

# Li'l Ripples

February 2024  
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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

*A Message from*  
*Pastor Mark* →

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**NEXT DEADLINE**

**For Li'l Ripples**  
**Is February 16th**

## Creating a Spiritual Discipline:

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

What is a spiritual discipline? A spiritual discipline is any intentional practice or behavior that encourages you as a follower of Jesus Christ. A spiritual discipline is typically a repeated activity that may become a habit of devotion, prayer or worship. Spiritual disciplines are varied and diverse, but there is also a long Christian tradition of specific activities that have proven to be especially meaningful for Christian people. Listed here are ten simple spiritual disciplines. Choose as many as possible and practice these disciplines for the season of Lent. Do not be a slave to your selected disciplines; but allow the disciplines to create a fresh spirit of renewal and blessing for you.

## Suggested Spiritual Disciplines:

- ~ Bible reading: There are many Bible reading plans; create one or adopt one and use it for Lent.
- ~ Gratitude List: Make a list of things for which you are grateful each day. Use your list as an inspiration for prayer.
- ~ Intercession List: Make a list of people who need to be prayed for. Use your list as an inspiration for prayer.
- ~ Seeing Beauty: Identify, name and make a list of beautiful things that you notice during the day. Use your list as an inspiration for prayer.
- ~ Thank You Notes: Write a note of gratitude, praise or simple friendliness to a special person. Define the number of notes you will write each day or week.
- ~ Invitation: Seek opportunities to have conversations about your Christian faith and intentionally invite your conversation partner to worship services with you.
- ~ Attend Sunday worship:
- ~ Attend a group Bible study or discussion group:
- ~ Silence: Create a time of complete silence. If you practice silence each day, try to lengthen your silent time.
- ~ Study: Read something that helps you focus on your Christian faith.
- ~ Generosity: Give!

May the season of Lent this year be a time for you to draw nearer and deeper with our Lord Jesus Christ!

Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST



### Ash Wednesday Prayer Service - Wednesday February 14, at 5:30 PM

To begin, our Spiritual Life team will provide a simple soup dinner. Afterwards, Pastor Mark will lead a brief time of prayer, worship and reflection to begin our Season of Lent.

### Lenten Suppers & Study Group - Five Wednesdays in Lent - Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20 @ 5:30PM

Please join for a time of fellowship, a simple meal and devotional study led by Pastor Mark. As on Ash Wednesday, the Spiritual Life Team will provide soup for our dinner. Then, Pastor Mark will lead a discussion: "Who do you say that I am?": Understanding Jesus from the Presbyterian Tradition.

### Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. consists of a cold weather shelter and a Resource Center geared to provide support for up to 30 people when no other shelter can be found. This is accomplished through a partnership with local churches, including Lower Marsh Creek and other community service agencies.

LMCPC has volunteered to prepare breakfast for the C.A.R.E.S. program for the weeks of April 1-14, 2024, excluding Sundays. We will need 2 volunteers to prepare breakfast each morning at 6:00 am at the St. James church youth house, on 121/123 York Street, Gettysburg. We will also be responsible for clean-up. Volunteers will be asked to provide some of the following items: eggs, breakfast meats, potato products, breakfast casseroles, fruit, breads or baked goods, pancake mix, waffle mix, bread for French toast or toast, etc. Cereals, beverages, coffee, and condiments are supplied by C.A.R.E.S.

A training session for volunteers will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:00 am at the youth house. At that time, we will learn how everything works in the kitchen and exactly what we will be asked to do. We will not know how many guests to expect until the week before our service.

**Please consider signing up for this worthwhile mission.** There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If we can answer any additional questions, please contact us. Elaine & Joe Reichl: 717-398-2430, [jereichl@comcast.net](mailto:jereichl@comcast.net).

### Young Life Banquet

Young Life's Annual Banquet is scheduled for **February 26 (6:30 - 8:30 PM)** at the Gettysburg Hotel, and we will be sponsoring two tables of eight each. If you are interested in attending, please let Sandy Buhrman ([sandybuhrman49@gmail.com](mailto:sandybuhrman49@gmail.com)) or Barb ([office@lmcp.org](mailto:office@lmcp.org)) know by **February 12** so we can get a list of attendees to Young Life.

Join our adult group Sunday mornings during Lent as we look at how the resurrection of Jesus transformed lives in the past and how it can and will transform our lives today. We will meet in room 4 of Fellowship Hall at 9:45 during February and March. Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright.

Can you draw a simple star? A snowman? A Nativity scene or a Christmas tree? If so, the Women's Guild needs YOU! We would like to move from the current clip art covers to hand drawn covers for the Christmas cards we send to the prison. Designs need to be simple so they can be colored by the congregation as well. They need to be on the front 1/2 of white copy paper like the current cards are. Any Christmas design is welcome. Please give your design to Roz or Judy by the end of February '24. Thanks for your support. If you have questions, please contact Judy Williams at 717-968-4381 or [gbgjudy@yahoo.com](mailto:gbgjudy@yahoo.com).

The Women's Bible study meets electronically **two Thursdays a month at 7 PM**. This winter we are reading and discussing Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison-Warren. Interested women contact Dana McDonald at 717-642-6272.

