

Li'l Ripples

DECEMBER 2025
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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church



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*A thrill of hope,
the weary world rejoices !*

The DEADLINE for the
JANUARY ISSUE of Li'l Ripples
is DECEMBER 19th.



October 15, 2025

Dear Friends at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for inviting me to serve as your next pastor. For the past ten years, I have been the pastor of Orcas Island Community church in Washington State. It has been a wonderful season of ministry and growth, but my wife, Stephanie, and I have felt called by God to move on to the next chapter. We are also wanting to be closer to her family in Maryland, where she grew up in Thurmont, and her parents still reside.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee did an excellent job of welcoming us to your church and community. It is clear that you are a congregation that loves God and cares for one another. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you, worshiping together, and joining in the work that God is doing through this church.

Stephanie and I have been married for almost 29 years and have five children: Haley, Levi, Ethan, Isaac, and Ezra, who is twelve. Each time we have visited family in the area, we have been captivated by the beauty and history of Gettysburg and Fairfield. We are excited to become part of your community. Thank you for the warmth and grace you have already shown us. We look forward to meeting all of you.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Brian Moss

**DECEMBER - JANUARY CALENDAR****Advent Soup & Study**

Beginning Tuesday, **December 2nd** and continuing on **December 9th and 16th**, Pastor Wright will lead a study using the book *Prepare the Way for the Lord* by Adam Hamilton. Soup, salad and dessert will be served at **5:30 PM** with the study to follow beginning at **6 PM**.

Christmas Eve

We will celebrate Christmas Eve with **one candlelight service at 7 PM**. The service will be live streamed.

Welcome for Pastor Brian

Spiritual Life will host a coffee hour to welcome Pastor Brian on **January 18th** immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

Winter Banquet

Stay tuned for information on the Winter Banquet.

Phyllis Doyle Smith

Combined Sunday Morning Group

Each Sunday of Advent, journey to Bethlehem with your LMCC family. Come to Fellowship Hall any or all of the four Sundays as we focus on the love of Jesus at Christmas. Donuts, coffee, and fellowship **8:30 - 9:00 AM**.

The journey will begin at **9:00 AM**. Questions:

Mike Orleski, Doyle Waybright, Susan Nunamaker

Women's Bible Study

The women meet online **two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. We are currently reading and discussing *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the Life of David*. If interested in joining us, contact :
Dana McDonald.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet at **Perkins on December 16th at 11:30 AM** for our annual Christmas party. It will be our last event of the year and we will not meet January or February. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Roz Santay

Couples Group

The Couples Study Group will be going to Heartland Diner in Gettysburg for our December 13th meeting. Before dinner we will meet at Spirit Trust Lutheran Home to sing some Christmas Carols with the residents beginning at 4:30 PM. Our dinner at Heartland Diner is scheduled for 5:30 PM. After a meal of good food (prepared by someone else, this time) and fellowship we will spend some time reflecting on the blessing we experience during this season of the year. All couples in the congregation are welcome to join us for this "Night Out".

Bev Benner

RUTH'S HARVEST FAIRFIELD

The numbers are increasing for the weekly bags we pack for Ruth's Harvest Fairfield. The following items are what we are in need of at this time in individual servings :

Cereal

Popcorn

Peanut Butter 2 Go

Cookies

Chips

Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers

Veggie Cups: Green Beans, Corn, Carrots

Items can be dropped off at the Carroll Valley Borough Office in the lobby, St John Lutheran Church in Fairfield, or in the bin placed in the church narthex.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Ruth's Harvest Fairfield.

(Carlos Wampler)

Good News for All !!

The PNC "worked long and hard" with wonderful results;
the Presbytery Commission on Ministry agreed;
the congregation received a comprehensive information packet on Pastor Brian Moss:

So . . . Doyle no longer has
to keep his mouth taped shut !!
GREAT JOB EVERYONE !



Thanks to
Judy Williams
for this
photo.

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

(Thanks to Kathy Megyeri)



5 - Lenorah Williams

6 - Nick Johnson

9 - Rodger Benner

9 - Sally Suder

10 - Shirley Breslin

13 - Phyllis Rioux

26 - Linda Lapp

LEND A HAND TRIP - NOVEMBER 9 - 15, 2025

Lend A Hand's 151st trip since its inception was once again to the town of New Bern, NC.

We arrived Sunday evening, and met our team which consisted of people from Carlisle, Camp Hill, and Fairfield, PA., as well as Gaithersburg and Dayton MD. We received our room assignments and got settled in. Monday morning, we were briefed on our house assignments and organized into 4 different teams. Teams then loaded up on tools, breakfast and direction to their respective sites.

Each workday began early, we arrived on site, some home's owners were still in the homes, and some were staying with family or friends while repairs were completed on their homes. For those at homes with the homeowners present, it was an opportunity not only to meet them but to hear their stories, the struggles, their hope, resilience, determination and tremendous FAITH. Those who I interacted with personally displayed Faith in God that is rarely seen. They were an inspiration in how we should be putting God above all things and all circumstances, trusting in Him always!

At the end of each workday, we returned to our base facility where we got cleaned up and prepared for dinner. Lend A Hand staff and other team members put in double shifts, by working on their house site, and then rushing back to the mess hall to prepare dinner for everyone. The efforts by each team member were impressive. Once dinner was finished, we cleaned up the mess hall and kitchen. We then all gathered to give nightly reports of the day's progress. Finally, we were off to bed.

