

# Li'l Ripples

DECEMBER 2023

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## A Message from Pastor Mark – Bethlehem is in the West Bank

Bethlehem is in the West Bank, and this year the West Bank is in violent turmoil and very close to all out war. Israel includes two Palestinian enclaves: Gaza and the West Bank. Gaza, after the terrorist attacks, is in all out war which, I fear, will continue through the weeks of Advent. The West Bank, with these same issues, divisions and generations of conflict, is very close to being caught up in this maelstrom of violence and war.

Bethlehem, during more normal and calm years, is a bustling, packed tourist site during December. Christian pilgrims from around the world flock to Bethlehem to ponder that first Christmas night in that most holy of Christian places. In the basement of the Church of the Nativity, in a small, ornate sanctuary, there is a 14 point golden star on the floor. The 14 points refer to the three sets of 14 generations of Jesus' heritage referred to in Matthew 1. The floor all around this star is polished to a glistening brightness from the many Christians who have knelt down lifting up prayers of thanksgiving from this very spot. This is the place where Mary wrapped baby Jesus in the swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. I knelt and prayed there; kneeling down, with closed eyes and an open heart, shoulder to shoulder with crowds of other Christians, all of us grateful for the birth of Jesus. After a visit to the Church of the Nativity, I walked all around Shepherd's Square enjoying the site of so many Christian tourists, eating some common street food, and shopping in the many shops looking for the perfect manger scene to buy for my grandchildren. A manger scene they treasure to this day, "*Handmade in Palestine.*"

My heart wells up with sadness because this year there will be no Christian pilgrims in Bethlehem; the shops of Shepherd's Square will be empty, and the fear of impending war, more violence, and a deep hopelessness settle down upon the *Little Town of Bethlehem*. And more this year than I have for a long time, I pray for peace. I pray for peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem. Some day Lord, someday please: Peace in the Holy Land. Peace in the little town of Bethlehem. Blessed Advent!

Mark

### In This Issue: . . .

<u>Birthdays</u>	Page 7
<u>Church Life-Past, Present, Future-Page</u>	2
<u>Clerk's Report</u>	Page 16
<u>Deacon's Info.</u>	Page 11
<u>Do You Know</u>	Page 8
<u>Financial Report</u>	Page 18

<u>From the Pastor</u>	Page 1
<u>Giving Corner</u>	Page 15
<u>Have You Heard</u>	Page 7
<u>Mission Advocate's Corner</u>	Page 12
<u>Music Ministry</u>	Page 10
<u>Thanks</u>	Page 9
<u>275th Anniversary News</u>	Page 3

THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
IS  
DECEMBER  
15TH



## CHURCH LIFE - PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE



The **Couples Study Group** will meet at Hoss' Steak House, York Road, Gettysburg on **December 9th at 4:30PM** for a dutch treat meal and fellowship. We will then proceed to Genesis Home, (also on York Road) at about 6:30 to share Christmas carols with the residents. We are going to put together small bags of festive homemade cookies to distribute to each person and also make baskets of goodies for each Nurses Station. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex starting this week. We need to provide a list for the home and to know how many cookies each couple will be responsible to provide. We plan to put the treats together on Friday evening - hopefully in about an hour's time. Please watch the bulletin for further details. All married couples in the congregation are welcome to join us. (Bev Benner)

The **Naomi's Sisters** group is alive and thriving. We are made up of widows from our congregation and community. We get together every Wednesday. We have a special Christmas event coming up. On **Wednesday December 13th at 4:30PM** we will meet in the church and head to the Stone Gables Estate in Elizabethtown for a drive thru Christmas lights display. It's 3 miles, featuring 1 million brilliant LED lights, hundreds of beautifully lit trees, a life size Nativity, a drive thru the enchanted Moravian Star forest, and much, much more. Please contact Linda Lapp at 717-334-8403 if you are interested on going along on this outing or if you would like anymore information on Naomi's Sisters.

The next **Men's Breakfast** is on **Saturday December 16th at 8AM**. Please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Bulletin Board to show attendance and to volunteer to help. Mary Smith is the guest speaker. The topic is the Salvation Army. Any questions, contact Gary Michaliga 717-339-6137.

On **December 19th, The Women's Guild** will have our annual Christmas Party at Perkin's Restaurant in Gettysburg. We really enjoy the fun and fellowship and the noise of this party. However, it is the last time we will meet until March just in case of inclement weather in January and February. So, on behalf of The Guild, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. (Roz Santay)

### Help Is Here

Interested in learning more about the Holy Spirit. Join the adult group who meet in room 4 of Fellowship Hall Sunday's at 9:45AM. Learn who the Spirit is and how He can help you find true rest and peace as you let Him carry your burdens. Questions: Susan Nunamaker, Doyle Waybright

**Coat Ministry:** There is a box in the hallway of the Education Building for clean coats. The coats will be taken to the homeless shelter for those needing a warm coat this winter. Clean, no longer needed coats will be accepted through March.

