



March 2024
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Issue 3

Li'l Ripples

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

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DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT  
LI'L RIPPLES  
IS  
MARCH 15

*A Message From Pastor Mark -*

Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The great Church of England cathedral, Westminster Abbey, stands in central London. Above the Abbey's Great West Door stand ten statues to modern martyrs; Christians who gave up their lives for their beliefs. One of those statues is of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I believe it is very important for Christians today to know the story of and remember Bonhoeffer, and, more generally, the history of 1945.

We made available an edited collection of Bonhoeffer's writings, *God is on the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter*, for our Lenten devotional this year. If you picked up one of these books, I hope you are engaging with some of Bonhoeffer's profound reflections on our Christian faith this season of Lent. Please remember Dietrich Bonhoeffer. There is a long and good Wikipedia article about him if you need an introduction.

This summary paragraph is from the Preface in *God is on the Cross*:

“For Bonhoeffer, the cup of sorrow may indeed have seemed heavy at times. When the Third Reich crumbled in April 1945, Hitler ordered the execution of some political prisoners who had conspired to overthrow him. Since papers had recently been discovered that confirmed Bonhoeffer's involvement in this anti-Nazi plot, the theologian was among those scheduled to be killed in one of Hitler's final executive decrees. Bonhoeffer was hanged on April 8, 1945, just ten days before German forces began to surrender and less than three weeks before Hitler's own death by suicide. Bonhoeffer was thirty-nine years old.”

Blessed Lent!

Mark



## CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST

**Please join us for our Holy Week worship services:****Palm Sunday March 24 at 8:30 and 11:00 AM**

A creative worship service highlighting the symbols of the Bible story about Jesus: the crown of thorns, the bag of coins, the cross, the chalice, the palms.

**Maundy Thursday March 28 at 7:00 PM**

An evening worship service commemorating the last supper of Jesus with a special celebration of the Lord's supper gathered in small groups around our communion table.

**Good Friday March 29 at 3:00 PM**

An outdoor service of scripture and prayer **in our cemetery**, marking the day of the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Easter Sunday March 31 Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

**7:00 AM** - Outdoor sunrise service in our parking lot facing east toward the rising SON.

**8:30 AM** - Easter morning breakfast in Fellowship Hall. (Please bring a dish to share.)

**11:00 AM** - Sanctuary worship service.

**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.

Join our **Sunday Morning Adult Group** 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 meet in room 4 of **Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM** during February and March. Questions: Susan Nunamaker/Doyle Waybright.

The **Women's Bible Study Group** 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 **Couple's Study Group** will meet on **March 9th, beginning at 5:30** in Fellowship Hall for a St. Patrick's Day themed meal and evening. Joe and Lori Jackson will be our hosts/leaders for the night. We will be starting a new study on the book "*Growing Old Together - A Serious/Comical Devotional for Married Couples*". The first topic is: Covenant/Chores - come see what that is all about. All married couples (regardless of age) are invited to join us as we eat wonderful food, enjoy fun fellowship and find ways that God continues to help us grow in our marriages and friendships. Bev Benner

**We're Back!!** The **Women's Guild** will resume meeting **March 19th** in Fellowship Hall at **1:00 PM** for the first time this year. If you've ever wondered what the Guild is all about, this is the perfect time to find out. We do great things that may interest you. We are good with fellowship, fun and helping where help is needed. Try us, you just may like us! Roz Santay

*Happy Birthday*

**March Birthdays**

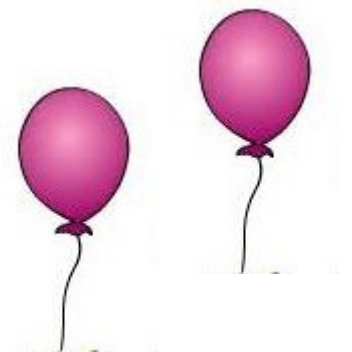
*To Everyone*



- 3 - Erica Duffy
- 5 - Charlotte Orleski
- 5 - Gary Michaliga
- 6 - Gregory Santay
- 7 - Pam Johnson

- 12 - Jim Richardson
- 17 - Denise Lockwood
- 26 - Larkin Bucher
- 27 - Alexander Forsyth
- 30 - John McMann

9 - Lucas & Megan Crumbaker



*HAVE YOU HEARD THAT -*

Easter is more than a day to dye for ?

