

Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A message from

Pastor Mark



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JUNE 20TH is the DUE DATE
for the JULY-AUGUST ISSUE

Augustine (Born 354 - Died 430)

Augustine of Hippo may be the greatest and most influential of the early "Fathers" of the Church. He served as the Bishop of Hippo, which is an ancient city in what is today Algeria in northern Africa. It is fascinating for me to hear his name being mentioned in news reports today due to the fact that the newly elected pope is an Augustinian monk. The Augustinians are an order of Roman Catholic monks who trace the lineage and legacy to Augustine. But Augustine also has had profound influence on Protestants.

Martin Luther was an Augustinian monk. Luther learned and expanded his understanding of God's grace while studying as a monk. This study took Luther in a bold new direction and launched the Protestant Reformation with its hallmark emphasis on grace. And, of course, Luther rejected the Roman Catholic Church and disavowed his ordination as a monk. John Calvin, in the second generation of the Reformation, also cited the important work of Augustine in his powerful doctrine of grace which gave birth to our Reformed Tradition. Thus despite the massive upheaval and divisions that were sparked by the Protestant Reformation, both the Protestant and the Roman Catholic sides exalt Augustine. For Catholics he is a Saint who helped save the Church when the Roman Empire was crumbling, called forth a deep devotion to Jesus, and founded a monastic order which has continued through the generations to the new pope. For Protestants, Augustine articulated and proclaimed a powerful doctrine of sin and righteousness, and the overarching power of God's grace which became the theological foundation of Protestant Reformation.

I see God's hand at work here, subtly and deeply. This Christian faith of ours will continue, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, to move through the generations despite the obstacles and divisions that our churches often put in the way. Our Christian faith will continue to speak and teach into cultures, places and contexts that so often seem against it. This Christian faith, lived and breathed by a gifted, devout church leader like Augustine in the 300s, continues to change lives and transform hearts today.

The Confessions of Augustine is a small book that has been widely shared as a profound expression of spiritual reflection, devotion and prayer. This sentence from the Confessions is famous and powerfully relevant: "*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.*"

For those who are still restless and seeking, I hope you find this peace in Christ.

For those of us who have found this "rest", thanks be to God . . .

In Christ!
Mark



CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST

**COFFEE HOUR**

On

June 1 there will be a Coffee Hour after the worship service hosted by the Women's Guild and the I & S Team. We will be giving out scholarships and honoring the graduates.

Phyllis Smith

FUNFEST

Will be held on **June 13 from 3 - 7 PM** at the Rec Park in Gettysburg and is sponsored by the Adams County Library. The 2025 theme is "Color Our World."

FunFest is a free, family-friendly event that celebrates the kick-off of SummerQuest, the Adams County Library System's summer learning program. SummerQuest is designed to engage children, teens and adults in leisure reading, virtual programs and interactive activities, helping to combat the "summer slide" and fostering a love of learning throughout the summer.

FunFest brings together the community by offering engaging, creative activities for children and families. The focus is on learning, exploration and fun in a welcoming, non-partisan environment.

LMCC is sponsoring a booth with games, activities, prizes and will be handing out Bibles.

There will be an organizational meeting on **Thursday May 29 at 6 PM** for anyone interested in helping. If you are interested or have questions please contact Phyllis Smith 717-253-3162.

COUPLES GROUP

If anything is excellent - think about such things. "This is Paul's famous command in the extraordinary fourth chapter of Philippians. We will use this verse to guide our conversation at our June Couple's Evening. Married couples of the congregation, please join us on **Saturday June 14 at 5:30**. We will gather at the home of Pastor Mark and Kris, 799 Chestnut Hill Road, Aspers. (If it is a rainy day, this event will be moved to our Fellowship Hall.) Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Our home is west of Heidlersburg off of Rt 234. Parking will be difficult; if possible please carpool.

Pastor Mark

WOMEN ONLINE

The Women's Bible Study meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7:00 PM**. We currently are reading and discussing *A Heart Like His : Intimate Reflections on the Life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us, contact Dana McDonald.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The

Women's Guild will meet on **June 17 at 1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Roz Santay

SATURDAY MORNING ON THE PORCH

On **June 21 from 9 to 11 AM**, there will be a *Saturday Morning on the Porch* which is an informal women's coffee/tea get together. It will be held on Mary Smith's porch at 180 Park Avenue, Gettysburg. Just come as you are and enjoy some great fellowship and food. Please let Roz Santay or Mary Smith know if you are planning to attend. Hope to see many women there !



