

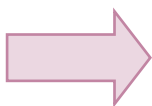
Li'l Ripples

April 2025
Volume 25
Issue 4

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church



A Message from
Pastor Mark



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Deadline for the May issue of
Li'l Ripples is April 18th

The Days of a Holy Week

As we move through the six weeks of the season of Lent, we know that the Church's most holy week will soon arrive. We need to know and understand these events in the life of Jesus. What is Holy Week? What happened? What does it mean? Why is it important? We need to know and understand what actually happened to Jesus during these days we mark as Holy Week. Like our celebration of Christmas has become diluted with stories of Santa Claus, shopping, holiday parties and Christmas cookies; Holy Week has also become confused and overwhelmed with a lot of fun cultural baggage like Easter eggs, the Easter bunny, and an emphasis on Springtime flowers and gardens.

Holy Week is the Church's story. Only the Church will proclaim, remember and teach the biblical story of these days. All four of the Gospels in our New Testament explain with great detail and passion what happened during the days we call Holy Week. (See Matthew chapters 21- 28, Mark 11- 16, Luke 19-24, and John 12- 21). Understanding the final days of the ministry of Jesus is foundational and required for our Christian life and commitments.

Palm Sunday: Jesus intentionally rejected the image of a military leader riding a majestic stallion into battle; Jesus rode a tiny, immature colt as a sign of his humility, meekness and close identification with the poor. He rode colt into Jerusalem and his followers created a spontaneous parade waving branches from the trees. They worshipped Jesus as the coming Messiah.

Maudy Thursday: During these days in Jerusalem, the conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities and the Roman political authorities became intense. At the height of this tension, Jesus gathered his friends and disciples in a quiet, private room. They prayed and ate together. And after their meal, in an action that has echoed through the ages, Jesus created what we practice today as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday: The climax of the conflict that Jesus' teaching and behavior created was reached after that Supper on Thursday evening when Jesus was arrested, and his disciples scattered in fear. All day on Friday Jesus was mocked, scorned, tortured and humiliated and finally in the afternoon crucified. For all to see, Jesus was dead and defeated.

Easter Sunday: Of course, we proclaim the Crucifixion of Jesus is not the end. We believe that early on Sunday morning, the power of Almighty God raised Jesus from the dead, defeating death, vindicating Jesus, and creating an eternal gift for all of God's people: salvation.

These are the days of Holy Week. These are days we should know and understand. These are events that have created and inspired our faith. We believe...

In Christ!
Mark



When you think of the cross, what thoughts come to mind? Steeples? Gold necklaces? Churches ?
Or do you think of Nails? Blood? Pain? Death? Joy? Or an Eternal Promise ?

Share those thoughts with the JOINT Sunday School class on Sunday mornings starting on March 23 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This will be a 4-week Lenten series to discuss the book *He Did This Just For You* by Max Lucado. Contact Mike Orleski, Doyle Waybright, or Susan Nunamaker with any questions. Hope to see you there.

THE SEASON OF LENT 2025

Memory verses: The practice of memorizing verses of the Bible is a good discipline for the Season of Lent. Here are some powerful and popular verses that may be memorized. These were included in worship each week:

March 16, 2025: Second Sunday of Lent

Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

March 23, 2025: Third Sunday of Lent

Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

March 30, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Micah 6:8 - And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

April 6, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

April 13, 2025: Sixth Sunday of Lent/ Palm Sunday

John 11:25 - Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP - THE DAYS OF HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - April 13:

Our 10:00 a.m. worship service in our sanctuary will include a special presentation of the symbols of the season. Each will be brought forward and displayed on our Communion Table: the palms, the cross and crown of thorns, the spikes, the bag of coins, the plate and chalice.

Maundy Thursday:

In our sanctuary, in the quiet of the evening, at 7:00, we will gather for a creative, meaningful celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's supper. Gathering in groups of twelve, we will share the bread and the cup together and remember the Last Supper, and appreciate the grace of Jesus Christ that has saved us.

Good Friday:

Acknowledging and facing death directly, we will gather in our cemetery at 3:00 in the afternoon for a time of prayer, Bible reading and worship. Together, we will read through the events of Good Friday from our Scriptures. We will create some personal time to wander around the blessed grounds of our historic cemetery.

Easter Sunday:

We will look for dawn in the eastern sky. We will gather outside in our Church yard, in the parking lot, looking east and praising God for the power of resurrection. This outdoor service at 6:30 a.m. will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. There will also be an Easter worship service in our sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Collection improves the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: help recover and find hope after the devastation after disasters. Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. Partnering in Progress -responding to racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educating Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering **between now and April 13th** by placing your gift in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailing it to the Church office. Or grab a fish coin bank from the narthex and fill it up. If writing a check please make payable to LMCPD with OGHS written on the memo line.

