



March 2025  
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Issue 3

# Li'l Ripples

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from  
Pastor Mark



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**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL  
ISSUE OF LI'L RIPPLES  
IS MARCH 21st**

Welcome to the new Presbyterian Church!

Our Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church belongs to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Our PCUSA is one of the classic, historic Protestant denominations which has existed since the earliest days of our nation. For example, John Witherspoon, the only clergy person to sign the *Declaration of Independence*, was a Presbyterian. Today there are about 8,500 congregations in the PCUSA which all together include over 1 million members. The PCUSA includes congregations in all 50 states, every city, and most small towns in America.

Sadly, like all the mainline Protestant denominations, our PCUSA has been in a steep membership decline since the early 1990s. Deep cultural changes have also moved the PCUSA and other Protestant denominations away from the center of social and political power in the United States. This marginalization is itself a fascinating question. Many church leaders, myself included, believe that this is a good thing, liberating the church to focus on our traditional faith and obedience to Jesus. Nonetheless, for a host of different and intersecting reasons our PCUSA, at the national level, is undergoing a radical transformation this year.

To understand these deep changes we need a quick introduction to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. The General Assembly is the national governing body of the PCUSA:

At the national level, our Church was divided into two parallel tracks. The Office of the General Assembly, led by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, is the ecclesial side of the church responsible for the *Book of Order*, the meeting of the General Assembly, Church Leadership Connection (the resource for searching for and finding new pastors), and all questions of ordination and church discipline. The Office of the General Assembly is fully funded by our Per Capita contributions. Lower Marsh Creek calls this "apportionment" in our budget and we already fully contributed our \$5,480 for 2025.

The other track of the national church is the Mission Agency, led by an Executive Director. By far, Presbyterian World Mission has been the largest piece of the General Assembly's Mission Agency, over 75% of the whole budget. Presbyterian World Mission has a stellar history going back to the missionaries we sent to Korea, India, Brazil, Mexico, China, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, etc in the 1800s. All of that historic mission work has resulted in strong, autonomous Presbyterian denominations in all of these nations and more. The Mission Agency is fully funded by Shared Mission and designated giving to individual missionaries. The Lower Marsh Creek shared mission contribution has been \$5,000 per year and we also generously support a list of Presbyterian missionaries around the world. To summarize, the national church has functioned for generations, including my whole professional career, on these two tracks: The Office of the General Assembly and the Mission Agency.

For many years there have been many voices in the church (I include myself in this group) who envisioned the full merger of the Office of the General Assembly and the Mission Agency. We believed this would make the church more unified, more focused and more efficient.

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Finally that full merger was accomplished in December 2024, with the full approval from the meeting of the General Assembly in June 2024. But things are more complicated now. This merger is not simply being driven by efficiency and theological vision but also by the massive downsizing of the Presbyterian Church, especially since COVID. Thus this merger came forward with the necessity of massive cost savings also. The Executive Director position in the Mission Agency was eliminated in December and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly is now leading the new, yet-unnamed, "Interim Unified Agency".

But this merger also required aggressive downsizing. The merger required massive cost savings including the elimination of the Office of Theology and Worship (what was a fabulous resource for pastors), and the Peacemaking Program. Also all curriculum and Bible study development has moved out of the church and into the for-profit publishing house, WJK Press. (Are you looking for a good Bible study; search at WJKbooks.com). Important ministries in the church which we support, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the One Great Hour of Sharing, will only continue via designated giving. Most importantly the merger necessitated the wholesale downsizing of Presbyterian World Mission. Most of our international mission positions have been eliminated, and the support staff for World Mission has been drastically reduced. Welcome to the new Presbyterian Church! Given my long career serving in this Church, this is for me a terribly sad day! Is it possible to teach an old dog like me to do new tricks? This massive transformation in the Presbyterian Church creates a whole list of vital, fresh and deeply spiritual questions for us:

How does a vital, generous congregation like Lower Marsh Creek engage in Presbyterian mission work around the world without access to an institutional structure like Presbyterian World Mission?

