

Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

*A message from
Pastor Mark*



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The DUE DATE for the
SEPTEMBER ISSUE is
AUGUST 15

"I'm glad we share these texts."

Don Gowan (1929 - 2024)

Walter Brueggmann (1933 to 2025)

Two giants in my life died within the past year. Both of them had long careers as Professors of Old Testament. Gowan was my teacher for many Bible classes when I was a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in the 1980s. I never had Brueggmann as a classroom teacher but I read many of his books, and attended numerous continuing education events and lectures where he taught. Both of them were ordained pastors: Don Gowan in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Walter Brueggmann in the United Church of Christ. Together they were part of a generation of Bible teachers, including Eugene Peterson, in American mainline Protestant churches who helped change the course of Bible study and bring the Scriptures back to the center of the Church's ministry.

Beginning in the 1920s there was a strong push in academic Bible study, led by some influential German scholars, that emphasized the history, context, and cultural background of the Bible as the only full way to understand biblical truth. The historical-critical study of the Bible defined a generation of Bible teaching. And slowly a renewal worked through the world of Bible study and preaching. We have these 66 books of Holy Scripture which have been claimed and proclaimed in the Church from the earliest days as blessed, sacred and authoritative. The words themselves have power, energy and inspiration. Let the words of Holy Scripture speak for themselves. All the history, cultural context and background is important, but more important is simply letting the Word speak.

In 2000 I attended a conference where Walter Brueggmann was teaching from his newly published, influential *Theology of the Old Testament*. He signed my book and wrote me a note that captures the whole transformation which he and his generation ushered in: "I'm glad we share these texts."

Simply, deeply, regularly and together read the Bible. In the first place, do not worry about background, context or history. Simply read the Bible, pray the Bible, enjoy the words, and allow them to touch you. Do not worry about not understanding, and do not get bogged down in a lack of understanding or insight. Do not be frustrated by differences of opinion and interpretation. Read the Bible with an open heart and a creative imagination. Allow the Bible to sing for you. Allow it to be beautiful. If this is all new for you, start with the Psalms and the four Gospels. I am glad we share these Words. I am grateful for all my teachers through the years.

In Christ!

Mark



CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST

**COUPLES GROUP**

The Couple's Study Group will meet at the home of Pat and Dave Diehl, **July 12, 2025 beginning at 5:30 PM.** They will provide sloppy joes and our topic for study will be "Consideration". A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex for all married couples in the congregation. Please sign up for salad, side dish or dessert by July 6th. Please join us for an evening of good food, great fellowship and a lovely setting at Lake Heritage.

The Couple's Study Group will meet at the home of Len and Dale Williams, **August 9th beginning at 5:30 PM.** A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning July 27th. Please watch your bulletin for further details. As always all married couples in the congregation are encouraged and welcome to join us. (Bev Benner)

WOMEN ONLINE

The Women's Bible Study meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7:00 PM.** We currently are 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.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Here's something cool to think about since the temps are so high. Spiritual Life will host the annual Ice Cream Social on **Sunday September 14th at 6pm.** Linda Lapp has agreed to make her home made toppings again this year. Thanks, Linda. Everyone is invited. (Phyllis Doyle Smith)

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet **July 15th and August 19th at 1:00 PM.** All women of the church are invited to attend. Once again we are planning to hold our annual **Yard and Bake Sale September 27th** inside Fellowship Hall. So get ready!! See more information below. (Roz Santay)

WOMEN'S GUILD YARD AND BAKE SALE

The Women's Guild will hold its annual **Yard & Bake Sale September 27th inside Fellowship Hall from 8 AM to 2 PM.** This is an opportunity to clean out unwanted items and do some downsizing by selling the items at our sale and making a little cold, hard cash in the process. We will set up the day before beginning at 9:00 AM. You can procure a table 8 feet long for \$15, a round table for \$12, or rent a space and bring your own table for \$10. We will also be selling baked goods and bowls or quarts of soup. Hot dogs for lunch or carry out will be sold starting at 11:00 AM. The money we raise will help to buy Christmas presents for one Teen Angel and enable us to donate to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Join us in this worthy cause. **Fill out the form on the bottom of page 3 and give it to Roz Santay or Nancy Brill by September 21st.**

Virginia Woods Scholarship Coffee Hour - We were pleased that we could offer three scholarships thanks to a generous bequest from Virginia Woods, a stalwart member of Lower Marsh Creek Church, who died in 2011. Ginny graduated from Gettysburg College and taught junior high school English for over 30 years in the Gettysburg Area School District. Our scholarship recipients this year were Kylie Wampler, Jahanzaib Nasiri, and Farishta Nasiri.

