

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

August 2026



Harvest of Righteousness

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance . . .
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly.
[God will] increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:8,10*

I have been enjoying our Fruit of the Spirit summer series, especially the group Bible studies during the Sunday School hour. The leadership has been varied and creative, and your participation has made for interesting conversation and things to consider for my preparation for the next Sunday. Bible study can be rewarding, but it is not an end in itself—we don't study the Bible in order to have studied the Bible; we study the Bible so it can set the course for how we live our lives.

As we head into the season of harvest in our community garden and in the community around us, it should be obvious that we are surrounded with blessing in abundance: towering corn stalks, baskets of cucumbers, more tomatoes than we know what to do with. I am grateful that one of the ministries of Creekside Church is to share that abundance with our neighbors through Church Community Services. Sometimes this happens in more direct ways, too: this week there was a couple picking produce from our garden—pepper, zucchini, onions—to supplement their meager income. A Creekside member told them about our garden, and invited them to come. I hope they will be back. But like Bible study, growing vegetables is not an end in itself.

The text at the top of this page from 2 Corinthians is about increasing a harvest of righteousness. We plant seeds of God's Word in our minds and hearts and tend tomatoes in our community garden to see what can grow in us. The passage goes on to talk about generosity and thanksgiving to God; those are the goal of Bible study, service, witness, and discipleship. Generosity and thanksgiving are the tomatoes and cucumbers of the harvest of righteousness we are to grow along with the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

I see evidence of your generosity in small and large ways; in the care of notes and words of encouragement, prayers for sisters and brothers who are struggling, and your contributions to pay off the mortgage of this building (more on this later in this *Connection*). Good farmers are always trying to increase their yield; God has provided the seed and we are studying and planting and tending and watering and giving in order to increase the harvest which we have to share.

Praise to God for the abundance we have been blessed with!
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

Summer is a busy season in Creekside's community garden, Prayer Garden, landscaped beds, and grounds. It is also a time when we get to see the children in our congregation gather to grow and flourish. The five days of Vacation Bible School are rewarding and tiring. A huge THANK YOU to the many volunteers who make this possible, and to the parents and grandparents who helped their families experience the theme of #KidsConnect. I won't list all the volunteers, but I would like to highlight a few: Betty Snyder planned dinner for about 30 children and adults each evening; Lisa Vardaman stepped in to cover Media responsibilities after a full day of work for Grace College; Jessica Pahl did tons of preparation and decoration as Children's Activity director. I have heard appreciative comments from both parents and children.

After some relatively quiet months with pastoral care, there have been some serious ongoing concerns in July. I am grateful for your prayers and the service of our deacons, and would invite you to pray for me, as well. It is a privilege to walk with families in times of struggle, but none of us can predict when that will happen, and there is always other work at Creekside which needs to be done.

Our family is excited to be preparing for our son Joel's wedding on August 15. Joel and Kerstin Doerr will be married in Goshen; they live in Indianapolis. Wendy Erbaugh, Sue and Ted Noffsinger's granddaughter, will be the guest speaker on August 16.

Annual Conference in Fort Wayne was a positive experience. A highlight for me was re-connecting with a young woman who had been a child in the congregation Tim and I attended when we lived in Indianapolis over 30 years ago. Lindsey remembered Katy and Becca as pre-schoolers (Joel was born after we moved to Elkhart) and remembered me leading songs at Vacation Bible School. It was great to visit with her and be reminded of things which have changed and some which haven't.

Blessings as we grow together this season—
Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Board met on July 14 by Zoom. We approved June minutes and then looked at the Treasurer's report. The updates from the Pathfinder Recommendations included: The Sustainability Committee had their first meeting July 8 with all persons on the committee now in place and included Mike Kauffman in the first meeting to answer any questions as they move forward. Colin Saxton from Everence also joined by Zoom as a resource person. They worked on Goals and priorities with lots of energy and excitement.

We also heard about a meeting that Pastor Roseanna had with Angi Harney looking at publicity strategies. Our Facebook page will be the initial focus for improved ministry coverage to the community and those looking at Creekside.

We also looked at ways to "ramp up" our SAWs ministry and heard a brief bit about "Growing Hope Globally" a Christian response to hunger. We will have more information at our August meeting.

The Board recommended an honorarium of \$750 for the Northwood football team for their help tearing out old landscape fabric and installing new fabric and stone prior to the installation of the landscape curbing. We will present that gift to them on August 7 at the Northwood football scrimmage night.

The mortgage retirement committee has been busy planning for the celebration to retire our mortgage on Saturday, June 26, 2027. They will make their first presentation to the Board at the August Board meeting. Steve De Pue is the facilitator of this group and Cary Kelsey is the note taker.

