

Li'l Ripples

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from Pastor Mark



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**DEADLINE FOR THE  
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF  
LI'L RIPPLES IS  
JANUARY 17th**

Merry Christmas!  
It Is Not Over Yet!

Our culture has played some kind of fast, slight-of-hand, trick on the Bible's beautiful Christmas stories. First, the Church has always understood the season of Christmas to be twelve days long beginning on December 25 and ending on the day of Epiphany, January 6. These twelve days are the season of Christmas, intended in Christian spirituality to be a time of prayer, devotion and community celebrating the gift of Jesus. But our culture commonly acts as if Christmas is over on December 25, and we immediately move on to the next thing. And too often we have, with great ugliness, transformed the twelve days of Christmas into the twelve shopping days before Christmas. Ugh! There is wisdom and beauty in the Church's traditional celebration of the twelve days of Christmas; I suggest we mark these days with prayer, devotion, scripture and holy celebration. At the very least we should respect, appreciate and understand the meaning of the Church's Season of Christmas; it belongs to us!

Secondly, our culture has done a good job in completely misunderstanding the Bible stories about the birth of Jesus. We have too often simply conflated together what in the Bible are clearly two very different Christmas stories. The Shepherds and the Magi are both beautiful and profound Christmas stories, but they are very different and in no way do they belong together. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are very different, with different purposes and different points of view. Matthew tells us the beautiful story of the Magi, and their story should be connected with the Day of Epiphany, January 6. Luke tells us the wonderful story of the Shepherds. Again, at the very least, we should respect and appreciate what the Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell about the birth of Jesus; they are very different stories.

As we turn the page on a new month and a new year, please mark the date of Epiphany in your mind and heart. It seems to be the forgotten holy-day in the Church. Our extravagance around Christmas day seems to have swallowed up the beauty of Epiphany. It is not over yet! Christmas continues all the way to the great day of light, the holy day of Epiphany. Affirm it in your hearts and homes.

Blessed Epiphany!  
Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



The 23rd Psalm - In early 2024 Pastor Mark challenged us to memorize this powerful Psalm. Starting **January 5th**, our **SUNDAY MORNING GROUP** will discuss the promises of this Psalm. We will use 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 COUPLE'S STUDY GROUP** will meet on **January 11, 2025** at Fellowship Hall beginning at **5:30 PM**. Jim and Bev Benner will host and will provide meat loaf - please bring your favorite "comfort food" to share. Our topic from our Growing Old Together devotional is "Compassion" and our scripture is Isaiah 49: 8-18. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning December 29th. Please join us for a fun evening of good food and friendship.

Bev Benner

It is that time of the year for NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

We have had a three week break from our weekly **FUNnFITNESS** and it is time to get back into a routine of stretching as well as other activities to gain strength and mobility to keep and stay fit.

Our weekly program consists of a number of activities to enhance our quality of life (as we become chronologically challenged) and become more active (also true and good for all ages). We begin with a warm up of stretching and deep breathing and then work on upper body, core and leg strength. All routines can be done sitting, standing or if you really want to challenge yourself you are welcome to bring a mat and work from the floor. We will not require you to do anything you are not comfortable with or unable to do. Everything we do can be adapted to your level of comfort and fitness. We encourage joking and feedback from you and want you to have fun while becoming fit. We supply all equipment required (stretch bands and 12 inch rubber balls) and you are welcome to bring your own to use if you really feel up to challenging yourself. We also work on hand/eye coordination, focus, concentration and reaction time as well as routines to improve balance (all things we need as we add a few years on a sedentary life) This is a FREE program and we encourage bringing family, friends and neighbors to join you in the fun. This is an outreach program of LMCPD and the instructor and other leader are certified coaches with many years of experience.

PLEASE come and join us every **Thursday at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall**. If nothing else come and observe what we do to see if you would be interested

Dave (the doorman) Diehl

**A Note from the Editor:** I want to say that I am very grateful to all of you for all the interesting, informative and pertinent articles, notices, photos, etc. that you submit every month for inclusion in Li'l Ripples. I get immense enjoyment and satisfaction from compiling all these varied items into the finished monthly newsletter. I am looking forward to checking my inbox in 2025 ([lilripples@gmail.com](mailto:lilripples@gmail.com)) and finding more of the same. **Thank you !!**

**RUTH'S HARVEST - FAIRFIELD MISSION PROJECT**

Ruth's Harvest – Fairfield is a volunteer program that will provide hungry children in the Fairfield area with a backpack of food for them to eat over the weekend when they are not getting school lunches or school breakfasts. They receive individually packed servings of food to cover seven meals and two snacks for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. Our congregation is supporting this ministry in the following ways listed below.

