Creekside Church of the Brethren
Connection

November 2026



"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps". 1 Peter 2:21

I grew up in a family which sat down and ate supper together—which my mother cooked--every evening. We gave thanks for the meal, usually by singing a table grace. We didn't use the most colorful ones which the kids sing at Camp Mack, nothing which required motions, but we had a roster of five or six songs which someone would start, including the one we sang when we were hungry, because it was the shortest. It did not occur to me as a child that there was any faith formation going on at supper time; not in the process of offering thanks nor in the words of the songs, but I can still remember all of those table graces, and have come to value them differently as I raised our children and went into ministry.

One of my favorite table graces was a song written by Brethren poet and composer Wilbur Brumbaugh; you can find it in the Brethren Songbook. Here are the words of verse 1:

> Come, sing a song of gratitude, for gift of shelter, home and food,
> For will to live as Jesus would; for God and for our neighbor's good.

There is some significant theology going on here, especially in the second half of that verse. As we enter November and prepare for the observance of Thanksgiving, we hear a lot about the gifts of food and family, and maybe even the gift of faith. You can find mugs, T-shirts and plaques in autumn colors which read "Grateful, Thankful, Blessed," all of which are true. But those fail to capture the truth that the **will** to follow Jesus is a gift from God. The desire to follow Jesus is something which we all need help with, because the reality of following Jesus is that we all stumble and fall short along the way. This is not a reason to give up, but it does mean we can all use encouragement to get up and try again.

Although we can individually make a commitment to live for God and for our neighbor's good, I believe that this is most effectively expressed in community. We are formed in faith, we learn about Jesus, we praise God and we serve our neighbors as part of the family of God. The church is how we magnify Christ's presence in the world.

I give thanks for this church and for those who are joining us as new members in November. I have enjoyed meeting with them over the course of several weeks, and for their preparation and thoughtful questions about faith and about Creekside Church. May their commitment inspire each one of us to renew our baptismal vows to live with gratitude for what God has done and to follow in the steps of Jesus.

With gratitude— *Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

The month of October feels like a sprint at the end of a 10K race: possible, but tiring. It is a lovely season of the year, graced with some cool nights and warm, bright days. It is also a lovely time of the church year as we put the garden and garden projects to rest and look toward Thanksgiving and immediately after to Advent.

I was honored to be present with Wylan Shultz's family during the final days of her 99th year. Her Celebration of Life service will be at Creekside on Saturday, November 7; what would have been her hundredth birthday. It will be a different celebration than her children had planned, but a celebration nonetheless. I have been humbled by the beautiful gift of Myrtis Justiniano's needlework, donated by Wylan's family and from Myrtis' own collection. If you were able to purchase a piece, or simply enjoy the breadth and beauty of that work, you have been given something priceless.

I have appreciated the work of the Church Board and their thoughtful and diligent guidance for Creekside's budget, mortgage retirement, safety procedures and vision for the future. This leadership is sometimes taken for granted, but it influences many aspects of our life together, and when it is done well it is inconspicuous. I am grateful for the work of our administrative assistant Marita Barsoda; when I am away from the office for a time I am confident that things will be handled in an efficient and professional manner, even when schedules and equipment go awry.

I am looking forward to being in Florida with our family the third week of October. Trying to prepare for Mission and Ministry Board meetings and leaving on vacation immediately afterward has been trying. I am thankful for the work of Creekside's Worship Team and the extra effort they put into securing guest speakers and planning services in my absence. I trust that you will be inspired by hearing some different voices from the pulpit, and hope that you will welcome me back.

Grace and peace to you— *Pastor Rosanna*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, November 8

Please plan to stay after worship for Creekside's Fall Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, November 8. You have already been sent meeting information via email. There are paper copies on the Ushers' table which you can pick up, if you wish. Please bring information with you to the meeting on the 8th; there will be additional copies of the agenda and other handouts. There will be no adult Sunday School classes on November 8.