Jahanzaib Nasiri

Jahanzaib is a high school senior, planning on attending Gettysburg College to study Computer Science and Business. He is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, participated on the Wrestling Team and Track and Field. He participated in Peace Camp (ICPJ/Gettysburg). Attends mosque when able (there is not one close by) and attends the Gettysburg College Student Muslim Association Meetings. Jahanzaib takes an active role in training his five siblings on the Quran and Arabic writing. He moved to the United States with his family in 2021 and has learned English and is an honor student in school. *"Throughout my experiences, I have learned respect, integrity, and how to be responsible and successful in life."* Please congratulate Jahanzaib on his accomplishments.

Farishta Nasiri

Farishta is senior at Gettysburg Area School and will be attending Gettysburg College to study Health Sciences with the hope of becoming a Physician or Anesthesiologist Assistant. She moved to the United States in 2021 with her family from Afghanistan. She has participated as an assistant in the PA Migrant Education Summer Program, Gettysburg College Muslim Student Association and is a Gettysburg High School Warrior Ambassador. Farishta helps with teaching the Quran to her siblings and is a devout Muslim. Farishta knows she is fortunate to be educated. Her native country does not permit girls and women to be educated. She *"knows education is the key to a bright future that will enable her to help her parents and others."* Please congratulate Farishta on her accomplishments.

Kylie Wampler

Kylie is a freshman attending West Virginia University to study Exercise Physiology. During High School she was very active in sports, tennis, lacrosse and basketball as well as a member of the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. Kylie participates in The Foundry Church as a member in Morgantown and Delight Ministries WVU, an all girl college ministry. Kylie credits God with keeping her on her desired path in college. She is hoping to be a Physical Therapist when she graduates. Please congratulate Kylie



DO YOU KNOW ?Our Accomplished Church Greeter

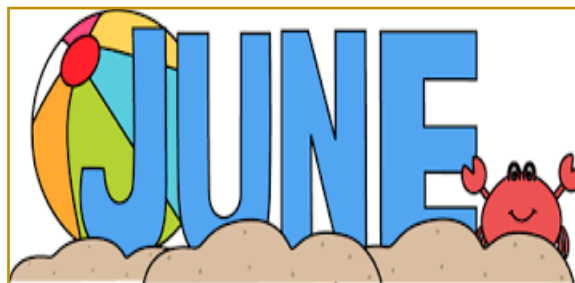
Each Sunday, this smiling church greeter opens the door and welcomes me and many others into the service of worship. But, what many LMCPG attendees do not know are of his many accomplishments. He's become for me a personal role model. Dave Diehl is past vice-president and an at-large director of the US Masters Swimming program at the University of Maryland's M Club and winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award after 13 years of service there; he's executive director emeritus of this organization of athletes helping athletes. He's won multiple swimming medals, was a swimming coach, a lifeguard, founded and was leader of a water exercise class and his list of awards, medals and accolades is extensive, and it doesn't even include his 35 years in IT. And for me personally, as a noncompetitive old lady swimmer at the Gettysburg YMCA, I have a profound admiration for the skill, dedication, practice, and physical prowess a swimmer (particularly one of Dave's age) needs to compete with other Master's swimmers as they are the best in the sport. So when Pastor Mark preached on Mother's Day that worshippers must be welcomed into service if they are to feel a sense of belonging and a sense of being known, I couldn't help but think of Dave as he is so much more than a smiling face extending his hand as he opens the church door each Sunday. He's a role model for senior fitness and at the same time, he exudes Christian commitment and love for all of those who enter LMCPG each Sunday. His warm and direct greeting not only makes us feel welcome and known, but his commitment to swimming and to being the first smiling face of each service says, "Come in, Christ's message is waiting for you, and your attendance with others at this historic church will become a vital part of your weekly walk with the Lord." Thank you for your service, Dave.

It is appreciated.

Kathy Megyeri

Happy Birthday to these members of the LMCC family !

6 - Catherine Orleski
 9 - Katelyn Stephens
 12 - Deb Stottlemeyer
 12 - Peg Roth



15 - David Bruss
 23 - Pamela Grove
 27 - Susan Nunamaker
 28 - Robin Whiteman

THINGS TO PONDER -

~People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
 ~Standing on the promises; not just sitting on the premises.

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older.

Then it dawned on me: they're cramming for their final exam.

George Carlin



Good Friday Service at the LMCC Cemetery

April 18, 2025

*"It was a beautiful day and
a wonderful time of reflection."*

Thanks to Kris Englund-Krieger
for the photos and the caption.



National
Day
Of
Prayer
Service
May 1, 2025



Gathering for the 5 PM service which was held in the Cross Garden on the LMCC property. The service was followed by a light picnic supper of hotdogs on the grill, chips and drinks. Thanks everyone.



The Women's Guild went to Hillside on the 6th of May. Dirk entertained the residents with music and the Guild gave them cookies and juice boxes and played Bingo with them. It was a rewarding day all around! A woman resident and Roz were "flying away" to the song, *I'll Fly Away*.