**What is needed?**

1. **Donations of food:** Single-sized servings/packages of food items that need NO refrigeration (see list of food items below). Items can be dropped off at our church which are then delivered to Ruth's Harvest.
2. **Donations of money** to help meet the ongoing need of food and supplies. Monetary donations in the form of a check can be written to: Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield, Inc.

Mail to: St. John Lutheran Church  
13 W. Main Street  
Fairfield, PA 17320

3. **Six to Eight Volunteers are needed to pack the food bags on LMCPD assigned dates.**  
A sign-up sheet with the dates is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Food Items Needed**

|                   |                  |                               |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cereal            | Carrot Cups      | Animal Crackers/Teddy Grahams |
| Granola Bars      | Corn             | Chips/Pretzels                |
| Pop Tarts         | Green Beans      | Cookies                       |
| Mac & cheese Cups | Peas             | Fruit Gummies                 |
| Ramen Noodles     | Mandarin Oranges | Microwave Popcorn             |
| Juice Boxes       | Mixed Fruit cups | Peanut Butter To GO           |
| Milk              | Peaches          | Raisins                       |
|                   | Pears            |                               |

**THE LMC STITCHERS** were very busy this year. In between Prayer Shawls, Pocket Prayer Cloths and our own projects, we all worked on items for the Winter Coat Drive. We made hats and scarves while Suetta knitted 31 pairs of mittens. We will continue to make these items throughout winter. Thank you for your support for this ministry.

(LMC Stitchers Coordinator, Judy Williams)

**Save the Date:** The upcoming **WINTER BANQUET** for 2025 will be held at the new Farmhouse Restaurant (75 Cunningham Rd.) in Gettysburg, on **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 - 2 PM.** The cost is \$19 per person for a fabulous buffet which includes soups, salads, main dishes with all kinds of sides, beverages and desserts! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting the first week of January and more information will be in the weekly church bulletins. (Karen Richardson)

**LEND A HAND MISSION TRIP - Planned for January 26 - February 1, 2025**

We will once again be going to New Bern, North Carolina for a week of repair and construction to help folks recover from a hurricane that affected the area over 6 years ago. Can you imagine living in that state of disrepair for that period of time? Here is an opportunity to help people get their lives back on a normal tract, living in their reconstructed homes. We are blessed to have lovely facilities to stay, sleep and regenerate in each night after a full day of physical work. on a variety of sites. All meals, transportation and fees to participate will be paid by our church Mission Endowment Fund.

**Please contact Bev Benner (717-398-9933) with any questions and to sign up to attend ASAP.** There is a little paperwork involved but nothing too difficult. The sense of fellowship and friendship to so fulfilling both emotionally and spiritually even if the work is a little tiring. Try it - you may like it!

**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 coffee mate, 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 CARES 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.

**THANKS****THANKS****THANKS****THANKS****THANKS****THANKS**

November 26, 2024

To Friends of Lower Marsh Creek Missions,

Your kind and very generous gift to the Agape House will bless so many. We **thank you** for helping the Adams Rescue Mission to share God's love and restore hope to those we serve. We do appreciate your support of our work.

Sincerely,

The Staff at A.R.M.

December 11, 2024

Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and kind words following Ken's surgery. We are so blessed to attend a church where there is so much caring and concern by the members. It is a great comfort and support for us through these surgeries he has had, and we are very grateful.

**Thank you,**

Sandy and Ken Howe

1 - Barb Schwartz

1 - James Bigham

1 - Barbara Bigham

3 - Phyllis Smith

5 - Caleb Miner

5 - Ethan Miner

9 - Cynthia Haskins

11 - Dirk Grove

14 - Mike McDonald



In our LMCCPC family.

16 - Darlene Palmer

17 - Davalene Winters

18 - Frank Buhrman

23 - Franklin Orleski

24 - Art Roth

26 - Mary Smith

28 - AJ Aldrich

30 - Robert (Bob) Williams

31 - R. Daniel (Danny) Shriner

December 16, 2024

End of an Era: Jean and I have been in the freezer beef cattle business for the past 46 years. Our advancing years and our kids have gently encouraged us to make 2024 our last year for this most satisfying endeavor. We have used styrofoam egg boxes on electric fences to train the cattle as to their location. We wish to express our appreciation to those LMCC members who have faithfully saved those boxes for our use. It is very satisfying to belong to a caring church family!

**Thank you !!**

The Bentz's

**MARRIAGE RETREAT: March 7-9, 2025**

**Theme:** *Gratitude Is Everything* - Fri and Sat program: Pastor Laura

**Scripture:** *Thessalonians 5:16-18*

**Location:** White Sulphur Springs Retreat Center, 4500 Milligans Cove Road, Manns Choice, PA

**Cost:** \$440 Minus \$150 subsidy from fundraising = **\$290 per couple**

This includes 2 overnight accommodations and 5 meals.

(Make checks out to LMCP, with MR 25 in the memo.)

