

Li'l Ripples

May 2025
Volume 25
Issue 5



A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

CHURCH LIFE:	PAGE
Birthdays	3
Couples' Group	3
Funnies	6
Mothers' Day	2
Nat. Day of Prayer	2
Party Time (for Barb)	2
Sunday Morning Group	2
Thanks	4 - 5
Women Online	2
Women's Guild	2
CLERK'S NOTES	15 - 16
DEACONS INFORMATION	-7
FINANCIAL REPORT	17
GIVING CORNER	14
MISSION ADVOCATE	8 -13
Special RRP Invitation	13
MUSIC MINISTRY	7

A Message from Pastor Mark



What's that bird?

I preached a sermon on the Parable of the Mustard Seed. This parable ends with a glorious vision of the future day when the tiny mustard, "*the smallest of seeds*" will grow up to become "*the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.*" The parable of the mustard seed is included in the Gospel of Matthew's collection of parables in chapter 13. In the sermon I preached I talked about birds. I mentioned my enjoyment of a new app I have installed on my iPhone called the Merlin ID bird identification app. This remarkable app is a product of the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, and has become very popular. This was several weeks ago, and the only bird call I identified at my house was the Carolina Wren, a bird that does not migrate for the winter. This week on the short walk from our house to our garage, early in the morning, I heard a wonderful cacophony of birds singing. Spring has arrived! I pulled out my iPhone and turned on the listening feature in the Merlin ID app. The app is remarkable in its accuracy and quickness. Almost immediately a list of birds came up on my phone indicating that their call was heard and identified: Carolina Wren, American Robin, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, and Downy Woodpecker. Wow! What a chorus of springtime beauty, and for me, a gift of grace and peace early in the morning.

Of course, I walk the short trip to my garage several times a day and countless times each week. And most of the time I am focused and fast. I have places to go and things to do, and I will not pay any attention to the birds and their beautiful singing. This was another lesson for me; a lesson I have heard often and neglected more often. Pay attention, slow down, look and listen, open your eyes, open your ears, open your heart, be present in the moment, pay attention.

The most thoughtful and insightful definition of prayer for me is this: Prayer is paying attention to the presence of God. This is very difficult; this is very simple.

Please read Psalm 46; a wonderful word that calls us to prayer and calls us to pay attention. Psalm 46 is about the crisis and all the stress in our lives: fear, waters roaring and foaming, mountains quaking, nations in uproar, kingdoms falling, desolations, wars, spears and chariots. And then verse 10: "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" There it is. That is the verse we need; that is the spiritual practice we need; that is the life we need. "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" It is truly all about paying attention in the midst of chaos and desolation. There is beauty, grace and love all around . . .

In Christ!

Mark



JUNE DEADLINE – MAY 16



CHURCH LIFE - FUTURE, PRESENT, PAST

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

National Theme: *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans 15:13

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. In 1808 Thomas Jefferson wrote: *"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets, and right can never be safer than in the hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."*

Since that first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of *"humiliation, fasting, and prayer"* in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

Thursday May 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm - Our Day of Prayer service will be a brief time of Scripture and prayer outside in the front yard of our church, next to the Cross. A light picnic supper will be served immediately after our service.
Pastor Mark

MOTHERS' DAY

The Men's Breakfast group has purchased flowers for all the women of the church. As you depart the worship service on **Sunday May 11th**, men will be stationed in the narthex to present a flower to all the women.

Dick Belenski

IT'S PARTY TIME !

Our dear Barb is retiring after 12 years as our Church Office Manager. On **Sunday May 18th**, following the 10 am service, you are invited to a Pot Luck Lunch to honor and say goodbye to this extraordinary person. Bring your smiles and your "best wishes" and a pot of good food and let's celebrate with Barb.

Phyllis Smith

WOMEN'S GUILD will meet **May 20th at 1:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Join us for Fellowship, Fun and Food !

Roz Santay

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets **electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 pm**. We are currently reading and discussing *A Heart Like His: Intimate Reflections on the Life of David* by Beth Moore. If interested in joining us - contact Dana McDonald.

