



# Li'l Ripples

July/August 2023

Volume 23 Issue 7/8

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

## A Message From Pastor Mark - THE PRESBYTERIANS

Who are the Presbyterians? As we celebrate our 275th anniversary as a congregation this year, I have often been asked about the many, different Protestant denominations which use the name Presbyterian. Indeed, one of the sad hallmarks of the Protestant churches in American history is our propensity for arguing, splitting and dividing. Most of the large, national Protestant denominations have complicated and convoluted histories of divisions and mergers. The Presbyterians are a classic example in American history. From the very start, our churches split, divided and reunited. The Lower Marsh Creek church started in the split between what was then called the New Light and Old Light Presbyterians. There is a helpful Wikipedia page that lists the *Presbyterian denominations in America*; the list is long.

The Lower Marsh Creek congregation belongs to the historic **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA)** which is, by far, the largest American Presbyterian denomination: Formed in 1789 and now with approximately 8,925 congregations and 1,245,354 members.

The four denominations listed here all broke off, mostly for theological and political reasons, from our mainline PCUSA. The stories around these church splits are terribly conflicted and divisive:

**The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC):** formed in 1939, and now with approximately 282 congregations and 31,043 members.

**The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA):** formed in 1973, and now with approximately 1,580 congregations and 383,338 members.

**The Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC):** formed in 1981 and now with approximately 625 churches and 145,210 members.

**The Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO):** formed in 2014, and now with approximately 297 congregations and 115,000 members.

Reviewing the history of the Presbyterians in America moves us to prayer and repentance.

Maybe during our anniversary year, we should earnestly join Jesus in his heartfelt prayer:

*" . . . that all of them may be one . . . "* (John 17:21)

In Christ!

Mark

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NEXT  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
**AUGUST 18**



## CHURCH LIFE - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR SUMMER :

Summer Worship schedule has begun and will continue through Labor Day.

There will be **one service at 10:00 AM** The service will be livestreamed.

Summer Office Hours are **Monday - Thursday** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM through Labor Day.

FUNnFITNESS **will not meet** during the summer months. Dave will see you in the fall.

Mission Opportunity Program (MOP) **will not meet** during the summer months. (Barb Schwartz)

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

The Couple's Study group will meet **July 8<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Dale and Len Williams, Carr Hill Road, Gettysburg. Please check the church bulletin for time and details.

The **August meeting is cancelled** in hopes that couples will attend the church retreat on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Camp Eder, Mt. Hope Road., Fairfield, Pa.

The **September 9<sup>th</sup>** meeting for the Couple's will be hosted by Karen and Jim Richardson. Please check the church bulletin for further details during August.

As always, all couple's in the church are invited to participate in our fellowship group. Good food, good fun, enriching our marriages and friendships are all part of our futures! (Bev Benner)

Food Pantry News : We are collecting monetary donations for the Fairfield Food Pantry themed "4th of July" bags. A reminder that the themed bags are the fun and tasty extras that are not typically included in the monthly food distribution. Please remember to mark your check or envelope "Themed Bags" to ensure your donation gets distributed properly. Thank you ! (Barb Schwartz)

*Editor's note : See additional information about the Food Pantry on page 12.*

Fairfield Ruth's Harvest : A big **thank you** to all who donated items and those who helped fill the bags this school year. Food donations for next year will be accepted starting in mid-August. Look for the sign-up sheet to pack bags early this fall. (Barb Schwartz)

The Women's Guild enjoyed a talk in June from Dale and Len Williams about their 128 day cruise. We saw great pictures and were impressed by all they did while on that trip. We truly appreciate their willingness to share with us and make us all feel a part of their adventures. Thank you both for making your trip a highlight for us.

We will meet **July 18<sup>th</sup>** and **August 15<sup>th</sup>** at **1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited for fellowship, fun and food ! Hope to see you there !