### The Virginia (Ginny) K. Woods Scholarship Program

The Program is seeking applicants. Calling all high school seniors, students who have successfully completed at least one year at an accredited post-secondary education institution and anyone pursuing a master's degree or some type of further education: It is that time of the year to think about your education for next year. It is time to apply to the Virginia (Ginny) K. Woods Scholarship program. This scholarship program was established at the bequest of Ginny Woods, a member of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church who was a retired school teacher with a love for youth and education. The applicants of first consideration will be a member of LMPCPC, a member of our youth program, or an active participant in the life of the church. As requested in her will, if no one needs a scholarship from LMPCPC, the Interpretation and Stewardship Team will accept applicants from the Fairfield and Gettysburg communities. Applications are available at the church office. You may also call Barb Schwartz, church office +manager at 717-642-5332 or e-mail her at [office@lmcpcc.org](mailto:office@lmcpcc.org) to request an application. She can mail or e-mail it to you. **Applications must be submitted by April 1**, and they are reviewed by the Interpretation and Stewardship Team. The scholarship usually is awarded in May. Please pass this information on if you know a student in need.



1-Kris Englund-Kreiger  
 5-Kerr Thompson  
 7-Pam Johnson  
 7-Kaylee Metz  
 13-Mabert Anderson  
 20-Margaret Metz  
 21-Carlos Wampler  
 21-Judy Williams  
 22-Anthony Golden  
 25-Ellen McMann  
 27-John Phillips



Thanks to Judy Williams for < < < this photo from the Women's Guild Christmas Party in December. It helps the Women to remember this fun time since the Guild will not be meeting in February due to weather concerns. We will go back to regular meetings in March. Stay warm ! (Roz Santay)

*Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks Thanks*

**THANK YOU!** Once again this Christmas, I was given, and all of our paid church staff were given, a **special and generous Christmas gift!** Of course, I am grateful to our Session for leading this generosity. This gift happens every year, and yet every year, I am surprised by the remarkable generosity and kindness of this congregation. It is received as a wonderful blessing and grace. Thank you! **Mark**

Dear Church Family:

**I cannot thank you enough for the joy you brought to my Mom as she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!** For at least a week she received piles of birthday cards each day! We almost made it – she received 85 cards total!

Each day she would say: “Look at all these cards and most of them from Pennsylvania!” and “More from Pennsylvania!” She has looked through those card numerous times in awe of your wonderful thoughtfulness! I and my family have been truly blessed by your example of love for your neighbors both near and far!

With great gratitude and wishing you all God’s peace, **Denise Lockwood**

**Thank you** for the many get well wishes I have received! I am slowly healing and hope to see you all in church before too much longer. **Sandy Buhman**

**Editor’s Note :** Thanks to **Kathy Megyeri** for bringing to my attention a very nice article (with pictures) that was in the Gettysburg Times on January 6, 2024 profiling several women from LMCPG who are part of the **Amazing Grace Quilters** group that meets at the Good News Church of Orrtanna. The following LMCPG women are part of this group, using their time and talents for the benefit of others:  
**Cathy Michaliga, Sue Welsh, Arlene Wright, Len Williams, and Karen Richardson.**

December 18, 2023

Dear Friends,

**Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan’s Purse.** This year as we celebrate the joyous occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the world seems especially dark. Conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine sadly continue to threaten the lives of many. Closer to home, residents of Acapulco, Mexico, struggle to recover from a horrific hurricane. Your gifts and prayers equip us to go into these crisis zones to share the wonder of that first Christmas : Christ has come to be our eternal hope! Thank you and God bless you. Sincerely,

**Franklin Graham, President**

*Thanks* continued on the middle of page 7 . . .

**Thank you!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wanted to take this opportunity to once again extend my thanks to all of you who have supported, encouraged, and prayed me on my journey through seminary and the presbyterian process of being called, ordained, and installed in a congregation to serve the Lord there. As you all no doubt know, Christ Presbyterian Church (Camp Hill) issued a call to me to serve as their pastor, and our Presbytery of Carlisle has confirmed that call and approved my service there. I began my ministry to the Lord there on January 21st. While it is very exciting to be starting out on this new stage of my faith journey, I know I will miss being a part of the warm, caring congregation at Lower Marsh Creek and I wanted to say "Thank you!" one last time. May the Lord continue to bless you all!

- Lynn Miller -



Thanks to Pastor Mark for the above photo to mark the occasion of the Special Presbytery meeting that was held on January 17th. At this time our own Lynn Miller was presented to the Presbytery for examination and approval for ordination. Lynn's ordination will take place on February 25th at her new church.

**GRAND AFRICA**

October 10, 2023 - December 22, 2023

Pastor Dale Williams

October 10, 2023, Len and I embarked on Holland America's Ms Zuiderdam, with 1400 passengers and 720 crew for a journey that would take us around the continent of Africa. During the voyage Holland provided a lecture series to help us understand what was once referred to as the "Dark Continent" because so little was known about it. We found that Africa is much bigger than we imagined, with a land area of 11.7 million square miles – enough to fit in the U.S., China, India, Japan, México, and many European nations combined!

