

Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

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**Deadline
for the JUNE issue
of the newsletter is
May 15th**

Dear friends,

In the weeks following Easter, we continue learning what it means to walk together as a church shaped by the life of the risen Christ. The journey does not end at the empty tomb. It continues in the life we share together as the people of God.

One of the ways that we will share this life together in the coming weeks is through a service of installation as your pastor on Sunday, May 17, at 3:00 p.m., under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle. This service is not about me as much as it is about us. Together, we are entering into a shared ministry as a congregation. It is a time to come together, worship, and recognize what God is doing in and among us.

On that day, the Rev. Dr. Bryan Burton, pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL, will be with us and will preach at both the morning and installation services. Bryan and I served together for nine years at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Seattle, where he first encouraged me to explore a call to pastoral ministry. Without his influence on my life, I am certain that I would not be your pastor today. He has remained an important voice in my life. And more than anything, he has been a pastor to me as I have been a pastor to others. I am grateful for the opportunity to have you meet him and his wife, Caroline.

I hope you will join us for this meaningful moment in the life of our church.

Come if you are able,
and be part of what
God is continuing to
do among us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brian Moss

~~~~~

On the left:  
Pastor Brian Moss  
On the right:  
Rev. Dr. Bryan Burton

Seattle, WA.  
July 1, 2016





## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST

**COUPLES' GROUP**

May 9th at 5:30 PM at Dale and Len Williams' home, 251 Carr Hill Road, Gettysburg. (Pool will be open.) Hot dogs and burgers provided. Please sign up in the narthex to say what side or dessert you will bring. Any questions, call Davalene at 717-253-5319.

**MOTHERS' DAY**

The Men's Breakfast group has purchased flowers for all the women of the church. As you depart the worship service on **Sunday May 10th**, men will be stationed in the narthex to present a flower to all the women.

Dick Belenski

**PASTOR BRIAN'S INSTALLATION SERVICE**

**Sunday May 17th at 3:00 PM.** After the service, we will have a potluck dinner. LMCC will supply the meat. Please consider bringing a side and/or a dessert. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

**COMING SOON !**

The spiritual Life team would like to extend some hospitality to all. **Beginning June 7th**, immediately following the worship service, in Fellowship Hall - grab a cup and catch up or meet and make a new friend. Members and guests are welcome.

**FUNFEST JUNE 12TH**

We are still accepting donations to help defray the cost of purchasing Bibles for youth. We will be handing out the Bibles at the FunFest held at the Gettysburg Rec Park. Thanks for your consideration.

Phyllis Doyle Smith

**SUNDAY MORNING GROUP**

This spring 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 Hezekiah, Jesus, Paul and others. Join us.

Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 pm. We are currently reading and discussing *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the Life of David* by Beth Moore.

If interested in joining us - contact Dana McDonald.

**WOMEN'S GUILD** - The Women's Guild went to Hillside Nursing Home on April 7th. We refreshed them with juice boxes and cookies and played Bingo with them - which they love because we bring prizes. Pastor Brian came with us and led them in some familiar songs. We are always impressed because they seem to know all the words to hymns. This time we gave gift cards to the staff who are a very dedicated group of people. Some of the money used came from the donations the congregation put forth when they wrote out Christmas cards for church members. Thank you for your generous contributions. Between that donation and the money the Guild had allotted for Hillside, we were able to give 13 staff members a gift card worth \$50 each.

**Our next meeting will be May 19th at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come join us!**

Roz Santay

**LMC STITCHERS** - I'm delighted to share an update on a recent field trip by the LMC Stitches. On Monday, April 13th, a small group of our members, accompanied by Pastor Brian, had the privilege of visiting the Gettysburg TenderCare Pregnancy Center.

During our visit, we were so pleased to present a collection of lovingly crafted items, including three cozy baby blankets, three adorable baby sweaters and six snug infant hats - all handmade with care by the LMC Stitches. What made the experience truly special was learning that on that very same day, one of our blankets had already found its way to a precious baby girl. This immediate impact truly underscored the urgent need and the beautiful work being done there at TenderCare.

The team at TenderCare generously provided us with a tour of their facility and an insightful overview of their programs. We gained a deeper appreciation for their holistic approach which encompasses counseling, educational resources and practical assistance for those facing unplanned pregnancies or navigating the challenges of early parenthood. It was truly inspiring to witness their unwavering dedication and compassion first hand.

We left feeling incredibly blessed and happy to support organizations that uplift and care for our most vulnerable.

Judy Williams - LMC Stitches Coordinator

**THE AMAZING GRACE QUILTING GROUP** - makes quilts for people who live in shelters and also for particular world events that inspire us to donate. For example, in the past 5 years we donated 71 queen size quilts to the Agape House in Gettysburg. And in 2025 and 2026 we donated 42 twin size quilts to New Hope Shelter in Waynesboro. In 2022, we donated 8 quilts to refugees in Ukraine, at the start of their war. In 2025, we donated 14 quilts to the fire fighters and rescue personnel who helped in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. We began our ministry in 2012 and have thus far donated a total of 644 quilts to various recipients.