Hello from the **LMC Stitchers and Prayer Shawl Ministry**. We have been a very busy group of friends making Prayer Shawls, Pocket Prayer cloths and many items for the Winter Coat Drive. We currently have 17 Prayer Shawls and 6 Baby Baptism afghans ready for blessings and gifting. The Stitchers will be adding 12 hat and scarf sets, 2 child sweaters, 9 hats and 2 scarves to the Winter Coat Drive. Suetta Betchel has been busy at home making 21 pairs of mittens to add!! We also have 8 infant hats to gift to Tender Care in Gettysburg. In between those ministries we work on our own projects and skills. We work with a closet full of donated yarn and supplies. Thanks to all these wonderful friends for sharing their talents for the benefit of others.

We welcome new friends to join us any **Monday 10:30-12:30PM** in the Education Building. We are a lively group and you will have no problem finding us in Classroom 4. Currently we have about 8 stitchers who come and go as their schedule allows. We have several women who attend our group that are not affiliated with our church. We welcome all skill levels and it can be any needlework.

Feel free to stop by and check us out. In God's love, Judy Williams



Winter Coat Donations  
 < < <  
 Prayer Shawls & Baby Baptism Blankets  
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### 275th ANNIVERSARY

#### Honoring the Past, Faithful in the Present, Praying for the Future

As we end our year of celebrating this congregation's 275th year of worshipping and serving our God, it is fitting that we look back on what we've accomplished. When we began the year, we wanted to do more than have fun and fellowship together. We wanted to use this mile marker year to raise our profile in the communities we serve, to show our faithfulness in service to God and the people God loves. In doing that, we wanted to invite as many of our church ministry groups as possible to join with us.

So in planning activities, we looked for ways to make our presence known. We made a special effort to communicate our activities through local media, especially the Gettysburg Times, and were rewarded with several nice photos and articles featuring our anniversary year and its events. We invited the public to the Cemetery Walk, the Summer Picnic, and the Ice Cream Social. And we went out into our Gettysburg community at the library's FunFest in June, which kicked off their summer reading program, giving away children's Bibles and a booklet for adults featuring God's promises. All but one Bible was gone midway through the event! At FunFest, we also gave out fliers for another new community service the congregation tried this year—the Diaper Drive. Although it was not sponsored by the 275th Anniversary Committee, the Diaper Drive was another avenue for the church to let the community know about us and we were happy to pass out information to young families at FunFest!

Continued on the next page . . .

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In addition to events that reached out to our community, we suggested to two particular ministries that we set a goal of "275" for their collections. One was Operation Christmas Child. We were hesitant at first about setting the ambitious goal of 275 shoeboxes, but you all amazed us when ALL the shoeboxes were out for filling in just 2 weeks and an extra 30 were asked for. Thank you! We also set an ambitious goal of 275 items for the October "Harvest Home" collection to support the Fairfield food pantry. And you did that, too! We provided 278 items!

We have gathered some momentum to be better at reaching out to the surrounding communities this year and would like to challenge the congregation to find ways to keep this momentum going. The 275th Anniversary Committee worked with Spiritual Life and the Deacons on our events; Interpretation and Stewardship identified funds to support our activities and set up a fund for the 300th Anniversary Committee in 25 years. When we needed help with things involving the grounds, especially the cemetery, Home Ministry provided it. The anniversary focus this year has helped bring our leadership closer together in ministry. May that continue as Lower Marsh Creek "steps up its game" to take the good news of Jesus Christ into our surrounding communities!

So thank you to all who participated in our events, especially those who served on or advised the 275th Anniversary Committee to plan for the year's celebrations: Cathy Michaliga, Denise Lockwood, Linda Clark, Sue Welsh, Traci Lower, Tony Golden, Frank Buhrman, Nadja Muchow, Sara Rohr Wade, Roz Santay, Bev Benner. Thanks also to Dirk Grove and Wires and Wood whose musical talents graced our legacy-themed worship several times and to Linda again for her research and notes on the music she chose for Sunday worship. And of course, thanks to Pastor Mark, whose preaching, teaching, and newsletter articles kept us focused on continuing the great heritage God has given us at Lower Marsh Creek PC.

