

Li'l Ripples

April 2024
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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from Pastor Mark - - -

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DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT
LI'L RIPPLES
IS APRIL 19

A high doctrine of the Church:

"The Kirk is Invisible, known only to God" - Scots Confession 3.16

I am grateful for the opportunity we had during the season of Lent this year to discuss our Presbyterian *Book of Confessions*. We had some rousing discussions and deep questions. I am always grateful to discuss our Presbyterian doctrine together. There is a particular doctrine tucked into the old Scots Confession, which was written in 1561, that I find helpful and humbling. There is a lot of discussion about the Church, referred to as the Kirk, in the Scots Confession. This document was, of course, written as part of the great Protestant Reformation when the Church was splintering into what we now call denominations. One sentence in that larger discussion about the Kirk is very meaningful to me: *"The Kirk is Invisible, known only to God."* What a powerful doctrine; what a beautiful idea!

I know we are always concerned about our numbers: How many people are here?; What is the attendance?; What was the offering this month?; How many members do we have? When people who do not know anything about our congregation ask me about it their question typically is "How many people go to your church?" We love our numbers! And we presume that the numbers - attendance, membership, financial - are the best judge of the quality of our Church. We believe the Church is only what we can see, measure and count.

Then this old Reformation doctrine of the Church pops into my mind, and I realize again how short-sighted and small our vision really is. *"The Church is Invisible, known only to God."* What does God see when God ponders the Church? We make all of our careful calculations of who is in and who is out, of how many, and of how much. Are these numbers truly important to God? *"The Church is Invisible, known only to God."*

In this season after Easter Sunday, we turn our attention to the Church itself, its amazing spread and growth after the Resurrection, the remarkable ministry of the earliest Christians who carried the name of Jesus out into large and foreign lands, everywhere. And our Almighty God carefully watches and guides it all through the ages. Do not get stuck in too small a vision of our holy Church. *"The Church is Invisible, known only to God."*

In Christ!
Mark



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST

**REFLECTIONS ON LOWER MARSH CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S LENTEN SEASON**

We came together in a spirit of anticipation, study, prayer and repentance, waiting on the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. During the time from Feb 14th (Ash Wednesday) and March 23rd, we had fellowship meals every Wednesday night. Volunteers made soups, salads, and desserts to share. Our attendance was about 30 people each night. After our meal, Pastor Mark led us in a study of the *Book of Confessions - The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)*. His lesson concentration was "Who do they say I am?" Jesus asked his disciples, as written in Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29 and Luke 9:20, what about you?... "Who do you say I am?" So, what do we believe? Who do we say Jesus is? When we say the Apostles Creed, do we believe what we say? It's important to ponder these things.

Also, during Lent, the Spiritual Life team designed, printed, and addressed 137 postcards, which were mailed to the residents of a new development in Gettysburg, Cumberland Village. The postcard was an invitation to join us for Holy Week gatherings: Palm Sunday worship, Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday worship in our cemetery, Easter dawn service at 7 AM, Easter breakfast, and Easter worship at 11 AM. We are praying that our invitation brings visitors to our Holy Week events. More importantly, we are praying that anyone receiving our invitation is led to accept Jesus into their hearts.

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND BREAKFAST

At the start of Holy week (Palm Sunday) our sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful palms. Congregants will be given their own palm leaf to remind them of Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But we all know that this entry resulted in arrest, imprisonment, beatings, trials, and ultimately crucifixion. So, on Palm Sunday, the symbols of Jesus last few days will be solemnly carried into the sanctuary to remind us of what came just 5 days later: crucifixion.

On Maundy Thursday we will gather at our large round table, 12 at a time (symbolic of the 12 disciples) to take communion and remember that Jesus gave communion to his disciples the night before he was crucified. Then on Friday, we will gather in our cemetery to worship and remember the suffering and death of our Lord.

On Easter morning, we will gather at 7 AM on our parking lot for worship, music, and communion. WE WILL CELEBRATE THE EMPTY TOMB ! WE WILL CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION !! We expectantly will watch as the sun rises in the east, bringing light, warmth and hope. The dawn service will be followed by a covered dish breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30. We are confident that when visitors arrive for our breakfast, the "5 loaves and 2 fishes" will multiply to serve all of us and any visitors that come to join us!!

