


Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from

Pastor Mark 

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DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER

LI'L RIPPLES IS

SEPTEMBER 20



## Christian Formation

For me there is always a connection between the start of a new school year and the work of the Church. Although it has been many years since Kris and I have had our sons at home getting ready for a new school year, there always seems to be a feeling of renewal when the calendar turns to September. The quiet of summer time with lazy days during hot temperatures and vacations comes to an end, and September feels like fresh energy and a new start.

In our Church this renewal is marked by a return to two worship services on Sundays. Beginning Sunday, September 8 we will have two services each Sunday: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.. And September brings the restart of our music program. Special thanks to all our musicians. We will begin again our Wednesday afternoon discussion group continuing to look at the Biblical background of the video series *The Chosen*. Beginning on Wednesday, September 11 at 1:30 we will start these discussions again looking at the new Season Four of *The Chosen*. And, of course, our robust adult Sunday school classes will begin again on September 8 at 9:45. Join a Sunday school class! On Sundays, September 8 and 15 at 9:45 I will also offer an informal conversation with anyone interested in learning more about our congregation and seeking to become an active member. Another September: the school buses begin to roll and our Church energizes and renews again.

I believe there is also a larger and deeper spiritual focus which we may adopt these days. This September make a commitment to your personal spiritual growth. As we turn the page to another September please ask yourself: What would I like to learn which may enhance and nurture my Christian faith? What would I like to do which may enhance and nurture my spiritual life in Christ? This is a personal question which you may focus on in your own way and in your own heart.

What do you need to learn ? I offer these specific suggestions. Which ones may be a priority for you now?

- *I want to learn more about the life of Jesus by digging deeper into the Gospel stories.*

- *I want to learn more about it means to be Presbyterian and the similarities and differences between the churches.*

- *I want to learn about the structure, message and outline of the whole Bible.*

- *I want to learn about the deep practices of the spiritual life including daily prayer, Bible reading, authentic worship, and personal devotional practices.*

- *I want to learn about the mission work of the Presbyterian Church and out congregation.*

- *I want to find a close group of trusting people with whom I can share and discuss our faith.*

- *I want to find some real ways I can serve the poor.*

In Christ!

Mark



# CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST



**IMPORTANT REMINDER :**

Beginning **September 8**, we will go back to **two Sunday services at 8:30AM and 11:00AM**

**Friends and New Members:**

Are you interested in meeting some of the other new people in our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about our congregation, what we believe and our abundant mission work? Are you interested in becoming an active member of our congregation? Please join Pastor Mark during the **Sunday school hour** on Sundays, **September 8 and 15** from 9:45 to 10:45. Please contact Pastor Mark for more

**The Couple's Study Group** will meet **September 14th** 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall led by Julie and Mike Orleski. They will provide the ham and lead our discussion from the Growing Old Together Devotional on the topic of "Sickness". Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex and let them know what dish you will bring to share. All married couple's in our congregation are invited to join us for an evening of great food and fellowship.

Bev Benner

**The Women's Guild** will meet **September 17th** in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM. All women of the church are invited for fun and fellowship.

Roz Santay

Editor's Note : Pictures of the Guild's trip to Hillside Nursing Home - please see page 14.

**The Women's Guild Yard & Bake Sale** will be held this year in Fellowship Hall on **September 28th** from 8 am to 2 pm. Tables are available as are spaces. Please use the order form printed below and also, order forms are on the credenza in the Narthex. Our proceeds will go to help one Teen Angel and this year, something new; we will give a donation to Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Fairfield to enhance their Christmas program. We will also be in need of baked goods. We appreciate your cooperation in our endeavor.

Roz Santay

Order form for Women's Guild Yard & Bake Sale :

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of 8 feet tables**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of round tables**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of spaces**

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

The Women's Bible study meets **electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. We are currently reading and discussing Max Lucado's book *Help Is Here*. Max writes on how to enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit and experience the fresh strength, fulfilling purpose, and vigorous life the Holy Spirit offers. Contact Dana McDonald if you are interested.

This fall our Sunday morning group is reading and discussing the book of Romans. We always have lively, honest and thought-provoking discussions. Join us at **9:45 AM** in room 3 of Fellowship Hall. Contact Susan Nunamaker or Doyle Waybright for more information.

