

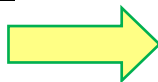
Li'l Ripples

May 2024
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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from
Pastor Mark



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**NEXT DEADLINE
FOR LI'L RIPPLES
IS MAY 17**

Remembering John Knox

On our recent trip to Scotland, I was inspired again by the life story of John Knox, who almost single handedly brought the Protestant Reformation to Scotland. We visited his house in Edinburgh, which is now a museum honoring him. From Scotland the Presbyterian form of church organization and the Reformed Tradition of theological thought came to the United States and had a remarkable impact which continues to this day.

Snapshots from the life of John Knox:

- The dates of his life are 1514 to 1572; exactly the era of the Protestant Reformation in Europe.
- His theological education and commitment to the Protestant Reformation were formed under the influence of John Calvin in Geneva.
- He worked with George Wishart in Scotland to plant the Protestant faith. Wishart was burned at the stake for his views and his attempts to translate the Bible into the common language of the people. Knox was punished with 18 months serving in a French galley as an enslaved oarsman.
- In 1561 the Scottish Parliament requested that John Knox and five other ministers write a new confession of faith to explain and teach the Reformation in Scotland. Knox was the primary author of the *Scots Confession*. In response the Parliament officially committed to the Protestant Reformation and created the *Church of Scotland* as a Presbyterian form of church throughout Scotland.
- Knox's deep commitment to democracy in the church inspired the democratic principles which became part of the government of the United States.
- In 1563 Knox had a long, deeply personal conflict with Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots. Knox refused to compromise his principles in response to her royal authority, and finally Knox's views and Protestant theology were firmly established throughout Scotland. But this created a deep, sustained animosity between the Roman Catholics and Protestants which carried on for generations and later spawned terrible violence in Ireland.
- Knox is now honored and remembered in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.
- His epitaph reads: "Here lies one who feared God so much that he never feared the face of any man."

Remember John Knox: we have received a rich heritage in the church!

In Christ!

Mark



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



National Day of Prayer

Please join us **Thursday, May 2, at 5:00 PM** for the National Day of Prayer Outdoor Service in the Peace Garden. An informal picnic of hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks will be available at 5:30 PM.

Happy Mothers' Day

The Men's Breakfast group has purchased flowers for all the women of the church. As you depart the worship service on **May 12th**, men will be stationed in the narthex to present a flower to all the women.

Congregational Picnic and Summer Worship Hours

Please save the date - **Sunday, June 2, 2024** - to attend our annual congregational picnic following the worship service. Also, we will begin our summer worship schedule of **one service at 10:00 AM** on that date.

Adult Group

This Spring our Sunday morning group is reading and discussing the book of *Romans*. We always have lively, honest and thought-provoking discussions. Join us at **9:45** in **room 3 of Fellowship Hall**.

Susan Nunamaker

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study **meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7:00 PM**. This spring we are reading and discussing Max Lucado's book *Help Is Here*. Max writes on how to enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit and experience the fresh strength, fulfilling purpose, and vigorous life the Holy Spirit offers.

Dana McDonald

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet **May 21st at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**. We will be discussing Hillside's Recreation Day. All women of the church are invited for fellowship. We love having new guests!

Roz Santay

C.A.R.E.S

LMCPC supported C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) from April 1-15. Our members purchased and prepared hot breakfasts for the homeless in Gettysburg during this two-week period. Guests arrived at the St. James Youth House between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. each day for a nourishing hot breakfast prepared by LMCPC volunteers.

Many thanks go out to this year's group of volunteers – Linda Lapp, Phyllis Smith, Lauren Neely, Deb Stottlemeyer, Len & Dale Williams, Pat Diehl, Alicia Dehoff, and Kris Englund-Krieger – without whose help and support, this ministry would surely die! This collective C.A.R.E.S. effort fed 39 men, 20 women and 11 children this year.

Surely more helping hands during this two-week period would lessen the burden on all of us. This ministry is vital to the welfare of the poorest among us! **Please consider volunteering next year**, so we can continue this ministry. Thank-you. All our appreciation and love,

Joe & Elaine Reichl (Coordinators)

Thank You

Thank you to all our members for your prayers, food, cards, and phone calls following Sandy's recent surgery. We are so blessed to be members of such a caring congregation who show such concern for all of us. We sincerely value all the friendships we have made at this church.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Sandy and Ken Howe

HAVE YOU HEARD . . .

We are not Dairy Queen, but we have great Sundays.

