

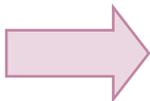
Li'l Ripples

April 2026
Volume 26
Issue 4



A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from
Pastor Brian



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Deadline for the
May issue of
Li'l Ripples is
April 17th

Dear friends,

Throughout this season of Lent, we have been on *A Journey to the Cross*. Week by week, we have followed Jesus in Luke's Gospel as he makes his way toward Jerusalem. Along the way, we have seen his teaching, his compassion, his warnings, and his resolve.

Now, as we enter Holy Week, that journey brings us to the cross.

This is not the end of the journey so much as it is the point where everything comes into focus. All that we have heard and seen along the way finds its meaning here.

In these days, we are invited to slow down and remember the love of Jesus for us.

We hear again the words spoken in the upper room. We stand at the foot of the cross. We sit in the quiet and uncertainty of Holy Saturday. And then, in time, we come to the empty tomb.

It can be tempting to move quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter morning, to skip ahead to celebration. But the Church invites us to walk this path day by day. Only by doing so do we begin to understand the depth of what Christ has done for us.

There is something here for us to see more clearly, something to take to heart, and something to receive with humility and gratitude.

So my encouragement to you for this Holy Week is simple:

Stay on the journey.

Come when you are able. Be present to these moments. Allow the story of Christ's love to shape you as you walk through it.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brian Moss



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



Palm Sunday Worship Service _____ March 29th at 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Communion Service _____ April 2nd at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service _____ April 3rd at 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil (LMC Cemetery) _____ April 4th at 3:00 PM

Easter Outdoor Sunrise Service with Communion _____ April 5th at 6:45 AM

Easter Morning Worship Service with communion _____ April 5th 10:00 AM

WOMEN ONLINE

The Women's Bible study meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 PM. We are currently reading and discussing *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the Life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us contact Dana McDonald.

SUNDAY MORNING GROUP

This spring our **Sunday morning group** is examining eight prayer warriors from Scripture who turned to God when times turned bad. You'll learn how to pray with their same power when you feel weak, helpless, stressed and afraid. We will read prayers of Jonah, Hezekiah, Jesus and others. Join us.

Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild met for the first time this year in March. We have some lovely plans. We once again will be going to Hillside Nursing Home for Bingo and other activities. They make our day when we go there and this time we will honor the staff who is so dedicated. In June we will hold another Saturday On The Porch. This is a breakfast for all the women of the church so in early June, look for your invitation. We will do other activities, but these are some of our major ones. Continue reading the newsletter and bulletins to stay informed. Our next meeting is **April 21st at 1:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Roz Santay

FUNFEST

On June 12, 2026, FunFest will be held at the Gettysburg Rec Park. LMCC will participate again this year. FunFest is the event that celebrates the kick-off of SummerQuest, the Adams County Library's summer reading program. FunFest encourages children and families to participate in SummerQuest, as well as experience everything the community has to offer. LMCC will set up a booth, hand out children's Bibles, play games, and give away prizes to the kids.

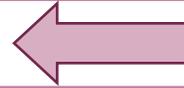
Request - The Bibles we hand out to the children, like everything else, have gone up in cost. If you would like to make a contribution to help fund the purchase of children's Bibles, it would be greatly appreciated. In the memo line of your check, please mark, "Bibles." Thank you

Phyllis Smith





Wild Wonder VBS is Coming This July !



LMCPC will be hosting a Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer, July 7 - 10, 2026. Children ages 4 - 10 are invited to explore God's creation through a week of faith, friendship, and fun from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. each day.

Every part of the day is thoughtfully planned to help children grow in their understanding of God's love while forming meaningful connections with one another. Through music, engaging Bible lessons, creative art projects, outdoor games, nature explorations, and other activities, children will come together to learn, play, and build lasting friendships in a safe and welcoming environment.

VBS is often a highlight of the summer, not just for the children, but also for the many volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and care to make the week so special. There are many ways to be involved, whether by volunteering your time, helping behind the scenes, donating supplies, or simply lifting the week up in prayer. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might take part in this special ministry.

We are excited to see what God has in store for this year's **Wild Wonder VBS**, and hope you will join us in making it a joy filled and transformative experience for every child who attends. For more information or to get involved, please contact: Stephanie Moss via email (quillmoss@gmail.com), or by phone (206.919.9178). Thank you for investing in the lives of children and families.

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Spiritual Life is putting together a team to set a date and decide what this retreat will look like. If you'd like to be a part of that team, please contact Phyllis Smith or any member of the Spiritual Life Team.