*Happy Birthday to the following members of the LMCC family :*

- |                   |                          |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sally Gateley  | 6. Karen Richardson      | 20. Pat Diehl       |
| 1. Lauren Neely   | 10. Joe Reichl           | 21. Dale Williams   |
| 2. Bev Benner     | 10. Suzanne Welsh        | 23. Doyle Waybright |
| 3. Teresa Sanders | 14. Donald E. Brill, Jr. | 30. Alicia DeHoff   |
|                   | 15. Sandy Buhrman        |                     |

### A Paradox ?

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 ie. 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 and 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 blessings than those whom you helped.

It seems that 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 life time.

by John McMann

**THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU**

June 19, 2024

Dear Lower Marsh Creed Presbyterian Church,

Cannock Chase . . . was called *Beaudesert*, meaning *beautiful wild place*, during the 13th century. . . . In the midst of the Chase, you will find The White House, One Another's ministry center.

The Center's ministry staff, while providing both proactive and responsive counseling care, also provides respite care. Sometimes missionaries and their families need a precious time of rest and restoration away from the crises and concerns surrounding their mission work. The ministry center affords a safe space, a caring loving staff, and The Chase....a peaceful spot to walk with the Lord, allowing His love to surround and quiet life's stresses. Love and actions at work healing hearts.....ans sometimes, even using words. **Thank you** for your gift.

Your **One Another** Team

June 24, 2024

Dear Friends,

**Thank you** so much for the gift you sent to **Samaritan's Purse** in memory of Peggy Benner.

In the book of Acts, an angel told Cornelius, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God" (10:4, NIV). By supporting the ministry of Samaritan's Purse, your prayers and gifts are also helping the poor and honoring God. As we work to meet physical needs, our ultimate goal is to lift up the Name of Jesus Christ and spread his life changing Gospel around the world.

We appreciate your continued prayers. Thank you again for your support. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham

July 24, 2024

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

In the long car ride home from our annual orientation for new **TeachBeyond** missionaries last week gave me ample time to reflect on the week. I was, once again, encouraged and challenged hearing God's call on these courageous missionaries as they depart for countries scattered across 5 continents. Please join me in praying that our Father may give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph.1) so that all the peoples of the earth might know the name of the LORD (Joshua 4).

. . . If you are receiving this acknowledgement today, you have faithfully answered the call to be part of "God's supply" not only in sending out these new TeachBeyond members but also to ensure that our current members and projects continue in God's work. . . . I am profoundly grateful.

**With thanks,**

David Purance, President

(Christian and Rayan Weaner)

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

Dear LMCCPC,

**Thank you** so much for your willingness to support Rayan and I through prayer and generous financial giving. We are blown away by your kindness and honored to have you as our ministry partners as we prepare to leave for Dakar, Senegal very soon! We pray that the Lord would bless your congregation and give you all much joy and peace during this season of life. We look forward to staying in touch. We will be praying for you all and we hope to visit when we are back in the states.

Grace and peace to you.

In Christ,

**Christian and Rayan Weaner**

Dear LMCCPC Scholarship Committee and Donors,

I would like you to **thank you** all for your time and consideration regarding my Virginia Woods Scholarship. I am pleased to be able to use this money to further fund my studies and take part in the work destined for me.

With blessings and gratitude,

**Zachary Tipton**

August 18, 2024

Many **thanks** for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and caring thoughts you shared with us in regards to Ken's recent back surgery. We appreciate them so much and are so blessed to be members of Lower Marsh Creek where you all show such kindness.

God bless you all,

Sandy and Ken Howe

*Serving God By*

**DEACONS' PAGE**

*Serving Others*

**Fairfield food Pantry:** In July, several boxes of food were taken to the Food Pantry, and warmly received. Collections continue; we appreciate all your support. As kids start back to school, the Food Pantry looks forward to your continued support. (John Stottlemyer)

**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:**

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305

Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

Then he said to his disciples, "*the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*" Matthew 9: 37-38

This is the time of year that farmers and gardeners gather in their bountiful harvest of fruits, vegetables and flowers. And, it is the time of year for our church family to gather in singers and musicians to participate in the musical program for our upcoming worship services.

"Music is an agreeable harmony of God and the permissible delights of the soul." Johann Bach

Please prayerfully consider joining one of the following:

**-Glory Singers** – Sing at the 8:30 service on the first and third Sunday of the month. We practice together downstairs at 8:00 on those same two Sundays. Low impact rehearsal, but quick meaningful results!

**-Faithful Voices** – Sing at the 11:00 service on the first and third Sunday of the month. We practice most Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

**-Wires and Wood** – Perform at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on the second Sunday of the month. Singers and stringed instrumentalists are welcome to join us for rehearsal on most Thursday evenings in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm.