We are a group of 13 women who meet for one full week of each month and piece together beautiful quilt tops and backings, made from donated fabric. Myself, Jane Bruss, Sue Welsh, Darlene Palmer, and Karen Richardson of LMPC are current members of the group. We do the quilting between monthly gatherings and then they are bound, labeled and ready for distribution. We have received donations of fabric beyond our imagination because people donate fabric they can no longer use.

We are currently working to outfit the new Adams Rescue Mission shelter (Sheltered Single Women's Restoration Center in Littlestown), which will house 36 women. It is planned to open in October 2026. We have a goal to gift each new resident with a freshly made twin size quilt at the opening.

In future months, we will display many of our quilts at LMPC for your enjoyment. If you wish to join us in this endeavor, please contact me. Yours in Christ,

Cathy Michaliga, Chair, Amazing Grace Quilting Group - [cathymichaliga@gmail.com](mailto:cathymichaliga@gmail.com) - 717.321.3905

**2026 WILD WONDERFUL VBS : THANK YOU AND MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

As we look ahead to our upcoming VBS, *July 7–10*, we are so grateful for the many hands and hearts that have already come together to make this week possible.

**A sincere thank you** to all who have volunteered to serve. Whether you'll be leading activities, guiding children, serving food, or helping with set-up and clean-up, it takes a dedicated and caring community to create a space where children can learn, grow and feel welcomed. So, thank you !

As preparations continue, there are more ways others can join in. One of the most meaningful ways you can support VBS is by **inviting children** and families you know. A simple invitation can open the door for a child to experience God's love in a new and lasting way. As you invite, we also encourage you to **pray for the children** who will attend, and their families and all who will be serving. Pray that the week will be filled with joy, connection and a deeper understanding of God's care for each one of us.

We are also looking for volunteers willing to **help distribute flyers** in the community to local businesses and other organizations. If you are interested and available to help in this manner, please contact Cathy Michaliga.

We are excited to see all that God will do through this shared effort. Thank you for being part of it.

Best, Stephanie Moss

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

February 2026

I write **with deep gratitude** for your 12/31/2025 generous support to Disaster Relief. You chose to stand alongside those who are rebuilding not only homes, but also hope. Because of your generosity, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been able to walk closely with communities on their long journey to recovery.

In Christ's peace,

The Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo, Manager, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

March 17, 2026

Those serving on the front lines of global gospel work are vital to what God is doing in the world. We are only able to do this work because you stand with us. God bless you !

**With gratitude,**

Todd White, Executive Director, One Another Ministries

April 20, 2026

I would like to **thank the church** for the many prayers, cards and meals provided during my recent illness and ongoing recovery. It was such a blessing to Dana and I. Your love and support are very much appreciated.

Michael McDonald

**CHILDREN'S CAMP FUND:** LMCPD has a fund which can be used to assist in paying for your child's approved camp. We also support any children living in Adams County. You can request support by providing a copy of your camp application/invoice to our office, along with a written request for reimbursement.

Cathy Michaliga

**A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR :**

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

**Effective with the June issue, the paper copies of the newsletter will not be individually labeled. The result of this change is that the paper copies of the newsletter will no longer be mailed when they are not picked up in the narthex.**

There will be paper copies available in the narthex (as usual) and anyone who wants a copy is welcome to take one. Also, those for our shut-ins will continue to be labeled and mailed.

The newsletter will continue to be available on the church's website at [www.lmccp.org](http://www.lmccp.org)

The emailed version will continue to be emailed as usual. If anyone would like to be added to the list of recipients for the emailed version, please send your name and email address to me at [lilripples@gmail.com](mailto:lilripples@gmail.com) or put a note in my mailbox in the church office across from the library.

Thank you,

Fay Hess



Thanks to Shirley Breslin for these lovely photos to remind us of our beautiful Easter worship service on April 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM. .

After the benediction, the congregation sang LMCC's special song - *Stone by Stone*.

2 - Lynn Miller

7 - Timothy Myers

7 - Jed Smith

8 - Terry Gladhill

9 - Cathy Michaliga

13 - Elaine Reichl

13 - Doris Wampler



*Happy Birthday  
Everyone*

16 - Cindy Phillips

19 - Al Miller

23 - Carolyn Speck

25 - Marcia Grove

25 - Leonard Orleski

27 - Sallie Sites

### IT ALL BEGAN ON A TREADMILL

I'm guessing it was about 2015. I went to the gym (then the YWCA of Gettysburg) as I did at 9 AM at least 4 days a week. I walked directly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> treadmill in a row of about 12 treadmills. I expected one of my buddies to come in at least by 9:20 AM to get on the treadmill next to me. Then we would begin an hour-long discussion of critically important world events, like who won the big game (usually NFL or college football) the day before and critical items on the "honey-do" list like, did you get the lawn mower repaired or how did you get that hornet's nest down. Oh, and we would also get a couple of miles of exercise.