Do Good by Helping Others

LEND A HAND

Lend A Hand, the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Organization has a trip scheduled for **May 3-9, 2026** to New Bern, North Carolina. Several of our congregation have gone on trips there. The living facilities are basic but have amazingly comfortable beds and the meals are truly great at the end of the day.

If anyone is interested in this trip please contact Bev Benner 717-398-9933 for more info.

The cost for "veteran" volunteers (Those who have gone before) is \$125.00 and for new folks to Lend A Hand is only \$50.00. Please prayerfully consider joining one of these groups. The benefits of great fellowship and a mental and spiritual connection is well worth a few aches and pains. There is money available to help cover costs in our Mission Endowment Fund. Thank You.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR :

There will be a change coming regarding future paper copies of the Li'l Ripples newsletter. This change was approved by Session at their March 17th meeting.

Effective with the June issue, the paper copies of the newsletter will not be individually labeled. There will be paper copies available in the narthex (as usual) and anyone who wants a copy is welcome to take one. The consequence of this change is that paper copies of the newsletter will no longer be mailed when they are not picked up in the narthex. However, those for our shut-ins will continue to be labeled and mailed.

The newsletter will continue to be available on the church's website at www.lmcpc.org and there will be no change to the emailed version of the newsletter. If anyone would like to be added to the list of recipients for the emailed version, please send your name and email address to me at lilripples@gmail.com or put a note in my mailbox in the church office across from the library.

Thank you,
Fay Hess

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

March 20, 2016

I want to thank each and every one of you who donated towards the ACPM Easter Blessing Bags. I should have taken a picture of my overflowing rolling cart and all of the plastic bags filled with donations that I tried to carry with one hand while I pulled the cart to the door of the prison! I let the guards take my cart so they could get everything into the prison and then they brought it back to me.

Sandy Buhrman
LMCPC Mission Advocate

April

*Happy Birthday
To these members
of the LMCPC Family*

2 - Leslie Megyeri
4 - Gary Hughes
10 - Evelyn Stephens
20 - Lynn Hughes
29 - Arlene Wright
30 - Mike Orleski



2026 MARRIAGE RETREAT

Cathy Michaliga



Lower Marsh Creek hosted the annual marriage retreat at White Sulphur Springs Christian Retreat Center on March 6-8, 2026. The retreat was located at 4500 Milligan's Cove Road, Manns Choice, Pa, which is close to Bedford, Pa.

The theme was *Prayer and Marriage*, led by Pastor Laura Bulger. Four other churches were invited to participate in the retreat: St. John Lutheran, Rouzerville Christian Church, Orrtanna Good News Church and Mt Carmel Community Church. We had 24 couples attending. The churches conducted fund raising events which provided a subsidy of \$150 for each attending couple.

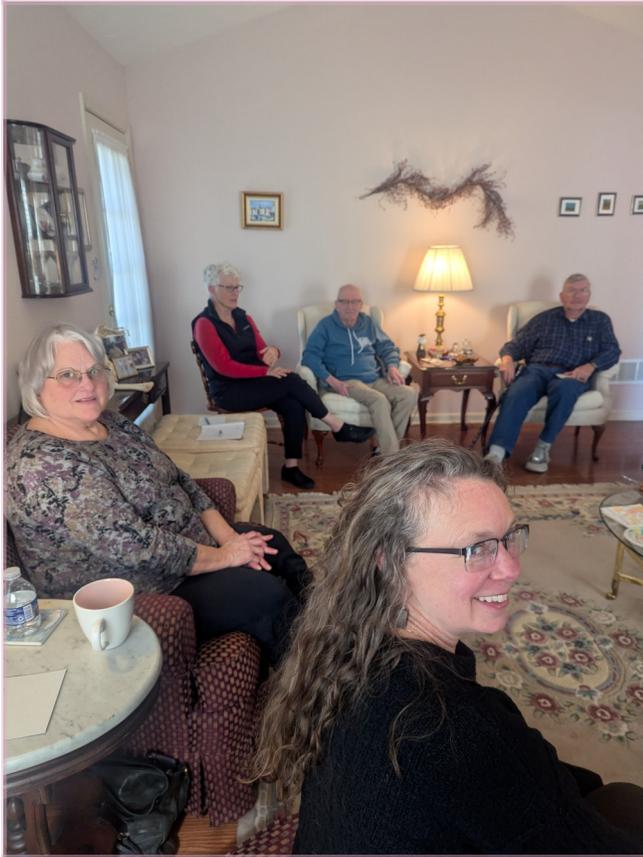
On Sunday morning, Pastor Brian led us in a beautiful worship experience. He then guided us in the giving of communion to each other, and a renewal of our vows. We are appreciative of the experience and support of the congregation in this annual event.