**-Specials/Surprises!** – We are always looking for musicians to perform for special events, especially Christmas!

Please see me, Linda Clark, or email me at [pausetoread@yahoo.com](mailto:pausetoread@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**We would love to have you participate in our LMCP music program this year!**

**Our music schedule continues as follows:**

August 25 – Nevin Crum of Guilford Station

September 1 – Jason Williams

September 8 – Wires and Wood

September 15 and 22 – Glory Singers and Faithful Voices (Yes, I broke the rule because there are five Sundays in this month).

September 29 – Special music selections

*Linda Clark*

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

### **Thomas and Cheri Henry (England)**

*From Thomas and Cheri's May-August Newsletter:*

What the world needs: "The church throughout history has wrestled with the tension we still feel today between the priority of meeting people's physical needs and the priority of meeting spiritual needs. People need compassion, love, and resources... . Ultimately, people need to hear the good news of God's grace ... . People need community. We remain committed to the local church and the Great Commission. Our best contribution is to support international workers (IWs) serving in difficult places. Many who do church planting or work in remote areas don't always have access to such a community – a healthy church with pastoral gifts and skills to turn to in their ongoing development or in their time of need/weariness."

"After months of getting to know local believers and churches here in Staffordshire, we made a decision in faith to join Church Lane Everybody's Church. Of all the things we often look for in a church family, at CLEC we are drawn to 'Christ in them' – a warm body of believers who accept and love one another. It is good to be part of the family of Jesus. Pray that we discover how to best serve others at CLEC, and how God wants to bless us through them."

"Thomas' dad, Bob, turned 90 this year, and his dementia is worsening. With our own observations along with those around him, we siblings decided it was time to start managing his medical, legal, and financial affairs. Thomas returned to TX in June to set this up and as a family to inform Dad of his new reality. It was not received well. However, with everything in place, we are moving forward one step at a time. He is still basically living alone. However, we are grateful for Champ (46) who has lived with him for the last five years as a presence and help around the house. Please pray for Dad to accept our love and support and to stop resisting. And pray for him as he still grieves the death of his best friend, Bruce."

"Ben has wrapped up nearly three years serving with Amazi Water in Burundi, East Africa. He is committed to pursuing a career in International Development. The next step is to get a Master's—he was just accepted into the Global Development program at SOAS University of London (School of Oriental & African Studies) and he begins in September." Pray for Ben as he is in the US now visiting family & friends and re-packing for another season overseas, and for focus, vision, and networking over this next year of intense studies."

"Susannah switched career paths (at 24) into education. She has worked this past year as a Teacher Assistant in a charter school in Queens, NY. She applied for a master's program at Hunter College in Manhattan and was recently accepted into their Masters of Elementary Education, to start this fall. And she recently learned that she is getting the TA class of her choice this next year at her current school. Pray for Susannah, for God's strength to balance full-time work and school, and for vision and hope that some form of education is part of her calling in this world."

### **Dori Hjalmarson (Honduras)**

The Honduras Partnership Committee met this afternoon at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. I was not able to attend and cannot report on any decisions made at that meeting at this time. However, the agenda included (1) expanding the proposed partnership covenant with the Presbytery of Honduras, which was begun in 2019, to include "actual work possibilities than just building homes (which will still be included); (2) a trip to Honduras in the fall, November 6-12; and (3) possibly sending money to the Presbytery of Honduras to help them purchase a 4-2h33l drive vehicle for Presbytery use."

### **Betsey and Eric Moe (Guatemala)**

Regretfully, earlier this summer we received this letter from Betsey and Eric Moe:

Dear friends in ministry,

As some of you already know, our four-year term as mission co-workers ends this year. After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to move back to Spokane, Washington. Eric will complete his mission co-worker term in mid-June and Betsey will continue through the end of December working remotely with CEDEPCA and also doing Interpretation Ministry – communicating with U.S. churches about CEDEPCA's work.

We want to express to you how grateful we are for your coming alongside us and supporting us. You have shared in our dismay at pandemic setbacks, our excitement in finding new ways to connect virtually, our anxiety and awe in moving to Guatemala during uncertain times, and our joys of forming relationships and participating in meaningful work. Your financial support not only made it possible for us to be here, it also made us feel seen and our work valued. We were able to accompany our partner CEDEPCA through the entire pandemic, bringing creativity and energy to “Virtual Journeys” – a brand-new form of intercultural ministry, and then restarting the in-person Intercultural Encounters in Guatemala, reaching new church and university groups. Many of you participated virtually or even came to Guatemala in person to learn with us. We encourage you to join us in continuing to support PC(USA) mission co-workers and CEDEPCA to be a part of God’s work toward a just and peaceful world. Our colleagues in both circles are truly inspiring.

