



Li'l Ripples

NOVEMBER 2023

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from Pastor Mark -

Our 275th Anniversary celebration:

I am turning over this space in this month's newsletter to the Rev. Alfred Nevin. He wrote a book titled, Churches of the Valley or An Historical Sketch of the Old Presbyterian Congregations of Cumberland and Franklin Counties, in Pennsylvania which was published in 1852. He includes a chapter on the Lower Marsh Creek Church which begins with this paragraph:

About the years 1734-6, a band of emigrants from Scotland and the north of Ireland, more usually known in Pennsylvania as Scotch-Irish, settled on the "red lands" in the southeastern part of York County. Not long afterwards, and probably about the year 1740, a number of the same race made the first settlement in what is now Adams County, among the hills near the sources of Marsh Creek. These settlers were of the better order or peasantry, and brought with them the characteristics of their native land. They were moral, industrious, and intelligent, and for the most part were rigid Presbyterians, of "Seceders." They were frugal, as the Scotch always are - plain in their mode of living, but cordial and hospitable. They were universally men of undaunted courage, and high patriotic feeling, and when the alarm of the Revolution first rung through the land, it called no truer or more willing hearts than those of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The manners and characters of the early settlers have been very generally inherited by their descendants - many of whom still cultivate the same farms, worship in the same old churches, and hold fast to the rigid and venerated "form of sound words" of the Presbyterian Church.

We have received a sacred heritage . . .

In Christ!

Mark

In This Issue: . . .

<u>Birthdays</u>	Page 5
<u>Church Life-Past/Present/Future-</u>	Page 2
<u>Clerk's Report</u>	Page 14
<u>Deacon's Page</u>	Page 7
<u>Do You Know</u>	Page 7
<u>Financial Reports</u>	Page 16-

<u>From the Pastor</u>	Page 1
<u>Giving Corner</u>	Page 13
<u>Have You Heard</u>	Page 4
<u>Mission Advocate's Corner</u>	Page 10
<u>Music Ministry</u>	Page 9
<u>Thanks</u>	Page 5
<u>275th Anniversary Item</u>	Page 2

NEXT
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
NOVEMBER
17



CHURCH LIFE - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



OUR FINAL 275th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET AND CELEBRATION: Please join us at the new and spectacular *Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum* (625 Biglerville Rd, Gettysburg) on Sunday, **November 5 at 4:00 PM**. Our catered meal is being provided by Biggerstaff's Catering with three different entree options available. A very generous gift to our church will subsidize the cost of our meal bringing the price per person down to \$15. At 4:00 a time of fellowship with appetizers will begin in the Museum's banquet room. At 4:30, we will hear a special presentation by Tim Smith, the Museum's educational consultant, about the Scots-Irish immigration which formed our congregation and forever changed colonial Pennsylvania. At 5:30 we will enjoy our catered meal. After our meal, we will join together in a special worship service enjoying music through the ages and closing our anniversary celebration. **Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board or call the church office**; checks should be payable to our church. (We are providing pies for dessert; if you would like to donate a homemade pie please sign up!)

Pastor Mark

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN: Thanks to all who have picked up a shoebox(es) to fill. To date, we have distributed 305 unfilled shoeboxes, which exceeds our 275th anniversary goal of 275 boxes!! If, for any reason, you cannot fill your box, **please return it, along with the labels to Elaine Reichl or Cathy Michaliga by November 12th**. We will take action to fill them if possible. Thanks again for your loving support to children around the world!!

OUR NEW PICTORIAL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY: If you missed "hand out day" of the new directory, see Jim or Karen Richardson before or after church services or stop by the church anytime when the office is open, and Barb will be glad to help you. **In case you never made past the roster pages in the directory, there are directions for adding the app to your cell phone or putting it on your home computer at the end of the directory. Very user friendly!!!!**

THE CASE FOR HEAVEN: What happens after we die? Is there any convincing evidence that we live on in eternity? And if so, what will our experience be like? In Lee Strobel's recent book *The Case for Heaven* he applies his research and analytical skills to show us definitive evidence for the existence of heaven. **Sundays at 9:45 AM** join other adults to read and discuss this book.

Questions: Susan Nunamaker or Doyle Waybright

ADVENT CHURCH DINNER: We will start the holy season of Advent together with a church dinner Sunday, December 3 at 5:00PM. There is no cost for this dinner which will be hosted by our Deacons. The side dishes will also be prepared by the Deacons and will have a bit of a historical "flavor."