The work was hard; we looked forward to dinner and an hour or two downtime before bed. The work was also very rewarding, as the week went on you could see progress, each team member had skills that they excelled at yet were also eager to learn anything new. We learned about one another just as much as those homeowners we were working for.

The truth is each person's mission experience is different. I can tell you that these trips do just as much for you as they do for the people you help. You don't know that until you're in it. It also can be addictive, as I saw many familiar faces during my second trip. I believe the saying goes "If you want a clean heart, then keep dirty hands". That certainly rang true for me. I encourage anyone interested to check out Lend A Hand.

Jason Stottlemeyer

LEND A HAND 2026 CALENDAR

Lend A Hand (Our Presbyterian Disaster Relief Organization) has set the dates for three trips to North Carolina for the beginning of 2026. January 18-24 and May 3-9 will be spent in New Bern, NC and March 8-14 in the western part of the state (NC). Giving you these dates so if you would like to participate you have time to mark your calendars. We pray God will move your heart to join this way of helping others.

Bev Benner

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

November 20, 2025

I would like to **thank** the church for the outpouring of love and support. Your prayers, cards and meals have been a great source of comfort as I go through chemo treatments. Thank you all so very much.

Michael McDonald

October 22, 2025

Dear Partners in Presbyterian Ministry and Missions,

On behalf of Presbyterian Stewardship and Funds Development, please convey **our appreciation** to your mission committee, finance committee, pastoral leadership, session and congregation for your gracious and faithful support [and] your dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner in mission. As always, please let me know how I can support you in your mission efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Sy Hughes, Stewardship Officer
Office of Stewardship Funds & Development

October 2025

Dear Friends,

Disaster response requires the gifts of individuals, churches, grassroots organizations, local leaders, national partners and devoted donors to engage faithfully in this work together. It takes the offerings of people with mites and people with millions (and everyone in between) to collaboratively fund the hard and holy work of disaster ministry. **Thank you** for entrusting PDA with your precious gifts to the church to further God's work through disaster recovery [after the Texas flooding].

With gratitude,

The Rev. Nell M. Herring, Associate for Volunteer Ministries
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

November 7, 2025

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your gift to Agape International Missions (AIM). This donation not only helps us bring rescue and healing to survivors of trafficking, but also provides protection for those vulnerable to exploitation.

Your support truly makes a difference.

Together for Freedom,
Agape International Missions

PRAYER HELPS

We visited some college friends a few weeks ago. Upon returning home, I remembered something miraculous that had happened to one the ladies, Lynn. I called her and asked her to tell me the story once again. Here's her account:

It was 1967. She had completed her education to become a nurse. Unfortunately, not long after beginning her nursing career, she got a needle stick which deposited her patient's blood into her blood stream. She soon came down with hepatitis and had to be hospitalized. At the time, there was no medication that would heal her. Her body would have to fight off the disease while she rested for as long as it took. After a number of weeks, Lynn was still not getting better. Her skin and her eyes were slowly turning yellow. She was getting worse. Lynn asked the doctor if she could rest at home. The doctor said she had to remain in the hospital.

The next day a good friend came to visit. After a short visit, the friend said, "we'll be praying for you," and left. They did indeed pray. Her friend got the church ladies' prayer group together and they prayed for good while. The day after the prayer group met, Lynn started to feel a little better.

The doctor came in to check Lynn's blood condition. About an hour later the doctor came back in and said to Lynn, "Mrs. O'Riley, I have just come back from the lab, and I have to say, I never seen anything like this before. Your blood has undergone a significant change. The hepatitis is almost gone. I will have to monitor you closely for the next two days. I'm expecting it will be all gone by then and you will be able to go home."

Lynn in fact did go home two days later, and after going home she checked with her friend, and then her husband drove her to the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, where Lynn went and sat in with the ladies' prayer group and thanked them for their prayers Praise The Lord !

John McMann

"Daddy, Mommy and Baby Tree"

Thanks to Jim Richardson
for reminding us how beautiful
the foliage was this fall.



HAPPINESS TO BE FOUND IN CHURCH AND WITHIN THE MINISTRY

More former houses of worship are being converted into bars, clubs, luxury condos, and low-income housing as church attendance drops. On average, more than half of churches are baptizing fewer than one person a month and 59% of them are spending more than they take in, according to ABC news. In the Diocese of Buffalo, Father Bryan Zielenieski said, *"We essentially went to half of what we used to back in the early 2000's as we lost almost 100 parishes and expect to shut down another 70 churches. People just aren't going as much as they used to."* A Gallup Poll reveals that in the late 1940's, nearly 80% of Americans said they belong to a church, synagogue, mosque or temple, but today, just 45% say the same and only 32% say that they worship God in a house of prayer once a week. In 2019, before the pandemic, America was losing as many as 1,000 churches a year, and the aging of the church population is seen all over America.