Well, this was not to be a normal day for me at the gym. Nor would there be a normal exercise routine for almost a year to come.

Just when I was expecting Vic or Steve or George to get on the treadmill next to me, a young lady hopped on it. It was the YWCA after all, and she was attractive, so I guess I shouldn't complain. I just politely said hello to her. She looked to be about 18 years old. I started my usual chatting: "I haven't seen you here before. Are you new to the area?" She was a student at the local community college, had lived here most of her life and was still living at home. I will call her Jane, to protect her privacy. I asked her things like what she was studying and what she did for fun. Gradually, she got a bit quiet. She started to say less and began to sound "down" and not cheery, in fact, almost depressed. I gently asked if something was wrong. She said softly that she had some problems.

I told her I was sorry to hear that. Neither of us said anything for a few seconds. Then I said, "you don't need to say anymore. but if you would like to tell me your troubles, I would be glad to listen." That was the beginning of a very different conversation. (We were both speaking very softly because of the other people in the area.) She teared up. I don't remember the exact words, but she explained that she was not happy, so much was wrong, and she was not satisfied with "who she was." I said that I was very sorry and wished there was something I could do. She said that she was hanging out with the wrong group of kids, some of whom were just plain bad. She said they drank too much alcohol, they were trying various drugs, and they weren't particular about who they slept with. All of this had affected her home life as well. She and her sister were estranged, and she and her dad were no longer speaking.

I changed the direction of the conversation when I asked her if she went to church. Her answer was that she did not believe in God. I had no idea what I should say next. I had no plan. But, with the help of something deep inside (perhaps the Holy Spirit), the answer came to me in a flash. It was ESP – extra sensory perception! I would try to get Jane to open her mind to the possibility that there were "things out there" that she couldn't see or touch, but that didn't mean that they did not exist. Fortunately, I had an amazing ESP experience years before, as had my sister-in-law. (I'm sure many people don't believe ESP exists, but believe me, once you have it happen to you, you will never forget it.)

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So, my strategy became to convince Jane that these two ESP experiences were real, which hopefully would open Jane's mind to the possibility that millions of people experience a connection with God that is not greatly different than the ESP events that I will describe.

My ESP experience as told to Jane: I was so young at the time that I never had to get up during the night; I slept straight through. Except for this one night. I woke up in the middle of the night and sat straight up in bed and stayed very quiet and still, not wanting to wake my wife. My guess: about 10 or 15 minutes went by. During these few minutes, I felt very uneasy. I thought something is not right. I was very anxious for that brief time. Then the phone rang next to the bed. I grabbed it quickly. It was my brother-in-law, Marine Major Pete Southmayd, stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. (I was in Maryland.) Pete said solemnly to me, "Something horrible happened tonight, and I need you to go to Dad's (my dad, his father-in-law) house in the morning to tell him. I do not want him to get this message over the phone." Pete went on, "Peter (his son) died in his sleep. It was a pulmonary embolism. He did not suffer." My ESP woke me up before the phone rang. I was prepared to take this heart wrenching call.

Right after I told Jane about my experience, I told her about an experience that happened to a friend of my sister-in-law Anna. Anna worked for a medical company, and a division of her company was having their annual banquet at a hotel in Baltimore. One of Anna's best friends, Sue, was sitting next to her. They were having a good time chatting when the first course, a salad, was served. Sue started to raise her fork to her mouth when she excused herself and went to the lady's room. She came out of the restroom in a very short time. She looked pale. Anna asked what was wrong. Sue said, "I don't know, but I just threw up." They both sat there silently for just a few minutes when Sue's cell phone rang. She answered. It was her mother calling her from Pittsburgh. Her mother told her, tearfully, that Sue's brother (whom she was very close with) had just died. He was driving home from the airport when his car hit black ice and slid off the road into a telephone pole.

I made a brief comment to Jane explaining that, to me, these ESP examples demonstrate that there are things going on "out there, somewhere" that we cannot explain. These are things you can't see and touch, but they are really happening. I continued, "So Jane, doesn't it seem logical that someday we may encounter amazing things that we cannot explain, and doesn't it also seem possible that a supreme, intelligent power (that I personally believe to be God) could make contact with me in some manner?" Jane looked at me and in a soft voice she conceded, at least a bit, when she said, "Yes, I guess that is possible." I was happy to hear that. She was no longer categorically denying the existence of God.

We both said goodbye and went home. That night I was happy that she had opened her mind to the possibility that there is a God and that somehow, we can interact with Him. After an hour or so, I concluded that the next thing I should do is explain some of the ways God had affected my life.

The next morning, I went to the gym, hoping Jane would come too. A few minutes later, she did show up and got on the treadmill next to me. I had decided that I would tell her my journey of faith in chronological order. The first event at 5 years old was my near death and unlikely rescue from the cistern by Holly Trail. Over the next week, I told Jane other stories that implied God's presence. The greatest of which was the story of the night my sister died. I wrote about this experience in an essay entitled "An Answered Prayer" which was published in the June 2025 issue of the Li'l Ripples newsletter. (This is available on the LMCPC's website.)

