



Li'l Ripples

OCTOBER 2023

Volume 23 Issue 10

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from Pastor Mark -

Counting Time

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90: 12)

As we turn the page of our calendars to the beautiful month of October, those of us in leadership positions within our congregation also turn our attention to our annual Stewardship Campaign. Once again, our Interpretation and Stewardship team will be requesting that each of you ponder, pray and make a commitment to our congregation for 2024. Each of our Teams has done careful work preparing for the future and evaluating the financial resources needed to pay for that future; our budget team, the mission team, the Interpretation and Stewardship team, and our Session have each spent important time and energy preparing next year's budgets. Our financial picture is strong and robust, a testament to the congregation's profound generosity and the impeccable financial management of our leadership. Thank you all!

Here I want to highlight our Stewardship Campaign and encourage your participation. But I especially want to highlight the other more hidden side of our commitment to the Church: the gift of time. I believe the oft-repeated truth that time is our most valuable resource. So, ONE, please make a financial commitment to our congregation for 2024 and submit an *Estimate of Giving Card*, which is vitally important to our future planning. And, SECOND, ponder the gift of time. How much time do you give back to God? All the days of our lives are a gift from God; we have a duty and an opportunity to give some back. Give our valuable time back to God by spending time with God in prayer and Scripture; give time back to God by joining the gathered church family in worship and praise each Sunday morning; give time back to God by serving others and reaching out in the mission of Christ. As the Psalmist declares, "Learn to count time!"

In Christ!

Mark

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OCTOBER 20



CHURCH LIFE - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



275 Years – Honoring the Past, Faithful in the Present, Praying for the Future

Our goal is to fill 275 shoeboxes to send the Gospel message to the children of the future.

Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week, November 13-20, 2023

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies and deliver them to children in need around the world, as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Each shoebox is a **Gospel opportunity** because it comes with a 96-page book called "The Greatest Journey." It contains 12 lessons to help children know Jesus. The 12 lessons are divided into the following 3 sections: Know the Gospel, Grow in the Gospel, and Share the Gospel. The book is printed in the child's language.

This year in celebration of LMCP's 275th anniversary, **our goal is to pack 275 boxes**. The cost of shipping the shoeboxes has been paid for by our church's David Scott Youth Fund; therefore, you needn't enclose a shipping fee. Hopefully this will allow you to **pack an extra box!** Boxes will be collected in our Fellowship Hall during National Collection Week, November 13-20. More on the collection dates will be announced later.

1. Pack your shoebox yourself and return it to the church during National Collection Week.
2. Follow Your Box: Adhesive labels are available to attach to your shoebox. They contain a QR Code, which *has already been scanned by LMCP* for tracking purposes. To follow your box and learn the destination, detach, and **keep the stub containing the 9-digit code**. Around March 2024, you can enter the 9-digit code on Samaritan's Purse website and see where your box was delivered. This information will also be made available to LMCP.
3. To Build a Box Online: Go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> OR Google: Samaritanspurse.org, select "What We Do," select "Operation Christmas Child," and select "Pack a Shoebox" and then, "Build a Shoebox Online."

You select items to fill your box. The donation for this service is \$25. Many shoebox gifts built online can be delivered to parts of the world where access to the Gospel is restricted or where strict customs regulations require a specially packed shoebox. **If you choose this option, LMCP will not be paying to ship your box. But please add your name** to the chart in the narthex, so we can count your boxes towards our goal of 275 boxes.

Questions? Call Elaine Reichl at 717-398-2430 or email her at jereichl@comcast.net

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE : Pastor Mark is leading a four-week Sunday school class that will provide an introduction and overview of the Bible. We will gather in Fellowship Hall on Sundays - **October 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 9:45 AM. Please join us!**

Children's Sunday School - Children in grades kindergarten to fifth grade are welcome to a new, six-week Sunday school program **DURING THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE from September 24 through October 29**. Please share this invitation ! Please contact Pastor Mark or Kris Englund-Krieger for more information.

The Case For Heaven - What happens after we die? Is there any convincing evidence that we live on in eternity? And if so, what will our experience be like? In Lee Strobel's recent book *The Case for Heaven*, he applies his research and analytical skills to show us definitive evidence for the existence of heaven. **Sundays at 9:45 AM** join other adults to read and discuss this book. Questions: Susan Nunamaker or Doyle Waybright

The Women's Bible study meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. This fall we are reading and discussing *Liturgury of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison-Warren. Interested women contact Dana McDonald at 717-642-6272.

Acts Bible Study - Have you sometimes wished that there was more time to dive down the "rabbit trails" that always come up during discussion periods in Bible study? Would you like to be able to dive deep with others who also love the "rabbit trails?" The book of Acts is the story of the very earliest days of the church. Between the year 33, when Christ was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven, and about the year 100, the church mushroomed from hundreds of disciples to tens of thousands across the Roman Empire; from a rural Jewish sect to an urban Gentile faith. How did this amazing growth occur? Is there something we can learn to help with our modern-day decline? On **Monday nights at 6:00 PM from September 25 - November 13**, Lynn Miller will be facilitating a deep-dive study on Acts, with questions to guide our reading. Our time together will be for our observations, questions, and "rabbit trails." Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if this is something you are interested in !