The weekend was designed to deepen couples' connection with God and with each other and to provide a restful environment for refreshing our souls. We enjoyed beautiful weather, good food, fellowship, and a few intimate moments of conversation and prayer with our spouses.



Cottage Meetings



At Susan Nunamaker's Home
March 19, 2026



At Jim & Bev Benner's Home
March 21, 2026

DO YOU KNOW -

LMCC's unofficial Sunday morning "greeter" and Thursday's FAITHnFITNESS instructor, **Dave Diehl?**

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY/HEALTH ISSUES

Life began differently for me. My mother died when I was six months old and my father died at age 41 when I was three years old. My stepmother was convinced by other relatives that I should be sent to a boys orphanage in Philadelphia (Girard college which was founded and endowed in the mid 1800's by a wealthy merchant and banker), which she did when I was seven years old. I spent my formative years there. At the age of 14 my stepmother gave me the opportunity to leave the orphanage to attend high school and college in Allentown, PA. Which is what I did. (That was a major cultural adjustment.) Back in Allentown I gained self confidence which help change my direction in life.

As you go through life and your body ages, you are bound to have physical challenges, but don't let that prevent you from exercising and getting and staying physically fit. For me swimming for health and fitness was my exercise of choice. It is amazing what your body can do to overcome physical limitation issues. As an example, in the early 1990's, I lost the use of one lung due to swimming across the Chesapeake Bay. In my opinion, I believe I caught a viral infection while swimming in the polluted water that killed the phrenic nerve which paralyzed my left diaphragm. With continued swimming I got past that issue as the other lung must have picked up most of the slack. (I carry spare parts.) Around thirteen years later, while swimming at the age of 62, the vertebral artery in my neck dissected blocking the flow of blood causing a cerebellum stroke. (The cerebellum lobe in the brain is side specific and controls only two things, balance and breathing.) This put me in intensive care for a few days. I lost my sense of balance temporarily, but nine days later I walked out of the hospital and three months later was back in the pool training for the summer nationals ten months later. Fortunately the stroke occurred on the side where the non functioning lung was located. The doctors credited my being in good physical condition due to swimming and being physically fit that resulted my rapid and thorough recovery. (Some people think I am still a little unbalanced but that is another story). A year later, after cataract surgery, I suffered a detached retina and after a number of surgeries (eight) due to rare complications, I lost sight in one eye. This resulted in my being legally blind in one eye. (Again, it's good to have spare parts.)

Despite these conditions (one eye, one functioning lung and three quarters of a brain) I still swam up to six miles a week in training (including at least one national or world championship meet each year). I am not suggesting that it is easy. It takes will power to get started but once you get into a routine you will be hooked and feeling increasing healthy as well as being more physically fit. Don't hesitate to use resources such as United States Masters Swimming (USMS) to not only help you get started but also USMS has resources which can help you with suggested workouts and motivational material. Also, consider joining an exercise group (like the one at LMCC) as a means to keep you motivated. That is how I got started and don't regret it for one moment. Check out the web site at USMS.ORG for more information.

At the "Y" pool where I coached and swim I have gotten to know people who help motivate me to keep working and training. One is a 98 year old woman who water walks almost every day and another is a 34 year old who had a stroke at age four who swims at least two plus miles three or four times a week. She struggles due to partial paralysis which effects her stroke mechanics but her positive attitude, perseverance and a smile that lights up a room is very motivating. Another inspirational person (a registered Masters Swimmer) swam over 1200 miles last year and is in the water five days a week. She has lost more than half of her total body weight (150 pounds down from 310 pounds). In addition to my swimming I teach water and low impact dry land exercise classes of 60 to 90 year old men and women. In one of my LMC classes is an 78 year old with Parkinson's (tremors and difficulty walking, etc.) who works hard to do whatever I ask everyone to do

Continued on the bottom of next page . . .

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - In the Lives of People With dementia

Family caregivers – this FREE seminar is for YOU!

Friday, May 1, 8 AM – 4:30 PM

SpiriTrust Lutheran

The Village at Sprenkle Drive (Gladfelter Center)

1802 Folkemer Circle, York, PA

Meet local resources and learn practical tips on how to support your loved one living with dementia. Bring your questions.

