

# Li'l Ripples

October 2024  
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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from  
Pastor Mark -



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DEADLINE FOR THE  
NOVEMBER ISSUE OF  
LI'L RIPPLES IS  
OCTOBER 18th

## Time, Talent and Treasure in the Psalms

With grateful hearts, we turn again to our annual Stewardship Campaign. On Sunday, September 29 our Stewardship packets were distributed to the congregation. As you ponder our Stewardship efforts this year you will read in our brochure an emphasis on each of the traditional aspects of our personal stewardship: time, talent and treasure.

I would like here in this Stewardship letter to highlight three verses from the Psalms which emphasize these classic themes of our giving: time, talent and treasure. These verses are worthy of memorization. Claim and hold these verses close to your heart, particularly as you pray and ponder about your involvement and commitment to our Church for 2025.

**Psalm 90: 12: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."**

This is a fabulous verse encouraging us to value time, each moment, each day, each decade of our lives. All of our time is a gracious gift from God. We respect and honor the gift of time by giving some of it back to the Lord in worship, praise, prayers, and acts of service and mission.

**Psalm 150: 6: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."**

We have a tendency to evaluate and measure our talents and skills. But, in fact, each of us has a special talent and skill in simply being the person God created. So, in this sense, the most valuable talent we have is using every breath to praise God, acknowledging that our lives themselves are gifts. We have breath; we can praise the Lord!

**Psalm 24: 1: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."**

Too often we think of our treasure, our money, our wealth as something we have earned and accumulated. But please pause a moment in this line of thinking and ponder this verse. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." What a profound and majestic proclamation of our awesome God. It is all the Lord's! Giving a portion of our treasure for the work of the Church is a worthy and honorable response!

Please ponder your time, talent and treasure. Please make a commitment to our congregation for 2025. Our 2025 Estimate of Giving cards will be gathered and dedicated in our worship services on October 13.

In Christ !

Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



### STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

**September 29th - 9:45 AM** - Congregational Budget Conversation Meeting. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

**October 6th - 8:30 & 11:00 AM** - Minute for Stewardship

**October 13th - 8:30 & 11:00 AM** - Stewardship Sunday - Estimate of Giving Card Collection

“ - **5:00 PM** - Potluck Dinner - Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex

The Seekers Sunday School Class is studying *Life Lessons from Acts* by Max Lucado **Sunday mornings at 9:45.**

Join us to reflect on the founders of the early church and how they demonstrated what God did for them and what He longs to do for you. If interested, see Mike Orleski for more details.

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

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

The Couple's Study Group will meet on **October 12th 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall**. Deb and John Stottlemeyer and Jackie and Milt Higgins will lead us this month with the topics of Fragrance and Aroma from our discussion guide. They will provide Chili with various toppings and bread.

A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning September 29th requesting salads and dessert to add to our meal. All married couples in the congregation are invited to join us and to be honest finding out how our fragrance and aroma will strength and enhance our marriages. Should be worth the time! Looking forward to a fun time of fellowship and as always great food.



Bev Benner

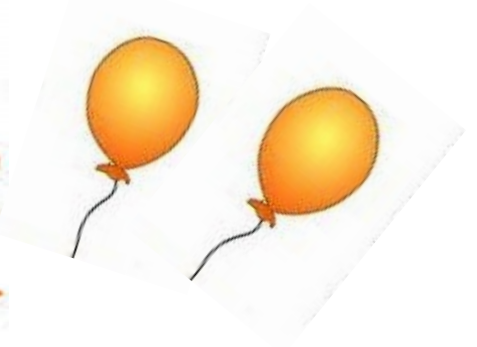
The Women's Guild will meet **October 15th at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**. All women of the church are invited for fun and fellowship.

When all of you read this article, the Yard & Bake Sale will have taken place September 28th. The report of how we did will eventually be in the bulletin. We do want to thank people who donated items to sell, baked goods and those who helped us set up and pull this off. It was good to see you looking at “our treasures.” We feel we have two worthy causes for having this sale, Teen Angels and Neighbors Helping Neighbors. It is wonderful to be a part of a congregation who wants us to succeed and keeps us in their prayers. God bless all of you.