**Deposit:** \$100 due by Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

**Balance:** \$190 due by Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Registration Forms:** Required by Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Marriage Retreat Schedule**

**Friday:** Check in: 4 PM

Light Meal: 6 - 7 PM

Session 1: *Be Deliberate* : 7 PM

**Saturday:** Breakfast: 8 - 9 AM

Session 2: *Thankfulness During Difficult Times:* 9 -10 AM

Break: 10 - 10:30 AM

Session 3: *Panel* : 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Lunch: 12:30 PM

Free time: 12:30 - 6 PM

Dinner: 6 - 7 PM

Session 4: *Prayer at the Campfire:* 7 - 8 PM

Games and social time : 8 - ?

**Sunday:** Breakfast: 8 - 9 AM

Check out: 10 AM

Worship, Communion, Vow Renewal

**Marriage Retreat Registration Form**

Cost of the Retreat is \$440 per couple; however, the LMCC subsidy is \$150 per couple making the cost to you \$290.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ If you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please name them here \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ If you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please name them here.

Emergency contact name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit of \$100 due on January 5, 2025

Full payment of \$190 due on February 2, 2025

Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in horseback riding? \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please put your registration form and deposit in an envelope and place it in the collection plate, or mail it to Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, 1865 Knoxlyn Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. If paying by check, please put "Marriage Retreat 25" on the memo line.

A TALE OF TWO C - C - C - CATHYS / K - K - K - KATHYS

Hello,

My name is Cathy Michaliga, not to be confused with Kathy Megyeri. We have these ridiculous Eastern European last names that we inherited from our husbands and it is creating confusion amongst our congregation. I hope you can find the humor in what I'm about to relay to you. It's all in fun.

Now, I, Cathy with a C, am not a writer, but Kathy, with a K, is!! She is a topnotch writer and has provided much humor and thought-provoking material for Li'l Ripples. I enjoy reading her material and she is very connected to the greater writing world. If you want the Gettysburg Times or other paper/journal to cover something going on here at LMCP, just ask Kathy, with a K, to get on it. She'll make it happen!!

I, Cathy with a C, am a maker of quilts and banners and have been the chair of Spiritual Life for the past 3 years. Every once in a while, I write up a little blurb for the bulletin or Li'l Ripples, but nothing of monumental wordsmanship . . . if that is even a word. My stuff is pretty boring, but informative about happenings in the life of our church. I am telling you this because many people have complimented me, Cathy with a C, on the writings published in Li'l Ripples by Kathy, with a K. Is this sorting out the confusion or making it worse???

I, Cathy, with a C, chair a group of quilters from my previous church, The Amazing Grace Quilters, and we make quilts for charitable purposes. Kathy, with a K, made sure our ministry hit the Gettysburg Times a few months back. Many of my Presbyterian friends are part of our ministry: Sue Welsh, Jane Bruss, Karen Richardson, and Len Williams. We now have 13 quilters in our group. When I meet someone new, I usually say, "Hi, I'm Cathy Michaliga . . . do you quilt? Want to learn?"

Kathy, with a K, sends me "quilty stuff" from the internet all the time. I cherish several books she has also passed on to me. We stay in touch on many things "quilty". So now you have it . . . we share a great connection with each other but we are Cathy Michaliga and Kathy Megyeri . . . might be easier to go with Cathy with a C, and Kathy with a K.

Love and Light,

Cathy with a "C"

> > > >



Kathy with a "K"

> > > >



On December 17th, 23 women and Pastor Mark met at Perkins for the Guild's annual Christmas party. After a great lunch, we played our "Gift Swap" game which always becomes riotous. This year many gifts were stolen and re-stolen but everyone went home with something beautiful (well, check with Lori) and great memories of a fun time and a wonderful way to share fellowship. The Guild wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Roz Santay



THE WOMEN'S GUILD WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY.

## Sing To The Lord

## MUSIC MINISTRY

## A New Song

*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship him."* Matthew 2: 1-2

Time flies, especially when referring to the church year. From Advent, to Christmas, to Epiphany, music selections continue to evolve as they correlate with the changing seasons. As we look back to our Christmas Cantata "A Thrill of Hope" I wish to thank all the participants for doing an incredible job. Although we practiced for many Thursday evenings, our presentation on Sunday morning on December 15<sup>th</sup> was the very first time everyone was present together! Several of our vocalists had surgeries, laryngitis, and life in general caused necessary absences, everyone persevered. God is Good!

As we move into Epiphany, "*Star of the East*" will be performed as the Preparation for Worship on the first Sunday after Christmas. This beautiful melody was composed as "*Star of the Sea*" in 1883 by Amanda Kennedy. Lyricist George Cooper wrote the words that became this famous Christmas song in 1890. And in 1941 "Star of the East" was made famous by Judy Garland when she recorded the beautiful song.