How do we in the local church, without this large, robust national Church calling us out, prevent the common, selfish sin of simply looking inward, caring for our own congregation, and only talking to ourselves?

How do we engage and understand the prayers, the stress, the joy and the celebrations of brothers and sisters in Christ across the world and in very different cultures and social contexts?

Very simply, without Presbyterian World Mission bringing us the good news of what Christ is doing everywhere, how do we avoid the sin of believing we are the center of the universe?

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).* How do we share and connect with God's good and beautiful world and all that Christ is doing everywhere?

In Christ!

Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST



**NEEDED** - Part time Office and Financial Manager for Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. 25-40 hours a week, as needed. Compensation depending on experience and skill level. Interested applicants please contact the church at [office@lmcpc.org](mailto:office@lmcpc.org).

**NEW MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY** is available to Asheville, NC March 16-22, 2025. This trip is a recovery effort to help clean up and tear down ruined structures. All expenses will be paid by our church Mission Endowment Fund but you will be asked to take a cot, air mattress and/or sleeping bag. The need is great but this trip will be a bit strenuous. **Please let Bev Benner (717-398-9933) know by March 1st** if you are interested. Lend A Hand can only take 12 people on this trip so timing is critical.

**NOTICE OF TIME CHANGE** - Effective March 2nd, all Sunday School classes will be held from 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

**ATTENTION LADIES** - On March 5th, 2025 at 11:30 AM our own Dirk Grove will bless us with his musical gifts at the monthly Church Women United meeting. The meeting will be held at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren 1710 Biglerville Road in Gettysburg. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Desserts and beverages will be provided. A \$3 donation for charity will be collected.

**THE COUPLES STUDY GROUP** will meet **Saturday, March 8th, 5:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall hosted by Lori and Joe Jackson. The theme will be an early St. Patrick's Day gathering - corn beef/cabbage and broasted chicken will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex letting them know what salad, side dish or dessert you will add to the feast. Our discussion topic will be "Differences" and the Bible reference is *Hebrews 1:8-12*. All married couples in the congregation are welcome to attend this fun night of fellowship and Irish high jinks.

The **next meeting** of the group will be on **Friday, April 11th at 6:00 PM**. Jean and Lee Bentz will be our hosts at *Homestead Country Kitchen*. A wonderful Amish homestyle meal will be the highlight of an evening of warm Christian fellowship. More details will be in the bulletins and a signup sheet will be in the Narthex beginning March 16th.

Bev Benner

**THE WOMEN'S GUILD** - The first meeting will be **March 18th at 1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. If any women in the congregation ever wondered what we are all about, this is a good time to join us. Try us, you just might like us!

Roz Santay

**THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. We have just begun to read and discuss *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us contact Dana McDonald.

**SUNDAY MORNING GROUP** - In early 2024 Pastor Mark challenged us to memorize the powerful 23rd Psalm. Our Sunday morning group is currently discussing the promises of this Psalm. We are using Max Lucado's book *Traveling Light*. Join us at **8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall** to see how this psalm will help us release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear.

Susan Nunamaker and Doyle Waybright

**LENTEN SOUP & STUDY** - This year the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 5**. We will gather on **Wednesday evenings** during Lent for a light, soup dinner and Bible study beginning at **5:30 PM**.

My Sunday sermons and our Wednesday Bible study for Lent will focus on the parables of Jesus, which may be the most important passages in our New Testament. With his parables, Jesus most vividly communicates his purpose, vision and hope.

My sermons and our study will be guided by the excellent new book from New Testament scholar Thomas G. Long titled *Proclaiming the Parables: Preaching and Teaching the Kingdom of God*. This is not light, before-you-go-to-sleep reading, . . . but, if you want to journey deep along with me into the parables of Jesus for our season of Lent, Professor Long's new book will be a great companion.