On Easter morning, at 11 AM, our sanctuary will be bursting with beautiful spring flowers. Many will come, many will worship. Many will embark on a new birth...IN JESUS CHRIST. Praise God we are free to gather, worship, and claim God's grace and mercy, found in his son, Jesus.

Cathy Michaliga

Habitat for Humanity

The new Habitat home build (in April 2024) is at 41/43 Craftway Drive, Littlestown, PA.

During the Blitz Build (getting the walls up and the roof on), they expect about 10-20 volunteers (from any church) on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, April 4th through April 20th, from 8 am to 2 pm.

We at LMC are asked to provide **snacks** for the 10 am break on **Friday April 12** – pastry, fruit, and beverages are appreciated.

Lunch (from a different church) should be ready to serve at noon – the hungry worker menu is up to the church providing the lunch.

Parking is available along both Lumber St. and Craftway Drive. A tent, tables, and chairs will be available on site.

On later Saturdays (April 27, May 4, 11, 18, and 25th), volunteers are welcome to show up and continue working the build.

That is all I know so far! Let me know what your interests are (worker or snack chef) at jimfred53@hotmail.com.

Jim Richardson

301-461-8225

Lower March Creek is scheduled to provide the snack for the new Habitat for Humanity build on Friday April 12.

The Couples Group

April 12, 2024 the Group will meet at Naomi's Restaurant near Newville for dinner at **6:00 PM.**

YES THIS IS A FRIDAY NIGHT 😊 .

Please sign up in the Narthex by April 7th - the first 40 people on the signup sheet can attend, so the sooner the better! Lee and Jean Bentz will lead our night and our discussion. The cost is \$25.00 (cash only) for a wonderful family style meal with beef and either chicken or turkey with ALL the trimmings. If anyone would like to go in the church van please contact Jim Benner. We will leave the church at 5:00 PM. REMEMBER the first 40 people on the signup sheet can come for this fun event.

The Couple's Group will not meet in May. Dave & Pat Diehl will host our June 8th meeting - more information will be in next months Newsletter.

Bev Benner

The Women's Guild

We will meet **April 16th** in Fellowship Hall at **1:00 PM.** All women of the church are invited for fellowship, fun and food!

Roz Santay

Adult Group

This Spring our **Sunday morning** group will read and discuss 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 Group

The Women's Bible study **meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 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 He offers.

Dana McDonald

*"Gettysburg Center
Genesis Healthcare
crowned its
2024 Valentine's Day
King and Queen,
Davis 'Cragar' Minor
and
Peggy Benner
on Friday."*

Editor's Note: This photo with the caption abbreviated above was published in the Gettysburg Times on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Peggy is a long time member of the Lower Marsh Creek Church family. Thanks to Pat Diehl for bringing this news to our attention.

Royalty crowned



Happy Birthday

*To These Members
Of Our LMCC Family*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Leslie Megyeri
- 7 - Linda Clark
- 29 - Arlene Wright
- 30 - Mark Orleski

Book Review by Kathy A. Megyeri

THE IN-BETWEEN, UNFORGETTABLE ENCOUNTERS DURING LIFE'S FINAL MOMENTS

by Hadley Vlahos, RN, Ballantine, 2023, 259 pp.

If there are angels among us on Earth, they've got to be hospice nurses for a number of reasons. First, death is a difficult topic for Americans to deal with. Secondly, it takes a person with empathy and a caring nature to deal daily with those who are dying and grieving family members. And thirdly, the outcome is never going to be a joyful time of family celebration. But, as Hadley Vlahos, author of this ground-breaking book says, "I've never met someone 100 or older who still wants to be alive. I want us to try to make peace with death, not to extend life."