A coffee hour to honor this year's scholarship recipients was held on June 1. One of the recipients, Kylie Wampler, was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled vacation. She sent a nice thank you note and says she is excited to continue her education at WVU.

Jahanzaib and Farishta Nasiri were there, spoke about their plans to further their education at Gettysburg College, and thanked us for the checks. I learned a few things about the Afghan culture during the coffee hour. Farishta explained that in their culture, they could not shake hands with someone of the opposite sex. Also, it is not acceptable for a female to have her picture posted on social media. Both have good English skills (when they arrived in this country in 2021, they hardly spoke any English). Farishta was so excited she was almost bouncing! Rayna Cooper, Coordinator of the Refugee Resettlement Partnership, was also in attendance. She drove for Jahanzaib and Farishta.

Farishta, as well as Jahanzaib and Jamal, has a job with Open Minds in Gettysburg for the summer. Open Minds is an information source, executive education provider, and business solutions firm specializing in the sectors of the health and human service industry. One of the other things I learned is that the reason Farishta was able to accept this job is because her brothers also work there. As an Afghan woman, she could not work without a male family member also being there. There was a lot of food left at the end of the coffee hour, so we sent most of it home with Jahanzaib and Farishta. They were thrilled!

(Sandy Buhrman)



FORM FOR THE WOMEN'S GUILD YARD AND BAKE SALE SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Name _____

Number of 8 foot tables _____

Number of round tables _____

Number of spaces _____

Please make checks payable to the Women's Guild. Thank you !

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

A big thanks to all who helped with FunFest on Friday June 13th.
Lots of kids threw Beanie Babies animals into the Ark and we gave away lots of Bibles.

Caption - Phyllis Doyle Smith



Photos - Dana McDonald



Dear LMCPSC Scholarship Committee,

Sorry I was unable to attend the coffee hour. I just wanted to send a note to **thank you** again for the scholarship. I am excited to continue my education at WVU.

Thank you,
Kylie Wampler

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for attending our *Restore Hope Banquet*. The night was fun-filled and, most importantly, full of success! We enjoyed having the opportunity to share with you our accomplishments in 2024 and goals for 2025. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Adams Rescue Mission Staff

Editor's note: Please see ARM

Banquet report on page 11.

Hello Sandy (Buhrman),

I want to **thank you** and your **LMCPSC** family for your strong partnership in the Gospel! We have received your annual partnership gift. What a blessing you and your church family are to an audience of nearly 20,000,000 people throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

To encourage you and your friends, here are a few recent videos. Please feel free to share these as you desire - in services, email, etc.

Overcoming Addiction: Mirna's Story (Egypt) - on You Tube

Supporting the Persian Church

" " "

An Iranian Child's Testimony

" " "

You are bearing fruit!

Brian Nelson
Ministry Development Director, SAT-7 USA Office

Editor's note: Please see SAT-7
newsletter report on page 15.



LOOKING FOR FOLKS WHO LIKE TO SING

Please consider helping our choir make a joyful noise unto the Lord. All are welcome, and there are NO auditions. This is a super fun group.

Faithful Voices (choir) rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7-8:00 PM in our church sanctuary here at LMCPD from late August to May. We take June, July, and August off for Summer break, but rehearsals will start up again on Thursday August 21, 2025 at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions about the choir, reach out to director Deb Wolf at debwolfitaly@yahoo.com. The more the merrier!

