

Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from

Pastor Mark



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LI'L RIPPLES MARCH ISSUE
DEADLINE IS FEB. 21st

ORDINATION

I am writing this a few days after we expressed in our Sunday worship the Service of Ordination and Installation. I want to take this opportunity in our Newsletter to celebrate again this remarkable gift of Ordination which we highlight as Presbyterians. This action does not happen often, and easily falls out of our attention and focus. For all of you serving in these important ministries, as Deacons and as Ruling Elders together on our Session, and, indeed, for the whole congregation, I want to pause and give thanks for this remarkable gift to the Church: Ordination.

This is the beautiful language of our Book of Order G-2.0102:

"Our Church's ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are Deacons and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders. Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the Church."

It seems mundane and ordinary; but in fact it is extraordinarily powerful and meaningful. We identify people within our Church family who have special gifts, time and commitment to serve. We, as a congregation, elect them to service within our "ordered ministries" as Deacons or Ruling Elders. And, importantly, these people are ordained. This is a divine action, a statement of our faith in the ongoing work and power of Christ in our midst. Ordination looks backward and connects us with all the people, for all the ages before us, who also were called out and set apart for particular service in the Church. Ordination looks forward with trust and hope that all things are in God's hands, and God through Christ will continue to call out people to serve in these special ways in the life of the congregation.

For our deacons and our ruling elders: please take a moment and pause to consider the calling you have received and the gift that has been given to you in your ordination.

For others in the congregation: take a moment and pause to give thanks for our Church and the continuing calling of God which provides leaders, and moves us forward into the future that God is already preparing.

In Christ !

Mark



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR : In the evening of January 5th, I caught up to two emails that had been sent at noon on that day. *Important News #1* announced the retirement of our long time office manager Barb Schwartz on May 31st after 12 years of service. *Important News #2* declared that our Pastor Mark was planning to retire the 8th of September after 40 years in ministry. Words are inadequate to describe my shock and sadness at the thought of losing this sister and brother in Christ. I felt as though I had been gut punched. Do I resent these faithful servants taking their rest. Absolutely not ! Common sense had told me these relationships would come to an end . . . someday . . . but I was not prepared for it this soon. I thought - loss, upon loss, upon loss. Our church family has had to say goodbye to many saints. Whether it is through death or the natural change and progression that is an inevitable part of human life, nevertheless, it is a loss. This sad news brought to mind something I read more than 50 years ago after my father died suddenly before he reached his 59th birthday. In spite of the vast resources at my fingertips since the advent of the Internet, I have never been able to track down the exact quote. At the time, it brought to me a measure of peace. Following is my paraphrase, offered to my precious church family for the same reason:

Throughout our lives we suffer many losses. We lose loved ones and friends. It is like the lights going out one by one, as at the service of Tenebrae, until in the gathering gloom there is only one light left and that is the light of Christ . . .

As our church family travels the long road ahead may we not grow weary as we **remember to follow the Light.**

Sunday Adults Group - In early 2024 Pastor Mark challenged us to memorize the powerful 23rd Psalm. This winter of 2025, our Sunday morning group is discussing the promises of this Psalm. We are using Max Lucado's book *Traveling Light*. Join us at **9 AM in Fellowship Hall** to see how this psalm will help us release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear.

Susan Nunamaker and Doyle Waybright

The Women's Bible Study meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 PM. **Thursday, February 6** we will begin to read and discuss *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us contact Dana McDonald.

The Couple's Study Group **will not be meeting in February** and we encourage you to join in going to the Winter Banquet on February 1st for this month's fellowship. We are also looking for a host for the March Couple's Meeting. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help.

Bev Benner

The Women's Guild **will not meet in February.**

Roz Santay

A Coffee/Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Spiritual Life Team on **February 16, 2025**, in Fellowship Hall, immediately AFTER the worship service. All are welcome.

The Team wants to continue an AFTER church coffee/fellowship time once a month. If you and/or several friends or groups or teams would like to host, please contact Phyllis Smith.

Looking Forward to Lent

This year the season of **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5**. I am writing a series of sermons and we will gather on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a light, soup dinner and Bible study. My sermons and our Wednesday Bible study for Lent will focus on the parables of Jesus, which may be the most important passages in our New Testament. Scholars believe that the parables of Jesus take back as close as is possible to the actual spoken words of Jesus. With his parables Jesus most vividly communicates his purpose, vision and hope. My Lenten sermons and our Wednesday Bible study will be guided by the excellent new book from New Testament scholar Thomas G. Long titled *Proclaiming the Parables: Preaching and Teaching the Kingdom of God*. This is a serious, scholarly book from a prominent New Testament professor which will soon become standard reading in our seminaries. Clearly, this is not light, before-you-go-to-sleep, reading. And the hardcover version is expensive. But if you want to journey deep along with me into the parables of Jesus for our season of Lent, Professor Long's new book will be a great companion.

