

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

October 2026

Generosity Stories

Give, and it will be given to you.

*A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap,
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38*

Some of you participated in a generosity exercise during the month of August. As part of our study of fruits of the Spirit, Finance Team provided 20 bills and guidelines for how to share them. Those guidelines included not keeping the money for yourself, a family member, or a member of Creekside, but to give it to someone you don't know. Many of you shared your stories describing the context of where you gave the money, the recipient's reaction, and how this generosity exercise made you feel. The goal was to see how generosity can be rewarding or difficult, and to acknowledge the ways in which generosity affects both the recipient and the giver.

The results were interesting and varied. Some people declined to participate (I was one of those) because of limited interaction with strangers in need; one person knew immediately of a person in need, even though that person was not a stranger to them. One person shared some guidance about how to spot people in need: "You always notice people in need that have children and very few things in their [grocery] cart." Someone else wrote, "Note to self—look for opportunities."

Most people found that being generous made *them* feel good. One person reported "not feeling anything," and hoping that this will change. What was consistent from all the stories was that recipients of the unexpected generosity were excited and grateful. This is hardly surprising—who *wouldn't* be grateful for an unexpected gift?—but I think it deserves more consideration. The verse above from Luke suggests that if we give, it will be given to us. That order is important. Our giving begins, not with bills from the Finance Team, but with a spirit of generosity. If we are looking for ways to share what we have been given or paying attention to who around us might be in need, we are honoring the ways that God has been generous to us and the command to give to others. We don't know how that giving will come back to us, but Jesus promises that it will be a good measure—maybe even more than we expected.

I shared in a Sunday sermon this quote from an unknown source: "When I go to get an ice cream cone . . . it makes me really happy when they use a reeeeeeally big scoop on my single scoop cone. I want you to think of that when you think of God's mercy. When scooping ice cream into the lives of others, use the big scoop."

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*



PASTOR'S REPORT

The month of September seemed to go by in a hurry—a lot of it seemed to be spent in tomato-related activities: picking, washing, cutting, bagging, weighing, boxing, delivering. We are grateful for all of the Creekside folks who have been part of our community garden ministry. We shared about 800 pounds of processed tomatoes with Church Community Services, and hundreds of pounds of fresh produce—we will still be harvesting into early October. Thanks to those of you who regularly contribute non-perishable items for the CCS food pantry, and for the special donations toward The Center in Nappanee which we are collecting through the end of September.

Please read the district conference report from Steve Barton in this *Connection*. It was good to be together with folks from other congregations in the N Indiana district. Creekside volunteers support the district's work in the following ways: Mike Kauffman, Board member; Roger Griffith, treasurer; Deana Ward, audit committee. We are grateful for this ongoing service. The theme of the 2026 district conference was Finding Our Way; this is pertinent to us as individuals, congregations, districts and our denomination. We pray for those who are tasked with vision and leadership.

I am grateful for the work of Worship Team and Deacons who will be providing bread and cup communion during the service on Sunday, October 4. Creekside is hosting a workshop on October 10 for children's Sunday School teachers in the area to learn more about Shine Everywhere materials. We are grateful to Mike Kauffman and the safety facilitators group for considering best practices for keeping our congregation safe, and for having a safety drill at the end of a worship service. This is the first time in my memory that we have practiced such a thing—your cooperation was invaluable.

It has been meaningful for me to have time with Wylan Shultz at the end of her life and to get to know her family better. We will celebrate Wylan's life with a service at Creekside on Saturday, November 7.

Thank you for your prayers as I prepare for Mission and Ministry Board meetings in Elgin in October. Immediately after those meetings I will spend time in Florida with our family. My appreciation for those who will serve in worship in my absence.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD

The Board met on September 15. The mortgage balance after our August payment was \$23,783.70. We accepted Finance Team's recommendation that from now until the end of the year any donations toward the mortgage will reduce our monthly payment. We will retire our mortgage debt by the end of 2026. Any donations beyond the amount of our mortgage and any donations after Dec. 27 will go into Capital Improvements. Any balance after Dec. 27 will be paid off from a gift recently received.

We are planning a love offering later this year and we will select those outside ministries at our October meeting using the direction of Finance that we support ministries on the local, regional, and international level.

We came to a decision on employee contracts at the Board level with suggestions to property care and Christian Ed to follow denominational recommendations for church workers' cost of living and time of service increases. We discussed ways to use financial resources to support a pastoral intern following similar discussions from the Finance Team using Pletcher bequest money.