JULY

1. Julie Orleski
4. Jane Bruss
4. Darlene Shriner
11. Meredith Lawler
13. Milt Higgins
14. Dana McDonald
15. Jenny Waybright
26. Lane Speck
26. Steve Whiteman
27. Terry Sites

*Happy Birthday to
these members of
the LMCC family !*



AUGUST

5. Suetta Bechtel
6. Ken Howe
12. Sandy Howe
12. Sylvi Taylor
19. Joe Jackson
20. Kathy Megyeri
22. Jean Bentz
22. Janet Hartman
22. Elaine Milhimes
31. Hank Seamon



SAVE THE DATE FOR PASTOR, POTLUCK AND PIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025



You are invited to join us in celebrating Pastor Mark's retirement with a potluck picnic on Sunday, August 31, 2025 following the 10:00 AM worship service. Spiritual Life will supply the meat. Party-goers are asked to bring sides and pies. The Sunday service that day will consist of Pastor Mark's favorite hymns and Bible passages.

Goodbye Retirement Luncheon for Barb Schwartz



After worship on May 18, 2025, a large number of people gathered in Fellowship Hall to say goodbye to Barb Schwartz. She planned to retire on May 31st after twelve years of faithful and dedicated service to LMCP.

There was a lot of good food and even more good wishes. Barb was presented with a gift of \$3000 as a token of the gratitude of the LMCP family.

Barb said, according to her friend Phyllis Doyle Smith, "I feel very blessed to have been part of this church. Everyone has been kind, helpful and generous." Barb also told Phyllis that the things she liked most about her job as Office Manager and Financial Secretary were, "working with Quickbooks and the people. The people were the best and she loved talking to each and everyone."

Barb had several memorable moments throughout her 12 year tenure : Funny story - Barb went to work one morning - back when the office door used to be locked. She opened the door, went into the office, put her keys and purse

Continued on page 7 . . .



Thanks to Jim Richardson for all the photos with this report.



Continued from page 6 . . .

on her desk, then she went back out the door and pulled the door shut. She went down the hall and when she came back, of course, the door was locked. She had to crawl through the small window in front of her computer. Good thing she is a small person. :-)

Another memorable moment: On February 19, 2019, several of the Elders arrived at the Funeral Home for the viewing of Barb's Mom. They took Barb aside, laid hands on her and prayed. It was a very moving experience for Barb as she had never experienced this before.
(Phyllis Doyle Smith)



Mary Smith hosted the women from LMCPG for a lovely *Saturday Morning on the Porch* June 21, 2025



Thanks to Shirley Breslin
for these photos





. . . and, speaking of music . . .

MUSIC THAT MOVES ME

*My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king:
my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.*

*You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace,
since God has blessed you forever. Psalm 45:1-2*

In this second installment of "Music that Moves Me," I am pleased to feature the hymn "Beautiful Savior" (more popularly known as "Fairest Lord Jesus"). This classic hymn is a favorite of Kathy Megyeri, who suggested it to me. In particular, Kathy recommends the most famous English version of the hymn, which was arranged by [F. Melius Christiansen](https://youtu.be/vwL8HqYeig?si=1trOGL31aDnGKIP) in 1919. It is the signature piece for the St. Olaf Choir, even today. You can enjoy it at this link: <https://youtu.be/vwL8HqYeig?si=1trOGL31aDnGKIP>.

So, with thanks to Kathy, here is the very interesting story of "Beautiful Savior."

While the earliest existence of this hymn dates to its discovery in a manuscript in 1662, it was not actually published until 1667. In that year, "Schönster Herr Jesu" (Most Beautiful Lord Jesus) appeared in "Münster Gesangbuch," a Jesuit hymn book.

The origin of the lyrics is unknown. The origin of the English translation is also unknown - except for the fourth verse. This verse was translated by Joseph A. Seiss, an American theologian and Lutheran minister. Interestingly, in many hymnals, Seiss receives credit for translating the entire hymn. Also interesting (especially to me and other residents of Adams County, PA) is the fact that Joseph Seiss studied at Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg.