SUNDAY MORNING GROUP - In early 2024 Pastor Mark challenged us to memorize the powerful 23rd Psalm. We are now discussing the promises of this Psalm using Max Lucado's book *Traveling Light*. Join us at **8:30 am** in Fellowship Hall to see how this psalm will help us release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear.
Susan Nunamaker and Doyle Waybright

THE COUPLES' STUDY GROUP will meet **May 10th at 5:30 pm** at the Deatrick Village Community Center, 56 Wind-ing Drive. Karen and Jim Richardson will be our hosts and will provide a surprise main dish. Please sign up in the Narthex by designating what salad, side dish or dessert you will bring to contribute to our feast. Our topic, led by Jim and Karen, will be "Differences" from our devotional Growing Old Together. As always, all married couples in the congregation are welcome to attend. Please sign up by May 4th. Bev Benner

2 - Lynn Miller
7 - Timothy Myers
7 - Jed Smith
8 - Terry Gladhill
9 - Cathy Michaliga
13 - Elaine Reichl
13 - Doris Wampler

*Happy Birthday
Everyone*



16 - Jacquie Higgins
16 - Cindy Phillips
19 - Al Miller
23 - Carolyn Speck
25 - Marcia Grove
25 - Leonard Orleski
27 - Sallie Sites

NOTE: 😊 Thanks to Mike Orleski for the photo of his tie on the page 1.

Some bunny had a party !

A large crowd of relatives and friends helped to celebrate a 1st birthday event in the fellowship hall.

Evelyn Stephens, daughter of Brad and Katelyn Stephens, granddaughter of Mike and Dana McDonald, turned 1 year old on April 10th.



THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

C.A.R.E.S.

LMCPC supported C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) from March 31 to April 7. Our members purchased and prepared hot breakfasts for the homeless in Gettysburg during this two-week period. Guests arrived at the St. James Youth House between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. each day for a nourishing hot breakfast prepared and served by LMCPC volunteers. The guests were most generous in their praise of our collective culinary skills, and one gentleman declared one of the meals "gourmet."

Many thanks go out to this year's group of volunteers – *Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger, Linda Lapp, Phyllis Smith, Lauren Neely, Deb Stottlemeyer, Len & Dale Williams, Pat Diehl, Lynn Berwager, Alicia Dehoff, Sally Suder, Sarah Rohr* – without whose help and support, this ministry would surely die! This collective C.A.R.E.S. effort fed about 20 guests each day during our two-week period.

Surely more helping hands during this two-week period would lessen the burden on all of us. This ministry is vital to the welfare of the poorest among us! Please consider volunteering next year, so we can continue this ministry. Thank you. All our appreciation and love.

Joe & Elaine Reichl (Coordinators)

CEMETERY RESTORED

We would like to thank those who helped clean up the cemetery on April 16th. *Lew Drake, Gil Pringle, John Stottlemeyer, Alicia DeHoff, Pat Diehl, Al Miller, Lee Bentz, Doyle Waybright, Lanny Winters, Linda Lapp, Darlene Palmer, Tammy Harklerode, Jim Richardson and Jim Benner* made a great clean-up crew. It was a very windy, cool day and we appreciate all of you hanging in there for a wonderful result. While we were working a couple from California, who are descendants of Rev. Paxton, stopped to find his tombstone and later visited the church. Thanks again for a job well done !

Home Ministry Team

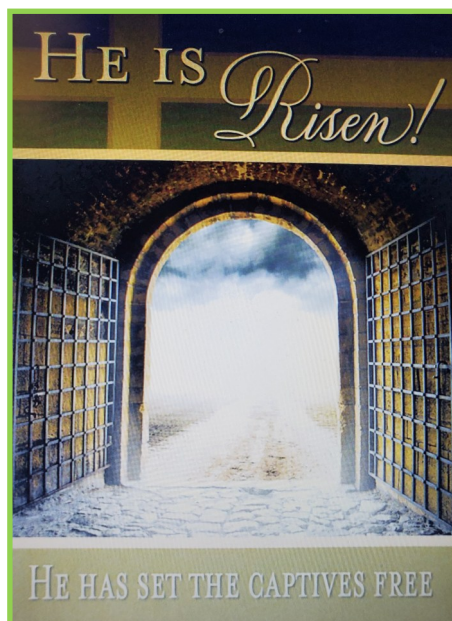
Praise God ! He is risen !

Thank you for partnering with Adams Christian Prison Ministries. Indeed, God's truth sets the captives free.

We are expanding ministry opportunities for inmates, including faith-based programs like the Alpha program (which allows for honest conversations about Christ), additional Bible Studies and upcoming mentoring.

We pray that your church will participate on April 27 with other churches in the Celebration of Grace. This celebrates the grace and mercy of

ADAMS CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRIES



God toward inmates and their families by praying specifically for those incarcerated.

Your prayers and financial support for this ministry and Chaplain Perez are greatly appreciated. This ministry relies entirely on contributions from churches, businesses and individuals for its funding. So, your contributions are extremely important. Thank you !

We pray that you and your family have a blessed and wonderful Easter.