Lynn Miller

### **Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child (OCC) - Shoebox Event**

The last phase of our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme is "Praying for the Future". Of course, we consider the children of our community, nation, and world to be a significant part of the future. In view of this, the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee selected the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection as a way to pray for our future. We established a goal of filling 275 boxes. The shoeboxes will go to children all over the world and, along with this gift, the children are prayed for and taught about Jesus as part of the shoebox distribution event. In the fall, the LMCPCC Spiritual Life team reached out to various churches and small groups in LMCPCC to ask them to help us reach our goal. Participants from our church included the Couples Group, the Ladies Guild, Naomi's Sisters, the Ladies Bible Study group, and many, many individuals who submitted their own boxes.

Starting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, we began distributing empty boxes, with paid shipping labels inside, to all the groups who planned to participate in this mission. We used the David Scott Youth Fund to pay \$2,750 for the shipping and handling of 275 boxes, as well as the gospel literature that the children receive. Thanks to the Scott family for this generous gift! Continued on the next page . . .

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The 275 boxes were quickly grabbed up and we had soon distributed well over 300 boxes. During the ensuing weeks, filled boxes began to arrive and they were stacked in the Fellowship Hall. We partnered with St John's Lutheran Church, the Orrtanna Good News Church and the Mt Carmel Community Church to help us reach our goal. St John's filled 15 boxes, Orrtanna filled 54 boxes and Mt Carmel, along with the Growing Patch Preschool, filled 69 boxes. We also received over \$450 as donations toward the shipping of boxes that weren't paid for by the David Scott Youth Fund.

Elaine Reichl has honchoed the collection of our boxes for many years and did a superb job of publicizing our effort and tracking all the pieces/parts. Thank you Elaine!! She also managed the collection of filled boxes from other churches in the county because LMCPD is a drop off location for this mission area. On Nov 20th, Jim Benner transported a total of 504 boxes to Littlestown for processing by Samaritan's Purse. This included 321 boxes from LMCPD and their partner churches in honor of our 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal!! We also collected 185 boxes from the community and eight local churches who used LMCPD as their drop off point. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive these boxes and learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Cathy Michaliga

As of November 13th, LMCPD, along with partner churches, had filled 284 boxes.

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Since our 275th Anniversary Service of Praise and Thanksgiving\* included a section on Native American Culture, you might find the following of interest.

John McMann

TWO WOLVES



An elder in the Cherokee Nation was teaching his grandchildren and their young friends. He said: "A fight is going on inside of me. It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, hate, greed, malice, spitefulness, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

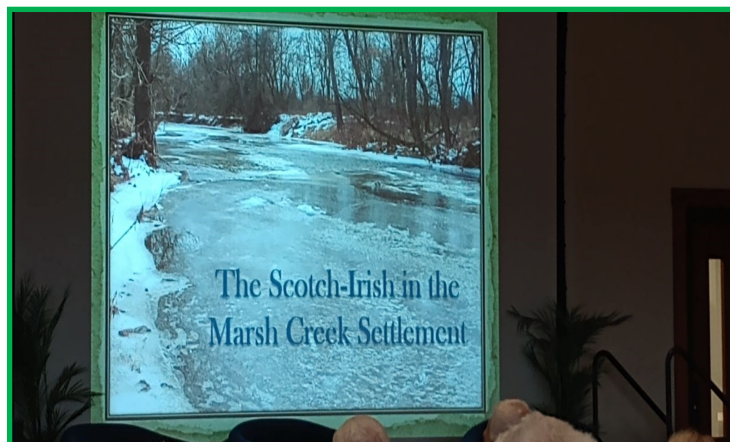
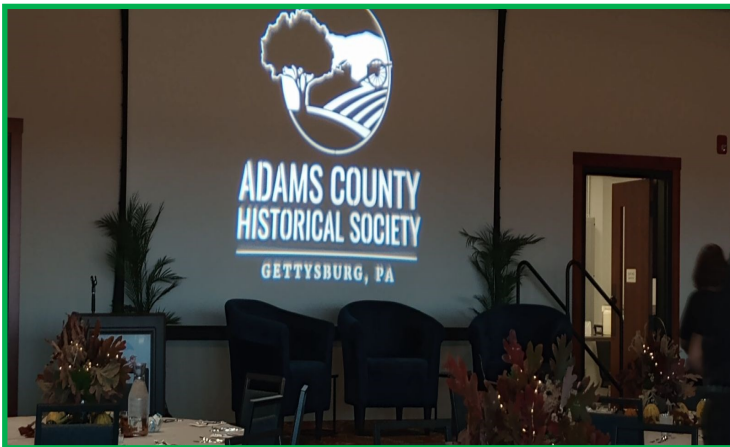
"This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, too", he added.