See the next page for information about our annual yard and bake sale. (Roz Santay)

**WOMEN'S GUILD YARD AND BAKE SALE** - Tired of clutter? Tired of dodging inanimate objects when you open a cabinet? Are you scared to open a drawer for fear of being attacked by flying forks or spatulas? Then The Women's Guild has the answer for you. Sell your unwanted items at our Yard & Bake Sale. On **September 23rd, 2023 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, we will have our annual sale in the church's parking lot or in Fellowship Hall if it rains. You can procure a table 8 feet long for \$15, a round table for \$12 or bring your own table and rent a space 8 feet long for \$10. We will also be selling baked good and bowls of soup for lunch or takeout. The money we raise will help us buy Christmas gifts for our Teen Angels. Join us in this worthy cause. Fill in the form below and give it to Roz Santay or Nancy Brill by **September 17th, 2023**.

Note : As the date approaches, there will be order forms in the church bulletin too.

**FORM for Women's Guild Yard & Bake Sale :**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of 8 feet tables.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of round tables.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of spaces.

Please make checks payable to The Women's Guild. Thank you.

**The Virginia (Ginny) K. Woods Scholarship recipients** were honored on June 4, 2023 at a coffee hour in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. They were presented with their awards at that time. Pictured from left to right are Lauren Neely (I & S Team), Rachael Filip, Jenna Leedy, Jamal Nasiri, and Pastor Mark. Missing from the picture is the fourth scholarship recipient Zach Tipton.

***Congratulations***

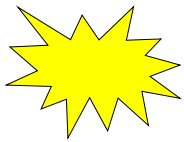


**THE ANNUAL LMC CHURCH RETREAT** will be held on **August 26, 2023** at Camp Eder, 914 Mt. Hope Road, Fairfield, Pa. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex beginning July 1, 2023. Please be sure to sign-up early to assure your spot for the day. **We will begin at 9:00 AM and finish the day with a wonderful dinner and fellowship time approximately 6:30/7:00 PM.**

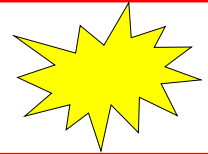
The day will begin with Pastor Mark talking with the adults and Miss Shirley, Miss Joan and Pastor Dale helping the youth learn about Pentecost and will be building a church. Sally Thomas, from Fairfield, will help the group (with the help of her friend Barb Sanders) to create a lovely memorial on slab wood in a step-by-step process. In the afternoon, our own Ranger Rick will lead those interested in a Nature Walk and appreciating God's creation; Jenny Waybright will lead a workshop on Flower Arrangement; a Bible Study will be available; a place for board games and of course swimming in the beautiful, large pool. We will conclude our spiritual activities for the day in a worship/communion service in the scenic Chapel at the crest of the hill at the camp. (A wagon ride will take and return us to the chapel) A nourishing dinner with sharing of memories of our church family over the years will complete the day and the retreat for 2023. See the schedule below. (Bev Benner)

### **THE ANNUAL LMC CHURCH RETREAT SCHEDULE**

9:00 - 9:20	Registration/Coffee
9:30 - 9:45	Gather/Welcome/Opening Prayer/Song
9:45 - 10:45	Adult and Children Sessions: Pastor Mark/Miss Shirley/ Miss Joan/Pastor Dale
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00 - 1:00	Creative Session - Sally Thomas/Barb Sanders
1:15 - 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 2:45	Nature Walk - Rick Gladhill
2:00 - 3:45	Board Games/Fellowship
2:45 - 3:45	Swim Time/Flower Arranging/Bible Study
3:45 - 4:00	Wagon ride to Chapel
4:00 - 5:00	Worship Service/Communion
5:00 - 5:15	Reverse Wagon Ride
5:15 - 6:30	Dinner/Memory Shares/Closing Prayer
6:30 - 7:00	Clean up