Pastor Mark

Attention Ladies!

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

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. consists of a cold weather shelter and a Resource Center geared to provide support for up to 30 people when no other shelter can be found. This is accomplished through a partnership with local churches, including Lower Marsh Creek and other community service agencies.

LMCPC has volunteered to prepare breakfast for the C.A.R.E.S. program from **March 24, 2025 through April 7, 2025, excluding Sundays**. We will need 2 volunteers to prepare breakfast each morning at 6:00 am at the St. James church youth house, on 121/123 York Street, Gettysburg. Guests arrive at 7:00 am. We will also be responsible for clean-up. St. James church supplies all paper products, juices, tea, coffee and coffeemate, cereals, milk, and condiments. All we supply is the meal. Some suggestions are breakfast casseroles, French toast, breakfast sandwiches, scrambled eggs, sausage links, potato products (hash browns, tater tots, shredded potatoes), fruit, breads or baked goods, muffins, bagels, pancake mix, waffle mix, bread for toast, etc.

On Wednesdays, we can only serve bagels, cream cheese, and fruit, because we cannot cook on Wednesdays.

A training session for volunteers will be held at the youth house closer to our service week. At that time, we will learn how everything works in the kitchen and exactly what we will be asked to do. If you cannot attend the training session, we will pair you with a volunteer who has attended. We will not know how many guests to expect until the week before our service.

We will meet with volunteers after church on Sunday, **March 16, 2025**, to share our menu choices and coordinate the purchase of staples like eggs, sausage links, muffins, bagels, etc., which Joe and Elaine will purchase and store in the church kitchen. Joe and Elaine will check the supplies in the C.A.R.E.S. refrigerator ahead of this meeting to see what supplies are already stocked. The church will reimburse you for any food that you purchase.

Please consider signing up for this worthwhile mission. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If we can answer any additional questions, please contact us. Elaine & Joe Reichl: 717-398-2430, jereichl@comcast.net.

NOTICE OF TIME CHANGE - The Spiritual Life Team has approved changing the time for **all Sunday School Classes** each Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 AM to **8:30 - 9:30 AM** to accommodate those who need to leave early for worship service responsibilities. This change will be **effective starting Sunday, March 2, 2025**.

Our Casserole Ministry is looking for volunteers who are willing to prepare a casserole for members in need. If you are willing to be added to our list of volunteers, please notify Elaine Reichl in person, via email at: jereichl@comcast.net, or call her at 717-398-2430. There will probably be enough volunteers that you will not be called on more than once a year.

The Virginia (Ginny) K. Woods Scholarship Program Is Seeking Applicants

Calling all high school seniors, students who have successfully completed at least one year at an accredited post-secondary education institution and anyone pursuing a master's degree or some type of further education. It is that time of the year to think about your education for next year. It is time to apply to the Virginia (Ginny) K.Woods Scholarship program. This scholarship program was established at the bequest of Ginny Woods, a member of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church who was a retired school teacher with a love for youth and education. The applicants of first consideration will be a member of LMCP, a member of our youth program, or an active participant in the life of the church. As requested in her will, if no one needs a scholarship from LMCP, the Interpretation and Stewardship Team will accept applicants from the Fairfield and Gettysburg communities.

Applications are available at the church office. You may also call Barb Schwartz, church office manager at 717-642-5332 or e-mail her at office@lmcp.org to request an application. She can mail or e-mail it to you.

Applications must be submitted by April 1, and they are reviewed by the Interpretation and Stewardship Team. The scholarship usually is awarded in May. Please pass this information on if you know a student in need.

Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks

Dear Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger

January 2, 2025

Thank you so very much for your church's Giving Spree donation. As always, your support for life and Tender Care is greatly appreciated. Please pass on my thanks to your congregation. Wishing everyone at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church a Very Happy and Blessed New Year.

Sincerely,

Vince C. Pacelli, Chief Executive Officer, Tender Care Pregnancy Consultation Services

Dear Friends at Lower Marsh Creek,

January 3, 2025

On behalf of ACPM, I wish to extend our grateful appreciation for your recent donation to the Adams County Giving Spree and ACPM. The men and women who are incarcerated at Adams County Prison are the direct beneficiaries of your sacrifice. We sincerely THANK YOU. May God increase His love and grace in your hearts and your lives throughout the 2025 New Year.