Roz Santay

Happy Birthday to the following members of the LMCC family -

|                   |                    |                   |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Jane Kessel    | 16. Jim Benner     | 19. Daisy Stuffle |
| 4. Gary Adams     | 17. Pastor Mark    | 21. Lynn Berwager |
| 9. Susan Thompson | 17. Lori Jackson   | 22. Susan Wagle   |
| 10. Roslyn Santay | 17. Cheryle Waters | 28. Sara Rohr     |
| 12. Lee Bentz     | 18. David Brill    | 29. David Metz    |
| 16. Dave Diehl    | 18. Karen Golden   | 31. Rick Gladhill |



A wise person said, "You don't stop laughing because you grow old - You grow old because you stop laughing." So, here is a little humor to bring a smile to your face. Thanks to Kathy Megyeri.



The cardiologist's diet : if it tastes good, spit it out !

*I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then its time for my nap - Bob Hope.*

*By the time a man is old enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. - Billy Crystal*

*Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. - Winston Churchill*

*We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way though Congress. -*

Will Rogers

*Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. -*

Phyllis Diller

At Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother saw him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what's the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

## FOR THE GRIEVING MEMBERS OF LMCC

One of the lines in our closing hymn each Sunday is “Help us share with others the things we’ve shared today,” so I’d like to share my thoughts following the Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> service during which Pastor Mark examined the theme of Lament as part of our five steps on the journey of faith. In the Psalms of Lament, we are given permission to lift up our grief to the Lord. And certainly, this congregation has experienced its share of grief during the last half year. On this particular Sunday, members shared their memories of recently deceased Roy Weaner and praised his family’s commitment to mission work. Then we fittingly listened to the appropriate musical offering by the Wires and Wood ensemble entitled “A Beautiful Life.” The service closed with Pastor Mark’s comforting words from the Lord who said, “I will never let go of you.” That’s when I truly appreciated the impact of our service’s last hymn, “Precious Lord Take My Hand.”

As I drove home and thought of the grief so many in the congregation felt today over the loss of Roy (and the many others LMCC lost recently), I couldn’t help but think of my own go-to book in sad times: *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Grieving and Recovery: 101 Inspirational and Comforting Stories about Surviving the Loss of a Loved One* by Jack Canfield. To help our church’s efforts to deal with our collective grief, I ordered copies of the book to be available to those who might find it as comforting as I did following the loss of my parents. The books are available in the narthex. If you are not familiar with the *Chicken Soup* series of books, each is a collection of short essays and testimonials from many different contributors. Just as mothers often feed chicken soup to their sick children to soothe them and help them get well, these books have the same goal. They soothe by reinforcing the knowledge that we are not alone, that others experience the same hurts and trials that we do, and that in time, with God’s help, we will get better. This particular volume proved to be so popular that the publishers added two other volumes, which you may find comforting as well: *Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul: Stories about Life, Death and Overcoming the Loss of a Loved One* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Grieving, Loss and Healing: 101 Stories of Comfort and Moving Forward*. What readers find so appealing is that all included stories can be read any time one picks up the volume instead of in the book’s entirety. I personally became enthralled with the *Chicken Soup* Series when I taught in Borneo and Malaysia and students found the stories appealing and short enough that they could learn English from them as they are so simply presented. Then, as a high school English teacher, my students submitted their own stories to *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* and surprisingly, when a few were accepted for Vol. II of the book, my students were well paid, given credit in the back of the book, and became celebrities in our high school; thus, my personal affection for the entire series.