In his excellent book, "Then Sings My Soul," author Robert J. Morgan comments, "This hymn emphasizes the beauty and wonder of Christ, and it alludes to His dual nature, that He was both human and divine, God made flesh, the God-man: O Thou of God and man the Son...Son of God and Son of Man..."

I really like Morgan's take on this!

The tune likely originated in the eighteenth-century, in the Glaz area of Silesia (a region with parts in Poland, Czech Republic and Germany). In fact, our Lower Marsh Creek hymnal attributes the lyrics to "Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842" (Silesian Folk Songs, 1842). This tune, "Beautiful Savior," is also known as "Fairest Lord Jesus," "Crusader's Hymn" and "St. Elizabeth," but its original name was "Ascalon." (Ascalon is the location of the First Crusade's final battle.) It was in 1850 that Richard Storrs Willis renamed it "Crusader's Hymn," when it was included in his collection called "Church Chorals and Choir Studies." This change was likely due to the tune's original name, and it is reasonable for us to assume that Willis subscribed to a historically unfounded legend of his time, which asserted that crusading soldiers would have sung the hymn while marching to the Holy Land.

In 1862, the tune assumed yet another name, "St. Elizabeth," when composer Franz Liszt utilized it in the composition "March of the Crusaders" within his oratorio "The Legend of St. Elizabeth."

In recent years, many hymnal committees have declined to use the traditional "Crusader's Hymn" name, presumably to avoid association with the period of Christian history known as the Crusades, which were once viewed as missionary victories, but are now regarded in a negative light by many Christians. However, a few modern hymnals, like ours ("Worship and Rejoice") continue to call it "Crusader's Hymn," perhaps for continuity and historical consistency.

Continued on the next page . . .



Continued from the preceding page . . .

Robert J. Morgan, the author of "Then Sings My Soul," concludes his remarks on the hymn "Fairest Lord Jesus" with these words:

"('Beautiful Savior') brings to mind one of the greatest observations ever made about Christ, uttered by the 'Golden-Mouthed Preacher' of Antioch, John Chrysostom, in a fourth-century sermon: 'I do not think of Christ as God alone, or man alone, but both together. For I know He was hungry, and I know that with five loaves He fed five thousand. I know He was thirsty, and I know that He turned the water into wine. I know He was carried in a ship, and I know that He walked on the sea. I know that He died, and I know that He raised the dead. I know that He was set before Pilate, and I know that He sits with the Father on His throne. I know that He was worshiped by angels, and I know that He was stoned by the Jews. And truly some of these I ascribe to the human, and others to the divine nature. For by reason of this He is said to have been both God and man.'"

"Beautiful Savior" - or, as I have always known it - "Fairest Lord Jesus" is a timeless, beautiful hymn that eloquently expresses the love and devotion that Christians have for our Savior. I hope you will reflect upon the history and meaning of this wonderful classic song of praise each time you have an opportunity to sing it.

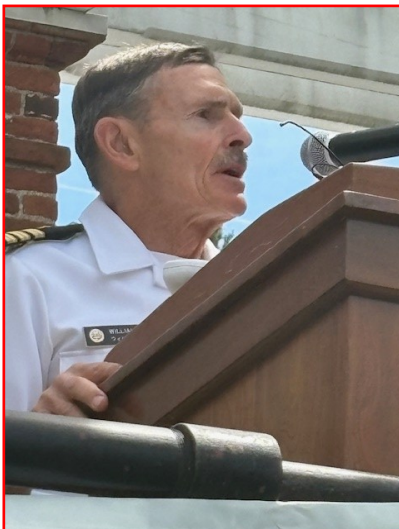
Praise the Lord!

—Dirk Grove

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

On Memorial Day, one of LMCP's own, Rev. Dale E. Williams, USN (Ret.) marched in the Parade through Gettysburg. In addition, he took the rostrum of the 158th Memorial Day Ceremony in the National Cemetery to give the opening and closing prayers. He shared the stage with Gettysburg's Mayor Rita Frealing, PA State Representative Dan Moul, and keynote speaker Col. Robert Dalessandro who is Deputy Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Pastor Williams praised all those who lost their lives in all wars to ensure our freedoms and blessed all of us in attendance. Once again we are grateful for Pastor Williams in our lives.