The Women's Guild will meet **October 17th** in Fellowship Hall at **1:00 PM**. Our plan for the day will be packing shoeboxes to contribute to the 275 boxes which is the church's goal for Operation Christmas child. Please plan on attending. Thank You !
(Roz Santay)

275th Anniversary Update

Honoring the Past, Faithful in the Present, Praying for the Future

Since the last issue, we have had two events highlighting our 275th anniversary—the Congregational Retreat on August 26th and the Ice Cream Social and Crank Off on September 10th. Both were a lot of fun!

The Congregational Retreat held a little of everything—good food, singing, teaching, crafts, a nature walk, and worship. Since you can read about these in more detail elsewhere in this Li'l Ripples, I'll leave it at that and extend a huge thanks to everyone who made it possible!

The Ice Cream Social was a fantastic time too! This year we featured an ice cream "crank-off" contest. Originally we were hoping to do things the old-fashioned way, but all the manual ice cream crank freezers we could find were broken! So we just held the contest with ice cream made at home by 3 teams: Molly's Folly (Gary and Cathy Michaliga) featured Chocolate Molly's Folly; the Teaberry Shufflers (Al and Lynn Miller) made Teaberry Shuffle; and Mark & Kris (Pastor Mark and his wife, Kris) brought Strawberry "Fruit of the Spirit." Gladhill's Godly Gelato (Rick and Terri Gladhill) also entered with Miracle Mint, a mint chocolate chip flavored ice cream, but since their ice cream maker failed on them, they were not eligible for the actual contest. (They brought store-bought anyway, and it was very good!) Those who came for the contest tasted each flavor, then voted for their favorite with non-perishable food items to go to the Fairfield Food Pantry. We donated over 100 items to them, and the winners were... Pastor Mark and Kris Englund-Krieger !!! They received a basket with homemade ice cream toppings, courtesy of Denise Lockwood. After the contest was over, the ice cream social began! Yummy ice cream flavors were topped with homemade toppings of hot fudge, chocolate peanut butter, butter pecan, or strawberries—not to mention the whipped topping, sprinkles, etc.—and everyone agreed it was a wonderful way to have supper!

Our next 275th event is the museum banquet, with a talk on the Scots-Irish settlers in south-central PA, starting at **4:00 PM on November 5th**. Save the date and look out for opportunities to help others that feature the number 275 before then!

(Lynn Miller)

The Women's Guild held their Yard and Bake sale September 23rd. We did well and appreciate the food and other items that were donated to help our cause of making a very Merry Christmas for our Teen Angels . Thank you for your continued support.

Church Library Update - Some large print books have been donated to the Church Library (thanks Susan Nunamaker). Our library is located inside the entryway to the office right across from the office window. Feel free to borrow, read, and return books to the drop box. Donations of large print books will be appreciated ! Any questions - call Nancy Brill 717-642-5270.

From the AV Booth - Summer is ending and I have to give praise to Phyllis Doyle for filling in for me, allowing me to take vacation dates throughout the year. Phyllis is a Godsend for the entire congregation.

A MILESTONE HAS BEEN REACHED ! LMCC's YouTube channel has obtained over 10,041 views as of the week of September 8th. Our channel has logged over 2,500 hours of watch time since its inception. 6,625 of those 10,041 views were from non-subscribers for a total of 1,752 hours of watch time. This is something to take notice of and find away to attract non-subscribers to subscribe or join our congregation.

We have obtained 7 additional subscribers to our YouTube channel since last year for a total of 92 active subscribers. We average 6 to 9 active subscribers viewing the livestream in progress every week. Other non-subscribers may watch the livestream at the same time but they are not accounted for in the statistics.

Active views from U.S.A. cities include : Gettysburg and Littlestown, PA; New York, NY; Las Vegas, NV; Palm Coast, FL; and White Mountains, NH. Other views from Europe are active.

After donating and installing a smart TV for Pastor Mark to use to show *The Chosen* video series to the Wednesday study group, problems arose. When the components were checked, it was determined that most of the difficulties were due to conflicts with the different programs. Hopefully, these issues are now resolved and this setup will be operational for use with DVDs and laptop connections.

In July, 3 new mics, 3 mic stands, and 4 - 25' cables were purchased to be used for recorded online audio during musical and special presentations. Four couples donated the funds for this purchase. Also, the Home Ministry Team approved the purchase of another 4 mics, stands, and cords. This will enable us to mic an entire group of musicians during our services, enhancing both the in - church and online AV experience. (Nick Johnson)

DO YOU KNOW ? Editor's note: This month, instead of a biography, the item below is offered :

An Idea to Consider When Giving to Our Church

During the year that you reach age 72, you must begin withdrawing from your regular IRA. That year, and each year thereafter, you must withdraw at least the amount specified by the IRS (called your *Required Minimum Distribution* or RMD).

If all your IRA contributions were *tax-deductible* when you made them, the full amount of the RMD will be treated as ordinary income for the year in which you withdraw it.