I know personally that losing a family member or dear friend is a shared human experience and it helps to read stories from other people who have been through the same ordeal to find comfort, and comradery in their stories that are uplifting and inspirational. Not surprising, many tell of their personal faith that got them through and as one reader wrote, “Between my faith and this book, I was touched in a helpful way when ‘quiet’ just won’t be ‘still.’ Each story is a reminder that life truly does go on after death, that healing for those living is possible, and one of the best ways to remember our loved ones is sharing with others.” This is exactly what Pastor Mark asked of congregants during Sunday’s service when they recalled stories of Roy. When Duty Elder Lanny Winters told his personal story of Roy’s enormous love for ice cream (ironically only a few hours before LMCC’s ice cream social that evening), others laughed and appreciated Lanny’s story even more. It was then that I was reminded of that quote by American folk singer Peggy Seeger who said of her father, “He died, but he is still in my present tense.” And walking out of church that day when someone near me remarked, “I would be lost without this church as it’s really my family,” I was reminded of a quote by American spiritual teacher Ram Dass who said, “When all is said and done, we are all just walking each other home.” How true and how grateful we are at LMCC to have each other, led by Pastor Mark, to all walk each other home.

Kathy Megyeri



## WELCOME BAGS FOR ADAMS RESCUE MISSION (ARM) and AGAPE HOUSE SHELTERS

Last Spring Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church partnered with the Amazing Grace Quilters Group, of the Orrtanna Good News Church, to bless two shelters. The quilting group made shopping bags for the women of the Agape House shelter and shaving bags for the men of the ARM shelter. Spiritual Life asked LMCPC to donate all the toiletry items that went into the bags. Pastor Mark used his discretionary account to add \$20 gift cards for Walmart or Kennies. Judy Williams and Lauren Neely, of our stitchers group, made prayer cloths and prayer cards to attach to the bags.

At our congregational picnic on June 2nd, the members of LMCPC filled the bags, attached the prayer cloths and prayer cards. On July 15th, Linda Lapp, of Spiritual Life, delivered the shopping bags to Agape House. Cathy Michaliga, also of Spiritual Life, delivered the shaving bags to the ARM shelter on July 18th. It was a blessing to involve so many in this ministry. Below are pictures of this event.

Editor's Note: Please see page 8 for the response from the recipients of these bags.



The *Agape* sign is on top of one of the quilts that the *Amazing Grace Quilters* recently donated. The label reads, *Sharing God's Love*.



15 filled bags awaiting distribution to the women of Agape House.



Contents of the bags



Prayer cloths and prayer cards that were attached to the bags >



< Sharon Jobin shows the work of her hands: 15 shopping bags for Agape House.

> Dottie Harris displays her 15 handmade shaving bags.



Thanks to Cathy Michaliga for this report and these pictures.



August 24, 2024

LMCPC RETREAT

at Camp Eder, Fairfield, PA



< Everyone enjoyed Nature.



~Pastor Dale teaching the children about Jesus - *the Light of the world* - when He heals a blind man.  
~Miss Joan helping the children as their eyes are covered so they can experience blindness.



The adults enjoyed the afternoon games.



Our dear brother in Christ, Roy > Weaner, went home to the Lord 9/6/2024







Pastor Mark - after the morning spent teaching the adults about the "I am" statements of Jesus found in the *Gospel of John* - is now instructing the adult teams about the afternoon games.



Camp Eder's very own doormoose.



Communion service in the Chapel and the wagon ride down the mountain afterwards.



Thanks to Bev Benner, Shirley Breslin, and Jim Richardson for these photos to help us remember this special day of fun and fellowship.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

August 6, 2024

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

**Thank you** for your commitment to our Lord in supporting this ministry. We appreciate you. So blessed by your congregation. Hoping to see more kids from your church at Good News Clubs this fall.

**Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County Inc.** Reaching the Children for Christ.

August 26, 2024

Dear Pastor Mark, Congregation, and Extended Family to Denise,

How do we begin to *thank you* Pastor Mark, and everybody else in this church that were so wonderful, supportive, caring, understanding, compassionate, faithful and a loving extended family to our Denise. She loved you all very much and your love for her was so clear to us at her service. It is not easy now days to find a group of people like all of you ! Thank you just doesn't seem like enough to say ! Our hearts are truly filled with gratitude and love for all of you ! You made a difference in Denise's life and she was so happy to know all of you. She did so much for the church because of that bond you all shared ! So, please know that we pray for this congregation of wonderful people each day and we really and truly appreciate each and everyone of you ! Denise will always be with you in spirit !