The profound lyrics complement the theme of our cantata, "A Thrill of Hope." May you be blessed by this message through 2025.

*Linda Clark* [www.pausetoreadbooks.webs.com](http://www.pausetoreadbooks.webs.com)

Star of the East, oh Bethlehem's star  
Guiding us on to heaven afar  
Sorrow and grief are lulled by thy light  
Thou hope of each mortal in death's lonely night

Fearless and tranquil we look up to thee  
Knowing thou beamst through eternity  
Help us to follow where thou still dost guide  
Pilgrims of earth so wide

Oh star that leads to God above  
Whose rays are peace and joy and love  
Watch o'er us still 'til life hath ceased  
Beam on, bright star, sweet Bethlehem's star

Star of the East, thou hope of the soul  
While 'round us here the dark billows roll  
Lead us from sin to glory afar  
Thou star of the East, thou sweet Bethlehem's star

Thanks to Kris Englund-Krieger for the upper photo of the Choir Members and Jim Richardson for the lower photo during the Christmas Cantata. Please see the next page for a photo that Jim took at the coffee hour afterwards.



Pastor Mark teaching during the Tuesday evening Advent Soup and Study using the book *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen as a guide.

*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 - 9646

Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

Sallie Sites 717- 253 - 0305

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123



Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall after the December 15th Christmas Cantata and Worship Service.  
Arrangement by Jenny Waybright.



### Recent Correspondence

#### **Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

*From their December 2024 Newsletter:*

Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree: ACPM thanks everyone who donated to the ministry through the Giving Spree. Your support allows ACPM to have a full-time director of Christian Ministries, who also functions as the prison chaplain within the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex. The director coordinates ministry both inside and outside the facility. Your donations also help to purchase Bibles, Christian literature, and other religious items that help to build the Christian faith of inmates and their families.

ACPM Prayer Gathering: ACPM is looking ahead to the new year and will be integrating a monthly community prayer gathering at one of the local churches in the greater Gettysburg area to pray for the prison ministries, volunteers, prison staff, and those incarcerated. For the month of January, the prayer gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 6-7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1015 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg. A schedule for the year will be provided in the January 2025 newsletter. Come join in faith and prayer.

Alpha Program: Last month it was reported that ACPM would introduce the Alpha Program to the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex (ACACC) on the weekend of November 22. The start date was adjusted to the weekend of January 17, 2025. For more information, visit <https://alphausa.org/prisons/>

Celebration of Grace: The next "Celebration of Grace" Sunday event will be held on April 27, 2025, the Sunday after Easter. Churches and organizations in Adams County and surrounding counties are invited to save the date. Participant packets will be made available in March 2025.

Chaplain's Corner: The classic 1946 drama movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is the story of George Bailey, who is at a crossroad in his life and wishing he was never born. The guardian angel, Clarence, leads George through a journey of what life would have been if he had never been born. At the end, George realizes the great significance of his life and wishes it to come back to normal. So, when you celebrate Christmas, think about the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ. Let your hearts be filled with the joy and excitement of the wonderful life we have in Jesus.

#### **Adams Rescue Mission/Agape**

ARM is so grateful for your support this year! In 2024: we were able to provide 73 men, 16 women, and 15 children a safe place for them to sleep, eat, and start their restoration process; we were able to serve over 27,000 meals to our resident guests; over 150 families from the community received clothing, household goods, and furniture through our voucher program; over 250 children will receive gifts for Christmas through our Adopt a Family Program.

A huge thank you to the individuals who show up to support what we do for our community. Each week we have those who drive our trucks, help in our sorting room, lending a helping hand with pick-ups, cleaning, leading Bible studies, and much more.

Thank you for supporting us. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

#### **Compassion International**

*Letter (8/26/24) from Hawine:* Greetings to you my dear sponsors. How are you and your family doing? Hope everything is going well with you. My family and I are all well and safe, thanks to God. My family also extends their warmest regards to you. It is a summer and rainy season here in Ethiopia [August] so it is too cold and raining heavily. I am spending a wonderful summer break with my family and friends. Thank you so much for all supports you have been providing me through church. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me. Please extend my warm regards to your family. I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, bye and stay safe. With much love, Hawine.

#### **DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)**

*From their November 17 Newsletter:* Right after the main session on Saturday evening at Fall Conference, I noticed "Ashley" on the verge of tears. I sat down next to her and asked what was on her mind. "I've been struggling with really low

thoughts this week. Terrible thoughts about myself. And then the speaker said tonight 'You've been formed by the hands of God' and it was like God was speaking right to me. 'I'm not an accident!' she declared triumphantly to me. I need to learn to see myself the way God sees me."