Thanks to Pastor Mark for the photos.



Editor's Note: The following item, offering paper copies of John McMann's testimony, was received for inclusion in this issue of the newsletter. Due to other columns being lighter than usual this month, I was able also to include John's whole testimony *An Answered Prayer* for the spiritual enlightenment of the readers.

I had a miraculous thing happen to me on the night of March 16, 1996. Not only will I never forget that night (I can recall it as if it were yesterday), that night changed my life forever. That was the night my sister died. Some of you may have already heard this story.

Not long ago I told the story to Pastor Mark. He recommended that I put the story in writing. I did that a few months ago, and I have been giving out copies.

I have made a number of copies that I put in Barb's office. So, if you would like to take a copy, please do. After you read it, you may wish to pass it on to someone else who would find it meaningful.

Your Brother in Christ, John McMann

An Answered Prayer

I had a sister who had Downs Syndrome. Her name was Susan. She was four years younger than me. I can remember at a very early age that I knew she was different; she wasn't like other young children.

I don't specifically remember this, but I know that I must have asked my parents why Susan was different. And, I also know they must have done their best to answer my question.

When I was a little bit older, perhaps six years old, I vaguely remember praying at bed time about her. The earliest prayer I can remember was, *"Dear God, when I wake up in the morning please make Susan like the other children."* I also remember my disappointment when I went down stairs and peeked in her bed room and then watched her at breakfast, I realized that God had not "fixed" her.

I changed my prayer a bit later to something along the line of *"Why God, did you make Susan like this?"* As I got a little older, I realized that Susan would not have a normal life; she would not get married and would not have children, and she would always need someone to help her. It was as if she would be four years old for her whole life. I felt really sorry for her because I knew she would miss so much.

My parents took her to a top ranked University Hospital to be evaluated, and the doctors there recommended that she be institutionalized. They explained that she would be fine in this environment and my parents would have a much better life. My parents, bless their hearts, did not like this idea; they were determined to give her as normal a life as they could; which they did, and Susan had a remarkably happy life.

I remember some wonderful things about Susan when I was about 10 to 12 years old: She was very humble. She had strong faith; (she went to a Sunday school for the developmentally disabled). She had unconditional love. She was instantly forgiving. (If I wronged her in some way, not intentionally of course, she would say to me *"That OK bruder, don't worry 'bout it."*)

When we used to walk around the neighborhood, if Susan saw someone she knew, she would run up to them and give them a big hug. She was a very sweet and loving person.

Fast forwarding:

When I was 22 years old, a college graduate, and married with one child, we were attending a Presbyterian Church in Columbia Maryland, but we were not yet members. The pastor of the church came for a visit. We had

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a nice talk and as the pastor stood up and started to leave, he said, "Oh, John and Ellen, are there any questions you have for me." And yes, I had a question. It was the same question I had been asking in my prayers for about 18 years: "Why did God make Susan like he did?" The pastor gave a great answer. The pastor said it is not possible to understand every aspect of God's plan. We just have to accept certain things on faith. Unfortunately, the pastor's answer was just not definitive enough for me. Having studied engineering, I was taught to study problems in great detail and to consider every possible cause and effect. I would continue praying my same prayer, asking God why.

I was working for the Air Force at the time, and I got transferred from Andrews AF Base to Wright-Patterson AF Base in Dayton Ohio. I could no longer visit Susan and my Dad very often. (My Mother had died before this time.)

My Dad's health was deteriorating, he had cancer. He took care of Susan as long as he was able. When he was no longer able, he placed Susan in a home for disabled children, called Bello Machre. My wife traveled to Maryland to help my Dad and visit Susan when she could. When my Dad died, I became Susan's guardian. I then began using all my vacation time to visit Susan when my job allowed it. I had my own program at the time and I was working for a Major General, so I couldn't be away very much. On one of my trips to Maryland, we were able to move Susan from Bello Machre's large apartment complex to a single family home owned by Bello Machre. We moved Susan's bedroom furniture from our Dad's house to a private bedroom in the single-family house. Susan liked this much better; it was more like home. The house was managed by a very nice caregiver and there were three other developmentally disabled young ladies living in the same house. Susan's health was monitored by the same doctor who took care of her while she was at home. I called the doctor about once a week to see how she was doing, and the doctor would call me in Dayton if any issues arose.

The doctor did call me about an issue: Susan was starting to show symptoms of dementia. As her dementia progressed, Susan began to have difficulty swallowing. (This is not unusual with people who have Downs syndrome.) Her doctor and I began to talk more frequently.