The children thought about this for a minute, and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied . . . "The one you feed." - Cherokee proverb

\* Editor's note: This service was held on November 5th, after the banquet at the at the new Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum. See photos on the next page.

275th Anniversary  
Banquet  
and  
Celebration  
at the new  
Gettysburg  
Beyond the Battle  
Museum  
November 5, 2023



Photos taken and  
provided to  
Li'l Ripples by  
Therese Herlihy

**HAVE YOU HEARD :**

Pastor Mark say, "IT'S ALL GRACE !"

**DECEMBER**

- 5 - Lenorah Williams
- 6 - Nick Johnson
- 6 - Sergei Ismailoff
- 7 - Rachel Williams



**DECEMBER**

- 9 - Rodger Benner
- 26 - Linda Lapp
- 27 - Aimee Metz
- 28 - Fay Hess

Editors note : The following helpful information was passed along to the readers of Li'l Ripples by Susan Thompson.

**A Guide To Pluralizing Names for Holiday Cards**

1. NEVER use an apostrophe to pluralize a name. Most family names simply add an -s.

Drake > The Drakes

McDonald > The McDonalds

2. BUT . . . names ending in -s, -ch, -sh, -x, and -z add -es.

Aldrich > The Aldriches

Metz > The Metzses

Hess > The Hesses

Milhimes > The Milhimeses

Knox > The Knoxes

Welsh > The Welshes

3. OR . . . just use - "The . . . Family".

The Higgins Family

The Martinez Family

The Smith Family

Thanks to Kathy Megyeri for the following stories:

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little boy said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The boy said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

**DO YOU KNOW - Shirley Breslin, Nursery Coordinator for LMCPCC ?**

My name is Shirley, otherwise known as Miss Shirley. I am the Nursery Coordinator here at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.

I grew up in Dale City, VA not far from Quantico, Fort Belvoir, and Washington, DC. For those who are not aware, my parents are John (Jack) and Jan Breslin who normally attend our 11:00 service. My parents and I moved to Gettysburg in October 2001. I have two older sisters, Jeannie and Kathy, both of whom are married with children.

I graduated from Gar-Field Senior High School where my favorite subjects were choir and creative writing. I earned an Associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College and then transferred to Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia for a Bachelor's degree.

My first jobs besides babysitting were in daycare. I then worked as a receptionist, activity assistant, and companion at Westminster at Lake Ridge, a Presbyterian continuing care community. My jobs in Gettysburg have included Giant (Carryout Cafe), the Eisenhower Inn (front desk clerk and night auditor), and The Lutheran Home (activity assistant).

Since October 2013, I have been blessed to care for the children of this church. Caring for the children is a joy! Besides the nursery, you might see me helping with children in both official and unofficial church capacities. I've helped during activities such as our congregational retreats, VBS, and parents' nights out. I'm also known to entertain a child so parents can have a child-free moment.

Besides the nursery, I am involved in Spiritual Life, Women's Guild, and Stitchers. Outside of church, I volunteer at the library and a preschool. A few hours a week, I sit with a lovely woman who has dementia so her family has time for errands, meetings, and breaks.

Many of you know that I love boxers! My Sweet Molly was my first boxer and my companion for 13 years. My second boxer, Emerald Grace, came into my life four years ago. I call her my Precious Emerald. As an aside, I named her Emerald because I LOVE the color green. But not just any green! Emerald green, Christmas green, kelly green, and similar shades. Teals and other blue-greens are okay but I'm not crazy about the mossy, brownish greens and lime greens. You can say I'm a little picky about my greens!

I was baptized Lutheran as an infant but in elementary school my family went on to join Fairfax First Church of God (later renamed Fairfax Community Church of God), which is affiliated with Anderson, Indiana. I helped in the nursery and taught Sunday school along with my sister, Kathy.

Through my youth group there, I participated in several mission trips including inner-city Philadelphia, Appalachia, El Paso and Juarez, Mexico. But my most memorable trips were to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. My first trip, I was part of a group that included my youth pastor and his wife, several other adults, and five teenagers of which I was the youngest. I was barely 15!

I clearly remember my thoughts when we arrived. We got off the plane on the tarmac and were greeted with refreshments. As we walked through the bleak and very unmodern airport, I began to wonder what I had gotten myself into. Why did I come here? If I could have, I might have gotten right back on the plane immediately to go home!

