

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2026



Praying for One Another

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14

Prayer is one of the ministries of the church which we can offer to one another: it is free, it can happen anywhere at any time, and it can change outcomes for both the pray-ee and the pray-er. There can be prayers of happiness, thanksgiving, gratitude, and relief; I hope you have experienced these things and remembered to thank God for them. But the prayers we are often invited to share for one another are prayers for healing. As the pastor of Creekside, I have found that praying for people can be more complicated than I had imagined; technology can make this fraught in ways which a seminary degree did not prepare me for.

Let me outline some of the options for prayer at Creekside Church, and note some things which go along with them—these maybe obvious to some, but new understandings for others.

- If you ask me to pray for you, I will. Perhaps immediately in person or on the phone, or if you reach out by text or email, while we are apart. I will not share information unless you direct me to do so.
- If you ask me to pray for someone else at Creekside, I will. If you haven't asked that person if I can share that information ("I saw on Facebook that . . ."), I will not share it until I have heard from the person/a family member/someone authorized to speak for them before I share it.
- If you ask me to pray for someone I do not know ("My niece's husband . . .") I will assume I have permission to share that information unless you tell me otherwise ("Please don't share this . . .") I will always honor requests for confidentiality.

Prayer requests are typically shared in several ways.

- One Call Now notification: you must opt in to this automated service. You can receive notifications by phone call, email, or text message—or any combination of the three. These go out as needed, typically 2-3 times per week; we use this system for announcements and weather cancellations, too.
- Listed in the Sunday bulletin: there is little or no space for explanation. These requests are removed from the bulletin before it is posted online on the Creekside website.
- As part of the prayer time on Sunday morning: this goes out on our livestream. Because it is verbal, it is not searchable (you can't goggle a name and hear the recording), but it becomes part of our library of YouTube recordings.
- Informally in meetings or gatherings: I am usually not the one to initiate this, but I do try to correct mis-information. I do not know how things get shared when I am not present.

If you have not signed up for the One Call Now notifications, you may do so by contacting administrative assistant Marita Barsoda by phone or at creeksidecob@gmail.com. If you have questions about anything I have outlined above, please reach out to me. Prayer is important, and it's important that you understand the options so that I can respect your wishes.

God bless you—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

August has been a full month at home and at Creekside. Tim and I are full of gratitude for the prayers and blessings from family, friends, and many of you shared your good wishes for our son's wedding. We are full of gratitude that Joel's wife Kerstin is a lovely woman and they are committed to being partners in life. Their married names are Joel McFadden and Kerstin Doerr. We had lots of help from Joel's sisters Katy and Becca, their husbands Kyle and Stephen, and other family. It was a wonderful weekend!

August is also tomato-processing time; somehow the Lord has sent pickers, washers, weighers, processors, and even a photographer when we need them. Thanks to all the folks who have helped, and for Diane Lund's thorough and cheerful preparation and clean up. It is not just the vegetable gardens, but the landscaped beds and Prayer Garden which are flourishing. Many thanks to the people who tend those spaces, including our groundskeeper Ron Green. We will have an opportunity to enjoy the property at the Community Hog Roast and Outdoor worship service at the end of August. Outreach/Followers of Faith, Fellowship, Christian Ed, Hospitality and Media all will contribute to that event. We are looking forward to meeting neighbors and new friends and welcoming them to our beautiful church grounds.

Thank you for your generous response to MCC School kits! We took supplies for 250 kits to the MCC Great Lakes material resources center in Goshen, and will make an additional donation to them. We have shared gift certificates with Jessica and Ryan Prah, the local teachers who are part of our congregation. There will be some funds for purchasing items for students directly. We could not make these gifts without your financial support and the shopping and planning from Outreach Team.

August 23 was the last Sunday of the fruit of the Spirit sermon series and Bible study. My thanks to Mike Kauffman, Betty Kelsey, Tim Morphew, and Beth Sollenberger for their Bible study leadership. Many of you commented how much you enjoyed the creativity and different perspectives you heard from various leaders and the conversation around the tables with other members and friends from Creekside. Gathering around God's Word and listening to the Spirit in community is a Brethren ideal which was great to be a part of. Regular Sunday School classes will resume on September 13. I will be offering an adult membership class (more below).

Here are some things which are coming up:

- N Indiana District Conference at Camp Mack. Worship Friday, September 18, business session Saturday, September 19, 9am-3pm.
- Seeds of Hope event: garden recognition by Church Community Services October 3
- Shine! Children's Sunday School curriculum workshop at Creekside, October 10

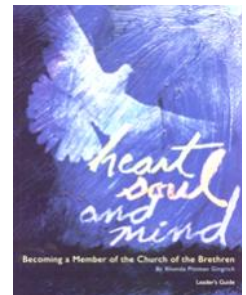
May God grow a harvest of righteousness in all we do this season!

Pastor Rosanna

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Creekside has been graced by visitors and guests who have become friends and participants in our activities. Pastor Rosanna will be offering a class for those interested in becoming a member of the Church of the Brethren, or for current members who want to review their commitment to the church.

This class is for adults who may come from other Christian faith traditions and want to learn more about the Church of the Brethren and Creekside. Becoming a member is not a requirement, it is an invitation. We will meet in the Conference room (next to the church office) for the three weeks beginning September 13 and ending September 27. We will be using the material *Heart, Soul and Mind* by Rhonda Pittman Gingerich, published by Brethren Press. Books will be provided.



Please reach out to Pastor Rosanna if you have questions. I look forward to meeting with you!

Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

The Board met on August 18. We began by hearing a report from Steve De Pue who is a member of the Mortgage Retirement Committee. There is a lot of excitement building about this great day June 26, 2027. The board had some questions and input for the group and looks forward to their work going forward. A big *thank you* to this team for their work so far. We approved the July minutes and then looked at the Treasurer's report.

The Safety Facilitators met on August 2 and started with updating Safety procedures for Storm and Fire. The group is working with the Media Team to develop some screens that will be displayed when needed. The group will also be updating the procedures and are planning a storm drill for the congregation. This will help the group know what we need to work on as we move forward. The next meeting will concentrate on medical emergencies and AED training for the group.

We looked at the possibility of giving our proceeds from the hay grown on our land to "Growing Hope Globally", a Christian response to hunger. We talked about a new budget item for the Ministry Excellence Project for the new budget year and will make a decision at our next meeting. We heard some updates from the Media Team as they reorganize after the loss of Gary Arnold. We decided to hold our Fall Congregational Business meeting on November 8 after worship. Pastor Rosanna talked about the wedding of Joel and Kerstin on August 15th.

Our next meeting is September 15th at 6:30 pm.

Mike Kauffman, Church Board Chair

SEPTEMBER 6 AND SEPTEMBER 13

September 6 worship will be in the Creekside Gathering Area, beginning at 9:30am. This service will not be livestreamed—we are grateful for the work of Creekside's Media Team, and support those who are traveling out of town or attending Family Camp at Camp Mack this weekend. We will not have Sunday School this day—regular classes will resume on September 13.

Our thanks to children and adult Sunday School class teachers, and other volunteers who are part of Creekside's Christian Education program. We will be recognizing and thanking them during our worship service on September 13. We WILL have Sunday School that day!

Pastor Rosanna, For Worship and Christian Ed Teams

CREEKSIDE MORTGAGE RETIREMENT

Creekside's mortgage, as of August 15 is \$23,783.70! The Church Board and Finance Team extend a big THANK YOU for the generosity of this congregation—not only in recent years, but to pay off this debt over the past twenty years. Thank you to those of you who have given faithfully to the General Fund, which pays our regular monthly payment, and also to those who have given directly toward the principal of the mortgage. It is your generosity which is allowing us to retire this debt ahead of schedule.

The church board has appointed a work team to plan a celebration for the retirement and burning of our Creekside mortgage. This group is made up of Stephen De Pue, Kathy Royer, Sue Noffsinger, Lisa Vardaman and Cary Kelsey. **Save the date Saturday: June 26, 2027.** Between now and next June we will be sharing some trivia in the Creekside Connection about our church's journey from 2000 until now.

For instance, did you know that in 2005 the total construction cost of our present facility was \$1.3 million?... Watch this space.

Cary Kelsey for Mortgage Retirement Team

The Bee Line



Our present apiary is alive and well thanks to Beekeepers Tom Keb and George Shafer. Rather than Creekside closing down their apiary, they stepped in and revived us. Free of charge, they provided us with hives of bees, supplies, and years of experience to assist us in being successful again.

Tom has over 40 years experience. Tom is well known for his beekeeping classes in the community and is the Superintendent of Beekeeping for local 4H Fairs. He and George have the ability to take an active hive and split it into two hives. This year they started with 70 hives and to date they now have 140 hives; some of which they shared with us.

Creekside has an excellent location for raising bees. We have 19 acres of farmland filled with lots of plants ready for foraging in our wildflower garden and in our vegetable patch. In addition, our apiary sits next to the raised bank of the Yellow Creek. This location offers the bees shelter from the wind and also a year-round supply of water.

Soon it will be Honey Harvest time. Our frames of honey will be taken to Tom's bee house to be extracted, filtered and bottled. Our Bee Team will be there to give him any needed help. Thank you Tom and George.

As beekeepers we help supply the world's food. More than 90 crops are in need of honey bee pollination, without which one-third of our food supply would be non-existent. No more strawberries, apples, beans, cucumbers, squash, beans, watermelon, wheat, or nuts, just to name a few!

I'm hungry! Let's keep our honey bees and our gardens here at Creekside.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

For kids, laughter is more than the best medicine. According to a recent study, **it's also crucial to their development and resilience**. Early childhood expert Jacqueline Harding recently published a book "The Brain that Loves to Laugh." The author notes that laughter **builds emotional connections and soothes the nervous systems in children**, making them more resilient. Laughter can also influence heart rate and breathing, strengthen the immune system, and improve memory. Sounds like something that's important for all of us, not just children.

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

THANK YOU!

I appreciate your cards, prayers, and concerns as I wait for answers to tests. Thank you so much, *Sharon Graber*

SEPTEMBER

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 Harney, Katelyn
- 6 Ward, Jason
- 8 Lund, Tim
- 8 Mayer, Horst
- 16 Miller, Sandy
- 17 Royer, Kathy
- 22 Ritzmann, Paulajean
- 26 Miller, Craig

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Morphew, Tim & Beth Sollenberger
- 12 Hendricks, Stephen & Becca
- 21 Ward, Jason & Deana
- 26 Metzler, Jake & Becky
- 27 Vance, Jim & Kristen
- 29 Vardaman, Kurt & Lisa

EVENTS

Garden workdays are on Thursday mornings. Tomato processing as announced.

- 8 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 9 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Church reserved, afternoon
- 15 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 18 District Conf. worship, 7 pm
- 19 District Conf. business, 9-3

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.