For the ACPM Leadership Team, your Servant in Christ,

Tom Aumen, ACPM Secretary

THANKS continued on the next page . . .

February Birthdays

1 - Kris Englund-Kreiger
 5 - Kerr Thompson
 7 - Pam Johnson
 7 - Kaylee Metz
 8 - David Haskins
 13 - Mabert Anderson

*In our
church
family*

20 - Margaret Metz
 21 - Carlos Wampler
 21 - Judy Williams
 22 - Anthony Golden
 25 - Ellen McMann
 27 - John Phillips

THANKS *continued from the preceding page . . .*

Dear Rev. Dr. Englund - Krieger,

January 8, 2025

On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff, and especially our patients, thank your church for generously supporting Mission of Mercy's mobile medical and mobile dental clinics through the Adams County Giving Spree. Your gift is very important as patients continue to seek help for medical and dental care, . . . all without cost, to men and women who are sick and suffering and have nowhere else to turn for help.

Gratefully,

Jennifer White, Executive Director



Two photos
 provided by
 Jim Richardson
*"To remind us,
 after the 12 days
 of Christmas
 have passed,
 of our beautiful
 Christmas
 celebrations."*
 Thanks Jim.



January 12,
2025
Service of
Ordination
and
Installation



Thanks to
Jim Richardson
for this photo
and to
Kathy Megyeri
for the report
below.

Sunday's, January 12th, church service was particularly special to me for three reasons.

First, the statement on ordination and installation of the elders and deacons was given by the clerk of session. It was followed by the constitutional questions from the Book of Order W-4.0404 which were presented by Pastor Mark. It closed with the laying on of hands by the ruling elders who stood and reached out in prayer to the newly elected elders and deacons. This part of the service was most orderly, impressive and inclusive.

Secondly, members of the Lend-A-Hand Mission Team, who had just returned from their trip to South Carolina to help the storm victims, stood and told of the effect of that experience on them personally. Many of us parishioners were inspired by their testimony. I was humbled by how much they accomplished and how little I do, especially when I learned that the average age of participants was 75. It was impressive, how much these mission team members valued learning about one another as they worked side-by-side, ate together and travelled to their work sites. Presenting prayer shawls to the victims "*lifted us up as much as they were lifted*," one reported but all agreed that as one participant recounted, "*The biggest lesson we learned is that we are one in Christ*." What a powerful and inspirational message for the rest of us to hear, thanks to their commitment, dedication, and efforts.

Thirdly, upon exiting the service, both Pastor Mark and Barb presented us with their retirement announcements; Barb has served us for 12 years, retires in May, and regards us as "family." Pastor Mark was ordained as minister in the Presbyterian Church 40 years ago and will leave LMCPCC after Sunday, September 7. As hard as it is to learn of his departure, he, in his letter, writes that his years here were "*a wonderful blessing and a rich, spiritual journey*" and calls us "*kind, generous and deeply supportive*." So what more can we ask?

The point I am trying to make is that during that one hour of church service, I sat with church elders and deacons whom I so admire, I was humbled and blessed to worship among true disciples who physically ministered to those so in need of aid and then I read two retirement notifications from people I so applaud for their lengthy service and for their acumen and skill at what they do so well. It left me driving home with a thankful heart that LMCPCC came into my life, welcomed me, and more than anything made me want to give more of myself to others. I am humbled but motivated to sing the praises of this church and its members in every possible way that I can. And I am immensely thankful to the church's leadership, the Lend-A-Hand Mission Team, and to Barb and Pastor Mark for making that Sunday service so memorable. You all personify the love of Christ and are disciples that I can only hope to emulate during the rest of my days. Thank you!

Kathy Megyeri

Editor's Note: The following article by Kathy Megyeri was received on April 4, 2024. Space limitations and other considerations had prevented its inclusion in the newsletter. In light of President Carter's death on December 29, 2024, I felt it appropriate and desirable to include it in this first issue of the newsletter since his passing.