Susan Nunamaker

THE WOMEN'S GUILD met October 17th and after our regular meeting, we packed 19 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. It was wonderful to see the women walk around tables filled with goodies to put in the boxes, deciding if they were filling boys' or girls' boxes. It was also a good feeling knowing we were doing something worthwhile! We will also be participating in The Teen Angel program again this year making it our 20th year of fulfilling Christmas wishes for the teens. It was sad to note the director of this program, Gary Fox, passed away August 17th. Thankfully another caseworker, Teresa Povenale, has replaced him so the program can continue. We also discussed our **Christmas party** which will be held **December 19th** at Perkins Restaurant. It is difficult to realize that another year is winding down but it has been a really good one for the Guild. **Our next meeting will be on November 21st at 1:00PM** in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to share fun, fellowship, and food. Roz Santay

THE COUPLE'S STUDY GROUP will meet **November 11th, 5:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall with Lanny and Davalene Winters as our leaders for the evening. Come to explore if you are getting hit by the same train in your marriage year after year—the official title is: Love is Virtuous. Meat and place settings will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex showing what you will bring to add to our meal. All married couples in the congregation are invited to attend. Please join us for a fun evening of great food and fellowship.

The Couple's Study Group will meet **December 9th at 4:00 PM** at Hoss' Steakhouse for dinner and then we will go to Genesis Home to use our voices to sing Christmas Carols for the residents. This is a return to pre-covid days of a way of spreading God's love to our older people and the staff who care for them. More details will be worked out at the November meeting. So come and help us to plan for this fun evening.

Bev Benner

THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF GOD

I first became intrigued by this topic during a thermodynamics course in 1964. I have been exploring the ancient and emerging evidence ever since. Finally, by 2022, I had enough knowledge to assemble a suitable presentation for a non-scientific audience. After giving a few presentations, I decided I could reach a wider audience with a booklet - which I wrote.

Our office manager, Barb, graciously agreed to be the point of contact for borrowing the booklet.

My reason for preparing this booklet was to hopefully help non-believers find our Lord and Savior. I know you don't need this help. However, perhaps there is someone close to you who would benefit from this information.

I have personally witnessed the conversion of an atheist friend, with this booklet information being largely responsible for opening their mind to the possibility of a supreme intelligent power and ultimately leading to their baptism and joining a church.

I wish I could distribute these booklets by the hundreds, but the copies are limited. I can only hope that some of the information in the booklet may enhance your effectiveness as you witness for our Savior.

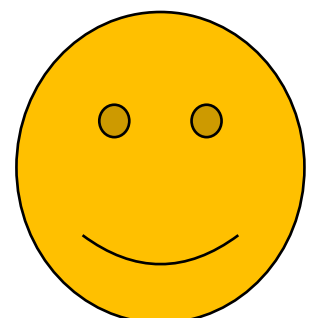
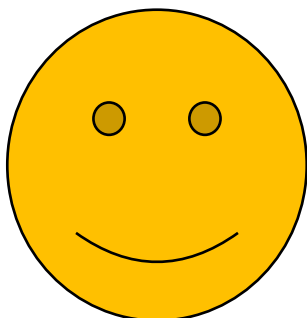
John McMann

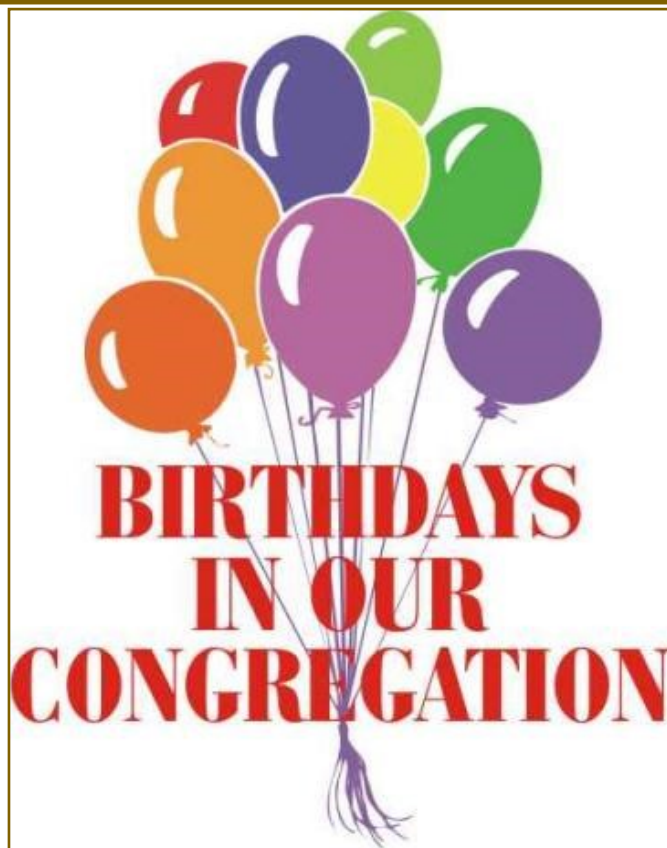
<p>God Inspires Various Experiences (Michaligas, Stottlemyers, Waybrights)</p> <p>Glory Is Very Eternal (Marty Martinez, Carlos & Doris Wampler)</p> <p>Love Means Christ's People in Community (Anonymous)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">These acrostic poems were composed by persons attending the October 1st Stewardship Supper</p> <p>Take your gratitude with you Help others whose supply is low Attitude is the great influencer Now is the time to make a difference Keept the direction positive and Christlike Save the world (Frank Buhrman)</p> <p>Dedicate a portion of Everything you have to God's Church, so that In his Kingdom on earth, suffering will be Defeated, and Everything will be good, according to His plan (Dirk Grove)</p>	<p>Christians Have Unending Riches from Christ and the Holy Spirit (Cathy Michaliga)</p> <p>Trusting in the Savior Hands up in Praise Always faithful Never alone Knowing love Serving Him (Anonymous)</p> <p>Cheerfully give Help others through giving Understand the need to give Rejoice in giving Consider your giving Help others willingly (Dave Diehl)</p>
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Have you heard the question: . . .