God bless you all ! With much love,

**The Vaillancourt Family**

September 9, 2024

**On behalf of the Mission Committee**, we would like to **Thank All those who helped** to make the second annual "Diaper Drive" a great success. Over 6,000 diapers (both for toddlers and adults) were given out on the day of the Drive and to the local SCCAP office. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity for this ministry. We received many thanks and expressions of appreciation during this rainy event!! God Bless you all! **Kris EK and Sandy B**

Editor's Note : On page 5 of this issue, there is a report about a ministry undertaken this past summer to bless the residents of the **ARM shelter** and **Agape House**. Due to confidentiality issues, the **thanks** expressed to the persons who fulfilled this ministry could not be included in this issue word for word. Suffice it to say that the recipients of the bags were grateful and that gratitude was expressed to LMCC.



*Sing to the Lord***MUSIC MINISTRY***A New Song*

***...but be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20 (NRSV)***

I am thankful for the musical talent in our church family! Music and singing are important parts of the worship services here at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. In addition to congregational singing that includes everyone, there is always a time for special music. During the summer months we were inspired by a wide variety of musical talents. Now it is your turn to participate in worshipping our God in song. Please consider being part of our music program in 2024.

I checked my newsletter from one year ago and realized that we have suffered some great losses. Our Bells of Faith needs a full-time director, and our beloved bell ringer Denise Lockwood has joined our Heavenly saints. The Faithful Voices, who sing at our 11:00 service, has lost four members due to health issues and two due to pastoral commitments. This leaves us with just six Faithful Voices, so more are needed. Fortunately, the Glory Singers have continued at their usual number, plus the addition of our newest member Milt Higgins. Welcome, Milt! The Gospel Bluegrass group formed last fall performed several times in late 2023 with their last performance on Christmas Eve. Wires and Wood has most of its original members, but could always use more singers and guitars.

Plans are already being made for the 2024 Advent/Christmas Eve musical programs. We have music selected, but we need more voices, and yours would be perfect. Please consider joining one of our music groups, at least for the upcoming holiday services. I am prepared to have morning/afternoon rehearsals for those who cannot come to the regular rehearsals.

**Faithful Voices:** Alicia Dehoff, Kris England-Krieger, Erica Duffy, Dirk Grove, Roz Santay, Jim and Sue Welsh, Dale Williams

**Glory Singers:** Bev and Jim Benner, Jean and Lee Bentz, Pat Diehl, Phyllis Doyle, Milt Higgins, Mike Orleski, Teresa Sanders

**Wires and Wood:** Dirk Grove, Roz Santay, Phyllis Smith, Jim and Sue Welsh, Dale Williams

**October 6** – Glory Singers/Faithful Voices

**October 13** – Wires and Wood

**October 20** - Glory Singers/Faithful Voices

**October 27** – Special Music

Please contact me in person or by email at [pausetoread@yahoo.com](mailto:pausetoread@yahoo.com)

***Linda Clark***

*Serving God By***DEACONS' PAGE***Serving Others*

**FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY:** two boxes of food were delivered to the food pantry during the month of September. Please remember during the next few months that personal hygiene items are always appreciated. Thanks for your support.  
John Stottlemeyer

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

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:**Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123*Go Into All***MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER***The World***Recent Correspondence****Adams Christian Prison Ministries****God at Work – Testimonial**

A few weeks ago, a young inmate decided to participate in one of the weekly Ladies Bible Studies. When the volunteer asked if anyone would like to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, the young inmate made that decision.

A few days later, the prison chaplain received an inmate request slip from the young inmate wanting to speak to him and to receive a Bible. On the day he planned to visit her, he noticed that several religious items were returned to the chaplaincy department with a note stating that she had sent them.

The chaplain visited the inmate and sat with her in one of the counseling rooms. From the moment she sat down and started talking, she just testified about how she grew up in a Christian home but had resentment towards God for the difficult events that took place in her early childhood. She had decided to pursue another religion and forget about Christianity. While trying to practice the other religion she still felt empty and incomplete. On the day she accepted Jesus she could feel the presence of God through the Bible study and the genuine love of the female volunteers. When she received the Bible from the chaplain, she started reading it and discovered that she couldn't stop reading the word of God.