The Virtues of Aging by Jimmy Carter - A book review by Kathy A. Megyeri

A few years ago, when I visited the Carter Museum and Visitor Center in Plains, Georgia, I was struck by the mock-up of his high school classroom. A large, life-sized portrait of his teacher, Ms. Julie Coleman, hung in honor of the reading list she prescribed to Carter that included the book "*War and Peace*" and in gratitude for the two pieces of advice she gave him so long ago. First, she told Carter to "*Adjust to changing times but cling to unchanging principles*," lines he quoted in his inaugural address. Secondly, she told him, "*Any schoolboy, even one of ours, might grow up to be President of the United States.*"

As a former high school teacher myself, that experience endeared me to this former President who would repeatedly honor the teaching profession. Former President Carter, who recently turned 99 and is defying the odds by spending over a year in hospice care, survived metastatic brain cancer, liver cancer and brain surgery in 2019. He is America's oldest living President and wrote this reflection on aging by melding memoir, anecdotes, political opinion and practical advice. This book was written in 2011. His honesty and forthright attitude as he shared his experiences that come with age won me over and so I try to share copies of this book with as many others as I can.

About the Book

He wrote, "*As we've grown older, the results have been surprisingly good.*" Carter basked in the affection he felt from others, the prestige he achieved, and the profound influence he attained on the world stage. He was happy with himself, his accomplishments, and with his long-time beloved spouse Rosalynn. In this book, he shared the knowledge and pleasure that age brought him.

But his journey to old age wasn't easy. At 56, he lost a Presidential election, was forced from a job he loved with no future ahead, faced a huge debt on his farm and warehouse business that had been mismanaged, and coped with his and Rosalynn's elderly mothers who needed care. But he wrote movingly of how he and Rosalynn overcame heartache, despair, and disappointment to face new challenges.

Like many of us, he started planning for retirement, began new diet and exercise programs, faced the age prejudice we all do, and confronted political upheaval. He admitted that becoming grandparents deepened his loving relationship with Rosalynn. He cited lessons on aging that he learned from other world leaders, Nobel laureates, sports figures and celebrities. The best part of the book is that Carter celebrated the blessings we receive as we age and the goodness that we can bestow on others. As the 39th President of the United States, the author of 13 books, a distinguished professorship at Emory University, a deacon in a Baptist church in Plains, Georgia who also taught a Sunday School class, and founder of the Atlanta Project to address poverty issues while building homes for Habitat for Humanity, he still enjoyed fly-fishing, tennis and woodworking. His writing style used humor and his gentle nature to share the commitment he and his wife made to explore new possibilities while still giving one another "*some space*." They established Atlanta's Carter Center to help negotiate peace agreements and to monitor elections in emerging democracies, to assist the elderly and mentally ill, to both continue as university professors, and to help build at least one house per year for needy families. He tried to run or walk three miles a day and took cross-country bike rides. He shared advice in this book to help us keep life challenging, interesting and rewarding, to strengthen interpersonal relations, and even admitted to trying to face his own death with grace, equanimity and acceptance which he is certainly showing the world today.

Continued on the next page . . .

Serving God By

DEACONS' INFORMATION

Serving Others

FOOD PANTRY: During the early part of January two boxes of food were delivered to the Fairfield Food Pantry. We are preparing for the Souper Bowl collection and a hardy delivery for early February. Thanks once again to our church family for supporting this ministry.

John Stottlemeyer

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 - 0305Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123**BOOK REVIEW** *continued from the preceding page . . .*

His counsel was not original or revolutionary, but he was so down-to-earth practical by giving anecdotal and personal examples of friends, relations and acquaintances who remained productive. His positivity was repeatedly on display as in his last interview with Barbara Walters, he was asked what were his best years, and he answered, *"Now is the best time of all."*

In this book, he spoke of his relationship with his father, the compromises he had to make to ensure the success of his marriage, and the new career he had to carve out for himself after 1980. He added facts and statistics about our aging population and made suggestions for improved and healthy living. Although probably repeated from his previous book, *"Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life,"* his advice on the virtues of aging can't be repeated too often.

Admittedly, he wasn't a popular President, but his stature as ex-President has grown immensely. Here he publicly grappled with the question, *"What are we going to do with the rest of our lives?"* His quest was to seek meaning, meet challenges, stay healthy and engaged while making financial decisions, dealing with the social security system, and the balance that home and family demanded while public expectations continued. He personally wanted to explore intellectual and spiritual growth, and that goal speaks to us all.

This is a short book but a call to us seniors to reconsider living our best lives and feeling blessed and happy for the time we have left. After all, Carter stated, *"Consider the alternative to aging."* And as one reader said, *"In this book, Carter continued to spread his amazing understanding from living life. The life cycle has a beginning and an ending, and one's attitude and faith make the journey better. This book will bring joy to your heart."*

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD :

- ~ Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- ~ Forget the health foods. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- ~ When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while your down there.
- ~ You're getting old when you get the sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- ~ Its frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- ~ Time is a great healer but a lousy beautician.
- ~ Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

(Thanks to Kathy Megyeri)

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministry**

Year End Donations: ACPM would like to thank everyone who donated to the ministry through the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree. The foundation received over \$3.6 million in gifts. Endowment gifts also increased from last year. ACPM was blessed to receive \$20,022 in gifts this year and almost \$10,000 in endowment gifts.