“Are you humbly grateful or grumbly hateful”?

Editor’s note : Pastor Dale Williams repeated this at Wednesday Bible study years ago. He recently told me that this was the title of a children’s anthem sung by the children’s choir when he was Chaplain at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC





1. Richard (Dick) Belenski
2. Nadja Muchow
9. Glenn Lookabill
12. Karen Idris
13. Mike Orleski
14. Kenneth Sanders
14. John Stottlemeyer
18. Suzanne Dolly
19. Donald Rider
20. Shelby Schlutz
23. Melisha (Marty) Martinez
25. Ron Milhimes
27. Nancy Brill
27. Linda Seamon
29. Shirley Aldrich
29. James A. Welsh

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

October 2, 2023

We would like to **thank the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church** very much for your generous donation of \$340.00 in support of Ruth's Harvest - Fairfield. Your gift allows us to provide food for those who need it most, the children in our community. . . Our goal is to provide a backpack of food items for the weekend. . . . Proper nutrition has the potential to promote not only physical growth and health, but also better academic performance, behavior, and attendance in school. . . . Our mission would be immensely more difficult without the support of caring churches like yours.

With much gratitude and many blessings,
Ruth's Harvest - Fairfield

October 2023

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

Through your donation of \$2,280 to Disaster Relief - U.S. Wildfires - Hawaii, you are making a difference in the collaborative work of disaster recovery. On behalf of PDA, **thank you** for your compassion, prayers, financial gift, and collaboration . . as we all pursue opportunities for the good of God's world.

With love and gratitude.

Rev. Nell M. Herring

Mission Specialist for Volunteer Ministries, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

A "Li'l" HISTORY ABOUT *Li'l Ripples*

My first introduction to *Li'l Ripples* came when I received the July 1997 edition in Sasebo, Japan, where I served as a Navy Chaplain. I was nearing retirement from the Navy and had been extended an invitation by the Pulpit Nominating Committee at Lower Marsh Creek to be their candidate as Pastor. The letter I sent to Lower Marsh Creek was featured in the August 1997 edition and began: "Dear Friends at Lower Marsh Creek, I just received your July newsletter – *Li'l Ripples* – and was reminded that I promised Tim Myers [PNC Chair] I would write with more information about me and my family, and send a few pictures. *By the way, I and my family are very impressed with your newsletter and with the high level of activity you have maintained in the absence of a pastor . . .*" From the time I began my ministry at LMC, up to the present, 10 years after my retirement in 2013, I have continued to be impressed by the LMC Church newsletter – both the quality and content!

At the time of my arrival, Gary Bechtel, Clerk of Session, was the editor of *Li'l Ripples*. Apparently, the church newsletter, in its present form, was begun by Rev. Spencer VanGulick, who served as Pastor of Lower Marsh Creek from 1982-1996. Gary took over when Rev. VanGulick left, and served as editor until 2003, when his wife Suetta retired, and they began to travel extensively. It is interesting to note, that Gary, who had taught Industrial Arts at Fairfield High School, was permitted to use the High School copy machine to print the monthly edition of the newsletter. From 2003 through 2005, Sandy Buhrman served as editor, and the newsletter was printed at Staples (then in Gettysburg). Hank Seamon followed, and served faithfully as editor for the next 9 years, continuing to use Staples to copy the newsletter. As Hank commented, folding and adding address labels to all those newsletters could be tedious at times! It is not known who first began to send out copies digitally. Today, the majority are sent out by email.

