

# Li'l Ripples

July/August 2024

Volume 24

Issue 7/8



A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

## A Message From

Pastor Mark > > > > >

| <u>CHURCH LIFE</u>            | <u>Page</u>   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Help Wanted</u>            | <u>2</u>      |
| <u>Couples' Group</u>         | <u>2</u>      |
| <u>Women's Study</u>          | <u>2</u>      |
| <u>Women's Guild</u>          | <u>2 - 3</u>  |
| <u>Diaper Drive</u>           | <u>3</u>      |
| <u>Congregational Retreat</u> | <u>4</u>      |
| <u>Do You Know?</u>           | <u>5</u>      |
| <u>Thanks</u>                 | <u>5 - 6</u>  |
| <u>LMC Stitchers</u>          | <u>6</u>      |
| <u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u>         | <u>7</u>      |
| <u>DEACONS' INFORMATION</u>   | <u>8</u>      |
| <u>Have You Heard?</u>        | <u>8</u>      |
| <u>Birthdays</u>              | <u>8</u>      |
| <u>MISSION ADVOCATE</u>       | <u>9 - 13</u> |
| <u>THE GIVING CORNER</u>      | <u>14</u>     |
| <u>THE CLERK'S DESK</u>       | <u>15 -16</u> |
| <u>Thoughts for today</u>     | <u>16</u>     |
| <u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>       | <u>17</u>     |

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**THE NEXT DEADLINE  
FOR THE SEPTEMBER  
ISSUE OF LI'L RIPPLES  
IS AUGUST 16th**

## The Great Tilt

I am writing this on the first day of Summer, June 20. This day has the most minutes of daylight. Every day so far this year has added a few extra seconds of daylight. Every day from today until the first day of Winter on December 21 will have several fewer seconds of daylight. This all happens because of the great tilt. The planet Earth spins on an axis that is tilted 23.5 degrees away from vertical. This means that depending on the time of year the hemispheres lean either toward or away from the sun. For us, living north of the equator, it is now our turn to tilt toward the sun; thus we begin Summer. The great tilt is responsible for the fact that we have four seasons. I know many of you, like me, deeply appreciate the changing seasons. The quiet, consistent flow each year from Winter to Spring to Summer to Fall is a blessing. For us, living at this spot on planet Earth, the four seasons are pronounced, beautiful and praise-worthy. They each have their own characteristics and distinctiveness. We each, I guess, have a favorite season. But it is the change from one to the next that I most appreciate and celebrate. If you do not like the high heat of the Summer, wait a few months a new season will inevitably arrive. And all of this great, regular change and beauty in the natural world is caused by the great tilt. Amazing!

The Summer solstice, the changing of the seasons, the movement of our planet Earth both spinning and orbiting our sun are all things that amaze and inspire me. The mystery and miracle of these natural events always move me to praise God. These things open my mind to appreciate the power and majesty of God. These things move me to pray.

Of course, there is a larger lesson here. How do we create an attitude, a heart and a mind that is constantly open to praise? How do we recognize and appreciate the most common, ordinary, expected events of our lives as opportunities to thank God? How can we do this every day? *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. . .*

In Christ!  
Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR SUMMER :

Summer Worship schedule has begun and will continue through September 1st.

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 September 1st.

### HELP WANTED :

LMCC is in need of an assistant for the sound equipment and live stream. Training will be provided. No one is too old to learn. For additional information, please contact Nick Johnson (223-278-5549) or Phyllis Smith (717-253-3162). Thank you for your consideration and your willingness to serve in this capacity.

The Couple's Group will meet at **5:00 PM on July 13th at the home of Len and Dale Williams**. They will provide hot dogs, burgers, place settings and drinks. Please sign up in the Narthex for this event with the dish you will furnish. We will continue the devotional topic of "anger" from the book *Growing Old Together* with our old friends Frank & Ethel. Dale, suggests you bring your swim suits to cool off in the pool before or after the meeting. As always, all married couples in the congregation are welcome to join us.