(Sign posted outside of a local church.)

*Happy
Birthday*



*LMCC
Family*

- 2. Lynn Miller
- 7. Tim Myers
- 7. Jed Smith
- 8. Terry Gladhill
- 9. Cathy Michaliga

- 13. Elaine Reichl
- 13. Doris Wampler
- 16. Jacquie Higgins
- 16. Carol Moser
- 16. Cindy Phillips

- 19. Al Miller
- 21. Ethan Miner
- 23. Carolyn Speck
- 25. Marcia Grove
- 25. Leonard Orleski
- 27. Sallie Sites

Christ Died for Our Sins - An Allegory

I know what the Bible says about Christ dying for our sins, but my understanding of how this works is not crystal clear. I guess the scientist in me wants a simple $A+B=C$ explanation.

Reading *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis was a great help to my understanding. In addition, there is an allegory that I heard in a sermon in the 1980s that I still remember today. This allegory (following) added greatly to my understanding.

In France, during World War II, two young American soldiers had been together for almost a year. They had gotten to know each other quite well. Anyone who has experienced combat can tell you that soldiers sharing a foxhole develop a very close bond.

One of these soldiers was from a solid midwestern family. He was loved by his parents; he was respectful, kind, and helpful to his family and neighbors; he went to church almost every Sunday. He had never gotten into trouble. He was liked by everyone in his small town. Everyone knew that this kid had a great future ahead of him.

The other young soldier in the foxhole was just the opposite. He was from a broken family. He had quit high school. He seemed always to be in trouble - fighting, drinking, and on occasion stealing. He had a police record. This kid was mad at the world. He was at a loss as to where his life was headed, but he knew it wasn't good.

In spite of their differences, the two young soldiers became close friends. During their long nights in the foxhole, they told each other everything about their families, their towns, and their life experiences. As fate would have it, during a German counter-attack, the good soldier got wounded. It was a bad wound. The unwounded soldier yelled repeatedly for a medic, but none came. As day turned to evening, the good soldier got weaker. They both reluctantly began to talk about the inevitable. The soldier with the bad background expressed sincere sorrow that he was not the one dying since his life was ruined already. The good soldier took off his dog tags and exchanged them with the dog tags of his friend. He said, "Now when I die with your dog tags on, your problems, mistakes, and police record will die with me. Here's what you need to do. When you get out of this war, I want you to go to my home. My parents will take you in. I want you to live the life I would have had. Be good from now on. My parents will help you. I wrote my parents and told them that you had a good heart and had made some mistakes that can be forgiven. My parents said that if you come to them, they will welcome you in with open arms and give you a fresh start. You will have a clean slate. God bless you my friend."

The wounded soldier died.

John McMann

DO YOU KNOW -

Christ built a bridge for us with 2 boards and 3 nails?

(Sign posted outside of a local church)

