



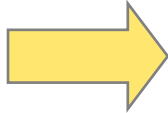
November 2024
Volume 24
Issue 11

Li'l Ripples

A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from

Pastor Mark



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**DEADLINE FOR THE
DECEMBER ISSUE OF
LI'L RIPPLES IS
NOVEMBER 15th**



Thanksgiving: a Verse a Day

We enter the wonderful time of the year when the theme of Thanksgiving rings out in our culture. It is a national holiday, a feast day, a family day. It is a day and a time of year filled with memories and traditions. The celebration of Thanksgiving highlights some of the best values and convictions. Our celebration of Thanksgiving is a deep recognition of the vital importance of the most important things in our lives: family, God's providence, hospitality to others, care for the poor, a deep faith, and a sure hope in the future. The feast this month around our Thanksgiving tables moves us, I hope, to gratitude and prayer.

Indeed, the national holiday of Thanksgiving connects seamlessly with the powerful theme of gratitude in our Christian faith. Americans should be grateful people. Christians should be grateful people. It is particularly beautiful when these two identities connect and coalesce: American Christians should be grateful people.

Here are ten beautiful verses from the Holy Scriptures that may nurture our gratitude and inspire our prayers. Use a verse a day in prayer. Create a special time each day this month to say Thank You!

1 Chronicles 16:34 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Jeremiah 33:11 - Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever.

2 Corinthians 9:11 - You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Colossians 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 3:15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

1 Timothy 4:4-5 - For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 7:12 - Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!

Revelation 11:17 - We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Happy Thanksgiving!
In Christ!
Mark



CHURCH LIFE - PRESENT, FUTURE, PAST



IMPORTANT NOTE :

Please note that our Session has approved changing our Sunday morning schedule.

Beginning Sunday, December 1 we will have one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 a.m.;

Sunday school will begin at 9:00 a.m.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Our session has agreed to cover ALL costs for those in the congregation that would like to participate in a mission trip through Lend A Hand, the Presbyterian Disaster Recovery organization. A trip is scheduled November 17 – 23, 2024 to New Bern, North Carolina. This is a well organized trip with projects for any skill level. Tools, food and lodging are provided and we will be taking the church van for transportation. Here is a typical day:

7:00 Breakfast & Packing lunch

8:30 Arrive at job site, get assignments

Noon: Lunch break

4:00 Clean up job site, return “home”

5:00 Down time

6:00 Dinner /share experiences from the day

10:00 Lights out

Please contact Bev Benner if you are interested.(717-398-9933) There will be an informational meeting on October 27th following the late service to answer questions and make plans. Please prayerfully consider joining this awesome opportunity to serve our Lord by helping others.

The Couple's Study Group will meet **November 9, 2024 at 5:30 PM** at a location to be determined. Len and Dale Williams are leading our group this month and our topic will be “Attractiveness” from our Growing Old Together devotional. As always, all married couples in the congregation are invited to join us for a fun night of great food and fellowship. Watch our church bulletin for additional details and sign up in the Narthex starting October 27 th .

. . . for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. Ecclesiastes 7:2 (NIV)

Many people avoid thinking about death and refuse to face it. But it is helpful to think clearly regarding this process by examining our lives and making sound decisions. To that end, Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church is holding a seminar entitled, **“Preparing for Resurrection” on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 5pm.** We will begin by having a potluck dinner followed by a panel discussion regarding four aspects of death preparation. Our panel includes : Laurie Donaldson, Hospice/Palliative Care Nurse; Gary Hartman, Attorney; Tom Monahan, Funeral Director; and Pastor Mark Englund-Kreiger from Lower Marsh Creek Church. Please join us for food, fellowship, useful information and a Question/Answer Session. If interested, please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. **If any questions, please see Mike Orleski.** God’s Peace to all.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD will meet **November 19th at 1:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there! (Roz Santay)

Editor's note - Please see page 6 for a report about the Guild's trip to Hillside Nursing Home on October 21st.



Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week, November 17-24, 2024

Time to start shopping for your shoeboxes!