We looked briefly at dates for our Congregational Business meeting in November and will make a decision at our August meeting.

Pastor Rosanna spoke about a big event coming in the life of their family with Joel and Kerstin's wedding on August 15th.

Our next meeting is August 18th at 6:30.

Mike Kauffman, Church Board Chair



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Outreach Team is excited about this new version of our Family Jamboree. We will have the same terrific food, including pork smoked here at Creekside, a bounce house, face painting, and outdoor seating and games, as previous years. The biggest change is that it will all be FREE!

The event is Saturday, August 29 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. There are ¼ sheet invitations available for you to give to friends and family. We will still count on your help to volunteer that day. Some positions are already filled, but there will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please sign up by August 16 so we know whom to count on. You may help that day even if you haven't signed up.

Invite your friends and family to this fun FREE celebration of community and the close of summer.
Pastor Rosanna for Outreach Team

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

We will have an opportunity to worship by the Creekside Prayer Garden on Sunday, August 30. Please arrive by 9:30; bring lawn chairs if you wish; there is sidewalk with secure footing out to the garden area. Worship will begin around 9:45 am.

If there is wet weather, we will meet in the Worship Center. There will be Sunday School indoors, rain or shine.

Thank you for joining us for this celebration of the beauty of God's creation!
Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team

TOMATO PROCESSING STARTS SOON!

The tomatoes are ripening, which means tomato processing is just around the corner. As in the past, we will wash, prep, weigh and bag tomatoes at Creekside which will be frozen at Church Community Services. The tomatoes are then distributed to food pantry guests over the winter to be used for sauces and in soups and stews. **Beginning on Tuesday, August 4, processing will take place twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning at 9:00 am.**

Your help is needed with the following tasks:

Picking (the day before processing)	Weighing/bagging (may be done seated)
Washing tomatoes outdoors (starting at 7 or 7:30 am on processing days)	Wiping bags and placing them in boxes
Washing tomatoes indoors	Runners (keep cutters supplied, empty scrap bowls, transfer cut tomatoes to weighing/bagging station, etc.)
Set-up (starts at 7:30 on processing days)	Clean-up
Cutting (may be done seated)	

Gloves will be required for all direct handling of cut tomatoes; shoulder-length (or longer) hair must be tied back; watches and bracelets will need to be removed; short-sleeves are best. Plan for tomato juice on your clothes and some terrific fellowship. :-)

Stay tuned! *Diane Lund*

SCHOOL KITS

Outreach Team is challenging Creekside to donate 250 school kits to Mennonite Central Committee. These kits go to provide school supplies internationally; many of these children come from families who cannot afford basic supplies for education.

With careful shopping at Back to School sales, we can purchase supplies for about \$5/kit. Vacation Bible School kids have donated supplies to connect with kids through school kits. Our goal is to raise at least \$1250 by August 16. We are charting donations on the big yellow pencil in the Gathering Area; if we have donations over \$1250, we will convert those to gift certificates for local teachers. We will assemble the kits during the Sunday School hour on August 16 and donate them through MCC in Goshen. Thank you for your help!

Pastor Rosanna

CREEKSIDE MORTGAGE RETIREMENT

The Creekside building was finished in 2006. Twenty years later, we are within sight of retiring the mortgage: Praise God! The mortgage after our mid-August payment will be around \$25,000. We have faithful donors who have given regularly to pay down the mortgage; those payments go directly to the principal, putting us ahead of schedule to retire the loan.

The Church Board has assembled a committee to plan a Mortgage Retirement celebration in June of 2027. They are Stephen De Pue, Cary Kelsey, Lisa Vardaman, Sue Noffsinger, and Kathy Royer. Sue and Kathy were part of the Cornerstone Team which planned and oversaw the process of the current building. You will be hearing more from this group in the future!

Pastor Rosanna for Church Board and Finance Team

MEDIA TEAM

Help us honor Gary Arnold and his years of hard work by joining the Creekside Media Team. Please contact Lisa Vardaman if you have interest in volunteering in the following ways:

Graphics Operator - advance screens on Sunday mornings using the remote clicker, which can be done from the congregation or from the media loft. (No sleeping during worship 😊).

Camera person - Easy to operate cameras from their perches. The director instructs their movements.

Director - selects what is seen on the livestream. Directs camera positioning. Turns livestream on/off.

Sound - handles microphones, recorded music, and making sure all are heard.

Screen Creator - Utilizes easy-to-use software to create the worship slides. Can be done from home.