(Thanks to Kathy Megyeri for this item and the photos.)



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– 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305Jim Welsh 717– 377– 5370Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123**BOARD OF DEACONS****Class of 2025**

Lori Jackson

Al Miller

Jim Welsh

Class of 2026

Elaine Reichl

Joe Reichl

John Stottlemeyer

Class of 2027

Pam Johnson

Julie Orleski

Doris Wampler

Adams Rescue Mission**Banquet and Plans for the Future**

Eleven folks from LMC attended the Adams Rescue Mission's banquet on June 2. Will Hudson, Executive Director, and other staff members served the food which was provided by Ragged Edge. Will, Paul Henderson, and Rachel Greathouse spoke about what ARM is working on – a single women's shelter in York Springs, attainable housing, and childcare centers for low-income parents.

ARM is partnering with Chapel Hill Church of God to repurpose a parsonage in York Springs into communal living space for up to ten women who will undergo a 10-12-month restoration program to restore hope and establish a foundation for their future. The opening is planned for mid-December and there will be an application process starting in October.

ARM plans to purchase buildings to provide low-income apartments for people who have no other options. They recently purchased one building thanks to funding from committed donors, and they hope to procure 10-15 additional units but need to secure donor commitments so that they can respond quickly when property becomes available.

ARM hopes to open six licensed childcare centers for low-income parents over the next two years to address the affordable childcare crisis in Adams County. They are seeking \$200,000 during the next six months to be able to license and refurbish the first center in York Springs. They expect to be able to open the York Springs daycare by the end of the summer. Rachel Greathouse, Director of Child Development, has been in discussion with LMC about the possibility of using space in the Fellowship Hall for another center.

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries***From the June ACPM Newsletter*

The next community prayer gathering is scheduled for July 8 (Tuesday) from 6 to 7 pm at the Gettysburg Four-square Church, 328 W. Middle Street. There will be an August Break with gatherings resuming in September. Come and join us for prayer as we ask the Lord God Almighty to continue to move in the lives of inmates, staff, and family members.

An approved list of new volunteers has been provided to Chaplain Perez. This will begin the integration of new volunteers into the religious programs provided through ACPM. Please lift them up in prayers as they begin to partner with the rest of the volunteers to continue providing excellent ministry to those who are incarcerated. We are truly grateful for all of our volunteers. Thank you for your service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The staff at ACACC are an amazing group of people. They serve our county as Correctional Officers and they are dedicated to the task at hand. ACPM has been providing a basket full of treats to the staff to let them know that they are appreciated and they are prayed for by our supporters. Snacks are purchased from the local grocery store, placed in the basket, and then put out for the staff to help themselves. A sign with the name(s) of the contributors is placed with the basket. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this project. Many thanks to our donors and to the men and women that serve at ACACC.

The switch to the new financial institution has been completed and ACPM's online giving is now back in operation. Thank you so much for your patience.

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County*From the May CEF Newsletter*

What an honor and privilege it is to teach the children from the Word of God each week. We celebrated that honor at our banquet this year by inviting the children to show what they are learning and have learned this year. What a blessing! Kids were showcased, teachers and parents encouraged, and God was honored.

This summer as you pray for CEF of Adams County, would you please consider if the Lord would have you volunteer with us in some capacity? Please contact Miss Pam (717-677-4797 or cefadams@gmail.com) and share your story. I am sure that it is one that the Lord could use in this ministry to the next generation. We are investing in the eternity of the children. Consider joining us.

Compassion International*A recent note received from Hawine:*

"Dear Friends, My dear respected supporter. How are you and your family? How is everything? My family and I are fine. I am a college student and so pray for me. Thank you so much for all of your support. Until we meet in other letter goodbye."

Continued on the next page . . .