(Sign posted outside of a local church.)



**When I See the Flowers**

Sometimes, when it's dreary,  
It's gloomy and gray,  
It seems like the sunshine  
Is so far away.  
It feels like it's raining;  
A fog of despair...  
The darkness gets darker  
And harder to bear.



In September 2023, when Roz said that she was "retiring," Li'l Ripples contained this item:

Many, many thanks to Roz Santay for her dedication to ensure our sanctuary is graced with beautiful flowers every Sunday...for almost 50 years ! Roz, you have blessed the members, friends and visitors with your gift ! We thank you !

**(Chorus) Then, I see the flowers,  
And I understand  
Their perfect reflection  
Of God's guiding hand.  
The splendor of Solomon, laid out for all to see...  
When I see the flowers  
God speaks to me.**

He made His creation  
With grace and with love;  
The seas and the mountains,  
The stars up above.  
Then, He made the flowers;  
Their gorgeous array,  
The jewelry of springtime;  
God's love on display!

**(Chorus)**

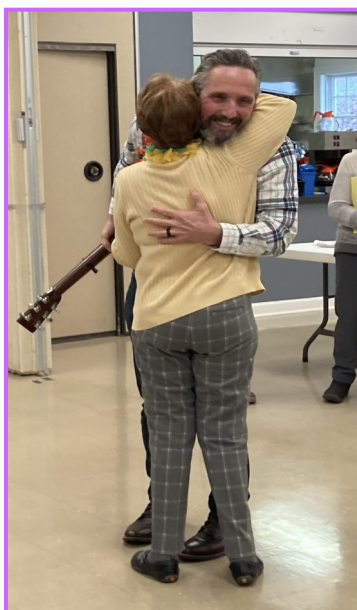
He said, "Don't be anxious,  
The birds of the blue  
Are nourished completely,  
And, so, He'll feed you."

Consider the lilies,  
Resplendent and pure:  
These things He will give you!  
Yes, this, and much more!

**(Chorus)**

Then, I see the flowers  
God's gift from above!  
The blossoms from Heaven  
Conveying His love!  
And, here in this sanctuary, I know it's because  
When I see the flowers  
It's thanks to you, Roz!  
Yes, thanks for the flowers  
And God bless you, Roz!

On January 28th, LMCC further honored Roz (at the congregational meeting) for her long years of service to us all. Our own Dirk Grove wrote a special song to celebrate the occasion. It was performed by the Wires and Wood. Thanks to Dirk for providing the lyrics (printed on the left side) for this article. Thanks, also, to Judy Williams for the above photo of Roz and her husband Greg, and to Shirley Breslin for the three photos below. (Editor)



THANKS    THANKS    THANKS    THANKS    THANKS    THANKS    THANKS

December 23, 2023

Dear Friends at Lower Marsh Creek,

On behalf of **ACPM**, I wish to send you our appreciation and call for God's blessings for your recent donation to the Adams County Giving Spree. The men and women who are incarcerated at the Adams County Prison are the direct beneficiaries of your sacrifice. We sincerely **THANK YOU** for selecting ACPM and its God-centered mission for your donation. May God increase His love and grace in your hearts and lives. ACPM remains in the service of Christ and in love for our brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Deacon Tom Aumen, ACPM Secretary

December 31, 2023

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

To the Members of the Congregation,

In 2023, the **Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (PFC)** celebrated 50 years of service. I want to **thank you** for your generous donation to our ministry and mission. Your donation is important to us as it supports our commitment to recruit, train, and sustain quality chaplains for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Veteran's Affairs Hospitals, and the military services. The PFC could not do what it is called to do without your continued encouragement and prayer. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dennis E. Hysom, Executive Director, Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies

January 2024

Dear Friends,

**Thank you** for your loving support and faithful prayers for **One Another Ministries**. We really do thank the Lord for you. As the Lord enables us to help many on the front lines of mission, the work of the Gospel goes forward. It is amazing the part He gives to each of us in His great plan to take the Gospel to the nations. God has been especially gracious in adding new members to our team who will be serving at the ministry center in Cannock, UK. He has been so good.