With Thanksgiving,
ACPM Board

A Display
of the
Symbols
from
Holy Week



Palms
Crown of Thorns
Cross and Shroud
Bread and Cup
Crucifixion Nails
Bag of Coins

April Was Parkinson's Awareness Month

Did you know?

~Almost 90,000 people are diagnosed each year.

~It is defined as a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects movement, balance and coordination caused by the loss of dopamine-producing nerve cells in the brain, so there is currently no known cure.

~Scientists believe the causes are a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

~People with Parkinson's usually experience movement problems and non-movement difficulties such as loss of smell, apathy, anxiety, depression and REM sleep behavior issues which can occur years before diagnosis.

~Symptoms can be managed with medication, exercise, and in some cases, surgery.

~Early-onset Parkinson's occurs in people younger than 50 years of age.

Thanks to high profile Parkinson's patients like Jeff Cook from the singing group Alabama and football star Brent Favre, a spotlight is being shone on this disease

My own husband is coping with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's and my attendance at LMCP has become sporadic. A couple of years ago, we first noticed hand tremors, especially in cold weather as he served on Ski Liberty's Ski Patrol for 42 years. Now, full-scale fatigue is occurring, his energy level has dramatically decreased, his motor skills like handwriting are poor, his speech has slowed, he has difficulty walking, and he takes frequent naps. He uses his ski poles for balance and regularly sees a specialist to monitor his medications.

With the prayers from the congregation, check-ins from friends, and reading the church's newsletter each month, I feel supported. Most of all, I garner continued strength to be a cheerful, helpful caregiver by memorizing the Bible verse recommended in the April Easter message from Pastor Mark -

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12,

I am writing this note to particularly thank the congregation of LMCP and to ask church members to increase their awareness of this malady and pray for all those who suffer its debilitating effects.

Gratefully,
Kathy Megyeri

FUNNIES - Hopefully, these will help our older folks to smile and our younger folks to understand.

(Editor)



~I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me, they're cramming for their final exam.

(George Carlin)

~Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard, there is nothing you can do about it.

(Golda Meir)

~It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone.

(Andy Rooney)

~The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened.

(Mark Twain)

~To get back to my youth, I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable.

(Oscar Wilde)

~As you get older, three things happen. The first is your memory goes . . . and I can't remember the other two.

(Norman Wisdom)

~Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.

(Jennifer Yane)

A big "thank you" to Kathy Megyeri for supplying the above humor.

A Message From the Editor -

Do you ever feel guilty? Should you?

When we made the decision, at some point in our lives, to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Scripture assures us that He paid the price, by his death on the cross, for any sins we commit, IF we repent. What does it mean to repent? The dictionary says, "to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin." So, when we do wrong (and we all do), we should confess this to the Lord, ask for His forgiveness, and accept the Biblical truth that -

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John 1:9 NIV

Still feeling guilty?

Maybe you fulfilled the first two steps but neglected the last one - **accepting** that you are forgiven ! Maybe deep down (so deep you may not even be aware of it), you are still trying to save yourself by your own right (perfect) behavior. This is a dead-end street. Unfortunately, we can get on this path to nowhere too easily with a push from the "thief." The Lord did not give His life so we could spoil ours by feeling guilty. He tells us in the parable of the good Shepherd -

The thief comes only to kill, steal, and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it to the full.

John 10:10 NIV

Bottom line -

If you find that, even though you are a believer, you are going through life with a feeling of guilt dragging you down and stealing your joy, consider this quote from Max Lucado's book "He Did This Just For You" -

"Accept God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it." Even better, memorize the following Bible verse.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - **not by works**, so that no one can boast.*

Ephesians 2: 8, 9 NIV

Sing to the Lord

MUSIC MINISTRY

*A New Song***Choir Thank-you**

A huge thank you to our Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church choir, Faithful voices, for supplying beautiful music at least twice per month ever since January of this year! The ten wonderful folks who make up our choir truly are faithful, coming in to rehearse once/week, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. The reason I wrote "at least twice per month" is that several of our choir members have also performed special music as a solo, or in a duet, trio, and also a quartet. Thank you so much to those who have graced us, and will grace us in the future, with your talents as you sing and play for God's glory.

We can never have too many singers in our choir. If you are interested in singing and want to try out choir, please come join us at choir practice any Thursday evening at 7:00 PM here at LMCC from September-May. During the Summer months - June through August - our choir Faithful Voices has a respite and we are looking for musicians to perform a musical selection for our listening pleasure each Sunday, until the choir is back up and running (singing) again in September. Special music occurs in the church service in place of our usual anthem. You can perform with me, Deb Wolf, as your accompanist, with your own musical group, or however you wish. Some folks like to sing or play an instrument unaccompanied.