A couple of weeks later, the doctor called to report that Susan could no longer eat because she choked on her food. On the next call he reported that she now could no longer drink either, because of choking. She began to get weaker day by day, and it was not long before she was bedridden.

I asked the doctor about giving her a feeding tube. He recommended not doing that. He said that she would likely pull it out. He added that if she died while using a feeding tube, it would be from respiratory failure. He said this is a traumatic way to die as it is much like drowning. Where as if she did not have a feeding tube she would die from lack of nutrition and water, which would be like going to sleep.

About two weeks after that, the doctor called and recommended that we be with Susan as she did not have much time left. I went in and talked to the General and he said he would temporarily assign someone to look after my program while I go to be with Susan. I was able to convert my sick leave to what's call family leave for this purpose.

My wife and I drove to Maryland and stayed at my Dad's house. We brought a change of clothes, some food, and our laptop computer. We decided our main priority was to stay with Susan continuously during her final days. We wanted her to always know one of us was with her at all times. We decided to sit with her in shifts. I would take 8 PM to 8 AM shift and Ellen would take the morning to night shift.

The following occurred on the night of March 16, 1996: When I came into her room she was lying in bed and drifting in and out of consciousness. When she heard me she opened her eyes and gave me a weak smile. She was too weak to talk. I wanted to be sure that she knew I was with her the whole time. I did this by very gently holding one of her hands and speaking softly to her.

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Using a low volume, I played the *Sound of Music* (her favorite) on her tape player. A little while later, lights went off throughout the rest of the house and the house got very quiet. I was sure that this meant it was bedtime for the caregiver and the three other residents in the house.

I turned off the tape player and then all the lights in our room except for a small lamp on the chest of drawers. The room was very quiet and peaceful.

Sitting in a chair close to her bed, I began softly talking to Susan again. I said to her *"you're going to be with Mama soon"*. She opened her eyes slightly and mouthed *"MaMa"*, I teared up. (I didn't say *"Daddy"*, because she didn't know her Dad had died) I began to run out of things to say, so I said the 23rd Psalm and the 100th Psalm (*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"*) Susan loved this Psalm because she loved singing)

About 2:00 AM, I was at a loss of things to say. I was still holding one of her hands, but I thought it would be more comforting if she could hear my voice too. I had her Bible with me. (She had attended a Sunday School for young disabled children.) I decided to read passages from the New Testament in her Bible.

Now, what to read? I didn't know what to read. But I wanted to read so Susan would hear me reading, and it would bring me some peace as well. I decided I would open Susan's Bible randomly to a passage in the New Testament. I would do this by putting the Bible on my lap and just let the pages flip open to anywhere in the New Testament. I also decided that I would just let my eyes fall on any passage on the opened page. What I would not do is to skim around the page looking for a comforting or appropriate passage. I would let fate decide the passage I would read. I don't remember why I decided to do this; maybe I was just too tired to skim the page. I do remember that, because of my engineer training, that once I settled on a plan, there was no way I was going to deviate from that plan.

I moved my chair a little closer to the small lamp. I let the Bible fall open. My eyes fell to this passage: *"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying 'Rabbi, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.'"*

It became clear to me almost immediately. Susan was not a mistake! God made Susan the way He did so that she might be an example for us all, so that we might develop the traits that Susan had: unconditional love, humility, instantly forgiving, and a strong faith. As with the blind man, God's works made manifest in "her".

With my tears running, I bowed my head and prayed. I thanked God that Susan was my sister; I am a better person because of Susan. After 40 years of praying, my prayer was answered.

As I sat there taking in these wonderful thoughts, I thought of something else. I had a lot of education in mathematics, including probability and statistics. I asked myself: did this passage just happened to come up by random chance? This passage answered my prayer so perfectly that I wanted to believe that this was not just a random occurrence, but God's plan. Of all the passages in the New Testament, the probability of this one perfect passage coming up is very, very small.

The more I thought about this the more I had to know. I just couldn't stand not knowing. I got down on my knees and I prayed for forgiveness. The Bible says you are not to put the Lord to a test.

I knew that if I open the Bible to another passage that also answered my prayer, that would mean that the Holy Spirit was at work, and this was not just a random chance occurrence. Two perfect passages out of the whole New Testament, could not be by random chance.

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As I prayed that God would forgive me, I flipped open the New Testament a second time. My eyes dropped down to this passage: *"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set the child in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'"*

I can't even describe my feelings then, certainly something I had never felt before.

Understand that Susan was a child of about 4 years old for her whole life, and here is this passage that has miraculously come to me telling us that if we don't make ourselves like Susan we will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

I was convinced that the Holy Spirit was in the room with us that night or how else could this have happened. It is beyond even an infinitesimal probability that this could happen.

