

# Li'l Ripples

June 2026

Volume 26

Issue 6



A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

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**Deadline for the  
JULY/AUGUST issue  
of the newsletter is  
June 19th**

*"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?" - Psalm 13:1*

"Am I really supposed to pray like this?" That was the question I kept asking myself when I first started praying through the Psalms. Yes, some of the psalms are happy and full of praise, but other psalms are dark and full of anger and doubt. I tried to make the prayers "my own," but found that I could not. I tried to pray through the psalms in their totality - in their joy, anger, praise, lament, exultation, despair, longing, and hope - but things were not going as planned.

I was used to thinking of prayer as just focusing on bringing my own needs and those of my friends and family before God. But I wanted to learn how to *really* pray. And, I thought, what better teacher than the prayers that Jesus himself prayed? So I tried praying through the psalms in a week, in a month, in three months. Slowly but surely, the psalms opened me up to a whole new way to pray.

Not only do the Psalms teach us to pray, but they are also the words of Jesus Christ praying for us. Jesus prays for us the words of the psalms that we cannot (or dare not) pray for ourselves. In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "A psalm that we cannot utter as a prayer, that makes us falter and horrifies us, is a hint to us that here Someone else is praying, not we; that the One who is here protesting his innocence, who is invoking God's judgment, who has come to such infinite depths of suffering, is none other than Jesus Christ himself. He it is who is praying here, and not only here but in the whole Psalter."

The psalms both teach us what prayer means and give us the words of the prayers themselves. This summer, we will take a closer look at the Psalms as we pray (and sing) through them together. Our summer sermon series will be called, "*Psalms: The Prayerbook of the Bible.*" I look forward to praying with you.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His love endures forever." - Psalm 136:1*

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Brian Moss



## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST

**COUPLES' GROUP**

The couple's group this month will be hosted by Terry & Rick Gladhill on **June 13th, 5:30PM** at their home - 13175 Redbud Ct. Waynesboro 17268. If inclement weath, it will be in Fellowship Hall. Meat & drink provided. Questions call Davalene at 717-253-5319. Sign up sheet in Narthex.

**WOMEN'S GUILD**

The Women's Guild will be hard at work on May 19th writing out invitations to all the church women for our second Saturday On The Porch. If you missed it last year please try to make it this year. We had so much fun, eating breakfast goodies and switching tables to be able to talk to all the women. Mary Smith has a lovely porch that works for both rain or shine. The invitation has all the information you need. If your morning is free, come spend it with us; you will be so glad you did!

The June meeting of the Women's Guild is **June 16th at 1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

Roz Santay

**SUNDAY MORNING GROUP**

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

Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright

**WOMEN ONLINE**

Join us this summer as we begin reading and discussing a new book. *He Is Enough, Living in the Fullness of Jesus* is a study book based on Colossians. The Women's Bible study meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7 PM.** If interested in joining us contact Dana McDonald.

**SAVE THE DATES**

**July 26th** Congregational Picnic at Carroll Valley Borough Park in Fairfield.

**October 2 - 4** Spiritual Renewal Weekend for our congregation. (see notice below)

Watch future Sunday Bulletins and the Li'l Ripples for details.

Phyllis Doyle Smith

**CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE****OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2026**

Onsite at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Set aside this special weekend to gather together as a church for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, and renewal. We are looking forward to meaningful time together as we deepen relationships, seek the Lord, and grow together in faith.

More details to follow.

Pastor Brian Moss

### 2026 Wild Wonder VBS: Registration Is Open!

As excitement builds for our upcoming Wild Wonder VBS, taking place July 7–10, much is happening behind the scenes to prepare for this special week. We thank those who have taken the time to complete their background clearances. Your willingness to help us create a safe and caring environment for every child is deeply appreciated.

**Registration is now officially open!** Forms are available in the church office, and families may also call or email to register. Please help spread the word by inviting children and families you know to attend. A simple invitation can make a lasting difference in a child's life.