There is a legal way to avoid paying any tax on some or all of you RMD.

Account holders age 70½ or older may make a contribution *directly** from your IRA to a qualified charity, without it being considered a taxable distribution. The deduction also effectively lowers the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), and this could put you in a lower tax bracket.

***Note:** The bank or brokerage holding your IRA funds must make the withdrawal check out to the charity, not to you.

(John McMann)

Book Review : submitted by Kathy A. Megyeri

THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK, THE WISDOM OF 16 WOMEN AND THEIR LESSONS FOR TODAY
by Shannon Bream, 2021, 192 pp.

When I attended Bible school classes, we never focused on women in Scripture, but thanks to Shannon Bream's New York Times bestseller, THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK, I learned that they were central figures in many Bible stories. For example, Queen Esther's bravery saved her entire people. There were warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. Of course, the biggest name was Mary Magdalene who, as the first person to witness Jesus' resurrection, became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news that would forever change the world.

In this book, Shannon Bream focuses on 16 women of the Bible, and she uniquely arranges them in pairs and contrasts their journeys and does so to reflect on the meaning of each individual but at the same time portray how they relate to each other and to us. There's Esther's strength, Hannah's hope, Rahab's boldness, and Mary's faith. Author Bream tries to get us to understand each of them to gain insight and wisdom that will transform us as we see common struggles to resist bitterness, despair, and pride. Like them, we find our true selves in faith, hope, and love and also find wisdom and guidance for better navigating our own faith journeys.

And author Bream is honest about her own faith journey as she's Fox News Channel Chief legal correspondent and was the host of Fox News @ Night from 2007 until 2022. A Florida native, she started her career as a sexual harassment attorney and now covers politics and the U.S. Supreme Court. She's run a marathon, competed in the Miss America pageant and was even fired from her first reporting job as they considered her "just not right." But she doesn't take "No" for an answer, even as she fought the medical establishment to find a way to cope with her own crippling chronic pain condition. She found her own faith to be a source of comfort, hope, and optimism. Readers find this book to be well written and a great source of material for group Bible study. The 16 women from both the New and Old Testaments who Bream profiles highlight their life experiences, their faith, and their relevance to us women today. At the end of each section of the book, there are questions for discussion where it is obvious that Bream uses her journalistic skills to give the book facts, history, content, and scripture from the first chapter on Sarah and Hagar to the warrior Deborah to the situation of Leah and Rachel and Jacob. She also includes Scripture references to back up the facts and now, many readers are asking her to write stories of the disciples, stories of siblings like Cain and Abel, and stories of those who came back from the dead, especially in the gospel of Matthew. In times and cultures where women aren't valued, the book demonstrates their impact on history. And even when some were flawed, sinful, humble, and considered "outsiders," all played a role in accomplishing God's purpose. Their choices, circumstances and journeys make for compelling reading and offer encouragement to us all, as women have been dealing with the same struggles for hundreds of years as we play a role in our families, communities and our nation because God uses us no matter where we are in life. Author Bream offers an accompanying workbook and audiobook that readers find insightful, encouraging and empowering, especially to know how much women were loved and respected by our Lord. Most importantly, the book gives women today role models for being heroes of faith and action.

CHURCH RETREAT - AUGUST 26, 2023

Honoring the Past; Faithful in the Present; Praying for the Future

This year's retreat was held at Camp Eder near Fairfield with about 55 people attending. Pastor Mark led the adults in a study of our heritage and personal faith; while the youth met with Pastor Dale, Miss Shirley and Miss Joan learning about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit in their own (cardboard) church.



Article written by Bev Benner. Photos - Bev Benner, Shirley Breslin & Fay Hess



Bev, Terry Gladhill & Kris Englund-Krieger led the Creative Session – stressing the creative side that God instilled in us all, challenging all ages to use their imaginations by using an easy-peasy or more detailed project design. People seemed to be having fun doing their own thing and many awesome works were created!



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Following a tasty and healthy lunch, the group was given a chance for a Nature Walk led by Rick Gladhill or time for fellowship and board games in the lodge. Rick did an outstanding job, using his passion for hunting, fishing and God's creation leading us through the woods and sharing amazing facts about fish, turkey and deer. Thanks, Rick.



Next on the agenda was swimming for those who needed a break from the heat; flower arranging led by Jenny Waybright; and a Bible study led by Susan Nunamaker. Jenny's flower arrangements are always a treat and she was happy to share her talents with a large group of people looking for a little insight. Susan, as always, "facilitated" an awesome study from Hebrews with a fun discussion by those involved.



We next boarded the wagon (it took two trips this year!) to go to the Chapel for our Worship/Communion Service led by Pastor Mark. Dale, Lynn, Sue and Dirk led the music and Joe & Elaine Reichl prepared and served communion. Pastor Mark's ability to lead from the heart and help us to hear the gospel in a new and life changing way was extra special in this picturesque setting. (One of Jenny's flower arrangements also added to the experience). On our return trip to the lodge, Miss Shirley turned on the bubble machine to entertain us – what fun!!