Hank turned "Li'l Ripples" over to College Student Stacy Ryan in 2014, and she served as editor until November, 2016, when Linda Hagee took over as editor. Linda maintained the high quality of *Li'l Ripples* through the end of 2022, when our current editor, Fay Hess, stepped in. I believe she has enjoyed the challenge, and is doing a great job!

Editing the church newsletter is hard work! However, through the years and changes in editors, the helpful content and impressive quality have been consistent covering the myriad of activities in our dynamic congregation. I am very appreciative to all who have devoted their time and talent to this valuable ministry resource over the years!

Pastor Dale Williams (Ret.)

"Our beautiful church in the fall."



Thanks to Jim Richardson for this photo and the caption.

SERVING GOD

DEACON'S PAGE

BY SERVING OTHERS

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

DO YOU KNOW - Dirk & Pam Grove? Dirk is an Elder & a member of Wires & Wood. Pam is a Deacon.

We are both natives of Chambersburg. After stints in Delaware and Virginia, we moved to Adams County (close enough to our old Franklin County stomping grounds) in 2020. So, it feels like we've come back home. At least our southcentral Pennsylvania accents sound normal here. Along with Dirk's mom Marcia, we became members of Lower Marsh Creek Church in 2019. Since 2021, Dirk has served on Session, and Pam has been a Deacon.

We didn't know one another, growing up, although our families attended the same church, and Pam's dad was a Certified Public Accountant for Dirk's family's business. But Pam was a good friend of Dirk's sister Daria, who thought we might make a good match. Our first date in 1981 was blind...but, apparently, Daria had good instincts. We were married on July 9, 1983 – 40 years ago! Shortly after we married, we joined the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church, where Dirk had played music since he was 14 years old. (From age 14-17, Dirk played lead guitar in a working rock band, along with keyboard player Richard Rotz – who is a fine musician, and a long time elder and music director at the McConnellsburg Church. Richard was “instrumental”—pun intended—in both our faith journeys, because, through numerous invitations to play music at the church, he introduced us to Presbyterianism.)

We have two sons - Tyler, an attorney, is 39, and he's married to Emilia. They have three sons: Jacob (8), David (7) and William (6). Our second son Cale, a private equity executive, is 35. He is married to Julie, and they are parents to three sons: Samson (10), Eli (8) and Huxley (6).

Dirk graduated from Temple University with a B.F.A. in graphic design, and Pam holds a B.A. in Public Relations from Shippensburg University. Before we were married, Dirk worked for the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency in Washington, D.C., working on USAir newspaper ads. After we married, we moved to Alexandria, and Dirk changed jobs to work at Morgan Burchette Associates, where he created graphics for the Amtrak Auto Train.

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When we decided to start a family, we agreed that the city was not the ideal place for us to raise our kids. So, we moved back to Chambersburg. Dirk's family owned and operated a large sawmill, and, after graduating from the National Hardwood Lumber Association's grading school, he went to work at the mill as a lumber inspector and dry kiln operator, until the mill closed in 1992. During that time, Pam worked in sales for WHAG-TV, and later, she was a marketing assistant for Nitterhouse Concrete Products.

At that time, our boys were very young and we were interested in giving them quality educational toys to help them learn. But, when we found ourselves driving all the way to Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, PA to find the kind of toys we wanted, we reasoned that the Chambersburg area might provide a good business opportunity for us. So, in 1990, we started Terrific Toys, Inc., a 2,000 sq. ft. specialty/ educational toy store in a strip mall on Wayne Avenue.

In 1995, we had an opportunity to move our store to a large outlet mall in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. We moved our family there, and expanded the business to include a brick-and-mortar store, an annual printed catalog with nationwide circulation and two ecommerce websites. And we were very active members of the congregation at Westminster Presbyterian Church, two blocks from the beach. There, Dirk served on Session, and Pam served on the Hospitality Committee. And, Dirk played a little music, too.

In 2008, while we were deeply involved in expanding our warehouse in Delaware, we began to see signs that pointed to an impending recession (which quickly became an unfortunate, long-lasting reality). We made the decision to close our business at that time. Dirk found a job managing the retail operations of the National Rifle Association, and he moved to the Fairfax, VA area while Pam stayed in Delaware and worked to wind down the business. Pam moved to Virginia as soon as she could, and she decided to retire at that time. We lived in Virginia for 13 years. Then, happily, Dirk was able to retire in 2021.

We moved to our cabin on Bear Mountain in Aspers, PA. And, thanks to the fact that we had met Dale Williams when he was interim pastor at McConnellsburg, we joined Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. (At Dirk's request, both Pastor Dale and Pastor Mark visited and ministered to Dirk's dad before he passed. We are forever grateful, and we've always considered their kindness to represent the love that is abundant at Lower Marsh Creek.)

Both of us, AND Dirk's mom Marcia, love being a part of this wonderful community church. Thank you !

We are truly blessed!