To register, call 717-843-1504 or email makingadifferenceindementia@gmail.com

Sandy Buhrman



Continued from the preceding page . . .

hand/eye coordination, routines to improve balance, upper body strength and stretching). She also is an inspiration to all.

Although my training and competition times have gotten a little slower, I feel physically fit and my quality of life is still very good for a 80 plus year old. The bottom line is don't let any physical issues keep you from swimming and exercising. You can overcome many health problems with a positive attitude and by keeping active. You will never regret that.

As a soon be 85 year old, I am still fighting a health issue which the doctors felt (according to an MRI), was a torn hip labrum which is very painful forcing me to use a walker. A cortisone shot using ultrasound to pinpoint the tear location, unfortunately, did not solve the problem. So, another MRI has been scheduled in a further attempt to locate the cause of my pain.

I have a more work to do before getting back in the pool for training and competition, in the 85 to 89 age group. Please keep me in your prayers and consider what you can do for yourself to get and stay active, no matter your age, for a better quality of life. (If you don't use it you lose it.)

GOD is not done with me yet.

NEVER SAY NEVER

Dave Diehl (Your friendly door greeter - currently seated)

And . . . Speaking of Music

MUSIC THAT MOVES ME: Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Last month, this column explored the origins of *Old Hundredth*, a tune sung by most Presbyterians every week in the form of our *Doxology* (#34).

This month, we will continue this journey by examining another familiar selection we are used to singing: *Glory Be to the Father* (#734), otherwise known as the *Gloria Patri*.

The *Gloria Patri* is also a doxology. Doxologies are short, formulaic hymns of praise to God that have been used historically to conclude prayers, psalms, and liturgical acts.

The English word *doxology* was coined in the 17th century. It is derived from the Greek words *doxa* ("glory") and *logos* ("word"). A very literal translation would be "word of glory."

As you know, there are 150 psalms in the Old Testament. Traditionally, these are divided into the "Five Books of the Psalter" - Book 1 (Psalms 1- 41); Book 2 (Psalms 42-72); Book 3 (Psalms 73 - 89); Book 4 (Psalms 90 - 106); and Book 5 (Psalms 107-150). Each of these books ends in a doxology, and the entirety of Psalm 150 is a doxology.

In Psalm 150, the word "halal" (Hebrew for "praise") appears 13 times.

Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty heavens.
 Praise him for his acts of power;
 praise him for his surpassing greatness.
 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
 praise him with the harp and lyre,
 praise him with timbrel and dancing,
 praise him with the strings and pipe,
 praise him with the clash of cymbals,
 praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord. – Psalm 150



You might also find it interesting that, in Hebrew, the phrase "Praise the Lord" is "hallu Yah" (*Yah* is a contraction of *Yahweh*, God's holy name). The next time you say or hear "hallelujah," I hope you will remember this – and say it a hundred more times!

The apostle Paul is well-known for his use of doxologies to express praise and wonder at God's boundless grace and mercy:

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable his judgments,
 and his paths beyond tracing out!
 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
 Or who has been his counselor?"
 "Who has ever given to God,
 that God should repay them?"
 For from him and through him and for him are all things.
 To him be the glory forever! Amen. - Romans 11:33-36

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The words of the *Gloria Patri* are representative of a broader category of doxology with roots in the Jewish *kaddish* - words of glory and praise recited after the verses of a song. The most famous version of this is the *Sh'ma* from Deuteronomy 6:4:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

The Jewish traditions were very familiar to early Christians, who wanted to continue something similar in their own worship services. As early as the second century A.D., Christians used a doxology known as the *Gloria in Excelsis*. This is also referred to as the "Greater Doxology." What we sing now, every Sunday - the *Gloria Patri* - began as the "Lesser Doxology." Shorter and easier to memorize, it became more commonly used throughout Christian history, with emphasis on praising the Trinity.

Between 300 -324 AD, a heretic doctrine called Arianism, named after its chief proponent Arius, a Christian clergyman who preached and studied in Alexandria, Egypt, gained traction in the Christian world. The Arian doctrine taught that Christ was not eternal God, but a created being who had a beginning. The Council of Nicaea declared the doctrine to be heretic in 325 AD, after which Christian churches added the second phrase "world without end" to counter the Arian heresy.

The tune we sing each week, which appears in our hymnal, is known as "GREATOREX." First published in 1851, it was written by English-born church musician Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858). The son of the organist at Westminster Abbey, Greatorex was well-versed in Episcopal doctrine and the musical traditions of the church. In his *Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes, Chants, Anthems and Sentences, Original and Selected*, he included four original settings of the *Gloria Patri*. The one most-recognized today was titled "Gloria Patri No. 1" in his collection.