The Couple's Group will meet at **5:00 PM on August 10th in Fellowship Hall**, hosted by Terry and Rick Gladhill. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex starting July 21st. Please be sure to show what you are planning to bring to the dinner - we are in for a treat with a "Fish Fry" as the main course. Terry and Rick's topic will be "tiredness" from the *Growing Old Together* devotional book. All married couple's are invited to join us for a night of great food and fellowship. (Bev Benner)

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

The Women's Guild will meet **July 23rd and August 20th at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**.

All women of the church are invited to come and share in the fun and fellowship.

**Women's Guild Yard & Bake Sale**

Tired of clutter? Tired of dodging inanimate objects when you open a cabinet? Are you afraid of opening 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 28th, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM** we will have our annual sale in **Fellowship Hall**. You can procure a table 8 feet long for \$15, a round table for \$12 or rent a space and bring your own table for \$10. We will be selling baked goods and bowls of soup and hot dogs for lunch and carry out. The money we raise will help us buy Christmas gifts for one Teen Angel and donate money to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Join us in this worthy cause. Fill in the form below and give it to Roz Santay or Nancy Brill by September 22nd, 2024.

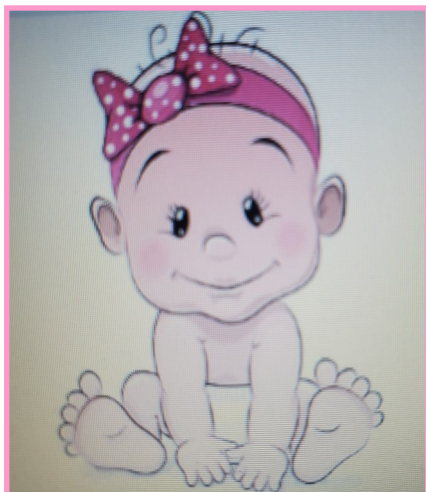
Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of 8 feet tables**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of round tables**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Number of spaces**

Please makes checks payable to the **Women's Guild**. Thank you !



**Our DIAPER DRIVE Give Away**

will be held in the church parking lot on  
**Saturday, Sept. 7 from 10 to 12 noon.**

The Mission Committee will gladly accept **donations of any diapers.**

Our biggest request is for sizes 3T, 4T and 5 T.

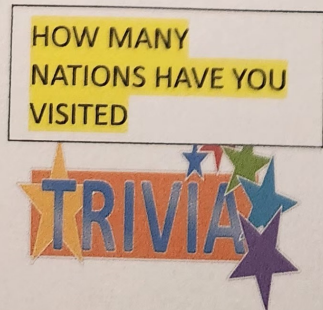
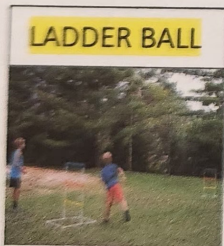
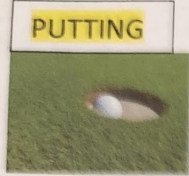
Adult diapers are also being accepted this year.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kris Englund-Krieger at either [kmeglund233@gmail.com](mailto:kmeglund233@gmail.com) or her cell at 724/272-5683.

**Many thanks in advance!!**



**COME ONE, COME ALL!!!**  
**CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT, AUGUST 24, 9 AM-6:30PM**  
**Camp Eder, 914 Mt Hope Road**



**ITINERARY**

9-9:20 -- Registration/Coffee

9:30-9:45 -- Opening

9:45-10:45 -- I Am Bible Study-Pastor Mark

10:45-11:00 -- Break

11:00-12:30 -- Your choice of: Craft, puzzle, coloring pages, or paper chain

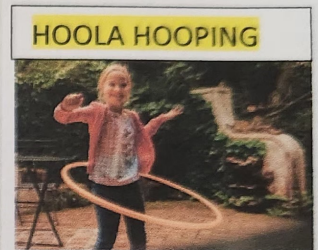
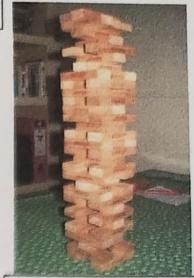
12:30-2:00 -- Lunch, team selection, and directions for the afternoon games

2:00-3:45 -- GAMES!!