As we continue to prepare, opportunities to get involved still exist. We are currently looking for a few additional volunteers to help with activity stations throughout the week. We also need more volunteers willing to distribute flyers throughout the community to local businesses and organizations.

Most importantly, please pray for the children who will attend, for their families, and for every volunteer serving during the week. Pray that Wild Wonder VBS will be filled with joy, connection, safety, and opportunities for children to experience God's love in meaningful ways.

Thank you for being part of this shared ministry effort.  
To volunteer or learn more, please contact Stephanie Moss.

**THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS**



Gettysburg CARES delivered a bouquet of chocolate roses and a card (with the following message) to the Lower Marsh Creek volunteers :

Dear Friends,

You are so "sweet" to serve breakfast to our CARES guests. We could not exist without wonderful folks like you ! Please share these "flowers" with all your volunteers.

Thank you !

Sincerely,

Nancy Kramer

On behalf of the CARES Board

### **NEW NOVEL - CONGRATULATIONS !**

After a long hiatus, Traci Lower has a new novel out called *The Monarch Alliance* by Jessica James. It's a dual-timeline historical mystery that takes place in the Hudson Valley of New York. Request a copy at the library or signed print copies are available \$20 (\$30 for hardcover).

Email: [tlower1833@outlook.com](mailto:tlower1833@outlook.com) or call 717-253-6865.

# Many Voices, One Song!

**A PRESBYTERY-WIDE WORSHIP GATHERING**  
Bringing Healing, Unity, & Renewal  
— Across the Presbytery of Carlisle —

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026**  
**• 4:00 PM •**  
**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CARLISLE**  
528 Garland Drive, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

 **GUEST PREACHER:**  
Rev. Cecelia “CeCe” Armstrong,  
Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly

 **LOTS OF MUSIC INCLUDING**  
Vocal and Bell Choirs and  
a Hallelujah Chorus Singalong.

 **COMMUNION, LITURGY &**  
**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION**

 **FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP**  
**FOR ALL AGES**

 **One Presbytery, Many Voices, One Song**  
— Many Congregations joining Together in Worship — 

Dirk Grove is registered as the LMCPA Ambassador for this event and will be organizing carpools. Those interested in going, please contact Dirk.

Happy  
Birthday  
Everyone



- 6 - Catherine Orleski
- 9 - Katelyn Stephens
- 12 - Deb Stottlemeyer
- 12 - Peg Roth
- 15 - David Bruss
- 23 - Pamela Grove
- 27 - Susan Nunamaker

**GINNY WOODS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



**Haley Best :**

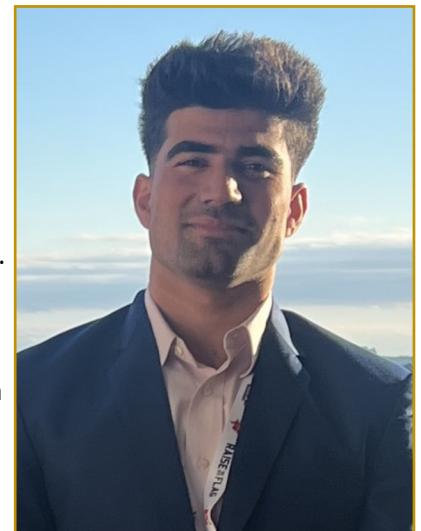
Haley is a High School Senior, planning to attend Mount St. Mary's University to study biochemistry. Haley is very active in in her church, participating in Sunday School Leadership, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group and mission trips. She also is active in sports, music, and musicals as well as a member and president of the National Honor Society. Haley found her way to her Christian faith at a Women's Night she was "dragged to" when she was in tenth grade. When she forced herself to really listen for five minutes, she was hooked. "That whole night helped me to realize God doesn't get up every morning and go to a mailbox and pick and choose who he wants to help, but he is with all of us at the same time, ALWAYS, helping us through every step of the way."

Please congratulate Haley on her accomplishments.