It is very easy to take the repetitive portions of our weekly church services for granted. As we continue to use these historic building blocks of praise in our worship together, I encourage each of you to investigate and study any and all of them that might stimulate your curiosity. I hope you will consider and appreciate the great, majestic history and traditions behind all of the components of our corporate worship. Like me, I'm guessing you will be endlessly surprised and fascinated by our deep-rooted connection to the history of Christ's Church.

For from him and
through him and
for him are all things.

To him be the glory
forever! Amen.

SERVICE MUSIC

734

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: *Gloria Patri*, 2nd c.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

GREATOREX
Irregular

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

**Adams Christian Prison Ministries***Excerpts from the ACPM March 2026 Newsletter*

Is there a tug on your heart to volunteer within ACACC by sharing the Gospel and love of Jesus to those who are incarcerated? If so, then mark your calendars to attend the **ACACC Annual Security Training on Thursday evening, April 23**. The training is for both current and prospective volunteers. Current volunteers and eligible applicants will receive an invitation to attend as part of the renewal or initial approval process. Application packets are available on our website: www.AdamsCPM.org/services. **All applications must be received no later than March 30.**

Community Resources for Christ Centered Recovery:

Overcomers Outreach: Monday (7 pm) 10 Westminster Avenue, Hanover (POC Rob 717-965-2116 or Kelly 717-650-9559); Thursday (6 pm) 29 Carroll's Tract Road, Fairfield (POC Derek 717-965-0715)

Celebrate Recovery: Tuesday (6:30 pm) 1144 Bollinger Road, Littlestown; Thursday (6:45 pm) 3185 York Road, Gettysburg

Reformers Unanimous: Friday (7 pm) 80 Apple Avenue, Gettysburg

We have a new email address! To better serve our ministry partners and streaming communications, we now have a new email address. Please update your records and reach us going forward at: Redeemed@adamcpm.org.

Needs of the ministry: Life Recovery Bibles, Life Recovery Workbooks, Life Recovery Prayer Devotional, TouchPoints: God's Answers for Your Every Need

Adams Rescue Mission/Agape House*Excerpts from Pulse (the ARM/Agape March 2026 Newsletter)*

In early spring 2024 I was pulling into work at the Adams Rescue Mission. I had not yet been in my role as Executive Director for four months. ... I noticed a ragged-looking young woman surrounded by black trash bags and blankets. I ... walked over to meet her. She was 23 years old. It was immediately clear that she had cognitive challenges. Earlier that morning (near McSherrystown around 4:30), police had picked her up for vagrancy and were searching for a safe place where she could receive help. ... They had intended to take her to Gettysburg Hospital or C.A.R.E.S. but received another emergency call and left her at our shelter. We had no space available at our Agape House women and children's shelter. Our men's shelter was no place for a vulnerable young woman. [Editor's note: She was provided breakfast, a shower, and fresh clothes from the thrift store.] ... As we talked, I began calling shelters and organizations in Gettysburg, Hanover, Chambersburg, Harrisburg, Frederick, and Hagerstown. ... no openings. This young woman pulled Post-It notes from her pocket and wrote down the information she overheard. Her notebook was filled with phone numbers, addresses and notes – restaurants that might give leftovers, gas stations with warm bathrooms where she could sleep in a stall during cold nights. She believed she had been living like this since she was 19 – maybe 18. She said she grew up in Adams County (mother left when she was young and her father was in prison). She carried her Social Security card and State ID in a worn wallet, along with more notes. Our entire team went to work calling group homes, mental health facilities, and shelters.

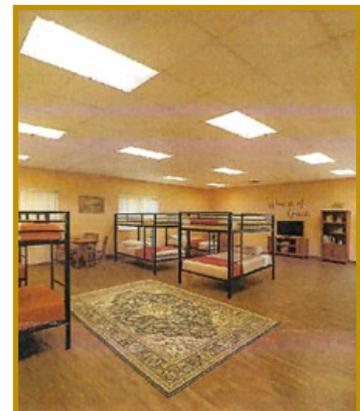
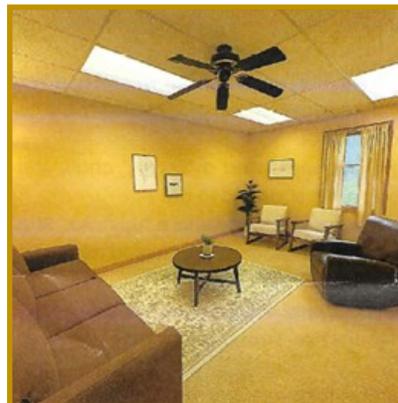
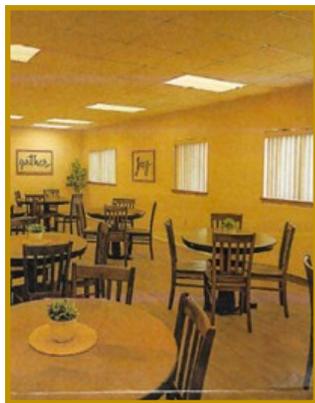
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I struggled to believe that there were so few resources for single women without children in Adams County and surrounding areas. Finally, our Ministries Director reached an organization near Pittsburgh that could provide her with a bed and the care she needed (four hours from everything familiar).