The chaplain spent most of the hour listening to her talk about how fulfilled she felt in her heart and how she was understanding what she was reading from the Bible. She asked the chaplain about what she needs to do next and would he teach her how to pray. The chaplain spent the remaining moments he had with her explaining the Lord's prayer and the praying format A.C.T.S. (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication).

**Adams Rescue Mission****Update from Will Hudson, Executive Director**

Thank you so much for the way you all have supported our efforts here at ARM/Agape!

Continued on the next page . . .



*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

Through the generosity and assistance of our friends, we've made many strides forward over the past 6 months. In addition to making some much needed renovations to the men's living spaces and our kitchen/dining area, we were able to purchase a property located at 150 Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg. This property's sole purpose is to help provide low-income housing in Adams County. We are happy to report that the renovations are underway, and we will soon be open, helping to meet this overwhelming need in our community.

There are many organizations in our county that are partnering together to come up with solutions to the growing need for affordable housing. There is a need to both create and sustain housing that is attainable for the lower-income populations in our community. Here at ARM/Agape we are proud to be a partner in these coalitions. The purchase of 150 Chambersburg Street is just one step in the movement to reach these goals.

### **Warehouse Church**

Join us on the first Sunday of each month for church, at the ARM Warehouse (9:30 – 11 am). Bring a chair, park in the gravel lot on the East side of the building, follow signs to enter the warehouse. Kids are welcome but there is no children's church.

### **Compassion International**

#### **A recent letter from Brayan**

Hello dear sponsors Friends. It is a pleasure to be able to write this letter. I hope you are in good health. I and my family are in very good health, thank God. I want to share with you that my house is built of adobe, my dad practices and likes carpentry a lot. He taught me the basics of the job, although I practice it from time to time. I currently work part time in construction. I help build houses. I really enjoy doing the work. I thank you very much for the letter you sent me. I am very happy reading your letters. I appreciate your sponsorship. I am very blessed and I also send greetings to everyone at church. I comment that in soccer games I am doing very well. The last one I played was a couple of week ago and thank God, we won, although it was very sad at the same time because I was injured and now I cannot play for a long time because I am recovering. I am always very careful on my motorcycle, thank God. I have not had any inconveniences. I thank you for your prayers. They are a great blessing. I also want to tell you that this year in the month of March was my graduation from High School. It made me very happy to receive my degree, first God one day I will fulfill my dream of going to university. I would like to know, how many young people attend church? What specific activities do you do? I would like to ask for your prayers so that God always takes care of me on the way to work and gives me and my family a lot of health. I will also be praying for you that God will continue to add to those who are being saved and so that they may be blessed. I say goodbye with love and affection, your friend Brayan.

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

#### **August 15, 2024 Newsletter**

Many students who attend colleges around the state returned back this summer and chose to join us for a gathering where we roasted s'mores and studied the scriptures. By God's grace, more than five different schools and four different countries were represented at our backyard Bible study. Plus, some of those students brought friends who do not yet believe in Jesus. Together, we examined a book of the Bible many of those students had never read before: Haggai. As we studied the word together, young men and women grappled with the exhortation delivered by the prophet Haggai, which challenged their priorities. As the sun set, students shared their thankfulness for Jesus, and how they wanted to grow in prioritizing God. Some described new prayer and Bible reading plans they were implementing. Others told us about opportunities to share about Jesus that they wanted to make the most of. Many shared how they wanted to come back again, to keep learning more from the book of Haggai. Please join us in praising God for giving us the opportunity to share God's word with those students, and for how God's word always accomplishes God's purposes!

*Continued on the next page . . .*

**SAT-7****August 1 letter from Dr. Rex Rogers, President of SAT-7 USA**

The annual World Watch List highlights 50 countries worldwide where Christians face the highest levels of persecution. Seventeen of the countries that SAT-7 serves made it on this year's list. An five of those countries are in the top ten. Yet, people still seek the truth.

Libya - #3 on the World Watch List

There are no safe places for Christians in Libya. An Isolated Believer could be arrested, abused, or murdered for sharing their faith.