# I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream !



## The Ice Cream Crank-Off

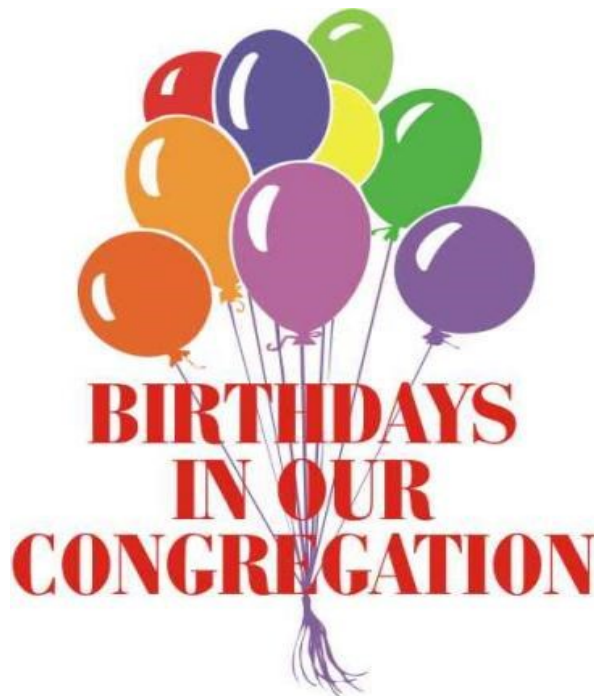
25 years ago one of the events for the church's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was the first official Ice Cream Social! Whoever thought that 25 years later, for our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we would still be celebrating the end of summer with our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social? I think we missed one or two years in that span due to circumstances beyond our control but, no matter, it has been a long-standing tradition at LMC.

We are adding a new element this year to our usual array of home-made toppings and various flavors of ice cream. This year we are hosting the Ice Cream Crank-Off! What could this be you ask? This is an ice cream making contest! We are inviting any and all ice cream makers who have an old fashioned, crank ice cream maker to show us your creativity in making your own special flavor of ice cream. Because you can only use a crank ice cream maker, you may need a team of folks. Now is the time to get your team together! Name your team, create, and name your delicious flavor and vie for the First Prize (yet to be determined)!

For all attendees, we get to sample these new flavors and vote for our favorite. In order to vote we are asking that you bring a non-perishable food item or two or three (in case you can't choose a favorite because they are all awesome) and use those items to vote. Following the contest and Social, all food items will be donated to the Fairfield Food Pantry.

So, mark your calendars: Sunday, **September 10, 2023, from 5:00 – 6:00 PM for taste-testing and 6:00 PM for the social.** Bring your family, friends, appetite, and food items! This should prove to be a great time of fun, fellowship, and fine dining!!

More info on the contest and entry registration forms will be in the Sunday Bulletins in August!



- 1. Julie Orleski
- 4. Darlene Shriner
- 11. Meredith Lawler
- 14. Dana McDonald
- 15. Jenny Waybright
- 27. Terry Sites

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- 4. Peggy Benner
- 5. Suetta Bechtel
- 6. Ken Howe
- 12. Sandy Howe
- 12. Sylvi Taylor
- 15. Isaac Bucher
- 19. Joe Jackson
- 22. Elaine Milhimes
- 22. Jean Bentz
- 22. Janet Hartman
- 23. Ray Wright
- 31. Hank Seamon

### Fantastic 275th Anniversary Events!

The past two weeks held two great anniversary events! Our first, **a guided tour of our historic cemetery** was on the evening of **May 31st** and was led by our own Linda Clark. The tour led us around the cemetery to hear about many of those who lie there, of various ages and from all walks of life. Linda covered soldiers from various wars, farmers, a pastor or two, and others, and mentioned children, wives, husbands, fathers, mothers, etc. The information was sometimes eye-opening and thought-provoking, such as when we viewed a set of graves from one family, all of whom died within days of each other. Linda even included a bit about where several people lived and how far they had to come just to get to worship with fellow believers on a Sunday morning, then added that these same people were the ones who literally brought stones from their fields to build the sanctuary we still worship in. Linda's stories highlighted the wonderful legacy left to us by our forebears and made for a very informative and enjoyable event. Many thanks go to those who worked to prepare our cemetery for the tour, cleaning the headstones so that they could be read and making sure the lawn was mowed, the grass trimmed, and the debris picked up and removed. A very special thank you goes to the Home Ministry Team for arranging it all and dealing with the huge tree that fell only a couple of weeks before the tour, crushing a portion of the fence! Thank you also, Pastor Mark, for securing beautiful weather for our evening tour that day. :) Well, OK, we offer our thanks to the Lord for the blessing of the weather!