**Jamalkhan Nasiri :**

Jamal attends Elizabethtown College and will graduate in 2027. He studies Biology Pre-Health, hoping to become a Physician's Assistant. Many of you know that Jamal and his family are refugees from Afghanistan, so English is his second language. He has maintained a 3.5 GPA and looks forward to his senior year. Jamal participates in the mosque for Friday prayers and tutors his siblings. As a Muslim, his faith plays a central role in his life and personal development. "Looking ahead I hope to travel to Afghanistan. It is where I grew up, and returning there would allow me to reconnect with family and friends and reflect on my journey. More importantly, it would present me with a reminder of opportunities and resources I have here in the United States. Experiencing both environments has given me a unique perspective, and I strive to use the opportunities I have been given in a meaningful and responsible way."

Please congratulate Jamal on his accomplishments.



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Holly Best:

Holly is a senior at PennWest University with a GPA of 4.0. She is majoring in Library Science with the hope of becoming a librarian in her future. Holly has participated in her Youth group since 2019 to discuss the sermons. Holly is deeply rooted in her faith. "Learning about God has helped me realize what is important in life. I know it's important to be kind, thankful, forgiving, and helpful, among other things. I also know to trust in God and not worry because He is with me and will guide me through every challenge. Everything I have learned from His words in the Bible and by attending church I can apply to my everyday life, and I am making an effort to become a better person in these ways."

Please congratulate Holly on her achievements.



Will Paterson:

Will is a student at Geneva College, studying Secondary Education in Math and Coaching. Will struggled at the first University he attended and knowing God was there with him, he found a great Christian College to attend. Will states he gets to connect his academics to Christ every day. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was able to mentor middle school students at camp. He attends Life Family Church with some teammates where the Pastor is a brother with his coach for football. "I believe that God placed me in this community for a reason and I am so thankful that my journey has brought me here." Please congratulate Will on his achievements.

Note : If anyone would like to read the applications and essays from these students, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lauren Neely

**Some wise quotes passed on to us by Dave Diehl for our edification :**

- ~Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.
- ~It's never too late to be what you might have been.
- ~No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
- ~Success is a total of successful days.
- ~I have not failed, just found 100s of ways that don't work.
- ~Do what you can with what you have and who you are.
- ~Everything you can imagine can be real.
- ~Success is not final; failure is not fatal.

**Lend A Hand Mission Trip**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself.” Mt.22:37,39*

There were 13 of us on this trip to New Bern, North Carolina from May 3rd – 9th. We were fortunate enough to say we finished 3 houses. We don't always get to see the finished project. The first one was about done when we got there, and finished the first day. On 2 others we took down damaged ceiling and insulation and put up new stuff. We finished drywall and painted, put in a vanity and trim, replaced 2 windowsills, installed a shelf and doors, hung a mirror, and laid flooring. The lady we worked for didn't talk much but she really liked the heart made of olive wood from The Holy Land that we gave her.

At another house they finished 2 bedrooms, bathroom installed a hot water heater and faucets. In the last house we put up a deck with a 28" foot ramp for a woman who has cancer throughout her body, with 2 - 6 months to live. Her husband brought out fresh brownies he made for us and visited often. She had a good day and came out to see the ramp. We also gave her a heart from The Holy Land. She had tears of happiness. They felt so blessed that we could do that for them. It's so nice to work with fellow Christians with positive attitudes. I enjoyed the camaraderie and learned some carpentry stuff also. I feel blessed to be able to do this.

In Christ,  
Jim Benner

**INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. BRIAN MOSS AND CELEBRATION MEAL AFTERWARDS**

May 17, 2026 at 3 PM



Family  
And  
Friends  
Gathered.



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INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. BRIAN MOSS AND CELEBRATION MEAL AFTERWARDS  
May 17, 2026 at 3 PM



Fellowship Hall was prepared !



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**INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. BRIAN MOSS**  
Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church  
Was Held On May 17, 2026 at 3 PM



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Laying on of hands

THE SERVICE OVER . . . .