And as most of us my age have or are dealing with hospice care either for ourselves or our loved ones, this book is a God-send. A decade ago, author Vlahos, now only 31 years old, was struggling through nursing school as a single young mother working in immediate care. She switched to hospice nursing and was drawn to this most intense, physically demanding and emotionally draining profession caring for those at the end of their lives. She calls this time the "in-between" which became the title of her first book, *The In-Between: Unforgettable Encounters During Life's Final Moments*, because it is the space between the fragile life/death balance. The book is uplifting and a joy to read although it relates her experiences with 12 of her hospice patients as well as her dying mother-in-law each with his or her own lesson to teach us. The book has spent more than 2 months on the New York Times best seller list and has more than 2 million followers on social media where she posts role-playing scenes and video tutorials on her TikTok account. An interview with her was featured in the New York Times Magazine (10/29/23). She still works as a hospice nurse outside New Orleans and believes the book's success is due to people seeing their loved ones depicted in these stories. She's been surprised that people just don't know what they want at the end of life—do they want to be in a nursing home or at home? Do they want to be organ donors? Have they made directives and living wills? Do they want burial or cremation? But what is most amazing is that as she takes us through the 12 vignettes of guiding the ill and their families through the in-between zone, she notes the commonalities she's witnessed of patients speaking to those already deceased, those who suffer from COPD coping with ragged breathing, and people who have had spiritual encounters. But, in the end, they all want the same things, she writes: "Care, comfort and connection." Granted she does the required protocol of listening to the heart for 2 minutes and calling out the time of death but then she emerges mentally saying, "Thank you for allowing me to take care of you. I really enjoyed taking care of you." I marvel at her love and gratitude to each of them.

Former President Jimmy Carter continues living under hospice care. My own father was in hospice for the last few months of his life and what I still value from that time is the diary kept by his hospice nurses—the list of meds he was taking, his reactions to their visits, his behaviors. Last, since his therapy dog was still visiting, I have a record of his final moments when, with the therapy dog in bed resting his head on my father's chest, he took his last breath. A treasured picture of that moment was taken and given to me entitled "Sid and Me." I would only hope that my own final moments will be so serene and under the watchful caring eyes of a hospice nurse such as Hadley Vlahos. She has done her profession proud because she shows that end-of-life care teaches us just as much about how to live life to the fullest as it does about how we die. "Nurse Hadley," as she's called, is currently establishing a nonprofit respite hospice house, "a serene sanctuary for families to gather and commemorate the lives of their loved ones in an environment of support and solace," as she describes it. That would certainly be an added benefit of her comforting book's success and just another way to exhibit her own love, compassion, patience, care, dedication, tenderness and love of humanity.



Winter
Banquet
March 2, 2024
Carriage House
Emmitsburg, MD

Thanks to
Susan Nunamaker
for providing these photos.



This month we feature the life and works of Pastor Robert Lowry, a composer of some of our most beloved hymns including "Christ Arose" and "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus," two important songs of our Easter season. He was born in Philadelphia on March 12, 1826, the son of immigrants from Northern Ireland. Today his melodies are sung in every civilized land, and many of his hymns have been translated into foreign languages.

Although Lowry enjoyed his vocation of preaching the Gospel, he found music and hymnology fun, a recreation. Even as a child Lowry enjoyed music and exhibited great talent as he played a variety of musical instruments. One of his labors of love was an attempt to reduce music to a mathematical basis, establishing middle C as 256 vibrations per second. His intention was to create a scale using the rule of three, but this project was not successful. Personally, I am more interested in his creativity in writing memorable melodies that inspire us still today.

Lowry died on November 25, 1899 in Plainfield, New Jersey. His funeral service included the following statement that well summarized his life and work, "His melodies and songs were but the expression of the man's heart and his character, and they attracted all to him." And, his songs attracted many people from around the world to Him.

One of his most famous songs is a standard funeral fare, "Shall We Gather at the River." He wrote the words and music in July of 1864 during a heatwave in the city of Brooklyn, New York where he was serving as a pastor at the Hanson Place Baptist Church. As he rested from a state of exhaustion, he imagined the passage in Revelation 22: 1 which reads "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." Despite the popularity of this hymn, Lowry was not fond of it. In fact, he felt his sermons were more important than his hymn writing. I think it is safe to disagree with him on this point.

As you listen to the inspiring music that enhances our worship, remember Robert Lowry. He found writing hymns easy. And we find singing his hymns inspiring. Next time you feel a need to be closer to Him, hum the melodies of some of Robert Lowry's most famous "fun." "Marching to Zion", "How Can I Keep From Singing." "I Need Thee Every Hour," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me,

The month of April will continue with our regular rotation:

April 7 - Glory Singers/ Faithful Voices

April 14 - Wires and Wood

April 21- Glory Singers/ Faithful Voices

April 28 - Surprise

Linda Clark

www.pausetoreadbooks.webs.com

Serving GOD By

DEACONS' INFORMATION

Serving Others

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 - 6064Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123**HAVE YOU HEARD . . . ?***When I See the Flowers*

*He made His creation with grace and with love;
The seas and the mountains, the stars up above.
Then, He made the flowers; their gorgeous array,
The jewelry of springtime; God's love on display!*

*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.*

Dirk Grove



March 8, 2024

Hello Folks,

We hope you all are doing well. **Thank you** so much for your generous donation. We will be able to provide at least two meals for up to 70 guests with your kind contribution.

