Li'l Ripples - A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church - November 2026



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The DEADLINE for the DECEMBER issue of Li'l Ripples is NOVEMBER 20th

Dear friends,

God has been faithful to Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church across many generations. Early in 2026, we gathered for a series of cottage meetings. A majority of our church membership participated, and we received helpful feedback. A common concern emerged at every meeting: we are growing older as a congregation, and we desire to reach the next generation.

Since then, we have been actively preparing ourselves to follow where God leads us next. We have identified four steps in this process.

FIRST, PREPARE EACH LEADER

On May 1-2, 2026, the Session met for a leadership retreat. We discussed spiritual transformation and why it is essential to the life of a church leader. We considered the importance of developing a personal practice of discernment — learning to recognize and respond to God's leading — so that we might practice discernment together as leaders of the church. Our study centered on *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* by Ruth Haley Barton.

SECOND, PREPARE THE COMMUNITY FOR DISCERNMENT

In July 2026, we entered into a season of prayer called *One Generation to Another*, based on Psalm 145:4. Through sermons and our church newsletter, we began exploring what this preparation would involve. During the first weekend of October, we held a Spiritual Renewal Weekend focused on spiritual practices and their importance for our life together. In particular, we explored prayer, Scripture reading, and spiritual discernment.

This is the work we are continuing now. In the months ahead, we will cultivate these practices in our own lives, in our households, and as a church family. We will explore the values that undergird our community and practice opening ourselves to God and listening to one another. We will develop a covenant: a shared commitment to how we will pray, listen, speak, and care for one another throughout this process. (Ed. note-see photo on page 2)

THIRD, PRACTICE DISCERNMENT TOGETHER

In 2027, we will hold another series of cottage meetings to consider our church's calling and future. These conversations will help us clarify the questions we need to bring before God.

How is God calling us to reach the next generation? How should our mission shape our worship, ministries, leadership, and use of resources? What might we need to strengthen, begin, change, or release?

As a church, we will seek to put ourselves in a position to be led by God. The Session will gather for another leadership retreat to discern God's direction through prayer, Scripture, silence, and listening.

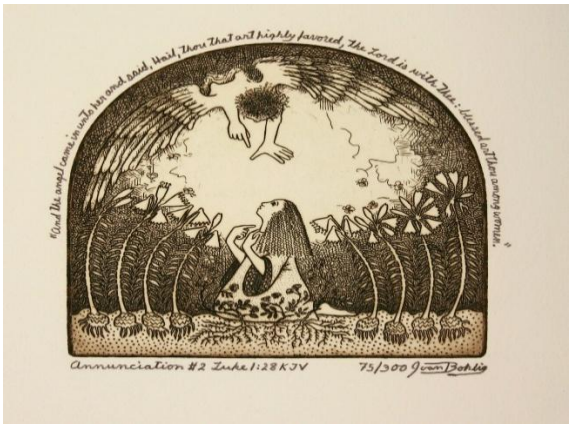
FOURTH, DO THE WILL OF GOD

Following this period of prayer and discernment, we will seek to do God's will as we have come to understand it. The Session will communicate the direction discerned and develop practical next steps. As we act, we will continue listening for God's leading and reflect on what we are learning.

HOW CAN YOU PRAY?

Set aside a regular time, individually or with your household, to come before God in prayer. Read Romans 12:1–2. Spend a few moments in silence. Then pray:
Lord, what would you have us learn?
Lord, what would you have us remember?
Lord, what would you have us become?
Lord, make us willing to follow where you lead.

Grace & Peace,
Brian Moss, Pastor, Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
-



Annunciation by Jan Bohlig

Advent Vespers: An Invitation to Evening Prayer

Advent invites us to wait, to listen, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In a season that can quickly fill with activity, we invite you to join us for Advent Vespers on the **four Sunday evenings of Advent at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**.

Vespers is a service of evening prayer. It is a time to gather in God's presence as the day draws to a close. These contemplative services will include Scripture, meditation, communion, music, and space for silent prayer. Together, we will make room to reflect on the hope and longing of Advent and attend to the ways God meets us in our lives.

Our music will be simple and prayerful, drawing from a variety of Christian traditions, including hymns, chants, and the music of Taizé and Iona.

All are welcome to join us for these contemplative worship services. These evenings will offer a hospitable space to be still, pray with others, and contemplate the mysteries of God as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.

Pastor Brian Moss



Attendees of the Leadership Dinner with David Hughes on the eve of the Spiritual Renewal Weekend.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP

On **Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 1:30 PM**, the Wednesday Study Group will begin a new 7- session study led by Pastor Brian Moss using *a Good Book Guide - Galatians: Gospel Matters* by Timothy Keller.

"Will we rely on ourselves to please God, or on Christ? Faced with that choice, we need a passionate, liberating reminder of the true gospel - and that's what Galatians provides."
The Group meets in Fellowship Hall, Room 3.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUP

This fall each **Sunday morning at 9 AM** in Fellowship Hall our Sunday morning group will be reading and discussing prayers found in the Bible. We will learn how to pray with power when we feel weak, helpless, stressed and afraid. We will be reading prayers of Jesus, Paul and the Revelation saints. Join us.