My life changed forever that night. I knew that I had to serve the Lord for the rest of my life, and I have been doing my best to do that ever since March 16, 1996.

My wife came to sit with Susan at 8 AM the next morning, and I went back to Dad's house. Susan died at 9 AM that morning. When I got back to my Dad's house, I sat down with my laptop and wrote everything that happened that night. I knew that this was the most important night of my life and I did not want to forget any detail.

The Pastor from our family church came to see us at Dad's house. I gave him a copy of what I had typed, and the pastor based Susan's memorial service on that.

A couple of days later, I thought of something else I had learned that night: God does answer prayers; He answers them on his time not on your time. And, He answered my prayer at the best possible time.

Praise Be To God

John H. S. McMann



Editor's Note: Below is the first offering of a new column by LMCC's own multi-talented, Dirk Grove. Thanks Dirk!



. . . and, speaking of music . . .

For this is what the LORD says – he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.” – Isaiah 45:18

John Calvin wrote, “Now among the other things which are proper for recreating man and giving him pleasure, music is either the first, or one of the principal; and it is necessary for us to think that it is a gift of God deputed for that use.”

John Calvin and I share that opinion. Music has played a central role in my personal walk of faith, and it continues to do so. I truly think that music, when it is carefully selected and soulfully rendered, possesses the ability to elevate the worship experience exponentially, enhancing and multiplying the reception of God's Word.

In the next few issues of Li'l Ripples, I will share some hymns and gospel songs that speak directly to my heart, along with any historical background information I can find about each one. I hope you find the histories to be as interesting as I do. If any readers would like to see a favorite worship song featured here, please let me know at grovedirk@gmail.com. Just be aware that, since anonymous submissions are no fun at all, I would like to present the selection accompanied by your name. And so, inspired by this gorgeous, glorious, verdant springtime month of May, I present the first “Music that Moves Me” (this is my #1 favorite): “How Great Thou Art.”

On a beautiful, clear day in 1885, Carl Boberg had recently changed jobs. Most recently employed as a sailor, he had decided to become a lay minister in the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. One afternoon, while Boberg and some friends returned from attending a worship service in the bayside town of Mönsterås, he was enjoying the vivid colors and the singing birds of the Swedish countryside. Suddenly, a violent thunderstorm erupted. As soon as it had started, however, the storm was over. Clear skies immediately returned. A bright rainbow appeared, and Carl listened as distant church bells chimed a familiar hymn. He fell on his knees, awestruck by the beauty of God's creation, and he was inspired to write a poem he titled “O Store Gud” - “O Mighty God.” Although the poem was published, it did not appear to have achieved measurable popularity. Nothing more came of it—until several years later, when Bobert heard his poem being sung to the tune of an old Swedish folk melody. More years went by, and Boberg became a successful editor, as well as a member of the Swedish parliament. He continued to write poems and hymns.

Then, in the 1920s, Stuart Hine, an English missionary living in Russia, heard the Russian version of the hymn. It moved him so much that he wrote modified English lyrics and his own arrangement of the Swedish melody. Hine called his composition “How Great Thou Art,” and it is the familiar version we see in almost every hymnal today. But the hymn did not enjoy its current popularity until decades later.

Fast forward to 1954. George Beverly Shea, the celebrated soloist for the Rev. Billy Graham's crusades, received a leaflet containing the hymn. Shea loved the hymn, but he did not include it in his repertoire immediately. However, he sang it to himself and friends often. Then, in Billy Graham's New York Crusade of 1957, George decided to include the hymn, and he sang it with the choir 99 times during that crusade. “How Great Thou Art” soared in popularity, securing its place in church music history.



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

ACACC completed its annual volunteer security training on Tuesday evening, April 15. Our volunteer numbers doubled this year, from 40 to 80 volunteers. During the month of May, ACACC will publish an official list with the names of everyone who has been approved. Those volunteers that have been serving may continue to serve. New volunteers will be contacted to coordinate their integration to the ministry.

Community prayer gatherings (6-7 pm): June 10 (Tuesday) at Memorial Baptist Church (1096 Biglerville Road); July 8 (Tuesday) at Gettysburg Foursquare Church (328 W. Middle Street). Come join us for prayer as we ask the Lord God Almighty to continue to move in the lives of inmates, staff, and family members.

The switch to the new financial institution has been completed and ACPM's online giving is now back in operation.

AGAPE International Missions*From the AIM April Newsletter*

In February, AIM held its first SWAT training in a new region of Cambodia, breaking new ground as we expand our rescue efforts. Led by Eddie Wilson and sponsored by Summit Church, 20 officers were trained in essential tactics like room clearance and suspect handling. The training was well received and marked by strong support from local police leadership, laying the groundwork for deeper partnership.