Shoeboxes are available in the church vestry on Sunday, October 27, 2024

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies and deliver them to children in need around the world. *"Millions of children around the world are being impacted by the Gospel through these simple shoebox gifts. One box can touch not only just the child but their whole family."* –**Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse.**

There are three options for the project this year:

1. Pack your shoebox, yourself, along with a \$10.00 shipping fee, and return it to the church during National Collection Week. If you'd like to discover where your shoebox ends up, you may follow your box and pay for shipping online using the QR Code printed on the shoebox label. Scan the code with your smartphone camera. This activates your label, and you can discover the destination of your shoebox. "Don't have a smartphone?" The label also contains a nine-digit code that you can enter on Samaritan's Purse website to follow your box: [samaritanspurse.org/activate](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/activate)

2. Build a Box Online: Go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/buildonline>

You select items to fill your box. The donation for this service is \$25. Many shoebox gifts built online can be delivered to parts of the world where access to the Gospel is restricted or where strict customs regulations require a specially packed shoebox.
(Elaine Reichl)

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent (**December 1, 2024**), please join the **Seekers Sunday School class** for an Advent Study entitled, *"Christmas: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"* by Richard B. Wilke. We associate the Wise Men, the Shepards, and Joseph with the joy and celebration of Christmas. But let's not forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story. It is because there is evil in our world that we desperately needed - and need – a Savior.
(Mike Orleski)

This fall our **Sunday morning group** is reading and discussing the book of **Romans**. We always have lively, honest and thought-provoking discussions. Join us at **9:45 in room 3 of Fellowship Hall**. Contact Susan Nunamaker or Doyle Waybright for more information.

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

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE COLLECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

If you are able to volunteer to assist with the Red Kettle Collection at Walmart this year, please call the Gettysburg Unit of the Salvation Army at 717-334-7634. Someone will assist you with dates and times available to volunteer. You may also visit the Salvation Army website page for Red Kettle Ringing volunteers - <https://www.registertoring.com>.

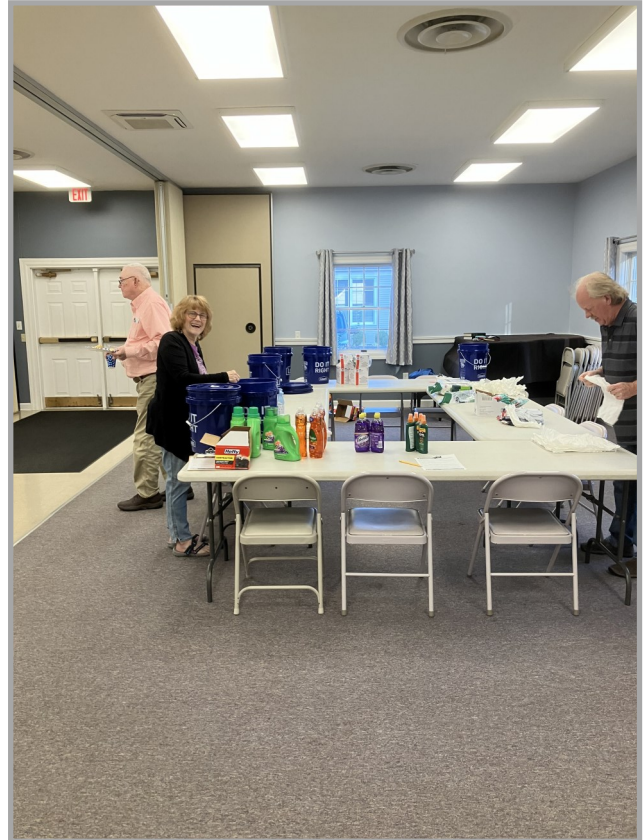
THE ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY :

The directory has been updated including our newest members. If you use a paper copy of the directory and would like updated sheets of the photos, roster and birthdays please contact the office at 717-642-5332 or stop by the office to pick one up.