THE  
CELEBRATION  
BEGINS



Praise the Lord and thanks to all the people who worked so very hard to make this joyful day possible. And a special thank you to Shirley Breslin for all the photos.

*And . . . Speaking of Music***MUSIC THAT MOVES ME: Crown Him with Many Crowns**

***“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God”. – Revelation 19:11-13***

On May 17, 2026, Presbyterian churches across the world celebrated Ascension Sunday. Ascension Day was on May 14, exactly 40 days after Easter. This very important Christian celebration commemorates Jesus' bodily rise from earth to Heaven, after he appeared on Earth for 40 days following the Resurrection. (Coincidentally, May 17 was also the day we celebrated the installation of Brian Moss as the new, permanent pastor of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.)

One of the best-loved Ascension hymns of all time, *Crown Him with Many Crowns* is the subject of this month's foray into the history behind the hymn. But, this hymn's popularity conceals an unpleasant controversy that plagued its early usage. Here is the story...

Following the Protestant Reformation in 1517, there was widespread anti-Catholic sentiment, particularly in England. This prejudice continued for centuries, reaching its peak in the mid-nineteenth century.

Matthew Bridges, an Anglican minister, was among the most vocal of the anti-Catholics in England. In fact, he once wrote a book condemning Roman Catholics. However, as a lover of history and poetry, Matthew became interested in, and influenced by John Henry Newman and the Oxford Movement, which focused on the connection between ancient Christian history and the Anglican tradition. This fascination with his Christian roots eventually led Bridges to convert to Catholicism in 1848.

Thus, it was only three years after his conversion that Matthew Bridges, inspired by the words of Revelation 19:12 - "...and on His head are many crowns" - wrote this hymn. It consisted of six eight-line stanzas, and he called it "*The Song of the Seraphs*." Bridges' vision was to write a sermon in song.

The controversy arose in 1874, when Godfrey Thring, a devoted Anglican clergyman, criticized the hymn. In Godfrey's Anglican-influenced view, some of the verses were too "Catholic." For example, verse two said:

*Crown Him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies on which now His brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose, as of that rose the stem;  
The root whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.*

Although this verse does not seem offensive to our 21st Century sensitivities, the controversy it aroused, in the context of post-Reformation 19th Century England, remains a vivid example of how human interactions and theological differences can obscure what should be the sole and proper focus of our devotion: on Christ alone.

Thring wrote six entirely new verses for the hymn, which have, over the years, become intermingled with Bridges' verses, by hymnbook editors. The four most widely used verses – "Crown him with many crowns," "Crown him the Lord of life," "Crown him the Lord of love," and "Crown Him the Lord of heav'n" – nevertheless continue to provide a rich vision of Christ's lordship and exaltation.

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The tune most often associated with “Crown Him with Many Crowns” is **DIADEMATA**. Sir George Job Elvey, an organist for the British royal family, composed it in 1874. With its celebratory, march-like cadence, it is an ideal match for the verses written by Bridges and Thring.

Despite their theological differences, Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring and Sir George Elvey jointly produced a magnificent hymn of praise that has endured for generations. The fact that it appears in the hymnals of Baptist, Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian and Catholic traditions is a testament to the work of the Holy Spirit.

God uses our differences to create beauty. His power and majesty is evident, even in the face of controversy and division.

–Dirk Grove

ASCENSION

### 317 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.  
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save:  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee.  
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high.  
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight.  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright:  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges (1803-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)  
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

DIADEMATA  
S

*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 - 683 - 2674

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

*Excerpt from the ACPM May 2026 Newsletter*

Dear Friends and Partners of Adams Christian Prison Ministries:

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Easter Blessing Bags. Because of your generosity every inmate received a bag full of food items, a bar of soap and a deodorant. We were able to bless the staff with baskets of food items as well.

Our last in person prayer gathering was held on Sunday, May 17, at 6 pm. We will be meeting virtually via zoom for our Community Prayer Gathering throughout the summer beginning Tuesday, June 9, at 6 pm. A link will be posted on our Facebook page.

