

# Li'l Ripples

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A Message from

Pastor Mark



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The DUE DATE for the  
OCTOBER ISSUE is  
SEPTEMBER 19



Thanks to Kathy Megyeri for the photo of this window from Milton, DE

THANK YOU!

I cannot find the words to express my gratitude for this congregation and all your support, generosity and kindness. So I adopt Paul's glorious verses from Philippians as my own:

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1: 3-6)*

I announced my intention to retire to our Session after worship on January 5. I intentionally wanted to create a time of many months between my announcement and my departure. I hoped that the session and the congregation would use this time to begin a search for a new pastor. I am profoundly gratified at how enthusiastically the congregation jumped on this task. The session rallied, the nominating committee rallied, the congregation rallied and very quickly a stellar Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected, took off and is running a strong race. WOW! Thank you! During my final months of service the PNC has been working at a blisteringly fast pace, and already candidates are being brought to Gettysburg for personal interviews, even while I am still writing this from the church office and preparing one of my last worship services.

This may be the highest compliment that I have received. For the congregation to rally and move forward with energy and conviction into a new future is a sure sign of a truly healthy and vital congregation. It is not about me. It never was about me. I am blessed and very proud to be one, small link in a holy, glorious chain of ministry that goes back 277 years and will move forward into a bright and beautiful future which God is already preparing.

I am humbled, grateful, proud and blessed. Thank you!

In Christ!  
Mark

See page 6 for Pastor Mark's article *The Presbyterian Church of Honduras.*



## CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST

THE SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

School bells are starting to ring for our area schools. It also signals a return to LMCPD Sunday School classes. The Seekers class invites you to join us beginning on **September 14th at 8:30 AM** in the classroom across from the church office. We will be reading and studying the Max Lucado book, *Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your sweet Spot*. Discover the practical tools for exploring and identifying your own uniqueness, motivation to put your strengths to work and the perfect prescription for finding and living in your personal "sweet spot" for the rest of your life.

If any questions or to receive a book, please see Mike Orleski or email him at: [orleskimj@hotmail.com](mailto:orleskimj@hotmail.com)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

More than three billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what He taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, He never said. Join us this fall in a study by Pastor Adam Hamilton as we explore six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. We will meet in room 3 of Fellowship Hall at 8:30 AM beginning **Sunday, September 14**. The book we will use is *The Message of Jesus* and can be picked up in room 3. No cost for the book.

Questions: Susan Nunamaker, Doyle Waybright

WOMEN ONLINE

The Women's Bible study **meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. We are currently reading and discussing *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us contact Dana McDonald.

COUPLES STUDY GROUP

The Couple's Study Group will meet **September 13th beginning at 5:30 PM**. We will be hosted by Cathy and Gary Michaliga, [88 Skyline Court, Gettysburg](#). The topic for discussion this month is *Sincerity* and they will be providing brisket. Please sign up in the Narthex, beginning August 31st, adding what you will add to our dinner.

All married couples in the congregation are welcome to join us.

Bev Benner

WOMEN'S GUILD

Our next **meeting** will be **September 16th at 1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited.

The Guild will once again hold its **Yard and Bake Sale** in Fellowship Hall **September 27th from 8 AM to 2 PM**. We will accept donations. However, these should be small items because if they don't sell, we have very little storage space. We do not accept clothing. Also, please price these items; it really helps us! We also would appreciate donated bake sale items. They are very popular and last year we sold out early. If anyone wants to sell his/her own items, we will have 8 foot tables, round tables and spaces for sale. Information for all of this will be on the yard sale forms on the credenza in the narthex.

Join us in our worthy causes of making Christmas special for a Teen Angel and donating money to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Roz Santay

DIAPER GIVE AWAY UPDATE

The committee is hard at work getting flyers out about our upcoming diaper give away on **September 6th** and seeking donations. Last year we gave away over 4400 diapers. It would be great if we could reach a goal of 5,000 this year! **You can all help with that!**

Bring a box of diapers (any size) with you to church one of the next two Sundays and put it with the pack 'n play in the narthex. OR, if you would like for us to do the shopping for you, drop a check (note for diapers) or cash in the envelope on the front of the pack 'n play.

We will get together at **10 AM on Tuesday, September 2**, to sort all of the diapers into bags of 25 each.

If you want to receive email updates but are not, let Sandy Buhrman ([sandybuhrman49@gmail.com](mailto:sandybuhrman49@gmail.com)) know so she can add you to the group.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Here's something cool to think about since the temps are so high.

Spiritual Life will host the annual Ice Cream Social on **Sunday September 14th at 6 PM**. Linda Lapp has agreed to make her home made toppings again this year. Thanks, Linda. Everyone is invited. (Phyllis Doyle Smith)

1 - Sally Gateley  
1 - Lauren Neely  
2 - Bev Benner  
3 - Teresa Sanders  
6 - Karen Richardson  
10 - Joe Reichl



10 - Suzanne Welsh  
14 - Donald E. Brill, Jr.  
15 - Sandy Buhrman  
20 - Pat Diehl  
21 - Dale Williams  
23 - Doyle Waybright  
30 - Alicia Dehoff

AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION

During the summer, I have enjoyed sitting in the pews, listening to the services from an entirely different perspective from what I usually experience in the choir loft. And what I heard, when I listened, were a LOT of very good, tuneful voices, singing hymns of praise with gusto and joy! **That's why I want to encourage everyone who loves to sing to the Lord (and you know who you are) to join the Faithful Voices choir.** No musical experience, knowledge or special ability is required—just the desire to make a joyful noise to God. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm, and we usually sing two Sundays each month. Just show up ready to sing! (Plus, while it's not the ONLY way to enjoy Roz Santay's singular brand of humor, it IS the best way! You're sure to laugh when Roz is around.)