Celebration of Grace: The "*Celebration of Grace*" Sunday event will be held on April 27, the Sunday after Easter. Churches and organizations in Adams County and surrounding counties are invited to save the date. Celebrate the grace and mercy of God towards inmates and their families by setting aside time in worship services to pray specifically for those incarcerated; to come to the Lord's Table in Communion in honor of inmates; and to consider a special offering to support the ministry of ACPM at Adams County Adult Correctional Complex. Participant packets will be made available in March.

Compassion International

From Brayan's November 18 letter:

Hello dear sponsor friend, I am glad to greet you. I hope you are in good health. God bless you. My family and I are well thanks to God. I want to tell you about my neighborhood. My neighborhood is called Cebadia. It is a neighborhood far away from the city but we are close to nature. I like my neighborhood because the people are nice and God allows us to have a river near our house. My family and friends go to the river on vacations. We enjoy and have a lot of fun. I like to play soccer on the field. We use the bus for transportation. The people in my neighborhood work in agriculture and house construction. The women stay at home. I want to tell you that I am working in construction and I enjoy riding my motorcycle to work. What is the name of your neighborhood? What do you like to do in your neighborhood? God bless you and your family. I ask you to pray for my family to be healthy and enjoy Christmas as a family. I say goodbye to you. I hope to hear from you soon. Love, Brayan.

Kevin & Maria Noyes (DiscipleMakers)

From their December 24 "Merry Christmas" email:



As we celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas season, we wanted to share a glimpse of how God has been working in one of our student leaders this fall. Be encouraged that this good news of great joy that the angel brought to the shepherds is still changing lives today!

How God is Working in one of our Student Leaders at Penn State York

Karoul is a senior at Penn State York studying biology and plans to go to medical school after graduation. She was born in Egypt but came to the United States as an infant. She would tell you that she used to be shy and timid around people but now God has changed her into a people person who enjoys investing deeply in relationships.

She often drives younger students to events, meets up with younger ladies to encourage them in their walk with the Lord, and talks to her non-Christian friends about Jesus. I (Maria) have the privilege of meeting weekly with Karoul for discipleship.

**What is one thing you learned from Bible study this semester?**

"One thing I learned from Bible study is that Jesus moves towards those who society neglects. Throughout Mark, Jesus moves towards the sick, towards the lonely, towards the troubled. He shows time and time again that He is always there and ready to heal and cleanse those who seek Him."

Continued on the next page . . .

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What is one thing you learned from leadership team this semester?

"As we read Sent this year in LT, I learned that although we are sent to others to speak of the Gospel, we are not alone and must not attribute success to our own doing. Rather the Lord uses other Christians as well and not to mention He has supernatural power and is working in people even when we can't see it. This made me rely on the Lord more when I talk to others about Jesus."

What is one way God grew you this year?

"One way God grew me this year was by allowing me to not put too much pressure on my academic success. Although important, it was an idol for me in the past. However this past semester, I feel that my identity is more rooted in Christ rather than my own works. This gives me a strong confidence that ironically allows me to do better academically as a result. "

How can we pray for you?

"I would appreciate prayers that the I turn to the Lord more when I am upset and not to what the world offers. Many times, I stumble into the pleasures and distractions of the world as a way to help me feel better. Please pray that I take every opportunity where I am not emotionally at my best to bring that honestly to the Lord."

Prayer Requests

Would you join us in praying for God to make disciples and build His kingdom in these specific ways?

1. Praise God for his work in Karoul. Please continue to pray for Karoul to turn to the Lord and not worldly things when she is upset. Pray that she would learn to be honest with the Lord and that God would continue to give her courage and boldness to share the gospel on and off campus.
2. Please pray for our students who are carrying big burdens from and for their families. Pray for God to give them strength to endure trials at home or to care for their families. Please also pray that these hard dynamics would draw our students closer to Jesus.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Christian and Rayan Weaner

TeachBeyond – Dakar Academy, Dakar, Senegal - West Africa

Hello friends and family!

We hope you enjoyed this wonderful holiday season with those you love! We apologize for the late letter from the month of December, but as most of you know, the past several weeks have been spent on the go back in the states as we have been busy visiting with family, catching up with many of our supporting churches, and getting some much needed rest.