Blessings,

Harry Robinson, Executive Director, On behalf of the One Another Ministries team

January 11, 2024

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Dear Members,

**Living Waters for the World (LWW)** has received your recent gift to the Honduras Network and we are so grateful. Your donation allows us to keep working to bring clean water to communities in need of this essential, life-giving resource. **Thank you!** Thank you for partnering with LWW to provide families with the safe, clean, water they need to live healthy, gratifying lives.

May the blessings of Christ be yours,

Seth Guterman, President, Living Waters for the World Board of Directors

THANKS continued from the preceding page . . .

January 31, 2024

Dear Friends at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

**Thank you** so much for your generous donation to the **ARM**. Your gift means so much to us and the clients we serve, and ensures that more men, women, and children will receive shelter, food, and clothing. Thank you and God bless you.

ARM Board and Staff

January 23, 2024

To all my friends at Lower Marsh Creek,

I do want to **thank you** all so very much for the lovely cards you sent me for my 100th birthday! The outpouring of love, blessings and good wishes mean so much to me! I was so surprised and happy to receive so many cards and everyone of them brightened my day and made me smile.

May the Lord bless you all and keep you all under his watchful eye! Many thanks and much love,

Lorraine

**Denise's Mom**

(Editor's note: Lorraine Vaillancourt - Denise Lockwood's mother)

**Dear church family,**

**Thank you** all so much for the lovely prayer shawl given to me upon my mother's passing. The colors are so beautiful and calming, and the warmth from it is very comforting. Also, I would like to thank those who called and sent cards expressing your love and support during this difficult time.

With heartfelt thanks,

**Suzanne Dolly**

**We would like to thank Pastor Mark and all the parishioners at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church** for their kindness and condolences for Rex Craven's passing. We received many nice cards from church members and we will always be grateful for the support that all the members gave to Rex. He truly loved the church and all the congregation. Rex was kind enough to give us a vase with his rendering of your beautiful church and it is something we will always cherish. We were deeply saddened at Rex's passing but joyful in the knowledge that he is now at peace with the Lord. Again, we thank all for the kindness and friendship you all have given to Rex through the years.

You will always remain in our hearts,

**Roger & Micki Craven**

THANKS continued on the next page . . .

THANKS continued from the preceding page . . .

February 2024

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

*In the bleak midwinter*, to quote a familiar hymn, your gift has helped to shine a light on those living in a darkness cast upon them by war, oppressive governments, and natural disasters. Your gift of \$2,488.70 on 12/31/2023 for DR000081 Disaster Relief - Middle East - Israel/Palestine enables us to support partners here in the U.S. and around the world to live out their gospel call.

**With deep gratitude,**

Susan Krehbiel, Associate for Migration Accompaniment Ministries

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Editors Note: In place of a biography this month, the following 2 articles are offered.

### WITH YOU ALWAYS

John McMann

Many years ago, I stopped in *The Family Restaurant* in Waynesville, Ohio. In this very ordinary restaurant there is a large oil painting hanging in the center of the dining area. The picture shows a middle aged businessman of today sitting at his desk, leaning forward slightly, with his hands spread out. He appears to be explaining a difficult issue to his guest. Sitting in the guest chair, in front of the desk, listening attentively to the businessman is Jesus. Jesus face has a compassionate and patient expression.

This image made a powerful impact on me. I'll never forget the image.

I obviously identified with the businessman. I could imagine the businessman (or me) trying to explain to Jesus our worldly behavior of greed, materialism, and too often putting the things of this world first. The businessman's facial expression showed concern. He appeared embarrassed for holding the corporate plan to a higher priority than God's plan.