That was the day I began praying for a Sheltered Single Women's Restoration Center. In October of 2025, that prayer began to take shape. A small woman, barely five feet tall but full of wisdom and presence, walked into our office. Sister Deb, a deaconess and pastor of an aging church congregation, had heard that we were searching for a place to help single women. She asked me a simple question: "If you were given a church and its property, what would you do with it?"... Her congregation had faithfully stewarded their church for over 150 years, but they could no longer maintain it. ... they unanimously agreed to entrust Adams Rescue Mission with their church and property ...

Today, ... our vision is to open a 36-bed center by early fall of 2026, before the cold weather arrives. ...



We are a faith-based organization, and while not everyone may share our beliefs, we hope we can share a common commitment: helping vulnerable women find safety, stability, and hope. This young woman's story is not unique, but together, we can help to ensure her story has a different ending. Your generosity keeps the Mission strong. Thank you for your support.

Child Evangelism Fellowship

From their February 20 Newsletter

It's a new year and there are new kids signing up for GNCs! Praise God! Please continue to lift up the teachers as we attempt to share the Life of Christ with the children each week. May He give us His words and not our own.

Summer ministry is coming! We are so excited to announce that we have been blessed with FOUR summer interns giving their summer to be trained to work with children, sharing the Gospel with them.



6/22 – practice “club” for all interns teaching – location TBD; 6/29 -7/3 - Day Camp Idaville United Brethren - Gardners; 7/6 -10 – Day Camp Griest Park - York Springs; 7/13-17 – Day Camp at Memorial Baptist -Gettysburg; 7/19-23 - VBS Iron Springs BIC (evenings 6-8); 7/21-25 – South Mountain Fair (4-9, Sat.1-10)

Our annual banquet is coming on May 2, 6-8 at Heidlersburg Fire Hall. Get it on your calendar and let Miss Pam know that you are coming. We cannot wait for you to hear the children sing!

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Thomas & Cheri Henry (One Another Ministries)

From their January – March 2026 Newsletter

Looking back with thanksgiving (US, France, Spain, UK)

Those three months in the **US** were both more life-giving and more demanding than we had expected. Four couples and two singles furloughing in three states in the US received our gift of the Relational Care Workshop. When back in the US, deeper friendships & family help sustain us for life overseas. You are a gift to us.

In this picture, you can see the Henrys celebrating New Years at their favorite pizza place, Angelo's Coal Oven Pizzeria in Manhattan. Updates on their children: Tom is working and running in Manhattan. Shelby & Susannah love their teacher roles. Ben finished his Masters in Global Development in London and is looking for a job.



In January, God opened the door in **France** for two marriage intensives with four couples. In places where workers serve Christ and pretty much anything goes, we help give Christian marriage a good reputation.

The Shoulder to Shoulder annual conference in **Spain** is such an important opportunity to teach single missionaries from around the world a Theology of Singleness - to show them they're not alone. For our second year, it reinforced our desire to keep presenting this material wherever we go. And it's opening the door for more single workers to participate in our Deeper Friendships workshop.

A highlight here in the **UK** - Last week Cheri was invited to speak to the Christian Union at Durham University about "God's Response to Satan's Plan". It was well attended, and she received good feedback. Durham U is the fourth largest university in the country and has the largest contingency of Christians.

Pressing on with hope (Turkey & Jordan)

Two ministry trips had been planned - three couples in Turkey in April, and three couples and eight singles in Jordan in May - invited us to come and support them. We also planned a one-day "Theology of Singleness" workshop for all workers. Suddenly, the day after we nailed down all the logistics and made reservations the Iranian conflict happened, bringing those trips into question. For now, the majority of workers in both countries are staying put. We've been talking with folks on the ground there, and life is pretty much as usual, relatively quiet and stable. Of course, at any given time the situation could turn. For this reason, we are still planning to go, but we are holding it loosely. We will not hesitate to postpone if it's deemed unwise to go. Praying for and trusting God for wisdom.