Our travels took us from the Canary Islands and the Azores to N. Africa – Morocco and Tunisia along with stops in Crete and Cyprus. We transited the Suez Canal and on to Egypt, Oman, Seychelle Islands, Tanzania, and Madagascar. From there we went to Mozambique, S. Africa (Durban & Cape Town), Namibia, Angola, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Senegal, and Cape Verde. Then back across the Atlantic with a visit to San Juan before arriving in Ft. Lauderdale December 22nd.

Sadly, colonization in the 1800's by European powers has had a challenging impact on many of the African nations. At the Berlin Conference of 1884, Great Britain, France, Portugal, Germany, and Belgium laid claim to 90% of Africa, and set about exporting much of the continent's natural resources to fuel their own industrial growth. After decades of colonial rule, many of these nations were granted independence in the 1960's. With little or no experience in government, very poor education, and inter-tribal friction, many of the nations of Africa have been fraught with civil war and corrupt leadership. The result has been that those in power have become wealthy on the backs of their people. Most African nations are rich in the natural resources that are necessary for the world's modern technology, and if properly managed, the people of these nations could be well fed, have a good education, decent housing, and meaningful employment. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Leadership has sold mining rights to other nations – notably China – and pocketed the money! There is some hope on the horizon as a younger generation of better educated, better informed Africans are rising to positions of leadership.

On the positive side, Len and I were able to enjoy the beauty and diversity of Africa, and experience the warm hospitality of its people. Of course, it was particularly special for me as I was asked by Holland America to serve as its Protestant Pastor for the cruise. Holland brings clergy – Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish – on all its long voyages to provide daily devotions/Mass at sea, Sunday/Sabbath worship, and pastoral care to guests; as well as be available to assist the crew. We had a wonderful Interdenominational faith community of about 30 to 35 for daily at sea Bible Study, and about 70 to 90 for Sunday worship. I also participated in leadership of two Christian fellowships among the crew. At Thanksgiving, the Priest, Rabbi, and I led an Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service; and on our journey home, the Catholic and Protestant communities joined together for Christmas caroling at the ship's Christmas tree in the Atrium. It was also special that Holland America supports a Christian Children's Center in

Continued on the bottom of page 7 . . .

*Serving God by*

**DEACON'S INFORMATION**

*Serving Others*

**FOOD PANTRY:** The holidays have come and gone and February is right around the corner. I want to thank you all again for your support for both thanksgiving and Christmas. We were able to collect 278 food items and 10 turkeys for thanksgiving and \$400 for gift cards for hams at Christmas. The number of families in need continues to grow. They are now assisting 35 families. The price of food and non food items increases each week. Any BOGO items you buy, think food pantry. I'm sure we can fill the large receptacle in the narthex or the box outside Barb's office. Thank you. Arlene

**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 443 - 977 - 9129.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:**

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717- 253 - 0305

Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

*Thanks* - continued from page 4 . . .

December 23, 2024 - To the Members of Lower Marsh Creek Church,

Your gift at the Giving Spree event supports our mission to feed the hungry in our community. This fall and winter we have been serving 70 people a day - more than we have ever served. Donations from the Giving Spree provide our hungry neighbors a warm nutritious meal throughout the year.

**Thank you for all you do. Beth Bauer, Board Chair - Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen**

**Grand Africa** - continued from page 6 . . .

Namibia, and many of the children from the center visited the ship and sang for us when we visited that country. The ship collected about \$10.000 from the passengers, which was presented as a gift to the center.

Aside from ministry, Len and I enjoyed all that the ship had to offer - lectures and presentations, daily music venues (classical, rock, piano bar, and dance band), evening shows, wonderful food; and the pool and fitness center (a necessity with all the eating we did!) Perhaps what we enjoyed most is sitting out on the Promenade Deck on sunny afternoons, taking in the beauty of God's creation on the ocean, or standing on the top deck under the night sky and taking in the vast starry universe above. As David wrote in Psalm 8, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

I feel very blessed and grateful to God for having had this opportunity to provide ministry at sea. Len is organizing our pictures and we'll soon be able to share them with all of you!

The Musical Family of LMCPCC would like to congratulate member Lynn Miller on her newest accomplishment. Through hard work, and trust in our Lord, she will now serve as the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill! During her years here at LMCPCC, Lynn was unique since she was a member of the Bells of Faith, the Faithful Voices, and Wires and Wood! She will certainly be missed. Congratulations, Lynn.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> our Preparation for Worship was a beautiful song entitled "God Leads Us Along." Both the melody and lyrics were written by George A. Young (~1855-1935), an obscure country preacher and carpenter. With his meager salary, he struggled to supply for his family, but eventually was able to build them a house. A group of hoodlums who did not like his preaching of the Gospel burnt their house to the ground. Amazingly, George wrote this song after losing his home. His wife felt blessed as she spent her last years at the county poor house where she could continue sharing the God News of Jesus! What an incredible message behind his song. The following link presents a version of the song to enjoy. [258 God Leads us Along \(Travis Cottrell\) - YouTube](#)

1. In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,  
God leads His dear children along;  
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,  
God leads His dear children along.

Refrain: Some through the waters, some through the flood,  
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;  
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,  
In the night season and all the day long.

2. Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,  
God leads His dear children along;  
Sometimes in the valley, in darkest of night,  
God leads His dear children along.