If this businessman was aware of Jesus sitting next to him at his next corporate meeting, would his attitude, behavior, and priorities change?

After seeing this picture I have tried to remember not simply the **image** of Jesus sitting at every meeting with me, but the reality that Jesus is with me every hour of every day. Remembering his daily presence helps us make God's plan our priority, and fitting the proper corporate image clearly secondary. If you remember that Jesus is in the room, you cannot act otherwise.

With that image of the Lord sitting there with us every day, wherever we are, we will know in every situation – the right thing to do, and we will have strength and courage to do it.

*and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age*

**BOOK REVIEW**

Kathy A. Megyeri

In the February issue of Li'l Ripples, Pastor Mark advised us as part of our Spiritual Discipline agenda in preparation for Lent to “read something that helps you focus on your Christian faith,” and after taking his superb course offered last year on reading my Bible, I was determined to take his suggestion seriously. After reading a recommendation by Presbyterian minister Jeffrey Dandoy, graduate of the Princeton Theological Seminary and pastor for 22 years in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, I purchased Jimmy Carter’s *SOURCES OF STRENGTH, MEDITATIONS ON SCRIPTURE FOR A LIVING FAITH* (Times Books, 1997) and highly recommend it to others as well. Dandoy called it the best and least difficult spiritual book that is beautiful, sensational, and clear to the point. In 52 short sermonettes that were the synopsis of former President Jimmy Carter’s Sunday School classes in his Baptist church, he takes meaningful and insightful passages from both the Old and New Testament of the Bible, gives 3-4 pages of elaboration for each and explains what he thinks they mean in loving and objective ways all in a total of 241 pages. Carter demonstrates knowledge of his faith and cites points in his life in which he lived according to the Word. He shares stories of what he’s learned as son, husband and father and even writes about his mistakes and his challenges. His writing style makes one feel like you’re studying scripture with a favorite uncle with meditations that are both intellectual and stimulating and yet presented in a loving and objective way as he speaks of the compassionate and forgiving Christ. To Carter, faith implies action and he’s certainly lived that edict from teaching Sunday School, to mowing the church lawn, to hammering nails for Habitat for Humanity and to writing his many books, even one for children and another of poetry. My personal favorite chapters from this book were “The Laughing Jesus,” “Full of Grace and Truth,” and the “Humble Servant,” but all lessons reflect themes that touch every life: the blessings and challenges of family love; loss, grief, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, the meaning of life, and the transforming power of God’s love in our lives. The Holy Scripture to him has been a constant companion, a source of inspiration and strength in both good times and bad, and after a lifetime of devoted Bible reading, he has learned that the truths of scripture have the power to enrich and transform our daily lives in unexpected ways. As he writes, “The Bible offers concrete guidance for overcoming our weaknesses and striving toward the transcendent life for which we were created.” He reminds us, in this book, that the solid, unquestionable, unifying foundation of our faith is in the gentle Jesus, full of grace and truth. I will re-read each of the 52 lessons each week of this coming year in response to Pastor Mark’s invitation to share in the spiritual bounty of Scripture and in the joyous, fulfilling life that a living faith makes possible. The book can be ordered on Amazon and I hope other parishioners will find it as rewarding as I have. How grateful I am to Pastor Mark for his spiritual direction and to Pastor Dandoy for his suggestion of this book.



*I know my transgressions, they've been with me from the start.*

*Blot out my iniquities and recreate my heart.*

*Lord have mercy on me.*

Penitent's Plea, by Dirk Grove

As we enter the Lenten season, our musical selections will continue to reflect the changing moods of the Christian calendar. As always, the first Sunday of the month will feature Communion themed music by the Glory Singers (8:30) and the Faithful Voices (11:00). Thanks to all those who participate, and remember, all are welcome!

The second Sunday of the month always features our Wires and Wood group directed by Dirk Grove. Every song performed by this group is personally arranged for our unique set of instruments and voices by Dirk! He spends countless hours making us sound our best!