What’s next for us? Eric will be returning to the Spokane Symphony to make beautiful music and will also begin a job as a Financial Advisor with U.S. Bank. Betsey will come back to Guatemala to accompany a group in August and will travel with CEDEPCA co-worker Pamela Liquez to Pennsylvania and Virginia in October to talk about women’s issues in Guatemala. In January, she hopes to continue accompanying CEDEPCA in other ways while she jumps back into ministry in Spokane – although where and what that will be is yet to be determined. When we accepted positions as mission co-workers, we hoped that this season in Guatemala would inform our future work as a musician and a pastor with the U.S. church, and we are eager to see how this new phase takes shape. God goes before us!

For sure, we look forward to being closer to our boys (Henry continues studying at Seattle Pacific University and Owen will start at Whitworth University in the fall). Zoey will begin high school this year, and while she will miss her Guatemalan friends whom she has come to cherish, she looks forward to forging new friendships and reuniting with old classmates in this next phase of life.

Thank you again for accompanying us for part or all of the last four years. Our term is not over yet, so we ask for your continued prayers and support. Most of all, we want to say, “WE LOVE YOU!”

Grace and peace,  
Eric and Betsey Moe

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

*From Bob and Kristi’s Summer 2024 Newsletter*

“The month of May has been epic. I was able to fulfill a dream, that is, to visit Nasir, South Sudan. Nasir is where the American Mission established their work amongst the Nuer people in 1914. It is the centerpiece of the first case study in my historical research of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.”

“Last year, when Dr. Frank Dimmock of The Outreach Foundation invited me to join him and a few South Sudanese church leaders to visit Nasir in May, I was overjoyed. The purpose of Frank’s trip would be twofold: support ongoing reconciliation efforts in the region, and observe the rebuilding and creation of a large, new Presbyterian church in Nasir, a testimony to the history and vibrancy of the Christian faith amongst Nuer peoples. After fulfilling these two purposes with Frank and others, Rev. Paul Ruot (friend and research associate) and I remained behind for our own purposes, that of my historical research of the region, and that of Paul being able to reconnect with church members and family members in his home region.”



Rev. Paul Ruot and Bob with villagers in Khedbek (near Nasir)

“Sitting together with villagers in Khedbek, ..., I gained a picture of how traditional life was then, and how it is now; moreover, I gained a sense of how things changed with Pastor Moses Kuac’s Christian witness to a God who heals, a God who reconciles, and a God who brings life to his children. Sadly, the reality of conflict and war could not have been more visible and obvious. The town of Nasir has been destroyed by war several times, and there exists ongoing tension between the national army stationed nearby and the local population. Moreover, most of the villagers of Khedbek are still living in refugee camps in Ethiopia. Yet, in the region, there exists a vibrant spirit despite an unknown future. Though buildings have fallen into disrepair and been destroyed in Nasir, the people and

the church remain. They are a testimony to God’s grace and God’s power at work in the bleakest circumstances. To visit Nasir and to be with the people was a dream realized. I am so grateful.”

“Kristi and I want to thank you for continuing to stand with us as we stand with the people of South Sudan. May our Lord richly reward you!”



**Ryan and Alethia White (Northern and Central Europe, currently in the US)***From Ryan and Alethia's Fall 2024 Newsletter*

"Nearly one year ago, our family arrived in the U.S. hoping we were properly prepared to spend an entire year in our 'home country,' a place we had not lived in for a decade and where our daughters had little experience outside of summer holidays. It was an emotional departure from Berlin, although we were excited at the prospect of spending more time with our family and friends here in the States. It is a true thing that something can be both lovely and hard and we must make space in ourselves to hold both those truths at once."

"Practically speaking, I (Alethia) often felt like a stranger in a strange land as we navigated school set up for the first time in the U.S., buying a car for the year, and all the little etiquettes that make up a culture and a place. Continuing our regional liaison work from this time zone felt like working backwards from what we had been used to working from 6 hours ahead of the United States. Slowly we settled into a routine. We were happy to be able to participate in conferences and gatherings held here in the U.S. without the overseas flight to manage. Ryan traveled to Atlanta, GA for the Matthew 25 Summit and I flew 15 hours to Dubai in November to be part of the PC(USA) COP28 delegation, addressing climate change at the UN level. In January, I found myself again crossing the ocean to participate in a joint effort, *People on the Move* partner consultation in Rome. I thought a lot about how I appreciate the fact that living in Europe makes it easy to travel for meetings by train and often in the same time zone. It was a different perspective this past year, not by any means negative, often surprising, ultimately an experience I am thankful for."