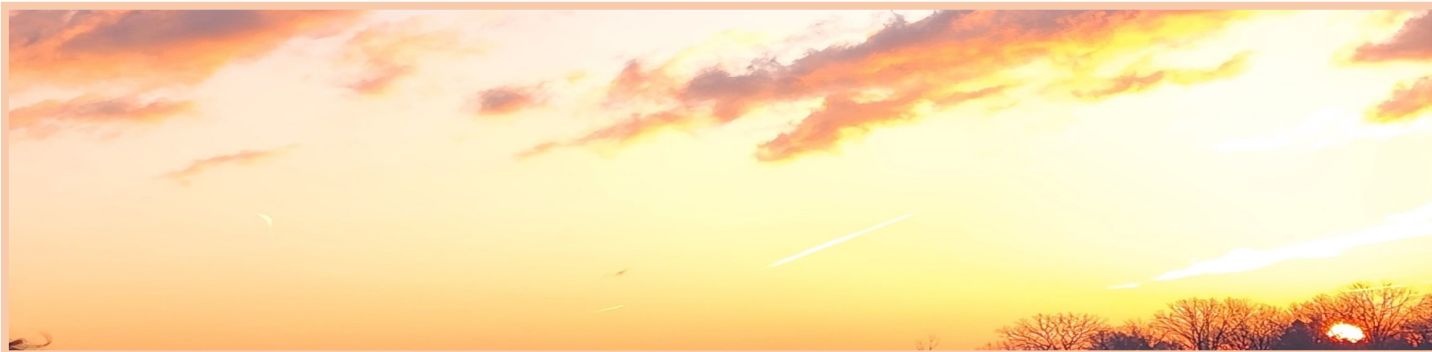
EASTER MORNING 2024



The Empty Tomb by Jenny Waybright



Photos by Jim Richardson



Easter Morning Sunrise

Photo by Jim Richardson

THE WOMEN OF EASTER by Liz Curtis Higgs

For Lent, I read a book that actually made me proud to be a woman of faith, and this past Easter, I found great comfort in the book's message that author Liz Curtis Higgs proclaims: "Never doubt for a moment that women matter to the Almighty." Her goal in writing *The Women of Easter* was, "to help women embrace the grace of God with joy and abandon." In my estimation, she certainly succeeded. This past Easter, though far from my beloved LMCP, I felt so much love and gratitude for what God has given me.

I found it both uplifting and empowering to learn in *The Women of Easter* that even though women were not highly regarded in Jewish society, they were held in high esteem by God. He observed their compassion, noted their courage, and treasured them as his daughters. In Scripture, there are no stories of women betraying Jesus, denying Jesus or abandoning Jesus. They were loyal to him from start to finish. So in this book, Higgs examines the women profiled in the Easter story: Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene. The book focuses on the important role women played in the Easter story. For example, women were the first to know and see His resurrection. Isn't it ironic that God chose women to serve as his witnesses on Easter Sunday because the first word spoken by the risen Christ is "Woman," surely meant for all His daughters throughout eternity and telling us that we matter. This is the same word he used when addressing his mother from the cross, thus singling out Mary Magdalene, a midlife caregiver and faithful follower. How special, ironic and significant it is that he sent a woman to tell others the good news by proclaiming to Mary Magdalene, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and told the others, "I have seen the Lord."

On Easter Sunday, I thanked author Higgs for focusing light on the women role models in my own life - those who are raising families while working, those caring for ailing spouses and aging parents, those wives of pastors who accompany them and stand nearby as their husbands perform the sacraments, speak from the pulpit or travel for mission work. My own personal memory at this past Christmas Eve's early service was of the pastor's wife, standing in the chilly dusk next to Route 116 lighting candles in the luminarias to signal the way for parishioners to attend the later evening service in celebration of our Lord's birth. She, like those of Higgs' book, demonstrate the worth, the inclusion, and the importance of women in Christ's life and his ministry, and they personify that what really matters to God is the relationship we have with him while knowing that he values us so greatly.

A Book Review by Kathy A Megyeri



Sometimes, when it's dreary,
It's gloomy and gray,
It seems like the sunshine
Is so far away.
It feels like it's raining;
A fog of despair...
The darkness gets darker
And harder to bear

(Chorus) Then, I see the flowers,
And I understand
Their perfect reflection
Of God's guiding hand.
The splendor of Solomon, laid out
for all to see...
When I see the flowers
God speaks to me.

He said, "Don't be anxious,
The birds of the blue
Are nourished completely,
And, so, He'll feed you."
Consider the lilies,
Resplendent and pure:
These things He will give you!
Yes, this, and much more!

(Chorus) Then, I see the flowers,
And I understand
Their perfect reflection
Of God's guiding hand.
The splendor of Solomon, laid out
for all to see...
When I see the flowers
God speaks to me.

Easter Morning Photos - Jim Richardson

Lyrics - Dirk Grove

Music : An Essential Element of Worship

How many church songs can you remember from your youth? Chances are you have already begun humming "Jesus Loves Me," "The B-I-B-L-E," or "This Little Light of Mine." Music reinforces the scriptures found in God's Holy Word, helping us to learn and recall important religious concepts.

As members of our congregation sing together in a worship service, they are able to connect with God as well as each other. Worship music provides language to express our praise and adoration of God. Singing together, as congregation members, or choir members, they are strengthening their sense of unity and community.

Music is the background music of our lives, so keep a curated collection of hymns and worship songs in your mind to fit any problem or situation you may encounter. The following titles are the most popular Christian hymns:

Amazing Grace

Holy, Holy, Holy

How Great Thou Art

It Is Well

Great Is thy Faithfulness

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Be Thou My Vision

All Creatures of our God and King

Blessed Assurance

To God Be the Glory

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Jesus Paid It All

The month of May will continue with our regular schedule of music as follows:

May 5 – Glory Singers/Faithful Voices – Communion

May 12 – Wires and Wood – "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

May 19 - Glory Singers/Faithful Voices "Heavenly Sunshine"

May 26 – Glory Singers/Faithful Voice "On Eagles Wing"

Beginning in June we will return to one 10:00 service and a variety of special music!