This month our song "Penitent's Plea" has an original melody and harmonies created by Dirk as well as original text based on Psalm 51. God has truly blessed Dirk with special talents, and we are blessed that he so willingly shares his talents with LMCP! Thanks Dirk!

Our Wires and Wood group consists of the vocals of Roz Santay (who also plays percussion), Phyllis Smith (who organizes our sound equipment and music stands), and Sue Welsh (who also plays the bass guitar). Instrumentalists/vocalists include Dirk (on an assortment of musical instruments), Jim Welsh (percussion), and Dale Williams (guitar). Because I can do only one thing at a time, I play the violin (fiddle) as needed, and I never sing. Together these fine musicians create Wires and Wood. Thanks to all of them for their dedication to this fine group!

Our music team is praising God that our own Roz Santay has been restored to health. We have been missing her wonderful voice and witty humor! And, she is my personal cheerleader! Please pray for Nancy and Tom Cline and Carolyn and Lane Speck. We have been missing them in our Faithful Voices.

Easter falls on the Sunday following the Pascal Full Moon, so Easter may be celebrated from March 22 until April 25. This year it falls on the fifth Sunday of March, March 31. This ensures that the music team of LMCP will be honored to bless our March worship services with appropriate hymns and melodies to enhance the important events highlighted on the Christian calendar.

Linda Clark

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

**FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY :**

I was able to take a very large donation to the food pantry after "Souper Bowl Sunday." The bin was full. I spoke with Pastor Brenda and she shared some interesting statistics from the 2023 annual report. A total of 68 households with 147 individuals were served. Not all families come monthly. Some come only on holiday months. Summer months are least utilized. Since seasonal jobs are available, many households are employed. Holiday months find most families saving what they can for gifts and extras. They are grateful for the extras for their holiday celebrations. Our continued support is appreciated.

Arlene Wright

**TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY :** Attendees of LMC 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

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717 - 253 - 0305

Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123



### Video Minutes for Mission

**February 25**

Agape International Missions – 1,000 Rescued from Trafficking & Exploitation

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 (*new to the MOM Budget for 2024*) 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.

**March 17**

Beirut 2024 – one of many praise songs

A special event, "Beirut 2024," was held on January 20 as part of celebrations for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) and the 50th anniversary of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). Praise from a gathering of 10,000 Christians at this special worship event in Lebanon was said to be "louder than the blast of bombs" as leaders affirmed the power of Church unity in the "afflicted" Middle East region. It was covered live by **SAT-7 ARABIC** as well as by other television channels. An ecumenical choir of 300 singers and musicians from different churches led the congregation of church leaders and worshippers through an uplifting night filled with praise songs and prayers. *[more from SAT-7 in April]*

### Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence

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

From the ACPM February Newsletter:

Sunday, April 7, is "Celebration of Grace" Sunday. ACPM invites all churches in Adams County to recognize the ongoing witness of God's love and grace at the Adams County Adult Correctional Facility. ACPM has established a financial goal of \$20,000 for "Celebration of Grace" Sunday. Gifts may be mailed to ACPM, PO Box 4122, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

*Recent Correspondence* continued on the next page . . .

*Recent Correspondence* continued from the preceding page . . .

### Thomas and Cheri Henry (England)



From their February 5 newsletter:

“Ben and Susannah visited us over the holidays! We were still staying in the White House; it rained every day; and our car broke down just as we started a short road trip. Yet, being together - traveling, eating, sharing, puzzling, laughing, made it all worthwhile. Every interruption serves as an opportunity to trust God. We praise Him for each of our adult kids.”

“We love green so much that we actually enjoy the rain! What we didn’t count on in our first month in country was the worst deluge of rivers and canals that our English friends can remember. Lesson: The rain doesn’t stop the Brits from anything - including walking their dogs and exercising outdoors. The key: dress appropriately and prepare for the sniffles!”