DiscipleMakers

From Kevin & Maria Noyes' June 9 Newsletter



I (Kevin) met Brett three years ago. I slowly learned that unlike most students, he was in his late twenties. Brett had served in the Marines and now ran his own business in addition to taking classes. He occasionally visited our Bible study. But something always seemed to hold him back... until this year. Suddenly, Brett grew more spiritually hungry. He began attending our Bible study more regularly. He asked good questions, started reading the Bible on his own, and even took notes. Then he signed up for Focus, our week-long end of year conference. At the conference we taught from the book of Revelation; and Brett soaked it in. As we talked

over meals and between sessions, I sensed the Lord was doing something in him. So I invited Brett to join me for a private chat on the porch. As we sat on the rocking chairs, Brett opened up. He shared that he was very interested in everything he was hearing from the Bible. He said he agreed with much of it and told me that he believed in God. But, he wasn't ready to call himself a Christian. Brett explained that he still had a lot of questions. He hadn't read the whole Bible and felt reluctant to trust in Jesus if he didn't even know everything the Bible said about Him. Brett wasn't against Jesus, but he wasn't quite for him either. *"I guess I'm sort of in the middle,"* Brett said.



I encouraged Brett to consider the teaching from Revelation. Ultimately, there's no middle ground with Jesus. As we chatted, we opened our Bibles and moved from Revelation to Mark. We examined Jesus' words, *"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"* (Mark 8:35-36) Then Brett seemed to come to a realization. *"I'm not sure I'm ready to surrender to Christ's control,"* Brett said. *"I'm really stubborn. I don't like the idea of giving up my control of my life."* He continued to share how he liked having autonomy and the ability to call all the shots. It was part of why he liked having his own business.

God was working. Brett's whole bearing changed as he came to that understanding. He knew enough. The question was whether he would trust enough. Would he put his life under Christ's authority?

I wanted Brett to process that question with the Lord. So I showed him one of my favorite places at the conference center - a quiet clearing in the woods facing a large wooden cross. I encouraged Brett to take some time to think, read his Bible and pray to God. I prayed with him and then left, giving him some time alone.



A few hours later, Brett approached me in the dinner line. *"So uh, I wanted to say thank you,"* Brett said. He gave me a funny look. *"Yeah..."* I looked back at him, *"Wait, are you saying what I think you're saying?!"* Brett went on to confirm that he had chosen to give up the control that he valued so highly. That afternoon, he had prayed to put his faith in Jesus. Later that night, he shared with all the students from Penn State York at the conference. To cheers, claps and a giant bear hug from a couple of the guys, he announced that he had chosen to follow Jesus. The following Sunday, he came with us to church.

Please join us in praising God for his work in Brett! Please also pray for God to establish Brett in the faith, and help him to keep growing in Christ this summer.

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God used the teaching from Revelation to work in many students besides "Brett." Here are a few quotes from other students who attended the conference:

- ~ *"Sometimes I forget I am walking past dead people. So many people in this world are dead to sin and ultimately damned to the lake of fire, and we must take care to accept Christ's command to go to the nations. I feel more of the weight and severity of evangelizing and also feel better prepared to do so."*
- ~ *"I had given up on trying to get through to my dad (he's an atheist), but the sessions convicted me to continue trying to share with him."*
- ~ *"I have been going down a bad path and decided that I would just attend FOCUS because I was invited and thought it might be fun. But after being there I have made goals for myself this summer to further my relationship with Christ and others."*

Please join us in praising God for His work at our year-end conference !

Campus Closures. Recently, we asked you to pray about the possibility that Penn State York (and other Penn State branch campuses might close.) In the last couple weeks, Penn State announced its decision. Multiple branch campuses, including Penn State York, will be closed in 2027. The news devastated many of our students. For some, this means big changes to their academic plans. We found ourselves deeply sad as well. We've seen the Lord work in big ways on this little campus over the years and are grieving the close of this strategic mission field. We plan to continue ministering to students at Penn State York until the school is shut down, and to continue working with students at other colleges after that. Please join us in praying for God to use this campus closure to advance His kingdom purposes. Please also pray for God to grant Maria and I wisdom to see how we can best serve the Lord and make disciples as we adjust to this change of plans.

Noyes News. Simeon started a free baseball league in our area last week and has really enjoyed learning the basics of the game. Hope has fun playing outside with her friends during Simeon's practices. We also went strawberry picking and then made three batches of strawberry jam this month. Simeon asks almost every day what we can bake!