Linda Clark

www.pausetoreadbooks.webs.com

A Sunday School teacher asked her children, as they were on their way to their church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



(Thanks to Kathy Megyeri)



TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY :

Attendees of LMCC having a transportation need should call one of the following drivers directly to arrange for a date, time, and destination. If none of these volunteers can meet your need, please call Al Miller at 717 - 642 - 1574 or 443 - 977 - 9129

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS :

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305

Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123



Daffodils in the area of Fellowship Hall

Editor's photo

Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence**Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

From the ACPM April Newsletter.

Electronic Newsletter – If you are receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and would prefer to receive it via email, send your full name and your preference to Chaplain Perez' email (aperez@adamscountypa.gov).

Ministry Opportunity – ACPM is looking for a qualified person to join their leadership team as the treasurer. If interested, contact Chaplain Perez.

Assistant to the Chaplain – ACPM is looking for a volunteer to assist the chaplain, serving two days a week for three hours each. If interested, contact Chaplain Perez.

Adams Rescue Mission

From the ARM March Newsletter.

Calling all artists! This year's Upcycled Art Auction will be held at The Gettysburg Academy on June 7, including a live auction event. Art must be submitted by May 24 to be included in the show. The application can be downloaded from www.adamsrescuemission.org/events.

Agape Boutique – twice but nice! The newest thrift store in downtown Gettysburg, at 114 Chambersburg Street, held its grand opening on March 1. Store hours are Thursday-Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm. Proceeds support the Agape House and Adams Rescue Mission.

Warehouse Church – Get to know ARM, our staff, men, and families! Wear a coat, bring a chair, park in the gravel lot on the East side of the building, follow signs to enter the warehouse, invite your friends, kids are welcome but no children's church. The first Sunday of every month, 9:30 – 11 am.

Tender Care

Walk for Life, May 11 – You can register for this virtual event at www.tendercare.org/walk or call 717-633.9685 or email debbie@tendercare.org.

Afghan Families Update

Many thanks to the adult Sunday School classes which donated money to purchase evening meals for the two Afghan families on the last Friday of Ramadan! Susan Nunamaker and Sandy Buhrman delivered the meals, which were very much appreciated.

Mumtaz, husband, and father in the Ahmadzai family has returned from Afghanistan where he visited his father who wasn't doing well. No updates on his father's health were available at publication time.

Jamal Nasiri reported on his first semester at Elizabethtown College where he maintained a 3.6 gpa his first semester. Jamal has been active on campus, helping with a camp-wide fair for kids, managing the college's D3 wrestling team to help them organize and prepare mats for events. He gave a speech to the campus' Junior Girl Scout Troop about himself and his home country. He says that by describing what he has been through during the last two years, he presented to them that nothing is impossible.



A Letter from Thomas & Cheri Henry

Development & Care of International Workers
with One Another Ministries in Staffordshire, England

We do not lose heart. It was a bittersweet visit to Türkiye in February. Looking through the eyes of secular media might cause one to lose hope for a country. But God showed us that his power is working to accomplish his purposes there.

A few days before we arrived there was a murder at a Catholic church in Istanbul. ISIS claimed responsibility, likely tied to events in Israel. Jammed guns prevented it from getting worse. Protestant believers never know if their church will be next.

Türkiye is still feeling the impact of the earthquake that devastated a large swath of the country in February 2023. The death toll is now unofficially over 150,000! Tragically, unemployment, economic challenges exacerbated by Türkiye's failing economy, and the inability for many to return to their homes and schools are causing Türks to lose hope in a government they for so long have supported. This doesn't even consider the ongoing emotional recovery from such large-scale trauma. Erdoğan has been in power for 21 years.

International Christian workers, some considered by the government to be "a threat to national security," continue to get kicked out of Türkiye. Around 250 since Andrew Brunson was released from prison in 2018.

Such trials could leave the church, foreign workers, and us discouraged. But God... reminds us to keep praying and remain hopeful. The church as a whole is growing. Most of the volunteers going into the earthquake zone are Christians, providing for the physical and spiritual needs of those left with nothing. New workers are still being called to Türkiye to serve (although their visas are getting revoked or denied more quickly). The Bible Correspondence Course that we used in the 90s is seeing an increase in seekers, new believers, and those involved in the ministry. And a good number of our non-believing Turkish friends we met with in Feb shared encouraging stories of how they are seeking, moving toward Christ. PTL!