**AGAPE International Missions (AIM)**

*Excerpts from the AIM April 30 email message*

**Celebrating New Life in Southeast Asia - A powerful picture of transformation through faith:**

The transformation our team on the ground is witnessing is nothing short of incredible. Recently, Rahab's House Church gathered in Southeast Asia to celebrate the baptism of nine members who completed a three-month study on the life of Christ. Surrounded by a joyful community of 60 attendees, each baptism marked a public declaration of faith and the beginning of a new chapter in their walk with Jesus.

What makes this moment even more powerful is knowing that Rahab's House Church stands where a brothel once operated. A place once marked by exploitation, now filled with worship, healing, and new life. Through testimonies and shared celebration, this day of baptisms reflects the countless lives transformed by Jesus. Thank you for being part of this story.

**This Mission Moves Because You Do**

The impact from the first quarter of 2026 shows not just activity, but the full arc of the mission:

48 lives rescued across organized crime, individual predator, and other cases

22 arrests demonstrate accountability pursued in cooperation with local justice systems

25 cases closed by conviction by AIM's legal team

32 survivors were placed in restoration care

Six raids were conducted alongside local police across Southeast Asia. Eleven targeted individual predator arrests. Forty-three clients assisted by AIM's legal team. Together, these outcomes show that AIM and its partners are increasingly prepared to respond to both large-scale and individualized forms of exploitation with effectiveness, care, and precision.

This impact is yours. Every investigation, every case, every life transformed moves because you stay in this fight, through prayer, partnership, financial support, and advocacy.

As exploitation tactics evolve, AIM's capacity grows in step. Thank you for standing with us in this crucial work.

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### **Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County**

*Excerpts from the May CEF Newsletter*

*Oh, what a night! If you missed this year's banquet, you missed a blessing. Next Year's banquet is scheduled for April 24, 2027. RSVP is two weeks prior to the banquet date and Miss Pam is ready to take RSVPs now, if you are a real planner.*

Summer Ministry is just around the corner. Last month we introduced our four interns for this summer – Madi, Marlee, Conrad and Daniel. Many hands are needed to pull off four day camps, a soccer worship, a Vacation Bible School, and a fair ministry. The cost of all this is about \$9,000. Please pray how the Lord may move you to give to these summer events. Most important is that we all pray for our interns and the many volunteers that will be assisting Miss Pam in training them.

Summer Ministry Schedule: 6/22-26 – practice “club” for all interns teaching; 2/29-7/3 – Day Camp Idaville United Brethren in Gardners; 7/6-10 – Day Camp Griest Park in York Springs; 7/13-17 – Day Camp Memorial Baptist in Gettysburg; 7/19-23 – Vacation Bible School (evenings 6-8); 7/21/25 – South Mountain Fair (4-9, Saturday 1-10); 8/3-6 – Day Camp at Nawakwa with soccer workshop (4 days only).

### **DiscipleMakers (Kevin & Maria Noyes)**

Excerpts from their May 6, 2026 email

#### **Making Disciples.... Of All Ages?**

Because Penn State York is all commuters, it is not uncommon for us to encounter non-traditional students. Right now we have a few students in their mid to upper 20s who join us for Bible study every week. But this year we've encountered a first for our time in campus ministry - a student who is in her 50s, who doesn't just have kids but also has grandkids. She came to PSU York to start a different career path.

What is most remarkable about “Natalie” is her desire to become more like Jesus and her humility to learn from people who are younger than her. She faithfully came to the ladies discipleship group I ran last semester, eagerly bringing her notebook full of notes. She even shared vulnerably during our discussions in a group full of students who were 18-22 years old.

This semester, Natalie joined us for the DiscipleMakers Women Conference in early April. She slept on a bunk bed in a room with seven other college aged students yet I [Maria] never heard her complain once about the sleeping arrangements. One night she told me she even stayed up late to talk to her roommates! She sat under teaching from women, many of whom were 15-25 years younger than her, but I never heard her make negative comments about their age.