Then, at almost the midpoint of our 275th anniversary year, our celebration of Lower Marsh Creek Church's heritage began on **June 11th with Sunday worship**, centered around Pastor Mark's inspiring sermon highlighting the "highway" on which we travel in our faith journey in the company of others both behind and ahead of us. **Bill Gable** added a special touch with a postlude played **on bagpipes**, symbolizing our tie to the traditions the Scots-Irish brought to America with them. After **our congregational photo**, we enjoyed **our picnic** and then listened to a number of colonial songs presented by **musician, actor, and re-enactor Jeff Greenawalt**, including the one with the tune used to frame our national anthem! Jeff then switched personas, **becoming George Washington** and regaling us with a wonderful, stirring tale of the life of the man who was perhaps most instrumental in holding the very young nation together throughout its earliest years. All in all, it was a fantastic and very enjoyable day! Again, huge thanks to the many hands who set up, cooked/grilled, put food out, and cleaned up for this wonderful event, in particular the Spiritual Life Team and the Deacons



Fantastic 275th Anniversary Events - continued from the preceding page :



Stay tuned for more events in the second half of the year. The annual Congregational Retreat this year will have a heritage theme to it, so we encourage everyone to sign up! The next anniversary event will be our Ice Cream Social on September 10th, with an "Ice Cream Crank Off" to see who has the best ice cream churned the old-fashioned way... if we can get enough people willing to crank! (Y'all come on out! :) ) Later on, in November, we will be aiming to fill 275 Operation Christmas Child boxes and holding a closing banquet at the new Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum. Advent this year will have the theme "Advent Through the Ages." We have a lot of heritage to celebrate...and a legacy to leave to those who come after.



Article by Lynn Miller. Accompanying photos by Therese Herlihy, Fay Hess & Lynn Miller

**FUNFEST — June 9, 2023**

Every year, the Adams County Public Library System kicks off its summer reading program with Funfest, a vendor and non-profit filled event held at the Gettysburg Area Recreation Park. This year, our church participated in the kid-geared fun on June 9th! Within the first 90 minutes, we gave away all 20 of the children's Bibles we brought (in both English and Spanish) and almost all 20 of the children's Bible story books (again, in both English and Spanish), as well as 10 copies of "199 Promises in the Bible" we brought for any adults who were interested. The desire for the scriptures was heartwarming; one boy was attracted by the colorful cover of the Bible, but was unaware of what the Bible was. While I was explaining that it was stories about God, his grandmother interrupted and reminded him that they had wanted to read these stories. The boy took the Bible. :)





FUNFEST - Continued from the preceding page :

We had two activities planned for the kids who stopped by, tracing their hands in a chain on block paper (along with our participating adults and their caretaker adults), and a balloon activity. We originally planned to have the kids play a simple form of volleyball with balloons, hitting them to each other and keeping them off the ground. The wind, however, insisted on blowing the balloons out of reach, so we settled for just giving the balloons away, which turned out to be a big hit!



We captured a lot of handprints, illustrating the connectedness of the human race, and displayed the long banner that was created during the announcements in church on Sunday afterward (June 11th). In addition to the Bibles, we also gave away fliers announcing our Diaper Give-Away this August. This event allowed us to reach out into our community in a more pro-active way, and be present at an event that is important to the community — over 4,000 people attended this year! We had many volunteers helping out at our booth—many thanks to all of them for their time and effort, especially to Ms. Shirley and Ms. Joan, who were there the whole time and shepherded tracing hands all afternoon!

Article by Lynn Miller. Photos by Lynn Miller and Susan Nunamaker

Have you heard . .

That it's good exercise to run from Satan and walk with God?

(A sign posted outside of a local church.)



**DO YOU KNOW** . . . Editor's note - In place of a biography this issue, please enjoy the following article.

### Why Me Lord?

I enjoy listening to Kris Kristofferson's song *Why Me*. The song expresses his feelings of unworthiness because God has been so good to him, and he has done so little to be deserving. The song started my thinking about the following: As I consider all that God has provided to me (and most likely to you as well), His gifts have far exceeded that provided to most people throughout the world: definitely a reason to ask, why me?

The question of why me is very hard to answer indeed. C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, has some very interesting theories on this. I have decided that rather than dwell on this question, I am more concerned about this somewhat related question: how should we respond to God's bounty of gifts?