And yet, here is the irony - in spite of church closings, where do you suppose people are the happiest and why are most pastors so well adjusted? According to a Washington Post survey (Dec.1,2024), people are happiest in houses of worship followed by being outdoors, in someone else's home and then in a restaurant or bar. People's stress levels are lower and they find more meaning when they're taking part in worship services or other spiritual activities. Thus, it comes as no surprise that religious workers are so happy as scholars found a strong relationship between religion and well-being. Furthermore, active participation in religion, beyond a simple affiliation, increases the well-being boost even more. And since no one participates more actively in religion than the clergy because they gain a deeper engagement with doctrine than the rest of us, they are thus better equipped to handle life's trials and tribulations. With their constant efforts to help others cope, they develop a heightened ability to deal with their own struggles. Rev. Elizabeth Rees in Alexandria, VA left the legal profession to become an Episcopal priest and can attest to the effect of helping parishioners through their own life's peaks and valleys. She, like other pastors, go to hospital rooms, get calls at all hours for family tragedies, and minister to the aged, sick, dying, depressed and lonely that would wear most of us down. But what compensates are the baptisms, officiating at weddings, anniversaries, graduations, and best of all, ordinations of newcomers to the profession. As Rev. Cheryl Lindsay, minister of worship and theology at the United Church of Christ in Wellington, OH, admits, training young pastors is one of the most fulfilling parts of her job but the real benefit of being a pastor is sharing life with one another and drawing people deeper and deeper into their faith, which also fortifies her own. She asks, *"What better way to spend a life as guiding parishioners through difficult times which enhanced my own ability, skills and insights that improved my own well-being?"* But of course, religious work probably attracts the sort of people who prioritize living fulfilling lives. Economist Olga Popova at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies wrote a book on religion and happiness research and contends that those drawn to religious careers are more likely to possess certain personality traits such as altruism or a strong sense of purpose that are independently linked to well-being. Their work allows them to minister to themselves because of the reservoir of skills that they build. Granted, the job is stressful, demanding and can be isolating. Typical pastors run their small businesses, put on weekly events, and worry about finances even as they are helping parishioners through their own life's journeys, but the personal rewards are life-changing, enhancing and lasting.

Retired U.S. Navy Chaplain who served for 19 years, Dale Williams, former pastor of Lower Marsh Creek Church for 16 years, believes that dropping church attendance in large part is due to modern technology which has created a fast-paced instant gratification society geared toward entertainment. Thus, some see attending church as 'slow and boring' when competing priorities such as sports and shopping detract from gathering for worship. He says, *"This on-line culture makes it possible to lounge on your sofa in your pajamas and sip coffee while watching a service on the computer or TV screen. Thus, a 'lonely' society evolves where people do not know how to relate to others in personal, face-to-face relationships. They isolate themselves and hide in their devices which often leads to 'escapes' like drug addiction and suicide. But spiritual and secular research have both proven again and again that church attendance is good for emotional health because of the importance of community."* And Williams says the opportunity to work with an amazingly diverse background of cultures, faiths, perspectives and life experiences to help people as they deal with the myriad of questions about faith and life in general is the greatest gift of the ministry as a profession. He says, *"It allowed me to learn and grow non-stop over my 45 plus years of ministry."* What a testimonial to the ministry profession at the same time that the numbers of parishioners are decreasing. If only committed pastors like Williams, Lindsay, and Father Zielenieski could convince them of the happiness factor found in in-person attendance that so many regular practicing worshipers personally attest to in their own lives.

Kathy Megyeri - January 2025

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH YOUNG LIFE - OCTOBER 27, 2025

(Thanks to Jim Richardson for these photos.)



*And, . . . Speaking of Music . . .***MUSIC THAT MOVES ME**

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.”—Matthew 1:23

Every year, right about the first week of November, I start to hear complaints: “Why are they putting up Christmas decorations so soon?”; “Why am I seeing Christmas advertisements before Thanksgiving?”; and “Why are they playing Christmas music already?”

Well, I admit that, sometimes, I am among the complainers, especially when these gun-jumpers start up in early October.

But, really, what would the Christmas season be without music? Personally, I like the more traditional, liturgical music—in particular, the old and sometimes ancient hymns that focus on the birth of Jesus, as opposed to the secular songs we hear piped into department store sound systems.

This year, Advent begins on November 30. The meaning of the word Advent comes from the Latin *Ad* (to) and *Venire* (come) and translates to English as “arrival.” In this joyous season, we celebrate the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Of course, music is a very important part of this celebration.

I wonder how many of you know about the Anglican priest—and composer—John Mason Neale? He was never on my radar, either, until now. However, I was fascinated to learn that John Neale is the composer of “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.” I was even more surprised to learn that he also wrote “Good Christian Men, Rejoice,” “Good King Wenceslas,” and the focus of our musical deep-dive this month, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Neale lived from 1818-1866. He was a compassionate man who was deeply concerned for the needy. He served as warden of Sackville College (a home for elderly men) in East Grinstead, Sussex, in England. He also founded a nursing order of Anglican nuns, and he worked tirelessly to care for orphans and young women in need.

But John Neale’s avocation—actually, his passion—was researching and translating early and medieval Greek and Latin hymns. He tended to focus on ancient hymns that centered on the feasts and fasts of the Christian year.

During the course of his research, Neale discovered seven medieval Christmas Vespers hymns, dating from the 9th Century. He identified them as Gregorian chants that were sung by Benedictine monks each day, from December 17 through December 23, to prepare their hearts and minds for Christmas. Neale translated these hymns from the original Latin, and then he wove together different segments to produce the first draft of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” It was published in 1851 under its original title, “Draw Nigh, Draw Nigh, Emmanuel.”