I don't know if I've ever seen a student be so willing to go outside their comfort zone so they can learn more about Jesus! I often say to Kevin that I pray that I am as humble and eager to grow as Natalie as I get older.

Natalie is a picture to us of Proverbs 4:7 “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.” She is willing to seek out God's wisdom at all costs! Pray for Natalie to continue to grow in wisdom and that she would stay rooted in God's Word as she faces a lot of hardships in her life.



#### **Noyes News**

Ezra turned 4 months in April! He is usually a happy baby and loves being around his siblings. Simeon and Ezra especially seem to be developing a special bond. If Ezra is crying, Simeon can usually cheer him up.

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Hope continues to amuse us with her antics. One day last week while Maria and Simeon were doing school, Hope managed to wrap Ezra's car seat cover around her head so she looked like a woman from Biblical times.

Simeon enjoyed helping Maria buy snacks for Women's Conference at the Utz Outlet.

It's been fun to see where his imagination takes him! This month he pretended to be an ice cream shop owner, setting up an ice cream shop in our basement, and inviting Hope to join him as his assistant.



### **Our Daily Bread Ministries**

*Excerpts from the Our Daily Bread Ministries Spring 2026 Quarterly Newsletter*

#### **Sharing Christ's Love Through Global Discipleship**

All around the world, God is using your partnership with ODBM to plant seeds of faith – one heart, one family, one community at a time.

In **Indonesia**, 5,000 "Soul Care Kits" filled with books, journals and creative tools were given to young people to help them grow stronger in their faith. For many, these simple gifts became lifelines of encouragement – reminders that God sees them and is with them.

In **Taiwan**, children are learning, through the book *Big Fix*, that Jesus loves them just as they are. This children's book, created by our local team, is helping little hearts hear the gospel for the very first time.

In **Thailand**, inmates in southern prisons are studying Scripture through our *Loving God's Word* program. Behind locked doors, lives are being renewed as men and women discover the freedom that only Christ can bring.

And in **Vietnam**, 37 families recently completed a 10-week Family Devotions program, gathering around the Bible, sharing stories, and praying together. At an outreach for Hmong children, our team also shared *Our Daily Bread for Kids*, helping young hearts and minds see God's beauty in creation.

These moments – quiet yet powerful – are happening because of people like you who care deeply about sharing the love of Jesus. Together we are encouraging discipleship and mentorship in communities all around the world for generations to come.

#### **Samaritan's Purse**

*Excerpts from the Franklin Graham May Update*

As the Middle East continues to reel from conflict, more than 1 million people have evacuated southern Lebanon to seek safety in the capital of Beirut and surrounding areas. Some are living in schools and community centers. Others are staying with relatives. Some are sleeping on the streets, just trying to survive. They have nowhere else to go. A recent ceasefire offers hope for them to return home, but the situation is still tense. Pray for this uneasy peace to hold.

Samaritan's Purse has airlifted over 150 tons of emergency relief for these families forced to leave their homes and jobs behind. Over three flights, we brought in tents, solar lights, blankets, kitchen kits with stainless steel pots and pans, and hygiene kits with toothbrushes, razors, soap, and more. We also flew in enough supplies for local clinics and hospitals to help thousands of people over the next couple months.

We are working together with longtime Christian partners to quickly get these supplies into the hands of desperate people. In partnership with local churches, we've given out 31 tons of food and have been able to supply them with wheelchairs and diapers, too, as special needs arise. Many of the church volunteers are young people eager to minister to their fellow countrymen. It's great to see God's people stepping up in times of crisis.

While our work is focused on Beirut, we're also working across Lebanon in the Biblical cities of Byblos, Tyre, and Sidon. It was skilled craftsmen from Byblos who helped build Solomon's Temple. Jesus visited Tyre and Sidon - healing the demon-possessed daughter of a Gentile woman - and now 2,000 years later His followers continue to proclaim the same message of repentance and faith.