Ryan passing through Washing, DC on his way to Gettysburg.

"Along with continuing the connection with our European partners during the year, we have also had time to connect with congregations through online conversations and in-person visits. We recognize the importance of traveling to be with local congregations in person, but also the environmental impact this has. When some opportunities to visit a few congregations in the Northeast developed, I (Ryan) decided to attempt traveling with my bicycle and by train."

"At one visit [LMCPC] following my sharing, I was asked where I found hope amid the immense issues discussed. I responded that we find hope in the conversations with our partners, hearing and seeing what they are doing to address the issues and challenges. For most, it is not a question of hope or not, but being compelled to respond to the issues in their context. On the ride to my next visit, I realized that the other place I find

hope is in the conversations with local congregations, listening and learning how they are engaged in their local context. Since the foci and priorities of Matthew 25 are immense and sometimes seem impossible from a global level, at the local level, when congregations engage in these issues, it leads to collective change that can grow to have a great impact."

"We return to Berlin in early August, again leaving one home for another. The question of home is one we return to often, not only in our personal lives, but as we work to support migration advocacy on behalf of our partners who do so much to try to welcome people who are also struggling with the concept of home. For our family, this year has been a year of first experiences, of reconnection with family, friends, U.S. culture and congregations whom we haven't seen in some years due to pandemic travel restrictions. All in all, it has been a full year, as a year often is, and we look ahead now to returning to Berlin having grown in experience and perspective, to friends and colleagues there, and to a place both sweetly familiar and ever foreign. Living in the in between means we must make space for both those truths at once."

"Thank you for journeying with us over the years and for your continued thoughts for our family this past year. We appreciate the prayers as we return to Berlin and for our partners who are engaged in meaningful and transforming work addressing issues of migration and the Matthew 25 foci."

## **RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**Adams Christian Prison Ministries***From the ACPM July and August Newsletters***Volunteer Integration-Update**

"Since the last volunteer training that took place in April 2024, there are 45 approved volunteers. We have 12 volunteers participating during the monthly weekend services; 27 volunteers participating during the weekly Bible studies;

some are serving as one-on-one pastoral care providers; and others are waiting for the launching of faith-based programming or the mentorship program. We are so happy to have these volunteers serving with ACPM. They are making such an amazing impact in the lives of our inmates. In addition, they are also making an impact in the lives of the Correctional Officers. They have demonstrated their commitment to the ministry and have displayed genuine love and compassion to those around them at ACACC. Please continue praying for our volunteers, our ministry programs, and future endeavors."

### Water Baptism



"An inmate was water baptized on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> during the morning Bible study class. This is the first water baptism conducted in the prison in over five years. The water baptism was officiated by Pastor Dennis Probst from Flohr's Evangelical Lutheran Church, McKnightstown, PA. There were four other inmates attending the class with two additional volunteers and Chaplain Perez present. It was a wonderful spiritual experience to witness a man display an outward expression of an inner manifestation of God's saving grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly grateful for the warden and the leadership at ACACC for granting us the opportunity to fulfill this holy sacrament of the Christian faith."

### New Treasurer

ACPM would like to welcome and introduce to you our new treasurer, Elmer O. Bley. Elmer has ample experience and training to assist ACPM to continue what Ed Ommert (former treasurer) has done for us for over seven years. Elmer was a Maryland CPA in the early 1960's, then in 1964 he transitioned over to practice law. Later, he spent 20 years as the CFO for a major Baltimore Bank. Subsequently, for over 35 years, he provided managerial consulting to various businesses, including being the CFO for two contracting companies. He is also a certified trainer in "Business By the Book" from Crown Financial Ministries. He brings a Biblical perspective to the stewardship of God's financial blessings which is provided by our faithful contributors. Elmer's passion is discipling men in their faith. He takes great joy in his 7 children, 14 grandchildren, and one great grandchild."

### Child Evangelism Fellowship

*From the CEF July Praise & Prayer Update*

Summer events have come to an end. "You heard our request for funds and you answered. We appreciate every single one of you that sent prayers and funds for summer ministry."