Starting November 29, our group will discuss a short devotion recommended to us by Pastor Brian. The devotion is titled *Illuminating Advent*. We begin at 9 AM in room 3 of Fellowship Hall**. Join us.**
Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (WOMEN ONLINE)

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

COUPLES' GROUP

All couples please join together for dinner and fellowship on **Saturday November 14th at 5:30 PM**. Hosts will be Gary & Cathy Michaliga. Chicken will be provided. Location will be either Fellowship Hall or the Michaliga's home. Please sign up in the Narthex with a side dish to bring. Questions, contact Cathy 717-321-3905.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet on November 17th in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing our Christmas party, and cards for Adams County Prison Inmates and maybe, cards for Hillside Nursing Home residents. Be prepared to flex those fingers as we anticipate bringing holiday joy to the less fortunate!
Roz Santay

INFORMATION FROM SPIRITUAL LIFE

Advent Bible Study on **Tuesday evening's starting Dec 2 will begin with Soup and Salad at 6:00 PM**. S**tudy will start at 6:30.** We will be using the book "*ADVENT: Season of Hope (Fullness of Time*). If you'd like to join us, see Phyllis Smith for a book. Pastor Brian will be leading the study.

Potluck Lunch - Beginning Nov 1. We encourage all to join us following the service in Fellowship Hall. We plan to continue this time of fellowship on the 1st Sunday every month.

Thanks to all who participated in the Spiritual Renewal Weekend activities Oct. 2-4. According to the evaluation sheets it was a good experience for all. Phyllis Smith (Editor's note – Please see photo on page 8.)

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week, November 15-22, 2026

Shoeboxes due by Sunday, November 22, 2026

It's time to think about packing a Shoebox!

Those of you who have been members of LMCPC are familiar with Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization that serves the world community.

Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community.

Local ministry partners distribute your gifts to children in their communities. After receiving shoebox gifts, many boys and girls are invited to enroll in *The Greatest Journey*, a 12-lesson discipleship program. Through the program, ministry partners are able to establish long-term, caring relationships with children and families, sharing the love of Jesus Christ

A $10.00 shipping fee is requested for each box. You may include a check, made out to Samaritan's Purse, OCC in your box.

If you would like to discover the destination country of your shoebox gift, you must make your $10 per shoebox donation online by activating your shoebox tracking label (QR code) at samaritanspurse.org/activate.

Don't have time to shop????

You can **Build a Shoebox Online**. It is a convenient way to pack your Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift right from home. Choose from our selections of toys and other fun items to include in your gift. Then, personalize it by adding your own letter and photo. For a suggested donation of $30 per gift, we'll pack everything for you and send it on its way with the message of God's love for a boy or girl in need around the world. Just google "Build a Shoebox Online" and follow the prompts. Or enter:. https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/ These boxes can be shipped to "closed countries," who have strict laws regarding shoebox items.

Elaine Reichl

GETTYSBURG C.A.R.E.S.

Cathy Michaliga compiled the following info from an article in Gettysburg Connection by Amy Boyer Thomas:

For nearly 15 years, Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) has worked to provide a safe place to sleep, a warm meal and a path toward housing for people experiencing homelessness in Adams County. Now, the organization is preparing for a significant new chapter with the purchase of a permanent facility at 25 S. Washington St. in Gettysburg. C.A.R.E.S. has been operating on the third floor of St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York St.

The organization began when 12 area churches came together to coordinate resources for people experiencing homelessness. Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 2012 and operates Adams County's only cold-weather shelter. It opens in November and closes in April.

"We may be able to expand the months we're open in the near future and add programs for our guests. For now, we're busy checking all the boxes and getting ready for renovations at the new site," said director Debi Little.

The new 6,800-square-foot facility, originally built in 1962, was most recently used as a dormitory. The building has ten bedrooms, five bathrooms with showers, including one ADA-compliant bathroom, a small kitchen and a sprinkler system. Planned work primarily includes replacing flooring and updating the bathrooms and kitchen. The facility will also include separate sleeping areas for men and women, family rooms, a gathering area, and space for counseling and other potential services. The organization plans to staff the new facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. serves individuals and families, with 87% of its guests coming from Adams County. Of those served, approximately 44% are men, 41% are women and 16% are children under 18. About 83% of guests are employed. During the most recent season, 68 different guests stayed at the shelter.

LMCPC PAST PARTICIPATION IN C.A.R.E.S.

Elaine Reichl provided this history of Lower Marsh Creek Church's involvement in this mission:

LMCPC has participated in C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) for well over 15years, providing shelter, meals, transportation, and other support to guests experiencing homelessness.

Initially, guests stayed overnight in our fellowship hall for two weeks. Gettysburg College students delivered mattresses and blankets at the beginning of each period and collected them afterward.