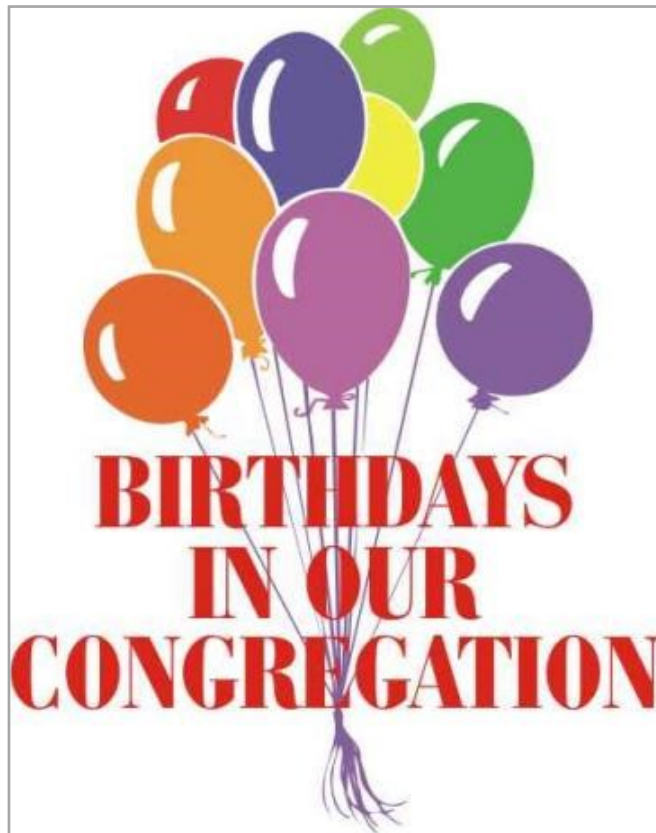
FROM THE NURSERY:

We are on the lookout for a gently used baby walker. If you have one you no longer need or know of someone getting rid of one, please let me know. (717) 475-3511.

Thank you,
Miss Shirley



October 13th Congregational Potluck Supper where "Clean-up Buckets" were filled for the victims of the recent hurricanes in the southeastern United States. Thanks to Sandy Buhrman for these pictures.



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

Thanks to Kathy Megyeri for the following story.

As a bagpiper I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the backcountry. I got lost and finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral cortege had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave, looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul and as I played "Amazing Grace" the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I picked up my bagpipes and started for my car. My heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, 'I never seen nothin' like that before and I'm been putting in septic tanks for 20 years.



Thanks to Shirley Breslin for the photos.

By the time you read this, The Guild will have been to Hillside entertaining the residents with a Hymn Sing. With the help of the Salvation Army, we treated them to cider, doughnuts and candy. The great part was that Dirk Grove came with us to play his guitar and sing with them. Working with the residents makes a satisfying day for them and for us!

(Roz Santay)



Editor's note: The following book review was written by a member of the LMCC family, Kathy Megyeri, and published in *Lifestyles After 50*.

THE TOP FIVE REGRETS OF THE DYING: A LIFE TRANSFORMED BY THE DEARLY DEPARTING

by Bronnie Ware

Author, songwriter, and inspirational speaker [Bronnie Ware](#) lives in New South Wales, Australia and after working in palliative care tending to the needs of the dying, her life was transformed when she wrote a blog post about the most common regrets that the people she had cared for had expressed to her.

The blog quickly gained so much momentum that it was viewed by more than 3 million readers worldwide in its first year. By applying the lessons she learned to her own life, she developed an understanding that it is possible for everyone if they make conscious choices to die with peace of mind. She expresses the significance of those dying regrets and explains how we can address such issues positively while we still have the time.

Living regret free is an ongoing day-to-day process of conscious decision-making, loving actions to ourselves and embracing the courage to change. The importance of the message resonates with all because none of us wishes to die with regrets. In our hearts, we want to live our best lives and be our best selves.