While reading a biography of George H. W. Bush, I came across this Bush family maxim: From those to whom much is provided, much will be expected. (Luke 12:48)

Perhaps the Lord does have expectations as to how we should respond. We can get a good insight into God's aspirations for us simply by studying His Word.

I'm sure we all respond to God's generosity because of our great gratitude for what our Lord and Savior has provided as well as our deep and abiding love for the Lord we have gotten to know.

I believe our best way to respond to God's bounty of blessings is to use the gifts He has provided (our talents, skills, education, experience, etc.) to serve him as well and as long as we possibly can.

And, as we serve the Lord, we will receive an additional blessing: This giving of ourselves will make us happier. (Acts 20:35 New English Translation) "Happiness lies more in giving than receiving."

Article by John McMann

**THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

A **great big thank you** to everyone for the beautiful cards, flowers and kind words ! You are the reason I am here at LMCPG for 10 years ! You are a blessing to me and I appreciate and am thankful for each one of you !

Barb Schwartz

Dear Lower March Creek Congregation,

**Thank you** very much for the generous Ginny Woods Scholarship that you presented to me. This will definitely be helpful as I continue my college education as it will be used toward paying tuition.

I enjoyed getting to meet and talk with many of you as you all are very welcoming and kind individuals.

Thank you again,

Rachael Filip

Sing to the LORD  
A New Song



Sing to the LORD  
All the Earth

Psalm 96:1

Our Summer Music Schedule will feature some new faces as well as some familiar ones. As our last newsletter article emphasized, the purpose of the music program in a church is to minister to the congregation, not entertain. However, the following list of musicians will certainly enhance our worship services.

May you enjoy our summer of special music! And please feel free to contact me at [pausetoread@yahoo.com](mailto:pausetoread@yahoo.com) if you, or someone you know, would like to participate in our musical program now or in the future.

June 25 – Whispering Creek bluegrass

July 2 – Patriotic Songfest - How many July 4<sup>th</sup>'s did the congregation of LMCPCC celebrate since it was established in 1748?

**July 6 – Combined Choir Rehearsal – 6:30**

July 9 – LMCPCC Combined Choir Event

July 16 – Dirk Grove and his son Cale

July 23 – Dana Witt

July 30 - LMCPCC Ladies Trio

August 6 – LMCPCC Men's Quartet

August 13 – Donna Jones

August 20 – Flute Flock

August 27 – Guest Musicians

September 3 – Jason Williams

**September 7 – Wires and Wood/Faithful Voices - Rehearsal**

September 10 – Wires and Wood

September 17 – Glory Singers/ Faithful Voices

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our  
salvation. Psalm 95:1*

Linda Clark

Serving GOD

**DEACON'S PAGE**

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

**FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY:** In addition to egg noodles and crackers, the pantry would appreciate also peanut butter and applesauce. Again, thank you for your support as the number of families served continues to grow. (Arlene Wright) *Editor's note: See additional information about the Pantry on page 2.*

**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 - 6064Roy Weaner      717 - 334 - 3376Susan Nunamaker      717 - 642 - 9646Len Williams      717 - 642 - 0123Sallie Sites      717 - 334 - 8712Ray Wright      717 - 549 - 2118

Go Therefore and Make

**MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER**

Disciples of All Nations

Mt. 28:19

**Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence****Adams Christian Prison Ministries (ACPM)**

The months of May and June are highlighted with the celebration of both Mother's Day and Father's Day. The parents that are incarcerated experience emotions that are created by being separated from their children. It becomes a challenging season for them. The same can be said for the parents who have a loved one incarcerated at the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex. They face difficult times and are asking themselves tough questions. ACPM urges you to continue to pray for inmates and family members during this time of separation.

Mid-year Financials: ACPM is very grateful for the faithfulness of our contributions to this prison ministry. They are funded at 80% and as of May 18<sup>th</sup>, their expenses have exceeded their income by \$6,851. They are looking forward to seeing the provision of the Lord throughout the rest of the year.