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Our group was tasked with painting a small church a color we called Smurf blue. As it turned out, I did very little painting that week. I spent most of my time in the DR with several children: Provy, Berny, Petra, Digna, Joel, and Eliezer. On the worksite, I spent most of my days with 7-year-old Eliezer. I knew little Spanish and he knew little English but we managed to communicate through pointing, drawing, writing, a dictionary, and as a last resort, an interpreter. Since that trip, I've learned some Spanish but am not fluent. Because of Eliezer and those other children, I quickly went from wondering why I was there to crying because I didn't want to leave!

Through my church, I returned to Santo Domingo on four more mission trips. My last DR mission trip was in August of 2001. Since then, I have returned twice on my own for visits: once in 2004 and again in 2011. Each time I leave for home, I cry. Though I haven't seen my Dominican friends in years, I still maintain friendships with several. It would mean a lot to me to return there someday!

As Nursery Coordinator, I am dedicated to providing a loving and safe place for any infant or child whether visiting or a regular LMCPD attendee. Our nursery is open each Sunday for both services as well as Sunday school.

Please stop by and say "hi" or "hola" sometime!

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

Editor's Note - The following "thank you" was received by our Mission Advocate, Sandy Buhrman, addressed to her and the LMC missions family, saying :

*Thank you so much for your generous gifts to help relaunch us to the mission field. Thomas and I are so encouraged by your response to our need. There has been an incredible amount of Grace in this season of restoration, and we are so excited to watch God use all for Good.*

*Until the nets are full,*

*Cheri (Henry)*

October 31, 2023

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church,

We are grateful for your donation to the Adams Rescue Mission for the Agape House Program.

We appreciate you !

Your gift will help the ARM to continue to feed, clothe, and shelter the needy in our community.

Thank you and God bless you !

ARM Staff

Sing to the Lord

MUSIC MINISTRY

A New Song

**The history of Christmas hymns is even longer than the history of our LMCP.**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* – The original words of this popular song were written in Latin around 800 years ago. The next time you sing this song, imagine the millions of Christians around the world who have sung this beautiful anthem throughout history.

*"Good King Wenceslas"* – Based on a 13<sup>th</sup> century English carol, John Neale wrote the popular song we sing today.

*"Christ Was Born on Christmas Day"* – Created in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in Germany, this carol was widely known and sung all over medieval Europe.

*"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"* – Written circa 1328 by Heinrich Seuse of Germany, this song is still popular, although with an updated title.

*"Between the Ox and the Grey Donkey"* – Based on the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah, this song was written in France around the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

*"The Friendly Beasts"* - Written in France during the 12<sup>th</sup> century, this is one of the earliest songs that is still popular today.

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* – This early Christmas hymn was written by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens in a Roman province in modern-day Spain between 348 and 413.

*"Jesus, Light of All the Nations"* – This earliest of Christmas hymns was written by St. Hilary of Poitiers in France in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, between 310 and 367.

Our music schedule for December includes:

December 3 – Glory Singers/Faithful Voices

December 10 – Wires and Wood

December 19 - History of Christmas at LMCP in music and scripture. Old favorites and newer selections from our hymnal will be featured. Be prepared to sing!

December 24 – 10:00 am / 7:00pm / 9:00 – Special Music

December 31 – 10:00 - Special Music

Please contact me if you are interested in joining any of our musical groups. Our Marsh Creek Bluegrass group is looking for more vocalists and stringed instruments!

*Linda Clark*

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

*Serving God by*

**DEACON'S INFORMATION**

*Serving Others*

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Class of 2023

Elaine Reichl  
Joe Reichl  
Pam Grove

Class of 2024

Pat Diehl  
Suzanne Welsh  
Pam Johnson (Moderator)

Class of 2025

Jim Welsh  
Arlene Wright  
Al Miller

**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 Jim Welsh at 717 - 377 - 5370.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:**

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Roy Weaner 717 - 334 - 3376

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

Sallie Sites 717- 334 - 8712

Ray Wright 717 - 549 - 2118



*Go Into All***MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER***The World*

### Afghan Family Update

Seema Nasiri, wife and mother in the first Afghan family, recently lost her father unexpectedly. He had gone to the hospital and died suddenly. I have learned that death in their culture is not mourned in the same way as we do. They don't send flowers or cards, but they do appreciate food as they do not do a lot of cooking during the mourning period. I understand that a traditional period of mourning is 40 days, but some may only grieve officially for three days with the belief that the deceased is in a better place and has been relieved of their suffering. As your representative, I delivered a Halal meal to them on Saturday night, November 11, as a way of expressing our condolences.

On October 17, I took three of the Nasiri children (including the baby for the first of a three-shot series), along with Seema, to a Wellspan clinic in Aspers, and on Tuesday, November 14, I took four more of the children (including the baby for her second of the three-shot series), along with Seema, to a Wellspan clinic in Waynesboro to get their Covid boosters. The baby will need to go for a third shot, but I believe that takes care of the rest of the children.