As we talked more, she shared two things that really stood out: 1) This Fall Conference was the first time she had heard the true purpose of marriage. Coming from a divorced home, Ashley both desires the stability of a romantic relationship and fears it. This weekend she realized that marriage is all about picturing the gospel, not primarily about romantic feelings of staying in love. 2) She shared that she didn't fully understand the gospel until college. She thought it was works based until she learned about God's grace as she started coming to the DiscipleMakers Bible study at PSU York! Now Ashley says every week during our small group time at Bible study 'I just love Jesus!' I don't think I've ever met a student who gushes about Jesus the ways she does.

Thank you for partnering with us to reach the next generations with the gospel! In Christ, Kevin, Maria, Simeon and Hope Noyes.

### **Krislund**

#### *A letter from Phil Gardner, Camp Director*

Krislund has been bringing the Word of God to campers for over 60 years now. In addition to the summer camper season, Krislund is the location that many churches, college groups, and organizations use for their gatherings and retreats. However, it takes a lot to make all of this come together each year. Not just human power, but the financial means as well.

So while it is the time of year to ask for your assistance in supporting us financially, I want to focus more on building our community together. We are gaining momentum and drawing in interest and serving new groups. This is excellent as we strive for another 60+ years here at Krislund. But I want to be sure that we keep our roots in what is important, our relationships with all who support us.

So here are some highlights and information about camp to keep you informed and perhaps encouraged to get involved actively, if you aren't already:

115 Day Campers; 167 Residential Campers; LOTS of camper made Krislund Tye-Dye shirts; 150+ Wilderness Leadership Academy Campers; 10+ Harp Camp Campers

129 Events – Quilting, Scrap Booking, Family Reunions, Weddings, Bible Study Groups, etc.; over 3,000 people from these groups

3,527 Retreat Meals served; 5,330 Camper Meals served

Summer Camp Staff – Counselors, Kitchen Staff, Lifeguards, Health Officer, etc.; Full-time staff; Thousands of Volunteer Hours

The Physical Plant that needs constant upkeep and maintenance: 15 buildings and lodges; 28 cabins and bunk houses; 5 shelters and pavilions; 2 amphitheaters; swimming pool; outdoor adventure park; large and small fields for activities.

The above is just a small example of what needs to be supported to bring the quality of programs to participants. As preparations for next summer move along, I am excited at the possibilities. We are hoping to bring back wood working programs and cooking programs. We are discussing new ways to serve the Pastors and the Congregations within the Presbyteries. I am about to drop off all the caps we have pulled together and pick up our new tables. We are looking at ways of mapping our trails so we have good maps for visitors with help from Clearwater Conservancy staff. As well as reviving our Traveling Day Camp program. We have a continued sewer project, Retreat Center roof to replace and ongoing maintenance of the High Ropes course and vehicles.

Please consider how you can help us connect to our community better and if your time and talents are being called to serve in this ministry. We would love to see you around camp. Why? Because we know you have a heart and love for this place like we do. With your continued prayers, support and assistance, Krislund has a bright future ahead!

**Mission of Mercy**

In 2024 Mission of Mercy served over 2500 medical and dental patients who visited the clinics over 6400 times; dispensed more than 5900 medications; over 150 volunteer medical professionals and lay people provided free medical and dental care at six host sites; received free labs, x-rays and limited surgeries through seven hospitals and/or community partners to assist in diagnosing.

"Restoring human dignity to the sick, the poor, and the homeless in an atmosphere of unconditional love is the mission of Mission of Mercy. We want to reach out to the people who have been falling through the cracks of the healthcare system." Dr. Michael Sullivan, Chief Medical Director

**Remembering Dr. Michael Sullivan, M.D.**

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, our Chief Medical Director, spiritual leader and friend, unexpectedly passed away at Gettysburg Hospital. He will be greatly missed by the Mission of Mercy Family, and always remembered.

**Presbyterian Historical Society**

*From the Fall PHS Letter:* The Presbyterian Historical Society has been busier than ever this year as the staff responds to the growing needs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our reading room is bustling with researchers and visitors working on a variety of projects. Online requests for information are at an all-time high and deposits of denomination records are happening nonstop. Our archives staff has been traveling around the country to assist congregations and mid councils. The need for PHS has never been greater.

Records are the cornerstone of our work and come from across the church. It is PHS's collaboration with mid councils and congregations that has propelled the growth of our collections in the past few years. Church leaders recognize the importance of preserving records and history. They work diligently, with PHS staff guiding them, to identify the important records to deposit with PHS for long-term preservation.

Once records are safely at PHS, they are available for research use. Just as there has been an increase in acquisitions, there has been a steady increase in the number of visitors to PHS using the collections, which is a testament to the value and accessibility of our holdings.

Thank you for your support.