The Couple's Study Group will be venturing to Newburg, PA on **Friday, April 11th at 6:00PM** for a delicious Amish dinner. The meal consists of a variety of homemade side dishes and desserts plus turkey and beef served family style at a cost of \$25 per person (plus tip). Jean and Lee Bentz will host our evening together using the topic *Differences* from our *Growing Old Together* devotional which I'm sure we all agree is relative to our marriages. Please **sign up** in the Narthex for this dinner **by April 6th**. Jean and Lee will be providing directions and maps as needed. Watch the Sunday Bulletins for additional details.

The Couple's Study Group will be meeting **May 10th at 5:30PM** in Fellowship Hall hosted by Karen and Jim Richardson. The theme will be Enjoying Spring and our topic will be *Materialism* (oh dear!) from or *Growing Old Together* devotional. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for further details and the sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning April 20th.

Bev Benner

The Women's Guild - Don't feel taxed but the Guild meeting is **April 15th at 1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Join us for great fellowship!

Roz Santay

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

AFTER EASTER - In early 2024, Pastor Mark challenged us to memorize the powerful 23rd Psalm. Our Sunday Morning Group will continue discussing the promises of this Psalm. We are using Max Lucado's book *Traveling Light*. Join us at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall - **AFTER EASTER** - to see how this psalm will help us release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear.

Susan Nunamaker and Doyle Waybright

Lend-A-Hand - The Presbyterian disaster relief group Lend-A-Hand will be traveling to New Bern, North Carolina **April 27th- May 3rd** to help in restoring that area. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for further details and contact Bev Benner if interested in joining this endeavor.

Lenten Soup Supper and Study on the Parables will continue March 26, April 2 & 9 at 5:30 PM

Ash Wednesday - March 5, 2025

Soup Supper and Informal Service in Fellowship Hall.



Thanks to Jim Richardson for all these photos



Soup Supper and Study Wednesday, March 12, 2025



Remember not only to say the right thing at the right place,
but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Benjamin Franklin

(From the book *a Laugh A Day*.

Thanks to Kathy Megyeri .)

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS



My dearest Lower Marsh Creek Church family,

Thank you so much for the overwhelming cards and flowers for my 100th birthday. It is truly a blessing to be well and active at this age, but it is also wonderful to be blessed with such a supportive church family.

With gratitude,
Mabert Anderson

*"Stressed out?
Don't give up -
Moses was once a
basket case."*

Chaplain Mark Sperling
(From the book *A Laugh a Day*.
Thanks to Kathy Megyeri.)



February 27, 2025

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

OAM's ministry matters ! When you give to our ministry, you are a vital partner in the care-giving provided to missionaries who find themselves in need. Your faithful prayers and financial support keep us on the field, loving missionaries who find themselves in a myriad of circumstances. We are committed to providing good and godly counsel, giving a place for refreshment where they can get the help they need, and doing it at no charge to the missionary.

Thank you for standing with us !

Tod Witte - Executive Director - *One Another Ministries*

Editor's note - Please see full
OAM report on pages 12, 13.

*Happy
Birthday
to
these*

2 - Leslie Megyeri
4 - Gary Hughes
10 - Evelyn Stephens
20 - Lynn Huges
29 - Arlene Wright
30 - Mike Orleski

*members
of the
LMCPC
Family*

MARRIAGE RETREAT 2025 RECAP

The annual marriage retreat was held Mar 7-9, 2025 at the White Sulphur Springs Christian Retreat Center, near Bedford, Pa. *What a beautiful venue!* The meals were tasty and the views were masterpieces of God's creation. The enlightening and interesting program was delivered by Pastor Laura Rager-Bulger. Laura pastors 3 independent churches in our local area with whom we collaborated on this retreat: The Orrtanna Good News Church, Mt. Carmel Community Church, and Rouzerville Christian Church. On Sunday morning Pastor Mark led us in a program of emotional vow renewal/conversation and led us in communion.

New friendships were made; Hallelujah!

Pastor Laura's theme for the retreat was "*Gratitude is everything*".

The first session focused on being deliberate in patience and perseverance. In summary: By being intentionally patient and kind with our words, we create a home where love flourishes.

The second session focused on being thankful in difficult times. The take aways from this session were:

- Holding onto sin, guilt, or frustration in marriage wears us down over time.
- Confession and forgiveness release the burden of sin and allow peace and thankfulness to return.
- When we confess and repent, we don't just restore peace with God—we restore peace in our home... with our spouse.
- Be quick to say, "I was wrong. I'm sorry."
- Choose grace over grudge-holding, and watch thankfulness replace tension!

In conclusion, Let's start running to the One who truly shelters and guides us in good times and difficult times!