“Good news on the health front. Thomas’ headaches have almost completely stopped, and he is sleeping much better. No thanks to the CPAP machine though! He still hasn’t gotten used to it. Three months into the 6-month diet - avoiding sugar, wheat and milk products - along with certain supplements, seem to be helping. Cheri is now being assessed for sleep apnea. The NHS (UK’s National Health Service) has been helpful to meet our medical needs. No doubt, your prayers are part of how God brings healing. Please don’t stop.”

“For the first time in over two years, we are back in Türkiye! It is so good to be with friends, and to see, hear, smell, and taste the culture we spent over two decades in. Amazingly, our Turkish cell phones still work, and our bank had exactly enough money, down to the penny, to close out some accounts here. Pray for spiritual conversations with Turkish non-believing friends in Istanbul, Ankara and Eskisehir. This week Thomas arranges to have our stored belongings shipped to England. Next week we explore a partnership with a couple here to continue the marriage intensives in Türkiye. We return to England 16 Feb.”

### Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)



*From their Spring 2024 newsletter:*

The South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) held a workshop last year in a camp for displaced people near Juba. Abdon, who was trained in 2023, helped to facilitate that workshop. It was his first time entering this huge camp that holds more than 40,000 people, although it sits just on the edge of Juba. He was impressed at how committed and eager the people were to learn, arriving early and engaging with the material. On the final day of the workshop, one man shared that he had been in a deep conflict with his brother and was about to kill him. Because of the teachings in the workshop, he decided to forgive his brother and committed to resolving the conflict. Abdon, who comes from the Shilluk community,

*Recent Correspondence* continued on the next page . . .

*Recent Correspondence* continued from the preceding page . . .

shared that it was also meaningful for him to hear one woman confess the wrongs that the Nuer community has done to the Shilluk community and ask for forgiveness. Most of the people in the camp are Nuer, so this showed the deep work God had done in this woman to give her the heart and courage to make this confession. ...

Many churches in Juba celebrate baptisms during the Christmas season, and it was a gift for us to be able to participate with a few congregations as people celebrated that sign of new life. On Christmas day, we worshipped with a small congregation that is just a few years old, but there were more than 30 children, youth and adults who were baptized that day. The joy and celebration were incredible! Bob shared more reflections and pictures from that day on our blog which you can find here: <https://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/2024/01/heaven-came-down-to-earth.html> ...

When we returned to South Sudan in December, our colleagues here were grateful to hear of the prayers and the interest in South Sudan among the churches and friends whom we visited. Please continue to pray for God to bring healing and peace to people in this land of South Sudan, including more than 400,000 newcomers who have fled the ongoing war in Sudan and are struggling to survive in South Sudan. Your prayers and financial support are vital to our accompaniment of partners here, and we are grateful to you for joining us. We know that Jesus, who came to bring the good news of salvation into the suffering and oppression of our world 2,000 years ago, continues to be our source of hope and life in our broken world today.

### **SAT-7**

One year ago two powerful earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria, claiming over 50,000 lives and leaving entire communities broken and in need of humanitarian aid. In the aftermath of the disaster, SAT-7 stepped in to provide much-needed emotional and spiritual support to viewers. Special SAT-7 broadcasts mobilized prayer across the nations and shared stories of hope demonstrating how the Christian community was pulling together to serve their neighbors. Your prayers and support helped viewers like Henriette experience God's peace following this tragedy. Henriette, a viewer from Syria, contacted SAT-7 ARABIC to say she was having serious panic attacks following the earthquake. Our team prayed with Henriette, and afterwards she said, "Thank you so much. You truly helped me just by saying this prayer."

The earthquake's repercussions are still being felt. Hundreds of thousands of people in Hatay, one of the affected regions, still live in makeshift homes, often re-purposed containers. As people try to rebuild their lives, they are desperate for hope. Thankfully, it is possible for Christians in Türkiye and Syria to find hope and joy once again. The secret, as one young viewer from Syria explained, lies in faith: "To [those] facing difficult times, my prayer is to always hold on to your faith in Jesus. He will give you the strength to go on, and I encourage you to never stop praying, because it has been my only refuge."

*Note:* SAT-7 is receiving mail-in gifts and correspondence at a new location: P.O. Box 5039, Boone, IA 50950-0039.