**SAT - 7**

*From Dr. Rex Rogers' October 31, 2024 Letter:* Hagar threw her belongings in a bag – clothes, food, anything that could fit. Bombs lit up the black sky as the sixteen-year-old and her family crammed into their car. They drove through the night to cross the Syrian border. *It was not a peaceful, silent night, and they longed for hope.*

People all across the Middle East and North Africa long for an end to war, poverty, and oppression. They desire the gift you and I celebrate this time of year – the Light of the World . . . the Prince of Peace . . . our Immanuel . . . Jesus.

Hagar is not the only one looking for that gift. Since she was little, she wanted to become an actress. Don't you think she should be packing her bag to go to school and achieve that dream? Instead, she was packing her bag and fleeing from her home in the middle of the night.

Truth seekers are longing for hope and connection. An encounter with Jesus through inspiring programming is the best gift they could ask for! For Hagar, it changed her life. One testimony of salvation was all it took to turn Hagar's heart toward Jesus. "Saying 'yes' to Jesus was the best moment of my life," Hagar says. "I was telling every person I met that I'd given my life to Him. I couldn't not! He is so great." Hagar thought her dream of becoming an actress had died. But God brought it back to life. She appeared on the SAT-7 KIDS program *Challenge Accepted* as a gameshow contestant – and while live on air, the hosts of the show promised Hagar she would star in a SAT-7 drama inspired by her experiences as a girl growing up in war.

God captured the heart of a teenager – who lost her home, hope, and childhood to war – and proved to her that "*all things are possible to those who believe.*" (Mark 9:23) He used the acting dream Hagar thought was dead to restore hope to other youth longing for safety and security in the middle of destruction. "God blessed me so much though SAT-7 KIDS," Hagar says.

## Missionary Updates



### Thomas and Cheri Henry (One Another Ministries)

What is Advent to us? As we continue to unwrap the gift of 2024, Advent for us is a time of waiting, of preparation, of light, and of hope. We are reminded of God's mystery, his goodness, the unfolding of his plan.

Advent is a season of waiting. For generations Israel's prophets pointed to the coming Messiah, waiting, longing for their deliverer, creating a sense of expectancy. Reflect on the hymn, "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*"

We moved to England to join One Another Ministries expecting to help missionaries cultivate what truly matters - abiding in Christ in challenging ministry contexts, primarily through Marriage and Single Intensives. It didn't happen immediately. In fact, the intensives still haven't taken off the way we anticipated. What has happened,

however, are smaller, unexpected aspects of ministry that are harder to measure. At this crossroad, we now see how instrumental these "lesser things" have been. We see Jesus. He is preparing us.

Advent is a season of preparation. A time to ponder the events surrounding Christ's birth, to prepare our hearts, minds, and lives to celebrate God's good gift of salvation in Christ. And we do this together - in community, in worship, in repentance and faith.

God knows what we need and when we need it, building upon the foundation he has laid, filling in the gaps of our 2024 calendar. Opportunities continue for virtual counseling and coaching, representing One Another at two major global conferences, ongoing team building and networking here in England. And we returned to Romania where we continue to develop a dozen Marriage Intensive facilitators. These have been very encouraging. We trust the Lord is preparing for us what he will unwrap in 2025. And he's doing it in the context of local and global community.

Advent is a season of light. "*The prophet of the Most High will give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" Mat 1:79

In December here in central England it is dark by 4:00pm! It reminds us of how much darkness there is in the world. Which is why we pray earnestly to the Lord. Why the church sends out laborers into his harvest. Why we make every effort to care for those who help push back the darkness. To strengthen them, to help them stay. "*You are the*

*light of the world.*" Let it shine! Do whatever you can to help keep each other's light shining, so the darkness does not overtake any of us. We need one another. And cross-cultural workers need as much light as they can get.

Advent is a season of hope. As we look back to his first coming, we eagerly expect his second (Heb 9:28). We are always in the season of Advent, because in this life we constantly expect Christ to return. So, while looking back, we eagerly look forward, with hope. God has good works that he has prepared for us to do among crosscultural workers. Pray for those we are walking alongside and supporting. For the irons we have in the fire to collaborate with others like us. For our One Another team that is being built up for a new season. For our new director who begins Jan 1. And pray for our participation in the Shoulder to Shoulder conference in Jan, where we hope to begin the work of setting up Single Intensives. We do not know what 2025 will bring. But we do know the God of 2025 and beyond. He is faithful; he is with us; and he is coming!

Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers, financial support, and practical help.