Each of these Gregorian chants began with the letter “O.” Accordingly, they were called the “Great” or “O” Antiphons (*antiphon* means psalm or anthem). Each verse began with a Messianic title from the Scriptures that foreshadowed the arrival of Jesus.

- O Sapientia (Wisdom)
- O Adonai (God)
- O Radix Jesse (Stem or root of Jesse)
- O Clavis David (Key of David)
- O Oriens (Dayspring)
- O Rex genitium (King of the Gentiles)
- O Emmanuel (God with us)

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

The last verse, "O Emmanuel," is the first verse of the hymn we know so well today:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear*

Now, here is the part that I find most fascinating - and even amazing! When you take the first Latin letter of each verse, [see the previous page] it forms an acronym: SARCORE.

Now, if you read the acronym backwards, it becomes a two-word acrostic: "ERO CRAS." The Latin words "ero cras," translated to English, mean "Tomorrow, I will come." Folks, you can't make this stuff up!

As we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," I think this is a beautiful thing to contemplate. During the season of Advent, we not only celebrate the fact that Emmanuel - God With Us - came to us in human form over 2,000 years ago. During this season, we may also turn our eyes and hearts toward Jesus' promised return.

Friends, during this wonderful time of Advent and Christmas, let us remember the first coming of Jesus as an infant. Let us also anticipate, yearn, hope and ache for his second coming in triumph as our High King!

Merry **CHRIST**mas, all!

---Dirk Grove

ADVENT

154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954) VENI EMMANUEL.
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) L.M.R.

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

FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY:

10 turkeys and 6 boxes of food were taken to the Fairfield Food Pantry. The volunteers greatly appreciated the support from the LMCC folks.

From now until the second week in December, we will be collecting breakfast items. Items will be delivered and the Food Pantry will distribute for Christmas morning breakfast.

John Stottlemeyer

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

Adams Christian Prison Ministries

From the November ACPM Newsletter - Inmate Testimonials

"ACPM has helped me so much because being incarcerated, I wasn't close to God at all. I was still questioning Him and everything He does. But then I started to go to the Bible study and started to build a relationship with God. Now I am closer to God than before, and I can honestly say that since then my life has changed for the better. I feel a sense of peace now. I am not as angry as I used to be. I see life differently. I just want peace in my life and put all this behind me. I am forever grateful for this ministry. It helped a lot."

"ACPM has provided the best teaching I have been a part of. It gave me an understanding that has taken me to another level in the Lord and in my relationship with Him. This ministry enabled me to grow in every gift given to me, as well as my faith in the Lord. I wish I could have had this teaching 30 years ago, but I am grateful that I received it. Thank you, Chaplain Perez, and God bless you."

AGAPE International Missions

AIM Swat 3rd Quarter 2025 Update:

This quarter, AIM SWAT, in partnership with local law enforcement, executed eight operations. These missions led to the rescue of 45 survivors of sex trafficking – including 16 minors – and the arrest of 20 traffickers and abusers who are now facing justice.

God is transforming hearts, lives and communities in Southeast Asia! Recently, 23 individuals made public declarations of faith in Jesus Christ through baptism - after a three-month Bible study at AIM's church. They were joyfully celebrated with 70+ other church members. Seventeen of those baptized are currently part of AIM's Job Skills programs, like AIM Apparel, where survivors of trafficking and exploitation find meaningful work in a safe, loving, and dignified community. Here's what one woman shared at her baptism: *"Here, I met sisters in Christ who showed me the true love of Jesus."*



Your support not only provides jobs; it helps people come to know Jesus. Thank you for partnering with us.

Child Evangelism Fellowship

From the October CEF newsletter

We are blessed that every elementary and intermediate school in Adams County is open to Good News Club and we have an active club in all but one. We are so excited for classrooms that are full and those continuing to fill up for Good News Club. We praise God for what He is doing in Adams County. Please continue to pray, give and support the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County.

Sometimes kids say heart-breaking things. A young girl came to Good News Club upset. When I asked her what was wrong, she said, "I don't belong here." I asked her why. She responded, "I'm not good enough to be with Jesus." The other children in our small group, quickly rallied around her to remind her that Jesus loves her. Please pray with us as we go into the classroom each week not knowing what has gone on in the lives of these precious little ones. Pray with us that our Good News Clubs will be a safe place of peace and unconditional love for each child.

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

Every Thursday morning at 7am some folks gather around their phone or computer to pray for CEF of Adams County. If you are interested in joining us to pray for the children, please contact Miss Pam (717-677-4797, cefadams@gmail.com).

Compassion International

A September 19, 2025 letter from Sergio:

"Dear Friends, let me greet you with the peace of the Lord and thank you for the support you give me. I want to tell you that I am still working and doing very well. Every day I learn something new, and I enjoy it. My studies are not going as well; I am struggling in four subjects, but I have set a goal to improve in the third trimester. The school year is almost over, and I have little time to raise my grades. This weekend I have to travel to the countryside. This week was also my school's anniversary. We had many activities, such as sports morning, where those who qualified in the games played, and we also marched through the plaza and all over the city center. I learned to ride a motorcycle, which I really enjoyed, and I am learning to make deliveries with my mother's motorcycle."



A drawing by Sergio.

