

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

June 2026



Not a Banana

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is not a banana. Or a coconut or a watermelon or a kiwi.

These timeless truths are part of a camp song—which we will not be singing in worship—which is helpful in understanding Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit is the result of lives which are lived rooted in God and growing in Jesus. For the months of June, July and August, we will be considering the topics of Love, Joy, Peace and the like in our worship services. You are also invited to participate in a Bible study which will go deeper into each topic in tandem with the worship theme.

The end of Galatians 5:23 says, “there is no law against such things.” Obviously being patient or kind is not illegal; the apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church of Galatia who had become focused on legalism to the neglect of grace. Galatians is a passionate argument for belief and action which grounds our salvation in the grace of Christ rather than in adherence to Old Testament law.

Faithfulness, gentleness and self-control transcend the strictures of what we’re supposed to do and challenge us to imagine who we are supposed to be. Not a banana, but people who treat ourselves, one another, our neighbors, and strangers with patience, kindness and generosity. Lives which reflect these characteristics are the natural result of the Holy Spirit’s presence.

I am excited and a bit daunted by planning three months of preaching and study on the same theme. Thanks to Beth Sollenberger, Mike Kauffman, Tim Morphew, and Betty Kelsey who will be leading the Bible study along with me. A few books are still available. You are welcome to join in the Bible study even if you have not read the book; the topics are not sequential; you are welcome whenever you can join the group. Some members of Thee Seekers Class will be meeting separately. Thanks to Christian Ed Team who has facilitated the Bible study, and Worship and Media teams for their support for our Sunday services. Fellowship Team will be providing support as well. All of this is a result of conversation we had last fall about living into the mission and vision of Creekside, and the directives which the Church Board received from Pathfinder Team.

This is the season of the church year when we focus on the mission of the church and the witness of the first believers. I pray that the garden of our community will produce a fruitful harvest of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

In the spirit of Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

The month of May is a busy time at Creekside, and mostly good things going on. It is great to have the Prayer Garden tidied up and the stream running, to have container gardens distributed to our neighbors, and to have the community garden planted. As I reminded the Church Board this month, people are more important than plants. Every ministry we do—not just in our gardens—is about serving people; some of these ministries serve the same population of people in Elkhart County. We should be complementing, not competing, with the resources we have to share. There have been a couple more SAWs ramps built to get us toward our goal of 12 ramps this season; the SAWs shed on the Barsoda property has been invaluable.

It was great for me to get away with Tim for a long weekend in Hocking Hills, OH; Mother's Day was more difficult for me than I had anticipated. I was reminded of all the love and support of Creekside and other friends who gathered on Friday, May 8 to be part of scattering Maryann Zerbe's ashes. Several guests from outside our congregation commented on the beautiful memorial space we have next to the Prayer Garden, and what a gift that is to families.

There are still plenty of things coming up in the next month: we'll have Northwood high school students doing a service project to help with landscaping at the front of the church, there is a trip to the Ark Museum June 19 and 20, and you are all invited to participate in the opening day of Annual Conference in Fort Wayne on June 28. Mike Kauffman is the delegate from Creekside; I will attend and present to the delegates as a member of Mission and Ministry Board. I have one more year of my five-year term on that board. There will always be more work to do in the community garden, and more ramps to build in Elkhart County.

Thank you for the ways you say to others in our congregation and to our neighbors—with or without words—that they are important to us. We hold our friends and our community in prayer, and work toward the welfare of all in Jesus' name.

Pastor Rosanna

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Annual Conference is the yearly meeting of the Church of the Brethren, a time to meet old friends, make new ones, worship, and do the business of the church. Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen, and equip the church. The location of Conference changes each year; in 2026 Conference comes to Fort Wayne, IN for the first time, the closest it has been to Elkhart in many years.

Conference begins on Sunday, June 28. The exhibit hall will be open, there will be a special meal for attendees, and a worship service at 7:00 pm. Registration fees are waived for Sunday activities and all worship services.

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to get a flavor of the Conference experience. Worship Team has arranged for transportation to Ft. Wayne and Church Board will pay part of the expense for dinner that evening. Here are more details:

- NO morning worship or Sunday School at Creekside on June 28. You are invited to come to Creekside at 6:30 pm that Sunday to watch the livestream of the 7 pm Conference worship service.
- If you have signed up to go to Ft. Wayne, gather at Creekside at 1:00 pm (eat lunch at home). Drive to Ft. Wayne, spend time in the Exhibit Hall. A wide variety of exhibitors are excited to welcome you to this year's Annual Conference! From the beloved Brethren Press bookstore to inspiring displays of Church of the Brethren ministries, there's something for everyone to discover.
- The cost of the evening meal onsite at the Hilton Hotel is \$37/per person. The Creekside Mission and Vision Fund will pay \$25 per person toward this meal. You may give \$12 per person back to the fund, or more if you are able. There are other meal options within walking distance of the conference center; Creekside will not pay for you to eat off site. You will not have the option to take transportation off site unless you drive your own vehicle to Fort Wayne.
- The worship service will end around 8:30 pm; drivers will return to Creekside as soon as it is done.

Stay tuned for more details about how you can participate in this unique opportunity to connect with the wider Church of the Brethren. Thanks to Worship Team and Church Board for their support!