Please contact Deb Wolf at debwolfitaly@yahoo.com or 717-451-4569 if you have questions or if you would like to sing or play any of these Sundays. I am also in need of special music twice/month for other months of the year.

Serving God by

DEACONS INFORMATION

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 Al Miller at 717- 642- 1574 or 443- 977- 9129.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS :Susan Nunamaker 717- 642- 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 – 0305Jim Welsh 717- 377- 5370Len Williams 717- 642 - 0123**BOARD OF DEACONS****Class of 2025**

Lori Jackson

Al Miller

Jim Welsh

Class of 2026

Elaine Reichl

Joe Reichl

John Stottlemeyer

Class of 2027

Pam Johnson

Julie Orleski

Doris Wampler

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE**Adams Christian Prison Ministries**

Our next community prayer gatherings will be on May 13 (Tuesday) at First Baptist Church, 1015 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg; and June 10 (Tuesday) at Memorial Baptist Church, 1096 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg. Come and join us for prayer as we ask the Lord God Almighty to continue to move in the lives of inmates, staff, and family members.

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County

There will be a free day camp for boys and girls ages 6-12 (entering 1st grade to entering 6th grade), July 7-11 from 10 am – 2 pm at the Idaville United Brethren Church, 3590 Carlisle Road, Gardners. Pack your lunch. Snacks, water and Gatorade will be provided. Contact Miss Pam for registration forms (cefadams@gmail.com or 717-677-4797).

There will be a Vacation Bible School, "Tools for Victory," July 28-31 from 6 to 8 pm at the Iron Springs Brethren in Christ Church, 855 Iron Springs Road, Fairfield. Miss Pam will be teaching. Register by email at Ironspringsbicchurch@gmail.com

South Mountain Fair will be July 22-26 (Tuesday-Friday, 4-9 pm, and Saturday, 1-9:30 pm).

Due to Miss Pam having surgery, the CEF summer ministry is being scaled back.

SAT - 7*From an April 10 SAT-7 USA email*

Christian women living in Iran face a dilemma in deciding how to dress. Though they are free in Christ, the country mandates women to cover their heads. Those who fail to do so may face arrest, beatings, and fines. An Iranian woman named Elika* sent a message to SAT-7's Persian channel to share her perspective.

Elika's message spoke to the seriousness of the situation. *"Now, anyone on the street – or anywhere – who is not wearing proper hijab can be photographed by an informant. That photo can then be sent to the police..."*

As a Christian, she emphasizes that *"God looks at the heart and whether to wear hijab or not is a heart choice."* And because of this, she chooses to comply with the law.

"I am obedient to the government, as long as my faith is not affected," she says. *"I pray that God will give me His strength so that if I am ever told by this government to deny my God, I would have the courage to stand and endure, even under pressure and torture."*

One of Elika's greatest challenges is a lack of fellowship with other believers. But, she emphasizes the importance of SAT-7. *"You are here, and you support us. I really thank you, and I am grateful for you, my dear family."*

Elika concludes, *"We often pray to have the opportunity to stand up and serve Him. And if we are in Iran, we will stand for our faith and for God."*

**Compassion International**

On March the 7th, Brayan wrote to thank us for our gift and sent a picture of what he purchased

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

Young Life

Taken from the Spring 2025 Young Life Relationships Journal

Relentless Pursuit

In Bandéo, the locals hold great attachment to traditional beliefs – primarily animism, a belief that there's a spiritual essence in objects, places, and animals.

Young Life club began in Bandéo in late 2020. The first club launched with six leaders and 38 teenagers in attendance. Fourteen accepted Christ that day. One of them was Bertin. His father disliked Young Life because it was a Christian organization. He would send Bertin far away on an errand if he noticed club was happening. Still, Bertin did all he could to be there, even if just for the ending, and his love for Jesus grew.

Bertin asked his father to let him choose who he wanted to worship, and his father decided to allow it. Unhappy with this decision, his brothers planned to beat him. Bertin told Bruno, his Young Life leader, who warned the brothers he would involve the police if they touched Bertin. The brothers then left Bertin alone to worship as he chooses.

Many other teens want to attend Young Life and follow Jesus, but their parents and superstitious beliefs hold them back. Nevertheless, leaders relentlessly pursue teenagers with the good news as they courageously go into dark places to give hope to the next generation.

MESSAGES FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

A New Day

Spring 2025 Message from Ryan and Alethia White

Dear friends and supporters,

We are writing to thank you for all the ways you have supported us over the years and to inform you of some internal changes that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is undergoing, which will affect our work. You may have read about changes to World Mission within the Interim Unified Agency (IUA), but we wanted to take a moment to send a personal message.