"We greatly appreciate all the folks who have sent support for our Sofia. God's plans are not always what we plan. Please keep Sofia in your prayers as delays in government paperwork have kept her from taking a full-time ministry assistant position with CEF as planned. She has been ministering with us as much as possible this summer. Please pray for God's clear direction for Sofia and praise Him for the wonderful summer missionaries that He has provided. We know that our great God is faithful and will use Sofia as He sees fit."

### Compassion International

*Recent letter from Brayan:*



"Hello my dear sponsor Friends, I greet you very excitedly hoping that you are in very good health. It is a pleasure to be able to write this letter to you. My family and I are in very good health, thank God. I would like to be able to share with you the lessons we have had in the Child Development Center (CDI, Project). They teach us about four areas such as the Spiritual, Socio-emotional, Cognitive and Physical areas, where I have learned a lot about God and that He loves me very much. In the project, I also learned about jewelry to make beautiful bracelets. I want to share one of my achievements. Two months ago I graduated from high school together with some classmates that we have been studying together since kindergarten. I thank God for allowing me to accomplish that achievement that has made me very happy.

I am now 18 years old, and I love to ride a motorcycle. Thank God that he allows me to have one. I would like to ask you what do you like to do in your free time? In my free time I enjoy playing soccer with my friends and I also work as a bricklayer's assistant. I wish you many blessings and may God guide you wherever you are. I would like you to help me pray so that my family is in very good health and that I can fulfill all my goals and dreams. I hope one day to have the privilege of meeting you. I say goodbye, hoping to hear from you very soon. With much love, Brayan."

*Recent letter from Hawine:*

"Greetings, my dear and most beloved sponsors, Friends. May peace be with you and your family. How are you? Is everything okay? How are your family, life, and work? I hope that all is well. Thanks to God, my family and I are doing very well. My family sends their greetings to you. They said hello to you. My dear sponsor, thank you so much for the money gift that you sent for the celebration of my birthday I received ETB 2,497.26. Thank you very much. Live a long life. I bought a miniskirt for ETB 2,000, shoes for ETB 1,000, and underwear and clothes for ETB 497.26. Thank you. I am very pleased. I am very pleased with all that has been done for me through the project. I am attending to my education. Please send my hello to your family. I love you. Until we meet again with our next letter, stay safe."

*Recent letter from Sergio:*

"Hello, dear sponsors Friends. Let me greet you with a tight hug. Thank you for the letter you sent me. And in answer to your question, I am not old enough to drive yet. I am glad to hear there is a group of brothers and sister in Christ that hep and teach God's Word. Yes, I do like to work and repair cars. And I would like to learn more. When I travel somewhere, I like to see the road. My family and I are very grateful for your prayers. And I pray for you as well. I want to tell you that my winter holidays were extended one more week due to the low temperatures as it is getting very cold. Also, we took the lesson plan at the Compassion Project and went to the court and had much fun afterwards. I would like to ask you to pray for my family, for my mom's work, for my health, and for my studies as well. Let me say goodbye. With a tight hug, Sergio."

**SAT-7***From the June2024 issue of SAT-7 Today*

Randa's experience living in Morocco is the same as may other young women across the Middle East and North Africa. Poverty, discrimination, and conflict are pulling millions of girls out of schooling – and most will never go back to finish.

"I didn't get my degree because my education stopped at the preparatory level," says Randa. (We've changed her name for privacy.) "It's been difficult for me to get employment."

You can imagine it's hard for young people in the Middle East and North Africa to hold on to hope. What Randa and so many others need to hear more than anything is how much God loves them. But out of tens of millions of people, less than 1% of Morocco's population is Christian, making it unlikely Randa would ever interact with someone who could share Gospel hope with her. That's why – with your help – SAT-7 brought the Gospel hope to her.

When Randa came across SAT-7's new feature film *Toxic*, a door to God's love opened. Nominated to participate in a number of film festivals, *Toxic* follows true stories of four people who've survived cruelty and mistreatment. As she watched, Randa's heart resonated with the characters.

"It hurts me when others make fun of me or my appearance," Randa says. "The main actress from the movie surprised me by forgiving people who bullied her." Wondering if she could do the same, Randa reached out to our Viewer Support Team after watching the movie. Our team responded to Randa with empathy, sharing with her the importance of forgiveness. Randa heard words of encouragement she desperately needed – that she is unique in God's eyes, and He sent Jesus to save her. Hearing that truth opened a door in Randa's heart to accept Jesus as her Savior. Our Viewer Support Team prayed with her, sent her a Bible, and encouraged her to start reading the Gospel of John. "This is my first time reading the Bible," says Randa.