We are very excited that a couple in Jordan who we led through a marriage intensive last year wants to partner with us. Their testimonial led to all the couples and singles we hope to serve in May. They will shadow us during both intensives (couples and singles). And, we just learned that our dear, single, female teammate will likely come along to help facilitate all those singles.

One of the blessings of leading young couples through the Deeper Marriage Intensive is that we sometimes get to hold cute bundles of joy. Twice recently, we watched the two most well-behaved babies in the world!

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From a March 2 report on the SAT-7 website

SAT-7 Responds to Escalating Middle East Crisis

As conflict intensifies across parts of the Middle East, SAT-7 is responding in real time: adapting its programming, mobilizing prayer, and standing alongside viewers who are living through fear, displacement, and uncertainty.

While headlines report increasing military exchanges and regional instability, SAT-7's focus remains clear: to provide spiritual support, steady presence, and comfort to those directly affected.

The Power of Prayer

In a message shared as tensions escalated, SAT-7 CEO Rita El-Mounayer called on the power of prayer. "In moments like this, prayer is not passive," she said. "It is powerful. It is standing together before God when the world feels unsteady."

SAT-7's leaders remain united in their response. Panayiotis Keenan, Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS, adds: "In this time of great uncertainty and escalating conflict, our hearts are with the people of Iran and the whole Middle East region. "We pray for safety, for comfort for those who mourn, and for peace in every home. May God be our refuge and strength, and may His perfect peace guard all our hearts and minds." Please keep my Iranian team and their families, and my SAT-7 colleagues throughout the region, in your prayers.

Broadcasts Continue

While all SAT-7 staff have been accounted for, the crisis is creating operational challenges in parts of the region affected by the turmoil.

Our Persian channel, SAT-7 PARS, is continuing to share programs despite satellite communication and the internet being disrupted in Iran.

Lebanon – a major broadcast hub for SAT-7 ARABIC – is facing attacks, and people have been displaced in southern areas. SAT-7's team in Beirut is continuing production work at the studio with other staff working from home.

The situation in Cyprus, the main production center for SAT-7 PARS and location of SAT-7's International Office, is being carefully monitored following attacks on the UK's Akrotiri air force base.

Special Programming

As the situation develops, SAT-7's channels are adjusting their content to address the immediate emotional and spiritual needs of viewers.

"These are very critical and distressing times across the entire Middle East region," says Rami Al-Halaseh, SAT-7 Arabic Channels Executive Director. "Our Arabic channels are making all necessary changes to our program and social media content to ensure that it is relevant to the situation and especially addressing the fear of the people during these troubled days."

"Our teams in different locations are united in purpose and in prayer, and I pray that the Lord will lead us all in wisdom and protect the people of this region according to His will and strong shield."

In Lebanon, SAT-7 ARABIC is filming a special episode of *You Are Not Alone*, focusing on the latest developments, including villages displaced from the south and families sheltering in temporary centers. The program is scheduled to broadcast at 5 pm local time on Tuesday, March 3.

Across its Arabic platforms, SAT-7 launched a coordinated prayer initiative under the theme "My Heart Will Not Fear," based on Psalm 27.

Live online prayer times are bringing together leaders from different countries to intercede for peace and protection. And, on screen and across social media, a clear message has appeared: "A Cry of Prayer – Stop the Advance of War."

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Tender Care

From a recent flyer

A virtual Mother's Day Walk is planned for Saturday, May 9. Register as a walker at www.tendercare.org/walk. Create your personal profile as an individual or organize a group. Set a goal, add photos and share. This event serves as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate mothers and the women we support.



The Giving Corner

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Best wishes for a Happy Spring as you celebrate Easter and all of the new life blooming around you!

This is a brief story about our Mission Endowment Fund here at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. In 2003 Interpretation and Stewardship Team and Session consolidated all forms of our investments – CD's, Bonds, Stock and various checking accounts – into a joint investment called the Endowment Fund through the Presbyterian Covenant Fund in the amount of \$95,000. In 2006 this fund was moved to a Vanguard investment Fund which had grown to over \$129,000. Through prudent investing and good management that fund grew by 2011 to a total of \$202,720. In 2012, \$87,201.00 was moved into a new account at Vanguard titled LMC Mission Fund and has reached a total of \$158,274.00 as of December 31, 2025. AND this is a story with a happy continuance – that money is available still to encourage and support members and/or active participants who wish to participate in short –term trips and projects. This fund is meant to provide financial assistance through Grants to those who are led by God to serve within and/or outside of our church walls whether it be in our community, our country, or the world.