Session three focused on who we are in Christ. A strong marriage starts with two people who know who they are in Christ. Our individual worth is found in what God says about us, not what our spouse says or does. When you know who you are in Christ, you bring security, peace, and love into your marriage.

In Session 4 we talked about and practiced how to pray for our spouses. We are at our strongest when prayer is at the center of our marriages. Not only do marriages stay on track when couples pray, but their marriages thrive.

Throughout the retreat we had intimate, emotional couple discussions. This was done in the privacy of a small corner of a very large conference room. We also had panel discussions to augment the points Pastor Laura made and get perspectives from the panel members. And in the afternoon, on Saturday, we had several hours of free time to enjoy the locality, meditate, rest, hike, look for the many covered bridges in Bedford county, or just be in "*your empty box*." Attendees will understand that remark better than others!!

If you were unable to join us this year, please consider signing up for next year. Everyone loved White Sulphur Springs so much that we signed up for March 6-8, 2026. Stay tuned!! We'll soon be running one of our wonderful sub sales to supplement couples fees so all can attend this most wonderful event!

Gratitude is Everything

The Power of Prayer When We Are Sick

by Robert Klitzman

Patients and families struggle to make sense of serious diseases and threats of death when facing medical crises. They seek hope, purpose, and connections beyond themselves and often pastors and chaplains help fill the void with valuable insights and approaches. Most of us will die in hospitals and/or nursing homes and will face spiritual issues. In this book filled with the author's personal experiences and interviews, "*The Power of Prayer When We Are Sick*" can assist in medical care decisions. Author Robert Klitzman is a psychiatrist, director of the Masters of Bioethics program at Columbia University and writer of "*Doctor, Will You Pray for Me?*", *Medicine, Chaplains and Healing the Whole Person*." He recently wrote in the Washington Post (10/29, E5) that religion, spirituality and prayer aids many patients in varying ways. Those with serious diseases and their families commonly feel defeat and despair and come to value religious and spiritual beliefs. A 2023 AP-NORC poll found that 72% of Americans believed in the power of prayer and that attendance at religious services has been associated with lower risk of death, suicide, substance abuse and depression. In his in-depth study based on interviews with hospital chaplains from across the country and from religious backgrounds including Christians, Jews, Muslims and secular humanists, Klitzman found how vital religious and/or spiritual issues are for patients and families and how chaplains and pastors frequently assist in so many ways. His studies showed that having strong spiritual or religious beliefs can assist psychologically in fighting or coping with illness in these ways:

1. Brain changes: Neuroscience research shows that strong religious or spiritual beliefs are associated with the thicker parts of the brain and provide neuronal reserves that can buffer against depression and despair.
2. Purpose: Religion and spirituality provide a sense of meaning, purpose and hope.
3. Meaning: Patients find or construct their own sources of meaning either through traditional faith or belief in some other form.
4. Social Support. Religious and spiritual groups also commonly provide valuable social support and interaction.

Klitzman has personally seen prayer aid patients psychologically. Some repeat the Serenity Prayer: "*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*" Some practice meditation and mindfulness while others regularly express gratitude for all that they have, especially people who love them. Some hospital chaplains and pastors report that when they encourage the sick not to focus on external accomplishments but to enjoy each day they have, the patient's focus is changed and gratitude and positivity increase. What an endorsement for the power of the spiritual and prayer in healing.

Book review by Kathy Magyeri

**Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. - Psalm 150**

By now, I'm sure everyone has noticed the new location of our sanctuary piano. And I'm also sure that you have noticed a different person playing the piano and organ during our worship services.

Both of those changes have been an absolute blessing to our church choir, The Faithful Voices (more on that later . . .).

I think it's about time for the congregation to get to know our new choir director/organist. Therefore, I'm very pleased for this opportunity to introduce her to you. Please join me in welcoming Deb Wolf to our church family.

Deb and her husband Larry are members of the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church, where Larry is a Ruling Elder. Together, they have three children, seven grandchildren and two rescue cats.

Deb is a former music teacher with a BA in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was employed by the Conewago Valley School District for over 20 years, where she taught music and 4-6 grade orchestra, and directed the 5-8 grade chorus. Most recently, Deb served as organist for Gettysburg Presbyterian Church, and she has been a substitute organist and teacher at various area churches and schools.

But her talents don't stop there...Deb has also worked as an optician and optical manager. She can crochet and knit on a loom, too (and she has a beautiful singing voice—trust me, I know).

The members of Faithful Voices have been overwhelmed by Deb's happy enthusiasm. Her steady musical direction from her vantage point at the piano (we can actually see her now, woo-hoo!) has greatly improved our entrances and exits, our dynamics and our enunciation. I can't wait to see what new improvements Deb's influence will bring in the future! We in the choir are very appreciative of her precise, yet heartfelt virtuosity on the keyboards. Deb is making us sound better in so many ways.