Over the next couple of weeks, the more I shared my experiences and the value of going to church, the more she indicated that she was starting to believe. At one point, Jane asked something like, "How would I know that God really wants me and loves me?" Hoping that this would happen to Jane, I told her that if she "tried praying for a while, she may experience a moment of awe." She asked, "what's that?" I said, "it's something you can't explain, but something that has a great impact on you, like a near death experience or camping out at night and seeing an amazing meteor shower across the sky."

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Two weeks later when I saw her at the gym, she came over to me and said, "John, I think I had my moment of awe." I asked her, "what happened?" She said, "I was sitting on my bed last night and I started crying. I cried more and more. I cried so hard I slid off my bed and continued crying." I ask, "what was wrong, Jane?" She answered, "nothing was wrong. I felt this warmth and felt I was really loved for the first time." I teared up and said, "Jane, I think that was your moment of awe."

The following week, Jane told me that she had borrowed a Bible and was starting to read it. A few days later she said that she had some questions about things she had read. I suggested, "Jane, why don't you come over to my house, and we can sit on the porch and try to answer your questions. I invited a friend to join us who knows a lot more about the Bible than I do. Jane said great and we selected a day and time. I recall that it took about an hour and a half to answer all her questions. It was apparent that Jane was really convinced. And, right after this meeting, Jane started to make things happen. She got baptized and joined her boyfriend's church. It was such a joy to hear this.

We lost touch after that except for an occasional email. Jane said in one of her emails that she and her boyfriend had gotten married. In another email, she asked me what I had been doing. I replied that I had put together a presentation called Scientific Evidence of God and had presented it to a couple of different audiences. Next, she asked me if I could send a copy of the slides that I used. I replied that without the text, she most likely would not understand the slides. I was determined to help her understand the slides and it took me almost a year to add text to the slides. The outcome was a 36 page booklet entitled Scientific Evidence of God. I sent the first copy to Jane.

I have had numerous copies printed in subsequent years which I have given away. I got permission from Pastor Lee Strobel to print it, since I used information from his books *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for the Creator*. Pastor Strobel asked me to call again if he could be of help in any other way. A great guy and a great Christian. This made me very happy, however, Jane's finding our Lord brought me much, much greater joy.

Praise the Lord!

John McMann

God works in  
mysterious ways,  
His wonders to perform.



*And . . . Speaking of Music***MUSIC THAT MOVES ME: Nearer, My God, to Thee**

*“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” –Genesis 28:12*

Recently, Pastor Brian introduced a new arrangement of an old standard hymn, “Nearer, My God, to Thee,” to our worship service. Brian composed the new tune, reimagining the song in a swinging, Southern gospel style. The pastor invited Lower Marsh Creek’s “Faithful Voices” to provide rollicking harmony to the chorus. I like it a lot.

As you might guess, I am a staunch advocate of musical diversity in worship. In my opinion, music never fails to enhance the worship experience. Different styles are important, because the style can set the mood. And, sometimes, when everything falls into place just right, it contributes an almost tangible element to the service that really makes you feel God’s presence.

This new arrangement of “Nearer, My God, to Thee” highlights the timeless durability of the hymn—but it’s not the first time these words have been set to an alternate tune.

Here is the story of how it came to be.

One day in 1841, Rev. William Johnson Fox of London’s South Place Unitarian Church was planning a sermon. The subject was the story of Jacob at Bethel from Genesis 28:20-22, which is referred to by many as “Jacob’s Ladder,” or “Jacob’s Dream.” Rev. Fox was frustrated, because he had been unable to find a hymn to accompany his sermon.

Then, he remembered that a member of his congregation, Sarah Flower Adams, an actress by trade, was also a gifted writer. He also knew that her sister, Eliza, was an equally gifted musician. In fact, the sisters often collaborated to create hymns, some of which were slated for inclusion in *Hymns and Anthems* (1840-41), a church hymnbook that Rev. Fox was compiling at the time.

Fox paid Sarah a visit, and they discussed his dilemma. Sarah offered to write an original hymn, based on the story of Jacob’s Ladder. But, although she was known to write quickly and spontaneously, as if under compulsion, this hymn did not come easily.

For a week, she pored over the passage. She visualized Jacob, sleeping with a stone for a pillow. She imagined his wonder as he dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven. And, we can assume that Sarah prayed for guidance and inspiration.

Slowly, the words began to form, inspired by the Scripture. In the third verse, the imagery became so vivid, so real, that the Bible scenario seemed to come alive:

“There let the way appear, Steps unto heav’n;  
All that Thou sendest me, In mercy giv’n;  
Angels to beckon me, Nearer, my God, to Thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!”

The hymn was completed, and Rev. Fox’s congregation sang it that Sunday, providing a fitting accompaniment to his sermon. The tune they sang was penned by Eliza.

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**Nearer, My God, to Thee** 470

Sarah F. Adams, 1805-1848 Bethany 6. 4. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.  