This quarter's operations led to 86 lives rescued, including 44 children! Each rescue was the result of brave survivors, relentless investigators, and the unwavering support of people like you! When you give, pray, and advocate, you are creating change one life at a time. These operations weren't random or lucky. They were the result of intentional partnerships, tireless investigation, and bold, coordinated raids, many unfolding late at night when most of the world was asleep. Now, 18 traffickers are behind bars awaiting trial and 86 survivors are safe, receiving the care they need and beginning the long journey toward healing and hope. The operations are a powerful reminder that traffickers cannot operate in darkness when light is brought in.

Due to AIM SWAT's incredible success in Q1, our restoration homes in Cambodia are nearing full capacity once again. As we work to create new solutions for safe, ongoing care, we ask you to join us in prayer for the house moms, counselors, and staff who are tirelessly walking with each survivor on her healing journey. Their around-the-clock commitment is a beautiful reflection of Jesus' love — and a reminder that healing is hard work, but always worth it.

**Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County***From the April CEF Newsletter*

Summer ministry will look a little different this year. We are looking for folks to help station the tent at the South Mountain Fair. Tuesday through Friday (4-9 pm) and Saturday (1-10 pm). If anyone is interested, here is a list of what we need: face painters; folks to share the Wordless book; folks to give out balloons, or tracts; anyone willing to engage with folks as they pass by. If you are interested or just have questions, please contact Miss Pam (717-677-4797 or cefadams@gmail.com).

DiscipleMakers

From Kevin & Maria Noyes' April 28 Newsletter



At this year's Women's Conference, God gave me [Maria] the opportunity to talk to a number of students about different issues they're struggling with. On Saturday night, God opened up three back-to-back conversations.

One student at PSU York wanted to discuss how to know when you're ready to get married, since she and her boyfriend are starting to talk about marriage.

While I was talking to this student, I could see another student watching us. I thought she might just be interested in the topic of our conversation, and as soon as the PSU York student got up to leave, this other student made a beeline over to me. She said "You know how you mentioned in your talk this morning that you liked a guy and he didn't like you back? I'm going through that right now. Could we talk?"

So we talked about what to do when you have romantic feelings for someone and they aren't reciprocal. I had never met this student before but she quickly opened up and shared her life with me. Together, we dug into Psalm 63 and explored how we should long for God more than any earthly man.

After these conversations, I headed to the prayer room, a quiet place where students could either pray, or ask for prayer and share their burdens. I had signed up to serve from 9-10 PM. As I walked down the hallway, I prayed for strength. I felt exhausted but I was confident God would give me energy for whatever He had in store for me.

Just a few minutes later, a student walked in. As "Isla" introduced herself, I was blown away. At our staff meeting the day before, one of my coworkers asked prayer for a non-Christian student who kept coming to Christian events. God had brought that exact student to the prayer room!

As Isla sat before me, she said, "I kept walking by this room tonight and something in me knew I needed to come in." Over the next hour, Isla opened up about her deep family brokenness her ongoing sexual sin and shame.

I shared how Jesus was the one true escape from shame, and the one source of true healing from brokenness. We opened God's word and looked at multiple passages including Romans 5:8, which shows how God wanted us in His family so much, he sent Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners!

"A part of me wants to believe in Jesus," Isla said, "but it feels like there's something holding me back, I don't even know what it is."

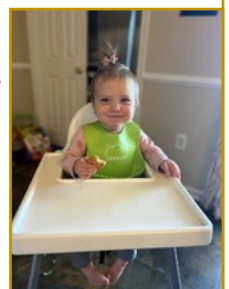
As we kept talking, it became clear that Isla was not ready to put her faith in Jesus that night but I do believe God brought her one step closer that night. Please pray that Isla puts her faith in Jesus before she graduates in May!

In my weakness, God worked through our conversation that lasted over an hour. I knew that night that if I couldn't sleep, the Lord was keeping me awake to pray for Isla's salvation. And that's just what I did. (Although thankfully I fell asleep well before 4 AM that night!)



Noyes News: Hope is finally getting enough hair that we can pull it into a little ponytail! She turned 18 months this month [April] and loves getting into everything. In the midst of lots of sickness this past month, Hope kept us laughing with her antics.

Simeon is a silly guy who still likes to help make desserts for Penn State York. He's started reading books on his own which has been exciting to watch!



SAT-7

From the 2024 SAT - 7 Annual Report

In 2024, SAT-7 continued to grow our media platforms, including social media pages and messaging apps, to connect with our audience of millions through our committed Viewer Support Teams. The impact of our content is demonstrated in the encouraging levels of audience engagement that it achieved: 87,000 conversations; 3,300,000 Instagram engagements; 1,300,000 unique users of SAT-7 PLUS; 28,000,000 YouTube video views; 7,000 counseling or teaching resources accepted; 1,200,000 Facebook followers.