LMCPC volunteers transported guests from the C.A.R.E.S. office next to St. James Church to our facility and took them to the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen for breakfast each morning. Two volunteers served as nightly greeters, checking guests against an approved list, securing their medications in a lockbox, reporting breakfast numbers to the soup kitchen, providing hot beverages, explaining facility locations, and offering a brief devotional. They left when two C.A.R.E.S. overnight supervisors arrived.

During the pandemic, guests stayed in two hotels on Steinwehr Avenue. LMCPC volunteers prepared bagged breakfasts, which Joe and Elaine Reichl delivered to guests each morning.

After the pandemic, overnight shelter moved to St. James Church. LMCPC committed to providing breakfast for two weeks, with two volunteers purchasing and preparing meals at 6:00 a.m. each day at the church's youth house and cleaning up afterward.

Throughout these arrangements, LMCPC was responsible for washing 30–50 blankets at the end of each two-week period. North Gettysburg Laundry Center generously provided its facilities free of charge to wash and dry the blankets before their return to C.A.R.E.S.
Thanks also to Phyllis Smith for her input

ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER – Our Season of Prayer

As part of *One Generation to Another*, our season of prayer as a church, the Women's Guild, with Session approval, is inviting the congregation to help create quilts for the Fellowship Hall. Through their design and making, we will reflect on the life of LMCPC through the years, give thanks for the faith passed down to us, and pray for the generations to come.

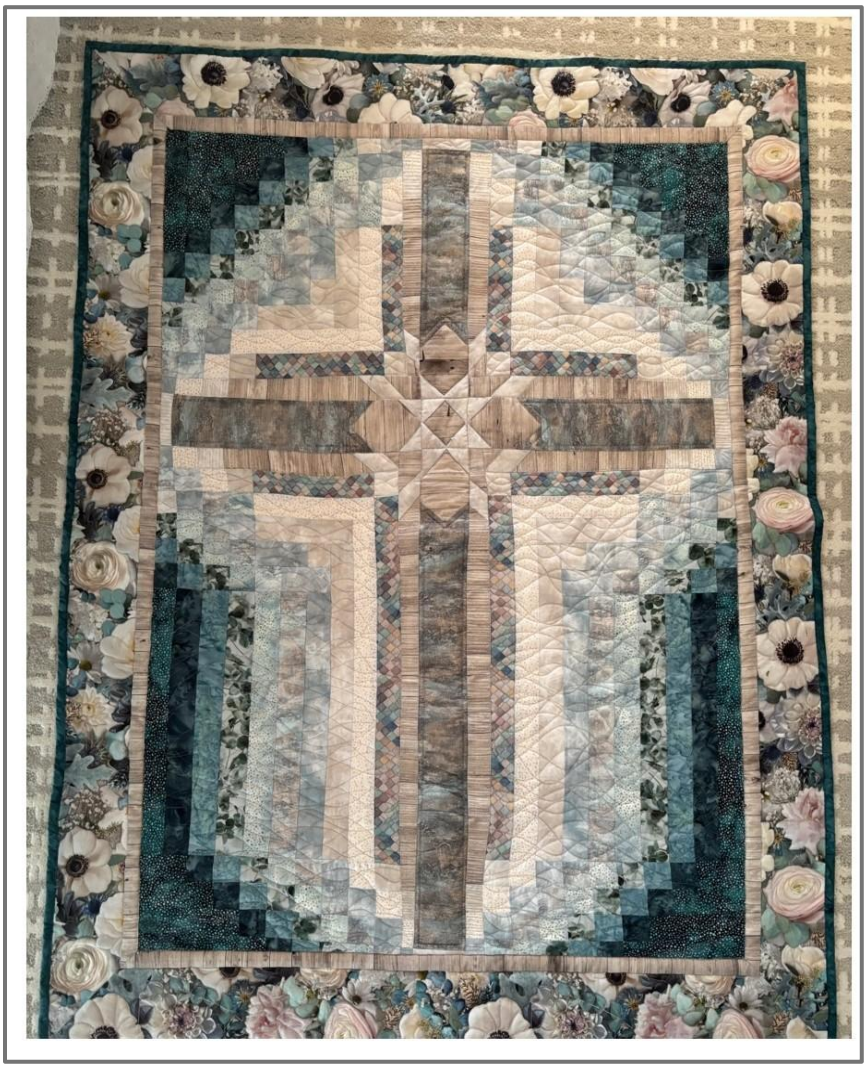
The quilts will bring warmth and beauty to our gathering space while serving as lasting reminders of our prayers and our shared life of faith and service. Each quilt will depict activities or themes from the congregation. Small groups that choose to participate will be invited to reflect on their ministry and what they hope to pass on to the next generation.

Women's Guild coordinators Cathy Michaliga, Roz Santay, and Mary Smith will meet with people involved in various church activities and small groups to explore how their stories and hopes might be represented in the quilts. LMCPC members of the Amazing Grace Quilters Group will then bring those design ideas to life.

Everyone in the church will be invited to participate in this expression of our season of prayer. Watch for an invitation to a congregation-wide gathering to share ideas and learn how to take part, along with updates as the quilts take shape.