GOD HAS GOOD WORKS FOR US RIGHT WHERE WE ARE

One of the surprises of living here in England has been how warm and receptive people have been. God is giving us favor - in our village, on canal paths, in the wider community, in churches we visit, and at Scottish Country Dancing! Cheri has had many opportunities to proclaim Christ with shopkeepers. As she continues involvement in a weekly group therapy session, she is making a spiritual impact. During this onramp for us back into ministry, spiritual conversations, among believers and non-believers alike, are opening eyes to the gospel. Although England is not our primary mission target, God is helping us see that he has good works for us here. With an active Christian population of only 5%, the UK needs the light of Christ, and we don't want to keep it under a bushel. **PRAY** for courage and faith.

Continued on the next page . . .

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NEW LAUNCH OF AN OLD INITIATIVE

In March we attended the European Member Care Consultation in Budapest, Hungary. For the first time, we represented One Another Ministries and made our presence known among organizations and teams working in and around Europe. In a sense, we are beginning again to get the word out to the mission world about the **Relational Skills Intensive** we offer couples, singles, and teams. **PRAY** for a new launch of these resources to support couples and help develop healthy relationships on mission teams.

Over the past decade, our focus has been with couples. However, Cheri's heart especially has been to serve single missionaries who often don't receive adequate attention. We have worked hard at offering the intensive to singles and teams but have not gained traction. So, of special note at the conference, we spent time with the Shoulder2Shoulder team, an initiative of One Another. We love their focus on developing a theology of singleness and encouraging and empowering singles at their annual gathering. We hope to align ourselves with them as we all have a vision to see healthy relationships among "sacred siblings" - singles and couples, joined and held together, serving side by side, on the mission field. **PRAY** for ongoing discussions. And check out their resources at the bottom of One Another's [Shoulder2Shoulder](#) page.

A PLACE OF BELONGING

Whether on furlough in KY or serving overseas, we long to be part of the family of Jesus. We need the wider body of Christ - the ongoing encouragement of being in community, the ministry of the Word, the corporate worship, the rich fellowship of believers, serving and being served, being the light of Christ to those inside and outside the kingdom. We have visited many churches and rejoice in what God is doing in each place. Where do we fit? ASK God to show us. We have narrowed it down to a couple of churches. We're not in a hurry, but we believe God wants every person to settle into a local church. And when we do, in Christ and in faith, together we will be more alive and more beautiful.



A VERY HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY!

The last week of March Thomas' dad, brother, and sister-in-law came to visit us here in England to celebrate Dad's milestone. It was a good call, as he has longed to return to England and cannot travel on his own. He's still driving, in good health, and pretty independent. Although more and more he needs the family's support. He still lives independently in Colleyville, TX close to Thomas' two brothers. Thankfully there is a very helpful single man living with him to provide a presence in the house.

TWO MORE PRAYER REQUESTS

Two young couples have joined One Another Ministries and, Lord willing, will join our team this year. **PRAY** for each as they are raising needed support. More later.

Thomas' headaches and poor sleeping have returned. Not as severe but **PRAY** for healing and solutions. We see another specialist at the end of April.

GOD is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1



A Letter from Betsey and Eric Moe (Guatemala)

Hello, friends!

The year has gotten off to a good start here in Guatemala. In the Intercultural Encounters program of CEDEPCA (The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America), we hosted nine groups between January and March. I (Betsey) was a facilitator on three of those trips. CEDEPCA has a team of internal and external facilitators who are able to accompany groups and share the load. I don't often talk about what exactly goes on during a trip, so I'll take you along on my journey on two of those visits.

On the first trip, I accompanied a group of pastors and former mission co-workers from the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest (my home presbytery!) to the Alta Verapaz area, where we visited two churches in the Polochic Presbytery as well as a school reading project sponsored by one of the churches. The Inland Northwest Presbytery has had a presbytery-to-presbytery partnership with the Polochic Presbytery for more than 20 years, but their last visit was at least seven years ago. This visit was to get reacquainted, to learn and share about the state of the church and the communities we come from, and to pray with one another. Presbyteries in the United States and in Guatemala go through a lot of changes within seven years, both with turnover in leadership and membership – so these kinds of reconnection visits are important. I served as the Spanish-to-English interpreter alongside Josué, our Q'eqchi'-to-Spanish interpreter. With 22 Mayan languages being spoken in Guatemala, it is not uncommon in rural communities to encounter people who only speak their Mayan language. So, I thank God for people like Josué who make relationships and partnerships possible!