3. Though sorrows befall us and evils oppose,  
God leads His dear children along;  
Through grace we can conquer, defeat all our foes,  
God leads His dear children along

LMCPCC music for February will include:

February 4 - Glory Singers and Faithful Voices

February 11 - Wires and Wood - "The Gift of Love"

February 18 - Glory Singers and Faithful Voices

February 25 - God will provide . . .

*Linda Clark*

*www.pausetoreadbooks*



## Interview with Sajida

*As told to Judy Leslie*

*Refugee Resettlement Partnership (RRP) Volunteer*

Sajida, her husband and two little boys arrived in the United States in August 2022. She was excited as well as nervous. How would life here be different from what she had known in Afghanistan? Would she, as a woman, be in danger? What about her children?

Much to her delight, Sajida discovered many pleasant surprises in her new community of Gettysburg. All of the Americans she has met have been kind to her. She was pleased that she could dress in her hijab and long dresses with no one objecting or laughing at her. She was impressed at the traffic patterns - not much congestion or speeding. Within a year she received her driver's license and is comfortable driving to do shopping and other errands.

Adapting to a new culture has brought her challenges as well. It is difficult for her family to find Halal food. There are no Halal restaurants for them to try in Gettysburg - only food bought from the Halal Food Truck. For cooking, she must go to Harrisburg or Carlisle or Fredrick to find Halal food products.

Sajida is proud of the progress she is making in learning English. I [Judy Leslie] am one of three tutors who help her with weekly lessons. She sees America as a place rich in career and educational opportunities for her family. In Afghanistan there were only schools for boys. Her son, who is in first grade at Lincoln Elementary, loves school and his teacher. There is no crying or teachers shouting at the children as he had experienced before coming here. Sajida's husband has a good job with Wellspring but she, too, would like to be employed. Perhaps some work will become available when their three-year-old can be enrolled in Head Start. Meanwhile, Sajida is an excellent seamstress. She has made some extra money doing alterations for a few friends. She also had the opportunity of sewing 192 napkins and holders for a dinner event held at Messiah College for a CWS (Church World Service) function held there.

Sajida is also an excellent cook. I have been privileged to sample some of her Karahi Chicken - a yummy recipe made with garlic, tomatoes and peppers! She enjoyed hosting an open house for her new friends this fall to celebrate their one-year anniversary in America. Sajida is able to stay in contact with family members. She and Mumtaz use the WhatsApp video service to communicate on their cell phones with relatives in Afghanistan - her mother, sister and two brothers and her husband's mother and two brothers as well. She also has opportunities to visit with her aunt in Virginia and a sister in Pittsburgh. Sajida is very thankful for her new life in America. She is especially grateful to RRP for helping her family to acquire a house to rent, for the donated furniture and household items and financial assistance with buying clothing. She feels blessed to have another family from Afghanistan living in the same town. They often share their cultural traditions and religious celebrations.

In working with Sajida this past year, I have found her to be, not only a good student, but a delightful new friend. My life is richer for knowing her and her beautiful family.



## Meet our New Missionaries

### Rev. Betsey and Eric Moe

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/>

**About Betsey and Eric's ministries:** Betsey is working as a facilitator for the Intercultural Encounters Program of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). CEDEPCA provides North American church groups, theological seminarians, and college/university students the opportunity to discover Guatemala in all its diversity, beauty, and complexity, and to experience the everyday life of Guatemalans through immersion programs. Betsey is part of the team that receives visiting groups, plans and facilitates their educational program and itinerary, interprets, and leads reflection discussions.

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is a long time Presbyterian World Mission partner. It has close ties with many presbyteries and Presbyterian congregations across the United States. In addition to the Intercultural Encounters Program, CEDEPCA offers training in pastoral, biblical, and theological studies, offers programs in women's empowerment, and provides ministry in times of disaster.

**Country context:** Guatemala is the most populous and the most industrialized country in Central America. It is also by far the country with the highest percentage of the indigenous populations. Since gaining independence in 1821, the country was ruled by the military for most of its history, except for two popularly elected governments that provided ten years of democracy from 1944 to 1954. Amid U.S. government claims of communist influence, the democratically elected government was toppled in 1954 in an invasion by U.S. backed Guatemalan exiles. The ensuing military rule helped perpetuate an intense concentration of wealth and land that left the indigenous Maya population almost totally disenfranchised and thus contributed to a 36-year civil war. While peace accords were signed in December 1996, the country continues to struggle with violence, corruption, and economic challenges. Though traditionally a Roman Catholic country, a sizable portion of the population now belongs to Protestant (mostly Pentecostal) churches.

**About Betsey and Eric:** Betsey writes, "With the Intercultural Encounters team at CEDEPCA, I will help to design trips and seminars that are transformative for our North American visitors, equipping them to return home with a broader perspective on the current context. I am drawn to this work because I see the urgent need for understanding and bridgebuilding, especially on the part of citizens of the U.S. whose policies directly influence our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. Intercultural Encounters also offers everyone involved the opportunity to see Christ in one another and to see the beauty in our shared communion."

Eric has been a professional musician in the U.S., playing and teaching trumpet in the community and church and looks forward to using music as a way to connect with people in Guatemala. Eric will also serve in ministry in the home with the Moes' three school-age children.