Yemen - #5 on the World Watch List

Everything that keeps a country functioning has been destroyed in Yemen. Children are out of school. Poverty is widespread. War has left families without homes. And the Christians? Most are practicing their faith in secret. Because proclaiming one's faith can lead to job loss, imprisonment, forced marriage for women, and even execution.

Sudan - #8 on the World Watch List

Held in the grip of civil war, Sudan is an increasingly hostile country for Christians. Hundreds of churches have been closed, destroyed, or turned into military bases.

Iran - #9 on the World Watch List

Afsoon (we've changed her name for privacy), and so many others, can't safely gather for church because Iranians who become Christian are at risk of lengthy prison sentences, torture, and social rejection if caught in a house church.

Afghanistan - #10 on the World Watch List

Afghan Christians put their lives on the line to follow Jesus and gather with other believers. On top of the crushing religious pressure, poverty is rampant, education opportunities are limited, and women face extreme mistreatment.

**From the September 2024 SAT-7 Today Newsletter (names changed for safety)**

"My family and I had lost hope. As we watched television, we came across your programs. I decided I wanted to become a Christian. Now so many things have changed in my life." – Jamil from Afghanistan

"I'm 16 and have always felt empty and worried. I experienced the presence of God and felt peace. I've started to share the Gospel wherever I go!" – Mirna from Lebanon

"I've learned so much about love, how to treat my family, the Word of the Lord, being faithful, and so many other things. I thank you for all your hard work." – Afrouz from Tajikistan

"I had a dream where I was hugged and kissed by Jesus. I objected and said, 'You are God and shouldn't do that. I'm supposed to kiss Your hands and feet.' But Jesus answered saying, 'My ways are different.' I came to know Christ. My desire is for my entire family to know Him. Your programs are great for my growth." – Farshid from Iran

**TeachBeyond (Christian and Rayan Weaner)****From Christian and Rayan's Recent Prayer Letter**

"Well, Rayan and I had this whole prayer letter written and were about to send it out when we got some very sad news. My dad (Christian's) called to tell me that my 91- year-old grandfather, Roy Weaner, passed away suddenly at his home. Many of you knew Roy, who our family affectionately called 'Paw Paw,' or had the special opportunity to meet him at family functions and celebrations or even when he came to visit us in Idaho last year. He was one of the most loving, generous, and kind men you would ever want to meet. Paw Paw had a tremendous impact on both mine and Rayan's lives, and though he will be dearly missed by his friends and family, we are thankful to know that he is now in the presence of his Lord and and Savior.

*Continued on the next page . . .*



Continued from the preceding page . . .

Please pray for our family as we grieve his loss, and also pray for Rayan and I as we navigate the logistics of trying to return to the states for his funeral." [Christian and Rayan were able to return to the States for Roy's funeral.]

We hope each of you and your families are doing well! Know that we think and pray for each of you often.

It is so hard to believe we have been in Senegal for an entire month now! We want to thank each of you for your constant love, encouragement, and support over this last month through texts, emails, and messages on social media. It has shown us what a wonderful community that we have supporting and cheering us on, and for that, we are incredibly grateful!

We do want to express that as we are continuing to settle in here, we are not able to answer messages as quickly or as often as we would like, but please know how appreciated and encouraging they are and that we will respond as we can.

With that said, here are some highlights from this past month!



We participated in a staff-vs.-students dodgeball tournament during the first week of school.

We explored our neighborhood a little bit more and found a neat side street just down the road.

We tried Thieboudienne (pronounced Che-boo-Jen), the National dish of Senegal, which includes rice, fish, and yummy roasted vegetables.

Over the last month, Dakar has become more and more of a home to us every day. We are slowly picking up more French and hoping to begin some language classes soon.



Daily, on our way to and from work, many of the locals are so kind to teach us new phrases in French and Wolof, and while sometimes they do laugh at us in the process, we are so grateful for their friendship and patience as they have welcomed us into their community.

We just finished up our third week of school, and both of us are settling very nicely into our new roles.

... we would love if you would consider joining us in prayer over a few particular needs.