While global ministry will be continuing in a new way, the ministry area of World Mission is concluding. As of the end of March, we will no longer be working in capacity as regional liaisons on behalf of PC(USA).

We are very much going to miss the partnerships and relationships we have built over the years and the experiences and learning we have been able to share with you. We first came to serve with World Mission, working with a Persian-speaking migrant community in Berlin and, in 2021, shifted to connecting with partners throughout Europe. Through this, we have heard stories of the challenges faced by people seeking a new life, particularly when viewed as outsiders. And we have witnessed how decisions made in the U.S. affect communities throughout the world. We have also seen and heard how faith communities are addressing local and global justice issues and are committing to advocating for marginalized communities as modeled by Jesus.

One of our favorite memories was the annual celebration of Norouz, the New Year celebrated on the Spring Equinox by Persian, Kurdish and other communities. Norouz means "New Day," and one of the ways of celebrating begins the week before, gathering with friends and jumping over fires as a symbol of burning away the bad of the previous year to welcome, with newness, the upcoming year. As our work draws to a close a few days following Norouz, we look forward with anticipation for what lies ahead while also making space for what is ending.

Continued on the next page . . .



Continued from the preceding page . . .

Even though we will not continue working with the IUA, ecumenical cooperation and partnerships with partners will continue. The new model for global engagement will have staff serving as global ecumenical liaisons. More information about the new model and these positions will be shared by the IUA.

Our current plan is to remain in Berlin through the end of the school year in late July and then return to Richmond, Virginia, where we spent the 2023/24 school year. We are grateful for the time and compensation we have been given to make this transition.

After living outside of the U.S. for much of the last decade, this will indeed be a significant transition for our family as we say goodbye to friends and to Berlin, a place that has become home. At the same time, we look forward to being closer to family and friends in the U.S. who have been missed.

Please continue praying for the partners we have had the privilege to connect with and seek opportunities in your communities, congregations and presbyteries to continue engagement on issues of importance and learning from one another.

If you wish to stay in contact with us after March, our personal email is: alethia.ryan@gmail.com

Alethia and Ryan

Christian and Rayan Weaner/TeachBeyond

Taken from Christian and Rayan's March 26 email

Christian and Rayan were back from the states about a week when they headed out for training in South Africa. "There, we were able to meet more of our fellow TeachBeyonders and the TeachBeyond Africa leadership team. We also learned so much about how to be more self-aware and intentional with safety protocols so that we can continue to be good stewards of the roles God has called us to here in Senegal."



"In late January, we traveled across the continent to the beautiful country of South Africa for a Field Safety Training that is required for all TeachBeyond Africa members."

"We were very thankful for the opportunity to meet many of our fellow TeachBeyond members serving throughout Africa and experience this helpful training to prepare ourselves for potential 'worst case scenarios' like a mock carjacking."



"Along the way, we also stopped in the picturesque coastal city of Cape Town and got to go on a real African safari in Pilanesberg National Park outside of Johannesburg."

"As soon as we arrived back in Dakar after our training, our weeks have been filled with spirit dress up days, softball tournaments, musical rehearsals, field service trips, and more!"

"Though our eyelids may feel heavy, our hearts are so full. When we first began the process of moving to West Africa a year ago, we could not believe our eyes at how the Lord opened doors and displayed His perfect provision through so many of you. In fact, there are many words of encouragement from different brothers and sisters and moments of supernatural provision that we journaled about throughout that time, and we often look to them even now when we are tired or need a reminder of the Lord's faithfulness."

"The month of March in particular has been an interesting one as the majority of Senegal has been observing Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. During this time, Muslims spend the day fasting and praying during the call to prayer in the morning, afternoon, and evening. While Ramadan has been

Continued on the next page . . .

Continued from the preceding page . . .

something we have been aware of and learned about in the past, experiencing it now daily by watching our neighbors and friends observe has been an eye-opening experience. It is a time that has opened the door to a lot of beneficial conversations as we and many of our coworkers and missionary families are often asked daily if we too fast and reflect.”

“Last month, we traveled with our ninth grade students for their Field Service Experience (FSE), where we spent a long weekend serving in various locations. Rayan’s group went to the village of Ngaparou and did painting and maintenance work on the grounds of a camp owned by one of the mission organizations that operates here in Senegal. Christian’s team headed to a small village called Sanghe where the students helped with a faith-based soccer academy and played several exhibition games with the youth teams. This was a fun way to get to know our DA students better and serve alongside them.”