Cathy Michaliga and Pastor Brian

Here is the first quilt that will hang in the Fellowship Hall, offering a glimpse of the beauty we hope to create together.



Happy Birthday to these members of the Lower Marsh Creek Church family !

1 – Richard (Dick) Belenski
2 – Nadja Muchow
9 – Glenn Lookabill
12 – Karen Idris
13 – Mike Orleski
14 – Kenneth Sanders
14 – John Stottlemyer
18 – Suzanne Dolly
19 – Donald Rider
25 – Ron Milhimes
27 – Nancy Brill
27 – Linda Seamon
29 – Shirley Aldrich
29 – James A. Welsh



THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

September 29, 2026

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for having me visit and share an update on our ministry with DiscipleMakers! It was a joy to visit, catch up and hear how God is at work. We praise God for your partnership in the gospel and making disciples of Christ!

In Christ,

Kevin M. Noyes

P.S. - Pastor Brian, it was great to meet you!

Thank you for your condolences to Ken & I following the death of his sister, Linda Fair. Your cards and kind words were a comfort to us at this sad time.

Also, thank you for your prayers for Ken having his hip replacement surgery. Your concerns and cards are greatly appreciated, and we are so grateful to be members at Lower Marsh Creek where there is such caring for others and thoughtfulness.

God Bless each one of you.

Sandy & Ken Howe

DEACONS' INFORMATION

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 443-977-929.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

Susan Nunamaker 717-642-9646	Sallie Sites 717-253-0305
Jim Welsh 717-377-5370	Len Williams 717-683-2674



This praying mantis crawled out of the foliage to pray for a successful Spiritual Renewal Weekend here in Fellowship Hall, October 2 – 4, 2026. His prayers were answered !!

Jim Richardson

MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER

Recent Correspondence

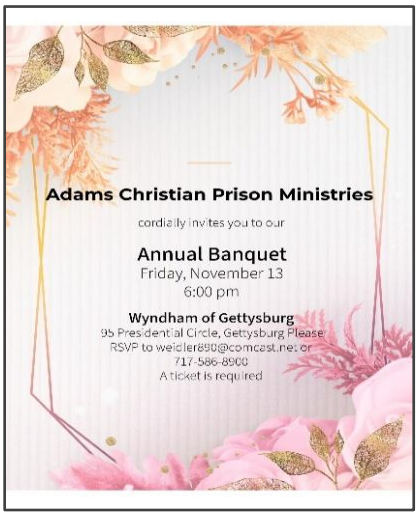
Adams Christian Prison Ministries (ACPM)

From the October 2026 ACPM newsletter:

Dear friends and partners of Adams Christian Prison Ministries,

ACPM would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Chaplain Dan Summers for his service to this ministry. He has recently stepped down from the ACPM board to dedicate his time and energy to a new season God has him and his wife in. We want to welcome aboard Chaplain Dan's replacement, Pastor Randy Huber.

November 13: We are delighted to invite you to the ACPM Annual Banquet on Friday, November 13, for an inspiring evening dedicated to celebrating transformed lives, renewed hope and our shared impact on the individuals at ACACC. [***Note: Sandy Buhrman has tickets for the banquet. There is no charge to attend, but it is a fundraising event so bring your checkbook! ACPM needs a list of attendees by Sunday, November 8.***]



Christmas Blessing Bags: Sharing His Love This Christmas
We are putting together special care packages to bless every inmate and remind them of the true joy of the season, Jesus Christ. Here is a list of items. Men– Irish Spring bars, Speed Stick (solid bar only NO gel) Ladies– Dove bars, Lady Speed Stick or Secret (solid bar only NO gel) Swiss Miss hot chocolate, Pop tarts (any flavor), Toasty Peanut butter crackers, Ramen noodles (any flavor), Honey buns, Cheetos (1oz bag) Lays chips (1 oz bag). [***Note: there will be a collection basket in the Narthex where you can place your donations.***]

October Prayer Requests:
Safety and peace for all inmates, families, staff, volunteers

Adams Rescue Mission (ARM)

From the September 2026 ARM/Agape House newsletter

Eighteen months ago, 15-year-old Cece arrived at Adams Rescue Mission's Hope House with her mother and two younger siblings after fleeing an extremely abusive relationship. Cece was quiet and visibly afraid. She could barely make eye contact. Her mother shared the trauma their family had experienced and the desperate, middle-of-the-night escape that finally brought them to safety.

Today, Cece is turning 17—and her life looks completely different. She is a wrestler, thriving at school, making friends, thinking about her future, and looking forward to getting her driver's license, homecoming, and the upcoming wrestling season. She even recently told me she was going on her first date. He's a basketball player, but she said she wasn't going to hold that against him!

Her family worked hard during their time with us, participating in counseling and therapy and learning how to rebuild their lives. Today, Mom is working and thriving, Cece is exploring career possibilities, and her younger siblings are growing and receiving the support they need.