Have a Blessed Easter !

Sandy Lutz, Operations Director, **Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen**

Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence

Adams Christian Prison Ministry

From their March 2024 Newsletter:

Celebration of Grace Sunday: Once again we invite churches and organizations in Adams County and surrounding counties to celebrate the grace and mercy of God towards inmates and their families by setting aside time in their worship services to pray specifically for those incarcerated.

Annual Volunteer Training: Volunteers at the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex are required to renew their eligibility to continue serving by attending the ACACC annual volunteer training. This training will be available on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Current volunteers will receive an invitation to attend the training from the Treatment Department. Anyone interested in volunteering at the prison for religious programs should mail their application packet by the end of March 2024. The packet is available on the website at www.adamscpm.org. Contact Chaplain Perez if you have any questions.

Adams Rescue Mission

Introducing new leadership at Adams Rescue Mission:

Pastor Will Hudson joined the team as Executive Director, following the retirement of Bruce Dietrick in November 2023. Will's vision for the direction of ARM is to continue serving the homeless through both the Men's Shelter and Agape House while also tackling the ongoing issue of low-income housing.

Paul Henderson is the new Men's Ministry Director. He has made some amazing upgrades to the men's shelter, setting the bar high while tackling the tough issues residents face. His one-on-one time with each resident has already yielded great success. Paul also leads the industrial department and all things recycling.

From their March 2024 Newsletter:

Calling all artists! This year's show will be held at The Gettysburg Academy on Friday, June 7, including a live auction event. To participate, art must be submitted by May 24 to be included in the show.

Download the application at www.adamsrescuemission.org/events. This is your chance to showcase your art, your business, organization, or group! Create your one of a kind upcycled piece, turning trash into an artistic treasure. Be creative and feature your talents at ARM's 8th annual Upcycled Art Show. All items will be auctioned off during a live auction at the June 7th event, proceeds supporting the Adams Rescue Mission.

Agape Boutique, the newest thrift store in downtown Gettysburg located at 114 Chambersburg Street, features antiques, collectible items, clothing, purses, shoes, etc. Proceeds support the Agape House and Adams Rescue Mission.

Warehouse Church at Adams Rescue Mission (First Sunday of every month, 9:30-11 am): 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 (no children's church).

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Child Evangelism Fellowship

From their February 2024 Newsletter:

Teacher Training Classes: The first Tuesday of each month a teacher training class is held for folks who work with the children. If you are teaching children or thinking about it, please consider joining us. Classes are held at Bethel Mennonite Church, 2335 Biglerville Road, from 9:30-11:30 am. If you have questions, contact Miss Pam at the office (717-677-4797 or pamelablankenship@cefepa.net).

Thursday Morning Prayer: From 7-7:45 am on the Google Meet platform, a few folks meet to pray for this ministry and the children of Adams County. You can come to the meeting on your phone or computer. Bring your favorite morning beverage. Contact Miss Pam at pamelablankenship@cefepa.net and she will send you an invite.

Good News Club Schedule: Monday (Vida Charter School), Tuesday (Alloway Creek, Bermudian Springs, Biglerville, New Oxford), Wednesday (Conewago Township, Fairfield, James Gettys & Lincoln Elementary), and Thursday (Conewago Valley Intermediate, Franklin Township).

Compassion International

Letter from Sergio (2/9/24):

Dear Sponsors Friends, let me greet you with a big hug, and I want to thank you for the gift you sent me. I bought groceries. I want to tell you that I started working and learned to repair cars. I went on a trip with my family to a place called Tropical Valley; we played in the swimming pools; we had a great time. School vacations are ending, and classes will start again, and I'm excited to see my classmates again. During these school holidays, I went to the countryside with my uncles to share a meal, we went to the river for a while, and my uncles also bought a new stove. How are you? I am well; on the weekends, I go out to play ball with my friends, and we continue to go to church every Sunday without fail. We also attend the fasts.

I ask you to pray for me, my family, for my grandmother who is sick, and for my studies as classes are about to start. That's all for now and let me say goodbye with a big hug.