For one, we are having a bit of trouble selling our car that is back in the states. When we bought it, we had no idea what the Lord had in store for us, and though it was a wonderful blessing in many ways, it simply does not make sense to keep it.



That is one of our last needs to fully transition into this new season of life, so if you would approach the Lord with us that He would provide the perfect new owners, we would be so grateful!

In addition, with so much transition to a new language, home, foods, sicknesses, etc., we ask that you pray for good health and renewed strength and rest every day.

... Almost every weekend, someone new has taken us into the inner parts of the city to show us around and teach us more about Senegalese culture. We have also quickly gotten plugged into playing sports after school with the staff and students, serving in the school and with our local church body, and joining a weekly small group Bible study.

I, Rayan, have the opportunity to mentor some of our high school students as they lead worship for our school during our school's weekly chapel, and Christian has received the opportunity to share his expertise in journalism through helping teach a weekly class.

... To close, this is a benediction that we've often had spoken over both of us in various seasons of our lives and that we have also been speaking now over our students and each of you as well:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.* Numbers 6:24-26

We hope that throughout the month of September you will daily feel the radiance of the Lord shining His face upon you and your family, giving you joy, grace, and peace.

All our love,  
Christian and Rayan Weaner

### News About the Afghan Families

The youngest Ahmadzai child, Osman, has started Kindergarten. His father (Mumtaz) reported that Osman was so excited for his first day that he slept fitfully and rose early, dressed himself in his new clothes, wouldn't finish his milk, gathered his book bag and new school stuff, and waited on the porch much earlier than necessary. Finally, the bus arrived, and he happily got on the bus and waved goodbye to Hamza (his brother) and Sajida (mother). He came home happy and said he only missed his mother! The teacher called to report that he just cried a little and then had a good first day.

Sandy delivered diapers from the diaper giveaway to the Nasiri home for baby Husna.

### Heritage Festival

The Heritage Festival was held in Gettysburg on Sunday, September 15, and there was a wealth of exhibitors, cultural food offerings, and music and dance performances! Both of our Afghan families took great pains to have valuable contributions to the success of the Afghan booth. Here are some highlights:

- ~Awaz [Nasiri] came dressed in his traditional Afghan clothes. His presence at the table made a difference.
  - ~The older sons engaged beautifully and at length intermittently. Jahanzaib [Nasiri] even received an invitation to speak about his culture at Vida school.
  - ~Mumtaz [Ahmadzai] worked incredibly hard-- up late nights-- to pull together videos and mesh explanations and commentary. One video showed the natural wonders of Afghanistan and another focused on historical sights. [Unfortunately, the videos weren't highly visible in bright daylight and members of RRP may work on scheduling him to present his videos at one of the churches.]
- Farishta [Nasiri] was a real draw to the Afghanistan booth. The henna designs she painted on people's hands were exquisite, creative and varied. Her talent in this area has grown over time.

## The Grace of Giving - The Giving Corner - A Season of Stewardship

*"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."* 1 Peter 4:9-10

What is grace? The Oxford Dictionary defines grace as: courteous goodwill; an attractively polite manner of behaving. As Christians we define grace as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings. For us, grace is the underserved gift of God given to us, the greatest of these being his only son, Jesus Christ. How do we show our gratitude for this "Amazing Grace"?

During this Season of Stewardship we are asked to reflect on our talents, time and treasures that are given to us by God. We are asked to reflect on how we use these gifts to show our gratefulness to our Holy Father for his grace; for the gift of redemption through his Son; and for his daily inspiration through the ever-present Holy Spirit. What miraculous gifts we have been given!

Over the next few weeks the subject of Stewardship will be discussed and what gifts of talent, time, and treasures we can offer for the good of God's people in response for all that God has done for us.