This is what restoration looks like. This is what your support makes possible. Because of our staff, our community and people like you who believe in this mission, a frightened young girl has become a confident young woman who is looking toward her future with hope.

And we're not stopping there.

Continued on the next page . . .

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This fall, Adams Rescue Mission is launching a Single Women's shelter and restoration program, providing safety, support, and opportunities for women facing homelessness, abuse, addiction, and trafficking. Together, we can continue sharing God's love and restoring hope—one person and one family at a time.

Agape International Missions (AIM)

From the AIM August and September 2026 Freedom Update Newsletters

Freedom is the Goal - A sanctified soccer tournament



Competitors gather for a soccer tournament hosted by The Lord's Gym

It's not the World Cup, but it can make a world of difference. As part of its ongoing initiative to creatively reach the local community, The Lord's Gym recently hosted a soccer tournament for boys under the age of 12. There were 48 athletes comprising 4 teams, and that's not even counting the friends and family who came to spectate!

Naturally, the competition was marked by the emotional highs and lows that accompany every good soccer game. The victories brought the satisfaction of hard work and a team effort, and the losses reminded players that there are always opportunities to come back stronger if they keep showing up.

One aspect of prevention is provision—it's creating opportunities and circumstances that make it easier for young people to make good choices, both through self-advocacy and finding mentorship from adults who care for them.

Events like this tournament are just one of many ways anti-trafficking work is holistic. They create an environment for young people to build the habits that become character. We ask you to join us in praying for these children as they reach the age where they're asking big questions about what it means to be good men, and we encourage you to use your influence in the lives of the young people around you.

Theology in Action - Pastoral training in Southeast Asia

Something special happens when local churches step up to fight human trafficking—when people recognize that being made in the image of God gives us the freedom to fight for freedom.

The biggest barrier to action is knowing where to start. So, this summer, AIM collaborated with the provincial government in Southeast Asia to equip 40 pastors with a working understanding of trafficking, how it hides, and how to face it as the Body of Christ.

The attendees left with prevention resources and a vision for reaching their respective communities, ensuring that Sunday morning truth is integrated into protecting the daily lives of the most vulnerable.

Serving Here, Serving There - Anti-trafficking work doesn't stop at home

Our partners constantly encourage and challenge us as they join AIM, serve alongside us, and ultimately find ways to make the mission their own as God calls them back to their communities.



The New Work Fellowship Team distributes snacks during Kids' Club

This summer, a team from New Work Fellowship in Kentucky traveled to Southeast Asia to run Kids' Club, help with some renovations, and host a fun run.

It's easy to let a short-term mission trip be just that—short-term, but several team members have caught the vision and expanded it. Crystal notes that getting a glimpse into the culture and context of AIM's work was transformative, while another member, Becky, founded a local prevention program after working alongside us in Central America a few years ago. That program has now blossomed to meet local needs and collaborate with other organizations.

Stories like this remind us that we are all just joining God's global movement to rescue, heal, and transform those impacted by sex trafficking, and there are so many abolitionists who just need a place to start.

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The Power of the Pen: Partnerships in Action - Building relationships in Central America

AIM operations depend on collaboration with local governments. We need their authority just as much as they need our strategy, but it takes time to build that trust. This is especially true for the sensitive work that SWAT drives because we're asking for access to some of the most vulnerable people in a community.

In July, after months of negotiations in Central America, that trust was made official: we signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that allows us to begin SWAT activities in earnest. Essentially, it's a framework for us to take real, tangible steps together in the fight against trafficking.

Along with the SWAT MOU, AIM also signed a regional partnership agreement with Humana People to People to collaborate on Youth Empowerment & Community Engagement initiatives, as well as a 3-day leadership training for 20 young people.

While this work sounds less dramatic than SWAT rescues, it's no less important. Trafficking is a holistic issue that thrives when people feel like they are out of options, so capacity-building is a vital part of helping the next generation envision a future they can believe in.

We ask that you pray for the lives who will be transformed through these agreements, and that we would continue to find creative strategies for ending trafficking in Jesus' name and in Jesus' way.

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From the CEF September 2026 newsletter

Many of our Good News Clubs are back in session. We are so excited to be back in the public schools teaching the children about Jesus. Please pray for these previous volunteers who give so much time and energy to preparing to share the Good News of Jesus with the kids.

Being a part of helping with Good News Clubs is not a commitment of a single hour or so per week, but a commitment of time invested in prayer and preparation prior to club. All believers are commanded to do this in the "Great Commission." But as a part of Child Evangelism Fellowship, our commitment is to the children. We are so blessed here in Adams County to have a group of 27 people who do this each week.

There are people in the wings, ready to fill in if a teacher is not available or has an emergency. God has blessed us abundantly! Maybe you have gifts and talents that God has given you, and you love children. If reading this newsletter challenges you; if you are even thinking just a little bit about joining us, call Miss Pam at the office! Let's have a conversation about where the Lord may want to use you in this ministry.