"How are you? How is your family? Could you send me a photo of your whole family? I would love to meet all of you."

"I would like to ask you, dear sponsor, to pray for my studies so that I can do better. I also ask you to pray for my family and my dear mother. Goodbye with a big hug and a kiss. Sincerely, Sergio."

Mission of Mercy

From the Fall 2025 Mercy Perspectives

On October 1 of this year, Dr. Susan Holland, MD, became Mission of Mercy's Medical Director. Dr. Holland is a board-certified physician in Internal Medical, currently licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and Maryland. She earned her medical degree from the University of Maryland Medical School and completed her Internal Medicine residency at UC Davis. She resides in south central Pennsylvania, with her husband, Michael and favorite furry friend, Roxy. Outside of medicine, Dr. Holland enjoys gardening, cooking and biking.

Community Impact since 1994: served 51,699 patient lives, offered 25,985 free dental visits, provided 235,284 free doctor visits, and dispensed 456,526 free medications.

Top five diagnoses or treated medical conditions: diabetes, hypertension, digestive system disorders, depression/mental health, and high cholesterol.

Volunteers needed: dentists and dental assistants in Brunswick, MD, and Harrisburg, PA; physician, NP or PA in Reisterstown, MD and Frederick, MD.

Our Daily Bread Ministries

Fall 2025 quarterly newsletter -

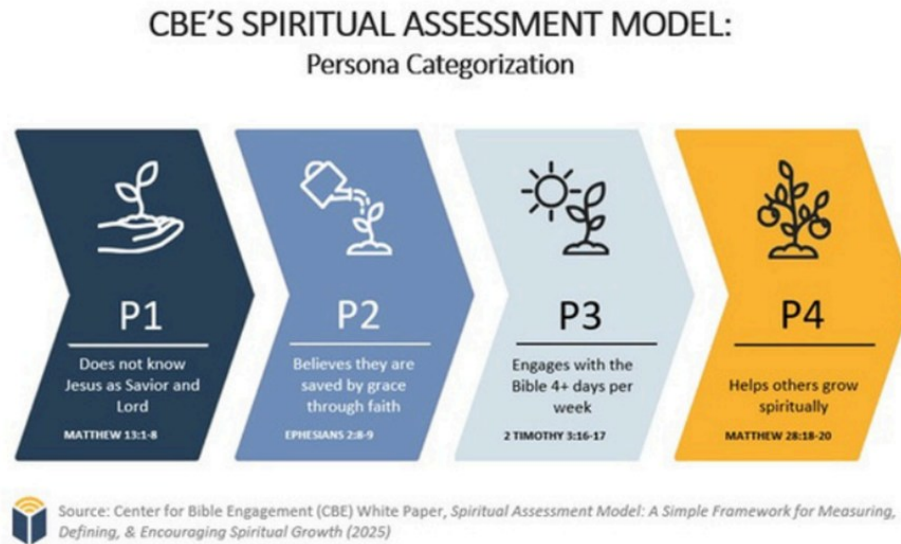
Equipping churches for spiritual growth:

More than three billion people around the world still lack a clear understanding of the gospel. By helping people engage with the Bible, we open the door for them to encounter Jesus, discover the truth of God's Word, and respond to His life-changing call.

To support this mission, ODBM acquired the Center for Bible Engagement (CBE) in 2023. Through global research, the CBE equips the church to foster spiritual growth through Scripture. *Continued on the next page . . .*

Continued from the preceding page . . .

Its new Spiritual Assessment Model helps people understand where they are on their journey with Christ - assessing their beliefs, Bible engagement and growth in discipleship. Based on four Scripture-rooted profiles, it's a powerful tool that guides individuals and communities toward a deeper faith in Jesus.



The CBE's latest research report, "*A Simple Framework for Defining, Measuring, & Encouraging Spiritual Growth*," features this important work and provides a practical method for pastors and ministry leaders to promote spiritual development within their communities.

Explore the report yourself to discover practical insights and inspiration that can help you reach one of the three billion people who have yet to understand the gospel. Access and share the report here: go.oddb.org/cbe-fall25.

SAT-7

October 24, 2025 email

Since SAT-7's early years, parents have trusted our network as a safe and edifying place for their children. It brings us great joy to hear about how SAT-7's young viewers are growing in their faith by watching and interacting with our programs.

One young viewer writes, "*I am Nassim from Egypt. I am always watching your show! I wish I could be with you. Of course, Jesus never abandons me. I loved the featured verse, and I really enjoyed the many segments of today's episodes. I pray that God rewards your hard work and love.*"

Nassim especially enjoys our SAT-7 KIDS program, *Jesus is Our Strength*, a magazine-style show which offers a fusion of faith, entertainment and education. It connects with our young viewers between the ages of seven and twelve, importing valuable life lessons that convey the message of Jesus.