Dirk Grove



. . . And, speaking of music . . .

### MUSIC THAT MOVES ME

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19*

This month's "Music that Moves Me" column features *Be Thou My Vision*, which, I have been told, is among Pastor Mark's top ten favorite hymns.

In the world of music, it has long been an accepted practice to attribute the name of a tune to its place of origin. The tune of *Be Thou My Vision* is called "Slane," because Slane is the village in Ireland to which the melody can be traced.

Interestingly, it was on Slane Hill, in County Meath, Ireland, that the famed St. Patrick defied King Logaire of Tara. The king's decree prohibited the lighting of any fires prior to the commencement of the pagan spring festival - which the king typically signaled by lighting a fire. Patrick's Christian devotion, expressed by his defiant lighting of candles, in a direct challenge to prevailing Druid culture, so impressed King Logaire that he permitted Patrick to continue his work as Ireland's first Christian missionary. (The king could just as easily have executed Patrick for his insolence, thereby preventing Christianity from gaining its initial foothold in Ireland.)

*Be Thou My Vision* is not the only hymn to utilize the tune called "Slane." *Lord of All Hopefulness; Lord of Creation, to Thee be All Praise; God, In the Planning and Purpose of Life; and Wake Now My Senses* have all been set to the same Irish folk tune, although none have achieved the immense popularity and ubiquitousness of *Be Thou My Vision*.

The lyrics come from a poem which dates to the eighth century, as evidenced by two manuscripts which are currently housed in the library of the Royal Irish Academy. The Irish text, which begins as "Rob tu mo bhoile, a Comdi cride," was first translated into literal prose by Mary Byrne, and published in *Eriú*, the journal of the School of Irish Learning, in 1905.

There are 16 couplets in the original poem, beginning with "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. None other is aught but the King of the seven heavens," and ending with "O heart of my heart, whate'er befall me, O ruler of all, be thou my vision."

While most traditional Irish religious songs are not Christian in nature, there is a longstanding practice of editorial weddings - where a traditional tune is paired with more liturgical (relating to public Christian worship) lyrics. *Be Thou My Vision* is an excellent example of this practice.

It was in 1912 that Eleanor Hull, the president of the Irish Literary Society of London, organized the literal prose into verses, which she published in her *Poem Book of the Gael*. Shortly thereafter, her verses were "married" to the *Slane* tune, and, between 1912 and 1945, the hymn was included in multiple British hymnals. It wasn't until after World War II that American hymnal editors began including it in their compilations. Since then, *Be Thou My Vision* has become a standard in most modern hymnals.

According to Helen Phelan, an Irish liturgy and ritual scholar, one of "the essential characteristics of the text is the use of 'heroic' imagery to describe God. This was very typical of medieval Irish poetry, which cast God as the 'chieftain' or 'High King' (Ard Ri) who provided protection to his people or clan. The lorica is one of the most popular forms of this kind of protection prayer and is very prevalent in texts of this period." A lorica is a prayer for protection in the Irish monastic tradition, derived from the Latin word for armor. The original "High King of

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Serving God by

DEACON'S INFORMATION

Serving others

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Attendees of LMCC having a transportation need should call one of the following drivers directly to arrange for a date, time, and destination. If none of these volunteers can meet your need, please call Al Miller at 717- 642- 1574 or 443- 977- 9129.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERSSusan Nunamaker 717- 642- 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305Jim Welsh 717- 377- 5370Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY

For the month of September, with schools back in session, we will be doing a cereal drive for the Fairfield Food Pantry. Please bring in donated items and place with the display in the narthex. At the end of September, all cereal will be collected and delivered - as well as any other item that come in.

John Stottlemyer

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heaven" lyrics - which are evocative of pagan chieftains - are now expressed as "Great God" in the *United Methodist Hymnal*, to be more inclusive.

The connection of the tune "Slane" with St. Patrick may be coincidental. Or, perhaps it is divinely inspired. Consider that, when Patrick was about 16 years old, in 373 A.D., his hometown on the banks of the River Clyde in

Scotland was attacked by raiders. His home was set ablaze, and Patrick fled into the bushes, only to be caught by the pirates. He was taken prisoner, forced aboard the pirate ship, and shipped to Ireland to be a slave. It was there that Patrick gave his life to Jesus, saying, "The Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief in order that I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God." Patrick eventually escaped and returned to Scotland. But, in an exhibition of pure obedience to God, he returned to the land of his captors when he was 30 years old, as a Christian evangelist, and the rest is history.

"Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all."