We plan to have reports from the Mortgage retirement Team, Sustainability Team and the Safety Facilitators Committee at the Congregational Business meeting following worship on November 8. This meeting will also include 2027 elections and 2027 budget.

Pastor Rosanna asked for prayers for the Mishler/Stemen family and the family of Wylan Shultz. Next month is a busy month for Pastor Rosanna with additional preparation for Mission and Ministry Board. McFaddens are looking forward to vacation at the end of October.

For the good of Creekside included prayers for Julie Birr having a test and consult with the foot surgeon on September 16.

Our next meeting is October 13 at 6:30 pm.

Board Chair Mike Kauffman

NOVEMBER 1 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

November 1 is observed as All Saints' Day on the Christian calendar. At Creekside Church, this is a day we remember members and friends of our congregation who have passed away between November 1, 2025 and November 1, 2026. You are invited to include people who were important to you. Members of Creekside will automatically be included in this service; if you would like to include someone who was not part of Creekside, please share their full name, birth date and death date with Pastor Rosanna. Please name your relationship to them for my reference. Please submit those names no later than Wednesday, October 27.

The Service of Remembrance will happen during the 9:30am worship service. You will not be asked to come forward or to speak. The service **will** be livestreamed; you may invite friends or family to watch in real time or at a later time on Creekside's livestream, [YouTube.com/CreeksideCoB](https://www.youtube.com/CreeksideCoB)

Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team

NEEDLEWORK SALE

Myrtis Justiniano is an award-winning needleworker; her cross-stitch and needlepoint creations are beautiful and varied. Myrtis' sister Wylan owned a number of pieces made by Myrtis, and Myrtis is culling through her own collection. These pieces will be for sale at Creekside Church in October, and proceeds will go toward Creekside mortgage reduction.

Most pieces are framed; they will be displayed in the Gathering Area after Sunday, October 11, through Sunday, November 1. Each piece will have a suggested minimum donation to honor the talent and expense which went into its creation. There will be a place to sign your name by each piece—signing your name indicates your intention to pay at least the suggested minimum: you may of course make a larger donation. If more than one person is interested in a piece, you may work out an arrangement together. Some pieces will be sold as sets. We encourage Sunday School classes to consider purchasing a piece to display in their classroom.

Please sign up as soon as you see a piece that you would like; we request that all pieces are left at the church until November 1. If you are not here on November 1 to claim your treasure, we will keep pieces which have been signed for until you are able to pick them up.

If you pay through your offering envelope, mark Needlework or Myrtis on the envelope or memo line of your check. Because you are receiving goods for this donation, it will NOT be noted on your end-of-the-year giving statement as charitable giving.

You can see a framed piece which Myrtis donated to Creekside in the hallway outside the Overcomers/Onward classroom, and at least some of you have seen the set of four flowers inside the women's restroom. Watch for more beautiful needlework coming soon!

Pastor Rosanna



A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

We've recently heard from a growing number of members who have received suspicious phone calls about their Medicare coverage. Unfortunately, Medicare scams are becoming more common and harder to spot.

Scammers may call pretending to be a representative of Medicare, an insurance company, or another trusted organization. They may ask you to verify your Medicare information or suggest you have a limited time to sign up for benefits you're missing. If you receive an unexpected call asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, banking information, or payment, **do not provide your information**. In most cases, Medicare and Social Security communicate by mail and will not contact you unexpectedly by phone. (It's even dangerous to answer a call from someone not in your phone's contact list unless you recognize their name or number.)

Larry Ford, Everence advocate

Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y.

with Sharli Pletcher



J

(JESUS) What do you love about Creekside Church?

I love how they do so much to help other people. They are a small church but they do so much.

What is one prayer you have for Creekside?

That they continue to grow and that other people realize what a wonderful place it is.

O

(OTHERS) What ministry do you do for others?

I volunteer at Susanna's Kitchen.

What connects you to people at Creekside?

I found someone in my neighborhood who goes here. She's great!

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

Don't give up.

y

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

I wasn't brought up in the church and I don't really know anything other than I do believe in God.

What gives you joy?

My pets, crafts during the winter. I crochet cat toys for the Humane Society which they sell to help raise money.



2026 DISTRICT CONFERENCE REPORT

The 167th Northern Indiana District Conference was held the weekend of September 19th, at Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, Indiana.

