

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

July 2026



Under God

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then,
and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*

Many of us will be planning celebrations on or around Independence Day, July 4. Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is often over the week of July 4, which has kept me from many family reunions, picnics, or days at the lake, but has afforded me the opportunity to see some fireworks displays in various cities. The most memorable display has been the view from Ron and Jan Nicodemus' eleventh floor hotel room overlooking the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For those of us who have been called to leadership in the Church of the Brethren, gathering at the Big Meeting is part of our summer schedule.

There is a tension for me in love for God and love for country. I am blessed, in ways that I'm sure I am not fully aware of, to have been born a citizen of the United States of America. I benefit every day from the religious and other freedoms I have. I know that there are those who fight for those freedoms—not only on battlefields, but in community centers and courtrooms and the halls of congress. Christians have a higher allegiance than nationality; the kingdom we are working toward and longing for is the kingdom of God. Nations and rulers may have shorter-term goals, or goals which are not for the good of all people. It is important for us to gather at annual meetings and weekly services to remember we are God's people first; our national citizenship is secondary. It is Christ who has set us free and in whom we trust.

I did a quick Google search to see if the number 250 is mentioned in the Bible. It is—most often cited in Numbers chapter 16, which records a failed rebellion of 250 of the people of Israel against their leaders Moses and Aaron. The number 250 is associated with rebellion, judgement, and divine authority. As a country which was formed 250 years ago as a rebellion against unjust colonial rule, and which claims, in the Pledge of Allegiance, to be a nation under God, I thought the parallels with Numbers 16 were interesting. That biblical rebellion ended badly for the 250, by the way. Those who align themselves against God and God's authority may seem to prosper in the short-term, but it doesn't end well for them.

I pray that God will bless America, but even more that America will be a blessing to the kingdom of God; our freedom is in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Summer may have just begun on the calendar, but it is in full swing with activities at Creekside. Work in the community garden is every Friday morning (with a few exceptions), and we have both ongoing and one-time work for landscaping. Many thanks to the Northwood High School football team and their coach, Evan Andrews, who were at Creekside on June 6 to shovel out mulch, pull up old landscaping fabric, put down new fabric, and put river rock into the beds around the front of the church. Creekside provided help and great meal for these young men. The new concrete border was poured on June 16. There is still a bit more to do, but we are grateful for the effort to keep our grounds well-tended.

Many folks from Creekside were without power from the storm on June 11; several members had significant tree damage. Thanks to Creekside folks who have helped with that effort. They are many of the same people who have volunteered on SAWs builds; we are thankful for those skills and people who have the willingness to use them for our neighbors and our members.

A highlight of the month for me was officiating the wedding of Alysa Marcin and Rylan Metz on June 6. It was a thoughtfully planned day for a committed young couple. We wish them happiness and blessings for the future.

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference begins on June 28 in Ft. Wayne Indiana. Thanks to Diane Lund who has helped guide the Creekside contingent through some unexpected changes in the meal event. I will have responsibilities at Conference as a member of Mission and Ministry Board; Mike Kauffman is the delegate from Creekside. We appreciate his service and preparation and pray for his wisdom and discernment as he acts on behalf of this congregation and of the wider church. Thank you for your prayers for all the programs and attendees. May God be glorified in all we decide, do, and say.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Board met on June 16 and looked at updates from the Pathfinder Recommendations which included: The Sustainability Team will have their first meeting July 8 with all persons on the committee now in place. That committee is Pauline Arnold, Deana Ward, Brynne Spiritoso, and Ryan Prah.

The Board recommended an honorarium for the Northwood football team for their help on June 6 that included removing mulch, tearing out old fabric, installing new fabric, and filling in stone prior to the installation of the landscape curbing.

Roger reported that our mortgage is now at \$34,900. The mortgage retirement committee is planning for the celebration to retire our mortgage on Saturday, June 26, 2027. We look forward to what is in store for that great event.

Pastor Rosanna spoke positively of the new Bible Study and sermon series "Fruit of the Spirit".

Our next meeting is July 14th at 6:30 because of VBS.

Mike Kauffman, Church Board Chair

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Creekside Church of the Brethren will be hosting VBS for kids ages 3 to 12, beginning on Sunday, July 19th through Thursday, July 23rd from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be included!

Come for songs, bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks, and more. An offering project collecting school supplies for students will take place over the course of the week. Donations can be dropped off with children or to the church. To register, call 574-875-7800 or find the event on the Creekside Facebook page.