### Missionary Updates

#### **Thomas and Cheri Henry (England)**

The Henrys report that they have "all green lights" to move to England, airline tickets are purchased, and they depart on Wednesday, November 29. They are amazed at how the Lord has aligned so many aspects of this transition. The One Another Ministries Director just wrote to the whole company as a praise that he had never seen new appointees get through the hiring process, raise the needed funds, receive UK visas (three-year permits that include public health benefits), and wrap up stateside affairs so quickly. As soon as they land, they will begin to look for a vehicle and for housing in Cannock, England. They have found a property management company to rent their home in Midway, Kentucky.

They are currently in Texas (flew into DFW on Saturday, November 11) and will stay for two weeks. They will represent One Another Ministries at the Mental Health & Missions Conference, November 16-19, in Hurst, TX. Thanksgiving week will be spent with the Henry family in Dallas/Fort Worth. Thomas' dad turns 90 in March and will visit Thomas and Cheri in England in March along with Thomas' brother Timothy and his wife Sharon. On November 24, they will return to Kentucky and then join Cheri's family in Cincinnati for a post-Thanksgiving dinner that night. After that they will stay in Lexington before departing for England on November 29.

Note: I received an email from the Henrys as I was writing this update. They just received news from one of their supporting churches that they are dropping support (over \$500 per month) at the end of the year. They report that they have peace about moving, and that they trust him to make up the loss, either through current donors or those who may be on the fence.

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### **Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)**

Excerpts from the Rices' latest newsletter:

“Doug and Judy brought us to their church for the Saturday morning Missions Breakfast. Tables were neatly decorated, and food was prepared and served by a group of dedicated volunteers called Valley Galley. Sixty church members came out on a beautiful fall morning, joining us for a time of sharing and learning about South Sudan. . . . This visit with Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley, Arizona, is one of many visits over the last several weeks which have taken us to central Montana, central and coastal California, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Earlier this year we were able to visit churches in the Chicago area, western Pennsylvania, and three churches in Ohio. It has been encouraging and invigorating to be with churches again, especially after we had to cancel several church visits in the summer due to health challenges. . . . We invite your prayers for the peoples of South Sudan. There is currently unrest in Pochalla, a region bordering Ethiopia, where we have colleagues and friends. We also await elections in December of 2024 with a degree of fear and trembling. Pray with us for a peaceful election and that the voice of the general population will be heard. Lastly, pray with us for the pastors and leaders of our partner ministries in South Sudan. As always, we give thanks to you for your ongoing prayers, love, hospitality (for those who have received us), and your financial support which allows Presbyterian mission co-workers like us and others to stand in love and solidarity in the bleeding places of our broken and fragmented world.”

### **Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence**

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

ACPM is gearing up for various projects. One is “Operation Socks and Chocs.” Churches looking for a way to bless the inmates at ACACC should contact Chaplain Perez if they decide to participate.

As of October 21, 2023, ACPM had \$29,370 cash on hand. Contributions are at 91.4% of budgeted amounts and from individuals are at 83.5% of budgeted amounts. Expenses have exceeded income by \$21,021.

#### **Child Evangelism Fellowship**

Rowan Hollenbaugh, field worker, has had to step down for now but plans to be back next summer. A New teacher, Sofia Calidonio, is teaching in a couple of the clubs.

#### **Compassion International**

Sergio, in his September 21 letter, says: “Hello dear sponsor Friends. I thank you for the gift that you sent me. I bought clothes and provisions. I want to tell you I went the countryside with my whole family. I went to the river and there were small fish. We had a good time. Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

My mom and I went to the movie to watch a suspense film. The title of the film is *Without a Rest*. After the film, we went to eat chicken and then we went home to take a rest.

We also went to Cretacico Park where we bought ice cream. I want to tell you that there will be a camping trip at the church and may. My church will also organize a camping trip. I bought a new bike and speaker. I am so happy.

I am improving in my studies. My teach of biology said us that we will have an exposition at the end of the year and it will be about the themes that we have learned during the year. Our grade will depend of our exposition. My favorite subjects are biology, psychology, arts and physic education.

Dear sponsor, I would like to ask you prayers for the children who do not have anything to eat and are in the streets.

Please pray for my family. I say goodbye with may hugs.”