As Ware writes, "*Finding the courage to change, act or surrender will never be as painful as lying on a death bed with regrets.*" The titular five regrets appear again and again: having the courage to be true to oneself and not living as others expect us to; not working so hard; expressing our true feelings; staying in touch with friends; and genuinely pursuing our own happiness, a matter of perspective and based more on choice than circumstance. Those dying regrets are simply stated but take true determination to accomplish.

For Bronnie, banishing regrets means embracing the discipline of meditation, learning how to be kind to herself and receiving kindness from others, moving to a setting that surrounded her with beauty, realizing her own worth and beauty, letting go of the need for validation through ownership or the expectations of others, taking risks, forgiving herself for errors and judgements she'd made and the determination to live in the present, because our life is our own.



With life over so quickly, we have to live it right, but the choice is ours. As reader Jonathan de Magalhaes says, "*The impact of this book is life changing. You'll become a better person after reading [it].*"

The book is available in 32 languages, has been read by more than a million people worldwide, became a worldwide bestseller and is in the planning stages for a movie.

Sing To The Lord

MUSIC MINISTRY

A New Song

 *Come, ye thankful people come, / Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in / Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide / For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come / Raise the song of harvest home!* 

The lyrics to the popular Thanksgiving hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" were written in 1844 by Henry Alford, an English theologian, scholar and poet. The tune was composed by Sir George Elvey, an organist. Originally, the song included seven verses, but our hymnal includes only four. Perhaps you could create your own verse to describe what you are thankful for this Thanksgiving season.

My personal verse of thankfulness would include our musical family here at LMCP. I am thankful for the singers in the Faithful Voices and the Glory Singers, the musicians in Wires and Wood, and our remarkable congregation members in the audience. Music is an important element of the worship service, and **we need you** in order to sound our best! Speaking of sound, special thanks to Nick Johnson (who is thankfully on the road to full health) and Phyllis Smith (who is responsible for taking care of sound and logistics).

In keeping with the theme of thankfulness, we will be using the song "Give Thanks" during our weekly services. This worship song was written in 1978 by American Henry Smith. It was written while Smith was out of work and suffering from a degenerative condition that eventually left him blind. He was inspired by a pastor who made a reference to how Jesus made himself poor to make others rich through Him. The rest is musical history!

*Give thanks with a grateful heart / Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given / Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong" / Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us / Give Thanks! Give Thanks!*

Last but not least, I am very thankful and excited about the new **one 10:00 service** concept beginning on December 1st. This allows new opportunities for our existing singers and musicians to work (and play) together. Thanks in advance for your understanding as we experiment with new scheduling options to feature as much music as possible. And we are certainly open to any new members!

Looking ahead to December: Our Christmas Cantata will be held on December 15 at 10:00. It is not too late to start rehearsals. We would love to fill both choir lofts with singers and the pews with listeners! Please see me, call me at 717-357-0892, or email me at pausetoread@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating! The music is beautiful!

Linda Clark

*Serving God By***DEACONS' PAGE***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:Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646Sallie Sites 717- 253 - 0305Jim Welsh 717 - 377 - 5370.Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123**TURKEY COLLECTION FOR THE FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY:**

LMCPC has been asked to provide 35 turkeys to the Fairfield Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. **We will be collecting money for this important staple of the traditional Thanksgiving meal through November 10th.** If you would like to help achieve this goal, please make checks payable to LMCPC and write Thanksgiving turkey in the memo of your check. If donating cash please write Thanksgiving turkey on the envelope. Thanks for your consideration.

Recent Correspondence

Adams Christian Prison Ministries

Alpha Program: The program will be the first of several faith-based programs to be brought into the prison to assist inmates in discovering answers to questions on how to apply God's word in their everyday life. In a world of isolation and anonymity Alpha offers content and guidance to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. All of our current volunteers will be invited to attend a facilitator training at the end of October. We are preparing to launch Alpha to the general population and the work release residence in November 2024. For more information, visit alphausa.org/prisons/

Angel Tree Christmas Program: Every year, inmates have the opportunity to participate in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program. Inmates complete a participation form that signs up their children under the age of 18 years. This year, in addition to providing Christmas gifts on behalf of the incarcerated parents, the children may also be eligible to receive a scholarship to participate in the Angel Tree Camping and/or SportsCamp. Churches, organizations, and individuals can help support these programs by visiting www.prisonfellowship.org