The Friday evening worship service featured speaker Dennis Beckner, the Pastor at the Columbia City CoB, in his role as Annual Conference Moderator for 2027. His message, built on the Annual Conference theme, "Imagine", used the parable of the mustard seed to encourage Brethren to imagine what can happen when we "plant seeds" of hope and encouragement for strangers and youth in the spirit of Christ and the church.

Saturday's business meeting, led by Moderator Anna Lisa Gross, pastor at Beacon Heights CoB in Fort Wayne, was a comfortable mixture of typical reports, serious business, and humorous skits. Her theme "Finding Our Way" was introduced in her message at last year's District Conference and our individual sessions revolved around skits written by Frank Ramirez, focusing on major disagreements within the Church of the Brethren over the past centuries. Those controversies were hotly debated at annual meetings and led to splits from the denomination. The historical context of these disagreements was compared to more current issues facing the denominations during our small group 'table talk' opportunities and how we, as Brethren, are still working to "find *our way*" in a future filled with uncertainties.

Serious business included the disorganization of the Walnut Church of the Brethren and adoption of the district budget for 2027, both passed by consensus.

The meeting ended with the consecration of the 2027 district leaders and conference Moderator Elect, Evan Garber, who's message reflected his theme for next year's conference titled "I Have Seen Jesus."

Creekside representatives: Steve Barton, Pastor Rosanna, Anne Griffith, Mike Kauffman

TRIVIA from Creekside's Mortgage Retirement Team

In 1995, before becoming Creekside and moving to CR 113, we created a mission statement that identifies who we are as a body of Christ. In summary it is:

Seek, _____, Share

Can you fill in the blank? Find the answer on the wall in the Gathering Area or in the November edition of the *Creekside Connection*.

Save the date of June 26, 2027 at Creekside to celebrate our mortgage retirement.

The Bee Line



Last month, *Beekeeper Ron* reminded us of the significance of our wonderful bees here on Creekside's property, and their contribution to our food supply from the surrounding trees and plants.

This month's *Bee Line* is a departure from what we usually report. Ron has talked and written several times about the use of commercial household insecticides and the importance of using safer alternatives. Well, this month I'm going to refer to a recent article in the **Goshen News**, from the **Elkhart County Purdue Extension Office**. It is warning homeowners about possible ingredient changes to household and lawncare products.

A press release from the extension office reads, "...due to shifting corporate strategies, litigation risks and regulatory pressures, several household pesticide giants have quietly overhauled their active ingredients. A recent prime example is **Roundup®**." "Historically", the press release continues, "**Roundup®** contained non-selective herbicide ingredient glyphosate, but today, residential versions no longer have it."

The article specifies a list of the actual ingredients and examples, which is not the purpose of my report, however it concludes by stating, "Because these household names have retained their legacy branding, using a newly formulated product in the exact same way you used the old one can lead to severe, unintended consequences."

"Assuming a product hasn't changed just because the label looks the same is a quick recipe for ruined lawns, unintended environmental runoff, or accidentally harming beneficial species." (I would add: **like bees, of course!**)

If anyone is interested in reading the specifics contained in the article, it is posted on the bulletin board at church.

As Autumn approaches and many of you think about preparing your lawns and gardens for winter, keep this in mind and remember to **read the label**... (and, of course, *Bee Kind*.)

Steve Barton, for the Bee Team

OCTOBER

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	31

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Graber, Sharon
- 3 Vance, Gail
- 5 Waggy, Crystal
- 6 Mayer, Robin Wentworth
- 10 Arnold, Zane
- 12 Lund, Andrew
- 12 Sollenberger, Beth
- 13 Nicodemus, Jan
- 13 Borem, Cheryl
- 16 Longenbaugh, John
- 19 Vance, Jim
- 19 Barton, Steve
- 20 Houser, Sharon
- 21 Ridsen, Nelda
- 23 Ellis, Vicki
- 25 Spiritoso, Brynne
- 29 Sowles, Marcia
- 29 Snyder, Leonard

EVENTS

- 2 Kitchen reserved, 9 am-3 pm
- 6 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 7 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
- 8 Garden work, 9:00 am
Christian Ed Team, 5:30 pm
- 9 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 10 Shine Workshop, 9-noon
- 11 Birthday celebration for
Sharon Graber, 3-5 pm
- 13 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Church Board, 6:30 pm

The Creekside Connection

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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.