The next time you get a chance, don't be shy - walk up front and give a warm LMCPG welcome (including a patented LMCPG hug) to Deb Wolf. We think she's a keeper! - Dirk Grove



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

Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305

Jim Welsh 717- 377- 5370

Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123

FOOD PANTRY - One box of donated items was delivered to the Fairfield Food Pantry this month.

WELCOME

SPRING



Thanks to

Jim

Richardson

A message from the editor:

DO NOT LOSE HEART

The above title of Pastor Mark's sermon on March 2nd gave rise to immediate introspection. It caused me to do a lot of soul-searching. *Do not lose heart.* (2 Cor. 4:16 NIV) Very good advice - especially since these words are found in the Bible in one form or another in many places. At the risk getting more personal than comfort would allow, for many of us, this is easier said than done. Many people suffer from depression to one degree or another. For some it's just feeling a little sad now and then. Others sink into a deep mental pit. For some individuals it's a temporary malady after a personal loss. For others it's a life long struggle. Some improve with a change in their circumstances. Others develop a brighter outlook as they mature. Still others head the other way as they grow older. Many need medicine to overcome an imbalance in their brain chemistry. Years ago, in a devotional book, I read about a pastor who suffered from depression for much of his adult life. He struggled and felt guilty. He thought his faith was not strong enough. When he finally won the battle, he said, *it took total dependence on the Lord, and one tiny pill every day.* Since I am not a doctor, I would not offer medical advice to anyone regarding anti-depressant medicines. However, as a believer, I can recommend total dependence on the Lord. In an effort to help, I offer the following for consideration - (1) a recent quote from the news, (2) another Bible verse and (3) the complete verse from 2nd Corinthians -

(1) *I feel in my heart the 'blessing' that is hidden within frailty, because it is precisely in these moments that we learn even more to trust in the Lord.* (Pope Francis - while in hospital - March 2, 2025)

(2) *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged; for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.* (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

(3) *Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.* (2 Cor. 4:16 NIV)

Remember to follow the LIGHT !

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

Adams Rescue Mission

As we are preparing to launch our first daycare for Adams County we need your help with some supplies. Below is a link to our Amazon Wishlist specifically for the daycare. The items listed are what we need to be able to launch our first daycare. We would love your support in providing a low-income daycare for Adams County!

You can have any donated items sent to the Adams Rescue Mission located at 2515 York Road in Gettysburg.

https://www.amazon.com/.../3BU7N.../ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County

The annual CEF banquet will be held on May 3 (6-8 pm) at the Heidlersburg Fire Department, 2720 Heidlersburg Road, Gettysburg. Children from the Good News Clubs (GNC) will be sharing memory verses and songs that they have learned through the school year. RSVP by April 15 to Miss Pam at the CEF office (717-677-4797).

A friend of CEF has designed a CEF t-shirt that we would like to give to our students that regularly attend GNC. By encouraging them to wear their shirt to school, especially on Club days, we hope it will generate interest from their classmates to attend. We are excited about this project, and if you would like to help, please send your donation with a note for T-Shirts to CEF, PO Box 94, Biglerville, PA 17307. We estimate the cost to be \$7.30 each.

Kids Speak: "How could Jesus die for my sins? I hadn't been born yet."

DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)*Student to Student Discipleship*

When "Kelly" came to Penn State York three years ago, she didn't talk to many people, didn't have a vision to move outside of her few friends, and feared what people were thinking of her. ... Last semester Kelly began meeting up with freshmen students to get to know them and see where they're at spiritually. We prayed together that God would make it clear who He wanted her to disciple. And over the next few weeks, He did! Kelly connected with "Brittany," a freshman student, and discovered that they shared similar struggles and trials. Brittany opened up to Kelly about her heartaches and fears, and Kelly encouraged her with God's Word and prayer. ...

This semester ... I started working with Kelly to help her take her personal Bible study skills to the next level. At the same time, Kelly began meeting weekly with Brittany to study Ephesians. So, each week, Kelly deploys her developing Bible study skills with Brittany. Together, they dig deeper and deeper into God's word. Their aim is to know, love, and obey Jesus better. And amazingly, their efforts are already bearing fruit! Last week, Brittany met "Emily," another freshman. She learned that Emily was looking for a group to help her grow in her faith. So, Brittany sat down with her *for three hours!* *Brittany shared about our Bible study on campus, and that week Emily showed up. At the end of the Bible study, Emily felt so encouraged by God's word and cared for by Brittany and Kelly that she declared, "I'll be back next week!"*

Kelly, who began as a timid, shy student who didn't want to move outside of her comfort zone, is now raising up a disciple of Jesus! Please pray for Kelly, Brittany and Emily, that God would continue to work in all three of them. Please also pray for God to continue raising up student disciples who make disciples!