3:45-4:00 -- Ride to Chapel

4:00-5:00 -- Worship service and communion

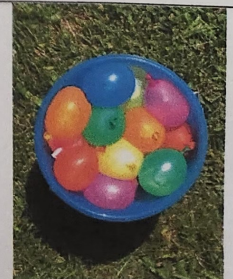
5:00-6:30 -- Dinner and reflections



**NAME THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**



**WATER BALOON TOSS**



**AUGUST 24, 2024**  
*Come One*

**CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT**  
 Camp Eder, 914 Mt. Hope Road

**9AM - 6:30PM**  
*Come All*

**DO YOU KNOW ? A note from the Editor:**

On May 30-31, I experienced a mild heart attack. My reason for sharing this information is not to garner sympathy. (I am doing fine after receiving a stent in one of my coronary arteries.) My reason for telling this story is to warn others - especially the women among the readers of this newsletter. However, the following is not to be construed as medical advice. That can come only from a medical professional - a doctor. I just want to share what I learned.

I was aware for many years that women do not always get the typical symptoms that men get when experiencing a heart related event. Often, the severe, radiating pain that men get is absent. The symptoms can be relatively mild. It can come on with no previous history or warning. Cholesterol levels do not have to be extremely high. **The point of this recitation is this - listen to your body.** If you experience a feeling of fullness/tightness/pressure in your chest, with or without pain, see a doctor. Do not pass it off as nothing or maybe indigestion. I thank God that I didn't. PTL !

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

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Congregation,

**Thank you** very much for the scholarship. It will definitely be helpful toward paying tuition. It was a pleasure to join you all in worship and during the picnic afterward. You are all very kind individuals.

Thank you again,

Rachael Filip

Dear Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Committee,

I want to take my time to **thank you** the member of committee for giving me this scholarship. Receiving this scholarship is a big blessing and support to my education. This support is making huge impact on my ability to pursue further education at Elizabethtown College.

Thank you once again for investing on my future. I am sorry for not making the committee gather.

Thanks and love,

Jamal Nasiri

I just wanted to say **thank you** once again for choosing me as one of the 2024 Virginia Woods Scholarship recipients. The money is going to greatly help me with continuing my academic goals. I also want to share how much I enjoyed your church service and the luncheon. Everyone's kindness and generosity was wonderful and greatly appreciated. It truly speaks volumes about Miss woods and the entire Lower Marsh Creek congregation.

Thanks again,

Dylan Smeak

**THANK YOU** continued from the preceding page . . .

**Thank you** for your prayers, concerns, encouragements, cards, and visits while I was a patient at the Gettysburg Hospital. Words cannot express how blessed we are to have such a caring congregation that is present here at Lower Marsh Creek Church.

God bless all of you,

Sandy Howe

A very heartfelt, *thank you* to the saints at Lower Marsh Creek Church. Thank you for your cards and calls and especially your prayers during my recent health scare. You all are more than a congregation to me. **You are my church family.** I love and value each and every one of you.

Blessings to all,

Fay Hess

### News from LMC Stitches

Ten women from LMCC went to *Under the Horizon Pottery* on Monday June 17th. We had a great time glazing yarn bowls and garden stones. "Nana" Carol guided us through the process and we can hardly wait the 3 weeks until we see our finished products. This is a group event that we recommend for everyone!

Thanks Bev for bringing Under the Horizon to the Congregational Retreat at your place a few years ago.

(LMC Stitches Coordinator - Judy Williams)





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

Certain music seems to dwell quietly in our heads, coming to mind when the proper situation arises. The two most popular Christian hymns have been determined, in one poll, to be "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art." These two selections have played an important role in the life of the LMCPD this year. But we have a summer full of lots of new music !