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Following a healthy, hearty dinner many folks shared memories of our time at LMC. Jim Benner shared memories from Gary Adams and Jim Bigham about the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's which were very interesting and made us thankful for all those who were at the church before us and the talents they used for the greater good.

Thanks to all who came to the retreat; those who participated during the retreat; Len Williams who made the beautiful retreat banner; and for the following members of the planning committee: Pastor Mark, Dale & Len Williams, Susan Nunamaker, Rick & Terry Gladhill, Shirley Breslin, Jenny Waybright, Jim & Bev Benner. GOD BLESS YOU.

Editor's Note : Additional Retreat scenery pictures on pages 12, 15, and 18.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

August 2023

Young Life's mission statement is "Introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith". One ministry that helps us carry out the second half of this statement . . . is adventure camping featuring activities like mountain biking, kayaking and surfing, just to name a few. This is aimed at smaller groups of campers who want to explore the Christian faith at a deeper level. . . Quotes from boys and girls who enjoyed their time in California:

"I learned how to actually follow Jesus this week and experienced joy that I hadn't in a long time."

"I'd drifted away and was losing my faith before I came, but now I'm closer to God and praying more."

Thank you for your support which helps them experience the adventure of a lifetime - following Jesus!

In Christ for all kids,

Newt Crenshaw – President/CEO, **Young Life**

August 22, 2023

Dear Friends of **SAT-7**,

Making God's love visible in the Middle East and North Africa is our calling, and your recent gift allows us to carry that out. Together we are equipping people to live out their faith as well as strengthening the growing church in the region. Your support has an eternal impact.

Recently a viewer from Iran . . . shared, "*Thanks to everyone working to bring the word of God to us; for providing this television and these channels for our benefit. I give thanks for each one of you.*" Though she could be discouraged by her circumstances, she chooses to be grateful to God and to you.

Please join us as we pray for this believer and others like her. And our prayer today is that SAT-7 will continue to be a confident witness to Jesus Christ and that the Church in the region will remain strong. Again, **thank you** for your support.

For Middle East HOPE,

Rex M. Rogers, Ph.D., President, SAT-7 USA

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August 21, 2023 (**Diaper Drive**)

I'm sending this to the church to **thank you** for all the diapers that you gave away on Saturday. You gave me 2 bags for my great-grandson. I thank you very much for what you have done. Thanks again. Faye _____

August 22, 2023

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of **Samaritans Purse**.

This month we are commissioning 11 new post-resident physicians to serve under-resourced mission hospitals around the globe. . . . Since the start of our Post-Residency Program in 2004, we have sent more than 240 doctors, dentists, and pharmacists to nearly 40 hospitals in 30 countries.

Your gifts and prayers equip us to send these medical professionals, provide ongoing relief in Ukraine, and respond to other crises at home and abroad. Thank you and God bless you.

August 30, 2023

Thank you for your gift to **Samaritan's Purse** for our **Operation Christmas Child Project**. We deeply appreciate your prayers and your partnership in sharing God's love with children around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is an opportunity to share the hope of the Gospel with a child. . . . in over 100 countries. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham

August 29, 2023

One Another Ministries

We Praise God for you every day. **Thank you** for your gift.

Your One another Team

September 2023

Dear LMCC family,

Thank you so much for the compassionate and caring outreach during my recent cancer surgery. Praise the Lord for His goodness and grace! He shows His love through each of you and I am so grateful for the cards and calls received from the church family. Thank you !

Dana McDonald

Happy Birthday to the following members of the LMCC family -

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Jane Kessel | 16. Jim Benner | 19. Daisy Stuffle |
| 4. Gary Adams | 16. Dave Diehl | 21. Lynn Berwager |
| 4. Rex Craven | 17. Lori Jackson | 22. Susan Wagle |
| 9. Susan Thompson | 17. Pastor Mark | 28. Sara Rohr |
| 10. Roz Santay | 17. Cheryle Waters | 29. David Metz |
| 12. Lee Bentz | 18. David Brill | 31. Rick Gladhill |
| 13. Randy Smith | 18. Karen Golden | |

HAVE YOU HEARD . . . ?

I smile whenever a birthday is announced in church because then our beloved organist whips into a rendition of “Happy Birthday” and the congregation joyfully sings the lyrics to the honoree. But what most don’t know about this most popular song in the world is that it was written in 1893 in Louisville, KY by two middle-aged sisters, both kindergarten and Sunday school teachers, Patty Hill and Mildred J. Hill who decided to write a book of “song stories” for their students. The book entitled *Song Stories for the Sunday School* was distributed in the spring of 1893 and contained the nursery rhyme “Good Morning to You.” Mildred wrote the music and Patty wrote the words:

“Good morning to you,
 Good morning to you,
 Good morning, dear children,
 Good morning to all.”