A father in Egypt remarks: "*This channel is truly unique and powerful.*"

"*My son always loves to watch it. It's a channel filled with many Fruits of the Spirit. May God bless you with grace and strength, and may you always continue to develop and succeed. May God's hand work with you*"

Please pray for parents and children alike who encounter SAT-7's programs that they will come away knowing more about Christ because of them. We give thanks for the impact of our programs, reaching the next generation with God's love.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE



Thomas & Cheri Henry
Development & Care of International Workers
One Another Ministries (OAM) – Based in Staffordshire, England

From their September-October Praise & Prayer Letter

Return to Africa in August

After training Every Child Ministries (ECM) leaders in Uganda in March, we did the same thing with their teams in Ghana last month. ... In all of this, our three brothers & sisters from Uganda (Davis, Ruth, Mourine) completed their training, as they

helped us with marriage and singles intensives and workshops. ... *"We are grateful for Thomas & Cheri coming to Uganda in March and pouring into our marriages, families, and teams. We would not have been able to join the Henrys in Aug in Ghana for more training without your financial support. My own marriage is the healthiest it has ever been. And from the spiritual and relational skills gained I am more able to serve families in the ministry God has called me to. Thank you."*



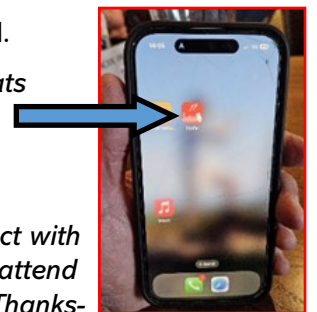
Marriage Reboot in the UK

Nine years ago we led a couple in Turkey through one of our first marriage intensives. Last year I reached out to him, and the timing was perfect. They were considering calling us to pursue the idea of a marriage reboot. So in September, they came to us here at the White House [in England], and we spent three days reinforcing principles from the intensive, strengthening areas that had weakened. We have now added this Reboot to our arsenal of helping couples. A huge bonus? Within a week of returning home, their testimonial convinced three other couples to participate in a marriage intensive! One of them had also done the intensive in Turkey and will now do the Reboot. We will serve them in January. ...

Return to Jordan in October

After serving couples in Amman in April, we were invited to return in Oct to do more of the same. Unfortunately, the crisis in the Middle East over the summer put a hold on that. However, at the last minute, the door opened back up. We were invited to be the main speakers at the Amman International Church's annual conference, and we found a second couple to join our 2-couple marriage intensive, both landing in the same window in Oct! At the conference we presented *"Sacred Siblings: Understanding What God's Word Says About Marriage and Singleness."* This message is helping ministry teams (and the church) rethink singleness. God raised up the funds to make this trip possible. The Lord willed! Thank you. And the icing on the cake? Celebrating 35 years of marriage while serving those couples in Amman. We are blessed.

Tzofar - Red Alert is a phone app that warns of real-time sirens in Israel (i.e. missile threats around the Middle East this past summer.) We merely show you the reality that citizens and international workers live with each day.



Brief Time in US in Nov-Jan

We have arrived in the US for a 3-month home assignment. A few reasons for this: Connect with supporting churches and donors; cast ministry vision; raise project funds (see next page); attend Mental Health & Missions conference; visit ministry organization who licensed us; spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with family. And lead three marriage intensives - all are couples or singles on home assignment from their fields of service. Pray they are helped in their closest relationships, and we recognize those who could potentially become facilitators. Our focus will be in NYC, KY and TX, with a few brief trips between. Sadly, we won't get to see as many of you this time.

Note: The Henrys will visit Lower Marsh Creek Church January 3-4, 2026. Plans continue to be made for their visit, but there will be a potluck dinner and presentation immediately following the 10 am service on January 4.

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ANOTHER ASK, ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH US - PROJECT2028

As we near the finish line of full-time overseas ministry, we envision wrapping up here in the UK by the end of 2028.

We are projecting towards 2028...

- A VISION of deeper relationships among missionaries
- Our passion and commitment of PERSEVERANCE for at least three more years
- Your critical PARTNERSHIP with us

We invite you to see what we see, to help us finish well in this last season of being based in the UK.

WHY? There's much to do...

- There are always couples, singles and teams we can serve on the mission field.
- Train facilitators to work with us now and to carry this ministry into the future.
- Establish strategic locations where international workers can readily find the help they need.

HOW? There's much we need...

- We need PRAYER (for us and for those we serve), for apart from Christ we can do nothing.
- We have most of the MONTHLY DONATIONS we need. However, donors fall off; we need others.
- Our vision and strategy demand TRAVEL to fields where workers serve, adding ministry costs.
- TRAINING involves finding venues to host ministry activities and printing materials, adding costs. [Workers always give what they can. However, that usually just covers our housing and food.]

We are calling this PROJECT2028.

- Consider becoming a MONTHLY DONOR over the next three years.
- Contribute to the three areas of ONE-TIME FINANCIAL NEED - travel, training, renewing our UK Residence Permit.
- In faith, we have scheduled four ministry events for 2026. Funds raised now will guarantee those trips.

OUR BIG ASK - RAISE \$50,000

Help us cover the next three years of PROJECT2028 expenses necessary to realize our vision by 2028.

FYI, after returning to the US, we don't plan to retire from ministry. Lord willing, we'll keep serving, from our home in KY, as long as God enables us. Albeit, with greater margin to enjoy other things in life in that next season.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog – Give with a Purpose

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog can be accessed on line at <https://pcusa.org/giving/giving-catalog>. New Giving Catalog causes include providing clean water, ending hunger, sustaining communities, and supporting education.

Cut from a Different Cloth

Like many young mothers in her region of South Sudan, Nyalong faced a lifetime of manual labor to support her four children. "Every day was a struggle for survival," she said, recalling the constant fear and exhaustion that characterized that period in her life.

