directly; teams and leaders are listed in the directory. Questions for the good of Creekside are welcome!

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY, APRIL 12

The Sunday after Easter is called Bright Sunday (or sometimes Low Sunday because of the attendance after Easter and families away on Spring Break!) Whatever you call it, it is a chance to celebrate that Jesus had the last laugh on the Devil and death.

You are invited to wear bright colors or a fun hat, and come for some joy, laughter, and biblical baseball with no relief preacher in sight.

Best wishes for the Easter season— *Pastor Rosanna*



PRAYER GARDEN CLEAN-UP, APRIL 18

Creekside Landscaping Team could use help in the Prayer Garden on Saturday, April 18th from 9:30 to 12:30 to open the ponds and stream, as well as clean up the plants from winter, if we have time. Talk to Judy or Stephen De Pue if you can help.

It sure doesn't look like this picture now, but with help, we can prepare it to start looking like this!

CONTAINER GARDEN MINISTRY, APRIL 7, 13, 15

Preparation time for our veggie pot and box ministry is coming up! We will be cleaning out last year's containers on April 7, 13, & 15 from 10:00-12:30 pm.

We could use help! Please get in touch with Judy De Pue or Tim Lund, co-chairs for the ministry, if you are available to help any of these times.

Save the date for planting boxes: May 16 from 9:30–12:00.



CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP, JUNE 19-20



Ten people already signed up for this Christian Ed sponsored trip! Once we have a minimum of 15, everyone signing up gets the group rate for the events and the hotel, and prices can be publicized.

Schedule:

Friday, June 19 leave from Creekside in van(s) at 8 am. Bring your own sack lunch. Visit museum from 1-5, travel to hotel near Ark Encounter & eat supper together.

Saturday, June 20 Continental breakfast at hotel, pack up van & leave hotel by

9:30 to visit Ark Encounter nearby, leave by 3:00 for buffet meal within Ark Park & head back from Kentucky to Creekside after meal.

Highlights from an interview with Cheryl Borem, who visited the museum & the ark with Jeff, Brandon, and uncle Leonard Snyder in 2024:

"I was awestruck at the magnitude of the ark, it's real size! It was so awesome to see all the animals. There are stories all around you at every turn, and you hear from Noah's family in a video. I learned a lot about Noah's journey, things I didn't know, and things I've wondered about.

I can't even fathom how to describe how inspiring it was!

And at the museum, there's a play that you have to see. They have the food, the animals, and the people, just like it really was. It's like you are a part of it!

Feel free to ask any of us questions about our trip."

Judy De Pue, Christian Ed Team chair

YOUNGER ADULT GROUP

The younger adult group at Creekside has already met twice for brunch, once at Angel's in Goshen, and this past Sunday at Goshen Brewing Company. They are excited about being able to organize some outdoor activities together once warmer weather arrives, like picnicking and kayaking. The group also discussed doing some service projects and family outings together in the future. A total of 10 different adults have participated so far, between the 2 events, while members of Creekside cared for and fed their children at the church. The group is hoping to include even more young adults and families. Watch for news about the next event!

THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, and gift of friendship. It has meant so much during this time of healing and rehabilitation for Doug.

Karen & Doug Grant

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Building strength and muscle is important for an aging body, yet most Americans don't lift weights or practice muscle-strengthening exercises. While many say it's lack of time, exercise physiologists argue that even a minimum dose can help make meaningful progress. One physiologist, a professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, reviewed studies on resistance training and found that a beginner could start with one 30-minute workout a week for the first three months and work their way up. Even doing the minimal amount can bring health benefits, as long as enough effort is put into the workout.

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

CAMP MACK NEWS

Summer camp registration is open at campmack.org

Upcoming Events:

April 6–10 Spring Break Day Camp: Grades K–5. 8:30a–3:30p, with options for before and after care at an additional charge. \$150 (some scholarships may be available). Fun, nature, crafts, free play, community, games, and more!

April 18–19 NEW—Volunteer Retreats: All ages. Meaningful work. Overnight optional.

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

Prayer Request: Please pray for new hires as we get closer to summer camp season, and for lots of campers!

APRIL

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

- 4 Randall, Tim
- 5 Regina, Sharon
- 11 Carlson, Connor
- 11 Newberry, Bobbie
- 15 Krull, Lester
- 16 Neal, Bonnie
- 16 Snyder, Betty
- 26 Harney, Angi
- 27 Kelsey, Cary
- 27 Lund, Diane
- 27 Prael, Eloise

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Grant, Doug & Karen
- 11 Stutsman, Mike & Kathy

EVENTS

- 2 Love Feast/Good Fri, 6 pm
- 4 Egg hunt, 11 am (Hiding, 9)
- 5 Sunrise service, 8:00 am
Worship, 10:00 am
- 7 Container Gardens, 10-12:30
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Container Gardens, 10-12:30
- 14 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 15 Container Gardens, 10-12:30
Worship Team, 10 am
Finance Team, 1:30 pm
Christian Ed Team, 5:30 pm
- 18 Prayer Garden workday,
9:30-12:30
- 21 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 26 Cong. Business mtg, 8:30
BDM gathering, 7:00 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.