Kevin and Maria Noyes (DiscipleMakers)

From their September Newsletter:

Kevin and Maria reported on outreach opportunities they provided students at the beginning of the semester ("Donuts, Chick-Fil-A, and The Boot Barn...?"):

"The first week of the semester, we gave away dozens of donuts and flyers for our Bible study. We prayed for God to connect us to spiritually hungry men and women, and then went looking for them! The next week, we invited those students to join us for a community-building dinner at Chick-Fil-A... As we munched on chicken sandwiches, nuggets, and fries, I (Maria) talked to some new students who had joined us for dinner. When I asked them where they were from, they answered, "I'm from Japan!" "I'm from India!" "I'm from China!" "I'm from Vietnam!" I was blown away that sitting around one table in the middle of a Chick-Fil-A in York, PA were students from four different nations. Three of the students aren't Christians. Pray for God to reach their hearts with the gospel and to reach the world through these students!

SAT-7

From a September Newsletter:

"If only I had wings ..." says a little girl from Afghanistan to the SAT-7 Viewer Support Team. What if your hopes for a happy future were crushed because you were a girl? If you were not allowed to have a job and help provide for your family, how would you feel? "I would fly to a place where I'd be allowed to go to school," says the Afghan girl. "Here, I am not allowed to study."

For Khalil (name changed for safety), every day in Yemen is a fight to survive. Widespread poverty forces him to scrape by on the bare minimum. A constant threat of violence from civil war hangs over him. Deep "why" questions burn in his heart ... *Why isn't there peace? Why won't the tragedies stop? Why would God – if there is a God – allow such violence?*

We know from our viewers' experiences the difference it makes to have peace in Jesus despite the turmoil of war. Waheeb (name changed for safety) was just a young man starting a family when the Lebanese Civil War broke out decades ago. "I always had to escape to different places with my family," he says. "We suffered a lot during the war." Instead of building a beautiful life, Waheeb's family was turning their bathroom into a bomb shelter. His children couldn't go to school. Stepping outside always came with a risk. And sunset meant another night of shelling was coming. "Years later, I saw a vision of Jesus in front of me," says Waheeb. "He told me He's coming to take His Church back. Since then, I've been following Him."

Missionary Updates

Thomas and Cheri Henry (One Another Ministries)

From the Henry October 14 Prayer Letter.

We spent five years developing the marriage ministry team in Romania. Ten couples are now trained and facilitating the Relational Skills Intensive for Couples, and several more are in training. It is a joy to watch them lead these intensives among missionaries and national leaders, strengthening marriages to equip people for ministry. It has been four years since we were last in Romania, and the first couple we trained has been primarily responsible for running the intensives over this time. And so, they recently invited us back for a week of developing the wider team of facilitators and to help lead an intensive there. *Pray for Romania.*

Last week began with two days of training facilitators. We began with God's Word, unpacking the profound mystery that Paul expressed in Ephesians, that "marriage exists to display the covenant-keeping love of Christ and the faithfulness of his bride." (Piper) They are so eager to learn, grow and serve. They are developing a vision and a plan to expand the work of equipping the church - lay leaders, local pastors, and Romanian-sent missionaries. They see the value of strengthening the very core of all ministry - relationships among couples, singles and teams - as they reflect the very love within the Trinity. *Pray their marriages display Christ and the church.*



The marriage intensive facilitator team in Sibiu, Romania, during a development session. The intensive "team leader" is Adi (foot of the table) and his wife Moni (taking selfie). They were one of the first Romanian couples to go thru the intensive. Cheri and I have thoroughly enjoyed walking alongside them over the years.