Continued on the next page . . .

DiscipleMakers continued from the preceding page . . .

Personal Update

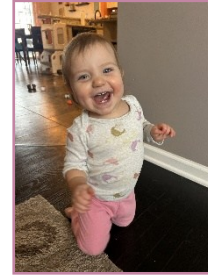
On January 31st we celebrated 10 years of marriage! For our anniversary we took a weekend trip to Lancaster where we got to enjoy lots of delicious food (can you say Shady Maple?) and spend time reminiscing over the past decade. We are so thankful for these sweet 10 years and look forward to many more together!



Wedding Day



We now have a new helper in the kitchen!



Taken by Simeon. After he took the photo he said "Mom, you can see Hope's little teeth!"

Mission of Mercy

Volunteers Needed: Join our incredible volunteer team and end your day inspired! [Mission of Mercy](https://www.missionofmercy.org) needs **Clinic DRIVERS** to volunteer two days per month. No special driver's license needed. This also requires basic computer skills for light data entry during the day – training is included. If you're interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact Jennifer White at 301-682-5683 x204 or email jwhite@amissionofmercy.org or call Todd Orndorff at 717-253-2907. **Help Mission of Mercy serve the chronically ill uninsured in Gettysburg and surrounding areas and help keep patients out of the ER!**

SAT-7

We received this message from Brian Nelson, Ministry Development Director for the SAT-7 USA Office:

Following an extensive national search, the SAT-7 Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of the new SAT-7 USA President, Mr. John Paul Cerniglia. He will assume his new position on April 28, 2025. Most recently, Mr. Cerniglia served as Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer, Operation Mobilization USA, where he led the growth of the Global Generosity Team and helped the mission significantly increase its financial support. ...

Mr. Cerniglia has served in global missions leadership roles for 32 years, and his ministry has spanned 45 countries. His experience includes service with The United Methodist Children's Home, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Habitat for Humanity International, and CARE USA. He is a CFRE, an alumnus of Houghton College, and Adjunct Faculty for the Indiana University Lilly School of Philanthropy. ...

Mr. Cerniglia will succeed the current sixteen-year president, Dr. Rex M. Rogers, who announced his intention to retire on May 30, 2025.

Tender Care

Tender will hold a fundraising virtual Walk for Life on May 10, 2025. Register online at <https://tendercare.org/walk-for-life/>. You can walk (anytime or place) as a group, with friends, family, or by yourself. For more information email debbie@tendercare.org or call 717.633.9685.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Thomas and Cheri Henry/One Another Ministries (England)

From their January-February Newsletter (received after last month's newsletter deadline)

Waiting: divine activity of expecting God to act

We love that description. Last year God kept reminding us, to wait patiently, walk in the light and hope of Christ, keep living and serving where we are, expectantly. It was as if he was saying, "I am preparing you, in ways not always obvious, for another season of ministry." We now see (a bit more clearly). In January, we began to receive invites to serve couples and singles on a variety of mission fields. One after another, and suddenly our 2025 calendar is nearly full! *PRAY for the ongoing wisdom of setting good boundaries and pacing ourselves.*

It started at the [Shoulder to Shoulder](#) conference in January in Malaga. S2S is an initiative of One Another Ministries (OAM) and focuses on encouraging and equipping single missionaries. Barry Danylak laid out a Theology of Singleness that is biblical, eye-opening, not-talked-about, convicting, and exciting. The whole mission field, not to mention the whole church, needs to better understand these principles. Partly because, in general, fewer singles are marrying, more are confused, and we all need to know how to relate with singles in ways that help not hurt. ASK GOD to show you, *"What is my attitude toward singles?" "What is God's?"*

In Lisbon, we met a young Christian Nigerian American, a meteorologist in NYC with a major TV network. He shared with us about his life of singleness. Considering Barry's message on God's purpose for singles, we better understand the challenges men like this face, where expectations of singleness vary greatly between cultures.

Kenya

Last fall at a conference in Nairobi, we spread the word about the work we do with missionary couples and singles. Although not called to the African context, we're beginning to see some fruit that could result in expanding the work we do. There is a couple in Kenya who is establishing a retreat center for missionaries. In two weeks, we will lead them through a marriage intensive. *PRAY God use this in their own marriage and ministry. ASK HIM how we can, even in a small way, bring helpful resources where there are few, and point ministry leaders to Christ.*

Uganda

As mentioned above, we are challenged to better advocate for singles and to integrate a Biblical Theology of Singleness into our current ministry context. Every time we do a [Relational Skills Intensive for Couples or Singles](#), we will now teach a session on this topic. And so, it starts in Uganda. We were invited to teach 24 Ugandan national ministry leaders about marriage and singleness (right on the heels of Kenya). This is different from the intensives we run, as this context is a training curriculum, and it is a group of both non-marrieds and marrieds-with-only-one-spouse-in-ministry. A first for us. *PRAY we communicate in culturally relevant ways, and that they have ears to hear what God wants to show them.*