Letter from Braylan (2/20/24):

I thank you on behalf of myself and my family for the beautiful gift you sent me. The gift was full of blessings for my house. God bless you and keep you.

DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)

From Pakistan to Primetime: Weeks ago, Barry, one of our student leaders at Gettysburg College, talked to his friend "Carter" about sharing the gospel. Specifically, Barry encouraged him to pray and persevere, even when it felt challenging. With Barry's encouragement, Carter kept going. He prayed and continued trying to share the gospel, especially with his roommate "Amir." Amir is an international student from Pakistan, and a Muslim. Carter shared the gospel, and invited Amir to Primetime, our weekly large-group meeting. By God's grace, Amir aid yes. And so, I (Kevin) found myself in a small group with Barry, Carter, and Amir, discussing Christ's authority, love, and sacrifice to save sinners. By God's grace, God brought Amir around the world to a time and place where he could hear the gospel.

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Prayer Requests: Pray for Laura, for God to reveal himself to her, and for her to eagerly become a disciple of Jesus; pray for our student leaders, like Amy, Elsa, and Barry; pray for God to give us wisdom to train and encourage them; pray for God to grow these leaders' boldness and influence on campus; pray for Amir, that God would get ahold of his heart and move him to see the supremacy of Christ and put his faith in Jesus; pray for Carter, that God would give him boldness to keep sharing with Amir and more of his Muslim friends; pray for God to give us wisdom and patience as we parent Simeon and Hope; join us in praying that Simeon and Hope would choose to follow Jesus with their whole heart and lives.

SAT-7

Vision Statement: To see a growing Church, confident in Christian faith and witness, serving the community and contributing to the good of society and culture.

According to Brian Nelson (Ministry Development Director for SAT-7), the statement reflects SAT-7's aim to both introduce the lost to Jesus and to strengthen existing believers in their faith so they may be salt and light, impacting their communities for Christ.

Eighteen countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are featured in the **2024 World Watch List** that highlights the 50 most difficult places in the world for Christians. SAT-7 is strengthening believers across the region as they face persecution and oppression, through discipleship programs on satellite TV and social media, and by offering prayer and pastoral support.

Nine countries in the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) are in the top 16 of the list, which is produced annually by Open Doors: Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan are all in the top 10, with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Iraq not far behind. Persecution in these countries takes many forms – legal restrictions, physical violence, psychological pressure, or social ostracism – and citizens of these nations have also endured major crises in recent years. Last year alone, natural disasters rocked Libya and Syria; war continued in Yemen; government forces clashed with protestors in Iran; and Taliban edicts continued to wreak havoc in Afghanistan.

North Africa

In third place, Libya is the highest-ranked MENA country on the World Watch List. Militias rule over much of the country, and there are no safe places for Christians. In March 2023, six Libyan Christians were sentenced to death for sharing their faith. It is not known what has happened to them. Despite the dangers, Libyans are finding Jesus and choosing to follow Him.

Bordering Libya to the southeast, Sudan is also becoming an increasingly hostile place for Christians. Up two places to tenth in the World Watch List, the country has been in the grip of a civil war since April 2023, and progress made towards religious freedom a few years earlier – which included abolishing the death penalty for apostasy – has been undone. At least 165 churches have been closed, and others have been destroyed in the fighting. But there are over two million Christians in Sudan, and many of them continue to walk in faith.

In Algeria, which rose four places on the World Watch List, the authorities have closed 43 of the country's 47 Protestant churches, and church leaders have been threatened with prosecution. The closures are, understandably, having an impact on Algerian believers.

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In Morocco, which has risen five places to 24th on the World Watch List, believers risk arrest as well as government interrogations if they publicly practice their faith. Unable to get permission to gather in church buildings, Christians meet secretly in house churches.

Persian World

There is ongoing persecution in the Persian-speaking world, with many Christians fleeing Iran and Afghanistan in recent years. The regaining of power in Afghanistan by the Taliban in 2021 has been disastrous for Christians and also for women in the country.

In Iran, the authorities frequently arrest and imprison Christians, particularly those who are active in the house-church movement.

A Letter from Ryan and Alethia White, PCUSA co-regional liaisons for Northern and Central Europe

Dear friends,

What comes to mind for you when you think of “home.” If “home” is not a safe place, think about a place, real or imaginary, that is safe. Close your eyes for a moment, what images or feelings come to you? What does that place offer you? And what would it take for that safe place to become unsafe?