Where your giving goes (SAT-7 all entities): 9% Administration, 10% Fundraising, 81% Program Services. The SAT-7 Executive Board has approved a balanced budget of USD 21.2 million, 1% higher than the 2024 budget, for SAT-7's work worldwide in 2025.

Ministry to Children in the Arab World

In a region where war and trauma have scarred so many young hearts and minds in 2024, the team at SAT-7 KIDS have been hard at work creating Christ-centered content to heal and encourage viewers, from deeply moving short films to heart felt studio discussions.

Jesus is Our Strength is a brand-new program that started in September 2024 for pre-teens who need help to navigate life's most challenging experiences. With Christ's teaching as its foundation, the program uses fun activities, inspiring stories, and interactive segments to support viewers holistically. Highly positive feedback has already come in from children and their parents. "May God bless your ministry and all the team of the *Jesus is Our Strength* program," said Jana, a teenage girl from Egypt. "The topics you present are truly very important, and we learn a lot from them." Meanwhile, a father from Lebanon commented, "Thank you for everything you provide for our children. Thanks to everyone involved in Jesus is Our Strength... May the Lord Jesus reward your efforts of love."

We Grow Together is another interactive 25 live program, but for slightly younger Arab children. The show helped viewers to cope with immense challenges, such as war, poverty, or bullying. Through discussions, live music, and prayer, presenters Fawzi and Shady created a nurturing environment. The first episode of *We Grow Together*, which aired in late October 2024, sought to help children manage feelings of fear and anxiety. The episode included a story about Jesus calming the storm, along with interactive and entertaining activities to help children understand and overcome fear.

Meanwhile, popular children's show *Cupcake* reminded young viewers of essential biblical truths. One episode from season two told viewers, "You are greatly loved" referencing Daniel 9:23b (ESV), while another emphasized God's trustworthiness in all circumstances. "[My daughter] loves all your programs... her favorite show is *Cupcake*," said one parent. "I pray that God uses you to reveal Himself to all the children around the world."

La Fiesta reveals the love of God through music and encourages viewers to address their difficulties with God's help. "Listen to these worship songs with Natalie and friends," a presenter said during one episode, "and share with us how God helped you face your problems." Walid, a viewer from Egypt, responded, "We had problems in the family, but I prayed for God to come to our house and fill it with blessings, love, and peace. He answered my prayers, and I thank Him. I love you all."

New worship program *My Jesus*, which is broadcast from a beautiful boat-shaped set, finished its first season in 2024. Each episode featured a worship team from a different church, so children not only heard about the goodness of Jesus in song but also saw His disciples praising Him in different ways. In between songs, the teams shared reflections on the character of Jesus. Episode topics included "Jesus is here", "Jesus forgives", and "Jesus is coming again."

Young Life*From the Young Life Spring Update*

Since fall we have been meeting in GAHS with a group of Campaigner kids. This group has grown from 3 or 4 at the beginning of the year, to about 12 students now who are opening their Bible weekly to look at Scripture and talk about what God is doing in their lives.

We had an amazing banquet with lots of new people in the room. We are so grateful to all who attended and the generosity of our guests. Together we were able to raise nearly \$20,000.

Please pray for the spots in Young Life Camp (July 9-14) and WyldLife Camp (July 17-21) to fill up and for students to meet Jesus in the most personal way.

Are you interested in leading, joining our committee, or simply praying for young people in Adams County? Do you know of people in Biglerville or Fairfield that would be interested in helping to get Young Life started in these school districts? Please email Martin at martin.polok.93@gmail.com or text at 717-504-0377.

P E N T E C O S T

Serving God by

DEACONS INFORMATION

*Serving others***TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY:**

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:Susan Nunamaker 717- 642- 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305Jim Welsh 717- 377- 5370Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123**BOARD OF DEACONS**Class of 2025

Lori Jackson

Al Miller

Jim Welsh

Class of 2026

Elaine Reichl

Joe Reichl

John Stottlemeyer

Class of 2027

Pam Johnson

Julie Orleski

Doris Wampler



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 5/17/2025: Active Members (AM = CA): 158*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 262. *Changes in Membership include the sad news of the passing of Bob Muchow on May 13, 2025, with a memorial service planned for Saturday, June 7, 2025 in the sanctuary.
- 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 Use of Fellowship Hall on 2nd Saturdays of each month from 5-8pm for the Couples' Bible Study group in the case of inclement weather.
- o Vacation days for Pastor Mark Englund-Krieger: Week of July 7 to 13, 2025. Bev Benner will lead worship on Sunday July 13. September 8 to 30, 2025. His official last day of service will be September 30.
- o September 6, 2025: Diaper Drive, 10 am to noon. Will receive donations of diapers and funding for diapers.