Jordan & Tunisia

We have been praying from Turkey for years for an open door to offer the couples and singles intensives in Jordan and Tunisia. In both fields, we have friends and know several workers. PTL we have now scheduled five weeks in Apr and May, two intensives in Jordan and two in Tunisia. We thank God for our new teammate / facilitator / single worker friend, who is handling on-the-ground details for us. We have enough participants committed to make flight and housing plans. But *PRAY for a few more to commit, and for God even now to begin preparing their hearts for a deeper work in their marriage and ministry relationships.*

Continued on the next page . . .

Thomas and Cheri Henry/OAM (England) *continued from the preceding page . . .*

Portuguese-Speakers

On the Malaga trip, we stopped in Lisbon, Portugal, to check out venues for future intensives. A Brazilian couple runs a retreat center there that would serve us well as a venue. *PRAY as we search for other intensive venues more strategically located to where many missionaries serve.*

On that front, we recently started conversations with two Portuguese-speaking ministry leaders in Lisbon, who were helped by the marriage intensive. Now they want to see it developed within their organization, that serves an ever-growing number of Latinos being sent to the mission field. In fact, we're in the planning stage of leading a marriage intensive there this summer, where they will shadow us. *PTL the intensive manual was recently translated into Portuguese. PRAY as we meet with them and plan next steps to train them as facilitators.*

Romania

The Romania Intensive team is growing. Beyond the several couples already trained as facilitators, there are newer couples from the intensive we helped lead there last fall who are expressing interest in making this part of their ministry. *PRAY for the first couple we trained years ago, as they lead this wider team and juggle new ministry responsibilities. PRAY for us as we mentor this couple. PRAY for that team, as they lead 2-3 intensives a year in Romania.* And PRAY for wisdom for our ongoing involvement with all of them.

One Another Ministries (OAM) is Getting a Reboot

We are grateful for the 28 years OAM has been serving missionaries, and the foundation that was laid. [Read more about [OAM's history.](#)] Some of the original staff have retired, but some are still very much active and integral to the organization. At the same time, we are excited about seeing a younger, more robust team develop.

Last year we added three new US board members and a new counselor here in England. As of January 1, Todd Witte is our new Executive Director. [See [Todd's bio.](#)] And this year, Lord willing, we add another counselor! Both counselors bring young families with children, which we love! *PRAY for the family coming later this year, that they raise up their last bit of support.*

This growth at the organizational level is dove-tailing with the vision we have for our personal ministry. And there is a sense among us that OAM is ready to expand.

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

March 20, 2025 email to Sandy, Mark, and members of LMCP

Warm greetings to you in this season of Lent, as we reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We want to ensure you are aware of some significant changes happening in PC(USA) and for us personally. We are grateful for you, and for our recent correspondence with Sandy.

On that note, we want to let you know that this month the work and role of all mission co-workers with PC(USA) is being concluded. PC(USA) is transitioning to a new model of engaging with global partners which is called Global Ecumenical Partnerships. This news article from early February describes more about this significant shift: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/2/5/interim-unified-agency-pcusa-announces-shift-approach-global-ministry-engagement>. Any financial support sent to PC(USA) for mission co-workers in the future will go to support continued engagement with global partners in this new model. We have been invited to continue with PC(USA) in this new model, but we have graciously declined, feeling God calling us in a new direction.

Continued on the next page . . .

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan) *continued from the preceding page . . .*

For several months we have been preparing to transition from South Sudan. Last week we said farewell to friends and colleagues that we have worked with over 8 years and moved from Juba to the U.S. We will be discerning over the next several months where God is calling us to continue in ministry, with a hope to return to Africa to serve. We anticipate that we will serve through a different sending agency in this next place of ministry. If you want to hear updates as we discern our next steps or want to continue supporting us in our next chapter, please let us know. Our personal email address to use going forward is bob.kristi.rice@gmail.com. Our PC(USA) email addresses will no longer be active after March 24.

We are very grateful to you for your support, prayers, and partnership in this ministry. Your participation in this ministry has enabled us to equip and accompany the church in South Sudan as they train leaders and promote healing and reconciliation. We have attached our final newsletter from South Sudan with some updates on recent activities. We consider it a gift to be connected with you, and we hope to stay in touch.

We would love to hear from you. If you have questions about the new model of PC(USA) or want to discuss our transition or how you can continue supporting us in future ministry, please let us know.

We pray for God's Spirit to continue working in your congregation, to renew your faith and love as you reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection in this season. Despite the tragic conflicts and suffering in our world, we have hope in our God who continues to show His love and restore life.