“Lastly, many times over this semester, we have been consistently reminded that we can do nothing apart from Christ. In our new culture here, there are days when we feel like we are finally ‘getting it’ and others where we can’t even order our lunch correctly, and on those days, time and time again, the Lord has reminded us that it is in our weakness that He makes us strong.”

“A prayer that we read recently said:”

Oh Lord, This life has stripped away my confidence, competence, and control, and I feel exposed and weak. It's uncomfortable and vulnerable and I find myself resisting the Way of Weakness You seem to be inviting me into. Forgive me, God, when my pride causes me to prefer my self-sufficiency over surrender. Cross-cultural life has challenged all I know (or thought I knew, at least) and the reality is disorienting. I prefer proficiency, but you're calling me to humility. Show me how my weakness makes space for Your strength, and that my surrender to You doesn't make me helpless but held.

Holy Spirit, as I stumble on the Way of Weakness, struggling with the vulnerability I feel as I come face to face with my powerlessness, speak your peace over my tired and fearful mind - ever worrying and wondering - and remind me that though I am weak, You are the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

“While this prayer was written for those living cross-culturally, we feel that it is applicable to all of us as believers. Our pride often tells us that we can do it all on our own, but man, it is not fun when we try to do that.”

“This prayer is one we will continue to speak often as we head into the last quarter of the school year, and we hope that in whatever season you are walking through today, that you too will join us in remembering that though we are weak, He is strong.”

All our love,

Christian and Rayan Weaner



Caring for Those Who Care for the World

Taken from Thomas & Cheri Henry's April 19 Prayer Letter

Thomas and Cheri are based in Staffordshire, England, and are providing development and care for international workers through One Another Ministries.

KENYA

A couple we led through a marriage intensive in March reminds us of the complexities of marriage. Relationships are complicated, especially marriage. Everyone is looking for others who are looking for them - for aloneness to be removed, to belong. Each person comes out of a very different family of dynamics that brings a whole history of joy, baggage, and pain, into childhood, into adulthood, and into marriage. And they join together as one flesh in a covenant relationship with God and man. To be honest, they don't really know each other very well yet. And they live happily ever after! Sound like a fairy tale? Some say it is. Until you understand God's design for marriage. Three ingredients are needed for a holy and happy marriage - humility to lay down your life, courage to be vulnerable, and faith to believe that a healthy marriage is possible with God. And more humility, a willingness to repair (a comforting confession) when you mess up.

If you are married, you are not married to the same person you married. We all change. And as believers, we are hopefully being transformed more and more into God's image. It is true; one purpose of marriage is to make us more holy. It either will or it won't. There's a lot to overcome. But there is so much to be hopeful for. Your marriage is worth all the energy you can muster. Because ultimately, marriage is meant to display Christ and the Church (groom and bride) to a watching world. Is yours?

Add to all that, a couple serving in a cross-cultural context, like Kenya. The crucible of life overseas takes its toll on an already challenging relationship... and on their ministry team... spilling over onto the very people they are trying to reach... eventually, impacting all who sent them in the first place! The cost of an unhealthy marriage is immense. But help is not far away. This is why we offer missionaries support for a deeper marriage.

ASK and PRAY, "Does your marriage HINDER or HELP the work God calls you to?"

UGANDA

These three weeks of training proved to be some of our most challenging yet most rewarding. The context is a society that often does not hold high the standard for relational commitment. After day one with the first group of eight single leaders (four married but not with their spouse or separated) they were like deer in the headlights. But over the next three days they were soaking in material they had never heard before. It convicted their hearts and challenged their own family's relationships. They were visibly excited to practice and give away what they received.

The next week, instead of the 24 we thought would attend, there were 50! A remote village church was filled. Of particular note, was their response to our biblical teaching on singleness. This gave hope to those who felt alone and burdened. Some of God's purposes for singles (at least as long as they are single) are to instill in them a sufficiency in Christ, to take advantage of the opportunity to sow their seeds more widely, and to recognize the spiritual children that await them.

..., the mission organization said the training was so well received that they have invited us to their field in Ghana to train their teams there. ***PRAY for confirmation to possibly return to Africa in September***



Continued on the next page . . .

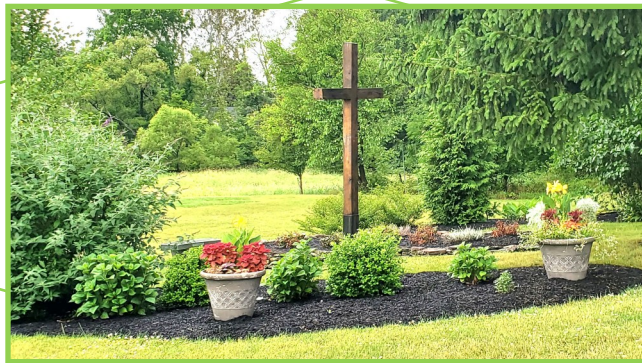
Continued from the preceding page . . .