## Meet our New Mission Organizations

### **Agape International Missions**

<https://aimfree.org/>

49.6 million people are estimated to be living in modern-day slavery worldwide; 1 in 4 of those living in modern-day slavery are children; 6.3 million people are trafficked for sex around the world; 4.9 million sex trafficking victims are women and girls.

Agape International Missions (AIM) has been fighting trafficking for over 18 years. AIM has a USHQ in California and numerous, dedicated staff members throughout Cambodia and Belize. Its mission is to free hearts, lives, and communities from the evil sex trafficking in Jesus' name and in Jesus' way. Its vision is the agape love of Jesus Christ expressed through His followers (the Church), unlocking hearts one life at a time. Community by community, generation after generation, joining God's global movement to rescue, heal, and transform those impacted by sex trafficking.



The Presbyterian Historical Society leverages its collections and archival work to galvanize the transformative power of history in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and wider community. It collaborates with entities and individuals to gather and share a full record of the past, provides broad and equitable access to its collections and resources, and fosters reconciliation and repair in the PC(USA) and wider community through programs and resources that support the call to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

## Highlighting Changes to the MOM Budget for 2024

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make the following changes to the MOM Budget for 2024:

Support for the following missionaries was raised from \$6,200 to \$6,600: Adams Christian Prison Ministry, Thomas & Cheri Henry, Dori Hjmarlson, Bob & Kristi Rice, SAT-7, and Ryan & Alethia White. In addition, we added support for Betsey & Eric Moe in the amount of \$6,600.

Support for the following mission organizations was increased: Adams Rescue Mission (\$3,000 to \$3,400), Agape House (\$2,000 to \$2,200), Camp Krislund (\$3,400 to \$3,600), Child Evangelism Fellowship (\$3,400 to \$3,600), Compassion International (\$1,568 to \$1,848), DiscipleMakers/Kevin & Maria Noyes (\$3,400 to \$3,900), Fairfield Food Pantry (\$1,000 to \$1,200), and Young Life/Dan Zychal (\$6,200 to \$6,600). In addition, we added support for AGAPE International Missions (\$2,200) and Presbyterian Historical Society (\$500).

## Mission Advocate's Mailbox - Recent Correspondence

### **Child Evangelism Fellowship**

*From the CEF December Newsletter.* "The impact of one life cannot be forgotten. Jesse Irvin Overholtzer founded Child Evangelism Fellowship in 1937. Tens of thousands of lives have been changed because of his life. Recently we were reminded of this."

"A colleague was in a local department store buying crayons for her Good News Club children, when the man in front of her asked her if she was a schoolteacher, to which she responded, 'No, I teach a Good News Club.' The cashier jumped into the conversation, noting that she had gotten saved in a Good News Club many, many years ago. She continued her conversation with my colleague saying that she had continued to follow the Lord all because she was saved in a Good News Club decades before."

"A friend of mine shared with me that she had a Christmas ball for her Christmas tree noting the name of the school where the Good News Club was held and the year that she had made the ball. Both these ladies are in their 60s."

"Decades ago, these two women's lives were changed because of a Good News Club. Those Good News Clubs came from the vision of one man, Jesse Irving Overholtzer,"

### **Compassion International**

*Letter from Brayan (November 13, 2023)*

"Hello dear sponsors Friends, it is a great joy to be able to hear from you again, hoping that you enjoy very good health, and that you are enjoying then rich blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ. I tell you that I am very well. My family and I go out on weekends to visit my grandmother and like to spend time with them. I also tell you that I am going to train several days a week on the soccer field and I like to practice with my friends. I also tell you that this year will be my high school graduation and I feel excited to be able to spend this year with my classmates and to have had a lot of fun with them. I also want to tell you that I can drive a motorcycle and I hope this year, when I turn 18, I get my license. I really like driving. I tell you that it will almost be Christmas [*When Brayan wrote this letter he was almost 18. His birthday is November 25*]. The weather here is summer, it will start to get a little cold these months and I really like this time of year. I want to ask you: What will you do with your family during these times? I ask you to help pray for my family, so that I can be in good health and that with his divine hand he can protect us from all evil. I say goodbye wishing that God blesses you very much and keeps you in a great way. With love, and much affection, Brayan."

*Letter from Hawine*

"First of all, let my greeting reach you my beloved and respected sponsor. Friends how are you? Are you and your family fine? Dear sponsor, thank you very much for you have been sponsoring me. Now I am attending second year college education. I am a smart student because of your support. I wish you and your family a long age. My family and I love you so much. I always pray to God about you and your family because I love you so much. Stay safe." [*Hawine will be 20 on February 23*]

*Anyone interested in responding to either of these letters may send something (can be just a sentence or two) to Sandy Buhrman ([sandybuhrman49@gmail.com](mailto:sandybuhrman49@gmail.com)) or drop a note in my mailbox outside of the church office and I will compile letters to them.*

**Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry**

*From a recent newsletter:* "One of our goals this year was to establish a relationship with a group of ladies at the Bear mountain camp together with Salem Church, Waynesboro. We celebrated Thanksgiving with this group of ladies, which was their first time having a traditional Thanksgiving meal. They felt so loved and happy that someone actually cared about them."