Gratefully,
Bob and Kristi

Ryan and Alethia White (Germany)

From a February 27, 2025 email to Sandy

... I hope you received the email we sent out to supporters earlier this week announcing the termination of our position and plans to relocate to Richmond, VA. It would have been difficult for us to organize something similar to the work we were doing since it was on behalf of PCUSA, and we decided it is a good time to be closer to family. We are likely going to be arriving in August. [They are staying until the end of the school year.] Our email after March 24 will be Alethia.ryan@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM SAT-7

Prayers are needed for Syria following an outbreak of violence.

The fall of the Assad regime in Syria last December took the world by surprise, igniting hopes of a peaceful future for the war-weary nation. But violent clashes between Assad loyalists and government security forces, and subsequent retaliatory attacks, have claimed over 1,000 lives, reportedly including Christians and people from other minorities.

As the violence broke out on the west coast on Thursday (March 6) and intensified over the weekend, SAT-7 ARABIC called for prayer for the escalating situation in Syria. A Facebook post received over 1,800 reactions and more than 600 comments as viewers responded with a flood of their own prayers.

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for protection over Syria and for the suffering to end. Lord, hear our prayers and answer," wrote one viewer. Another said, *"Lord, our country needs You and the touch of Your Spirit... Speak a word, Lord, and heal our land so that peace may fill it."* And another declared: *"We have full*

Continued on the next page . . .

Message From SAT-7 *continued from the preceding page . . .*

trust and faith in our Holy God, who sees all things and for whom nothing is impossible. We rely on the mighty arm of the Lord Jesus and His protection."

Uncertain Times for Christians

According to reports, hundreds of people from minority groups, including Christians and those from the Alawite sect - to whom the ex-president Assad belongs – were killed in the recent attacks. Syria's leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, responded by saying his governing forces will hold accountable anyone involved in harming civilians, but tensions remain for Christians and other minorities, particularly those living near loyalist hotspots on the west coast.

The situation for Christians in Syria is complex. They experienced relative security and religious freedom during the reign of Assad, and before the Syrian civil war, numbered around 1.5 million, approximately ten percent of the population. But huge numbers of Christians fled the country during the war, partly because of persecution and violence in areas controlled by so-called Islamic State groups. Now there are only around 300,000 left.

SAT-7 has been hearing from Syrian Christians who decided to stay, such as Pastor Maher Samaan from Homs, who appeared on the SAT-7 ARABIC talk show *You Are Not Alone* in January. He explained how Christians in Syria have sensed God's closeness throughout the war and beyond the fall of Assad.

"I thank the Lord that throughout the war we were protected by Him," he said. "We, as a church, thank the Lord that until today there are no direct threats against us. There are some individual actions against Christians, but not by the general public."

Pastor Samaan said that Christians are "*a main component*" of Syria and have a role to play in rebuilding the country. *"We have a role as a church by sticking to each other and supporting each other for a better Syria in the future. If we leave, how can we build our country?"*

There were celebrations among different faith groups when the Assad regime fell, with the new Syrian leaders Hayat Tahrir al-Sham promising to protect minorities when they took control of the country. But the violence of the last week will do little to reassure those who are anxious about Syria's future.

Support for Believers

SAT-7's Arabic-speaking Viewer Support Team has been providing support and prayer to people in Syria during these tumultuous times. Rami, a Syrian viewer, contacted us last month to share how his faith has been impacted by the troubles in the country. *"I am a Christian, but I know nothing about Christianity and the Christian faith because of the religious sectarianism and all the terrorist factions in Syria, as well as the oppression of Christians and the dismantling of their communities... I cannot approach a church or express my secret belief in God's existence."*

The team welcomed Rami, offered him support, and expressed sympathy for what was happening in his home country. After explaining the core elements of the Christian faith, the team prayed with him. *"I am grateful for you," Rami said in a later message. "I want you to continue with me, and God knows that you were my guide to the path of light. I will start reading the Bible."*

Please Pray

Pray for peace and stability in Syria, and for those involved in targeting civilians to be brought to justice.

Pray for all those who lost loved ones or suffered injuries in the latest attacks.

Pray for the protection of Christians and other vulnerable minorities in Syria, and that different groups will be able to live together peaceably.



The Giving Corner

He Gave His One and Only Son

The glorious season of Easter is upon us once again! That time when we celebrate the amazing Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all know the verse from **John 3:16**:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

That God ***so loved the world*** - that is you and me! The immensity of this gift comes to light when we realize that God owes us nothing and needs nothing from us. Truly, it is an overwhelming thought, he gave us Himself!

We should and must realize that all that we have and all that we use are from our Creator. Because of his goodness he is so deserving of our heartfelt worship and thankfulness. We worship together but how do we show our thankfulness? Our perfect example is revealed to us in **Mark 10:45**:

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...