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

Maria gave birth to Hope Lynn Noyes on Monday, October 9, around 10 pm. Hope weighed in at 7 pounds, 15.9 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Kevin and Maria thank everyone for their prayers. They are grateful to have Hope home with them. They have found the adjustment from one kid to two to be stretching, but also full of many joys. Simeon has loved getting to be a big brother, and often tries to guess what Hope is “saying” when she cries.

### **SAT-7**

A SAT-7 viewer from the Holy Land reached out on social media to the SAT-7 support team to share her perspective on the crisis in the region and how prayer has been the response of Christians who live there. “The situation is not easy, and honestly, what is happening breaks my heart. However, we are holding on until the end, believing that our prayers will make a difference in Heaven and on Earth. It hurts me to see believers who have lost hope ... I understand that they are [expressing] their sorrow. But I see a different picture. Evil still exists and continues to grow, but Jesus, whom I know is not idle, is watching over the world. My faith and knowledge in Him, and the voice of the Holy Spirit within me, tell me that He is at work. Throughout the conflict, prayer gatherings, both small and large, have been conducted in various locations across the country, for we know that only the power of Jesus Christ can cleanse and purify the land from all evil.

Staff at SAT-7 echo the viewer’s belief in the power of prayer, knowing that Jesus hears us and intercedes for us in our moment of need. A special SAT-7 broadcast shared prayers and messages of encouragement from Christian leaders across the Arab World. Marianne Awaraji, Audience Relations Manager for SAT-7 ARABIC, who co-hosted the broadcast, explained how in times like these, “We get to shift our attention off the dark picture and fix our eyes on the Prince of Peace, who is at work, even in the toughest times, to turn ashes into beauty.”



## The Giving Corner

### A Season of Giving

We are entering the Advent season; a time of waiting and preparation! Our main goal should be preparing our hearts to celebrate, once again, the miracle of our Christ becoming fully human for us! Instead, we seem to get all caught up in the season! The decorating, the shopping, the baking, the visiting, and sending cards. We get so busy “doing Christmas” that at times it blurs together, and we forget the real reason for the season!

It is important that we remember that Advent is another part of our spiritual journey, our time to affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in our world today, and that He will come again in glory. It is a time for us to renew our responsibility as followers of our Holy Father to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” and to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

It is truly a time of giving; a time to share the love that Jesus has so gracefully given to us that is so present in the “Christmas spirit” felt during this beautiful season. Spread your Christmas spirit this year through your gifts and actions, reflect the love of Jesus Christ; share the hope that the birth of the Baby Jesus brings to the world! It may be a simple smile to a stranger, it may be dropping some change in the Salvation Army bucket, or it may be volunteering to ring the bell at that Salvation Army bucket, or it may be shopping to fill a shoebox for a child overseas. However you use your talents, time, and treasures during the Christmas Season, use them in gratitude for the greatest gift our Holy Father ever gave us: His only Son, Jesus Christ!

***“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”***

2 Corinthians 9:15

The Interpretation & Stewardship Team wishes each and everyone of you a Blessed & Merry Christmas filled with the hope, joy and peace found in our Lord Jesus Christ!





## From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on November 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. We welcomed elders-elect: Lynne Orner, Lauren Neely and Lanny Winters. Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 11/17/2023: Active Members (AM = CA): 161, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 57 and Family Members: 51.
- o The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for October. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

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

- o Election of the Clerk of Session, Denise Lockwood, and Associate Clerk of Session: Phyllis Doyle Smith for one year.
- o That the COF Treasurer pay the Per Capita Apportionment for 2024 of \$5,148.00 (156 members at \$33.00 each)
- o That the Clerk of Session submit various reports to Presbytery and General Assembly by the due date as stated by the Presbytery, usually mid-February.
- o Appointment of Jean Bentz as Gifts and Memorials Officer for 2024.
- o Schedule the meeting time and day of Session for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- o That we support of the Adams County Prison Ministry Christmas Program: Operation Socks and Chocs, by collecting men's crew socks and Hershey Milk Chocolate bars for this Christmas season. A collection box will be placed in the narthex, the dates are yet to be determined.
- o That the Christmas Eve Worship Offering be donated to Living Waters for the World.
- o That any End-of-Year funds in Missions Fund be evenly divided between SAT-7 and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be designated for the Middle East.
- o Sunday, February 12, 2024: Souper Bowl special collection of monetary gifts and soup/canned goods with soup/canned goods to go to the Fairfield Food Pantry and the monetary offerings to go to the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen.
- o That Pastor lead an Advent Study on the series The Chosen on Tuesday evenings December 5, 12 and 19 starting at 5:30 PM. There will be soup, bread and cookies followed by the study.
- o December 4, 2023: The Stitchers will meet at the Caledonia Café.
- o December 9, 2023: The Couples Group will meet at Hoss' Steak House for dinner and then go to Genesis Home for Christmas caroling at about 6:30 PM. They will bring the residents cookie bags and goodie baskets for the nurse stations.
- o December 13, 2023: Naomi's Sisters are planning a trip to the Star Barn Village in Elizabethtown for a drive-through Christmas light display.
- o Sunday, February 4, 2024: The Seekers Sunday School will host a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall for the congregation followed by a slide show featuring photographs of Old and New Testament sites in the Holy Lands. Time to be determined.