One of the oldest, most enduring and moving great hymns of God's Church, *Be Thou My Vision* is a loving expression of our deep, personal relationship with our savior Jesus Christ.

-Dirk Grove



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HONDURAS

I am grateful for the opportunity to travel again to visit my friends in Honduras the week of August 5. This was my 21st trip to Honduras since 2006. Given my pending retirement, I went to Honduras this time expecting to say "Goodbye" and "Thank you!" But during the week, God revealed some other plans. I have no intention of doing any preaching or temporary ministry in retirement, but I do expect now to stay involved and supportive of our Presbytery's long standing partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Honduras.

A short introduction: The Presbyterian Church in Honduras includes 31 congregations now. All of the congregations have church buildings, typically one room, concrete block with corrugated metal roofs. Most of the congregations also have Sunday school buildings, since there are many children. One rural pastor we met reported that their congregation now has 45 adult members and 75 children; two professional school teachers travel each week far out from their city school jobs to teach Sunday school. The congregations all have pastors who are elected from out of the membership of the congregation, approved and supported by the Presbytery.

We met with the leadership team of the Presbytery (nine people, Pastors and Elders, men and women). They emphasized again the power and the meaning they receive simply from us showing up. They discussed many dreams and visions, challenges and obstacles. Two projects popped in my mind as things we may easily and generously support: Continuing the housing ministry which we started in 2008 and is just now starting back up after COVID. Our Presbytery has built 24 houses Honduras; a typical, one room, concrete block family home cost about \$4,000. I am grateful that our mission team has already approved a \$2,500 gift to finish the funding for a new home for Pastor Elmer. Elmer is a bright, energetic, new pastor in a rural church who also farms a 12 acre, mountainside with corn, beans and watermelon.

Secondly, an amazing high-school scholarship program which has grown enormously. High school in Honduras requires tuition and expenses for books, supplies, uniforms and travel. Thus many young people finish school after 8th grade; not a good situation for finding a good job. I will be working with our leaders in our Presbytery to also raise support for the Honduran scholarship program. They now have the leadership, organization and capacity to provide as many scholarships as they have funding. The amount of each scholarship changes depending on the student's specific situation but is typically about \$100 for a school year. Our Mission Committee is considering this project for our 2026 Mission budget, and other churches in our Presbytery will also support this effort. Your support will, of course, be appreciated.

Gracias!

Pastor Mark



Pastor Elmer, his wife and  
one of their two children.



Pastor Diana  
with a  
ninth grade  
scholarship  
recipient.

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries***From the July ACPM Newsletter*

Pastor Dale O'Shields, from *Church of the Redeemer* in Maryland, provides this simple acronym to help us T.H.I.N.K. before we speak. He recommends asking yourself the following questions:

"T = Is it true? H=Is it helpful? I = Is it inspiring? N = Is it necessary? K = Is it kind?"

*From the August ACPM Newsletter*

After serving ACPM for six years, Chaplain Angel Perez will be stepping down as Director of Christian Ministry to a new ministry as an executive pastor. His final day will be August 29, 2025. ACPM is actively pursuing new candidates to fill this position, and more details will be available soon. For questions, contact Mac, the chairperson of ACPM, at macmcbeth@gmail.com.

The next community prayer gatherings are scheduled for: September 9 (Tuesday) from 6 to 7 pm at the Intersection Church, 1980 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg; October 9 (Thursday) at First Baptist Church, 1015 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg; and November 13 (Thursday) at Memorial Baptist Church, 1096 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg. Come and join us for prayer as we ask the Lord God Almighty to continue to move in the lives of inmates, staff, and family members.

ACACC is hiring for Correctional Officers. If you or someone you know is looking for employment, have them visit the Adams County website at [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov). Go to their hiring page and select the advertisement for Correctional Officers for details and application.

**Adams Rescue Mission/Agape House***From the June Pulse Newsletter*

Warehouse Church meets the first Sunday of the month, 9:30 – 10:45 am., in the ARM warehouse at 2515 York Road, Gettysburg, and is open to the public. The purpose of Warehouse Church is not only to share the gospel, but to provide a safe place for families/supporters to spend time with our Resident Guests.

Affordable childcare for ages 12 months to enrollment in kindergarten is offered by Little Ones Childcare in York Springs. This is a stepping stone to help low-income mothers, fathers, and families overcome system dependency, cyclical poverty, inept education, and Battered Women Syndrome. Those who qualify must either enter the workforce or be enrolled in an educational program to include GED, trade school, or college within 60 days of childcare enrollment. Contact Rachel Greathouse at [rgreathouse@adamsrescuemission.org](mailto:rgreathouse@adamsrescuemission.org).

The lack of a dedicated women's shelter in Adams County highlights a significant gap in resources for single women seeking refuge, as evidenced by the eight to ten inquiries received monthly by ARM. This situation underscores the urgent need for supportive services facilities tailored to the specific needs of women in crisis within the community. Adams Rescue Mission, partnering with Chapel Hill Church of God, will repurpose a parsonage in York Springs, into a communal living space for up to ten single women.