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee! E'en though it  
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark - ness be  
 3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heaven: All that thou  
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with thy praise, Out of my  
 5. Or if on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and

be a cross That rais - eth me; Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my  
 o - ver me, My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my  
 send - est me In mer - cy given: An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my  
 ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be Near - er, my  
 stars for - got, Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my

God, to thee, Near - er, my God, to thee, Near - er to thee! A - men.

However, the music we know so well—which was, according to legend, played by the Titanic’s orchestra as the ship sank—was actually written by music educator and church musician Lowell Mason in 1859. The tune is known as BETHANY. Interestingly, in Britain, BETHANY has never been associated with Sarah Flower Adams’ verses, so it is possible that the Titanic scenario may not have occurred as depicted in James Cameron’s famous 1997 film, which starred Leonardo DiCaprio.

In addition to the Titanic legend, “Nearer, My God, to Thee” is associated with two assassinated American presidents. It was played at President James Garfield’s burial service in 1881. President William McKinley quoted its stanzas just before his assassination in 1901. Upon announcement of McKinley’s death, bands across the country played the hymn in his honor.

Sarah Adams and Eliza Adams both suffered from tuberculosis, and they died at relatively young ages. Eliza passed away in 1846, and Sarah passed away in 1848, at age 43. Their collaborative hymn is a gift to the ages. We are blessed when we sing it, as it helps us to become “Nearer, My God, to Thee.”

~Dirk Grove

*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

**FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY**

Update for our church family - at the end of March, 8 bags of food items were delivered to the Fairfield Food Pantry. Today [April 16], before writing this note, one bag with a few items was delivered.

Thank you for your continued support and remember these folks are happy to have hygiene items or household cleaning items as well as the wonderful food donations.

I would like to say thanks for the folks who have backed me up with this task while I have been recovering from knee replacement and surprise medical issues that popped up during recovery.

John Stottlemeyer

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

*Excerpt from the ACPM April 2026 Newsletter*

Dear Friends and Partners of Adams Christian Prison Ministries: As we step into April, we reflect on the greatest act of love — Jesus giving His life for us. Here is a testimony from a former inmate. Because of your love, support, prayers and time she is walking in freedom that only Jesus provides.

“When I was incarcerated in Adams County Jail, I was at one of the lowest points in my life. I felt lost, discouraged, and disconnected — not just from my family and the outside world, but also from God. During that time, the Bible study, Alpha class, and church services became more than just something to pass the time. They became a turning point for me. Each of those programs helped bring me back to God in a real and personal way. The Bible study gave me a place to learn, ask questions, and understand Scripture in a way I never had before. The Alpha class helped me explore my faith more deeply and reminded me that God’s love and forgiveness are always available, no matter where we are or what we’ve been through. And the church services gave me hope. They helped me feel peace in a place that can often feel heavy and overwhelming.”

“What made the biggest impact, though, were the women who ran these programs. They showed up with kindness, compassion, and no judgment. They treated us with dignity and respect. They shared their knowledge and wisdom, but they also listened. They cared about us as individuals, not just inmates. Their encouragement helped me see that I wasn’t defined by my mistakes — that I still had purpose, and that God still had a plan for my life. The programs helped me begin rebuilding my relationship with God while I was still incarcerated. I found strength in prayer. I found comfort in Scripture. And I started to believe that change was possible for me.”

“Since leaving in May of 2025, that impact has stayed with me. I’ve continued growing in my faith and have been living differently. I’m more mindful of my choices. I turn to God during hard times instead of trying to handle everything on my own. The foundation that was built in those classes didn’t stay in the jail — it came home with me and continues to guide my life today.”

“I’m incredibly grateful for the Bible study, the Alpha class, and the church services, and for the women who faithfully showed up to pour into us. They brought light into a dark place. They helped me reconnect with God. And they helped me leave not just as someone who served time, but as someone who was changed, hopeful, and moving forward with faith. I genuinely appreciate all of you individually for taking the time out of your busy lives to show the love of Christ in this world but especially in the jail. Sincerely, a transformed life B.W.”

**Adams Rescue Mission/Agape House**

Mark your calendars for the ARM/Agape House Restore Hope Banquet on May 28, 2026, at 6 pm in the Lutheran Seminary Refectory. Hors d’oeuvres and wine will be served during a pre-presentation reception as guests gather before the banquet program begins. You may sign up for this fundraising banquet by calling Heather at 717-334-7502 x26, emailing her at [development@adamsrescuemission.org](mailto:development@adamsrescuemission.org), or by signing up on the sheet posted in the Narthex. RSVPs are due by Monday, May 18.