## The Giving Corner “To Share”

*“What I’m interested in seeing you do is:  
Sharing your food with the hungry,  
Inviting the homeless poor into your homes,  
Putting clothes on the shivering, ill-clad,  
being available to your own families.*

Isaiah 58:7 from The Message

Isaiah had these words for the people of Israel as they returned from exile and struggled to rebuild their lives. Broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships still occur to this day. The question we must ask ourselves is how do we respond to this brokenness that we see around us and maybe even in our own lives?

We must respond with grace as God responds to us every day in every way. The gift of grace, a share in God’s life, is a direct result of God’s never-ending and totally undeserving love for us! In gratitude for this grace we must “share” this grace with the world around us. We do not have to look too far to spread this love and grace.

Once a year, on Palm Sunday, LMCPD takes part in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) special offering “One Great Hour of Sharing.” When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we are combining our efforts with those across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples’ lives – people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah is speaking. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the Resurrection. The gifts collected through the One Great Hour of Sharing are used to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your gift to this special offering on Palm Sunday. You can pick up a Fish Bank and maybe drop in a few coins or dollars each week of Lent or you can make a one-time donation on Palm Sunday. However you choose to participate, you will see how giving opens your heart to God’s work in your own life.

Isaiah continued with the following to the people of Israel; words which are still meaningful to us:

*“Do this and the lights will turn on,  
and your lives will turn around at once.  
Your righteousness will pave your way.  
The God of glory will secure your passage.  
Then when you pray, God will answer.  
You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, “Here I am.”*

Isaiah 58:8-9 from The Message



## From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on February 20, 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 2/17/2024: Active Members (AM = CA): 160, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56 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 January. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

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

- o Sunday, March 24, 2024: Palm Sunday Special Collection – One Great Hour of Sharing
- o Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary with communion
- o Friday, March 29, 2024, at 3:00 PM: Good Friday Service at the cemetery
- o Easter, Sunday, March 31, 2024: Sunrise service at 7:00 AM followed by a congregational breakfast and another service in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM.
- o That Naomi's Sisters meet in classroom 1 in the Education Building the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for game afternoons
- o Winter Banquet: March 2, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Carriage House with entertainment to follow.
- o That Lower Marsh Creek no longer be a public drop off site for Operation Christmas Shoebox collection due to low traffic in the past few years
- o That Brian Nelson, US representative from SAT-7 preach at both services on Sunday, April 14, 2024, when Pastor is away in Scotland
- o That Rev. David Wright preach at both services on Sunday, April 21, 2024, while Pastor is in Scotland
- o That the Session meeting be moved from April 16 to April 23, 2024, due to Scotland trip
- o That LMC supply themed bags through Neighbors Helping Neighbors to the Fairfield Food Pantry in the month of August
- o That the Interpretation & Stewardship Team have authorization, beginning now and through December 31, 2024, to make the decision as to when to transfer the COF and MOM checking accounts and possibly/eventually the other special checking accounts (Gifts & Memorials, Membership Assistance Fund and the Cemetery Account) of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church to M&T Bank from ACNB Bank and what banking instruments to invest access cash with a max of 12-month maturities.

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

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

- o Lew Drake has agreed to do the mowing at the cemetery for 2024..
- o Chose Desco for HVAC annual maintenance at a cost of \$750.00 per year.
- o The NPDES permit renewal paperwork has been submitted.
- o The Deacons have requested a new larger bulletin board for the narthex.
- o The team is seriously investigating the possibility of placing solar panels on the education building. There is much work to be done on this possible project and more information will be forthcoming.

*From the Clerk's Desk continued on the next page . . .*

*From the Clerk's Desk* continued from the preceding page . . .