Sing to the LORD



A New Song

Psalm 96:1

Psalms 98: 1-7 instructs us to enjoy making music!

*“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;
5 make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,
6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.”*

Recently we have added a few more instruments to our ensembles and I am hoping to add a trumpet and flute. Please see me if you are interested in lending your voice, or playing an instrument, in our upcoming worship services. Make music to the Lord!

As we approach Thanksgiving and the birthday of the King, music plays an even more important role in our worship services. Our faithful musicians appreciate your prayers throughout the year, but this is an especially busy time for us. Special thanks goes to Phyllis Smith for donating her time to set up the many microphones that we now utilize in our performances. She is a God-send! And, if our Faithful Voices look even better than usual, it is because Carlos Wampler polished the beautiful woodwork on the choir loft (and re-attached the pedal board to the organ)! Obviously, we have people supporting us behind the scenes. Thanks to Phyllis and Carlos! And thanks to our Very Faithful Voices for their constant devotion to LMCP.

The following is a portion of “The Musicians Prayer” by Cindy Howe.

Oh, Lord...Please bless this music that it might glorify Your name...May the talent that you have bestowed upon us be used to serve You.....Let this music be a witness to Your majesty and love, and remind us that You are watching, and listening from Your throne above...May your presence and beauty be found in every note, and may the words that are sung reach the hearts of Your people so they will draw closer to You. May your Spirit guide us through every measure so that we might be the instrument of your peace, and proclaim Your glory with glad voices...

The many talented musicians of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church are thankful for your prayers throughout the year! Thanks for remembering us!

November 5 – Glory Singers / Faithful Voices

November 12 – Wires and Wood

November 19 – Glory Singers / Faithful Voices

November 26 – Marsh Creek Bluegrass / Special



Linda Clark

Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence

Mt. 28:9

Adams Christian Prison Ministries

On September 18 over 30 people attended the Relaunch Prayer Rally which was hosted by First Baptist Church of Gettysburg.

Once a month ACPM provides a basket full of goodies and snacks for the correctional officers and staff to express gratitude for their service "to protect and serve the residents of Adams County and the general public by providing progressive and comprehensive correctional and rehabilitative services." First Baptist contributed for September. If it is approved for us to support this ministry, I will contact Chaplain Perez and then publicize a collection of snacks for a future month.

Five teams of volunteers returned to the prison to provide weekend chapel services beginning October 1. Teams from both protestant and Catholic communities provide a once-a-month service.

ACPM Financial update: As of September 9, there was \$34,341 cash on hand. Contributions are at 98.5% of budgeted amounts and from individuals are at 82% of budgeted amounts. Expenses have exceeded income by \$16,050.

Compassion International – Letter from Hawine (6/8/23)

Dear Friends, my dear sponsor, how are you doing? Are you fine? Are your family, work, life all fine? I am doing very well with my family. Thanks to God, my family are all doing well. My sponsor, now I am a college student. I am attending my education in nice way. My dear sponsor, I received the money gift you sent me for my birthday 24.18.02. I bought trousers by 900 birr (Ethiopian currency), shoes by 500 birr, and dress by 718 birr. Thank you. My dear sponsor, I am receiving all things I need by the help you are sending me. Thank you for your help. Blessings. My dear sponsor read from the Bible Genesis 13:1-18. My dear sponsor stay safe. Till the next letter stay safe, bye bye. I love you so much.

DiscipleMakers (Kevin and Maria Noyes)

Kevin and Maria ask for prayers for God to help their student leaders to persevere in following up with new students and to give them a vision to sacrifice their time to invest in the spiritual life of their peers. **Maria and Kevin are now the proud parents of a little girl, Hope Lynn Noyes, born on October 9!**

Mission of Mercy

The Mission of Mercy is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for their Medical Mobile Clinic at Gettysburg Four Square Church, 328 West Middle Street, on Monday, October 30, 4-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Please RSVP to mcregger@amissionofmercy.org, or Jennifer White at 301-682-5683, x204.

SAT-7

Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, many Christians don't have a community of believers to rely on, especially in times of crises. And for many countries in this region – including Yemen and Sudan – the crises are beyond discouraging . . . war and violence, extreme poverty, malnourishment, rampant disease, displacement, and many more daily dangers. In both countries, there is an added threat for Isolated Believers that creates a perfect storm of turmoil. Publicly professing the Christian faith is punishable by persecution, imprisonment, or even execution in Yemen. In Sudan, recent changes to apostasy laws have not freed believers from harassment and targeted violence. In the face of country-wide darkness, many Yemeni and Sudanese Christians cannot gather with other believers.