Thank you for your prayers for God to grant us more children! We are excited to announce that we are



expecting in early December! Simeon was very excited when he heard the news and is convinced it's going to be a girl. (We will find out the gender in July). We welcome your prayers for the healthy development of the baby, and for Maria as fatigue and nausea have been hitting hard. We are very thankful that Maria is now entering the second trimester. Thank you again for your prayers for us and our family!

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread Ministries is a global, donor-supported, non-profit ministry that distributes more than 60 million Bible resources throughout 150 countries. Often known for the *Our Daily Bread* devotional, the ministry produces Bible content across print, video, audio, and digital platforms with the goal of fueling a Bible-engagement movement around the world. Learn more at odbm.org.

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Recent Testimonials

"The *Our Daily Bread* devotions are such a blessing. My first one was in prison, and it was what I hung on to and read every day and am still reading 16 years later. Thank you for this ministry. It saves lives. Thank you, Jesus!" – Bridgit

"My mother was a dialysis patient ... She had so many medical issues that we were constantly at the hospital. They always had the *Our Daily Bread* in the waiting room ... As a young teenager I always found great comfort in reading it. By having your little book available it helped me through a very hard time. Thank you so much." – Debbie

SAT-7

From a SAT-7 USA June 16 newsletter:

The Middle East region is on high alert following a wave of air strikes last Friday. Many are distressed and unsure of their future as the conflict escalates. But SAT-7 is responding rapidly to the changing situation, providing much-needed biblical comfort and prayer to SAT-7 PARS viewers and others across the region.



A special episode of SAT-7 PARS' *Mirror* program gave viewers the chance to share their feelings and prayer requests. One woman from Iran shared, "Last night my child couldn't fall asleep out of fear... even inside our own home, we don't feel secure."

Program guest Mansour Borji explained, "This conflict is something that has worried everyone for a long time. Despite the preparations made by both the people and the governments, it still has consequences for everyone – not just in Iran, but throughout the region. The sound of sirens can be heard in Jordan and other neighboring countries. People there are also feeling the tension, just like many ordinary people in Iran."

Asked what the role of Christians is in responding to the escalating situation, Borji urged people to pray for wisdom for those in governments, and to be mindful of those suffering as a result of the conflict. He added: "We must pray for peace and calm. That peace and calm, I should mention, doesn't always mean the absence of conflict, but it still is something we should deeply desire."

Another caller to *Mirror*, from Tehran, shared how he couldn't sleep during the strikes and "sat there the whole night filled with fear and stress." He explained how the experience brought back feelings from the Iran-Iraq war when he was a young child. "I still clearly remember the first day of the war, when the Tehran Airport was bombed," he said. "At the time, my grandfather was holding me in his arms and trying to comfort me. But he himself was terrified – and that fear transferred to me. That fear grew up with me. And last night, my own children were deeply scared. Honestly, you just don't know what to do."

Members of SAT-7 PARS' Viewer Support Team joined the program to offer comfort and prayer. Pastor Farshid encouraged Christians in Iran – and everywhere – that "there is something deeply powerful and essential that we *can* do." He continued: "We can pray for Iran... [to] the God who is above all borders; the God who is beyond all the politics we see playing out in today's world; the God we believe hears us – because He is alive... To ask for His peace for them in these moments. Because God's Word says, 'My peace I give to you – not as the world gives.' What our people need today, more than anything, is peace."

Please pray for our Viewer Support Team as they minister to viewers living in areas being affected by the attacks.

The Giving Corner

SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2025 - Part 2

To get us started this month here are a few fun facts about prayer in the Bible.

1. There are 650 prayers listed in the Bible.
2. The first time prayer is mentioned (where God talks to someone other than Adam and Eve) is in Genesis 4:6.
3. Jesus withdrew regularly to pray.
4. Paul in his writings mentions prayer 41 times.
5. Jesus' model for how we should pray – The Lord's Prayer – covers every area of our lives and needs - Past – Present – Future.
6. "Amen" means 'let it be' or 'so be it' and appears the first time in Numbers 5:22 – for a person yielding to God.