"Normally these ladies don't have a lot of contact with the outside world, so it was like a breath of fresh air for them. We talked for hours where they firmly expressed how important it was for them that out of the 9 months they spent in this country the only group that visited them was us! For the women at the camp it gets really lonely while they are here. It was an amazing experience for the women because they were able to shine with us as well."

"FFCM is feeling the effects of the high cost of virtually everything in the U.S. economy, especially gasoline, postage, printed materials, etc. This heavily affects our ability to care for our migrant worker community as we strive to continuously provide for them throughout the year. Please pray for our mission amongst the migrant workers."

**Refugee Resettlement Partnership (RRP)**

A recent RRP Newsletter reports that the younger children in the first Afghan family have been actively involved in the Healthy Kids Running Series (HKRS) at the Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority (GARA) Park. Three of them enrolled in the fall races and one of their older brothers volunteered as a race leader. At the end of the day the kids took home first place trophies for their age groups. These races have become a valued family outing. Go to <https://healthykidsrunningseries.org/sponsor-a-race/> to learn more or support the races.

**Thomas and Cheri Henry (England)**

*From their December newsletter:* "Two weeks ago we arrived in England. It's been rainy and cold nearly every day, and moss grows everywhere! Not under our feet though! Last week we found a vehicle that works well for us. Considering how often roads flood, we wanted something that sits up a bit. Cheri finally got her SUV, and a hybrid at that. It's got some miles on it, but it should be good for several years. The next day, after looking at eight houses, we were approved to rent our top choice. Our new home is in Little Haywood, a village of 2000 people in Staffordshire County. Our home is just 13 minutes from the White House [ministry centre where the Henrys will work], and is surrounded by forest, canals and farmland, with walking paths galore. It's so green here!"

"The White House ministry centre is the place we work as workers retreat from their field of service. It has quite a history, as it has been the location of a WWI POW camp, an inn, a pub, a Bible school, and now a ministry centre for workers. It is located in the center of The Cannock Chase, a 26 sq. mile (17,000 acres) section of forest and fields designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is filled with trails and roads for bikers and hikers. The Chase and the White House grounds and gardens will surely be a peaceful place for missionaries to stretch their legs, process what the Lord has for them, and find rest."

"Learning curve blunder: Continually reaching over the wrong shoulder to pull down the seatbelt. There are a multitude of challenges from driving on the 'other' side of the road. Not to mention the round-about! After two weeks we saw our first stop sign!"

"Both of us have been somewhat ill since arriving in England, and we ask you to pray for God's power to heal and strengthen us."

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . . “Toward the end of January, we will visit Turkey. Primarily we long to see friends and former teammates. We will discuss with one couple the possibility of partnering to continue the marriage intensives in Turkey. Lastly, we will arrange to have our small pod of personal belongings stored in Istanbul shipped to England. In March we will represent One Another Ministries at the European Member Care Consultation in Budapest, and network to make our presence known among organizations and team working in and around Europe.”

### **Samaritan's Purse**

Below freezing temperatures have returned to Ukraine, and Samaritan's Purse is partnering with Ukrainian congregations to deliver essential supplies. As part of relief efforts, they are planning to provide 2,100 woodburning stoves with accompanying firewood, thermal blankets, and winter clothing. The stoves provide much-needed warmth and a cooking option in towns where electrical power has been destroyed. They are also giving New Testaments in the Ukrainian language to church partners to offer spiritual encouragement.

### **Ryan and Alethia White (PCUSA/Germany)**

*From their Winter 2023 newsletter.* “As I write this letter, we are preparing to celebrate our first Thanksgiving in the U.S. in 10 years. Since Thanksgiving is not a holiday in Germany, and our daughters have never been big fans of traditional Thanksgiving food except for potatoes, we have not marked the holiday in the same way we used to. Since the girls are experiencing their first year in U.S. schools, this offers new educational opportunities, including Thanksgiving discussions and celebrations in school.”

“We arrived in the U.S. in mid-August . . . The plan is that we will be in the U.S. until Summer 2024 and during this time we remain connected with the work of our partners in Northern and Central Europe including the congregation in Berlin. . . . An exciting development has been accompanying SECID (Synod of the Evangelical Church of Iran in Diaspora) as they support the purchase of a property in Nuremberg that will be used for weekly worship as well as other educational opportunities.”

“Being in the U.S. also provides us with the opportunity to connect with congregations and supporters here and it has been great to do so already through virtual connections and with local congregations in the Richmond area. . . .”

“... Since our daughters are in school it is not as simple to travel together as a family. We want to be more thoughtful in how our connections and in-person visits occur. And we want to take advantage of the opportunities widespread virtual connection now offers. . . . We are now using Mail-Chimp to manage our distribution list and communication. If you have not received any emails from us this way, please email us directly at [Ryan.White@pcusa.org](mailto:Ryan.White@pcusa.org) and [Alethis.White@pcusa.org](mailto:Alethis.White@pcusa.org) and we will add you to the list. Registration for these virtual conversations will be sent a couple of weeks prior to the event.”

“In January Ryan will attend the Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta and help facilitate two workshops. The first will be an introduction to *Confronting Militarism* and the second will be on *Militarism and Migration*. . . .”

“When we are in conversation with you and others in the U.S., we want to listen to you and hear about the issues that are important in your communities. When we are together, virtually or in person, we are hoping that these can be times of mutual engagement.”