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. Only Creekside members may vote on the slate for elected positions for 2027. Other business, including approval of the 2027 budget, will be conducted by Consent Decision Making.

Thanks for your prayers for and participation in this meeting. We have a lot to celebrate in 2026, and to look forward to for 2027.

Pastor Rosanna

2027 CALENDARS AND ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

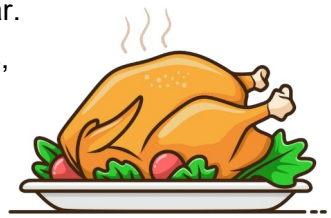
We will again be giving away 2027 Creekside calendars beginning mid-November. Thanks to photographer Larry Ford and lay-out artist Marita Barsoda for capturing and creating lovely images in our church building and on our property. Please take one per family; if you will see a friend of Creekside or extended family over the holidays, take one for them, too. Once we give away extras at the Cookie Walk, calendars will no longer be available. Deacons should take calendars for shut-in members, or direct Pastor Rosanna to set them aside.

Advent devotionals, "Finding Our Way," by Anna Lisa Gross will be available in regular and large-print versions by Sunday, November 22. Please take one per family—you are welcome to take an additional one to share with a neighbor or friend.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26. While this is a holiday when many of us celebrate abundance (and possibly even over-indulgence), there are families in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Through Sunday, November 23, you are invited to donate non-perishable goods for a Thanksgiving meal: consider things like stuffing mix, or canned gravy, cranberry sauce, or pumpkin. Many of these items are on sale this time of year.



Your donations will be taken to the food pantry at Church Community Services, which serves people in need in Elkhart County. CCS partners with local businesses to do a turkey give-away to families who qualify. Thank you for your generosity. God bless you.

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach Team

2026 LOVE OFFERING

Creekside will be collecting a Love Offering in November and December of 2026. This is over and above giving to support organizations who serve in our community, regional area, and globally. For 2026, those organizations are Church Community Services, Camp Alexander Mack, and Heifer International.

We recognize that many nonprofit organizations do valuable work, and we have supported some of them in the past and may do so again. We have limited this year's list to concentrate our impact. We are grateful to Creekside members who generously give their time and resources to many worthy causes.

We will collect this Love Offering through the last Sunday of the year, December 27. Please write "Love offering" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope. Thank you for your support for these ministries and for Creekside Church.

Church Board



COOKIE/CANDY WALK Saturday, December 5

Bakers and Candymakers: get out your favorite holiday recipes and start planning for Creekside's Cookie/Candy Walk! We will be happy to showcase your offerings to share with friends and neighbors. Look for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area to list what treats you are bringing, and to volunteer before or during the event. Loan us a cookie sheet or two through December 3, if you're able.

Please note the following:

- Cookie/Candy Walk is Saturday, December 5 from 8:30-11:30am
- Donations should be at Creekside by noon on Friday, December 4
- Buckeye making is Monday, November 16, 1:00-4:00pm
- Please label containers and cookie sheets so they can be returned to you

THANK YOU for making this a success!
Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman

HAT & MITTEN TREE

Outreach Team is inviting you to bring donations of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and gently used coats in adult or children's sizes. We will collect these beginning November 29 through the end of December. We have already received a number of hand-knit hats from a friend of Creekside; handmade items are wonderful but not required.

We will share items with The Window in Goshen, Church Community Services in Elkhart, and with local teachers for school-age children. Thank you!

Pastor Rosanna for Outreach Team

Praise, Blessing & J.O.Y.

with Mosun Oshogwemoh



J (JESUS)

What song or Bible verse brings praise to mind for you? Psalm 103, verse 1
What do you love about Creekside Church? The outreach ministry to the community and welcoming attitude.
What is one prayer you have for Creekside? That God bring more people to enjoy the goodness of his fellowship.

O (OTHERS)

What ministry do you do for others? Volunteer where needed; prayer team.
What connects you to people at Creekside? The Internet. Looking for a small church that is inclusive and welcoming.
What words of blessing or encouragement do you have to share with others? God shows up in unexpected situations and answers prayer.