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### Compassion International



*From recent Compassion International correspondence*

Introducing our new Compassion International sponsored child (young adult) - Yared. We began sponsoring Yared on February 25, 2026. His birthday is July 9, 2008. In his first letter to us, he says: *I am so happy to be able to write to you and share about my life – and to learn about you! I know that our relationship is going to grow, and I can't wait to hear from you. Thank you for being my sponsor!* In the letter, Yared answers these questions

**Community:** Tell what region of the country you live in and what this area is like - *Tigray region, Mekelle city.*

**People who live in my home:** *Timtu Gebregianher (mother), Leul Abebe (father)*

**One thing I really enjoy doing is:** *Studying technologies like mobile phone technologies*

**My dream for the future is:** *I would like to help out my mother who has helped me reach today. She has taken care of me since I was a child and she made so many things possible.*

**Something I want to share about myself:** *I am a youth who has dreams and who wants to make many things happen.*

**My prayer request:** *I always keep you in my prayers. I wish you good health and love.*

Yared added: *I am excited to get a letter from you soon!*

**Note:** As announced in the April issue of Li'l Ripples, Hawine has graduated from the Compassion program!

*From Sergio's February 27, 2026, letter:*



"Hello dear sponsor Friends, I greet you with a big hug. Thank you for the letter you sent me and for the support you give me every day. I appreciate the gift you sent me and with that I bought some tennis shoes. I tell you that I changed schools because my previous school closed and now in my new school I have made friends and I practice a lot of soccer. I also like other things that I like to do. I thank you for the prayers you make for my family and for me. I am very happy. This year I went on vacation to Tarija, also in my vacations I went to visit my grandmother in the countryside. In the countryside we bought some soft

drinks and I like it. It is a place where I breathe pure air. Here in my country we celebrated Carnival. In my country we celebrate the Oruro Carnival\*, people participate with typical dances, besides with my church we went to the camp. I ask that you pray for my mother, for the brothers from the church, for me and for those who are in the streets who do not have more than to eat. A big hug, Sergio"

*FYI: Sergio will be 17 on July 17, 2026.*

\* Bolivia's signature Carnival lives in the thin air of the Altiplano, in a mining city that turns devotion into a marathon parade. Carnaval de Oruro sits at the center of the country's cultural calendar, with dancers, brass bands, and artisans carrying stories that stretch from pre-colonial Andean rites to Catholic processions in honor of the Virgen del Socavón.

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*From Compassion International by letter dated March 29, 2026:*



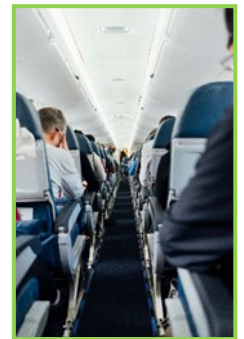
"In recent months Brayan has not met Compassion's standards for sponsorship and enrollment and, sadly, had to be removed from our program. Please know that the local church worked closely with Brayan and his family, showing them grace and love. But ultimately, the local Compassion staff had to make this difficult decision. Of course, this means you are no longer Brayan's sponsor. But it doesn't mean the time you spent writing to, praying for and encouraging him, was wasted. ... Friends, thank you so much for your ministry in Brayan's life. We're touched by your selflessness and are extremely grateful for your partnership."

**DiscipleMakers (Kevin & Maria Noyes)**

*Excerpts from their March 23, 2026 newsletter*

Reaching the Campus Reaches the World

Recently Christian, one of our student leaders, went on a trip abroad. He was excited to take an international vacation over his break. However, he had a bigger vision for the trip than just sightseeing and having fun. Christian wanted to use his trip for Christ. ... "It's both wonderful and mind blowing how God answers our prayers in ways we can't even imagine. Before my trip to Southeast Asia, I had been praying about God giving me the opportunity to talk about Him and his Glory to people I ran into while traveling."



"God instantly answered my prayers by blessing me with the opportunity of discussing Him during my plane flight from JFK to Rome with Yacine [an agnostic raised Muslim]. Yacine had been traveling throughout the US and was returning back to his home in Matz, France."



"Thinking it was going to be a long 8 hour flight I grabbed my Bible to read a few verses in Acts. Yacine saw my Bible and asked me if I was a Christian. I responded by telling him that I believed in Jesus as my savior. I began by telling him of my journey with Christ and how it wasn't a smooth one but God was always there for me. I shared with him, 'God is always there. He's always knocking.'"

"This simple conversation turned into an 8 hour discussion about Christianity, Jesus, the power of prayer, and how God is always there for us. I told him how I had prayed for an opportunity and how God answered my prayers by blessing me with running into him on my very first flight. Throughout the 8 hour conversation it came up that I received some Bibles from my church and by the end he must of been curious because I brought up if he would like one and he accepted."

Reaching the Campus Reaches the Community

In our primary Bible study, we recently studied Philippians 2:1-11. Students were struck by the incredible humility of Christ, and the call for his followers to imitate him in humbly serving others. Motivated by this call, several young men and women gave up their free time over Spring break for a service day at a local homeless shelter. For many, it felt costly giving up a chance to work or catch up on sleep. However, they were eager to serve as Christ had served them. So, we stained and painted, trying to make their facility more welcoming and more equipped to minister to the homeless. By God's grace, it also became a bonding time as students swapped stories and compared interests while working.