“The work we are engaged with in Europe is on behalf of PCUSA, and this work also takes root in each community where you are located. We appreciate all who read our letters and journey with us and for your prayers and support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.”



# The Giving Corner

## The Blue Envelope: Our Per Capita Offering

The annual giving of all Presbyterians, in the form of our Per Capita offerings, is a “tie that binds” the entire church and benefits every congregation. Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God’s love through mission and ministry. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future.

Per Capita amounts are determined by General Assembly nationally, regionally by the Synod and locally by the Presbytery. These monies are used to administer the responsibilities, functions, and mission of each governing body. This year that assessment in our presbytery is \$33.00 per member. Our Session is committed to paying the full assessment for all members on our roll because we treasure our relationship with the wider church, and the congregation benefits when members contribute their share to the whole.

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |         |                       |         |                         |                |               |                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| This year the split is as follows: | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">General Assembly:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 9.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synod of the Trinity:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presbytery of Carlisle:</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$20.80</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Total:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$33.00</b></td> </tr> </table> | General Assembly: | \$ 9.80 | Synod of the Trinity: | \$ 2.40 | Presbytery of Carlisle: | <u>\$20.80</u> | <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$33.00</b> |
| General Assembly:                  | \$ 9.80                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |         |                       |         |                         |                |               |                |
| Synod of the Trinity:              | \$ 2.40                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |         |                       |         |                         |                |               |                |
| Presbytery of Carlisle:            | <u>\$20.80</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |         |                       |         |                         |                |               |                |
| <b>Total:</b>                      | <b>\$33.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |         |                       |         |                         |                |               |                |

This assessment per member maintains a physical office and staff at all three levels of governance; it provides training and leadership development for our church officers; it provides learning opportunities for pastors and members of congregations and faith formation initiatives for youth through Camp Krislund; it also provides oversight and preparation for those discerning God’s call to ministry. These are just a few examples of what the per capita funds do.

But it is not these benefits alone that make us so deeply committed to the per capita offering. It is our shared sense of our Reformed heritage and our Presbyterian identity that compels us to take our relationship with the whole Presbyterian family so seriously.

Thank you to all who have paid and plan to pay your share of the \$33.00 per member. By contributing your portion of the per capita, you will free up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. If you have not contributed to this in the past, we hope you will consider doing so this year. You may remit your per capita contribution by using the special envelope designated “per capita” that came with your offering envelopes, or simply by writing “per capita” on the memo line of your check.

We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

The Interpretation & Stewardship Team



# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on January 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

~ Membership as of 1/13/2024: Active Members (AM = CA): 161, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56 and Family Members: 51.

~ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for December. A full report of all accounts including investments can be found in the 2023 Annual Report. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

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

~ Communion schedule for 2024.

~ Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 5:30 PM: Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Dinner in the fellowship hall

~ Lenten Book Study by Pastor Englund-Krieger using Jesus' words: "Who do you say I am?" and the Presbyterian Book of Confessions. Dates are Wednesday February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 at 5:30 – 6:30 with soup and salad and book study from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

~ Easter, Sunday, March 31, 2024: Sunrise service followed by a congregational breakfast and another service at 11:00 AM.

~ That Naomi's Sisters meet each Thursday throughout the year at various locations for various events and activities.

~ The Pizza/Bowling Nights at the Edgewood Lanes in Gettysburg, PA on Saturday, January 20, February 17, March 16, and April 20, 2024

~ That the Couples Group meet the second Saturday evening of each month at various members' homes for fellowship and study.

~ That the Men's Breakfast occurs the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall with breakfast and different speakers each month.

~ Winter Banquet: March 2, 2024, at 1:00 PM. The location to be determined.

~ The formation of a Session sub-committee to search for a Clerk of Session as Denise Lockwood tenders her resignation. The sub-committee members are: Cathy Michaliga, Susan Nunamaker, Lanny Winters and Pastor Mark.

~ That the Clerk of Session submit the Annual Statistical Report to the General Assembly.

Continued on the next page . . .



Continued from the preceding page . . .

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

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

- ~ Session approved the election of the corporation officers for 2024: President: Doyle Waybright, Vice-President: Ron Milhimes, and Secretary/Treasurer: Lanny Winters.
- ~ The new fence sections have been installed at the cemetery! 5 gallons of D2 are in the mechanical room for future use of cleaning headstones.
- ~ The sanctuary boiler circulator has been installed at a cost of \$4,339.00. All is working well.
- ~ The team is planning to create a technology leadership/knowledge sub-committee to better understand what we have, our needs and how to move forward.
- ~ The team is investigating the possibility of solar panels.

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

Team members: Ray Wright, chair; Lauren Neely, co-chair, and Lane Speck.

- ~ Balance sheet and Cash Flow reports for November and December were approved as presented.
- ~ Budget Team Liaisons were identified: Home Ministry: Doyle Waybright and Spiritual Life: Dana McDonald. The I & S Team chair serves as the chair of the Budget Team and other members include Barbara Schwartz as Financial Secretary and Denise Lockwood as counter.
- ~ The final approved 2024 budgets for the Church Operating Fund and Mission Organizations/ Missionaries were distributed.