The deficit in affordable low-income housing, and especially rental units accepting housing vouchers, is growing, as fewer and fewer landlords are accepting the vouchers. Of all the concerns addressed by ARM, the need for affordable housing is the most acute. Our comprehensive approach to addressing low-income housing in Adams County demonstrates a proactive and innovative strategy, including securing funding to purchase properties, partnering with landlords for risk mitigation through subletting, and building collaborative relationships with other organizations to expand housing availability.

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Our resident guests and staff have embarked on a journey of community service in which they perform community service projects, logging in over 2,800 hours since its inception with much more to come. We believe in giving back to the community that gives so much for us!

### **Compassion International**

*A recent note received from Brayan (age 19):*

"Hello dear sponsor Friends, I feel very happy to be able to write to you through this little letter, hoping that you are doing very well and that God blesses you and your family at all times and keeps you safe. I want to tell you today about the things I like. I want to tell you that I like going out with my family to the river and also visiting my grandmothers on the weekends. I want to tell you that my best friend is named Diego, we go out together and have a lot of fun. I want to tell you that I also enjoy watching soccer matches here where I live. I also enjoy going out on motorcycles with my friends nearby and spending time with them. What I enjoy the most doing to help at home is going to work. Some days I help a relative, and he teaches me and I learn new things and that way I also help my family. I would like to ask you to help me pray for my family, for each of my friends, that God keeps and blesses them always. I say goodbye wishing you endless blessings in your life. I keep you in my prayers and I hope to hear from you again soon. With affection, Brayan.

*A recent note received from Sergio (age 15):*

Hello, dear sponsors, Friends, greetings with a big hug. I thank you for the gift you sent me; I brought groceries, phone cases, and utensils for the house. I wanted to tell you that during my school break, I traveled to Santa Cruz to do a job, and I had a good time. It was also very tiring. I went with my uncles. I passed to the next grade, and this year I promise to work harder. During the holidays, I went to have fun with my friends playing soccer, and we went to the park and ate some ice cream. About my country, there was a lot of rain that affected it, and there were landslides and floods. I was given a cat named Lucas, and he is eight months old. I'm happy with him; he keeps me company. I ask you to pray for my family and my cat so that he is well and healthy. Goodbye with a big hug, your friend Sergio.

*Why this mission matters to me - messages from pastors at Compassion Centers:*

From Elmer, pastor at Brayan's Compassion Center in El Salvador: "It is important to me to work with children and youth because they are important to God and to our society. Our partnership with Compassion has helped us by providing the knowledge and resources to develop and employ our children and youth at the center."

From Tadele, pastor at Hawine's Compassion Center in Ethiopia: "God commands us to work with young people and develop them for a better future. Our Compassion collaboration allows us to fulfill this mission, providing a way for children to come to church and helping us address the spiritual, physical, and economic hardships of our participants."

From Rogello, pastor at Sergio's Compassion Center in Bolivia: "It is important to work with youth and children because they are the future, and they are also the most attacked by today's moral and spiritual corruption. By contributing to decisions at this young age, we can generate in them a new Christ-centered identity."

### **DiscipleMakers**

*From Kevin & Maria Noyes' July 23 Newsletter*

Ten years ago, DiscipleMakers ministered on only 11 campuses. But over the last decade, God did something amazing. The Lord made us wonder, "What would it take to go from reaching hundreds with the gospel to thousands?" DiscipleMakers would need to reach more campuses. We would need to deploy staff to new areas. It would be uncomfortable. Often painful. At times it would seem impossible. But "*what is impossible with man is possible with God*" (Luke 18:27). So, in 2015, DiscipleMakers set a goal: to reach 14 more campuses, for a total of 25 by the year 2025. And by God's grace, DiscipleMakers did not just reach 25 campuses, but 26! Please join us in praising God for allowing us to reach even more students with the gospel, and to make more disciples on campus!

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Brett, a Marine who met his Messiah, is a student at Penn State York, a campus that DiscipleMakers had no presence on 10 years ago. If it wasn't for God allowing us to reach more campuses, we never would have met him, shared the gospel with him, or witnessed his response. And by God's grace, Brett is still going strong. Just last week, Brett joined us in our home for a Bible study in Daniel. He participated enthusiastically in the discussion and eagerly made applications to his own life. Afterwards, he proceeded to tell me (Kevin) how he'd been reading the gospels, started going to church (even when he had to go by himself,) and had joined two more Bible study groups. Praise God for His work, and for allowing us reach students like Brett!

And the tie breaker is....it's a boy!! We are so excited and thankful to add another son to our family! Thank you for continuing to pray with us for the baby's health. Simeon was very excited to find out that he is getting a baby brother. He was convinced the baby was a sister for Hope, but quickly got giddy when he heard the news. Hope on the other hand has yet to make her feelings on the subject known. She likes to rub Maria's belly and say "ball!"



### **Mission of Mercy**

Mission of Mercy is an adult primary care doctor's office on wheels. They provide quality, compassionate and comprehensive free medical care and medications for the uninsured and underinsured suffering from acute or chronic health issues.

Mission of Mercy operates a 3-chair state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic. They provide free dental care, typically in the form of fillings, extractions and cleanings, with medications as needed for infections.