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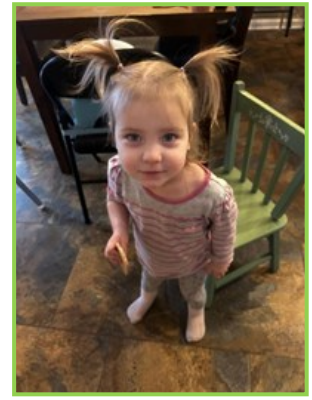
### Reaching the Campus ... with an Infant

"Do I have the diaper bag?" Check. "Do I have extra clothes?" Check. "Do I have the baby carrier?" Check. You can imagine that it's a bit of work to take an infant on campus but we have found the cost worth it to minister the gospel to students in a unique way. Students held Ezra while they confessed sins they had kept in the dark, while Ezra gazed up at them with his sweet blue eyes. Ezra has gotten to be a part of Bible studies and spiritual conversations. Even our male students are intrigued by Ezra and it has led to more conversations about a vision for Godly parenthood. We're thankful that we can minister like this as a family in this season. We know it won't last forever but we're grateful for this time we can include our infant son in the work God is doing on campus



### Noyes News

The Lord blessed us with a lot of fun this month! We went to an event at a local ice cream shop called "Anything But a Cup," where you bring in a unique item to eat ice cream out of. Ezra learned how to smile and has started to "babble" and make sounds that are almost giggles. Simeon and Hope enjoy doing funny antics to try and get him to smile. It's always amusing seeing what new ideas they come up with!



### Prayer Requests

(1) Praise God for his work in Christian! Please pray for God to keep equipping him, and our other student leaders, with "*the readiness given by the gospel of peace!*" Please also pray for Yacine to put his faith in Jesus. (2) Pray for "H" and "J." These two students are both considering putting their faith in Christ, but wrestling with the costs of becoming disciples of Jesus. Please pray for God to open their eyes to how Jesus is more valuable than anything else they could have in this life. (3) Pray for Maria's discipleship of female students. Two of our key female students reached out to Maria to mentor them. They are both struggling with ensnaring sin and want to find freedom in the gospel. Pray for God to give Maria wisdom as she points these ladies to Jesus and for God to help these ladies fight their sin. (4) Pray for our adjustment to being a family of five. Pray especially for Maria to have patience and strength to care for three kids at very different developmental stages while Kevin is on campus.

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### **Thomas & Cheri Henry (One Another Ministries)**

*Excerpts from their April 6, 2026 Letter*

#### PRAY for our time in Turkey

We arrived to Ankara on Good Friday and have been reminded all weekend of that wonderful above truth. Tomorrow, we begin leading a 4-day marriage intensive with two couples here. Pray for them - for grace, comfort, intimacy, healing, encouragement, and hope in their most-important relationship. And pray for us - that we are discerning, gracious, loving, and helpful. The following week we watch our former teammates' three children for a week while they enjoy an anniversary trip. Loving children, serving families, sharing the load of ministry - what a gift to us and them.

From here we attend the European Member Care Conference. Pray we are encouraged, and that the Lord would connect us with orgs and teams that we can serve.

#### PRAY for entry into Jordan in May

This is what is scheduled for our trip to Amman, Jordan, May 6-24 (if the Lord wills) - a one-day workshop to present "Exploring a Theology of Singleness" to the worker community, a 4-day marriage intensive with two couples, a 4-day singles intensive with seven singles, and a gathering of all couples we have taken thru the marriage intensive there over the last year. In this difficult season, they need our support. God's work often demands going into hard places. We don't push gospel messengers into harm's way. We trust God for both wisdom and protection.

#### Please Pray

[As] The war in and around Iran continues. The decision to go will be a game-time decision. We trust the workers there who have their ears to the ground. At this point we have a green light. But if the situation degrades, we will not go.

*HE IS RISEN! And so will we be.*

### **Our Daily Bread Ministries**

Our Daily Bread Ministries is a global, donor-supported ministry that distributes more than 60 million resources throughout 150 countries.

Testimony: "I gave my son Andrew a copy of *Our Daily Bread*. He has been dealing with some trying circumstances in the last several months. One day he picked up the devotional that I gave him, and it really touched his heart! He has rededicated his life to Jesus and surrendered his will to God! Since that time he has shared his *Our Daily Bread* with a friend and they have coffee and devotions every morning. Now there are three others who want to join them, so they are basically gathering for Bible study every day! God has put it on my heart to start sharing in my apartment building and out in public. Please pray that we will be bold in our witness and God continues to help us carry light into dark places. ~~ Renee

### **Samaritan's Purse**

*Excerpts from the Franklin Graham April Update*

Pray that the Lord will give Iranian believers courage to share the hope and transforming power of the Gospel with their unsaved friends and family during these turbulent times. We are providing food, clothing, blankets, pots and pans, and other needed items to communities hit by the recent strikes. We have had to temporarily relocate many of our staff in the Middle East due to the conflict, but work continues. Pray that there will soon be peace.