**DiscipleMakers (Kevin & Maria Noyes)**

As I (Maria) walked to the campfire the last night of Focus (our end of the year conference), I figured I would grab a quick s'more, talk to a few students, and head to bed. I felt exhausted from a combination of pregnancy and bad allergies.

But the Lord had a different plan. I ended up sitting with a bunch of PSU York students and a few of us started talking about what music we like. I still have no idea how the Lord did this but eventually I ended up talking to a student named "Larry" who Kevin has been meeting with about his doubts about his faith. When I asked him when these doubts started, he began to share about going to a private religious school that did not treat his mom (who served as one of the teachers at the school) well. He saw Christians treat other Christians poorly in a variety of ways.

About two hours later, he concluded "But I think the biggest obstacle to me fully trusting Jesus is that I don't want to change my life. I realize that if I fully follow Jesus, I couldn't just live for myself. Things would need to change. And I think deep down that's what holds me back." I sat there amazed. The Spirit was clearly at work to give him that clarity and insight into what is going on in his own heart.

I asked if I could pray for him, and we prayed together there by the campfire. I encouraged Larry to seek the Lord this summer, to spend time with Him and in His Word even when he isn't sure about his faith.

At our first summer Bible study, Larry shared that he has been starting every day by reading his Bible and praying and that he is noticing a difference in his life! Please pray for God to continue to work in Larry's heart, that Larry would be willing to give up everything for Jesus and trust Him fully.

In our last newsletter, we shared how God answered so many prayers in providing another child. Thank you for lifting us before the Lord.

As the weeks passed, we asked Simeon to guess whether it would be a boy or a girl. With absolute certainty Simeon replied, "It's a boy." Well, we recently had another ultrasound and found out the exciting news... to Simeon's surprise we're having a girl! After recovering from the initial shock, Simeon showed excitement for being a big brother to his new little sister. However, Simeon already told us that he expects to still get a little brother eventually.

### **Mission of Mercy**

Mission of Mercy continues to bring much needed health and dental care to those who do not have insurance or who cannot afford their co-pays or deductibles. Here are two personal stories of gratitude:

New Hope for Jai: "I am writing this to express my deepest gratitude as a recipient of your free dental program. ... I must admit that I was a little bit nervous about the procedure, but Dr. Roz and Dr. Snyder's expertise and compassion eased my anxiety, not to mention Dr. Snyder's *genius trick* in reducing the pain of the anesthesia injection. That was amazing! ... Soon, I will get new dentures and I am excited. This changes my life, brings me hope and a sort of *freedom*. No more hiding behind masks anymore!"

Relief from Chronic Pain: A middle-aged patient came to the medical clinic aided by two supportive friends who literally supported her so she could walk. A recent, terrible car accident resulted in her having chronic pain issues. After a thorough evaluation, it was determined that an injection would help alleviate her pain. The nursing director and the assistant nursing director both held her hands during the procedure. She was so grateful that she turned and hugged them both before being assisted to her vehicle. The following month, although she wasn't totally pain free, the patient told them "I am able to walk and move without crying." Since this time, she has been able to receive care from a pain management clinic, and she said, "I am so grateful. You gave me hope and improved the quality of my life."

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

In a recent correspondence with Bob and Kristi, I asked about the situation in Sudan. They responded with a link to their blog post [Embracing Hope](#).

Here are excerpts from their May 5 post: In mid-April, violence erupted in Khartoum and across Sudan as two sides with powerful forces fought against each other. Hopes that the violence would end are diminishing, while more than 500 civilians have been killed and more than 100,000 have fled the country. ...

There are many churches in Khartoum [the capital], even though it is a majority-Muslim country, and they are particularly vulnerable in this conflict. A link to an [article](#) that describes some of the impact on the Christian community was provided in the post. The article begins "Sudan's most Christian neighborhood is under attack. Collateral damage amid severe clashes between the army and its previously partnered militia, churches in the Bahri district of the capital Khartoum and surrounding areas have witnessed the worst of the past three weeks of fighting. The Evangelical Presbyterian church suffered a fire as munitions exploded in a nearby market. The Coptic Orthodox church was struck by a rocket. And All Saints Anglican Cathedral was occupied by militant forces. ...

Bob and Kristi will visit with us on Sunday, June 25.