Pastor Mark

3 - Erica Duffy  
 5 - Gary Michaliga  
 5 - Charlotte Orleski  
 6 - Gregory Santay  
 7 - Pamela Johnson  
 8 - Scot Dolly



9 - Lucas Crumbacher  
 9 - Megan Crumbacher  
 12 - Jim Richardson  
 27 - Alexander Forsyth  
 30 - John McMann  
 31 - Tammy Harkleroad

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

Dear People of God at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

**I want to express my deep gratitude** for your support of me as a Mission Co-Worker during my term of service (2020 - 2024). My family and I are now back in Spokane, WA, excited about the ways we will integrate our peacemaking work into our lives in community here in the U.S. We plan to stay connected to CEDEPCA, supporting their work for intercultural dialogue, gender justice and liberative theological education.

May God continue to guide your church in the way of Jesus Christ!

With love and gratitude,

**Rev. Betsey Moe**, CEDEPCA - Guatemala

January 21, 2025

Dear Friend,

On behalf of **Our Daily Bread Ministries**, **thank you** for your financial support and prayers this past year ! We serve together in this eternity-impacting mission to share God's Word around the world. . . . these opportunities are possible because of you. In times of so much uncertainty, we are pushing back against the negativity and despair that has become prevalent in the world by offering encouragement and pointing people to the God of the Bible.

Boldly Unhindered (Acts 28:31),

**Matt Lucas**, President/CEO

February 20, 2025

I would like to **thank the LMC family** for all the prayers, cards and support sent my way since my back surgery in October and most recent hospitalization due to a kidney stone and sepsis. I feel like I owe everyone a box of Get Well Cards.

Thanks again,

Judy Williams

**THANKS** continued on the next page . . .

*THANKS continued from the preceding page . . .*

**Thank you for giving to DiscipleMakers** in 2024. As we reflect on the past year, we think of the countless students who are searching for meaning and purpose on college campuses. All of them are seeking their place in the world, and many are attempting to do so without God. But by God's grace, this challenge is also an opportunity. With the help of donors like you, our missionaries can be present on campus to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ with students who might not otherwise have heard it. We then have a prime opportunity to teach them to become disciple-makers themselves before they go wherever God calls them after college.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Krol

# Gratitude

Three months ago, I donated prayer journals to members of LMCP and hoped they would find them useful in their own lives. I was blessed beyond words at the Feb. 16th service when Jenny Waybright showed me her own journal almost totally filled with favorite Bible passages, sayings she had found in her readings and quotes from the media that spoke personally to her. Furthermore, she had indexed her journal, illustrated it, pasted colorful decorations in it and shared with me a couple of her favorite entries. One page even consisted of quotes from Bruce Lee, a Hong Kong-American actor, martial artist and philosopher who wrote, *"If words control you, that means everything else can control you. Breathe and allow things to pass. God has lessons to teach us wherever they come from. Words have power so it matters what you say."*

On the way home, I wept a little out of gratitude to a thankful member. This is so typical of the love of those who count LMCP as their spiritual home. Perhaps Jenny's message will inspire others to use their prayer journals as she does, carrying a little of the Lord wherever she goes. For me, her note of thanks is now tucked in my own *"little brown notebook"* as a reminder to thank God daily for people like Jenny, a true blessing whose note is forever one page in my own prayer journal.

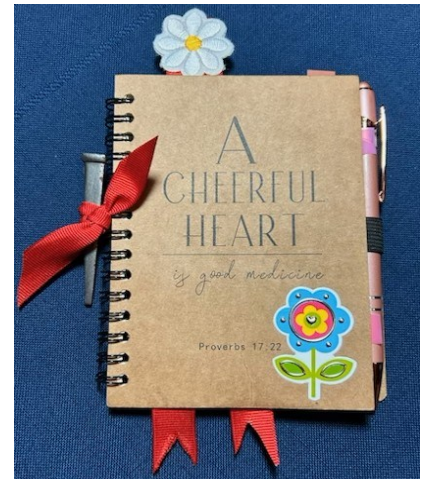
Kathy Megyeri



### My Little Brown Notebook

The little brown notebook was a token gift of kindness for those who dare to write.  
 I placed mine by my favorite chair and promised myself to write.  
 Days went by and it was soon forgotten  
 Til one day I had a few thoughts to explore.  
 I wrote them down in the little brown notebook  
 Along with declarations of change, 28 in fact,  
 There are insights into old verses, a few prayers are included,  
 and even some unanswered questions are noted.  
 I jotted down thoughts to meditate on from a sermon or two.  
 Several quotes I also included and some from Bruce Lee can even be found.  
 I only have a few blank pages left with lines laying bare,  
 Waiting for something spiritually profound to be written down,  
 So a thank you goes out to the giver of my little brown notebook.