GIFTS & PLACEMENT TEAM

The Gifts and Placement Team is looking for Creekside members who are willing to fill elected positions beginning in 2027. Next year may seem too far away, but it is not too early to think about ways that you may want to serve our congregation and church. Creekside is in need of a Treasurer, Board members, two District Conference delegates and two alternate District Conference delegates. If you want more information, please talk to a member of our team.

Anne Griffith, Ron Nicodemus and Lisa Vardaman

SHALOM TEAM

At Creekside, Shalom is rooted in Old and New Testament biblical texts which include the concepts of peace with justice, wholeness, right and healthy relationships, and that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Shalom in our human existence.

By our human nature we have different opinions and perspectives which sometimes create conflict. Shalom Team is here to help the community or individuals discern constructive rather than destructive ways to address our differences or even conflicts.

A core principle is listening to one another in an open dialogue conducted with dignity and respect.

Shalom Team is available to Creekside groups or individuals who are open to navigating differences of opinions or conflicts. This could involve one (or more) Shalom Team member as requested. When Shalom Team members are involved we begin with the Creekside prayer. We strive to create a safe environment so all parties can be heard and treated with dignity and respect. This process can help improve mutual understanding and move everyone involved closer to “*Shalom*”.

Shalom Team: Cary Kelsey, Anne Griffith, Steve Barton, Jan Nicodemus



A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

Youth Savings Week! August 3-5 Families in our congregation with children under the age of 18, are invited to participate in the annual Youth Savings Celebration, August 3 to 5, with Everence Federal Credit Union in Goshen. During this week, when a youth makes a deposit of \$15 or more into a new or existing youth savings account, Everence will deposit an additional \$5 into their account. The interest rate on the youth savings account is currently 5% on the first \$1,000. For more information go to: everence.com/youth-savings-celebration.

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

The Bee Line



BEE TEAM ON DISPLAY (Continued)

In last month's Bee Line, I wrote about the **Creation Care Ministry Team** poster that they were displaying at Annual Conference. If you've been at church within the last couple of weeks, I hope you've had a chance to see the photo of the poster, along with the article that we submitted for it. If you haven't yet seen it, a tiny sample is to the right.



Our thanks again to Marcia Sowles and the *Creation Care Team*.

Here is a part from Ron that wasn't included:

The Amazing Honey Bee

Bees are social insects that live and work together for the good of the hive. Members of the hive include:

One Queen: She lays up to 2,000 eggs per day

Workers: Care for newly hatched larva, are undertakers, produce wax and make hexagon comb, forage for pollen and honey, transfer pollen and nectar to home bees who will process it in their gut and fan to remove excess water.

Drones: Mate with queen; can't sting or feed themselves; not needed in winter; killed and removed.

More interesting facts:

- Honey has been found in King Tut's 2,000 year-old tomb
- If properly sealed, honey will never spoil
- Bees can fly 15-20 miles per hour and up to 6 miles to collect pollen and nectar
- A worker bee produces about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifespan
- Bees fly over 55,000 miles, 3 times around the Earth, and visit 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey
- Bees are very clean. The Queen Bee is the only bee allowed to defecate in the hive. Worker bees immediately clean this up and remove it from the hive.

Honey Bees are needed for pollination:

- **60% of the food we eat depends upon pollination!**
- **1 in 3 bites of food comes from honey bee pollination!**
- Honey bees visit between 50-100 flowers a day to collect pollen and nectar
- A forager bee may live just 3-4 weeks and travel over 500 miles before she dies

To help save bees use only homemade weed killer.

Recipe: 1 gallon vinegar, 1 cup salt, 1 Tbl. Liquid dish detergent. Mix & spray on weed leaves.

And of course... Remember to **Bee Kind**.
Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Niemier, Diane
- 5 Grant, Karen
- 9 Metzler, Kirsten
- 12 Marcin, Alysia
- 15 Wilson, Anne
- 18 McFadden, Tim
- 18 Houser, Eric
- 19 Kohler, Joe
- 20 Foland, Lynne
- 23 Stutsman, Roger
- 25 Barsoda, Marita
- 28 Kauffman, Mike
- 29 Foland, Ted
- 30 Heeter, Garnett
- 20 Gable, Judy

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ehret, Larry & Vicki
- 9 Neal, Roger & Bonnie
- 9 Noffsinger, Ted & Sue
- 20 McFadden, Tim & Rosanna
- 23 De Pue, Stephen & Judy
- 27 Vance, Jim & Kristen
- 29 Vardaman, Kurt & Lisa

EVENTS

Tomato processing and Garden workdays are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

- 4 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 11 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 12 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
- 14 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 18 Worship Team, 9:30 am
Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 29 Community Hog Roast, 4:30-7:00 pm
- 30 Worship outdoors, 9:30 am

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.