Platoon 22 serves hundreds of veterans, many of whom lack access to dental care but regularly visit the Platoon 22 center for other essential services. It's a space where they feel safe, respected, and supported. On July 18, a program to provide access to dental care for veterans was launched. As part of its veteran's outreach program, Platoon 22 managed the clinic scheduling and patient registration. Mission of Mercy brought the mobile dental clinic to the site, along with a team of skilled, professional dental volunteers, ready to provide critical services. Fourteen veterans were served, each receiving a cleaning and three received fillings or extractions. While this is a successful collaboration, Mission of Mercy is looking for additional volunteer dentists to support this program. Contact Jennifer White at [jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org](mailto:jwhite@AMissionofMercy.org) or call 301-6821-5683, x202.

Cumulative as of June 30, in Gettysburg alone 4,296 medical patients have been seen for a total of 23,247 visits (316 in FY25); 1,681 dental patients for a total of 2,735 visits (84 in FY25). The top five diagnoses or treated conditions in 2024 were diabetes, hypertension, digestive system disorders, depression/mental health, and high cholesterol. Active volunteers total 175, including 12 physicians, 43 nurse/technicians, 6 dentists, and 32 interpreters.

### **SAT - 7**



Among the millions of Afghans being deported back to their home country are Christians whose lives are now in grave danger. SAT-7 is highlighting the stories of threatened Afghan Christians, responding to their urgent prayer requests and broadcasting special episodes about the mass deportation.

SAT-7 has been in regular contact with an Afghan man called Alborz,\* based in Tajikistan, whose brother was killed in Afghanistan for his faith. "When my brother was killed by the Taliban because of his faith in Jesus, for a long time I struggled to forgive them," Alborz told our Viewer Support Team. After reflecting on the Sermon on the Mount, he felt able to forgive, but the thought of returning to Afghanistan is still extremely concerning for his family, especially for his teenage daughter, Armita.

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"Our situation in Tajikistan is extremely bad," said Armita, who has followed SAT-7 PARS' children's programs for several years. "Many of our fellow [Afghan] believers have been deported from Tajikistan... And in Afghanistan, unmarried girls like me are being forced into marriage, which is very distressing. I don't even know how to express the terror we are experiencing. The conditions here are really tough."

Armita wants to hold onto her faith amid the dangers. "I don't want to go back to Afghanistan. I don't want to be deported, and I don't want to be killed. They will ask our family about our faith, and I know everyone will confess that we are Christians... It is not just members of our family who have been killed; many people have died, and we know that if we speak out [about our faith], we too will be killed. Please pray for us."

With huge numbers of Afghans being deported from Iran, many are wondering why this is happening, why now, and whether or not it is even legal. A recent episode of the SAT-7 PARS talk show *Insiders* hosted Dr. Saeed Peyvandi, a professor of sociology, answered these questions.

"After the fall of Kabul (Afghanistan's capital) to the Taliban and their rise to power, we witnessed a massive wave of Afghans entering Iran," Saeed explained. "This caused a very negative reaction within Iranian society. A kind of phobia of Afghans became widespread in Iran... Renting houses or giving them access to certain facilities were essentially banned, even though such restrictions are illegal."

Saeed believes that the Iranian government saw mass deportation as a way to win back some popularity and avert people's attention from their failures. "At least in this one area, where there was public consensus, it could take some decisive steps," he said.

An *Insiders* viewer named Mehtab was heartbroken to hear of the lack of respect for the Afghans. "My heart aches when I see all this hatred and pressure from Iran directed at Afghans," Mehtab said. "It's very saddening for me to see what our dear Afghan brothers and sisters are going through."

A Christian viewer, named Cyrus, shared his honest difficulties with living alongside Afghan immigrants: "I am from a different religious background, and I lived in Türkiye for six years. I was often confronted and harassed by Turks and Syrians for becoming a believer. But, honestly, the worst insults and mockery I ever experienced came from Afghan migrants."

Immigration is rarely simple or easy, for the host or the foreigner. But Saeed offered a wise and measured conclusion. "We need to have a serious internal dialogue," he said. "Even if some of these individuals are causing problems in our country... we must try to untangle this complex crisis with humanity, transparency, and legality."

In just over seven months, over 1.9 million Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan. At least 485 Afghan nationals have also been deported from Tajikistan, among them 334 refugees or asylum-seekers.

To remember Senior Citizen's Day (8/21), Grandparent's Day (9/7) and the opening of another school year, Kathy Megyeri passed along these senior citizen's "life lessons" from the book, *Live, Learn and Pass it On* by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. :

~ *I've learned that most of the things I worry about never happen. Age 64*

~ *I've learned that if you stay focused on yourself, you are guaranteed to be miserable. Age 71*

~ *I've learned that you don't look back except to learn. Age 70*

~ *I've learned that you should make money before you spend it. Age 69*

~ *I've learned that it is best to avoid negative people. Age 98*

**MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE****Thomas & Cheri Henry****Development & Care of International Workers****One Another Ministries (OAM) – Based in Staffordshire, England**

This year God has increased ministry opportunities beyond what we imagined. Missionaries are healthier and more effective in ministry with the pastoral care we provide, and we are committed to serve international workers on the front lines as long as we are able.