With much love in Christ, we hope for you the joy of Christmas,

Thomas & Cheri

**Ryan and Alethia White, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers (Northern and Central Europe)**

Dear friends, As I write this, the election in the U.S. is yet to happen. By the time you read it, the outcome will be known. For some this will bring hope and for others disappointment. As I rode my bike through the city recently, I thought about the vibrancy of the world, literally vibrating it seems sometimes, and how it seems we all carry varying states of hope or perhaps tip toward hopelessness at times. Some of us are wrapped up in the wars that affect family and friends. Some of us may hope the results of an election might bring change. Some feel that hope is a lost cause. I, personally, swing between the two like a clock pendulum, wishing to stay on the side of hope, inevitably some mechanism pulls me back. Perhaps it's the desire not to be disappointed. I avoid the term pessimism and prefer a healthy dose of realism instead, refusing to be too wrapped up in outcomes I cannot change even as

I invest time and energy in trying to do just that in seemingly small ways.

Recently, I remembered where I've buried hope and that it is sometimes, thankfully, possible to dig it up again. Our partner, Berliner Missionswerk, invited me to join their volunteer program group during their seminar week to lead a workshop for the volunteers, some of who have extensive cross-cultural experience already, and others who are embracing their first month in a new context. Looking around the circle of young adults and listening to them each introduce themselves and name their home culture, I felt those perspectives infuse the room. They blended and danced around each other and showed some light into the muted evening tone. I imagined that light as hope in the midst of a very fractured, tenuous global structure. Someone said they thought the whole world had a problem with expressing emotions. It feels like the world has a problem with really seeing or hearing each other most of the time. Hope to me was spending some hours in a room and looking into the faces of the world telling their stories and being heard.

At one point, someone brought out a guitar as we waited for some technical issues to be sorted out. Another person found a drum and backed up the rhythm being picked out. Another backed it all up with Arabic beats played from their phone. A few others joined in singing, sometimes just lyrical nonsense about the day, sometimes a once popular song from the 90s, sometimes just humming. All these different elements, and these different backgrounds could and did compliment each other in harmony. It's an image I soaked in from the background, the one I ended up taking with me from the evening. Harmony is possible out of differences.

Christmas is coming. That's supposed to be a season of hope in the church. I find that hard to match sometimes with the world around. I find that especially hard the last couple of years when so many have died in the place where the church, along with others, claim their origins. Too much of the world stays silent on this. Hope could also be that voices carry and land like lightning, sparking some sort of shift in the global atmosphere. One can hope.

In the midst of all of that, our family sends you greetings from Berlin where we are preparing to welcome the holidays and enjoy the focus on Advent here in this culture. It's a dark time of year this far north, a time that many struggle to cope with as we wait impatiently for more daylight, but there is enough spark to remind us that there is still reason to hope.

Alethia and Ryan

**News from Christian and Rayan Weaner (Teach Beyond in Senegal)**

*From Christian and Rayan's Recent Prayer Letter*

Hello, friends and family! We hope you have all had a wonderful start to the holiday season. As we have thought of the many things we have to be thankful for, each of you have come to mind, as we could not be here without your steadfast support and the grace of God.

We started the month of November by celebrating Christian's 26th birthday, which was so special!

Many of our November days have been spent outside as the fall semester is coming to an end soon and the temperatures are finally decreasing (as low as the mid 60s, which feels very nice!). This month has also been one of growth and stretching as we have pushed ourselves more with language learning, experimented with making Thanksgiving food in Senegal, and developed new traditions.

While the holiday season looks a bit different for us this year, we are so grateful to have friends and good food to make us

to make us feel at home even when we are far away. Though we might not have had every one of our favorite dishes this year, the spirit of thankfulness was present as we recounted with our friends all the ways God has provided for us over the last several months.

While this month has held some precious moments of laughter and adventure, we have also spent many moments in prayer and mourning with those we love.

As some of you may know, a girl I (Rayan) knew growing up tragically passed away in a car accident a few weeks ago, leaving behind her newly wedded husband and many family members and friends that loved her dearly. She too shared in the passion to take the Gospel to the nations and was someone who modeled that desire so well. Many of our close friends in Blackshear and other parts of Georgia have been deeply affected by her loss, so please join us in lifting them up in prayer.

Additionally, please consider praying for our school students and staff as we have had a rough illness going around. It has left many of our students out for days and weeks at a time, and one of our teachers recently spent a few days in the hospital. Fortunately, we have not caught this sickness but would love your prayer that it would stay that way, especially as we will be traveling soon.

Lastly, as we mentioned in our last newsletter, I (Rayan) am helping direct our school's Christmas production. It has been a wonderful opportunity to pursue my passion for music and theatre and connect with our students in a new way. Our performances will be next week, so please pray that they go well and that the redemptive story of advent would be central for all those who come to see the show.

#### Grateful For a God Who's With Us

Much of this newsletter was written in the dark, as we did not have power for the majority of the afternoon. This is a regular occurrence but certainly is not always fun when living in the heat.

However as quirky and unpredictable as life can be here in Senegal, we remain so grateful. Even though it's very easy to get frustrated in the inconvenience or difficulty (and we often do), we also can't help but feel the Lord's favor in His allowance of moments like these to slow our hearts and bring us back to why He brought us here in the first place.