In the early 1900’s, the Hill sisters, for some reason, added the birthday words. The first published account of the song appeared in 1924, but without the mention of the Hill sisters, in the book *Harvest Hymns*, edited by Robert H. Coleman who probably came upon the songs in his travels as a publisher. It then found its way to Broadway where it was sung in the musical, *A Thousand Cheers*, still without the Hill sisters’ permission so they sued the producer of the show, Sam Harris, and in 1934, the New York Times reported that the Hill sisters won their case, and the song received copyright protection for 75 years. Since then, the song’s ownership has changed many times but the Hill sisters’ heirs receive the authors’ shares of the gross profits. The song was owned by Warner Communications for years but is now in the public domain. No doubt its world wide popularity has been due to its appearance in some early movies and it was programmed in toys, watches and music boxes. And even though we all sing it so often and enthusiastically, I bet few know of the Hill sisters, the song’s age, or the legal wrangling it took to get it into the public domain since Warner Communications fought to keep the song under copyright until 2030 because it was expected to reap \$16.5 million until then. Fortunately, the song belongs to us all and I hope when next you sing it in church, you’ll think of the Hill sisters and their Sunday school connection. (Kathy A. Megyeri)

A SIGN POSTED OUTSIDE OF A LOCAL CHURCH . . .

“The only Ghost around here is Holy.”



Some funnies received from Kathy Megyeri :

3-year old Reese : “ Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.”

I had been teaching my 3 year old daughter, Caitlin the Lord’s Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer : “Lead us not into temptation,” she prayed, “but deliver us some E-mail.”

Sing to the LORD

Music Ministry

A New Song

Psalm 96:1

Ephesians 5:19 says, "Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to the Lord with your heart."

This verse well describes the mission of the Music Program at LMCP that is certainly off to an amazing start. God has richly blessed our congregation with musicians! Currently around thirty singers, ringers, and instrumentalists are willing to share their talents on a regular basis. Welcome to Nancy and Tom Cline who will be singing with the Faithful Voices. Also, our newly formed bluegrass group includes two new faces, Misty and Kayne Wantz. Please see me if you are interested in any of our musical groups. All are welcome! (pausetoread@yahoo.com)

Since we have new members in the congregation and new musicians, each week I have been including the names of those participating in the various music groups. And, I will be sending out emails to parents concerning times that our young people in the congregation can share their musical talents.

Our groups currently include the following, and hopefully more names will be added soon!

Bells of Faith – Dana Witt, director

Sandy Buhrman, Alicia Dehoff, Phyllis Doyle, Kris England-Krieger, Denise Lockwood, Cathy Michaliga, Lauren Neely, Susan Nunamaker

Faithful Voices

Nancy and Tom Cline, Alicia Dehoff, Dirk Grove, Lynn Miller, Roz Santay, Carolyn and Lane Speck, Jim and Sue Welsh, Dale Williams

Glory Singers

Bev and Jim Benner, Jean and Lee Bentz, Pat Diehl, Phyllis Doyle, Mike Orleski, Karen Richards, Teresa Sanders

LMC Gospel Bluegrass

David Clark (bass), Kayne (guitar) and Misty (banjo) Wantz, Ken (guitar) and Teresa Sanders (mandolin). New talent is welcome. We are hoping to schedule a "jam" in the near future!

Wires and Wood

Dirk Grove, Lynn Miller, Roz Santay, James and Suzanne Welsh, Dale Williams

October 1 - Glory Singers/Faithful Voices

October 8 - Wires and Wood

October 15 - Glory Singers/Faithful Voices

*October 22 - Bluegrass Gospel/Dirk Grove

*October 29 - Bells of Faith

*These two may be switched due to availability of ringers.

Linda Clark

(pausetoread@yahoo.com)

Serving GOD

DEACON'S PAGE

Serving Others

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Elaine Reichl
Joe Reichl
Pam Grove

Class of 2024

Pat Diehl
Suzanne Welsh
Pam Johnson (Moderator)

Class of 2025

Jim Welsh
Arlene Wright
Al Miller

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 Jim Welsh at 717 - 377 - 5370.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717- 334 - 8712

Roy Weaner 717 - 334 - 3376

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

Ray Wright 717 - 549 - 2118

Food Pantry

I was able to deliver 100+ items to the food pantry after the Ice Cream Social on September 10th. Every vote (for the favorite ice cream) required one item for the food pantry.

During the weeks of October 8 - 29, Spiritual Life will be sponsoring home-harvest. They will be collecting non-perishables for the food pantry. We're hoping to collect 275 items again to honor our 275th anniversary. Think Thanksgiving and the sides you will be purchasing i.e. canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, jellied cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, and evaporated milk.
(Arlene Wright)



Go Therefore and Make

MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER

Disciples of all Nations

Mt. 28:19

REPORTING ON OUR MISSIONARIES**Thomas and Cheri Henry (England)**

The Henrys are working on raising the financial resources needed for them to head back into the mission field (with One Another Ministries based in Cannock, England). They have a one-time launch fund need of \$50,000 to cover their 3-year religious worker Visas and UK Health Care, travel to England and Turkey, transportation of a storage pod from Turkey to England, housing setup, vehicle purchase and technology upgrades.

In their September 9 newsletter they reported that \$25,000 was raised in the first month, but the remainder needs to be raised before their airline tickets can be purchased and details of the move can be planned. The Mission Committee has sent \$1,000 from the mission discretionary line towards this fund. We pray that in the next issue of Li'l Ripples we can report that the full amount has been raised.