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

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

- o Exploring options for replacing the church sign on Rt 116.

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

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

- o Will reallocate the funds in the MOM budget for the Moe's, since they are no longer missionaries, to the Disciple makers.
- o Budget Committee met on May 19 and teams will start 2026 budget discussions in June.
- o The April 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 Planning potluck retirement picnic for Pastor Mark on August 31, 2025.
- o June 1 coffee hour to be sponsored by the Women's Guild and I&S.
- o July 13 coffee hour to be hosted by the Stitchers group.

Continued on the next page . . .

Spiritual Life Team continued from the preceding page . . .

- o On June 14, the Couples Bible Study will be hosted by Pastor Mark and Kris at their home.
- o Planning for Fun Fest on June 13. A planning meeting will be held on May 29 at 6pm.
- o Exploring an outing for a minor league baseball game sometime in July.
- o Will provide cookies on Father's Day.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o The Clerk completed the 2024 Presbytery records review and the records were approved on May 3 at Central PC in Chambersburg.
- o Met with Conservator Maria Pukownik to review historic records from the 1820s of former LMCPC Pastor, Rev. Paxton. We are awaiting a quote on the cost to possibly repair and preserve the records. Have also contacted the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia for guidance.
- o At a special meeting on April 27, Session approved the Mission Discernment Profile (MDP) that is used for recruitment of a new installed pastor. The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) then received approval from the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery to proceed. Good progress is being made.
- o Session is exploring the possibility of a leasing arrangement with Adams County Rescue Mission for a small daycare center.



The Giving Corner

SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2025

On May 4, 2025, Pastor Mark, prepared and presented a sermon on Sacramental Living. In his message he suggested that this type of living is modeling, to the best of our abilities, how Jesus showed us to live. Before you go any further in this reading, please turn to Genesis and read Chapters 1 and 2.

Try to imagine leaving the glory of Heaven to come to earth in human form and show love to everyone. God – Jesus – Holy Spirit were at the beginning and knew how wonderful all this creation was, designed to the smallest detail just for us. Think about that for a minute. From the very beginning of time God was showing us how to share all things. If you read Genesis 2:15 it says “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it”. He made him a steward for all that He had created. How amazing and generous was that?

Please take time this summer to truly look around at all the “good” you see. Remember we are still charged to be good stewards of the blessings we receive. Feel the gratitude all through your being.

Oh, Lord, my God

When I, in awesome wonder

Consider all, the worlds Thy hands have made

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder

Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then signs my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

The sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Challenge yourself to practice gratitude as you start each day.

God loves you so much He will lead you in ways that will be amazing and will give you peace.

| FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – APRIL 2025 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Church Operating Fund (COF) Income | | | | |
| Account Description | APRIL—2025 | | Year-to-Date 2025 | 2025 Budget |
| Offering Income | \$17,535.50 | | \$84,798.44 | \$276,092.00 |
| Other Income | \$3,104.4 | | \$14,168.03 | \$29,430.00 |
| Transfer of funds from 2024 budget | \$0.00 | | \$30,000.00 | \$30,000.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$20,639.90 | | \$128,966.47 | \$335,522.00 |
| Church Operating Fund Expenses | | | | |
| Spiritual Life | \$179.60 | | \$4,549.02 | \$14,550.00 |
| Education & Nurture | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | \$3,400.00 |
| Interpretation & Stewardship | \$0.00 | | \$5,480.44 | \$5,810.00 |
| Home Ministry | \$4,066.57 | | \$19,900.80 | \$87,140.00 |
| Church Administration | \$18,684.71 | | \$71,585.28 | \$224,622.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$22,930.88 | | \$101,515.54 | \$335,522.00 |
| INCOME minus EXPENSES | -\$2,290.98 | | \$27,450.93 | \$0.00 |
| Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Income | | | | |
| Account Description | APRIL—2025 | | Year-to-Date 2025 | 2025 Budget |
| Offering Income | \$4,098.00 | | \$27,904.08 | \$95,200.00 |
| Other Income | \$1,042.27 | | \$1,591.42 | \$500.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$5,140.27 | | \$29,498.50 | \$95,700.00 |
| Mission Opportunities/Missionaries (MOM) Fund Expenses | | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,233.59 | | \$25,029.89 | \$95,700.00 |
| INCOME minus EXPENSES | \$3,906.68 | | \$4,468.61 | \$0.00 |
| Notable items for April— MOM: Other income includes One Great Hour of Sharing | | | | |

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

Li'l Ripples June 2025



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

One Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery Available

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

Editor - Fay Hess - 717-476-5682 or lilripples@gmail.com