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

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

- o Balance sheet and Cash Flow reports for Janaury were approved as presented.
- o A fifth Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 was purchased on February 15, 2024, at M&T Bank in Gettysburg with an interest rate of 4.4%.
- o The team will begin investigating on-line giving and the development of a planned giving program. Various resources including the Presbyterian Foundation will be checked.
- o Upcoming Minute for Missions:
  - > Sunday, February 25, 2024: AGAPE International
  - > Sunday, March 17, 2024: Beirut 2024 presentation shared by SAT-7
- o Souper Bowl Collection Results:
  - > Kansas City Chiefs: \$185.00
  - > San Francisco 49ers: \$177.00The total was \$362.00 for the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen and a SUV loaded with non-perishable foods for the Fairfield Food Pantry.
- o The 2023 Financial Review is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 9:30 AM.
- o The Budget Team reviewed the 2023 Church Operating Fund Budget for all overages. The overages for the various line items were explained and corrective action for the 2025 budget was defined as necessary.

***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 Congregational Retreat committee members are Karen Richardson, chair; Susan Nunamaker, Deb Stottlemeyer, and Cathy Michaliga.
- o As an outreach project, the team has created postcards to mail to residents moving into the new development along Herr's Ridge Road. The card has the schedule of our Holy Week services along with an invitation to join us.
- o Plans are underway for FunFest to be held on Saturday, June 14 at the Gettysburg Rec Park. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Cathy Michaliga.

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

- o The revised Book of Order now requires Boundary Training for all active ruling elders. This training is being offered by the Presbytery in person on March 6, 2024 or by video at a time of the Session's choice. Session has chosen to view the video as a group in the fellowship hall on April 30, 2024.
- o Heard a report of the Special Presbytery Meeting held on January 17, 2024, at the Middle Spring Presbyterian Church in Shippensburg, PA. Candidate Lynn Miller was examined and approved for ordination and installation as full-time Pastor at the Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill, PA.
- o Heard a report of the Presbytery Meeting held on February 10, 2024, at St. James Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. This meeting included the annual training workshops for Deacons and Elders as well as other workshop topics. Business items included the announcement that the Presbytery Leader Search Team is presenting a candidate for examination to the Commission on Ministry on February 22, 2024; the 2023 financial report shows that the Presbytery is financially healthy and that Roz Presby and Janice Tiedeck were installed as Presbytery Moderator and Vice-Moderator for the year 2024.



**FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JANUARY 2024**

**Church Operating Fund Income**

| Account Description                   | January—2024       | Year-to-Date 2024  | 2024 Budget         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Offering Income                       | \$51,461.00        | \$51,461.00        | \$262,571.00        |
| Other Income                          | \$15,072.74        | \$15,072.74        | \$63,415.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$66,533.74</b> | <b>\$66,533.74</b> | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b> |                    |                    |                     |
| Spiritual Life                        | \$29.26            | \$29.96            | \$14,750.00         |
| Education & Nurture                   | \$26.40            | \$26.40            | \$3,400.00          |
| Interpretation & Stewardship          | \$5,148.00         | \$5,148.00         | \$5,648.00          |
| Home Ministry                         | \$2,092.40         | \$2,092.40         | \$87,100.00         |
| Church Administration                 | \$13,998.29        | \$13,998.29        | \$215,088.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>\$21,295.05</b> | <b>\$21,295.05</b> | <b>\$325,986.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>          | <b>\$45,238.69</b> | <b>\$45,238.69</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

**Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2024: \$107,537.87**

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income**

| Account Description | January—2024       | Year-to-Date 2024  | 2024 Budget        |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Offering Income     | \$25,842.00        | \$25,842.00        | \$91,200.00        |
| Other Income        | \$74.72            | \$74.72            | \$500.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> | <b>\$25,916.72</b> | <b>\$25,916.72</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |

**Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses**

|                              |                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$23,979.00</b> | <b>\$23,979.00</b> | <b>\$91,700.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$1,937.72</b>  | <b>\$1,937.72</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>      |

**Missions Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2024: \$1,916.97**

**Notable expenses for January: \$5,148.00—Per Capita Apportionment**

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

*Li'l Ripples* March 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 to reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.

*Li'l Ripples* - Editor, Fay Hess - 717-476-5682 or lilripples@gmail.com