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Almost 300 people received care, free of charge, from our team of doctors, dentists, and eye specialists. Dr. Felix Martin del Campo, a dentist and Samaritan's Purse board member, was among those who volunteered their time to help with this outreach. "Everyone who is seen here has had someone share the Gospel with them. That is why we're here," he said.

### Meeting Our Neighbors' Needs

Samaritan's Purse recently started a new initiative to meet the medical needs of U.S. communities where many struggle to access and afford treatment, especially dental and vision care. Partnering with a local church, our team recently held a two-day Community Medical Outreach event in Burnsville, a community in western North Carolina hit hard by Hurricane Helene in 2024. I have visited this town many times, and we continue to help rebuild and replace homes that were ruined by the historic flooding.

### Update on Bob and Kristi Rice

Bob and Kristi were scheduled to leave the U.S. on May 15 for their move to Accra, Ghana. They will attend a triennial partner conference with The Antioch Partners (TAP) in Greece before landing in Ghana on May 27.

### Introducing Peniel (Penny)

#### Our New Compassion International Child

We have begun sponsoring Peniel (Penny) who is from Togo, West Africa. She is one of 91,108 Compassion -assisted children in Togo. She lives near Kloto where most people speak French. Penny, who will be three on September 14<sup>th</sup>, lives with her father and mother. Her father is sometimes employed as work is available, and her mother is a homemaker.

Penny comes to her Compassion center (CDEJ La Grace de Zomayi) each month where she plays and learns while her caregiver attends workshops. A staff member from Penny's center also visits her home regularly to provide support.



Did you know?

- ~ We are only 5,319 miles from Togo.
- ~ Typical homes in the region where Penny lives are made of tile and brick.
- ~ Every Compassion center is run through a local church?

In Penny's first letter to us, she says:

- ~ Her caregivers' names are Tsadi Kodjo and Bata Afi
- ~ She has one sister
- ~ She can walk, run, jump and climb
- ~ Her favorite food is dough, fofou
- ~ Her prayer requests are for good health, wisdom, intelligence, the fear of God, a long life, that God provide work for her family, and that He grant them good health.



# The Giving Corner

## Stewardship Campaign 2027

**Theme: To experience and share the kingdom of heaven, here on earth**

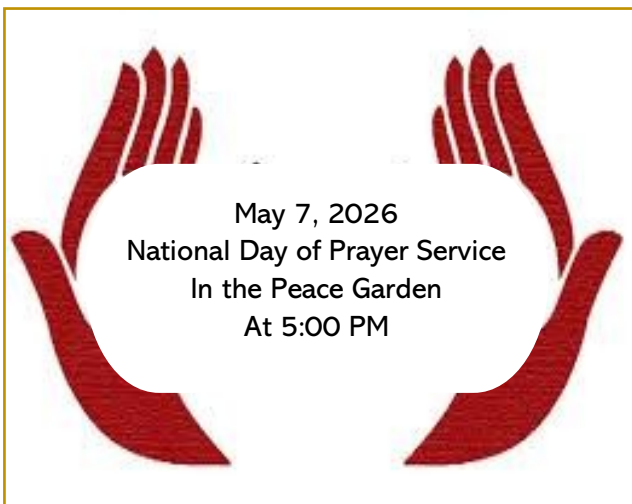
Every week in our worship service we pray the prayer our Lord taught His disciples. Do we fully understand what we are saying? Of course, in this context we are referring to the part where we ask our Father to allow His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

Our church Mission Statement is: "To glorify God, deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the family of believers, and to reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ." We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in the work of this mission we have adopted here at LMC. The Session, I&S Team, Spiritual Life Team, Home Ministry Team, Deacons and many committees and groups within the church are only a small part of our whole congregation. So, if you are praying this prayer all together each Sunday, we must set our hearts on the kingdom making life of the Spirit within and among us, the center of all we think, say or do.