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Excerpts from a March 5 Letter

“The most priceless gift Raouth received from her husband wasn’t gold ... It wasn’t a sunset rooftop dinner. Or first-class tickets to a dream destination ... It was far more costly: knowing Jesus. But she didn’t receive this life-changing blessing right away. In fact, she didn’t even want it. In their culture following Christ comes with shame. Your family stops calling. Your name is whispered at the market. Invitations to meals stop coming. The feeling of belonging you were born with is gone. Wajih shared his revelation of Jesus with Raouth. She wanted none of it. For days ... months ... every mention of Jesus was met with silence or accusing words. The distance between them seemed to widen with each conversation about faith.

Two years later Raouth began to seek the Jesus her husband talked about. But she didn’t tell anyone. Instead she kept a Bible hidden in a drawer under clothes. Wajih made the decision to get baptized in a small house church. He was surprised Raouth said “yes” to coming with him. They arrived at the home hosting the service. Curtains were drawn closed. A large basin was filled with water. It wouldn’t be a public display of faith to hundreds – but that didn’t matter to Wajih. He was here with his wife for his audience of One. Wajih couldn’t contain his smile as water poured down his face. But the joy in his heart exploded when Raouth said: “Wajih, I want to join you in baptism!”

This is the power of SAT-7 programming. So many others like Wajih and Raouth are tuning in. They’re questioning. Hoping. Longing. *Who is this Jesus? What is the truth? Is there anyone who will tell me?*



## From the Clerk’s Desk

### EDITOR’S NOTE :

Due to a change in the date for the April meeting of Session,  
there will be no *From the Clerk’s Desk* article in this month’s issue of the newsletter.



# The Giving Corner

## LEGACY GIVING

As members of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, some of us recent members, some of us for most of our adult lives and a few of us all of our lives, we have helped by coming regularly and participating with various programs in the church. We are proud to belong to a church with such a long history of sharing the gospel of Christ and reaching out to our communities with love and helping hands. We have grown in faith and adopted values that we want to pass on to not only our families but future generations.

Legacy giving is not only about money but also about being good disciples to those around us. This type of giving is an act of faith, hope, and generosity that transforms lives and strengthens the mission of the church now and for generations to come.

Stewardship is a fundamental act of worship for Christians. We know that all that we have comes from God, we know that God entrusts us with resources to advance the kingdom on earth through our lives, our families, our work and our faith. The Christian approach to estate planning – the process of making faith-based decisions about your final act of stewardship – can be fraught with emotion, fear, and anxiety, but it can also be a time of reflection, joy and purpose.

Before beginning the process of estate planning, take time to pray. Just as God has provided these material blessings in your life, the Holy Spirit will guide you in making these decisions. The size of the gift is minor compared to the fact that the church is important in your way of saying a final goodbye to this world as you join God and Jesus in their kingdom.

If you do not have an estate planner, the Presbyterian Foundation has a lot of useful information available at no charge.

**YOUR INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP TEAM**

| FINANCIAL REPORTING - QUARTERLY SUMMARY - JAN - MAR 2026 |                |                  |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| CASH ACCOUNTS                                            | Income Jan-Mar | Expenses Jan-Mar | Account Balance 03/31/26 |
| Church Operating Fund (COF) Totals                       | \$97,276.35    | \$92,410.71      | \$31,128.95              |
| Missions/Missionaries Fund (MOM)                         | \$24,402.31    | \$21,556.56      | \$2,796.93               |
| Membership Assistance Fund (MAF)                         | \$ -           | \$ -             | \$1,403.19               |
| Cemetery Fund Checking Account                           | \$ 900.00      | \$900.00         | \$23,331.34              |
| Gifts & Memorials Fund (G&M)                             | \$ -           | \$ -             | \$6,626.23               |
| <b>SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS</b>                            |                |                  |                          |
|                                                          | Last Renewed   | Interest Rate    | Amount                   |
| Certificate of Deposit **05                              | 8/19/2025      | 4.00%            | \$34,842.92              |
| Certificate of Deposit **58                              | 12/2/2025      | 3.75%            | \$5,000.00               |
| Certificate of Deposit **63                              | 1/21/2026      | 3.69%            | \$124,657.37             |
| Certificate of Deposit **17                              | 2/19/2026      | 3.75%            | \$51,665.10              |
| CD Totals                                                |                |                  | \$216,165.39             |
| <b>LONG TERM INVESTMENTS</b>                             |                |                  | \$803,219.61             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>COF income includes:</u><br/>                 Non-Designated gifts and offerings,<br/>                 Dividends &amp; Interest (Credited, not reinvested)<br/>                 Rental income</p> | <p><u>MOM income includes:</u><br/>                 MOM-designated gifts &amp; offerings<br/>                 Special offerings, i.e. Souper Bowl<br/>                 NOW account interest</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

*Li'l Ripples* May 2026



Pastor

Rev. Brian Moss



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Nursery - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Phone Number 717-642-5332  
Email Address - office@lmcpc.org  
Website - www.lmcpc.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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

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