For forty weeks of the year, the music presented during the 8:30 and 11:00 church services is supplied by talented groups and individuals within our church family. Our Glory Singers, Wires and Wood, and Faithful Voices have provided a wide array of musical moments throughout most of the year. Their hard work is greatly appreciated. But as summer arrives, you have the opportunity to enjoy some special musical guests.

Thanks to Whispering Creek, Klaus Bergman, Fred Miller, Dirk Grove, Cale Grove and Samson Grove who have already shared their special talents. And thanks to my very special duet partner, Susan Thompson, who shares her piano skills throughout the year.

Below is an updated schedule of special music for the rest of the summer months. You will hear some of your favorites from the past as well as some new voices. I hope you enjoy !  
The schedule is subject to possible changes.

June 30 – Dwight Michael

July 7 – Dana Witt

July 14 – Donna Jones

July 21 – Christmas in July

July 28 – Erica Duffy

August 4 – Luke Hershey

August 11 – Frank Buhrman

August 18 – Flute Flock

August 25 Nevin Crum

September 1 – Jason Williams



*Linda Clark*

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

Serving GOD By

DEACONS' PAGE

Serving Others

HAVE YOU HEARD ?

This quote attributed to John Wesley:

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

Thanks to LMCC's  
compassionate and hard-working Deacons.



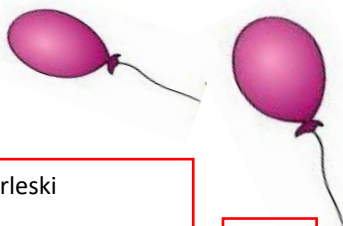
**TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY:** Attendees of LMCC having a transportation need should call one of the following drivers directly to arrange for a date, time, and destination. If none of these volunteers can meet your need, please call Al Miller at 717 - 642 - 1574 or 443 - 977 - 9129.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:**

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064  
Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305  
Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646  
Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

BIRTHDAYS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY



A  
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T

- 1. Julie Orleski
- 4. Jane Bruss
- 4. Darlene Shriner
- 11. Meredith Lawler
- 13. Milt Higgins
- 14. Dana McDonald
- 15. Jenny Waybright
- 16. Bob Muchow
- 26. Lane Speck
- 27. Terry Sites

J  
U  
L  
Y

- 5. Suetta Bechtel
- 6. Ken Howe
- 12. Sandy Howe
- 12. Sylvi Taylor
- 15. Isaac Bucher
- 19. Joe Jackson
- 20. Kathy Megyeri
- 22. Jean Bentz
- 22. Janet Hartman
- 22. Elaine Milhimes
- 28. David Clark
- 31. Hank Seamon



## RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

### **Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

*From the ACPM June Newsletter:*

#### Volunteer Integration

Adams Christian Prison Ministries endeavors to serve the local churches and organizations. One of the ways we serve is to create and manage a group of religious volunteers that would partner with ACPM in providing weekend services, weekly Bible studies, faith-based programming, mentorship, and so much more.

Volunteers that completed the requirements to join ACPM in providing quality Christian ministry to both inmates and the ACACC staff were approved in May of 2024. These individuals have been given the privilege to enter the facility to provide religious programming. They partner with ACPM to share and demonstrate the gospel of Christ to inmates, staff, families, and the community with the faith to see lives renewed, reconciled, and restored.