JORDAN & TUNISIA

After years of trying to get to Jordan and Tunisia God has opened a door for us. On the schedule over the next five weeks are three marriage intensives, one singles intensive, and a presentation on a theology of single-ness. We also get to visit missionary friends we have not seen in a while. We leave Thursday, April 17 and return May 19. ***PRAY for the unique work God will do in each couple and single missionary serving in the Middle East and North Africa.***

GERMANY

Unfortunately, the intensives we planned in Portugal in June have been postponed. Instead, we were recently invited to help couples serving at Black Forest Academy in Kandern. The timing would be good, as we want to visit fellow missionaries there and do pre-marital counseling with a Chinese and Brazilian couple in Frankfurt wanting to serve in missions. ***PRAY for this new door to expand this ministry in a strategic area with many transient single and married workers.***



Special Invitation from the Refugee Resettlement Partnership of Gettysburg

The Refugee Resettlement Partnership of Gettysburg (RRP) invites you to a Campaign Launch Event, "Up We Go! Celebrate dreams realized and dreams to come!" on **Saturday, May 3, 2:30-4 pm**, at St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg.

This will be a special time to meet the RRP families and volunteers in person as they celebrate three years. Join them for prayer, Afghan cultural displays, mini-presentations, refreshments, interviews, conversations and a game-show match.

Up We Go! The RRP builds continuing support of these high-achieving Afghan families through a cooperative matching fund campaign. Sharing the cost and the dreams, we will enable our families and their children to invest in their own futures by cost-sharing the total funds needed for their education and healthcare until they become fully independent, contributing members of our community.

Come meet and talk with our Afghan friends, as they invite YOU to celebrate!



The Giving Corner

The MAF is made available to members of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, who are struggling financially due to unforeseen circumstances. The MAF is not a budgeted fund. Its receipts consist primarily of contributions from members of the Church, and its expenses consist of fund disbursed for its intended purposes at the direction of the Pastor and MAF committee.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has not pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18)

"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 the believers." (Galatians 6:9-10)

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." (Acts 4:32)

A four (4) person committee will be appointed by the Session to serve as the MAF Committee. This committee is responsible for reviewing the request/need for the member in need. The committee, with the Pastor, will make the determination regarding the awarding to gifts from the fund to qualifying member. While the Pastor and the Committee are ultimately accountable to Session, the Pastor may make a decision to disburse monies from the fund, subject to the guidelines herein, without involving the MAF Committee or Session.

The stated purpose is to meet people's basic needs. Some of the most basic needs or circumstances, including: Mortgage/Rent, Utilities (lights, water, gas), Food, Medical treatment, transportation to or from a place of employment. Assistance with funeral expenses may be considered for members, the spouses and children of members, and for individuals for whom the member was "caretaker". Also end of life preparations. All disbursement of funds are made directly to the party or entity to whom payment is due.

The MAF does have policy/procedure and application located in the church office. The MAF has been a God given gift for a few members our congregation. We ask that you consider MAF in your giving plan to the church.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

Lauren Neely



A stockbroker urged me to buy a stock that would triple its value every year. I told him, "at my age, I don't even buy green bananas." (Claude Pepper)



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are the business highlights of the actions taken at that meeting:

- ~ Membership as of 4/11/2025: Active Members (AM = CA):159*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 54, Family Members: 50, Total: 263.
- ~ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

Approved the following events and business items:

- ~ Saturday, April 12, 2025: Cleanup Day at the Cemetery; Rain date April 16
- ~ Thursday, April 17, 2025: Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary with communion
- ~ Friday, April 18, 2025: Good Friday Service at the cemetery
- ~ April 26, 2025: Bowling and pizza at Edgewood Lanes
- ~ April 27, 2025: Special session meeting right after worship (approx. 11:15) to review and approve the MDP from the Pastoral Nominating Committee
- ~ Thursday, May 1, 2025: National Day of Prayer service with hot dogs, chips, and bottled water
- ~ May 3, 2025: use of Fellowship Hall by Elaine Reichl from 10am-3pm for a tea for the volunteers of the Adams County team for the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes
- ~ May 6, 2025: Women's Guild ministry at Hillside Nursing Home from 1pm-3pm
- ~ May 8, 2025: use of Fellowship Hall by Joe Jackson from 12-5pm for a meeting
- ~ May 10, 2025: Couples Bible Study at the home of Jim and Karen Richardson
- ~ Mon., May 12, 2025: Stitchers/Prayer Shawl group will meet at Deja Brew Miney Branch in Carroll Valley
- ~ Sunday, May 18, 2025: Luncheon (gluten-free) for Barb's retirement in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship service
- ~ May 19, 2025: Budget team meeting
- ~ Friday, June 13, 2025: Participation in FunFest at Gettysburg Rec Park
- ~ June 21, 2025: fellowship event at Mary Smith's home for all women of the congregation.
- ~ Sunday, August 31, 2025: Picnic for Pastor Mark's retirement immediately following worship service
- ~ September 21, 2025: Congregational Budget Conversation
- ~ October 5, 2025: Stewardship Sunday
- ~ Accepted the 2024 Financial Review report with special thanks to the Financial Reviewers for their work: Dave Diehl, Mary Smith, and Darlene Palmer

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

Team members: Joe Jackson, Chair; Ron Milhimes; and Lanny Winters.

- ~ Will provide the Pastor's laptop to him as a gift. Will replace the laptop for the new Pastor.
- ~ Parking lot being sealed and lined on May 12-13. Considering widening the handicap spots closest to the church in the parking lot.
- ~ Manse repairs are ongoing.

Notes from the Interpretation and Stewardship Team - manages church finances and missions

Team members: Lauren Neely, Chair; Doyle Waybright; and Bev Benner

- ~ Will have a minute for missions, April 27, 2025 to speak about the Refugee Resettlement Partnership (RRP). The RRP has invited members of partnership churches and friends to celebrate dreams realized and dreams to come at a Campaign Launch Event on Saturday, May 3, 2:30-4, at St. James Lutheran Church. You will have an opportunity to meet the Afghan families and volunteers.
- ~ Jim Richardson and Jim Benner will attend the Lend a Hand trip beginning on April 27.
- ~ There will be three scholarships this year to applicants who are directly related to the church and are first time applicants. We had a total of 10 applicants.
- ~ The March 2025 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved.

Notes from the Spiritual Life Team - oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church

Team members: Phyllis Smith, Chair; Lynne Orner; and Mike Orleski

- ~ Planning a potluck retirement luncheon for Barb Schwartz on May 18, 2025.
- ~ Planning a potluck retirement picnic for Pastor Mark on August 31, 2025.
- ~ June coffee hour to be sponsored by the Women's Guild and I&S.
- ~ No coffee hour in May because of Barb's retirement luncheon.
- ~ There will be no congregational retreat in 2025.
- ~ Carlos Wampler and Joe Jackson will make a stand for the bible on the communion table.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- ~ The Personnel Committee hired a new Church Office and Financial Manager, Lisha Pasko, who will begin May 5 and will work along side Barb Schwartz until her retirement at the end of May.
- ~ Session had a meeting with Pastor David Wright to discuss him being the temporary pastor effective after Pastor Mark's retirement on September 7, 2025.
- ~ The Clerk will participate in the annual records review for the Church records on May 3, 2025.

THE SESSION**Class of 2025**

Bev Benner
Ron Milhimes
Phyllis Smith

Class of 2026

Lauren Neely
Lynne Orner
Lanny Winters

Class of 2027

Joe Jackson
Mike Orleski
Doyle Waybright

FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – MARCH 2025

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	MARCH—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$20,342.14	\$67,262.94	\$276,092.00
Other Income	\$2,304.04	\$11,063.63	\$29,430.00
Transfer of funds from 2024 budget	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,262.78	\$108,326.57	\$335,522.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$44.35	\$4,369.42	\$14,550.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,480.44	\$5,810.00
Home Ministry	\$8,566.44	\$15,834.23	\$87,140.00
Church Administration	\$16,669.09	\$52,900.57	\$224,622.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,279.88	\$78,584.66	\$335,522.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$2,017.10	\$29,741.91	\$0.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	MARCH—2025	Year-to-Date 2025	2025 Budget
Offering Income	\$6,908.10	\$23,806.08	\$95,200.00
Other Income	\$131.25	\$582.15	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,039.35	\$24,358.23	\$95,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,458.30	\$23,796.30	\$95,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$2,418.95	\$561.93	\$0.00

Notable expenses for March— COF: Home Ministry reflects repairs to the manse that are underway. **MOM:** \$6,600 to Dan Zychal—Young Life; \$3,600 to Child Evangelism Fellowship

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

1865 Knoxlyn Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Li'l Ripples May 2025



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger



Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Nursery 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Church Office Information

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.

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