Through CEDEPCA's connections in the country, we were also able to introduce the Inland Northwest pastors to the Self-Development of People youth bakery project in Guatemala City and the Corazón de Mujer weaving co-op in Chimaltenango, two organizations where stories of resilience and hope abound.

During the second trip, I served as the Logistics Facilitator for the Faith Stories project, a collaboration between a Louisville-based theater company (Looking for Lilith), First Presbyterian Church of Winchester Virginia, and a group of indigenous women from various rural communities in Guatemala. This trip was filled with creativity, movement, story-sharing and laughter as all the participants shared memories of people who made an impact in their lives and then brought some of those stories to life through acting. On our final night all together, we enacted John 13, Jesus washing the disciples' feet, as a way to express our mutual love and service to, for, and with one another.

What a privilege it is for me to come alongside travelers to Guatemala who, as Rick Steves would say, are "getting to know their neighbors." Knowing our global neighbors and allowing ourselves to *be known* is the one path I see toward the just and peaceful community that God has created us for.

Of course, there is so much more to tell about each trip I facilitate for CEDEPCA. I do hope that if you are able, you will come one day on an Intercultural Encounters trip to Guatemala! Eric and I send our sincere thanks to all of you who come alongside us and make our work possible through your prayers, your friendship, and your financial support.

Que Dios les bendiga!

Rev. Betsey Moe, Intercultural Encounters Facilitator, CEDEPCA

PRISON BREAKTHROUGH FOR KURDISH MAN IN JOURNEY TO FAITH

They put me in a 3×3 ft cell. Out of six months in prison, I spent 55 days in solitary confinement. I regard them as the best days of my life because in this place I was comforted and knew the Lord.

Pastor Nihad Hassan, a Kurdish man from Syria, had a long journey of coming to faith in Christ, which culminated in his experiencing God's presence and healing while in jail as a political prisoner. He shared his powerful story on the SAT-7 ARABIC program My Life Journey in an episode that attracted 26,000 views and over 900 comments on Facebook alone.

Nihad came from a non-Christian background and went through many difficulties in his childhood, which caused him to start asking questions about faith from the age of 12. He shared how he first heard God's voice as a young man in the Kurdish militia. He was listening to a Christian radio program that was discussing the woman caught in adultery, and it made him realize that none of us is without sin.

Nihad's journey towards faith in Christ continued as he became more involved in the Kurdish cause. The Kurds are one of the world's largest people groups without a state and have been embroiled in a century-long fight for rights, autonomy, and ultimately an independent Kurdistan.

"I felt I didn't have a home country, identity, or dignity," Nihad said. "At that time, someone got me a book about how to become a new person. It discusses the troubles a person goes through, and at the end of the book there's a small prayer. I prayed this prayer and found some words that I needed."

"A Friend Closer Than a Brother"

Nihad was imprisoned twice when he attempted to escape Syria to Europe. The first imprisonment was for just 12 days, while the second was for a period of six months. It was during this second time behind bars that God revealed Himself to Nihad in a special way and worked powerfully in his life.

"I heard the voice of the Lord," Nihad said. "He told me he loves me. In this place, I was filled with the Holy Spirit... I was comforted and found a friend who is closer than a brother."

He shared how he received physical and emotional healing, and how he started witnessing to other prisoners.

"They accused me of being an apostate, but I told them that Jesus is my Savior. He is alive when all other prophets died. I told them it is like being stranded at sea trying to get the crew of a large ship to notice you, but they don't, and then a man comes in a small boat holding a light and coming to save me. I asked them, 'Should I choose to continue trying to get the attention of the crew or go with the man in the small boat?' This is Jesus," Nihad said.

Eventually the prison warden helped him get out of jail, and Nihad went to Lebanon, where he started studying to become a pastor.

When the civil war broke out in Syria, Nihad's family also moved to Lebanon, and they were critical of his Christian faith and theological studies.

"Today my father is asking me to return to my old religion. My uncles rejected me, but a year ago, one of them called me, saying, 'Nihad, I am going to Europe and the first thing I am doing is to become a believer.'

Continued on the following page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

My cousins also believed. One of my sisters believed and got baptized. I know many members in my family are proud of me.”