Chaplain Perez contacted each volunteer to congratulate them on being approved by the ACACC administration. He asked each volunteer about which day and time they would be available to serve. The volunteers will be integrated into teams with a team leader. Each team will work together and create a rotation schedule. This will assist in consistently having volunteers available to provide religious programming.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, past and present, for your willingness to serve and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

#### Chaplain's Corner

Prison Fellowship encourages fathers that are incarcerated to continue building strong relationships with their children. They provide 10 parenting tips for dads behind bars. One of the tips they recommend is to take the initiative to reach out and connect with their children. This made me think of the prodigal son's father in Luke 15. In this parable, Jesus describes the father's reaction when he saw this son at a distance. His son had left home with his portion of the inheritance, only to lose it in temporal pleasures. After hitting rock bottom, the son decided to return home. In verse 20, it states "But while he was still a long way off his father saw him and felt compassion for him and ran and embraced him and kissed him." The father's reaction is indicative to our heavenly Father's compassion towards us.

This example is an important principle to apply as an earthly father. Staying connected with our children allows for open communication. This is a good practice when they are young, but also very powerful when they are older. Reaching out and staying connected with our children is a good value to live by. This advice is also valuable to anyone who is not incarcerated. This value creates opportunities for fathers to continue to teach, coach, and mentor their children in the ways of our Holy God.

Happy Father's Day!

### **Child Evangelism Fellowship**

*From the CEF May Praise & Prayer Update:*

It takes a community to pull off 11 Good News Clubs every week. Because of the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the dedication of our faithful volunteers, another Good News Club year is in the books. It was such a wonderful year. We added a ministry assistant and several new teachers. Praise God as He continues to grow our volunteer base.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

This is what some folks, kids and adults, have to say about Good News Club:

*I know I've said it before, but my husband and I are so thankful that the Good News Club continued to run and was available for "A" and "B." We loved hearing them share what they had learned and the fun they had each week.*

*The best part of Good News Club is when we get to reach from the Bible.*

*We appreciate your willingness to go into the schools. You are reaching our grandkids when we can't.*

*Thank you for helping me get closer to God this year.*

*Good News Club should be every day and every kid in our school should come.*

*Thank you for all you do to grow our kids in their faith.*

When teaching about God answering prayer, a child who was antagonistic when starting club and had now gotten saved piped up and said, *And I was an answer to our prayer.*

Some older students who are "graduating" out of Good News Club, shared with the younger students that what they are learning in club is Truth and needs to be memorized. They also commented that GNC is a "safe place" to come and share.

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

*From Kevin and Maria's June Newsletter:*

### Launching Godly Graduates

This year we had the privilege of walking alongside several graduating seniors. By God's grace, these young men and women attended our Bible studies, received training in evangelism and discipleship, and labored to share the gospel with their peers. Each of them left a lasting impact for Christ on their campus. The fruit of their investment in God's kingdom was visible at their graduation...

Maria and I (Kevin) attended the commencement ceremony, eager to celebrate with our graduates. We found seats in the balcony and tried to find the students from our Bible study in the crowd. Then, the students began walking across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Unlike many universities, Penn State York gave each graduate a moment at the microphone to share some final remarks and express their appreciation for their time as a student. Many students used the time to thank family and professors. Some students seized the mic to share a joke and get one last laugh. But the students from our Bible study jumped on the chance to give one final testimony of God's mercy and kindness.

Here is what they said:

*"First, I'd like to thank God..." - R.*

*"I want to thank my family and friends that God has blessed me with..." - A.*

*"Praise to God. All glory be to Christ! ...Don't be slackin,' God is good!" - E.*

*"It's by the grace of God I'm here. I want to say thank you to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ..." - M.*

The night turned bittersweet as we clapped and cheered. We felt thankful for how the Lord was launching godly disciples of Christ into industry and academia. However, we also felt sorrow over the impending departure of students who became more than just Bible study attendees, but dear friends and ministry partners.

Many younger students flocked around the graduates, eager to take pictures together. They wanted to soak up last moments with the seniors who had listened to them, encouraged them, and shared the gospel with them over and over. These seniors spread the aroma and fragrance of Christ, on campus, and that pleasant 'aroma' drew many young men and women closer to Jesus.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

Please join us in praying for these graduates, that God would equip them to navigate this transition well and use them powerfully for His kingdom wherever they go!