Just a little something to think about as you begin or continue your own prayer life. How do we try to discover God's guidance in our lives if we aren't praying in a regular way. Even Jesus, in His earthly form, regularly prayed to know God's will. Why would we think we can do things on our own knowledge if Jesus did not?

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How many times have we said those words and yet not really understood their meaning and power in our lives? When Jesus was reunited with His Father, they sent the Holy Spirit to live within us. To begin to understand that power is to begin a constant prayer life where you can be led by God in all areas of your life. When that becomes true for you, the gratitude that fills your heart and mind is so amazing that you can only pass it on.



I wish for you my friend,
This Happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him,
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top,
I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on June 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

o Membership as of 6/17/2025: Active Members (AM = CA): 155*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 259. *Changes in membership include the sad news of the passing of Leo Ward on May 13, 2025, with a private prayer time performed by Pastor Mark for the family at their home. Also, Isaac and Nicole Bucher were removed from the membership rolls per their request and as approved at the June 17, 2025 Session meeting.

o 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:

- o Annual Ice Cream Social on September 14, 2025 at 6 PM
- o Home Ministry Team can pursue options to sell or dispose of the church van, which is no longer used very much

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

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

- o Repairs and tuning for the piano in the fellowship hall will be done.
- o Working on replacing the Church sign on the Fairfield Road; getting quotes for a stone sign
- o Looking at Church roof shingles to determine the need to replace or not.

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

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

- o An all-team budget meeting to be held on July 8th at 5 PM.
- o The Thomas' will be visiting the church on Sunday, January 4, 2026.
- o Purchasing a Zoom license so that PNC can interview candidates without a time restriction.
- o The May 2025 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were 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

- o Planning potluck retirement picnic for Pastor Mark ("Pastor, Potluck and Pies") on August 31, 2025, immediately following worship service. Meat/drinks will be supplied.
- o July 13 coffee hour to be hosted by the Stitchers group.
- o Thanks to Carlos and Joe for making a stand for the bible on the communion table. It looks great!!
- o Decided to defer the outing for a minor league baseball game until 2026.

Continued on the next page . . .

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News from the Clerk of Session:

- o The historic records from the 1820s of former LMCPD Pastor, Rev. Paxton, are being donated to the Church. It was agreed that these would be taken to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia for reproduction digitally and then the original documents will be maintained at LMCPD, per the wishes of the donor. The digital reproduction will be available on the website at the Historical Society.
- o The personnel committee is continuing the process with the Presbytery to bring on Rev. David Wright as Temporary Pastor after Pastor Mark retires on September 7.
- o The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is making great progress. Interviews began on June 18.



Lots of beautiful red on Pentecost Sunday

Thanks to Jum Richardson for the photo and the caption.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – MAY 2025

Church Operating Fund (COF) Income

Account Description	MAY—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$15,196.20	\$99,997.64	\$276,092.00
Other Income	\$1,532.56	\$15,697.59	\$29,430.00
Transfer of funds from 2024 budget	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,728.76	\$145,695.23	\$335,522.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$102.69	\$4,651.71	\$14,550.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,480.44	\$5,810.00
Home Ministry	\$7,685.81	\$27,586.61	\$87,140.00
Church Administration	\$21,513.55	\$93,098.83	\$224,622.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29,302.05	\$130,817.59	\$335,522.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$12,573.29	\$14,877.64	\$0.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Income

Account Description	MAY—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$4,434.00	\$32,338.08	\$95,200.00
Other Income	\$82.00	\$1,676.42	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,516.00	\$34,014.50	\$95,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$607.44	\$25,637.33	\$95,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	\$3,908.56	\$8,377.17	\$0.00

Notable items for May— COF: Church Administration expenses were higher due to the overlap with the Office Manager for training

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

Li'l Ripples July-August 2025



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

One Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery Available

Church Office Information

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

Phone Number 717-642-5332

Email Address - office@lmcp.org

Website - www.lmcp.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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

Li'l Ripples

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