At the end of 2023, the UN estimated that 114 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes. The figure is projected to rise to 130 million people by the end of 2024. Those figures are so large that it is difficult to comprehend. But each one is a person with a face and a story who has been forced to leave home.



Ryan with colleague Ellen Smith facilitating the workshop at the Matthew 25 summit.

In collaboration with colleagues involved with migration in Central America, Mexico and Eastern Europe we developed a workshop that I (Ryan) helped co-facilitate at the Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta, GA from January 16-18. The theme was looking at the effects of militarism as a root cause of migration and the increasingly militarized response to border enforcement.

In using the term “militarism,” we refer to an ideology that among other things, prioritizes military responses over diplomatic endeavors and the interests of corporations over human needs. The use of force should be debated and only used after all other means have been pursued. In this way, we seek to support military personnel and their families, along with the communities that will be impacted, because human life is not a calculation.

Unfortunately, in the current context, the weapons manufacturing industry has an oversized presence, seeking profit through the sale of weapons and technologies that are used and exported in contexts that increase displacement, then earning a double profit when those technologies are purchased and used in border enforcement. The huge lobbying power of these corporations also labels migration as a security issue, fueling a narrative that sees people seeking safety as a threat.

We see and hear the effects of this at the borders of Europe and the U.S. and in the political discourse around immigration. Instead of migration being seen as a human right and natural response when

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home is not safe, it is viewed as a crisis that can only be managed by a militarized approach to border enforcement. The problem is that this approach does not address root causes and therefore will never be a long-term solution. Instead, major political parties are playing a game to stay in power while increasing profits for the lucrative weapons industry, all at the expense of fellow humans who bear the image of the divine.



Alethia with a guest panelist from Afghanistan.

Reflection from Alethia on the Rome Consultation: People on the Move

I (Alethia) landed in Rome on a sunny early morning in late January, meeting PC (USA) and other denominational colleagues. We were about to greet guests and welcome partners from the Middle East and Europe for three full days of consultation around "People on the Move." Our guests were not just practitioners – those dealing with the root causes of migration or the receiving of refugees – some were themselves in the process of being on the move or had now settled in Italy and were active in supporting and advocating for fellow communities of migrants.

As part of the planning team, I can say we felt our challenge was to create an atmosphere that simultaneously made space for the voices of those from countries where citizens are actively fleeing, from countries focused on how to receive newcomers, and from those who are in this moment considered refugees. The concept around this consultation was a big one. We wanted to have concrete proposals at the end to go forth with including points for advocacy with governmental representatives in the U.S. and at the EU parliament level.

The content of the consultation was driven from within by the participants themselves as the majority were also panel presenters or led various reflections during the time together. We were a collective of sorts, propelling each other toward new ideas, perspectives and action. Often the best way to learn is through the stories and experiences of others. The Southern Europe Partnership Network, a collaboration of U.S. Presbyterian congregations and European partners, was also represented and this presence helped to strengthen the relationships with our partnerships.

At the end of our time, we were reluctant to bid our goodbyes. A part of our hearts was left in that meeting space, around the coffee tables, and in the hotel dining room where we listened to each other's voices and stories and tried to draw a bit closer together in solidarity. Our challenge now is looking forward together. The next steps for this group require some sorting out, but a strong preference was heard for a new network of practitioners, activists and journeyers. Root causes are hard to shift, but advocacy and understanding in our own spheres go a long way in supporting each other. If you have an interest in learning more or in being connected with the Southern Europe Partnership Network, please feel free to contact us.

We thank you for continuing to journey with us in prayer and financial support of World Mission, enabling us to hear these stories and share them with you. It is through these encounters that we each learn the interconnectedness of our communities and that issues as big as migration cannot be addressed in isolation. Please pray for the many who have left their homes, for the many waiting on our borders and the many more displaced inside their own country, and for those who have found a new home in your communities and in Berlin.

Ryan and Alethia



The Giving Corner

He Gave His One and Only Son

The glorious season of Easter is upon us once again! That time when we celebrate the amazing Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all know the verse from John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

That God ***“so loved the world”*** - that is you and me! The immensity of this gift comes to light when we realize that God owes us nothing and needs nothing from us. Truly, it is an overwhelming thought, he gave us Himself!