That is our purpose to be more Christ-like in our Faith Journey. We have been put here to serve in anyway we can. The gifts we have are to be used to spread God's love through word, action, and deed. We are to be "good-works ready." There are many opportunities to do "good-works" through the many ministries at LMC. You can give of your time, your talent, and your treasure, whether in a small way or a big way. Just look around you – don't miss the opportunities right in front of you. During this season of new life, bring a rebirth to your servant life.

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

Titus 3:14

Interpretation and Stewardship Team



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on March 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 3/14/2025: Active Members (AM = CA):159*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 263. * Removal of Daisy Stuffle due to death on March 7, 2025, with private family service/burial.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

Approved the following events and business items:

- March 22, 2025: Bowling and pizza at Edgewood Lanes
- March 23, 2025: Fun Day at Fellowship Hall from 3-5pm with hot dogs, drinks, snacks to play games
- April 11, 2025: Couples group to go to Homestead Country Kitchen in Newburg, PA
- April 12, 2025: Use of Fellowship Hall by Katelyn Stephens from 2-5pm for Evelyn's 1st birthday party.
- April 27-May 3, 2025: Lend A Hand mission trip to New Bern, NC
- March 6-8, 2026: Marriage Retreat at White Sulphur Springs in Manns Choice, PA
- Four (4) weeks of overlap between new Office Manager and Barb Schwartz, current Office Manager.
- Selection of 2 ruling elders, Dirk Grove and Bev Benner, to attend Elder Communion Training offered by the Carlisle Presbytery on April 26 in order to be able to preside over communion in the absence of a Pastor.
- Selected two sitting Elders, Doyle Waybright and Mike Orleski, to participate in the Membership Assistance Fund committee.

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

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

- o Fellowship hall door lock has been fixed by Barry Bixler, no charge.
- o A tree that fell and hit fellowship hall has been cleaned up. No damage to the building.
- o Dead trees threatening cemetery fence. Members will be addressing on Saturday 3/15.
- o Pianos to be tuned before Easter.
- o Property on church campus to be cleaned up before Easter. Will be conducted on April 4 at 9am.
- o Cemetery cleanup prior to Good Friday has been scheduled for April 12 at 8am.
- o Parking lot being sealed and lines painted on May 12-13.
- o Sound panels for the fellowship hall have been deferred for now.

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

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

- o Mission Endowment Fund Policy revision for short-term trips was completed and distributed.
- o There will be a fundraiser for the prison ministry on April 25 at Panera, Code: FUND4U. Panera will donate 25% of sales!
- o Annual Financial Review completed on Friday, March 14
- o The February 2025 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved.

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

Team members: Phyllis Smith, Chair; Lynne Orner; and Mike Orleski

- o The Marriage retreat was a great success. The attendees and team all agreed this would be a great place for the retreat again next year.
- o Planning potluck retirement luncheon for Barb Schwartz on May 18, 2025.
- o Planning potluck retirement picnic for Pastor Mark on August 31, 2025.
- o March 30, 2025 coffee hour will be sponsored by the choir.
- o Eight new people have signed up for the casserole ministry.
- o 3 large boxes of food delivered to the food pantry.
- o Planning underway for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday).
- o Lenten bible study discussing the Parables is being conducted on Wednesdays during lent with soup/salad/bread supper beginning at 5:30 (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9). All are welcome!

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, March 16. The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the congregation. The Committee is as follows: Gary Hughes, Linda Lapp, Cathy Michaliga, Al Miller, Deb Stottlemeyer, Carlos Wampler, and Doyle Waybright.
- o The Personnel Committee reported that interviews are underway for the Church Office and Financial Manager position for the church.
- o Since it is unlikely that a new Pastor will be called before Pastor Mark retires, discussions by Session are underway to locate a temporary pastor(s) to fulfill needs for pastoral care, worship, and session moderation after September 7.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2025

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	FEBRUARY— 2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$12,949.80	\$46,923.80	\$276,092.00
Other Income	\$2,304.04	\$8,139.99	\$29,430.00
Transfer of funds from 2024 budget	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,253.84	\$85,063.79	\$335,522.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$693.35	\$4,325.07	\$14,550.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,480.44	\$5,810.00
Home Ministry	\$5,337.39	\$7,267.79	\$87,140.00
Church Administration	\$17,335.44	\$36,231.48	\$224,622.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,366.18	\$53,304.78	\$335,522.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$8,112.34	\$31,759.01	\$0.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	FEBRUARY— 2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$3,116.98	\$16,897.98	\$95,200.00
Other Income	\$315.42	\$420.90	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,432.40	\$17,318.88	\$95,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,609.00	\$14,338.00	\$95,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$4,176.60	\$2,980.88	\$0.00

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

Li'l Ripples April 2025



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

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

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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