Dori Hjalmarson (PCUSA/Honduras)

A recent email from Kathy Wells to members of the Honduras Partnership Committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle indicates tentative plans for a follow-up to last year's mission celebration, this one to be held in Honduras. They are hoping to have this at the end of January, but no specific dates have been chosen. They would probably attend part of the Presbytery of Honduras's plenary session of their Presbytery, visit a few churches, and maybe spend a few days at either Villa de Gracia or a hotel continuing the conversations from last January about how to move the partnership forward. Dori is on vacation and when she gets back, towards the end of September, they plan to have a zoom meeting with the partnership committee and Dori sometime after the first of October. Specifics of the trip and how many might be interested in going will be discussed during the zoom meeting.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA/South Sudan)

Bob and Krisi arrived in the U.S. in early June with plans for spending a few months visiting churches, attending conferences, and being with family. Bob wasn't feeling well when they arrived, and the sickness dragged on for several weeks. Medical tests and doctor visits seem to indicate a resurgence of the Epstein Barr Virus that Bob experienced in 2017 and explain why Bob continues to feel unusually tired and weak. Visits with churches and friends were cancelled and they returned to Illinois in late June for Bob to recover. Bob's energy is improving, although it appears that it is a rather slow process. Bob's motto these days is "Walk slowly and carry a grateful heart."

Regarding the civil war in Sudan, they report that more than 100,000 people have fled from Khartoum into South Sudan in addition to other refugees who have fled to other neighboring countries. South Sudan was already stretched thin with severe food insecurity and economic crisis, so accommodating these refugees has been a slow process with many suffering without food or water. The families and relatives of many of Bob and Kristi's colleagues in Juba live in Khartoum, and they have struggled to find safe passage out of the country. Church partners in South Sudan are providing some food and supplies to these people fleeing the war. Bob and Krisi ask for our prayers that the violence would end, and that God would protect and provide for civilians.

Bob and Kristi are grateful to the Good Shepherd for walking with them on their journey, particularly in the uncertainty and discouragement of not feeling well. They welcome our prayers for healing for Bob and for God to continue to give discernment and wisdom.

Ryan and Alethia White (PCUSA/Germany)

Last month's issue of Li'l Ripples included a letter from the Whites in which they indicated plans to settle in the U.S. for the coming school year. They mentioned that they were looking forward to being available for some visits with church communities, and an invitation has been issued to them to visit us. We will let you know when a visit is scheduled.

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

From a recent ACPM newsletter:

ACPM held a Relaunch Prayer Rally on Monday, September 18 (7-8 pm) at First Baptist Church, 1015 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg. Time was taken to pray for the volunteer ministries re-entering the Adams County Prison at the end of September and the beginning of October. Invite someone to join in prayer for this vital ministry!

Continued from the preceding page . . .

Chaplain's Corner:

The classic scene of a child being alone with a cookie jar reflects the human struggle to maintain integrity. A moral dilemma ensues within our hearts and minds. It is the test or the turmoil that goes on inside of us while debating whether or not to take the cookie, knowing full well we are not supposed to.

In Proverbs 11, it states, "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them." (vs. 3). The standard of our integrity is based on God's law, statutes, and principles. Our pursuit to honor God empowers us to do what is right and do what is pleasing in His sight. The proverb clearly indicates that it will guide us to do the right thing.

Integrity is "doing the right thing when no one is watching." What happens if we decide to do the wrong thing when no one is looking? The same proverb states that the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. The idea is that we are provided guidance and instruction on how to walk the moral path. When deciding not to follow the word of God, the path becomes crooked (out of alignment). Using the principle of a wheel alignment for a car, when the car is out of alignment, it impacts the tread on the wheels, the suspension, and steering components. Our lack of integrity triggers a domino effect which will influence the other areas of our lives.

Let's encourage one another to stay aligned with God's ways. Continue growing in integrity by following God's word and walking by the Holy Spirit. While experiencing the ebbs and flows of our spiritual journey, pursue integrity as a child of God, saved by grace.

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County

Pam Blankenship reports:

Summer ministry was a huge blessing. Watching Rowan and Cassity, our interns, grow in their personal relationship with Jesus as He stretched them each day was amazing. It was even more amazing to watch the Holy Spirit open the eyes of a child and see the lightbulb go on! Day after day they heard the Gospel clearly explained and by Friday, they "got it." Through the teaching of the Word, through songs and the explanation of what they were singing, through memory verses and through the true story of Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China and the founder of China Inland Mission, we saw the kids come to understand who Jesus really is.

The time for our annual banquet is fast approaching (September 30) and it will be held at the Biglerville Fire Hall. Yes, it's a little earlier this year. Contact Miss Pam at the office (717-677-4797) to reserve a spot.

Thursday morning prayer meetings are held using Google Meet from 7 am to 7:45 am to pray for CEF of Adams County. What a blessing it is to start the day praying with like-minded believers! If you would like to join us, contact Miss Pam at pamelablankenship@cefepa.net or 717-677-4797.

DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)

From Kevin and Maria's recent newsletter:

What happens in the summer? The Lord never stops working so we always get to see Him at work! Here are some ways we saw God work this summer: (1) Maria met with a rising sophomore student at PSU York to work through the book Women of the Word. We learned so much about studying the Bible, and "Kara" grew in interpreting Scripture in context. (2) Allie grew tremendously in her faith after breaking up with her non-Christian boyfriend in May. Just this week she applied to join our student leadership team because she wants to grow in ministering the gospel to her peers. (3) Kevin continued to work on his seminary degree in Biblical studies. This summer he tackled Greek, which gave him a deeper appreciation for the Bible. (4) A neighbor became a member of our church. She is now serving in the nursery and as a greeter on Sunday mornings. (5) God gave us the opportunity to share about our ministry with DiscipleMakers at a number of partnering churches. (6) We had the opportunity to attend a Simeon Trust conference in July instate College. The goal of the Simeon Trust organization is to "promote the growth of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world by training up the next generation of Biblical expositors." We deeply studied the book of Exodus during the conference, learning about historical narratives in Scripture, and getting feedback on two passages we had to prepare ahead of time. Our hope and prayer is that this practice will help us continue to improve in rightly handling the word of truth. (7) An international student from China, who is a rising sophomore at Gettysburg College, got baptized at the summer camp he worked at this summer!

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Prayer requests: (1) Praise God for how He worked this summer. Pray for God to keep growing Kara, Allie and our neighbor in their faith. Please also join us in praising God for giving us opportunities to grow in teaching God's word. (2) Pray for our student leaders at PSU York. Praise God for giving them a desire to reach their peers with the gospel and ask Him to give them boldness to speak and a love for the students around them. (3) Pray for our pregnancy. Pray that God would continue to protect this baby and help her to grow. Pray that God would bring relief to Maria's backpain, help her sleep at night, and prepare Simeon's heard to have a sibling. (4) Praise God for raising additional support for our ministry with DiscipleMakers. This summer we prayed for God to help us raise additional funds to cover increased expenses which include greater medical and insurance charges and ministry cost escalations from inflation. (God has already provided over 80% of the funds we are trying to raise before the arrival of our daughter this fall.)

Personal Update: Maria is now in the last trimester of pregnancy. We only have about seven weeks to go. Simeon has come up with lots of names for his sister, including "Pecan," "Mac and Cheese," and "Eggy." Do you notice a theme?

Young Life

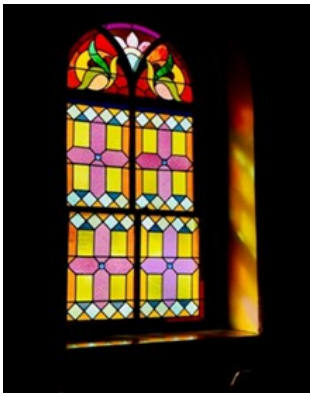
From a recent Young Life Adams County Committee newsletter.

What a year it has been so far. It's hard to believe that we have begun the 2023 school year already. A team of leaders began leadership training to serve kids at New Oxford Middle School. They will join in WyldLife club nights in Gettysburg and meet in New Oxford two other evenings each month. Pamela Blankenship will be leading the New Oxford WyldLife team. Our WyldLife ministry has really grown over the past several years. We are gathering interested parents and community members to assist in this essential ministry for our middle school friends. We hope to have adults help organize our current WyldLife club, as well as identify leaders to begin WyldLife in their Adams County school district.

Earlier this year we restarted our Gettysburg High School Young Life ministry. It's been an incredible time getting to know our new leader there, Jeff Houser. He and his wife, Tabitha, moved to Gettysburg a few years ago and they have a son who is growing into his toddler years. We are thrilled to have Jeff and Tabitha on our Gettysburg High School team.

If you would like more information about Young Life leadership, please reach out to us at danzychal@gmail.com or text/call 717-372-2075. We are starting a new leadership training class in the Fall.





The Giving Corner

STEWARDSHIP

Our Heritage, Our Duty, Our Hope

October 1, 2023, is an important day for the Church Universal and for Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. This is World Communion Sunday when we celebrate together, all over the globe, the gift of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper! The beautiful gift of remembrance for what Jesus Christ did for us; he gave his body and blood for our salvation!

For Lower Marsh Creek it is also our Stewardship Sunday! This is the day we commit our gifts for the coming year to support the wonderful work and ministries happening in and through our church. It is our time to pledge our thankfulness to our Lord for what he has done for us!

On this day we invite you to bring your Estimate of Giving cards to worship and offer your gifts to our Lord! We also invite you to join us on **Sunday evening at 5:00 PM** for an "**Ole Fashion Church Potluck Dinner**". This will be another time to gather around the table to remember and give thanks as a church family for the many blessings that have been a part of the life of our church over the year!

On this day of stewardship and throughout the year we ask you to not only consider your monetary gifts but also consider how you might give of your time and talents to better serve the Lord. Remember, no gift is insignificant in God's hands! Think of the young boy who gave a few fishes and loaves and Jesus fed over 5000! We, too, can be part of such miracles if we just trust in our God and do and give whatever we can.