We should and must realize that all that we have and all that we use are from our Creator. Because of his goodness he is so deserving of our heartfelt worship and thankfulness. We worship together but how do we show our thankfulness? Our perfect example is revealed to us in Mark 10:45:

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”

That is our purpose to be more Christ-like in our Faith Journey. We have been put here to serve in any way we can. The gifts we have are to be used to spread God’s love through word, action, and deed. We are to be “good-works ready.” There are many opportunities to do “good-works” through the many ministries at LMC. You can give of your time, your talent, and your treasure, whether in a small way or a big way. Just look around you – don’t miss the opportunities right in front of you. During this season of new life, bring a rebirth to your servant life.

“Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.”

Titus 3:14



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on March 19, 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 3/14/2024: Active Members (AM = CA): 159, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56 and Family Members: 51.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for February. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

Approved the following events and business items:

- o Accepted with regrets the resignations of sitting Elders Ray Wright and Lane Speck effective immediately.
- o Approved that a Special Congregational Meeting be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 7, 2024, immediately following the 8:30 AM worship service to elect two new elders for positions vacated because of two resignations. Installation will take place on Sunday, April 28, 2024.
- o Accepted with regrets the resignation of Clerk of Session, Denise Lockwood, effective May 31, 2024. Elected Dana McDonald, Clerk of Session, and Denise Lockwood, Associate Clerk of Session effective June 1, 2024.
- o Thursday, May 2, 2024: The National Day of Prayer Service in the Peace Garden at 5:00 PM followed by a lite supper of hot dogs, chips, drinks, and cookies.
- o Summer worship schedule of one service at 10:00 AM beginning on June 2, 2024, through Sunday, September 6, 2024.
- o Sunday, June 2, 2024: Church picnic immediately following the 10:00 AM Service.
- o The Men's Breakfast has been moved from Saturday, June 15 to Saturday, June 22, 2024 for the month of June only.

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

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

- o Looking into new bulletin boards for the Narthex.
- o Work continues on the possibility of solar panels for the education building. One firm quote has been received, waiting for a second. This concept still has much to be investigated and considered.
- o Looking into the possibility of building a pickle ball court!

Continued on the next page . . .

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

Team member: Lauren Neely, chair.

o Upcoming Minute for Missions:

Sunday, May 19, 2024: Will Hudson, the new Director for Adams County Rescue Mission will show a 3-minute video followed by closing remarks.

- o The Board of Pensions website underwent a major overhaul over the months of December, January and February. As a result the monthly fees paid for Pastor Mark were not billed beginning in January. The full payment will be deducted from the March expenses and reflected on the March Financial Report.

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 A planning meeting for the 2025 Marriage Retreat is scheduled for April 2, 2024. The Hoagie fund raiser has raised over \$1,400.00.
- o 137 postcards were mailed to residents in the new development along Herr's Ridge Road. The card has the schedule of our Holy Week services along with an invitation to join us.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o Member of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Rev. Lynn Miller will be removed from the LMC church membership list because she is now a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle as Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill, PA.
- o Heard a report of the Special Presbytery Meeting held on March 11, 2024, at the Middle Spring Presbyterian Church in Shippensburg, PA. Candidate Rev. Dr. James (Jamie) McLeod was examined and approved as the new Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation. He will work as a co-leader with Rev. Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership. He will join the Presbytery of Carlisle in May.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2024

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	February—2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$18,148.00	\$69,69.00	\$262,571.00
Other Income	\$2,621.47	\$17,694.21	\$63,415.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,769.47	\$87,303.21	\$325,986.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$387.60	\$417.76	\$14,750.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$26.40	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,148.00	\$5,648.00
Home Ministry	\$4,776.71	\$6,869.11	\$87,100.00
Church Administration	\$13,685.97	\$27,684.26	\$215,088.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,850.48	\$40,145.53	\$325,986.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	\$1,918.99	\$47,157.68	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 2/29/2024: \$95,687.75

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	February—2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$4,531.00	\$30,373.00	\$91,200.00
Other Income	\$475.40	\$550.12	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,006.40	\$30,923.12	\$91,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$491.00	\$24,470.00	\$91,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	\$4,515.40	\$6,453.12	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 2/29/2024: \$6,432.37

Notable expenses for February: \$1,016.26—Electricity

\$2,519.89—Propane for Church

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

1865 Knoxlyn Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Li'l Ripples April 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 8:30AM - 12:15 PM

Church Office Information

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Phone Number 717-642-5332

Email Address - office@lmcp.org

Website - www.lmcp.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.”

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