Here is a testimony from a SAT-7 viewer in Yemen: *"I need to know the real God." A Counselor explained to Nadi who Jesus is and how God loves him and redeemed him through His Son's death on the cross. "If Jesus is God, why did he have to die? How could He be human and divine at the same time? What are the Gospels and the differences between them?" Thanks to support from us and others, a SAT-7 team*

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was available to answer all of Nadi's questions. After talking with him and sending him a digital Bible, Nadi said, "I am convinced that Jesus is God and died on the cross to atone for my sins!"

In the midst of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, the SAT-7 viewer support team received a call from Jalal, an Afghan man hungry for hope and truth. He described the unsettling reality of his family's circumstances . . . *The Taliban took advantage of an opportunity to take Afghanistan and subject it to their religious mischief. They assaulted the defenseless people of Afghanistan, and my family and I lost hope.* But in the midst of darkness and conflict, Jalal and his family discovered the hope they were searching for in SAT-7's programs on their living room television. As the family watched SAT-7's Christian channels, a curiosity began to stir up in Jalal. He knew this was the something "more" he had been missing in his life, so he connected with a member from the SAT-7 viewer support team through a video call. On that call, Jalal gave his life to the Lord. When we followed up with him, he said, *"So many things have changed in my life, and my family and I are very happy."*

Throughout the years of conflict in Afghanistan, SAT-7 has seen many men, women, and children – *people who've never heard the name of Jesus before* – discover His love and devote their lives to him. Up to 50 people have even crammed into one person's home before to hear the good news SAT-7 streams! A male viewer said that the Christians on his TV screen weren't at all like he had been taught. They spoke his language, were loving, truthful, hopeful – not evil and deceiving – and had a joy and peace about them that he found strangely attractive.

For more than 25 years, SAT-7 has supported believers in the Middle East in their spiritual growth and Christian witness.

Young Life

Dan Zychal of Young Life asks for prayers that they find more leaders and committee members. He reports that they have already met 45 new teenagers in the last couple of months. Dan also asks that we add to our prayers a request of the Lord for a bus driver. Free busing for the WyldLife trip in December has been offered, but they need to find a driver who has a CDL Class B or higher, has a passenger endorsement and is air brake certified.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog – 10th Anniversary

Would you like to see someone in a developing part of the world launch a business that mends, alters and sells clothing and linens? Did you know that a gift of \$50 through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog could provide a sewing machine to help launch that business? Your gift could help provide a stable source of income for a family.

Other examples of giving through the giving catalog include \$25 for a kitchen kit for families who have lost everything in a disaster, providing cooking pots, utensils, bowls, cups and spoons, \$50 for a refugee food basket, \$25 for a family of chickens to provide eggs for food, feathers for pillows, and fertilizer for crops, \$50 for a dairy cow to provide a family in need with a reliable source of income and nourishment, \$10 for farming tools to help bring a fruitful yield from the land, \$150 for emergency life packs to support churches in border regions supply essential items to refuges and asylum seekers are they await the next steps (backpacks include food, water, basic hygiene items, a blanket and other vital necessities), and much more.

To view the full catalog and to give online, go to presbyteriangifts.org

Mosaic 2022

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – A Year in Review

Your gifts at work internationally. Total amount granted: \$1,652,461.46. In 2022, PDA responded to disasters in 35 countries outside the U.S. Here are a few highlights from 2022. Visit pcusa.org/pda for more information.

Bahamas – Hurricane Dorian and Covid

Professional mental health and psychosocial support services for Hurricane Dorian and Covid survivors.
Construction on more than 20 homes for families impacted by Hurricane Dorian.

Cameroon – Anglophone crisis and food security projects

Emergency relief in the form of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food, health care, shelter, psychosocial support and transportation costs to reunite families.

Establishing and strengthening the sustainability of food banks for 600 households in the far north region of Cameroon.

Increasing agricultural production in at least 150 households.

Ensuring food availability for at least 1,500 households in 50 communities through the establishment of and strengthening the sustainability of cereal banks.

Ukraine and Nearby Countries – Ukraine War

Psychosocial and medical care at border crossings in Moldova.

Support for facilities in Lithuania that offer shelter, food packages, hot meals and hygiene services.

Emergency relief in Hungary, Poland and Romania providing food, hygiene equipment, shelter.

Food for those fleeing other areas of Ukraine and seeking refuge in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kyiv.

Increasing capacity of a mental health facility in Ukraine.

Through ACT Alliance, assisted more than 2.9 million people with food security, WASH, renewable energy, mine action, legal aid, cash grants, non-food items, shelter and more.

Pakistan – Flooding

With ACT Alliance, supporting more than 36,000 households.

Providing flood-affected communities with access to food, non-food items, health, winterization items, and WASH services appropriate and relevant to their immediate needs and ensuring safeguarding and protection through capacity building of humanitarian actors working with the flood-affected communities.