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

Team Members: Dirk Grove, chair; Ron Milhimes and Jim Richardson

- o Saturday, November 18, 2023, was chosen as the second cleaning of headstones at the cemetery.
- o Completed work includes: Handrails leading to lower parking lot have been repaired; sump pump piping in stairwell repaired; received quote for urinal/toilet valve in fellowship hall from Alexander's Plumbing; Alexander's Plumbing made repairs at both the white house and manse.
- o Cemetery fence is expected to be installed by the end of November.
- o Still working on gathering quotes for insurance for 2024.

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

Team members: Ray Wright, chair; Lane Speck and Doyle Waybright.

- o Balance sheet and Cash Flow reports for October were approved as presented.
- o A total of 68 EOG cards were received by November 13, 2023. Pledges for COF: \$236,501.00 and for MOM: \$90,809.00.
- o The fourth Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 will be purchased in December at the M&T Bank as was approved by Session at the October meeting.

**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; Lynn Miller and Susan Nunamaker.

- o Pastor Mark gave special thanks to Elder Lynn Miller and the 275 th Anniversary Team for a special year of celebrating Lower Marsh Creek Church's 275 years!
- o A retired policeman spoke about Crime Stoppers at the Men's Breakfast held on Saturday, November 18, 2023.
- o The Stitchers will put up a Christmas tree in the fellowship hall for the dinner on December 3, 2023. The tree will be decorated with hats, mittens, etc. that they have knitted and crocheted in 2023.

**News from the 275 th Anniversary Committee – to celebrate the 275 years of the church's history and service to God**

Team leaders: Lynn Miller, chair; Cathy Michaliga, recording secretary.

- o Here is the final upcoming event – "Save the Date":
  - o Sunday, December 3, 2023: The Congregational Christmas Dinner with a special menu reflecting our Scotch-Irish roots. There will be a short presentation on Christmas Through the Ages.

**News from the Clerk of Session:**

- o Ordination and Installation of new officers will be held at both services on January 14, 2024.
- o The date for the January Congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 28, 2024, between services in the fellowship hall. The Annual Report will be reviewed highlighting the financial reports from 2023 and introducing the 2024 budgets for the Church Operating Fund and Mission Organizations/Missionaries.
- o The ad hoc committee, 275 th Anniversary Committee, was released with appreciation for their work over 2023 celebrating the past, present and looking to the future of LMCP!

### FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – OCTOBER 2023

#### Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	October—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$32,739.00	\$248,433.40	\$252,298.00
Other Income	\$9,067.23	\$62,077.95	\$58,357.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$41,806.23</b>	<b>\$310,511.35</b>	<b>\$310,655.00</b>
<b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b>			
Spiritual Life	\$461.18	\$9,765.85	\$14,600.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$3,686.31	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$111.99	\$5,218.97	\$6,022.00
Home Ministry	\$4,629.42	\$67,112.23	\$77,600.00
Church Administration	\$16,229.29	\$163,570.74	\$209,033.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$21,431.88</b>	<b>\$249,354.10</b>	<b>\$310,655.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$20,374.35</b>	<b>\$61,157.25</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 10/31/2023: \$119,222.63**

#### Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income


Account Description	October—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$5,503.00	\$70,267.60	\$76,800.00
Other Income	\$254.34	\$3,397.76	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,757.34</b>	<b>\$73,665.36</b>	<b>\$77,800.00</b>

#### Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$179.00</b>	<b>\$67,841.29</b>	<b>\$77,800.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,578.34</b>	<b>\$5,824.07</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 10/31/2023: \$5,817.37**

**Notable expenses for October: \$1,472.05—Building Repair & Maintenance**



As our 275th year of celebration  
comes to a close,  
*as we honor our past,*  
*remain faithful in the present,*  
*and pray for the future -*  
let us keep this passage of  
Scripture in mind . . .

. . . *since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith . . .*

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church  
1865 Knoxlyn Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17331

*Li'l Ripples* December 2023



1748 275 Years 2023



Pastor 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@lmcp.org](mailto:office@lmcp.org)  
Website [www.lmcp.org](http://www.lmcp.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.