But for Nyalong, it was never a question of whether she would take care of her children, only how she would do so. That's why she joined a vocational training program in her community – led by Hope Restoration South Sudan and supported by PCUSA – where she learned to sew and tailor clothes, among other things.

The sewing machine she received in part because of gifts made through the Giving Catalog became the compass for her new path forward. With this simple tool, Nyalong discovered she could stitch together a better future for her family.



**Bob and Kristi Rice**

(formerly PCUSA Mission Co-Workers)

Joining The Antioch Partners, and
planning to serve in Ghana

Happy Thanksgiving!

Welcome to our new newsletter! The Thanksgiving holiday is upon us and we have much to be grateful for. As you are aware, God has opened a new door for us for mission and ministry in Ghana (West Africa). Bob has joined the faculty of the **Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture (ACI)** where he will serve as Assistant Research Fellow, working with the Rector, teaching students, equipping leaders, and conducting missiological and cultural research in collaboration with colleagues to strengthen Christian witness and discipleship in Africa and beyond. Kristi will continue her work with **Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations (HHTN) Global**, supporting teams across Africa and also in Europe and North America. She also hopes to connect with churches and local organizations in Ghana regarding the healing and reconciliation ministry and to assist with development initiatives.

We have joined **The Antioch Partners (TAP)** as our mission sending agency. We are pleased to report that more than half of the financial support needed for outgoing expenses and our first year in Ghana has already been received or pledged. Please join us in prayer that the total of our first year budget can be raised by March/April so that we can transition to Ghana by May 2026. Here is a link to our webpage with The Antioch Partners (<https://www.theantiochpartners.org/partner-directory/bobkristirice>). Take a look! We also recently created a three minute video about our next steps for life and ministry which you may enjoy watching or sharing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4-xyd3Lv6U>). We have new prayer cards - if you would like a prayer card, please email us (bob.kristi.rice@gmail.com) your address and we will send it to you as soon as possible.

Lastly, we appreciate your prayers for Bob as he nears the completion of writing his doctoral dissertation. Please pray that the Holy Spirit inspires and enables him to complete his dissertation by March of 2026. Another prayer request is for the International School of Reconciliation (ISOR) which will take place in Rwanda in March 2026. Kristi is part of the planning team and plans to go to Rwanda to participate.

We are excited about this next step of life and ministry! We are grateful for you and your prayers and encouragement as we begin this next stage of life and ministry.

With Love and Gratitude,
Bob and Kristi

Note: Several folks from the Mission Committee, I&S, and Session, spoke with Bob and Kristi on a zoom call Tuesday evening before the Session meeting. We were impressed that they are obviously very mission oriented, have experience to show for it, and talk with confidence and excitement about their goals. We have supported Bob and Kristi since 2010 and look forward to continuing! If their travel plans hold, we anticipate a visit from the Rices on March 22, 2026.

THE GIVING CORNER

As we enter this season of Advent some will come with joy and excitement and some will be sad and experiencing anxiety over hard times in their lives. Let us try to be sensitive to both paths where we can all still look forward to celebrating the time of our Salvation beginning with Christ's birth.

As we look forward to this time of preparation let us try to remember the stories of Jesus and the things He taught during His time here on earth and through the Spirit still today. There are four Sunday's in Advent (Yes, every year): First – we look ahead with HOPE; Second – we ask for Peace; Third – we talk about Joy and Fourth – we experience Love.

This year as we light the Advent candles in the darkness of the cold winter season, let's try to focus on coming together as friends/family to celebrate the coming of our Savior.

The time of HOPE is usually founded on the Old Testament book of Isaiah which told of the coming Messiah, encouraging believers to hold onto hope for Christ's arrival. Both then and today that is still very critical for all of us.

The time of PEACE shifts our focus to spiritual preparation. John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord", as well as Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Let's use this time to prepare our hearts for Jesus presence in a larger way this year.

The time of JOY may make us shift our awareness from ourselves to remembering what God has done for us in the past and still today when we look for His presence.

The time of Love can seem elusive in times of sadness or uncertainty but that too can be healed by our heavenly Father. God is very much around and through us.

Aligning our hearts to look for the coming of Jesus is definitely a matter of faith but sometimes we need to change our perspective in our attitudes and way of looking at life as well. When we choose to invite Jesus into our mind and heart – He is there!

Matthew 6:21 says "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." As you consider this, how does it influence your commitment to using your time, talents and treasure in support of our church, our area and the world?



Wishing you a blessed holiday season with Christ as your focus and example.