The opportunities are virtually endless – as are the needs – and being part of the solution to a problem can be a highlight of your own life as well as those you help.

If you are interested in this please contact Sandy Buhrman, Mission Advocate or Bev Benner, I & S Team for guidelines, policies and application forms. PLEASE NOTE: the application must be submitted at least 2 months in advance of the trip or project.

Praying you will contemplate trying a mission trip in your future. Check out the Lend A Hand article on page 3 in this newsletter for information on a May Trip to North Carolina.

INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP TEAM



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Brian Moss serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- ~ Membership 3/17/2026: Active Members (AM) = 150, Friends Participating (FP) = 31, Affiliate Members (AfM): 0, Family Members (FM): 40, Total: 221.
- ~ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

Approved the following events and business items:

- ~ Approved participation in Fun Fest at Gettysburg Rec Park from 3-7pm on Friday, June 12.
- ~ Approved a special collection from the congregation for the purchase of children's bibles for Fun Fest to be collected on Sundays during May.
- ~ Approved a National Day of Prayer Service at 5pm on Thursday, May 7.
- ~ Approved
- ~ Approved a Facilities Use Request from Julie Wikoff (daughter of Leroy and Geri Bowers) for a Baby Shower on Saturday, March 28 from 12:30 - 4pm.
- ~ Approved estimates for the building renovations to the Education Building for the Adams Rescue Mission daycare for a total of \$25,500 to be paid by Randy Smith's memorial gift.
- ~ Approved renovations to the A/V Booth in the sanctuary to make it larger for a total of \$2,035.
- ~ Approved a change to the way Li'l Ripples will be distributed.

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

Team members: Joe Jackson, Jed Smith, and Lanny Winters

- ~ Three large trees at the cemetery were taken down and hauled away.
- ~ Students from a local school came on March 12 to help clean up cemetery for their community service project.
- ~ Still planning for the June 27 ceremony in the cemetery with the Sons of the American Revolution.
- ~ Lockbox where incoming financial and sensitive documents can be stored has been obtained and will be mounted across from the church library near office windows.
- ~ Savings on the property insurance for the white house was realized. The church will receive a \$517 refund. Thank you, Phyllis!
- ~ Exploring display screen for the back of sanctuary that would be visible by Pastor and choir.

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

Team members: Lauren Neely, Doyle Waybright, and Bev Benner

- ~ Annual financial review for 2025 was conducted on March 13, 2025.
- ~ Ginny Woods Scholarship applications due by April 1.
- ~ The financial reports for February were approved.

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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: Mike Orleski, Susan Nunamaker, and Lynne Orner

- ~ Holy Week: April 2 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service; April 3 - Good Friday, a Tenebrae Service; April 4 - 3pm Prayer Service in LMCC's Cemetery; April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service with communion followed by breakfast and 10 am service with communion.
- ~ The Lent Soup/Study has been going well with an average of 34 people attending.
- ~ Pastor's Installation service on May 17 – planning a catered meal afterwards; getting quotes for food.
- ~ Pastor is planning a 12-session confirmation class on Sundays in the fall.
- ~ A church retreat which will be a spiritual renewal weekend on-site at the church is being planned for the fall.
- ~ Other upcoming events:
 - ~ National Day of Prayer – May 7
 - ~ Mother's Day – May 10 – will hand out carnations to women of the church

 - ~ Pentecost – May 24 – will order red geraniums to decorate the church and plant afterwards
 - ~ Fun Fest – June 12 – will put up tents and use the church banner; will have bibles and games/prizes to hand out to the children
 - ~ Father's Day – June 14 – cookies will be given out to the men of the church

News from the Clerk of Session – Dana McDonald:

- ~ Dana McDonald and Bev Benner have been elected as Elder Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on April 28 at Pine Street PC in Harrisburg
- ~ Session approved a request for the transfer of membership of Arlene Wright to Frederick Presbyterian Church in Frederick, MD.

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 :

Susan Nunamaker 717- 642– 9646

Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305

Jim Welsh 717– 377– 5370

Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123

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

Li'l Ripples April 2026



Pastor
Brian Moss



Sunday Morning Schedule

The Seekers Group 8:30 AM
Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 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.*

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