#### Personal Update

Hope was dedicated at our church in May along with 8 other children - we joke that Hope has a lot of friends at church! We're so thankful for our church family and how they help us grow as Godly parents.

Simeon "graduated" from his preschool program at a local church. He loved preschool this year and looks forward to going to the 5 year old class in the fall!

The kids enjoyed coming to the conferences with us too! Hope loved getting her picture taken, and Simeon enjoyed playing both with the little kids and the "big kids."

Kevin also enjoyed taking the students on a hike up the mountain next to the conference center during the afternoon break.

### **Our Daily Bread Ministries**

*From a recent letter:*

You're helping to change lives by sharing the *Our Daily Bread devotional*. We regularly receive thank-you notes and testimonials of transformation because the Scripture and message in these devotionals impacted someone so greatly.

*The Our Daily Bread devotionals are such a blessing. My first one was in prison, and it was what I hung on to and read every day and am still reading 16 years later. ... Bridgit*

*My mother was a dialysis patient. She had so many medical issues that we were constantly at the hospital. They always had the Our Daily Bread in the waiting room. As a young teenager I always found great comfort in reading it. By having your little book available it helped me through a very hard time. ... Debbie*

We couldn't do this important ministry without you, and we appreciate you partnering with us to share God's inspired Scripture as an Our Daily Bread Ministries Ambassador. We take 2 Corinthians 5:20 to heart – "*So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through "us"* (NLT) – as we distribute these powerful devotionals so many more can know the life-changing wisdom of the Bible.

So, THANK YOU for being an Our Daily Bread Ministries Ambassador!

### **Samaritan's Purse**

*From a recent Franklin Graham letter:*

A vicious power struggle in the African nation of Sudan has displaced millions of people from their homes. To escape the fighting, many have fled to distant corners of the nation, including parched regions that can't possibly feed them all.

Samaritan's Purse has launched a feeding program in Sudan that's comparable in scale to what we've done in Ukraine. We've organized multiple 16-truck convoys that are delivering 800 tons of grain and other food staples. Our DC-8 cargo jet airlifted rolls of weatherproof plastic to provide emergency shelter for 42,000 men, women and children.

Pray that the rains will hold off long enough so our convoys can get through the unpaved roads, for the sake of more than 200,000 people who are counting on our help. Farmers will welcome the rain so they can grow food for their families, but they don't have the capacity to feed such a vast influx of displaced people.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

The United Nations calls Sudan the world's worst hunger crisis and warns that more than 230,000 children are at risk of malnutrition. Samaritan's Purse has been working in Sudan for decades, and it's heartbreaking to see so many who are hungry and hurting. Sudan has more people displaced by fighting than Ukraine or Gaza. Many of them are Christians who have endured generations of persecution yet trust the Lord to deliver them.

Thank you for your prayers and support for Samaritan's Purse as we work in Jesus' Name to save lives, relieve suffering, and share the hope of the Gospel. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they many see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

## SAT-7

*From a May 2024 letter sent by Dr. Rex Rogers, President, SAT-7 USA:*

*We have no one here in Afghanistan apart from you.  
My husband knows about my faith. He's threatening to hand me over to the Taliban.  
My family and I lost hope.*

All too often, we hear troubling reports like these from Isolated Believers in Afghanistan. Their daily lives as Christians are vastly different from ours.

On top of the increased poverty rate, widespread crime, and discrimination against women that all of Afghanistan is facing, Isolated Believers are up against harassment, legal restrictions, social rejection, and even physical violence.

The cry for faith-building resources is loud. New believers, house church leaders, and even non-Christians are reaching out to the SAT-7 Viewer Support Team for prayer and encouragement. Persecution is not enough to keep Isolated Believers from hungering after the things of God. We must be there for people like Toofan (we changed his name for security reasons) when they come looking for truth and hope.

Before Toofan ever watched SAT-7, he first encountered Jesus in a dream. A curiosity began to stir in him when he later came across our programming on Facebook. Toofan is the only Christian in his household and his one source of discipleship is SAT-7 programming.