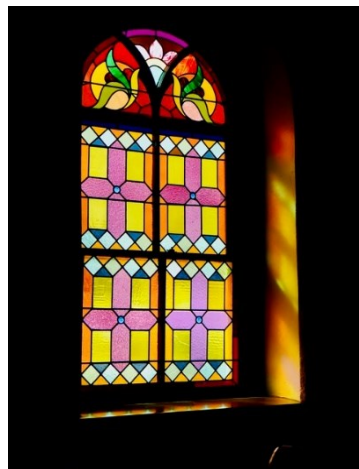
Access to emergency/primary health-care services through static health units.

Training on flood-resilient shelter reconstruction and communal/institutional WASH infrastructure for restoration of basic needs of water and sanitation.

Ethiopia – Gambella Flooding and Tigray Conflict

Emergency humanitarian response for more than 800 people affected by flooding.

With ACT Alliance, supporting more than 13,000 households affected by the Tigray conflict. Outcomes included reduced vulnerability to food insecurity, reduced acute malnutrition, safe water, Covid protection and psychosocial support.



The Giving Corner

IN THANKSGIVING

The Interpretation and Stewardship Team, for Session, use the words from Paul's Letter to the Philippians to express their gratefulness for your remarkable generosity in support of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians: 1:3 – 6

Because of your generous response to this year's Stewardship Campaign: **Stewardship: Our Heritage; Our Duty; Our Hope** the Session can plan for 2024 with confidence and hope! As of October 17, 2023, we received sixty-one Estimate of Giving cards with pledges totaling:

Church Operating Fund: \$221,511.00
Mission Organizations/Missionaries: \$85,579.00

If you have not returned your card yet and wish to do so – it is not too late!! Session will finalize and approve the 2024 budgets at their November Session.

In addition to giving of your financial resources, we must also be good stewards of the gifts of time and talent that our Creator has bestowed on each of us. LMC has been a vibrant part of the Gettysburg community for 275 years and our hope is to continue that. Moving forward let us ask ourselves these questions: **Who are our neighbors? How can we better serve our community? How can we harness the gifts of our church family in new and creative ways to spread the love of Jesus Christ outside of our walls?** Remember: *"for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."* Philippians 2:13.

I leave you with more words from Paul to the Philippians. Let us contemplate these words and put them into action! Remember all we have, all we do, all we hope to do, we do in thanksgiving to our Lord, Jesus Christ!

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1: 9 - 11



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on October 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. The meeting began with a small celebration of Pastor Mark's birthday as we had a birthday cake and sang a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday! Here are the business highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- o Membership as of 10/12/2023: Active Members (AM = CA): 162, 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 September. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

Approved the following events and business items:

- o That a fourth 1-year Certificate of Deposit for \$10,000.00 be opened at the M&T Bank in Gettysburg, PA in the month of December.
- o That the Couples Group will meet for a Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner on December 9, 2023.
- o That only one morning service be held on December 24 and 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM.
- o That Christmas Eve Services be held at 7:00 and 9:00 PM.
- o Pulpit supply during Pastor Mark's vacation: December 31, 2023, Elder Bev Benner wills serve as preacher and on Sunday, January 7, 2024, Rev. Kristal Smith, the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership will lead worship and the Lord's Supper.
- o That the Congregational Retreat for 2024 be held on August 24, 2024, at Camp Eder.
- o That LMC be responsible for serving breakfast for the C.A.R.E.S. program from April 1 – 14, 2024. The guests will be staying at St. James Church for the duration of the program this year.

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 Almost half of the headstones have been cleaned at the cemetery. More D2 has been ordered and received to complete the project. The date will be announced.
- o New sections of the cemetery fence have been ordered. These sections will be installed by Perry Fence upon arrival.
- o Four new instrument microphones and stands were purchased.
- o Grab bars will be installed in the ladies' restroom in the fellowship hall.
- o Insurance quotes are being gathered for review.
- o New window blinds have been installed in the classrooms.

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

- o Team members: Ray Wright, chair; Lane Speck and Doyle Waybright.
- o Balance sheets and Cash Flow reports for September were approved as presented.
- o The third Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 was purchased at M&T Bank with a return of 4.5%.
- o Estimate of Giving Cards results as of October 17, 2023: 61 cards received with pledges as follows: Church Operating Fund total: \$221,511.00 and Mission Organizations/Missionaries Fund total: \$85,579.00.
- o The Per Capita cost for 2024 is \$33.00 per member.
- o All donations through the Adams County Community Foundation were given in September when the Giving Spree opened.