Jenny Waybright



### Recommended Reading for Easter

*Somehow, Thoughts on Love* by Anne Lamott

Anne Lamott is Presbyterian, is the author of 20 books including numerous bestsellers and 7 novels, received a Guggenheim Fellowship, was inducted into the California Hall of Fame, and wrote an examination of love in this, her 20<sup>th</sup> book. She teaches Sunday school to prove that love is God and God is love to small children. She takes food and supplies to the homeless. She tells the story of a young girl who can't fall asleep because she's scared so her mother repeatedly comes in to assure her that Jesus is in the room with her so she needn't be afraid, but the complaint goes on repeatedly until finally, the girl says, "*I really need someone with skin on,*" so Anne Lamott is determined to be the goodness with skin on for others in her community. She explores the power of love in our lives, reminds us of our humanity and guides us forward. She teaches us that love is caring, affection, friendliness, compassion and a generous heart. It is also a kind of energy or vibration. Love is why we are here at all and in the world and why we have hope. Love is interconnectedness.

Lamott also writes of the fact that so many of us have mementos from the past - old report cards, newspaper clippings that contained our names, and maybe a Christmas card from a grandmother before she died. Then upon our passing, these "*treasured objects are about as meaningful as participation medals from swim class for putting your head underwater.*" So, after reading this book, I chided myself for keeping so many boxes of this "*old stuff.*" Best of all, Lamott includes a Sunday school lesson that she teaches to a ten-year-old who wanted to know why Good Friday is called "*good,*" and she told him that it leads to the Resurrection and Jesus dies to help us change that suffering into meaning, renewal, transformation and eternal life. She concludes, "*We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Love is why we have hope. To know the soul is to know love.*" What a meaningful Easter message for us all.

by Kathy Megyeri

**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

**FOOD PANTRY:** Thank you for your Souper Bowl Sunday donations! Three boxes were delivered to the food bank. Your blessings are appreciated and put to good use. John Stottlemeyer



JUST LOVE EVERYONE  
I'll sort them out later.  
-GOD

**A Message from the Editor**

**LOVING AN AILING SPOUSE**

Recently, a friend asked me to compose an essay for the newsletter with the above title. She thought that, due to my experience in caring for my husband through his final illness, I might be able to: *share coping mechanisms and offer wise words of support* to the *many others* in our midst, dealing with this same thing (or a similar situation). I said, *I will think about that for a couple of days to see if I have anything to say.* I did, and I don't. Well . . . let me clarify that statement. What is helpful for one person in this situation may not help the next person at all. It is such an individual thing. It depends so much on a caregiver's faith, personality, energy level, age and prior experiences. If it is spending time on your knees in prayer - do it with devotion and sincerity. If it is vegging out in front of the TV - do it and don't feel guilty! If you are into exercise - do it with gusto! If you want to spend time on the phone with a friend - gain whatever benefit you can from those conversations! It boils down to one thing - find what works for you, what helps you to cope, and do it ! (As long as it isn't immoral or illegal.) I learned this point years ago from professionals when I cared for my mother who died from Alzheimer's disease - *take care of yourself.* It is the same principle in the instructions you hear from a stewardess when you fly with a child - *put your mask on first.* This is the important truth to remember -

**if you don't take care of yourself, you will not be able to take care of your loved one.**

Another thought was provoked by the suggested title for this message. This is a second piece of advice I can pass along. Whether your spouse (or any other loved one) is ailing or in perfect health -

**don't sweat the small stuff. Life is way too short !**

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministry**

*From the February ACPM Newsletter*

**Alpha Program:** The Alpha program officially began the weekend of January 24, 2025. This program is a means to further connect the incarcerated at ACACC to the Holy Spirit and to their church communities upon release. Please continue to pray for the Alpha program and the other ACPM programs as we trust the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

**Volunteer Security Training:** ACACC will be conducting the annual volunteer security training on Tuesday evening, April 15, for current and potential volunteers. Volunteers will receive an invitation to attend for the renewal or initial volunteer status.

**Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast:** ACPM will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for all our current volunteers that dedicate their time to serving with us both inside and outside the prison on Saturday, March 15, 8-9:30 am. Invitations will be sent in February.

**DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)**

*From their January 27 newsletter:*

**One Generation Reaches Another ... But It's Not the Generation You Might Think**

Last week I (Maria) bundled our kids up in their winter gear, loaded them in our van, and drove to campus for the Penn State York involvement fair. To be honest, I was doubtful about bringing them: "Is this a mistake? Are our kids going to be too much of a distraction? Are they going to make it harder to meet new students?" ... "What are we in for?" I wondered. But when we walked into the building and past some of the administration's tables, one of the staff members plopped two packs of fruit snacks on our stroller and smiled at us. When we got to the DiscipleMakes table at the involvement fair, Simeon quickly settled in behind the table and started talking to one of our student leaders. We gave him the job of handing out little bags of pretzels to the students who walked by checking out different clubs. I walked around with Hope and was able to chat with students who come to our Bible study (and some we hope will in the future!) They all loved seeing Hope! I ran into one student who I hadn't seen since last year and she told me "You should bring your kids to campus more often! They are such an encouragement to all of us!"

After the involvement fair, we dug out our lunch boxes and sat down in the dining area on campus. A number of students came over to talk with us and Simeon invited one of the students to sit with us. She ended up joining us for lunch and sharing how she was distant from the Lord. Kevin and I got to encourage her from the Word that even when we grow distant from God, He doesn't grow distant from us. And we gave her some practical ways to draw closer to the Lord. "Thank you for inviting me to sit with you!" she told Simeon at the end of lunch.



During our time in the dining hall, Simeon went to a few different tables nearby to talk to students he knows. He is probably the biggest extrovert in our family!

What I thought might be a hindrance to our ministry, actually turned out to be a blessing. If our kids had not been with us that day, I truly don't think we would have met as many students. We are so thankful to get to do ministry together as a family and show our kids that we move towards people because God moved towards us first.

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Simeon has really enjoyed playing in the snow this winter! Hope is not a huge fan of the snow but she loves going sledding in our backyard. God provided the perfect little sledding hill in our backyard that is just the right size for our kids!

In early January, we went to the DiscipleMakers winter staff conference where we received more training in Bible study from the Charles Simeon Trust. We also both had birthdays in January, so we are now solidly in our mid-30's!



## SAT-7

*From a February 10 email:*

Iran, along with Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Afghanistan, is featured among this year's top ten most dangerous countries for Christians according to the World Watch List. The most notable change in the rankings is Sudan now ranking in 5<sup>th</sup> place, climbing from 13<sup>th</sup> in 2022 and moving up further each subsequent year. Throughout 2024, SAT-7 heard from Sudanese Christians who are still following Jesus and serving others, despite the challenges they are facing. They shared their struggles with our Viewer Support Team, and also how SAT-7's programming is encouraging and equipping them in their difficult circumstances. A 25-year-old viewer who is a Sudanese war refugee living alone in Egypt while his family remains in Sudan shared with our team that he has grown in his faith by watching SAT-7 ARABIC and following our social media content. "Everything you post makes a difference in my life and is a blessing to me."

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Note: When I asked Bob Rice how the war in Sudan has affected South Sudan, he replied: "Yes, it has impacted us in a significant way. Since the start of the war in April 2023, almost two years ago, nearly 1 million refugees (Sudanese) and returnees (South Sudanese) have come to South Sudan. For a country which is already struggling, this large influx just makes things more fragile and challenges more pressing for families. Please pray for both countries, for peace in Sudan, and for wisdom for leaders in South Sudan."