Compassion International



September 5, 2026 letter from Sergio

Dear sponsor friends, I greet you with much affection, and may God bless you. Thank you for the help I have given you during all this time. Let me tell you that I am still working and attending school, but I am doing badly in school. I think it is a difficult stage I am going through. Could you pray for me so that I can improve? The day I came to the foundation. I met with my classmates, and we shared our life experiences with our tutor.

I want to tell you that there will be a talent show, and we are planning that we are going to perform a comedy sketch. We hope to win a prize, but the important thing will be to be able to spend time with my classmates.

This time, since at the end of the year my mom is thinking of taking me to another place to work so that I can learn other skills and, in the future, I will not have difficulties in life. This will also help me save money to buy a motorcycle.

I ask you to pray that I may be a good son, for my mom's plans, and for my family and friends who have gone down the wrong path.

Sergio

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SAT-7

From the SAT-7 website

October 8, 2026

New programs for children and young people in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan are starting on SAT-7's Persian channel this week. The changes to the line-up on SAT-7 PARS come in response to the evolving needs of the channel's younger audience.

One of the new programs is *Room 7*, a live show aimed at teenagers. It has been developed by former *Church4Kids* presenter Mariam Rassouli, who recognized that viewers of this program were starting to outgrow its content and style.

She said this became apparent in the different kinds of questions they were asking: "They were becoming more personal about issues like identity, self-worth, emotions, friends, and relationships. It's a very natural part of growing up."

Safe Space
To explore their needs further, Mariam asked Persian teens about their struggles and questions, and the issues they want to talk about.

"The way we communicate with them has to change as well," she added. "They want to interact, express themselves, feel like their voice matters."

Recalling her own teenage years, the 26-year-old presenter and producer said, "I didn't need someone to give me the perfect answer to every question, but I needed a safe space to be heard without judgment."

Room 7 combines authentic conversation with segments on lifestyle content, emotional health, storytelling, and music, connecting faith with everyday experiences. Viewers are able to participate through various anonymous means.

"The most important thing I want to carry forward from Church4Kids is the trust that we built with the viewers. They know us; they know that we care about them; they know that they can come to us with any question they have."

Next Generation
As the maturing *Church4Kids* audience moves across to the new *Room 7* program, two new children's programs are starting on SAT-7 PARS for the next generation of younger viewers.

Story House is a pre-recorded program designed for children who do not have a church or Sunday school to attend. The fun and engaging style helps children explore stories from the Bible and learn about God's love for them. And short segments filmed at Persian-speaking churches in Türkiye give viewers an experience of church community and how young Christians live out their faith together.

Our Alley is a live show with different dynamic segments to help viewers ages 7-12 interact with the weekly theme. Through stories, games, music, crafts, and discussions, each episode encourages children to ask questions, solve problems, and grow in character and faith while having fun. An exciting feature of *Our Alley* is its use of the studio's green screen and virtual set technology to take viewers on travel adventures to different cities, historical landmarks, natural attractions, and cultural locations across Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

"Our younger viewers are growing and their needs are changing, so it is important that our programming grows with them," said Nazanin Ashari, SAT-7 PARS Programming Manager. "With these new programs, we hope to offer a stronger and more diverse range of content where children and teenagers can learn, ask questions, explore their faith, and discover God's love in ways that are engaging and relevant to them. We are excited about these new programs on SAT-7 PARS, and we ask you to pray with us that they will impact many young lives."

Let's pray for Iranian children as they watch these new programs on SAT-7 PARS. May they bring hope and encouragement into young lives across the Persian world

Missionary News

The Antioch Partners (Bob and Kristi Rice)

From their October 6, 2026 newsletter:



Our first year in a new place and a new culture is a significant time of learning, building relationships, and being open to new things. Many times in the last few months I have caught myself realizing I thought I knew something or knew what the culturally appropriate thing to do was, only to find myself learning again through my mistakes. For example, when I bought plantains, the woman selling them said in limited English after I had given her the money, "I will give you some as a gift". Confused, I said "No, I am buying these." Another woman nearby explained, "in our culture, when you buy something, they will give you a few extra as a gift." "Ah, yes. Tosode!" I said, and accepted her gift of an extra plantain.

Our Twi language lessons with our helper were put on hold when Bob got sick in August. We keep practicing on our own and with others and are stretched when people say things in a different way than we have learned. As he drove us to Accra recently, our friend Uncle Sammy patiently corrected our pronunciation of some Twi words. "I have to help you get it right, or people will misunderstand what you want to say," he said. Twi is a tonal language, and sometimes getting the pronunciation right or understanding what people are saying feels overwhelming. We are grateful for patient and helpful people who encourage us in the process.