**SAT-7**

Join us as we celebrate 27 years of ministry! Historically, most people in the Middle East haven't known a single Christian. They hold many misconceptions and are often taught embellished inaccuracies about Christ followers. As in America today, many feel morality is collapsing around them. Their governments are sometimes corrupt, holding onto power ruthlessly. Many feel hopeless, that there is no way out. Worse, there are few, if any churches (which can be illegal) and fewer Bible bookstores. Most people do not possess credit cards and are restricted from ordering Bibles or Christian materials online. For many, SAT-7 is their only source of light in the darkness.

A professor in Tunisia, a man of influence, sent this amazing message to SAT-7: "Peace and grace to you. I was looking for peace and salvation, so I started reading about Christianity. I've grown to love Jesus, but I'm not sure what to do next." A SAT-7 response counselor answered and then explained to him how to have a genuine relationship with God and how to read the Bible. The counselor said, "He is a very responsive person who enjoys life and is enthusiastic about learning." The counselor then guided him through prayer, personal time with God, and Bible readings. The professor told the counselor, "To be honest, these holy verses encompass everything. If someone believes in light, all he needs to do is see it and become completely dependent on it. The only way out of the darkness is through Jesus. He is the only hope. He is all-powerful. How can I continue to live in darkness when He is The Light?"

A male viewer in Iran, shared: "When we accepted Jesus Christ into our hearts, little by little, the darkness, anger, and abuse disappeared. I started to love my wife and children. Keep praying and listen. Through Christ, you get well and see light instead of darkness, love instead of anger. Thank you for these programs. They are teaching us to be better people." Notice that in a country where social protests continue due to the society's suppression of women, this man's attitude and behavior toward his family were transformed by becoming a new creation in Christ.

**MEMBERS OF SESSION :**

**Clerk of Session : Denise Lockwood**

**Associate Clerk of Session : Phyllis Doyle Smith**

**Class of 2023**

**Jim Richardson**

**Dirk Grove**

**Lynn Miller**

**Class of 2024**

**Susan Nunamaker**

**Cathy Michaliga**

**Doyle Waybright**

**Class of 2025**

**Raymond Wright**

**Ron Milhimes**

**Lane Speck**



# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on June 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 6/17/2023: Active Members (AM = CA): 154, 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 May. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

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

- o Vacation for Pastor Mark from September 11 – 17, 2023, with Elder Lynn Miller preaching on Sunday, September 17, 2023.
- o That the Congregational Budget Conversation be moved from Sunday, September 17, 2023 to Sunday, September 24, 2023.
- o That Session not hold a meeting in July.
- o A Christmas Congregational Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2023 – more information to follow.
- o That Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church open a 15-month Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 at the ACNB Bank in Gettysburg, PA. Elders Ray Wright and Doyle Waybright will be the authorized signers.
- o That Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church open a checking account at the M&T Bank in Gettysburg, PA moving \$5,000.00 to that account. This is to establish a business relationship with this institution.

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

- o Team Members: Dirk Grove, chair; Ron Milhimes and Jim Richardson
- o More headstones will be cleaned using D2 in the fall. Watch for the announcement of the cleaning day.
- o The new lights will be installed in the sanctuary on July 27-28, 2023.
- o Painting of the sanctuary will begin on or around July 31, 2023.
- o Still researching estimates and companies for the replacement of the damaged fence at the cemetery.
- o The new metal roof on the manse has been installed.



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

- o Team members: Ray Wright, chair; Lane Speck and Doyle Waybright.
- o The Budget Subcommittee will meet on July 26, 2023 to create the first draft of the 2024 budgets with input from each of the teams.
- o The team approved to pay for the cost of shipping the Operation Christmas Child boxes from the David Scott Youth Fund.
- o The team also approved to sponsor three half-scholarships through Young Life for their summer camp for middle-schoolers and three half-scholarships for high-school students this fall.

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

- o Team members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynn Miller and Susan Nunamaker.
- o The creation of a new Church Directory is underway and is being led by Karen Richardson.
- o Volunteers are being sought to help plan the 2024 Marriage Retreat Weekend.
- o Plans are being considered for a Sunday School class for K-3 rd and 4 th graders during the 11:00 AM worship service. More information will follow.