## MISSIONARY CO-WORKER NEWS

*This information was taken from an article by Rick Jones with the Presbyterian News Service. To read the full article, go to <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news> and look for "Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA) announces shift in approach to global ministry engagement."*

The Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA) has announced a shift in approach to global ministry engagement. Under the new plan, a select group of staff who are currently serving as mission co-workers and in administrative roles within World Mission will transition into a new role as Global Ecumenical Liaisons. The Liaisons will be deployed internationally and across the United States to serve as a connecting and ambassadorial resource with PC(USA) partners around the world. The new role will require working closely with congregations, mid councils and new worshipping communities that are partnered with worldwide ministries. They will also serve as facilitator

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support for partner programs, relationships, and activities, and will implement local, regional and/or global strategies. The shift also means all World Mission staff positions will be revised, and some will be concluded. The new model means a reduction in the number of people who are deployed internationally. The World Mission ministry is currently composed of 79 staff. The redesigned area will have 44 staff ministering together in a renewed way. Any person whose position will be concluded will be offered salary continuation and severance packages based on their service.

~~~~~

LMC has supported the following PC(USA) mission co-workers: Bob and Kristi Rice (since 2010), Dori Hjalmarson (since 2019), Ryan and Alethia White (since 2020), and Betsey and Eric Moe (2024). Betsey and Eric (Guatemala) decided to leave the mission field at the end of December 2024. We have received the following news from our remaining mission co-workers:

**Dori Hjalmarson (Honduras)**

*From a February 5 message to the Honduran Partnership Committee:*

“Over the past two days, World Mission leadership has met with all its staff and informed us of our status in the reorganized Interim Unified Agency. I have been dismissed, and the Mission Co-Worker position in Honduras has been eliminated. My last day of work will be March 21.”

**Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)**

*From a February 19 email to Sandy Buhrman:*

“...We will be leaving South Sudan in 19 days. Thus, we are a bit busy with final work projects, organizing and packing, and saying goodbye to friends and colleagues whom we have grown to love and appreciate over the last eight years. Yes, we are still hopeful to continue serving in Africa. To do so, however, will require transitioning to a different mission agency as the role of ‘mission co-worker’ within PC(USA) has recently been concluded. Given this change within PC(USA), we have been praying and proactively moving in the direction of seeking out an alternative mission agency. We have also been offered new positions within PC(USA) as part of the new ‘ecumenical model’ of missional engagement which is now beginning to take shape. In these roles, we would serve ‘diaspora communities’ (e.g., migrant churches) in the United States. ... We appreciate your prayers as we discern our path forward. ... We are grateful for you and Lower Marsh Creek! Thank you for staying in touch and reaching out to us with a concern towards our future. To be honest, we are currently feeling divided regarding the direction of our future. Please pray that God would make clear the best path to take at this time.”

**Ryan and Alethia White (Germany)**

*From a February 11 email to Sandy Buhrman:*

Thanks for your email and reaching out to us. Indeed, there are big changes in World Mission happening. We were notified recently that our positions will be terminated. We are still working through the implications and

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what our next steps will be and appreciate your thoughts and prayers especially as we determine when is the best time to share with the girls. We will be sure to share more in the near future. Greetings to all at Lower Marsh Creek, it does not feel as long as it has been since I was enjoying the visit with you all."

~~~~~

I will continue to reach out to our missionaries and will keep you informed of their plans to transition from their current positions.

~Sandy Buhrman

### **AFGHAN FAMILY UPDATE**

The Nasiri family will have three children in college come fall. Jamal is doing well in his second year at Elizabethtown College. Farishta and Jahanzaib have been accepted by Gettysburg College with a complete financial offer. They will need financial assistance to cover their needs, and though financial aid/scholarships will be renewed each year, the tuition at Gettysburg College may be expected to increase by 3-5% per year. Note: when the family arrived, Farishta and Jahanzaib spoke no English and Jahanzaib was doing elementary school level math. I believe all three will be applying for our scholarship.