Through a movie, God's love was made visible to Randa. Every hour of Christian programming you help make possible is taking the life-altering Gospel message into homes all across the Middle East and North Africa.



# The Giving Corner

## STEWARDSHIP

Another change of season approaches as the children go back to school, we look towards the harvest and cooler temperatures. We head back to Sunday School on Rally Sunday, and we look forward to our Stewardship events.

Plan on joining Pastor Mark and Session members on Sunday, September 29, 2024, for our annual Congregational Stewardship Conversation. This will take place between services at 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall. At this time we will review the proposed 2025 budgets for both the Church Operating Fund and the Mission Organizations/Missionaries Fund. In addition we will begin to reflect on where God is leading us in the future. It is now our time to consider the legacy we are meant to leave, "Our Duty" for future generations, "Our Hope". Please come!

Stewardship Sunday is set for October 13, 2024. On this day we invite you to bring your Estimate of Giving cards to worship and offer your gifts to our Lord! On Sunday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM we are planning a Potluck Dinner! This will be a time for us to come together as a family around our dinner tables to break bread and to celebrate the many blessings bestowed on Lower Marsh Creek over the past year! Mark your calendars for this special event. A sign up sheet will be put in the narthex.

We have much to be thankful for at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church! Let us come together to thank our God for his grace to us and let us ponder how we can better serve him in the future!

*"Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Galatians 6:9





# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 8/8/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):154, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56, Family Members: 51, Total: 261.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for June and July. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

***Approved the following events and business items:***

- o March 24 – April 7, 2025: Provide breakfast at St James Lutheran Church for the CARES ministry.
- o Approved support of missionaries Christian and Rayan Weaner in the amount of \$6,600 from the Mission Endowment Fund to Teach Beyond for Chistian and Rayan's use in their short-term mission work with a Christian school in Dakar, Senegal (South Africa).
- o Men's Breakfast will resume September 21, 2024. Rick Gladhill to speak on Trail Ride Christian magazine.
- o November 3, 2024: All Saints Sunday.

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

Team Members: Doyle Waybright, chair; Ron Milhimes and Lanny Winters

- o Continued discussions about the potential for solar panels. Will seek congregational input at the budget conversation between services on September 29.
- o Work to strip, clean, and wax the fellowship hall kitchen and bathroom floors is underway.
- o Work to repair tombstones will be conducted in the fall at the LMC cemetery.
- o The narthex bulletin boards were replaced, with thanks to Gary Michaliga and Al Miller.
- o Investigating sound absorption panels in the fellowship hall to help with the echo problem when the hall is full of people.

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

Team Member: Lauren Neely, chair; Phyllis Smith and Bev Benner

- o The June and July 2024 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.
- o Stewardship potluck dinner is scheduled for October 13 at 5pm.
- o The next 2024 budget team meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 5:30pm.

Continued from the preceding page . . .

***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: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynne Orner and Susan Nunamaker

- o 40 bibles were given out at Fun Fest on June 14.
- o Planning continues for the Congregational Retreat, which will be held on Saturday, August 24.
- o Ice Cream Social will be on September 8 at 6pm.
- o Return to two services on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

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

- o Working with Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership, on 2023 records review as required by the Book of Order. This review is scheduled for August 26.
- o Received a note from the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro that they plan to dedicate a flower arrangement on the first Sunday of May each year in memory of Denise Lockwood. Denise participated in their pastoral search process and was highly regarded for her sincere encouragement and guidance by the Pastor Nominating Committee.



Women's Guild  
July 15, 2024



Hillside  
Nursing  
Home

An afternoon of  
Ice Cream  
and  
Bingo  
with  
the residents



**INVESTMENTS****SECOND QUARTER REPORT — 2024**

| <b>Account Description</b>   | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2024</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b>           | <b>Unrealized<br/>Gains/Losses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2024</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Capitol Improvement Fund     | \$155,421.56                         | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | -\$5,875.07                        | \$149,546.49                         |
| Cemetery Fund                | \$3,968.49                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$6.73                             | \$3,975.22                           |
| Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund | \$189,202.73                         | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$1,515.11                         | \$190,717.84                         |
| Mission Endowment Fund       | \$151,130.48                         | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$1,550.20                         | \$152,680.68                         |
| Woods Scholarship Fund       | \$105,398.68                         | \$0.00          | \$8,000.00                | \$705.34                           | \$98,104.02                          |
| David Scott Youth Fund       | \$93,493.59                          | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | -\$2,073.88                        | \$95,567.47                          |
| 300th Anniversary Fund       | \$4,166.67                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$55.00                            | \$4,221.67                           |
|                              |                                      |                 | <b>Total Investments:</b> |                                    | \$694,813.39                         |

**DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS**

| <b>Account Description</b>     | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2024</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2024</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Winter Banquet                 | \$0.00                               | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00                               |
| Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers  | \$9,389.14                           | \$0.00          | -\$384.00       | \$9,005.14                           |
| Marriage Retreat Fees          | \$0.00                               | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00                               |
| Sanctuary Flowers              | \$719.80                             | \$543.50        | -\$799.00       | \$464.30                             |
| Men's Breakfast                | \$20.19                              | \$119.00        | -\$91.00        | \$48.19                              |
| Bulletins                      | \$319.68                             | \$40.00         | \$0.00          | \$359.68                             |
| Pastor's Study Leave           | \$1,000.00                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$1,000.00                           |
| David Scott Youth Fund         | \$7,468.70                           | \$0.00          | -\$93.99        | \$7,374.71                           |
| Bible Study Books              | \$70.33                              | \$0.00          | \$70.33         | \$0.00                               |
| Spiritual Life Extra           | \$300.00                             | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$300.00                             |
| Spiritual Life Activities Fund | \$932.61                             | \$0.00          | -\$116.95       | \$815.66                             |

**SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS**

| <b>Account Description</b> | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2024</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2024</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Membership Assistance Fund | \$3,391.85                           | \$0.00          | \$1,500.00      | \$1,891.85                           |
| Cemetery Fund              | \$17,911.34                          | \$600.00        | \$0.00          | \$18,511.34                          |
| Gifts & Memorials Fund     | \$4,999.34                           | \$2,965.00      | -\$1,180.00     | \$6,784.34                           |
| Checking Acct.— M&T Bank   | \$5,000.00                           | \$403.11        | \$0.00          | \$5,403.11                           |

**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JUNE 2024**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

| Account Description                   | June—2024          | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$18,279.99        | \$150,707.49         | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$3,060.66         | \$30,353.18          | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$21,340.65</b> | <b>\$181,060.67</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                      |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | \$345.96           | \$1,554.54           | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$0.00             | \$26.40              | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$0.00             | \$5,148.00           | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$9,648.41         | \$25,770.46          | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$16,458.61        | \$101,998.93         | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$26,452.98</b> | <b>\$134,498.33</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>-\$5,112.33</b> | <b>\$46,562.34</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2024: \$94,081.35**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

| Account Description | June—2024         | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$5,009.33        | \$55,077.08          | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$9.94            | \$1,730.86           | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$5,019.27</b> | <b>\$56,807.94</b>   | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

|                              |                   |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$1,770.96</b> | <b>\$55,212.31</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$3,248.31</b> | <b>\$1,595.63</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2024: \$2,795.15**

**Notable expenses for June: Home Ministry—Propane quarterly payment (\$2,042.23); New computer (\$1,885.54); Small flow system maintenance (\$1,500)**



**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JULY 2024**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

| Account Description                   | July—2024          | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$21,290.87        | \$171,998.36         | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$8,389.29         | \$38,742.47          | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$29,680.16</b> | <b>\$210,740.83</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                      |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | -\$1,260.10        | \$294.44             | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$0.00             | \$26.40              | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$0.00             | \$5,148.00           | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$5,224.02         | \$30,994.48          | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$16,289.46        | \$118,288.39         | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$20,253.38</b> | <b>\$154,751.71</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>\$9,426.78</b>  | <b>\$55,989.12</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/2024: \$99,695.76**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

| Account Description | July—2024         | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$6,687.21        | \$61,764.29          | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$10.35           | \$1,741.21           | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$6,697.56</b> | <b>\$63,505.50</b>   | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

|                              |                   |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$7,885.04</b> | <b>\$63,097.35</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$3,248.31</b> | <b>\$408.15</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/2024: \$2,562.40**

**Notable expenses for July: Home Ministry—sound system repair and new AV system (\$2,827.22); Spiritual Life—donation for funeral reception; Mission Support—Camp Krislund (\$3,600) and Child Evangelism Fellowship (\$3,600)**

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

*Li'l Ripples* September 2024



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Early Worship 8:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 AM  
Late Worship 11:00 AM  
Nursery 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Church Office Information

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Phone Number 717-642-5332  
Email Address [office@lmcpc.org](mailto:office@lmcpc.org)  
Website [www.lmcpc.org](http://www.lmcpc.org)

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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

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