In our practice of stewardship we are participating in a very concrete way to help the kingdom of God come about. Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever imagine. (Think about how tiny a mustard seed is but when it grows to majority it becomes a shelter for the birds.)

To be a community of love in this world is a powerful thing. As we grow in love, service grows to not only our family of believers but also to the community and world around us. We are helping God build the kingdom – right here and right now. We are doing exactly what we are supposed to do as Christians. We are following Paul's directive in 1 Corinthians 14:1, "Make love your aim."

Interpretation and Stewardship Team





## From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on May 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Brian Moss serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

o Membership 5/15/2026: Active Members (AM) = 144, Friends Participating (FP) = 31, Affiliate Members (AfM): 0, Family Members (FM): 39, Total: 214

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:**

- Approved the Diaper Drive to be held on Saturday September 12, 2026 from 10 -12pm.
- Approved a Minute for Mission on September 13th for Amazing Grace Quilting Group followed by a blessing of the quilts to go to the new Adams Rescue Mission shelter in Littlestown.
- Approved October 11, 2026 as Stewardship Sunday.
- Approved a Congregational Retreat to be held at the church on October 2 - 4, 2026 with a leadership dinner on October 1.
- Approved the sale of the 275th anniversary T-shirts for \$20 with any excess proceed to benefit church missions.
- Approved a brown bag lunch congregational picnic on Sunday, July 26 at Carroll Valley Park for a time of fellowship.
- Approved the purchase of a large commercial dehumidifier for use in the basement under the sanctuary.
- Approved a plan to engage Serv-Pro to do the clean-up work to address a mold issue in the basement under the Narthex.

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

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

- AV booth upgrade by A/V Solutions to begin July 20.
- Construction for the modifications at the back of the Education Building for the Day Care is ongoing.
- A quote was received for a screen on wall at back of Sanctuary that would be visible by Pastor and choir. Pursuing some cheaper options.
- Researching cleaning of the carpet in sanctuary.
- Looking into some elevator problems even though it passed inspection by a third party on April 10, 2026.

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

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

- ☐ June 7 Coffee Hour will be held in honor of scholarship recipients.
- ☐ Brochures will be prepared for Stewardship Sunday. They will be passed out on September 27 for collection on Stewardship Sunday on October 11.
- ☐ The 2027 budget process will begin with initial budget input from the teams to be gathered in June.
- ☐ The financial reports for March/April 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: Mike Orleski, Susan Nunamaker, and Lynne Orner

- ☐ Planning regular Hospitality Gatherings after the worship service to encourage conversation and getting to know each other. Will start June 14. Light snacks will be provided.
- ☐ Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday evenings beginning in August 2026. If there is a conflict with a church activity on Wednesday evenings, some flexibility would be needed.
- ☐ Other upcoming events:
  - o Pentecost – May 24 – will order red geraniums to decorate the church and plant afterwards
  - o Fun Fest – June 12 – will put up tents and use the church banner; will have Bibles and games/prizes to hand out to the children; will promote VBS.
  - o About 20 people attended the National Day of Prayer service on May 7.
  - o Father's Day – June 21 – cookies will be given out to the men of the church.
  - o VBS – July 7-10, 2026 – 8:30am – 3pm.
  - o Pastor vacation/study leave: July 30 – August 18, October 15 – 19, November 14-18.

***News from the Clerk of Session – Dana McDonald:***

- ☐ The Clerk completed the annual records review whereby Session minutes and records are reviewed by the Presbytery. All went well!
- ☐ During the April Session meeting, the 2025 Annual Financial Review report for the church was received and accepted.
- ☐ Session participated in a leadership retreat on May 1-2 for a time of reflection, discussion of themes from the Cottage meetings, and planning.

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

*Li'l Ripples* June 2026



Pastor  
Rev. Brian Moss



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Morning Group - 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Nursery 9 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Phone Number 717-642-5332  
Email Address - [office@lmcpc.org](mailto:office@lmcpc.org)  
Website - [www.lmcpc.org](http://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.*

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