### **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PARTNERSHIP (RRP) FUND-RAISING FOR EDUCATION**

The RRP is launching a fund-raising campaign to provide for educational needs for the students and families, as well as emergency needs (especially medical/dental). Checks to Refugee Resettlement Partnership (with "for Education" or other in the memo line) can be sent to the Gettysburg Area Ministerium, PO Box 3252, Gettysburg, PA, 17325. For those taking RMD's from regular IRA accounts, a charitable contribution form can be requested from the financial institution, listing Refugee Resettlement Partnership as the payee (Gettysburg Area Ministerium and Refugee Resettlement Partnership) 501c3 Federal ID: EIN #82-1351518).

### **RAMADAN 2025**

For several years now, the Refugee Resettlement Partnership has provided food on Wednesdays and Fridays of Ramadan (pizza on Wednesdays and Halal food on Fridays). I was approached with a request to take over coordination of this and I have agreed. This year Ramadan will be Friday, February 28 to Saturday, March 29. Pizza dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26 with Halal food on March 7, 14, 21 and 28. All four weeks are covered by volunteers from various churches participating in the partnership, and I have volunteered to provide the Halal food on Friday, March 14, using money from our mission discretionary fund.



# The Giving Corner

## The Blue Envelope: Our Per Capita Offering

The annual giving of all Presbyterians, in the form of our Per Capita offerings, is a “tie that binds” the entire church and benefits every congregation. Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections . Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future.

Per Capita amounts are determined by General Assembly nationally, regionally by the Synod and locally by the Presbytery. These monies are used to administer the responsibilities, functions, and mission of each governing body. This year that assessment in our presbytery is \$33.00 per member. Our Session is committed to paying the full assessment for all members on our roll because we treasure our relationship with the wider church, and the congregation benefits when members contribute their share to the whole.

This year the split is as follows:

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| General Assembly:       | \$ 10.84 |
| Synod of the Trinity:   | \$ 2.40  |
| Presbytery of Carlisle: | \$ 20.80 |
| Total:                  | \$ 34.04 |

This assessment per member maintains a physical office and staff at all three levels of governance; it provides training and leadership development for our church officers; it provides learning opportunities for pastors and members of congregations and faith formation initiatives for youth through Camp Krislund; it also provides oversight and preparation for those discerning God’s call to ministry. These are just a few examples of what the per capita funds do. But it is not these benefits alone that make us so deeply committed to the per capita offering. It is our shared sense of our Reformed heritage and our Presbyterian identity that compels us to take our relationship with the whole Presbyterian family so seriously.

Thank you to all who have paid and plan to pay your share of the \$33.00 per member. By contributing your portion of the per capita, you will free up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. If you have not contributed to this in the past, we hope you will consider doing so this year. You may remit your per capita contribution by using the special envelope designated “per capita” that came with your offering envelopes, or simply by writing “per capita” on the memo line of your check.

We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

The Interpretation & Stewardship Team



# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on February 18, 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 2/16/2025: Active Members (AM = CA):160, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 264.

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:

- March 16, 2025 – distribute the Fish for the One Great Hour of Sharing.
- April 13, 2025 – collection of the Fish for the One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Increased rent on the Manse beginning May 1, 2025 from \$1,100 to \$1,135.
- Increased rent on the White House starting May 1, 2025 from \$800 to \$825.
- A Lend A Hand mission trip to Ashville, NC will be held on March 16-22,2025 at a cost of \$125/person plus expenses with funding from the mission endowment fund. The trip will be organized by Bev Benner.
- Collection of items for themed bags for Fairfield Food Pantry in September.
- March 16, 2025 – a special congregational meeting is planned, pending approval by the Committee on Ministry (COM) to move ahead, to approve a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

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

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

- o Voted not to pursue anything with Industrial Appraisal Company.
- o Looking into headstone for Rex Craven.
- o Getting quotes for resealing the parking lot in the spring.
- o Working on a leak in kitchen around the exhaust fan.
- o Dealing with issues with the Elevator doors and have called for service.
- o Will pursue getting some sort of cover for the van.