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 Pastor Englund-Krieger will lead a Tuesday evening discussion during Advent on the series The Chosen. The dates are December 5, 12 and 19 starting at 5:30 PM with soup, bread, and cookies. There will be no Wednesday Bible Study in December.
- o Naomi's Sisters have an active calendar. They meet every Wednesday: the 1st Wednesday they visit shut-ins; the 2nd Wednesday they meet for games; the 3rd Wednesday they have lunch at a restaurant and the 4th Wednesday they meet for games again. All widows are welcome!
- o The Orrtanna and Mt. Carmel churches have become interested in making the Marriage Retreat in 2024 happen. Three couples including their pastor will meet with four couples from LMC to assess the possibility.
- o Karen Richardson has volunteered to lead the Congregational Retreat Committee for 2024.

News from the 275th 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 Here are the upcoming events – "Save the Date":
 - o Sunday, November 5, 2023: Banquet at the Gettysburg 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 "Singing Through Worship" presentation. Those attending the event will be able to tour the museum prior to the event at a reduced fee of \$10.00.
 - o November 13-20, 2023: Operation Christmas Shoebox collection week.
 - o Sunday, December 3, 2023: The Congregational Christmas Dinner with a special menu reflecting our Scots-Irish roots. There will be a short presentation on Christmas Through the Ages.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o Heard a report of the Presbytery meeting held at Paxton Presbyterian Church on September 23, 2023. Elders Dirk Grove and Lynn Miller attended as Commissioners for Lower Marsh Creek.
- o Received a thank you from the PC(USA) Office of Ministry Engagement and Support in gratefulness for our donation of \$2,280.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to the wildfires in Hawaii.

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2023

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	September— 2023	Year-to- Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$17,324.90	\$215,694.40	\$252,298.00
Other Income	\$3,109.69	\$53,011.14	\$58,357.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,434.59	\$268,705.54	\$310,655.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$1,670.06	\$9,304.67	\$14,600.00
Education & Nurture	\$14.08	\$3,686.31	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,106.98	\$6,022.00
Home Ministry	\$6,246.25	\$62,482.81	\$77,600.00
Church Administration	\$16,205.39	\$147,334.45	\$209,033.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,135.78	\$227,915.22	\$310,655.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$3,701.19	\$40,790.32	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2023: \$104,584.05

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	September— 2023	Year-to- Date 2023	2023 Budget
Offering Income	\$4,255.10	\$64,766.60	\$76,800.00
Other Income	\$77.53	\$3,143.42	\$1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,332.63	\$67,910.02	\$77,800.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,429.00	\$67,662.29	\$77,800.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$8,096.37	\$247.73	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2023: \$239.03

Notable expenses for September: \$1,289.77—Building Repair & Maintenance

\$1,900.00—Grounds Maintenance (removal of trees)

THIRD QUARTER REPORT — 2023

INVESTMENTS

Account Description	Opening Balance 6/30/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Unrealized Gains/Losses	Closing Balance 9/30/2023
Capitol Improvement Fund	\$145,736.32	\$0.00	\$18,336.79	-\$2,210.73	\$125,188.80
Cemetery Fund	\$3,724.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$93.86	\$3,631.08
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	\$163,083.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,781.41	\$161,302.13
Mission Endowment Fund	\$140,868.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$8,740.61	\$134,456.13
Woods Scholarship Fund	\$96,626.12	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	-\$2,188.29	\$94,437.83
David Scott Youth Fund	\$90,035.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,683.20	\$91,718.61
			Total Investments:		\$610,743.96

DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS

Account Description	Opening Balance 6/30/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 9/30/2023
Insurance Claim	\$10,266.15	\$9,233.24	\$13,719.52	\$5,779.87
Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers	\$7,193.64	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$7,993.64
Cemetery Benches	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00
Sanctuary Flowers	\$655.80	\$485.00	\$520.00	\$620.80
Men's Breakfast	-\$41.48	\$52.00	\$0.00	\$10.52
Bulletins	\$346.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$346.87
Pastor's Study Leave	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
David Scott Youth Fund	\$8,476.39	\$0.00	\$779.37	\$7,697.02
275th Anniversary Fund	\$3,766.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,766.43
Church Directory	\$405.20	\$0.00	\$405.20	\$0.00

SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Account Description	Opening Balance 6/30/2023	Deposits	Expenses	Closing Balance 9/30/2023
Membership Assistance Fund	\$3,371.85	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$3,371.85
Cemetery Fund	\$19,326.57	\$932.40	\$2,228.33	\$18,030.64
Gifts & Memorials Fund	\$4,621.18	\$0.00	\$1,636.74	\$3,084.44
Checking Acct.— M&T Bank	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00

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

Li'l Ripples November 2023



1748 275 Years 2023



Pastor Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Worship

Early Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 AM
Late Worship 11:00 AM
Nursery 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Phone Number 717-642-5332
Email Address office@lmcp.org
Website www.lmcp.org

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

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