We had every intention of sending out a special printed newsletter this month in honor of the holidays, but unfortunately, we underestimated how busy these few weeks would be.

That being said, you all have been in our thoughts and prayers, and we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to connect with many of you during this trip. If we did not get to see you, know we are still thinking of you and are so grateful for each of your thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement for us as well. It is hard saying goodbye when we don't know when "next time" is going to be, but your support, even from a distance, means the world to us.

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

From playing in the snow in Idaho with our nephews and attending Christmas Eve service to braving the blistery cold on a day trip in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, we enjoyed the time we got to spend with family while we were back in the states.



First Semester Finished

To recap the whole month of December would take too long because it was just such a special month.



However, a few moments that stuck out to us were our Christmas play and other holiday festivities with our students and friends at DA, wrapping up our first semester of school, and traveling home to see our family and friends.

It feels so surreal to already be at the end of the fall semester, but we are so grateful for such a fun, encouraging experience in our new home as we have met and fellowshiped with many of our brothers and sisters from around the world.

We bundled up in every warm layer of clothes we had with us and ventured out into the city during our long layover in Madrid.

Rayan and her fellow directors did an amazing job with the Christmas Play. Plus, the students surprised them with some lovely bouquets after curtain call on closing night!

One of our friends had our Bible study group over for raclette — a French family-style dinner consisting of boiled potatoes, melted cheeses and sliced meats. Bon Appétit!

Prayer Requests

As we enter into the new year, there are a few prayer requests that we would love to share.

In the coming weeks we would love prayer for safe travels as we will be flying to a training in South Africa with our organization, Teach Beyond. It will be a pretty intense training, as we will be talking about safety and crisis protocols, but we are excited to do some fun sight-seeing along the way to make it as lighthearted as possible!



We would also love for you to join us in prayer for my (Rayan's) Georgia family as they are grieving the loss of a precious friend that passed away over the holidays.

Lastly, as always, we ask for continued prayers as we begin the new spring semester this week and that there would be good health for our students and staff, as well as many fruitful opportunities to continue building relationships with our local neighbors.

We were blessed with the opportunity to visit several supporting churches and share a little bit about our ministry so far in Dakar. Thank you for these wonderful opportunities to share about what God is doing here in Senegal!

Just before the end of the fall semester, it started to look a lot like fire season in Idaho. Except this was a sand-storm blowing in from the Sahara rather than smoke from wildfires.

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A Powerful Poem

Before we came back to the states for the holidays, we asked one of our students if we could share her beautiful poem that she wrote for our school's Christmas poetry contest. We hope it will bless you as much as it blessed us.

Don't Forget by Evie

Don't forget the wrapping paper

Don't forget the tree

Don't forget the ornaments

And don't forget the wreath

Don't forget the presents

And don't forget the elf

Make sure all the fall decor is hidden on the shelf

But don't forget the manger

And don't forget the hay

Don't forget the stable in which Mary had to stay

Don't forget the baby

Don't forget the love

Don't forget the sacred star that shown up above

Don't forget the promise

That our Lord made

That he would rip the curtain

And we would all be saved

While we know the Christmas season is over, we hope that you will join us in continuing to remember the sacrifice Jesus made in humbling himself to become a baby, leaving his throne of glory for a cradle in a manger. Let us strive to live every day knowing this truth, and though none of us know what 2025 will hold, through every exciting and difficult moment, may we not forget the manger or the baby that came because He so loved us all.

All our love,

Christian and Rayan Weaner

Rev. Ryan & Alethia White

PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Northern and Central Europe

From their January 10 email "Recording Coffee & Conversation":

Prayers and Support for LA fire communities

The destruction following the fires in the Los Angeles area is unfathomable. Altadena, where we lived in our first apartment, and Pacific Palisades have been completely devastated. It is heartbreaking to see the community that we first called home destroyed and friends losing homes.

Continued on the next page . . .

New Resource on Christian Zionism

Did you know the Bible and Christianity came out of Palestine?

Did you know we as Presbyterians are called to act for justice in Palestine/Israel?

Did you know the PC(USA) has been working with local people in the Middle East for 200 years?

Did you know we have many denominational resources to support your stand with our Palestinian and Israeli partners as they advocate for peace with justice, such as ...

The following resource has been created to facilitate discussion and action as we yearn for peace: <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/0619-WM-Dublin%20CZ%20resource.pdf>

CEC Consultation on "Just Peace"

Ryan attended the Conference of European Churches held a consultation on "Just Peace" with a focus on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and how churches can respond. Of particular value was the participation of representatives from the various churches in Ukraine. Participants discussed the challenges of balancing theoretical ideals with practical realities, particularly regarding non-violent resistance and self-defense.