Your Interpretation and Stewardship Team



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. David Wright serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- ~ Membership 11/15/2025: Active Members (AM) = 155, Friends Participating (FP) = 33, Affiliate Members (AfM): 0, Family Members (FM): 45, Total: 233
- ~ 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 one special worship service on Christmas Eve at 7pm.
- ~ Approved a prayer shawl/stitcher's group outing on December 15 to Cathy Michaliga's house.
- ~ Approved couples group outing to sing at a nursing home on December 13.
- ~ Approved a Christmas Eve collection which will be donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Melissa relief.
- ~ Approved that year-end remaining funds in MOM will be split between two missionaries, the Henry's and the Rice's.
- ~ Elected the Clerk of Session, Dana McDonald, and Associate Clerk of Session, Phyllis Doyle Smith, for an addition one-year term, as required by the Church by-laws.
- ~ Authorized the COF Treasurer to pay the Per Capita Apportionment for 2026 of \$5,580.26 (161 members at \$34.66 each)
- ~ Authorized the Clerk of Session to submit various reports to Presbytery and General Assembly by the due date as stated by the Presbytery.
- ~ Scheduled the meeting time and day of Session meetings in 2026 for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- ~ Set the date for the January Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 25, 2026, immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service.
- ~ Approved the 2026 Church Operating fund (COF) and Missionaries and Other Missions (MOM) Budgets.
- ~ Approved the Gifts and Memorials gift list as follows:
 - Following is a list of all Session approved items which are to be considered when individuals wish to donate specific gifts to the Congregation either as a Memorial or a Gift. Items not on this approved list must receive prior approval from Session before being purchased and presented.
 - *The LMCPD Endowment Fund
 - *Books for Library
 - *Kitchen Equipment and Utensils
 - *Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund
 - *Congregational Health & Safety Items
 - *Trees and Shrubbery around Church
 - *Gift/Award Bibles
 - *Liturgical Accoutrements
 - *Capital Improvements
- ~ Session Team Assignments for 2026 were made as follows:
 - ~ Spiritual Life: Mike Orleski (chair), Susan Nunamaker, Lynne Orner
 - ~ Home Ministry: Lanny Winters (chair), Joe Jackson, Jed Smith
 - ~ Interpretation & Stewardship (I&S): Doyle Waybright, Lauren Neely (chair), Bev Benner
- ~ Elders to the Nominating Committee were established as follows: Lanny Winters and Mike Orleski
- ~ Elders to the Personnel Committee were established as follows: Lauren Neely and Bev Benner
- ~ Approved to extend Pastor Wright through January 14, 2026 to preach on January 11 and then overlap with the new Pastor for a few days.

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

Team members: Joe Jackson, Chair; Ron Milhimes; and Lanny Winters.

- ~ Robert Mosko to begin work at our cemetery to repair headstones.
- ~ Cleaning debris from gutters; purchasing salt for sidewalks
- ~ Sign for 116 - Gary Rebert is building the concrete-block base.
- ~ Water leak in kitchen appears fixed!
- ~ Bookshelves for Pastor's office - Joe and Carlos are almost done building a beautiful set of handmade shelves.

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

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

- ~ 2026 COF and MOM budgets were approved by the I&S team and were presented to Session.
- ~ Our missionaries, the Henry's, will arrive on January 3, 2026 and we will take them out to dinner.
- ~ The financial reports for September and October have been approved.

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: Phyllis Smith, Chair; Lynne Orner; and Mike Orleski

- ~ The SLT will host the January 18, 2026 coffee hour to welcome the new pastor.
- ~ Winter Banquet – proposing that the banquet should be combined with the installation of the new pastor slated for early to mid-February which will be held at the Refectory at the Seminary (catered by Ragged Edge).
- ~ Advent Study – planning for three Tuesday evening classes/dinners starting at 5:30 pm on December 2, 9 and 16. The SLT will supply the soup, salad, bread and dessert for the first class.
- ~ Christmas Decorating – a tree will not be placed in the Narthex, but one will be placed in the sanctuary along with candles in the windows and wreaths on the doors. The manger scene will be set-up in the front of the church. All are welcome to join us on Friday, November 28 at 8:00 am to help decorate.
- ~ Meet and Greet the Pastor – scheduled for Saturday, November 29 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the Narthex. A decision was made not to offer refreshments.
- ~ Christmas Card Drop-off – Deb Stottlemeyer has prepared a large Christmas card box that will be placed in the narthex. Church members will place their cards secured together with a rubber band with their donation in the card box. Deb will gather the cards and distribute them.
- ~ Young Life "Trivia Night" – was held Monday October 27 6-8:30 pm at LMCP and it went very well. The next one is already being planned for later in 2026.

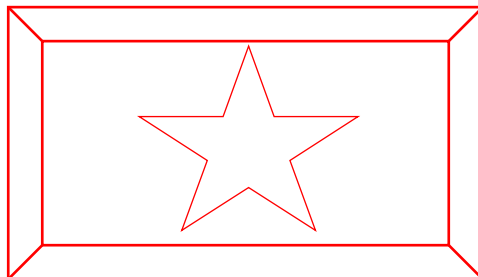
News from the Clerk of Session – Dana McDonald:

- ~ On behalf of the Session, we would like to extend deep appreciation to Elder Ron Milhimes and Elder Phyllis Smith for their dedicated service on Session. They are not renewing as Elders in the new year. Thank you both for the gifts of your time and talents!
- ~ We would also like to extend a welcome to our new incoming Elders: Susan Nunamaker and Jed Smith. We look forward to your leadership!
- ~ And last but not least, the Session would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Pastor David Wright. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him these past few months. We are truly thankful for his service and steady leadership during this time of transition. He will still be around for a couple more months, but there are no more Session meetings for him to preside over.
- ~ Session will not meet in the month of December. Our next meeting will be January 20, 2026.

Session wishes all members and friends of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church family a blessed Advent Season!

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

Li'l Ripples December 2025



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Worship 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM

Church office Hours

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 reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.

Li'l Ripples - Fay Hess, Editor - 77-476-5682 or lilripples@gmail.com