*My wife is not a believer. Please pray for her and for our lives to be transformed," says Toofan. "We can't connect with other believers here, but I am learning by watching your programs and receiving answers to my questions. Thank you for putting your all into serving us in the midst of our inability to go to church.*

Toofan is one of many believers in Afghanistan who are physically isolated from the rest of the Church. Because of the very real threat of violent persecution, isolated Believers are forced to practice their faith in secret. Rejecting the predominant religion in Afghanistan is punishable by death. Afghan Christians are often shunned – or worse, turned into the authorities – by non-Christian friends and family.

It's not only Christians who are pushed to the margins. Afghan women face unimaginable harassment and repression. They're excluded from leadership positions, held back from attending school, and required to comply with strict dress codes. Girls are forced into child marriages that often end in domestic abuse.

They feel erased.

Knowing all of this, it's sadly unsurprising that Afghanistan is currently listed as one of the worst places in the world to be born.

But despite the intense persecution and turmoil, the Church is growing and God is moving. Afghanistan is home to one of the fastest-growing Churches in the world, second only to Iran. As the number of new Christians rises across this region, so does the need for trustworthy biblical programming.



***Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Year in Review***

**Mosaic 2023**

**Your Gifts at Work Internationally**

Total amount granted \$4,272,996.47

In 2023, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responded to disasters in 46 countries outside the U.S.

**Palestine/Israel**

Approximately 25,380 people impacted by grants

*Projects were done in collaboration with World Mission and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.*

**Dominican Republic**

Approximately 2,305 people impacted by grants

*Flooding, fire and systemic poverty*

**Ukraine and Nearby Countries**

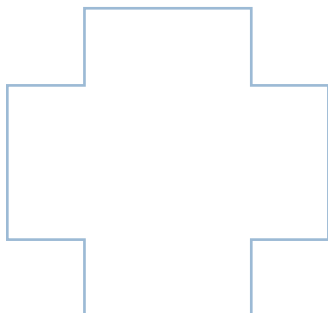
Approximately 543,481 people impacted by grants

*Projects were done in collaboration with World Mission.*

**Malawi**

Approximately 543,481 people impacted by grants

*Cyclone Freddy and flooding*





Editor's note - the following article by Denise Lockwood was originally published in the July/August 2022 issue of the Li'l Ripples. It is being offered again in this issue at the request of Lauren Neely.

# The Giving Corner

## The Joy of Giving

Researchers say there is a link between generosity and joy. This, in turn, supports the old saying: *"It is better to give than to receive."* Is this why you give, to make yourself happy? Should that be your goal? Let's examine our motives for giving of our time, talent, and treasures. Do you give for appearances, to make a show? Do you give to get something in return? Or do you give in thankfulness for what God has done for you and to share your gifts to honor Him?

Our giving should be God-centered and not self-centered. Jesus taught in Matthew 6: *"do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* Here He is teaching us to check our motives. Our acts of kindness should be done to give glory to God and not to ourselves! They should be given freely and out of love for God and in gratitude to him without concern of receiving praise of others. When done so, know and trust that God is using our gifts, both large and small, to help meet the needs of those receiving them. In that comes our joy and true riches. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (6:9-10)

It is true and I am sure you have all felt happy when you can do a good deed; answer a need and be generous. There surely is a feeling of joy. Remember, also, that your small act of love can inspire others to join in giving. What is most important, however, is realizing that this feeling of joy from giving is actually the result of God's love in your life, our ultimate source of happiness! What a blessing!