Y (YOURSELF)

What would you like to share about yourself? I come from a big family and love people.
What gives you joy? Singing, helping others, seeing a need and meeting the need.

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

November is the best month to wrap up your RMDs and QCDs. Required Minimum Distributions are those annual amounts of money the IRS says we must take out of our 401k, IRA or other tax-deferred accounts once we reach age 73. When you take the RMD you also must pay a tax on the amount you removed. The IRS gets its money sooner or later. In this case, many years after you saved it for your retirement and did not pay taxes on it. Now comes QCDs. You may take some or all of your RMD as a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or donation to a qualified charity... 501(c)(3). Most public charities and churches (e.g. Creekside COB) qualify. The great thing is that any of that RMD money you use as a QCD is tax-free.

Don't wait until December to begin making these arrangements. You want to be sure there is enough time for you to make good decisions about which charities you donate to and for the paperwork to clear before the end of the year.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate for Creekside

TRIVIA from Creekside's Mortgage Retirement Team

Many of Creekside's ministries are "grounded" on our CR 113 property of how many acres? Can you name two of these ministries? Look for the answers in the December Creekside Connection.

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

The Bee Line



Harvesting Honey at the Creekside Apiary

There is something special about opening a beehive and discovering the golden honey produced by thousands of hardworking bees. At the Creekside Apiary, harvesting honey is more than producing a sweet treat—it is an opportunity to practice stewardship, learn about God's creation, and share the fruits of our work with the community.

Honey harvesting begins long before the honey reaches a jar. Throughout the spring and summer, our bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers and plants in the surrounding area. They transform that nectar into honey and carefully store it in the hive as food. Responsible beekeeping means making sure the bees have enough honey to remain healthy before any harvest takes place.

The harvest is led by experienced beekeepers who carefully evaluate the colonies and select only appropriate frames of mature, capped honey. The bees' needs always come first. Working with an active hive also requires proper protective equipment, knowledge, and careful attention to safety. Once the honey frames have been removed, the honey is separated from the wax and then strained to remove pieces of wax and allowed to settle. Finally, it is placed into clean, food-safe jars and labeled for sharing.

The process reminds us that a successful harvest depends on many small contributions. Thousands of bees work together, each playing a part in producing the honey. Beekeepers provide care and attention, while the surrounding flowers and plants provide the nectar that makes the harvest possible.

The apiary also teaches us patience. We cannot rush nature. Beekeepers pay attention to the health of the colony, the season, and available food supplies before deciding when a harvest is appropriate. Every jar represents the combined work of bees, beekeepers, volunteers, and the natural world around us.

Harvesting honey at the Creekside Church of the Brethren Apiary is ultimately about more than honey. It is about caring for God's creation, learning from nature, working together, and sharing the blessings of our labor.

Every jar of Creekside honey tells a story of stewardship, cooperation, patience, and community—and that makes every harvest worth celebrating.

Submitted by Ron Nicodemus, AI Generated by Ron's grandson, Micah Miller

NOVEMBER 2026

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

5 Schmucker, Beth
7 Arnold, Maddison
7 Buchanan, Esther
7 Hoke, Lodema
7 Marcin, Tiara
8 Prahl, Jessica
12 Griffith, Anne
13 Rassi, Irene
16 Ganger, Jay
16 Vardaman, Lisa
19 Carlson, Kyle
20 Arnold, Brian
24 Barwick, Cathy
26 Stutsman, Kathy
28 Rodgers, Valerie

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Miller, Myron & Sandy
27 Ellis, Donald & Vicki

EVENTS

6 Worship Team, 9:30 am
7 Wylan Shultz Celebration of Life: Visitation 10 am, Service 11 am
8 Congregational Meeting, 10:45 am
10 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
11 Finance Team, 1:30 pm
13 Game Night, 7:00 pm
17 Church Board, 6:30 pm
26 Thanksgiving Day
28 *Church reserved, noon-5:00 pm*

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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