A Call for Peace

Pastor Nihad raises the Kurdish cause around the world, and he has traveled to South Africa, South Korea, Egypt, and Thailand to speak for his people. During his interview on My Life Journey, he made an emotional call for peace:

I hope that all the wars end because the war separated us. It hurt us. I pray for peace in this country and the Arab world. I pray that we wouldn't have conflicts because I have a sister in Germany, my parents in Switzerland, a brother here, and a sister in Türkiye. The one who tasted war knows how horrible it is. We miss our country; we can only go as far as the borders... Our family and many Kurdish families are separated from one another because of political conflicts.

The episode prompted a flood of phone calls and social media engagement as viewers responded to Pastor Nihad's story. One of them was a man called Antoun from Lebanon, who called to share the impact Pastor Nihad had had on him: “I came to faith because of my brother Nihad. I saw him in some pictures, and he was the first Kurd I knew who had received Christ. Seeing him greatly encouraged me. Please ask him to pray for me and for my family. Pastor Nihad is a blessing, and may God use him as a light to the whole world.”

My Life Journey is a new program on **SAT-7 ARABIC** that started airing in December. It gives a platform for Christian leaders and influencers to be vulnerable about their struggles and share how God's grace has helped them to overcome trials.



The Giving Corner

WHAT IS LEGACY GIVING ?

Simply stated, Legacy Giving is a means to ensure your church's future. Your church is your spiritual home - and so much more. It's the place where children have been baptized, youth have come to know Christ, where couples began a new life together. It's a starting place from which we go forth to serve the needs of the community. You can bless your church, its community ministry and the generations of Christians who follow you with a gift to your church in your estate. Past Legacy Gifts to Lower Marsh creek helped in the building of the church addition; the establishment of the Ginny woods scholarship fund; and, more recently, the upkeep and maintenance of our cemetery. Please consider a Legacy Gift as your investment in future generations of Lower Marsh Creek Church. (I & S Team)

Editor's Note : The above article was originally printed in the May 2023 issue of the newsletter.



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on April 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 4/20/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):156, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56, Family Members: 51, Total: 263.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for March. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

Approved the following events and business items:

- o Saturday, September 7, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Diaper Drive under the leadership of Kris Englund-Krieger.
- o Sunday, September 29, 2024: Congregational Budget Conversation between services in the Fellowship Hall.
- o Sunday, October 13, 2024: Stewardship Sunday with a Potluck Dinner in the evening.
- o Approved that the 2025 Marriage Retreat be held March 7-9, 2025, at the White Sulphur Spring Retreat in Manns Choice, PA with a cost per couple of \$440.00.
- o Approved recommendation to distribute COVID relief funds received from the IRS in the amount of \$10,539.19 as follows:
 - o \$8,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – designated as follows: \$3,000 for Israel/Palestine response, \$3,000 for Ukraine response, \$1,000 for Pakistan response, and \$1,000 for Spring Tornadoes response.
 - o \$1,000 to Presbyterian Hunger Society
 - o Remainder to Adams County Prison Ministry
- o Accepted with gratitude an unrestricted gift of \$113,200 from Randy Smith.
- o Accepted the Financial Review Report for 2023 from the Church Financial Review Committee. The report affirmed that the Church's financial procedures are in good order. The Financial Secretary and Session teams are doing a great job with being good stewards of the financial resources of the Church. There were no recommendations from the committee for improvement. Expressed thanks to Karen Richardson, Dave Diehl, and Mary Smith for their service on this committee.

News from the Home Ministry Team – maintains the church properties including the cemetery

Team Members: Doyle Waybright, chair; Ron Milhimes and Lanny Winters

- o Saturday, June 1, 2024: Need volunteers to set up canopies for the Congregational Picnic to be held the next day.
- o Work continues on obtaining quotes and researching the possibility of solar panels for the education building.
- o Still investigating the possibility/feasibility of a Pickle Ball Court.

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News from the Interpretation and Stewardship Team – manages church finances and missions

Team Member: Lauren Neely, chair

- o The team has decided to award 8 scholarships from the Virginia Woods Scholarship Fund of \$1,000.00 each. The families and recipients will be invited to the Church Picnic on June 2, 2024, for presentation of the awards.
- o The Adult Sunday School classes donated money to purchase Ramadan meals for the two Afghan families which were delivered on Friday, April 5, 2024.
- o The Board of Pensions website underwent a major overhaul over the months of December, January, and February. As a result, no payments from the Church were billed until March. This resulted in a full payment for the first three months of the year to be reflected in the March financials.