Financial circumstances change, even for missionaries. More missionaries are hearing about OAM and us, increasing ministry opportunities. Missionaries cannot afford to displace their families to receive the support they need. Therefore, they are asking us to come to them, unexpectedly increasing our travel costs. Inflation in England and exchange rate fluctuations have adversely affected our budget. Changing demographics of our supporters – retirement, death, other hardships – have pinched us. Regular giving keeps us on the field to serve workers. One-time gifts help us train others and reproduce ourselves. God gave us a vision to train more facilitators in key locations around the globe, both to work with us now and to replace us when we one day slow down and return to the US. Four years?

Testimony from a single worker in the Middle East: “The 4-day Singles Intensive came at just the right time. I had recently returned from a very challenging ministry trip, and the intensive gave me a safe space to process that experience. Cheri was so kind and encouraging. From time spent with the Henrys and others in the group, God graciously brought to light issues from my childhood – hidden bitterness I have been carrying. It’s been so liberating. I am thankful that life is a journey, and the work of Cheri and Thomas brought helpful skills for cross cultural workers to be healthier themselves. We can now pass along these important skills to local believers and other workers.”

Germany in June: We started face-to-face marital counseling with a couple from different cultures preparing for missions. God was good to open their eyes to areas that need to be discussed. The next week we led a missionary couple through a 4-day marriage intensive. God turned this couple towards each other again, giving them compassion for each other and better communication skills to face their challenges in a healthier way. We were able to visit with six couples, coworkers from our years in Turkey who are now residing in Germany, providing pastoral care and support in challenging seasons of having to leave Turkey and realign themselves in new ministries.

Return to Africa in August: After training Every Child Ministries leaders in Uganda in March, they invited us to train their teams in Ghana. However, to fully train them and complete what we started, we want to help send three Ugandan leaders we trained to join us in Ghana in September. We are equipping them now virtually over the summer. Ask God to raise up funds to cover their travel costs.

Return to Jordan in September?: After serving couples in Amman in April there is demand for us to return. Unfortunately, it is still unclear whether we’ll be able to enter the Middle East in September. And right now we don’t have the funds. Ask God to raise up funds to make this trip possible, if it’s His will. A couple’s testimonial from the Middle East: “The marriage intensive gave my wife and me the space to process with Thomas & Cheri and the skills needed to help us grow in our understanding of and love for each other. No more shaming between us as a motivator to ‘do better.’ The Henrys’ counsel and unpacking of biblical truth have put us on a much better trajectory in our marriage and in ministry.”

Brief time in U.S. in November/December: We want to connect with supporting churches and donors; cast ministry vision; raise project funds; attend Mental Health & Missions conference; visit ministry organization who licensed us; spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with family. And ... another reason to go to the U.S. is to lead four separate marriage intensives with missionary couples who are doing home ministry assignment this fall in the U.S. These are couple who potentially could join us in this work, which is part of the vision of reproducing ourselves.

*Note: We are hopeful to see the Henrys at LMC in early January but plans are not confirmed so far.*

**Christian and Rayan Weaner**

**TeachBeyond - Dakar Academy, Dakar, Senegal - West Africa**

August 11, 2025

Hello, friends and family,

We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to catch up with many of you this summer on our trip back to the States. Originally, it was not our plan to come home this summer, but a last minute opportunity arose for us to make the trip, and it ended up being a great blessing to us. While it was not what we thought our summer would look like, we greatly enjoyed our chance to see family, visit some of our supporting churches, and catch up with many friends along the way!



The summer is our absolute favorite time of year in the Northwest, and we made the most of the beautiful weather with a fun family trip to Glacier National Park!

We write this now as we have just arrived back in Dakar for our second school year — saying that still doesn't feel real! It's so hard to believe that it has already been a year since we made our journey to Senegal for the first time.

While we certainly still have much to learn, we are back this year more excited than nervous this time and looking forward to another year of watching the Lord work in mighty ways at Dakar Academy.

Throughout our time in the States over the last month and a half, we enjoyed some much needed rest and reflection on what a wonderful year we have experienced.

In the busyness and chaos of life during the past school year, it was sometimes difficult to find time to intentionally reflect on our experiences and really consider how the Lord was molding us along the way, but this summer was a precious time of looking back and remembering how incredible it was to be part of our school in this special place.

When we think back at the two people that we were a year ago when we first landed in Senegal and compare them to who we are now, we can't help but chuckle a little at all we have learned and the ways we have grown in our understanding of culture, language, and the Lord's faithful provision. *Continued on the next page . . .*



*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

The Lord has been so kind to us, and we have deeply felt His presence in our work and in our home through the prayers and words of encouragement that each of you speak over us.

As we step into this new year, we look forward to the changes that are taking place. We shared in our last newsletter about our upcoming move to a new apartment that we are now settling into. This move will be of great help to us, as we are living much closer to the school.

I (Rayan) will also be stepping into a new position. I will continue teaching high school English but now also have the opportunity to teach music and theatre classes for both our middle school and high school students in addition to directing our school plays and musicals! If you know me (Rayan), you know this is basically my dream job so I'm ecstatic to say the least!