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe celebrates 60 years!

Alethia attended the conference celebrating the 60th anniversary of CCME advocating and standing in solidarity with migrants in Europe. Keynotes included the topic of "Human dignity and human rights: central motives for Churches' work on asylum and migration" and a panel "Calling & committing the churches to work for and with migrants, refugees and minority ethnic persons: experiences of 60 years".

**CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES****SPECIAL COLLECTION**

January 26, February 3, and February 9.

Donations may be placed in the offering plate, and checks should be made payable to LMCPD with
California Wildfires on the note line.

***From the PDA Website:***

Southern California is facing multiple uncontrolled fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate and more than 57,000 homes are threatened.

PDA is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained and evacuation orders have been lifted. We pray for all lives affected, for swift containment and the safety of first responders.,

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating fires in California, which authorities are calling a historic and deadly wildfire event. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ.

God will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge;

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Psalms 91:4



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on January 21, 2025, 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:

- ~ Membership as of 1/17/2025: Active Members (AM = CA):160*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 264. *Changes in Membership include the sad news of the passing of Carol Moser on January 11, 2025, with a memorial service planned for Saturday, January 25, 2025 in the sanctuary with a committal service immediately following the service at the Church cemetery. Also, Ben, Haven, Caleb, and Ethan Minor were removed from the membership rolls per their request and as approved at the November 26, 2024 Session Meeting.
- ~ 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:

- ~ Communion schedule for 2025.
- ~ Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:30 PM: Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Dinner in the fellowship hall.
- ~ Lenten Book Study by Pastor Englund-Krieger on the following Wednesdays: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9 from 5:30 – 7:00pm with soup and salad in the fellowship hall.
- ~ Easter, Sunday, April 20, 2025: Sunrise service with a congregational breakfast immediately following the service.
- ~ That Naomi's Sisters meet each Wednesday throughout the year at different locations for various events and activities.
- ~ That the Couples Group meet the second Saturday evening of each month at various members' homes for fellowship and study.
- ~ That the Men's Breakfast occurs the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall with breakfast and different speakers each month.
- ~ Winter Banquet to be held on February 1, 2025, at 11:30 AM at the Barn Restaurant, Gettysburg, PA.
- ~ That the Clerk of Session submit the Annual Statistical Report to the General Assembly.
- ~ A special collection on January 26, February 3, and February 9 for the California wildfire victims.
- ~ \$6,600 to be sent out of the mission endowment fund to the Weaners in Africa for the 2025/26 school year.
- ~ Participate in the tours of the Mission of Mercy vehicles at Four Square Church, open to the congregation, in the Spring 2025.
- ~ Approved requesting permission from the Presbytery to immediately recruit, nominate and elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee to search for our next installed pastor.
- ~ Approved that Elder Doyle Waybright take the lead in our discussions with the Presbytery and the Commission on Ministry (COM) regarding the process for the search for our next pastor.
- ~ Approved appointing a special team to work with Office Manager, Barb Schwartz, during her transition, to revise the job description for the position of Office Manager and to search for a replacement. The special committee to oversee Barb's replacement includes Elders Mike Orleski, Lauren Neely, Bev Benner and at-large Personnel Committee member Carlos Wampler.

From the Clerk's Desk *continued on the next page . . .*

From the Clerk's Desk *continued from the preceding page . . .*

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

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

- ~ Appointed LMC corporate officers for 2025: President: Joe Jackson, Vice President: Ron Milhimes and Sec/Trea Lanny Winters.
- ~ Looking into HVAC contract Renewal.
- ~ Heat in Narthex has been repaired

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

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

- ~ Souper bowl Sunday, 2/9: Funds raised will go to the Gettysburg soup kitchen and can and packaged goods will go to the Fairfield Food Pantry.
- ~ Budget team liaisons were identified: Home Ministry: Joe Jackson; Spiritual Life: Dana McDonald; the I&S team chair, Lauren Neely, serves as chair of the Budget Team, along with the I&S team members, including Office Manager, Barbara Schwartz.
- ~ The team notified the nominating committee for the need for an auditor due to a vacancy.
- ~ The November and December 2024 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.