Then, we remember that we are so fortunate — we get to do this, and we have a hope that extends far beyond the inconveniences we experience when it's a little warm while we sleep at night or we eat our dinners by candlelight.

We hope that this can be an encouragement for each of you as well. Though each of our inconveniences and difficulties look different from one another, know that we as believers get to carry these burdens together. More than that, our God promises to walk alongside us, which is a pretty fitting reminder for this Christmas season, since His name is Emmanuel, meaning "*God with us*." Just as God was faithful to be with precious young Mary as she walked into the unknown with this new baby, He is also faithful to be with us now in every season.

While the holiday season can be a very joyful time, we know too well how it can also be a very difficult time for many, so please do not hesitate to reach out for prayer or encouragement. As Mary pondered in her heart the birth of the Messiah in Luke chapter 2, we pray that we too might be able to remember this hope as we enter into Christmas and a new year!

All our love, Christian and Rayan Weaner

P.S. Exciting News!

After a lot of prayer and consideration, we are so excited to share that the Lord has provided a way for us to come back home to visit our families for Christmas! We will be in the states for three weeks starting at the end of December! During this time, we hope to meet with as many of you — our supporters, friends, and family — as we can, Lord willing. We cannot wait to continue sharing all that God is doing here in Dakar!



#### THE GIVING CORNER

Here we are beginning the year 2025!! Where does the time go! Now more than ever we pray for peace in our troubled world, prosperity for everyone, good health, and the true joy of knowing our Lord, Jesus Christ!

We hope for a year filled with love as we open ourselves to God's guidance and we say thank you for the Holy Spirit dwelling within us!

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays let us reflect on how we want to spend our time over the next year. Let us consider how we can give of our time, our talents, and our treasures; how we can get connected with our church family; how we can reach out and make a difference.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

Remember everything we have has been given to us by God! These gifts from God are resources for us to use and invest for him. It is our way of showing our gratitude for the amazing gifts of grace and his abounding love. When we invest what God has given us in his work, we will be rewarded with even more to give in his service! As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9: 12 -

***This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.***

Let us not put off responding in love and thankfulness to our God. Now is our time to act! Don't wait!

***For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*** Romans 12 : 4 - 8



## From the Clerk's Desk

Even though Session did not meet in December here are a few business items to close out the year 2024.

- ~ Membership as of 12/22/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):163\*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 52, Total: 269. \*Changes in Membership include the sad news of the passing of one of our newest members, Mary Sanders.
- ~ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

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

- ~ Approved a mission trip through Lend a Hand (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) to New Bern, NC on January 26 February 1, 2025 to help rebuilding from damage from a past Hurricane.
- ~ Approved the use of the Handbell tables, heavy pads, and music stands by the Fairfield Area School District High School (HS) and Middle School (MS) Band Director for use in the HS/MS music programs.

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

- ~ Ordination and Installation of new officers will be held at the worship service on January 12, 2025.
- ~ A congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship service on January 26, 2025.
- ~ Reminder: Session Team assignments for 2025 are as follows:
  - ~ Spiritual Life Team: Phyllis Smith (chair), Mike Orleski, Lynne Orner
  - ~ Home Ministry Team: Joe Jackson (chair), Lanny Winters, Ron Milhimes
  - ~ Interpretation & Stewardship Team: Lauren Neely (chair), Bev Benner, Doyle Waybright

**Session wishes all members and friends of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church family a blessed and healthy New Year!**

## FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2024

## Church Operating Fund Income

| Account Description                   | NOVEMBER—<br>2024  | Year-to-<br>Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$17,848.50        | \$252,475.91             | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$2,022.90         | \$47,802.66              | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$19,871.40</b> | <b>\$300,278.57</b>      | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                          |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | \$251.52           | \$2,735.75               | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$72.34            | \$98.74                  | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$384.76           | \$5,720.75               | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$4,091.20         | \$48,663.06              | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$22,408.54        | \$190,283.57             | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$27,208.36</b> | <b>\$247,501.87</b>      | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>-\$7,336.96</b> | <b>\$52,776.70</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 11/30/2024: \$82,868.65

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

| Account Description | NOVEMBER—<br>2024 | Year-to-<br>Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$5,807.50        | \$82,080.56              | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$119.39          | \$2,024.15               | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$5,926.89</b> | <b>\$84,104.71</b>       | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

|                              |                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$9,029.00</b>  | <b>\$85,050.37</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>-\$3,102.11</b> | <b>-\$945.66</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 11/30/2024: \$1,208.59

Notable expenses for NOVEMBER: Mission trip expenses; Presbytery Shared Mission (\$5,000), AGAPE House (\$2,200), Fairfield Food Pantry (\$1,200)

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

*Li'l Ripples*      January 2025



Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Church Office Information

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

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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