We are also excited to continue fostering relationships with current friends locally and at the school while also building some new ones as we have many new staff members and students joining us this year!

If you know us, then you know we are always taking advantage of our layovers when we travel! Whether it's a couple hours in NYC, an afternoon in Boston, or three days in Scotland, we always make the most of our chances to visit new places.

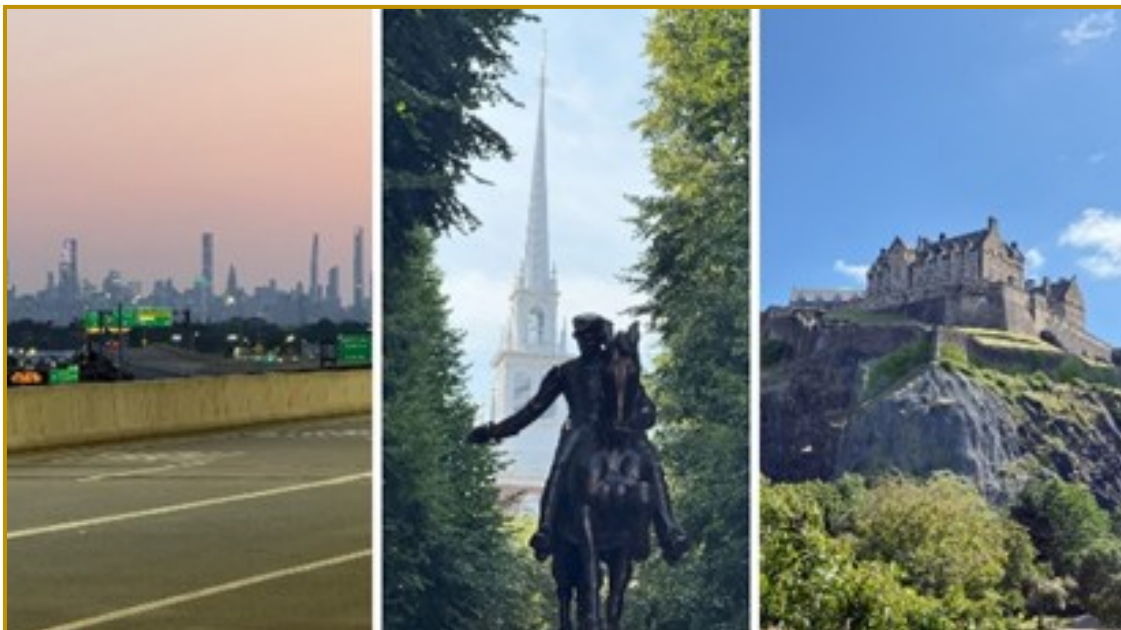
In preparing for this upcoming school year, we would love for you to join us in prayer for some of the following things:

- ~ Smooth transitions both for our students and new staff members and for Rayan's new role
- ~ Continued good health
- ~ More language learning opportunities
- ~ Continued stability in Senegal and the country's relationship with the U.S and the United Nations
- ~ Wisdom and favor with relations between DA and the Senegalese Ministry of Education

Lastly — hopefully you made it this far — know that we are so grateful for each of you. We can never say it often enough, but truly it is only because of the Lord's provision through your support of our ministry in prayer and giving that we are able to go at all.

Thank you for the ways you all have poured into both of our lives through different seasons and for sharing in our conviction to provide Gospel-centered, transformational education in Dakar, Senegal.

All our love, Christian and Rayan Weaner





# The Giving Corner

## SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Stewardship Campaign 2025

*How to Show and Share Love*

God's love, often described as unconditional, unfailing and sacrificial is a central concept of our faith. Love is a fundamental aspect of God's nature. God's love isn't dependent on our actions or worthiness. He loves us freely regardless of whether we're good or bad, deserving or not. Romans 5:8 says, "*God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" Knowing this from the Bible and Jesus example to us – do we extend that love to those around us whether circumstances dictate that people deserve that love? God's love is seen as the origin and foundation of all love. It's the model for human love and the standard by which we should strive to love others.

Proverbs 17:17 states, "*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*" This emphasizes that a genuine friend will be present and supportive not just during good times but especially during difficult ones. Our congregation at Lower Marsh Creek consistently shows support in good times and bad. We can reach each other here and through our giving to the church we can reach out to the world through missions and missionaries.

Prayerfully consider your estimate of giving to our church. It's our way of being available here and our ability to reach out into the world to extend God's love to those who may not know about it.

September 21<sup>st</sup> we will hand out estimate of giving information.

The cards will be collected on Stewardship Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Following our service we will gather for fellowship at our Coffee Hour.

*Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
The Bible tells me so.*





# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on August 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are business highlights of actions taken at that meeting:

- O - Membership 8/16/2025: Active Members (AM) = 154\*, Friends Participating (FP) = 33, Affiliate Members (AfM): 0, Family Members (FM): 49, Total: 235 \* Changes in membership include the sad news of the passing of Wayne Golliday on July 1, 2025 and the sad news of the passing of Pat Gotwalt on July 3, 2025. Friends Participating were updated to account for people who are no longer participating in worship services for a variety of reasons.
- O - The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

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

- O - Approved a Building Use Application from Joe and Lori Jackson to use the fellowship hall on September 2, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM to hold a meeting for approximately 40 adults to hand out packets for their upcoming Canada trip.
- O - Approved a Building Use Application from Liberty Oaks Homeschool Community for September 3 through December 10, 2025 to use Fellowship Hall and classrooms.
- O - Approved a collection of canned goods for Ruth's Harvest at the Ice Cream Social on September 14.
- O - Approved the Dissolution Agreement for the pastoral relationship with Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger due to his retirement after 40 years of service in the PCUSA. The Session expressed gratitude for Pastor Mark's ministry at LMCPK. The Agreement will now need Congregation approval.
- O - Approved that a special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday August 31 immediately following worship service to approve the Dissolution Agreement for the pastoral relationship with Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger.
- O - Approved the separation of the Office Manager position into two positions: Administrative Assistant and Financial Manager
- O - Approved the hiring of Susan Wagle as the Financial Manager effective August 21.
- O - Approved the hiring of Barb Schwartz on a short-term basis to provide training to the new Financial Manager.
- O - Approved the purchase of laptops for the Pastor's office and the back office for the new Financial Manager.
- O - Approved a new road sign base for \$5,400 and then a new sign for \$1,500.
- O - Approved the proposal received from Adams Rescue Mission (ARM) to use LMCPK for a childcare program.
- O - Approved exploring the possibility that Randy Smith's memorial fund could be used for renovations required for the ARM childcare program.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

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

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

- O - Donated the van to Lend a Hand.
- O - Discussing the replacement of the doors in fellowship hall.
- O - Mosko is working on repairing stones at the Cemetery.
- O - Obtaining quotes to fix problems with the well.
- O - Obtaining quotes for painting the windows in the narthex.
- O - Exploring options for landscaping in front of church building.
- O - Locked in propane for \$1.89 per gallon for the next year.

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

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

- O - I&S will have a minute for mission on stewardship on September 21. Stewardship brochures will be handed out that Sunday.
- O - I&S is hosting coffee hour for Stewardship Sunday on October 5.
- O - Budget team will meet Thursday, September 4 at 5pm.
- O - The June 2025 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports 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: Phyllis Smith, Chair; Lynne Orner; and Mike Orleski*

- O - Preparing for the potluck retirement picnic for Pastor Mark ("Pastor, Potluck, an Pies") on August 31, 2025, immediately following worship service. Meat/drinks will be supplied. Sign-up sheet in narthex for sides and pies.
- O - Coffee and donuts will resume on September 14, 2025 in fellowship hall.
- O - Preparing for ice cream social on September 14, 2025 at 6 PM. Canned goods will be collected for Ruth's Harvest.
- O - Sunday school classes will resume on September 14, 2025.
- O - Next couple's Bible study will be held at the home of Gary and Cathy Michaliga on Saturday, September 13, 2025.
- O - Deacons cleaned the closet in the Fellowship Hall and inspected all of the chairs. We may need to plan to replace some of the chairs.
- O - Have decided not to update the paper Directory at this time.

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

- O - Rev. David Wright will begin service as Temporary Pastor with his first service on Sunday, September 14.
- O - The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is making great progress with interviews being scheduled with finalists.
- O - Accepted Rob Heims and Deb Wastler into membership by reaffirmation of faith. A public reception will be scheduled for Sunday, August 31.



## FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JUNE 2025

### Church Operating Fund (COF) Income

Account Description	JUNE—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$17,518.50	\$117,516.14	\$276,092.00
Other Income	\$3,101.46	\$18,799.05	\$29,430.00
Transfer of funds from 2024 budget	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,619.96</b>	<b>\$166,315.19</b>	<b>\$335,522.00</b>
<b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b>			
Spiritual Life	\$1,325.59	\$5,977.30	\$14,550.00
Education & Nurture	\$10.93	\$10.93	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,480.44	\$5,810.00
Home Ministry	\$17,779.79	\$45,366.40	\$87,140.00
Church Administration	\$21,713.43	\$114,812.26	\$224,622.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$40,829.74</b>	<b>\$171,647.33</b>	<b>\$335,522.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$20,209.78</b>	<b>-\$5,332.14</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Income

Account Description	JUNE—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$7,991.50	\$40,329.58	\$95,200.00
Other Income	\$0.27	\$1,677.43	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,991.77</b>	<b>\$42,007.01</b>	<b>\$95,700.00</b>

### Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Expenses

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,799.00</b>	<b>\$29,436.33</b>	<b>\$95,700.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,192.77</b>	<b>\$12,570.68</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

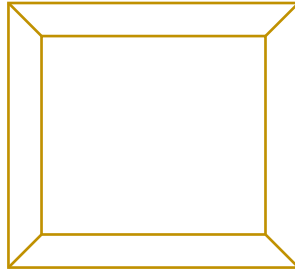
Notable items for June— COF: Home Ministry expenses were primarily related to the re-surfacing of the parking lot.

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

1865 Knoxlyn Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

*Lil' Ripples* September 2025



Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday School 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Worship 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

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

Phone Number 717- 642-5332

Email Address [office@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."

*Lil' Ripples*

Editor, Fay Hess

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