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Board met on May 19 and reviewed the Pathfinder Recommendations which included: looking at ways to increase our presence with our partnership groups and a recommendation from Finance to look at ways to get more SAWs ramps built to decrease the wait time for persons needing a ramp.

Roger's reported that our mortgage is now at \$42,109. We have a full committee of Steve DePue, Cary Kelsey, Sue Noffsinger, Kathy Royer, and Lisa Vardaman now preparing to plan the celebration to retire our mortgage on Saturday June 26, 2027. Get that date on your calendar as we look forward to what is in store for that great event.

The Risk Management Team has a group of safety facilitators who will begin training in June.

We changed our July meeting to July 14 at 6:30 pm because of VBS.

Mike Kauffman, Church Board Chair

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

People who had a positive religious experience as kids are most likely to keep their faith as adults, while those who had negative experiences are more likely to change faiths or give up religion entirely. A new report from the Pew Research Center used data from its 2023-24 U.S. Religious Landscape Study and a survey of 8,937 American adults. It found that while a majority (about 56%) of people still identify with their childhood faith, a third have switched, of which 20% say they now have no religion.

If you are approaching retirement, Everence can help you with questions about Medicare plans. There is a Zoom session Tuesday, June 16 from 5:30-6:30pm. Register with Brenda Shelly at 215-703-0111.

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP, JUNE 19-20



We can still add a few people to our group for the museum and ark visits, add a couple hotel rooms, and there are still several seats available in the van, if anyone is interested, but Betty Snyder needs to know by Sunday, May 31st.

Cost details:

Christian Ed is sponsoring this trip and has purchased 15 tickets for the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter to get the group discount prices of around 19% off, which are really helpful. Combined tickets for both destinations for each adult with the discount are 100.00, seniors are 90.00 and youth are 55.00. Our hotel rooms are 80.00 a room plus hotel tax that comes to around 97.00 for a 2 queen bed room or a king bed room. Irene & Terri Rassi with their CDL licenses, will be driving a large passenger van. Each rider will pay around 50.00 to share paying travel expenses for the approximately 600 mile round trip.

Schedule:

Friday, June 19 leave from Creekside in van(s) at 7:30 am. Arrive at the Creation Museum in time for lunch at noon, then visit the museum until 5 pm. Eat supper together and check in to our hotel.

Saturday, June 20 Continental breakfast at hotel, pack up van & leave to travel to the Ark Encounter nearby, leave by 3:00 for buffet meal within Ark Park & head back from KY 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!

Judy De Pue, Christian Ed Team chair

PASTA COLLECTION

Outreach Team is inviting you donate pasta to Church Community Services. Dry or canned pasta, sauces and shelf-stable Parmesan cheese are welcome through June 21. Outreach will give \$1 to the CCS food pantry for every item you contribute. Thank you!

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach

The Bee Line



In May we hung 10 swarm boxes around the community. What is a swarm box? It is a small wooden box we prepare which includes some empty frames with wax on them and others with used honeycomb. These boxes are then set on a stand or hung on trees. Once a hive gets over-crowded, half of the bees leave with the old queen to look for a new home. This could be an old log, a bucket, a house eave or, hopefully, one of our swarm boxes. The bees remaining in the old hive produce a new queen by feeding one worker bee in a cell a special food called Royal Jelly. The empty frames in our swarm boxes, with wax and used honeycomb, give the new queen a head start on laying eggs.

The new family of bees, including a queen, fly in a mass to look for a new home. This swarm, as we call it, will find a resting place and send out scout bees to look for a new home. Maybe you have seen pictures of bees hanging from a man's beard. This is a swarm of bees waiting for their new home. To make our boxes inviting, we bait them with lemongrass oil. The scout bees check out the box for size, for sunlight and a night flight path for the swarm, and invite them to their new home. After a few weeks, in the evening, we will move the small hive to Creekside and place it in a larger hive. All living creatures must continue to reproduce and create new life. People have babies, dogs have puppies, chickens lay eggs, and honey bees have swarms.

This year we have mounted 10 boxes. One of our boxes was mounted at Lester & Carolyn Krull's home. Within 24 hours Lester called asking, "What am I supposed to do? Bees are flying in and out of the box." Ron's response was, "Be patient, Lester, and wait 2-3 weeks. The bees will make it a good starter home when you see them carrying in yellow pollen in their honey pockets. When they get settled and think this is going to be their new home, we'll sneak in and move them to a larger home in our Creekside Apiary."

Thanks to Tom Keb for supplying us with 5 new hives. Maybe we can increase our number of hives by adding some "freebees".

During this time of the year we are reminded that without honeybees we would lose 1/3 of our food. So, thank you, honeybees and bee keepers.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team

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
- 29 Noffsinger, Sue

ANNIVERSARIES

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

EVENTS

- 2 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 9 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 10 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
- 12 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Church reserved, 10-1:30
- 16 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 17 Worship Team, 9:30 am
- 21 Fathers' Day
- 28 Annual Conference Sunday:
NO morning worship at Creekside.
Those going to Ft. Wayne meet at 1 pm at Creekside.
Evening worship at Creekside (6:30 pm) will include livestream of Annual Conference worship.

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.



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