Let this Season of Stewardship be an awakening for all of us that stewardship is truly a way of life for every day of every season in response to the abundant goodness of our Creator and Father! *Continued on the next page -*



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

*"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."* 2 Corinthians 9:12 (Lauren Neely)



## From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on September 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- ~ Membership as of 9/13/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):153, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56, Family Members: 51, Total: 260. Sadly we had the passing of Roy Weaner this past month on September 6. His memorial service was conducted on Friday September 13, 2024 in the sanctuary with burial immediately following at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA.
- ~ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for August. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

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

- ~ Sunday, October 20, 2024: Congregational Meeting to be held at approximately 9:45 AM, between services, to receive the report of the nominating committee.
- ~ September 27, 2024: Meeting at the home of Laura Bulger for those attending the marriage retreat.
- ~ September 28, 2024: Ladies Guild yard/bake sale at the church from 8am to 2pm
- ~ Saturday, October 19, 2024: Men's breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- ~ December 3, 10, and 17, 2024: Advent evening studies starting at 5:30pm with soup, bread and cookies and study starting at 6:00pm.
- ~ I&S team will invest \$113,200 from MOM account (line \*2999, Mission other) in a CD until it is determined what these funds will be specifically used for. This is the money from the estate of Randy Smith and is designated for Missions.
- ~ Adult baptisms to take place on Sunday, October 13, 2024.

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

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

- ~ Offering a plot in our cemetery free of charge for the baby daughter stillborn to Mackenzie Truan and Isaac Brady on September 10. A prayer service will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 21.
- ~ Sanctuary elevator needs to be run more to keep it in good operating order.
- ~ Solar panel informational handout is ready for the budget conversation on September 29 (it will be passed out at worship services on September 22).
- ~ Continuing to investigate sound absorption panels in the fellowship hall to help with the echo problem when the hall is full of people.

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

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

- ~ The August 2024 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.
- ~ The Missionaries and Other Missions fund (MOM) will be making the payments for Adams County Prison Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Tender Care, Gettysburg Soup Kitchen and Mission of Mercy through the Annual Giving Spree program. The Giving Spree provides an additional subsidy to our donation.
- ~ Budget conversation to be held on September 29 during Sunday School hour.
- ~ Minute for Mission will be on October 6.
- ~ Pot luck dinner for Stewardship Sunday on October 13 at 5pm.

***News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church***

Team Members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynne Orner and Susan Nunamaker

- ~ Congregational Retreat – It was a great day! Next year will look at possibly having it in September when it's not as hot.
- ~ Ice cream social was a great time of fellowship.
- ~ New members will be received into membership Sunday, October 6, at a special Session meeting/lunch after worship services. They will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 13.
- ~ Church directory is being updated and will be available via the app and also 30-40 hard copies of the new directories will be printed and available.
- ~ New members luncheon will be held after the 11:00 service on October 6.
- ~ Harvest Home collection will be October 13-27.

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

- ~ Participation by individuals of the congregation will be encouraged for the Salvation Army bell ringing at Walmart in Gettysburg during December. Notices will be included in the bulletin.
- ~ 2023 Session records review was conducted by Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership, as required by the Book of Order. Everything was found to be in good order.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – AUGUST 2024

## Church Operating Fund Income

| Account Description                   | August—2024        | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$21,317.05        | \$195,015.41         | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$1,204.20         | \$38,246.67          | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$22,521.25</b> | <b>\$233,262.08</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                      |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | \$2,057.85         | \$2,352.29           | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$0.00             | \$26.40              | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$0.00             | \$5,148.00           | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$7,011.24         | \$38,005.72          | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$17,071.93        | \$135,360.32         | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$26,141.02</b> | <b>\$180,892.73</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>-\$3,619.77</b> | <b>\$52,369.35</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 8/31/2024: \$88,230.64

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

| Account Description | August—2024       | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$3,758.77        | \$65,523.06          | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$10.29           | \$1,751.50           | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$3,769.06</b> | <b>\$67,274.56</b>   | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

## Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

|                              |                   |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$249.00</b>   | <b>\$63,346.35</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$3,520.06</b> | <b>\$3,928.21</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 8/31/2024: \$6,082.46

Notable expenses for August: Church Home Ministry—Taxes (\$3,227.30)



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

*Li'l Ripples* October 2024



Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

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

Church Office Hours

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."

*Li'l Ripples* - Editor, Fay Hess - 717-476-5682 or [lilripples@gmail.com](mailto:lilripples@gmail.com)