*With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.
We respond in praise, with our gifts, with our service, we worship God.*





From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on September 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 9/12/2023: Active Members (AM = CA): 162, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 57 and Family Members: 51. Sadly we had the passing of long-time member, Ursula Sanchez over the past month.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for August. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

Approved the following events and business items:

- o That a third 1-year Certificate of Deposit for \$10,000.00 be opened at the M&T Bank in Gettysburg, PA in the month of October.
- o That the Couples Group will meet in the fellowship hall hosted by Pastor Mark and Kris on Saturday, October 14, 2023.
- o That the semi-annual Congregational meeting be scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 2023 between services at approximately 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend! This is an important meeting as we will be voting on the slate of officers for 2024 and Pastor's Terms of Call for 2024.
- o That \$5,000.00 be withdrawn from the Mission Endowment Fund in support of Thomas & Cheri Henry as they transition to their new mission calling in Cannock, England with One Another Ministries.

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

- o Team Members: Dirk Grove, chair; Ron Milhimes and Jim Richardson
- o Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM has been set for completion of cleaning the cemetery gravestones.
- o New sections of the cemetery fence will be fabricated that match the original fence by Iron World. These sections will be installed by Perry Fence.
- o Heard that Guide One Insurance has dropped the church as clients including the van insurance. Our representative at McConkey Insurance is working with us to find another insurer. Pastor Mark has also informed the Presbytery of these actions. This is believed to be as a result of our many claims over the past year due to the lightning strike and other storm damage.

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

- o Team Members: Ray Wright, chair; Lane Speck and Doyle waybright
- o Balance sheets and Cash Flow reports for August were approved as presented.
- o To date we have received \$2,280.00 in donations for the Presbyterian Disaster Relief in Hawaii. Thank you for your amazing and continued generosity!

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

education and music in the church

- o Team members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynn Miller and Susan Nunamaker.
- o The Men's Breakfast will be scheduled for the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall. All men in the congregation are invited for good food and fellowship!
- o Plans are under way for the Congregational Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2023. In honor of our 275th Anniversary and our Scots-Irish roots this meal will be an Irish Christmas dinner! Mark your calendars!

News from the 275th Anniversary Committee – to celebrate the 275 years of the church's history and service to God

- o Team leaders: Lynn Miller, chair; Cathy Michaliga, recording secretary.
- o Here are the upcoming events – “Save the Date”:
- o Sunday, November 5, 2023: Banquet at the Gettysburg Beyond the Battlefield Museum in Gettysburg, PA. This will begin at 4:00 PM with a presentation on the Scots-Irish in our area in the 1700's by Tim Smith; a catered meal and a Singing Through Worship” presentation. Those attending the event will be able to tour the museum prior to the event at a reduced fee of \$10.00.
- o November 13-20, 2023: Operation Christmas Shoebox collection week.

News from the Clerk of Session:

Received a report from the 2023 Nominating Committee. A full slate of officers for 2024 was presented and will be voted on at the Congregational meeting on Sunday, October 29, 2023.

The
 “cardboard church”
 used by the youth
 at the August 26th Retreat
 at Camp Eder



MEMBERS OF SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION: Denise E. Lockwood

ASSOCIATE CLERK OF SESSION: Phyllis Doyle Smith

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

Class of 2025

Jim Richardson

Susan Nunamaker

Raymond Wright

Dirk Grove

Cathy Michaliga

Ron Milhimes

Lynn Miller

Doyle Waybright

Lane Speck

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – AUGUST 2023

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	August—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$23,626.00	\$198,369.50	\$252,298.00
Other Income	\$872.29	\$49,901.45	\$58,357.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$24,498.29	\$248,270.95	\$310,655.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$2,455.45	\$7,634.61	\$14,600.00
Education & Nurture	\$2,930.63	\$3,672.23	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,106.98	\$6,022.00
Home Ministry	\$9,813.33	\$56,236.56	\$77,600.00
Church Administration	\$15,981.62	\$131,129.06	\$209,033.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,181.03	\$203,779.44	\$310,655.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$6,682.74	\$44,491.51	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 8/31/2023: \$108,398.52

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	August—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$7,062.00	\$61,511.50	\$76,800.00
Other Income	\$0.45	\$3,065.89	\$1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,062.45	\$63,577.39	\$77,800.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,493.00	\$55,233.29	\$77,800.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$430.55	\$8,344.10	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 8/31/2023: \$9,210.40*

Notable expenses for August: \$2,180.66—Congregational Retreat

\$2,930.83—Young Life Camp Scholarships/Operation

Christmas Child Shoebox Postage

\$3,195.37—Taxes

*The Mission Account is accumulating funds to donate to certain local missions during the Adams Community Foundation Giving Spree in November.

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

Li'l Ripples October 2023



1748 275 Years 2023



Pastor 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 PM

Church Office Hours

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 reach out to the community with the love of Jesus christ.”

Li'l Ripples - Editor, Fay Hess - 717-476-5682 or lilripples@gmail.com