## News from the Interpretation and Stewardship Team - manages church finances and missions

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

- o We were very sad to hear that the positions for Missionaries Dori Hjalmarson (Honduras) and Ryan & Althea White (Germany) have been eliminated due to organizational changes and budget cuts within the PC(USA). The Missions Team is waiting to see what these individuals are going to do before making any decisions about what is budgeted.
- o Revising the Mission Endowment Application form to simplify.
- o Keeping a close eye on the budget for 2025 to monitor revenue and expenses.
- o The January 2025 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.

*Continued on the next page . . .*



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***News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church***

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

- o The coffee hour on February 16 was a success! Planning to seek other groups to sponsor continuing to have the coffee hours monthly.
- o Planning a “Fun Day” in March
- o Planning a potluck party for Barb Schwartz on Sunday, May 18, to thank her for her years of service to the Church before she retires. A potluck party will also be held for Pastor Mark at a time to be determined.
- o Lenten Bible Study beginning March 5 through April 9, from 5:30-7pm with a soup/salad supper.

***News from the Clerk of Session:***

- o Continued discussion on the next steps necessary to search for our next installed pastor. The Session held a meeting on February 10 with representatives of the Presbytery and the Committee on Ministry (COM) to discuss the process. Representatives from Session will meet with the Committee on Ministry (COM) on March 13 to get approval to establish a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC cannot be elected until after approval by the COM.
- o Pending approval of the COM to move forward, a special congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 16 to present the nominees for the PNC to the congregation for approval.
- o Personnel Committee reported that the advertisement for the Church Office and Financial Manager position for the church, to replace Barb Schwartz, will begin soon. They also reported that Deb Wolf has accepted the position as the Director of Music/Organist for the church beginning in April.
- o Doyle Waybright and Dana McDonald, the Elder Commissioners to the February 8 Presbytery meeting at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, reported on the meeting. All amendments to the Book of Order passed by the Carlisle Presbytery, with the exception of Amendment 24C. 24-C would amend the language of G-2.0401b, which addresses the examination of church officers, to require that the examination cover “the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and ... the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403.” Currently, the Book of Order requires only that the examination address the requirements expressed in the constitutional questions asked of candidates at ordination and installation (W-4.0404). Affirmative votes of a majority of all the Presbyteries within PC(USA) would be required for the amendments to be incorporated into the next edition of the Book of Order. The church is also required to adopt an anti-harassment and anti-racism policies in 2025.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JANUARY 2025

## Church Operating Fund Income

| Account Description                   | JANUARY—<br>2025   | Year-to-Date<br>2025 | 2025<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$33,974.00        | \$33,974.00          | \$276,092.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$5,838.95         | \$5,838.95           | \$29,430.00         |
| Transfer of funds from 2024 budget    | \$30,000.00        | \$30,000.00          | \$30,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$69,809.95</b> | <b>\$69,809.95</b>   | <b>\$335,522.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                      |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | \$3,631.72         | \$3,631.72           | \$14,550.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$0.00             | \$98.74              | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$5,480.44         | \$5,480.44           | \$5,810.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$1,930.40         | \$1,930.40           | \$87,140.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$18,896.04        | \$18,896.04          | \$224,622.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$29,938.60</b> | <b>\$293,938.60</b>  | <b>\$335,522.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>\$39,871.35</b> | <b>\$39,871.35</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2025: \$63,933.57

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

| Account Description | JANUARY—<br>2025   | Year-to-Date<br>2025 | 2025<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$13,781.00        | \$13,781.00          | \$95,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$105.48           | \$105.48             | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$13,886.48</b> | <b>\$13,886.48</b>   | <b>\$95,700.00</b> |

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

|                              |                   |                   |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$6,729.00</b> | <b>\$6,729.00</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$7,157.48</b> | <b>\$7,157.48</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2025: \$8,417.49

**Notable expenses for JANUARY— COF:** Apportionment to the General Assembly was paid (\$5,480.44); marriage retreat expenses were paid (\$2,819). COF revenue reflected the transfer of the budget surplus amount of \$30,000 carried over from 2024.

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

*Li'l Ripples* March 2025



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

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

Phone Number - 717 - 642 - 5332

Email Address - [office@lmcp.org](mailto:office@lmcp.org)

Website - [www.lmcp.org](http://www.lmcp.org)

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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