News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church

Team Members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynne Orner and Susan Nunamaker

- o Recommended that the Church look into providing a microphone system for the outside Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday.
- o Pursuing an outreach opportunity with the Men's Shelter at Adams County Rescue Mission to distribute welcome bags to new residents.
- o Reminder for service on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2, 2024. Service will be at 5pm followed by hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks.
- o The Men's Breakfast group will distribute flowers on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, 2024, under the direction of Dick Belenski.
- o Reminder that on Friday, June 14, 2024, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM, Fun Fest will take place at the Gettysburg Rec Park. Children's Bibles and Bible Verse cards will be given away and games will be available.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o A memorial service for member Raymond Wright who passed away on March 25, 2024 is planned for Saturday, April 27, 2024, in the sanctuary with burial immediately following the service at the Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA.
- o A memorial service for member Margaret "Peggy" Benner who passed away on April 4, 2024 is planned for Sunday, April 28, 2024, in the sanctuary with a private burial with the family at the Fairfield Union Cemetery in Fairfield, PA.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – MARCH 2024

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	March—2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$21,657.00	\$91,266.00	\$262,571.00
Other Income	\$3,435.11	\$21,129.32	\$63,415.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,092.11	\$112,395.32	\$325,986.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$547.80	\$965.56	\$14,750.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$26.40	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,148.00	\$5,648.00
Home Ministry	\$3,855.27	\$10,724.38	\$87,100.00
Church Administration	\$22,890.19	\$50,574.04	\$215,088.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,293.26	\$67,438.79	\$325,986.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$2,201.15	\$44,956.53	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 3/31/2024: \$104,343.33

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	March—2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$5,182.00	\$35,555.00	\$91,200.00
Other Income	\$558.20	\$1,108.32	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,740.20	\$36,663.32	\$91,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,729.00	\$31,199.00	\$91,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$988.80	\$5,464.32	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 3/31/2024: \$5,438.57

Notable expenses for March: \$8,550.75—Board of Pensions payment due to a problem with the Board of Pensions website

FIRST QUARTER REPORT — 2024**INVESTMENTS**

Account Description	Opening Balance 12/31/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Unrealized Gains/Losses	Closing Balance 3/31/2024
Capitol Improvement Fund	\$125,188.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,077.92	\$141,266.72
Cemetery Fund	\$3,631.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266.11	\$3,897.19
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	\$161,302.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,629.94	\$175,932.07
Mission Endowment Fund	\$134,456.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,655.04	\$145,111.17
Woods Scholarship Fund	\$94,437.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,627.29	\$102,065.12
David Scott Youth Fund	\$91,718.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$4,187.12	\$87,531.49
300th Anniversary Fund	\$0.00	\$4,134.95	\$0.00	\$31.72	\$4,166.67
			Total Investments:		\$702,791.82

DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS

Account Description	Opening Balance 12/31/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 3/31/2023
Winter Banquet	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$0.00
Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers	\$7,993.64	\$3,449.00	\$2053.50	\$9,389.14
Marriage Retreat Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sanctuary Flowers	\$1,020.80	\$583.00	\$1,059.00	\$544.80
Men's Breakfast	\$82.92	\$125.00	\$187.73	\$20.19
Bulletins	\$299.68	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$319.68
Pastor's Study Leave	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
David Scott Youth Fund	\$7,697.02	\$0.00	\$228.32	\$7,468.70
Bible Study Books	\$567.46	\$0.00	\$497.13	\$70.33
Spiritual Life Extra	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Spiritual Life Activities Fund	\$1,091.32	\$0.00	\$158.71	\$932.61

SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Account Description	Opening Balance 12/31/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 3/31/2023
Membership Assistance Fund	\$3,391.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,391.85
Cemetery Fund	\$18,073.19	\$2,008.48	\$2170.33	\$17,911.34
Gifts & Memorials Fund	\$3,654.34	\$1,345.00	\$0.00	\$4,999.34
Checking Acct.— M&T Bank	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
1865 Knoxlyn Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Li'l Ripples May 2024



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Early Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Late Worship 11:00 AM
Nursery 8:30 AM - 12:15 AM

Church Office Information

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Phone Number 717-642-5332
Email Address office@lmcpc.org
Website www.lmcpc.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

“To glorify God, deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the family of believers,
and to reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.”