Jessica Prah



POTLUCK — JULY 12

Grace Mishler is eager to share about her ministry to infants with ROP, Retinopathy of Prematurity. Grace's colleague and friend from Vietnam, Thanh Doan, will be in the United States for Annual Conference, and will be part of that sharing on July 12.

You are invited to join us at Creekside for an evening of mission conversation and fellowship. We will begin with a potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. After the meal, Thahn and Grace will share about their ongoing work in Vietnam and answer questions.

We hope you can join us!

Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y. with Mike & Suzanne Zehr

J

(JESUS) What song or Bible verse brings praise to mind for you?

M: There are some verses in the psalms, but songs are what really communicate to me. "It Is Well with my Soul" is an old favorite, and "All to Us", which I have sung with the Emma Men's Chorus really challenges me.

S: "Blessed Assurance"

What do you love about Creekside Church?

M: The friendly atmosphere, the caring people, and the many outreach programs

S: Welcoming (everyone) and friendly

What is one prayer you have for Creekside?

M: That we would continue to grow and not lose what has gotten us to this point

S: To grow and have more young people and kids

O

(OTHERS) What ministry do you do for others?

M: Singing has always been my passion and what I consider my ministry. With my recent experience with cancer and radiation it is difficult to sing now, but I'm praying that my voice will be restored so that I once again can minister in my way.

S: Try to be a good friend and to love my family always. Servants at Work (SAWs) ministry.

What connects you to people at Creekside?

M: I think Sunday School has been the biggest thing for me

S: Sharing hope

What words of blessing or encouragement do you have to share with others?

M: Keep the faith, one day at a time, our God is good . . . all the time

S: Everything will be how it's supposed to be

Y

(YOURSELF) What would you like to share about yourself?

M: Life has had many ups and down and I have not always been on the straight and narrow but God's mercy and grace have followed me and kept me safe

S: What you see is what you get!

What gives you joy?

M: Family, friends, Creekside, music, traveling and my hobbies

S: Gardening, spending time with Mike, watching my great-grandsons play, Sunday School and church



A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Job openings at Everence: We've built a team that is focused on helping people integrate their financial goals with their values, and we're looking for more passionate, driven people to join us on the journey.

Everence Foundation clients break record for charitable giving: In 2025, Everence clients donated a record-breaking \$128,643,940 to over 4,600 different organizations through Everence Foundation.

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

The Bee Line



BEE TEAM ON DISPLAY

Thanks to the efforts of **Marcia Sowles**, Creekside's *Bee Ministry* is getting exposure at the 2026 Annual Conference in Fort Wayne. She is a member of the **Creation Care Ministry Team** that put together a display for the conference highlighting community gardens at churches in Illinois and Maryland and the solar energy panels at the Washington City Church of the Brethren, as well as our **Creekside's Bees**. Marcia contacted Ron Nicodemus, who then contacted me, requesting information about our apiary to be included in their *Creation Care* display. The article I provided, along with Ron's information, tells a little about what Creekside has been doing to promote awareness about honeybees and highlights the importance of environmental stewardship.

We are grateful for Marcia's support for Creekside and our bees, even from halfway across the country. Thanks to Ron & Jan for their assistance, too.

In case you weren't able to see the display in person, we hope to have a photo or two that we can include in next month's **Connection**. The article will also be available.



New "residents" at Creekside's Apiary

A NEW SEASON

We have new hives here on our property. Tom & George set out five new hives in April and Ron and Deana have been keeping their eyes on them. (Ron Green has also been keeping his distance when he mows!)

So far, the weather this year has been favorable for flowers and crops and the new hives seem to be thriving, in spite of the storms. The one surviving hive from last year is doing well, too. As always, the Bee Team would like to encourage you to learn more about becoming a new volunteer.

Look for more on the Creation Care Team this month.

In the meantime... stay warm and remember to **Bee Kind**.

Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

JULY

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

- 6 Arnold, Brian & Kaylee
- 8 Prah, Ryan & Jessica
- 14 Carlson, Kyle & Katy
- 25 Barton, Steve & Jean
- 28 Kelsey, Cary & Betty

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Randall, Shelly
- 13 Graber, Cal
- 15 Carlson, Rory
- 17 Snyder, Jerry
- 20 Metzler, Delilah
- 23 Vance, Kristen
- 24 Nicodemus, Ron
- 25 De Pue, Judy
- 27 Harney, Scott
- 28 Metzler, Jake
- 30 Ford, Larry

EVENTS

- 4 Church reserved
- 6 Church reserved, 3-9 pm
- 7 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 10 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 12 VBS planning, noon
Vietnam Project potluck,
6:00 pm
- 14 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 15 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
- 19- Vacation Bible School,
23 5:30-8:00 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.