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

- o Team leaders: Lynn Miller, chair; Cathy Michaliga, recording secretary.
  - o T-shirts are all sold-out!! Thank you, Tony!!! Patches are still available.
  - o Here are the upcoming events – “Save the Date”:
    - o Saturday, August 19,2023: Diaper Drive
    - o Sunday, September 10, 2023: Annual Ice Cream Social with our very first ice-cream making contest, the Ice Cream Crank Off!!!
    - o Sunday, November 5, 2023: Banquet at the Beyond the Battlefield Museum in Gettysburg, PA. This will begin at 4:00 PM with a presentation on the Scots-Irish in our area in the 1700's by Tim Smith; a catered meal and a worship service. Those attending the event will be able to tour the museum prior to the event at a reduced fee of \$10.00.
  - o Advent Season: Christmas Through the Ages
- 
- o Thank you to Linda Clark for an educational, entertaining history walk through our cemetery!
  - o Thank you to all who attend our Church Picnic!
  - o Thank you to all who volunteer at FunFest to make it such a great event!



## The Giving Corner

### Looking Back – *Moving Forward*

I had the good fortune to listen to General/President George Washington at our church picnic on Sunday, June 11, 2023. I was fascinated by the gentleman's portrayal of one of our country's most important and influential founding fathers. It struck me, as I listened, that the faithful, who started Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, were living through the very events that shaped our country and Mr. Washington's life! Amid all those struggles of a young, developing country, they established the congregation we are now a part of! Think of their faith, their perseverance, their hope, and the legacy they left behind. It is because of the stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures, and that of the subsequent generations, that we can worship our God of all ages in our sanctuary today! What a gift!

In an article titled: "What is Legacy?" Susan V. Bosak writes: "Legacy is about life and living. It's about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future." What does that remind you of? Our maxim for our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Honoring the Past; Faithful in the Present; Praying for the Future. This year we are celebrating the amazing legacy we have inherited at Lower Marsh Creek. This year we must also ask ourselves how we can, individually and as a congregation, leave a legacy to our future congregations.

Whether your gifts of your time, talents and treasures are big or small – makes no difference. The difference is that you are involved, you are making an effort, you are using your talents today which will affect tomorrow! Our tiny gestures now, done in God's name, out of the love of Jesus Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit only multiply in significance!

Choose today, in gratitude, to use your God-given talents and resources to make an impact which will become part of Lower Marsh Creek's legacy in years to come. Remember any task done for our Father becomes a thread extending into eternity!

*Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought  
an offering to the Lord for the work."*

Exodus 35:21

**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – MAY 2023**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

Account Description	May—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income*	\$19,569.00	\$123,352.00	\$252,298.00
Other Income	\$2,078.43	\$43,590.03	\$58,357.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,647.43</b>	<b>\$166,942.03</b>	<b>\$310,655.00</b>
<b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b>			
Spiritual Life	\$382.23	\$4,807.78	\$14,600.00
Education & Nurture	\$419.37	\$741.60	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,022.00	\$6,022.00
Home Ministry	\$2,949.14	\$31,661.10	\$77,600.00
Church Administration	\$26,591.64	\$93,851.46	\$209,033.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$30,342.38</b>	<b>\$136,083.94</b>	<b>\$310,655.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$8,694.95</b>	<b>\$30,858.09</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/2023: \$92,735.19**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

Account Description	May—2023	Year-to-Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income*	\$4,126.00	\$34,106.00	\$76,800.00
Other Income	\$17.30	\$3,064.68	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,143.30</b>	<b>\$37,170.68</b>	<b>\$77,800.00</b>

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,111.85</b>	<b>\$35,744.29</b>	<b>\$77,800.00</b>
<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$2,968.55</b>	<b>\$1,426.39</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/2023: \$1,417.69**

**Notable expenses for May: \$10,000.00 was invested in a Certificate of Deposit for 1 year**

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

*Lil Ripples* June/July 2023



1748 275 Years 2023

Pastor Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Schedule  
From June 4th through Labor Day  
One Service at 10:00 AM  
Nursery Available

Summer Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday (through Labor Day)  
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 lives of the family of believers,  
And reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.”