*"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."* Proverbs 12:25



## From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on June 18, 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:

- o Membership as of 6/15/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):155, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56, Family Members: 51, Total: 262.
- 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 July 15, 2024: Women's Guild trip to Hillside Nursing Home
- o September 8, 2024: Ice Cream Social at 5:30pm
- o September 29, 2024: Congregational Budget Conversation Meeting between services.
- o October 6, 2024: A Minute for Stewardship during worship services
- o October 13, 2024: Stewardship Sunday Including a Potluck dinner in the evening.
- o October 13-27, 2024: Harvest Home food collection

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

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

- o Continued research and discussions about the potential for solar panels.
- o Work to repair tombstones will be conducted in the fall at the LMC cemetery.
- o Van roof is being repaired, with thanks to Lanny Winters.
- o Narthex door repair has been completed.
- o The narthex bulletin boards will be replaced soon.
- o Assisted LMC Garden Club on June 1 workday outside.
- o A new finish coat will be applied to the Peace Garden cross, with thanks to John McMann.
- o Decided to delay until next year to recoat the blacktop.

*Continued on the next page . . .*

*Continued from the preceding page . . .*

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

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

- o The May 2024 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.
- o 2025 Budget Meeting is scheduled for July 9 in the education building.

***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

- o Fun Fest on June 14 was a success! Many children participated in our activities.
- o Planning continues for the Congregational Retreat, which will be held on Saturday, August 24. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- o Deacons will begin meeting every other month.
- o Spiritual Life Team will resume scheduling communion services beginning in August.
- o The new ministry opportunity to make welcome bags for Adams Rescue Mission and Agape House has been well received and supported by the congregation.

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

- o Working with Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership, on 2023 records review as required by the Book of Order. This review is expected to be conducted in July.

**Thoughts for Today from MOTHER TRIED TO TELL ME, AND I JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN**

Periwinkle, Inc. P.O. Box 2347, Otilia, Canada L3V 6V7



1. Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.
2. You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.
3. About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.
4. If God had wanted us to be permissive, He would have given us the Ten Suggestions.
5. Our problem isn't not knowing what is right, but it is doing it.
6. Love is like the five loaves and two fishes; it doesn't start to multiply until you give it away.
7. To forgive and forget is the true test of greatness.
8. Nothing improves our prayer life faster than big trouble.
9. In every trouble, there is a blessing.
10. The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention. (Submitted by Kathy A. Megyeri)



**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – MAY 2024**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

| Account Description                   | May—2024           | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$18,430.50        | \$132,427.50         | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$1,938.86         | \$27,292.52          | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$20,369.36</b> | <b>\$159,720.02</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                      |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | -\$215.84          | \$1,208.58           | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$0.00             | \$26.40              | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$0.00             | \$5,148.00           | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$2,719.94         | \$16,122.05          | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$17,319.60        | \$85,540.32          | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$19,823.70</b> | <b>\$108,045.35</b>  | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>\$545.66</b>    | <b>\$51,674.67</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/2024: \$113,327.56**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

| Account Description | May—2024          | Year-to-Date<br>2024 | 2024<br>Budget     |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$6,419.50        | \$50,067.75          | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$77.19           | \$1,720.92           | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$6,494.69</b> | <b>\$51,788.67</b>   | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

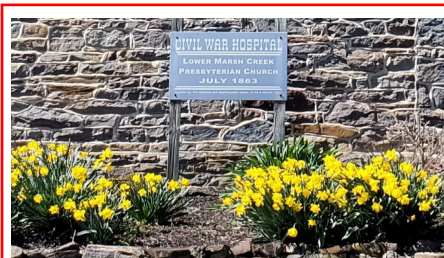
|                              |                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$13,329.00</b> | <b>\$53,441.35</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>-\$6,834.31</b> | <b>-\$1,652.68</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/2024: \$501.57**

**Notable expenses for May: Missionary Support to Thomas & Cheri Henry (\$6,600) and**

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

*Li'l Ripples* July/August 2024



Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Schedule Starting June 2nd

One Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery Available

Church Office Summer Information

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Phone Number 717 - 642 - 5332

Email Address [office@lmcp.org](mailto:office@lmcp.org)

Website [www.lmcp.org](http://www.lmcp.org)

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

To glorify God, deepen and enrich the spiritual lives of the family of believers,

And reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.

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