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

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

- ~ Deacon Representative for 2024 is Arlene Wright.
- ~ The Deacons reported that 19 turkeys were donated to the Fairfield Food Pantry at Thanksgiving.
- ~ Welcome Bags continue to be distributed to visitors. Please be on the lookout for visitors and notify the ushers so they can be sure they get this informative welcome gift.

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

- ~ The annual reports for the Presbytery are completed and will be submitted by the due date of February 2, 2024.
- ~ The Special Order of the Day was Officer Training for our newly elected Elders.
- ~ Submitted a report written by Elder Lynn Miller from the Presbytery meeting held on December 5, 2023, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, PA

**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – DECEMBER 2023**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

| Account Description                   | December—<br>2023   | Year-to-<br>Date<br>2023 | 2023<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$20,622.00         | \$285,495.40             | \$252,298.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$3,172.34          | \$66,260.23              | \$58,357.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$23,794.34</b>  | <b>\$351,755.63</b>      | <b>\$310,655.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                     |                          |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | -\$107.28           | \$9,765.85               | \$14,600.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$21.70             | \$3,686.31               | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$0.00              | \$5,218.97               | \$6,022.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$28,052.78         | \$67,112.23              | \$77,600.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$18,119.86         | \$163,570.74             | 209,033.00          |
| Carry Over for 2024                   | \$10,000.00         | \$10,000.00              | \$0.00              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$56,087.06</b>  | <b>\$327,852.90</b>      | <b>\$310,655.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>-\$32,292.72</b> | <b>\$23,902.73</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$73,866.88**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

| Account Description | December—<br>2023 | Year-to-<br>Date<br>2023 | 2023<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$4,365.00        | \$81,917.60              | \$76,800.00        |
| Other Income        | \$102.24          | \$3,753.23               | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$4,467.24</b> | <b>\$85,670.83</b>       | <b>\$77,800.00</b> |

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

|                              |                   |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$5,356.40</b> | <b>\$85,661.88</b> | <b>\$77,800.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>-\$889.16</b>  | <b>\$8.95</b>      | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$0.25**

**Notable expenses for December: \$6,284.15—Building Repair & Maintenance  
\$17,330.00—All insurances for 2024**

## FOURTH QUARTER REPORT — 2023

**INVESTMENTS**

| Account Description          | Opening Balance<br>9/30/2023 | Deposits | Expenses | Unrealized<br>Gains/Losses | Closing Balance<br>12/31/2023 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Capitol Improvement Fund     | \$125,188.80                 | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$16,077.92                | \$141,266.72                  |
| Cemetery Fund                | \$3,631.08                   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$266.11                   | \$3,897.19                    |
| Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund | \$161,302.13                 | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$14,629.94                | \$175,932.07                  |
| Mission Endowment Fund       | \$134,456.13                 | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$10,655.04                | \$145,111.17                  |
| Woods Scholarship Fund       | \$94,437.83                  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$7,627.29                 | \$102,065.12                  |
| David Scott Youth Fund       | \$91,718.61                  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | -\$4,187.12                | \$87,531.49                   |
|                              |                              |          |          | <b>Total Investments:</b>  | \$655,813.26                  |

**DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS**

| Account Description           | Opening Balance<br>9/30/2023 | Deposits   | Expenses   | Closing Balance<br>12/31/2023 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Insurance Claim               | \$5,779.87                   | \$0.00     | \$4,456.67 | \$1,323.20                    |
| Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers | \$7,993.64                   | \$0.00     | \$0.00     | \$7,993.64                    |
| Cemetery Benches              | \$80.00                      | \$0.00     | \$80.00    | \$0.00                        |
| Sanctuary Flowers             | \$620.80                     | \$910.00   | \$0.00     | \$1,020.80                    |
| Men's Breakfast               | \$10.52                      | \$126.00   | \$53.60    | \$82.92                       |
| Bulletins                     | \$346.87                     | \$40.00    | \$87.19    | \$299.68                      |
| Pastor's Study Leave          | \$0.00                       | \$0.00     | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00                    |
| David Scott Youth Fund        | \$7,697.02                   | \$0.00     | \$0.00     | \$7,697.02                    |
| 275th Anniversary Fund        | \$3,416.70                   | \$1,095.00 | \$3,365.48 | \$1,146.22                    |

**SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS**

| Account Description        | Opening Balance<br>9/30/2023 | Deposits | Expenses | Closing Balance<br>12/31/2023 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Membership Assistance Fund | \$3,391.85                   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$3,3791.85                   |
| Cemetery Fund              | \$18,030.64                  | \$500.00 | \$457.45 | \$18,073.19                   |
| Gifts & Memorials Fund     | \$3,084.44                   | \$570.00 | \$0.00   | \$3,654.34                    |
| Checking Acct.— M&T Bank   | \$5,000.00                   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$5,000.00                    |

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

1865 Knoxlyn Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

*Li'l Ripples* February 2024



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Early Worship 8:30 AM

Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 AM

Late Worship 11:00 AM

Nursery 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Church Office Information

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Phone Number - 717-642-5332

Email address - office@lmcpc.org

Website - www.lmcpc.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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

*Li'l Ripples*

Fay Hess - Editor

717 - 476 - 5682

or

lilripples@gmail.com