Another aspect of our learning posture is more formal. We are both back in school! Bob and I are both auditing the Masters program in Theology courses at ACI – Bob as a new faculty, and Kristi as a student. This has been a great opportunity to connect with and learn from people who are pastors or serving in ministries in various churches across Ghana who are also students in the program. We hear the challenges that they face in their ministries and the issues that arise in their communities and how these classes equip them to understand God's truth and present it in ways that are relevant in their communities. During an Old Testament Theology class, one pastor asked "There are churches in Ghana today practicing animal sacrifices and saying we should follow the commands in the Old Testament. How do we respond to them?" The professor guided the discussion to recognize that the Old Testament continues to reveal God's character and truth to us today, but that animal sacrifice was only a temporary and symbolic act pointing forward to Jesus himself becoming the sacrifice for our forgiveness. Bob helped to facilitate a few sessions on academic writing for the students, which was a learning opportunity for him too. Bob described a little more of this "Apprenticeship journey" in a blog post here: https://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/2026/08/our-apprenticeship-journey.html.

Bob got sick in August, mostly feeling severe fatigue and weakness. Figuring out how and where to get medical care in a new place was another learning curve. He was diagnosed with typhoid at the first clinic we went to and prescribed some medicine. We later saw another doctor who determined that typhoid was a misdiagnosis and we also got some additional tests. We are grateful that Bob's energy has been slowly recovering over the last few weeks, although he is still being careful not to over-exert himself as recovery continues. While he has been home recovering, he has chipped away at the final revisions to his dissertation and submitted it officially to Stellenbosch University last week! Praise the Lord!



Some new friends in our neighborhood came to pray for Bob when they heard he was sick

Kristi has been involved with a new initiative in the Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations ministry: the first-ever virtual HHTN workshop! Participants come primarily from Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, and Pakistan, and meet together twice a week online. It has been a lot of work to organize the workshop

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and figure out how to adapt teachings and activities that we are used to doing in person to make them interactive and meaningful in an online environment. Another learning opportunity! God has been working in significant ways, and it is amazing to see how people experience God's presence and God's healing even in an online environment. One pastor in Pakistan reflected, "last night's session completely broke my heart. As we were together in our group, I believe there was hardly anyone who was not in tears, or whose heart was not deeply touched and transformed by God. It is truly the Holy Spirit who filled our hearts with such immense love—enabling us to love others just as He has loved us." We will finish the course this week and we are already making plans to do another virtual course next year.

Our friend and colleague from South Sudan, John Odhong, is in Ghana this month continuing his Masters in Theology (MTh) program at ACI. It has been encouraging to reconnect with him and to hear him reflect on his classes and learning journey through ACI and how that equips him to help people in South Sudan to embrace the gospel and express their faith in contextual ways. South Sudan is preparing for elections in December and there is a lot of uncertainty and insecurity right now as all government leaders are dismissed and temporary 'caretakers' put in place.

Last week was an annual festival for the Akan people of this region, called Odwira. The week-long festival includes many rituals and celebrations as the community marks the beginning of a new year. We had many conversations trying to learn about the history and traditions of this festival that is a significant part of the identity of people in this region. One highlight of the week was a community-wide ecumenical thanksgiving service held at the end of the week, where the king, the elders, and the 'common people' danced together in worship of God, acknowledging God's grace in giving us life. You can find some photos of the festival on our blog here: https://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/2026/10/the-odwira-festival.html.

This season of learning and adjusting is full of joys and challenges. We have come to God in desperation many times in the last few months in the challenges we have encountered, and we see God enabling us as we continue to learn and grow in this new place where we have been planted. We are incredibly grateful for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support for us. Your partnership on the journey enables us to continue. We have put some specific prayer requests below. We would be happy to hear from you and pray for you also.

Grace and peace,
Bob and Kristi

Current Prayer Requests

1. For Continued healing for Bob and wisdom in his activity and healing process.
2. For Bob's dissertation process: that God guides the process of review by internal and external examiners in the next few months.
3. That God gives us wisdom, energy and opportunities for learning and practicing Twi, and that we can meet regularly with our language helper again.
4. For the Holy Spirit to continue the work of healing and reconciliation in the virtual HHTN workshop, and for a good conclusion this week.
5. For understanding and good connections in the classes that we are taking at ACI.
6. For protection and provision for people in South Sudan - we have heard from many friends that the financial situation and insecurity there is desperate.

THE GIVING CORNER

Fund raising as Ministry??

Did you ever consider that possibility?

I think most of us have thought of fundraising as a necessary but unpleasant activity to support spiritual things, the ministry of our church. How about if we look at this attitude in a wider concept? Ministry is, first of all, receiving God's blessing from those to whom we minister. What is this blessing? It is a glimpse of the face of God. Doing something for another draws us not only closer to that person but so often you can sense the presence of God in them radiating into yourself. What a beautiful gift.

Remember Jesus said our main purpose is to reach out to all people with the love of God and to share the Good News of Jesus life and death for our hope for eternity. Supporting the financial needs of the church is a very concrete way to help the kingdom of God come about. So, what is the kingdom? Jesus says that if we make the kingdom our first priority, "all these other things will be given you as well" (Matt. 6:33). God provides for all that we need. When we can accept that and experience it in our lives we can show it to others in the way we live. If we share and give ourselves to loving those on our earth, our efforts will reach out beyond our own existence to all around us. If we raise funds for the creation of a community of love, we are helping God build the kingdom here on earth.

Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity. It is a joyful and hope filled expression of ministering to each other from the riches (time, talents and financial means) that we have been blessed to have in our lives. When we work together, combining our riches, we can experience the full coming of God's kingdom.

Interpretation and Stewardship Team



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

The Session held their regular meeting on October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall with Rev. Brian Moss serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- Membership 10/18/2026: Active Members (AM) = 141, Friends Participating (FP) = 30, Affiliate Members (AfM): 0, Family Members (FM): 39, Total: 210
- The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

Approved the following events and business items:

- Approved a change to the meeting schedule for Session in November. The Session meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 6 PM (instead of November 17, 2026).
- Approved a Building Use Application from Dana McDonald to use the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen for a baby shower on November 7, 2026.
- Approved a special session meeting right after worship on Sunday, November 8, 2026 to accept new members.
- Approved that LMCPC would provide breakfast at St James Lutheran Church for the CARES ministry from March 9 to March 22, 2027.
- Approved monthly potluck meals after the worship service on the first Sunday of every month, beginning on November 1, 2026.
- Approved a collection of personal items for the inmates at Adams County Prison Ministry from the congregation on Sundays from October 25 through November 22, 2026.
- Approved having vesper services during the Sundays in Advent at 5 PM with communion also being served.
- Approved a project for the repair of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary for a total of $28K, which will be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund.
- Approved a book study to be led by Pastor Brian during Advent on Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22.
- Approved that Ryan Croft, new director of Camp Krislund, will preach during the Pastor's absence on November 15th.

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

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

- Technology – the echo problem with the live streaming on YouTube appears fixed. A new device to support the hearing aid capability was ordered for the AV booth.
- Basement mold issues update: All is complete. 3 dehumidifiers are running full time.
- Organ repair – one amplifier needs replacement.
- New hot water heater for basement – installed and working fine.
- Circulator pump in the boiler room – installed and working fine.
- Changing electricity supplier to AEP and it will save us approximately $400/year. Elder Smith will negotiate a new contract.
- Need helpers for landscape clean-up.
- Approved an estimate for an epoxy basement floor that will seal the surface and prevent further cracking in the amount of $3,325.
- Obtaining quotes for snow removal services.

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News from the Interpretation and Stewardship Team – manages church finances and missions
Team members: Lauren Neely, Doyle Waybright, and Bev Benner

- Young Life Trivia night will be held on Monday, 10/26.
- Continuing to collect Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards which are very slow coming in as compared to prior years.
- The financial reports for September were approved.

News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church
Team members: Mike Orleski, Susan Nunamaker, and Lynne Orner

- Mark Orleski will be the speaker at the upcoming Men's Breakfast on November 21.
- Preparing for All Saints Sunday on November 1. Will ring bell after reading of each name on the necrology list for the prior year and light candles.
- Julie Orleski is making the gluten-free bread for communion. It is quite good. Big thank you to Julie!
- Other upcoming events:
  - Hanging of the Greens – November 29
  - Pastor vacation/study leave: November 14-18

News from the Clerk of Session – Dana McDonald:

- Annual Report input for 2026 will be due to the Clerk no later than January 3, 2027. Providing input sooner would be greatly appreciated!

A PARADOX ?

by John McMann

Many years ago, I read this quote by St, Augustine: "*For I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand*." This quote puzzled me; it sounded like a paradox. How could one believe, if one did not first understand the context of their believing, i.e. Christianity?

An analogy: a person marooned on a deserted island wants to believe and understand Christianity. Luckily this person finds a Bible hidden in a cave. He studies and studies the Bible. That is his only activity other than surviving. He concludes, "*This is a wonderful story. I have a lot of respect for the people I read about, especially Jesus.*" The marooned person reflects, "*Yet I feel like there's something missing. Yes, I understand the story, but I can't help but think, now what.*"

I think it would be very hard to believe to understand, if we were all by ourselves. We need others in order to experience fellowship and to love and serve as Jesus taught.

Experiences likely to enable growth in understanding might include: watching the tears of joy in someone who has just found the Lord; your tears of joy when you sing your favorite hymn during a very touching service; sharing personal experiences of faith with one another; and your realization when returning from a mission trip that you have received equal or even more joy and more blessing than those whom you helped.

It seems to truly understand, you have to live your faith.

As we travel our journey of faith, perhaps the process that has really worked for us (from childhood to today) is to believe a little bit, then I will understand a little bit, then I will believe a little bit more - and repeat and repeat over a lifetime.

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

1865 Knoxlyn Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Li'l Ripples November 2026

Pastor

Rev. Brian Moss

Sunday Morning Schedule

The Seekers Sunday Group – 8:30 AM

Adult Sunday Group – 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 – 11:00AM

Nursery 8:30 – 11:00 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 Am – 1:00 PM

Phone Number – 717-642-5332

Email Address – office@lmcpc.org

Website – www.lmcpc.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

"To glorify God, deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the family of believers,

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

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