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

- ~ Sunday School – approved to change time for all Sunday School classes to 8:30-9:30am each Sunday (previously 9:00-9:45am) to accommodate those who need to leave early for worship service responsibilities. This change will be effective starting Sunday, March 2, 2025.
- ~ Deacon Representative for 2025 is Julie Orleski.
- ~ Coffee Hour to be hosted by the Spiritual Life Team on Sunday, February 16 immediately following the worship service.
- ~ Planning potluck parties for Pastor Mark and Barb – dates TBD.
- ~ Naomi's Sisters will coordinate a birthday card shower for Mabert Anderson's 100th birthday on February 13.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- ~ The annual reports for the Presbytery are completed and will be submitted on or before January 31, 2025. The statistical report for the General Assembly is completed and will be submitted by February 10, 2025.
- ~ Doyle Waybright and Dana McDonald have been elected as elder commissioners from LMC to the next Presbytery meeting to be held on February 8, 2025 at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church.
- ~ On January 5, 2025, the Session received notice from Pastor Mark of his intention to retire effective September 30, 2025 with his last day leading worship on September 7, 2025.
- ~ Discussed the steps necessary to search for our next installed pastor. The Session agreed to invite representatives of the Presbytery to begin planning for this pastoral transition. This conversation with representatives of the Presbytery is scheduled for February 10.
- ~ The Session received notice from Barb Schwartz of her intention to retire as the church Office Manager effective May 31, 2025.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – DECEMBER 2024

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	DECEMBER— 2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$32,116.51	\$284,592.52	\$262,571.00
Other Income	\$1,903.93	\$49,706.49	\$63,415.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,020.44	\$334,299.01	\$325,986.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$2,178.53	\$4,914.28	\$14,750.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$98.74	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,720.75	\$5,648.00
Home Ministry	\$21,976.16	\$70,639.22	\$87,100.00
Church Administration	\$22,184.71	\$212,468.28	\$215,088.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$46,339.40	\$293,841.27	\$325,986.00
Transfer of funds to 2025 budget	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$42,318.96	\$10,457.74	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/2024: \$52,114.43

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	DECEMBER— 2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$9,090.25	\$91,170.81	\$91,200.00
Other Income	\$26.22	\$2,050.37	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,116.47	\$93,221.18	\$91,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,325.05	\$95,375.42	\$91,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$1,208.58	-\$2,154.24	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/2024: \$0.01

Notable expenses for DECEMBER— COF: Annual property/liability insurance payments (\$17,911), Property Maintenance (\$3,000.80) - MOM: Kevin and Maria Noyes (\$3,900), AGAPE Intl (\$2,200), Presby. Council for Chaplains (\$1,000)

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT — 2024**INVESTMENTS**

Account Description	Opening Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Unrealized	Closing Balance
Capitol Improvement Fund	\$162,365.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,891.76	\$165,257.09
Cemetery Fund	\$4,214.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$89.11	\$4,125.28
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	\$201,527.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$386.84	\$201,914.83
Mission Endowment Fund	\$155,648.42	\$9.68	\$1,626.34	-\$1,143.54	\$152,888.22
Woods Scholarship Fund	\$104,105.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,554.26	\$102,551.60
David Scott Youth Fund	\$95,568.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,592.11	\$100,160.44
300th Anniversary Fund	\$4,277.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.13	\$4,327.47
			Total Investments:		\$731,224.93

DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS

Account Description	Opening Balance	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 12/31/2024
Winter Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers	\$7,805.14	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$9,205.14
Marriage Retreat Fees	\$0.00	\$890.00	\$0.00	\$890.00
Sanctuary Flowers	\$574.30	\$765.00	\$490.00	\$849.30
Men's Breakfast	\$110.19	\$135.00	\$107.67	\$137.52
Bulletins	\$359.68	\$20.00	\$62.93	\$316.75
Pastor's Study Leave	\$932.08	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,932.08
David Scott Youth Fund	\$6,674.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,674.71
Diaper Drive	\$3.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.80
Spiritual Life Extra	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Spiritual Life Activities Fund	\$3,664.53	\$0.00	\$895.00	\$2,769.53

SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Account Description	Opening Balance 09/30/2024	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 12/31/2024
Membership Assistance Fund	\$1,891.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,891.85
Cemetery Fund	\$15,361.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,361.34
Gifts & Memorials Fund	\$8,794.21	\$1,615.00	\$17.98	\$10,391.23
Checking Acct.— M&T Bank	\$5,403.11	\$20,904.62	\$20,000.00	\$6,307.73

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

Li'l Ripples February 2025



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday School 9:00 - 9:45 AM
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00AM
Nursery 9:00 - 11:00 PM

Church Office Information

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Phone Number - 717-642-5332
Email address - office@lmcpc.org
Website - www.lmcpc.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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

Li'l Ripples

Fay Hess - Editor

717 - 476 - 5682

or

lilripples@gmail.com