The intensive involved three facilitating couples, two shadowing couples and a shadowing single (all in training), who led seven participating couples. It was a beautiful time together, watching God work in these young couples. Several want to keep growing in their marriages and make this part of their own ministries. By the end of the week, we were overflowing with joy and worn out, a great combination. *Pray for reproducing fruit.*

The week began on Thomas' birthday and wrapped up on our anniversary. Didn't plan it that way, but this team honored us by recognizing 65 and 34 years of God's purposeful, caring hand in life and marriage. We'd like to think we are happier and more holy today as a couple. But we also believe Bonhoeffer's words, "It's not your love that sustains the marriage, but the marriage (covenant) that sustains your love." *For you who are married, pray that for your marriage.*

The whole group of couples in Sibiu, Romania. They're always happier and smiling at the end!



A highlight of the trip was having our long-time friend Stephanie join us. We led Steph through the Relational Skills Intensive for Singles about six years ago at one of our supporting churches. Then she was called overseas to support international workers in a Muslim country where she now lives. We are thrilled that she is committed to partner with us in offering this resource to single workers.

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After shadowing us five years ago, last week she helped us lead this intensive in Romania. All three of us will attend the Shoulder to Shoulder conference for singles in Jan. From there, we will rework the intensive material for a singles context. *Pray the Lord guide us through this process as we look to increasingly serve together.*

We are grateful for you who responded to our plea to consider donating as a special project toward the Relational Skills Intensive last week in Romania. [Lower Marsh Creek donated from missions discretionary funds.] Your gifts allowed us the extra funds needed to meet in a Christian Retreat Center in the mountains outside the city where most of them live. It makes all the difference for couples to get away from the distractions of home, children, ministry, and work, to focus on their marriages. It was a gift to them. *Praise you, Father.*

The first week of November, our White House team will host the One Another Ministries annual board/staff retreat right here in central England. It is a wonderful time of praying, planning, encouragement and fun. At that retreat, we will meet with our new International Director. We are excited about their choice and hopeful for our future.

Bob and Kristi Rice (South Sudan)

Dear Pastor Mark, Sandy, and Members of LMCP,

Warm greetings to you from Juba! We hope that you are well. Thank you so much for your ongoing financial contributions and your prayers for our ministry in South Sudan. Your support enables us to serve with God's people in South Sudan, training leaders and helping the church be an agent of healing.

Over these last several months, we have been able to travel within South Sudan and beyond. Bob was able to travel to Nasir (South Sudan) in May to support reconciliation efforts, participate in the opening of a church, and visit the very place where missionaries first brought the Gospel to the Nuer people group in 1914. Kristi was able to join colleagues in facilitating a Healing Hearts Transforming Nations (HHTN) reconciliation workshop in early August for one hundred pastors and their spouses in a place called Maridi.

These next few months will be full of teaching, doing workshops, and the ministry of Christian scholarship as Bob plods forward with his PhD work. You might enjoy reading about a wonderful meeting Bob recently had with his two research assistants. One exciting opportunity for us these next few months is co-teaching the Healing Hearts Transforming Nations (HHTN) material along with two South Sudanese colleagues at a local Bible School called Juba Evangelical Bible School (JEBS). We are off and running and the class is going very well!

We would love to hear from you! Let us know how you are doing and if there is any way we can keep you in prayer. You can reach us by e-mail at Bob.Rice@pcusa.org or Kristi.rice@pcusa.org. May God's peace and love fill you and empower you to bring God's shalom in our hurting world.

With Gratitude, Bob and Kristi

Stories of Hope and Healing

Names of people who shared their stories have been changed for confidentiality.

We sat with five women from Eden church in Juba, engrossed as the women shared their experiences of war. At one point they tried to demonstrate the challenge of fleeing from war with their children, showing how they would tie the smallest child on their back with their 'lawa' or outer garment, then other children would hold onto their mother's skirt or hands. Then running, trying to find safety when people are being killed around them.



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Emily, a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, visited South Sudan in June to learn how people are finding hope and healing after periods of conflict and trauma. She asked these women at Eden church to share a story that showed the impact of the war on their lives or communities. Martha* was in Juba when civil war broke out in 2013, and she shared the horror of seeing people killed in her neighborhood and of her community being targeted. She and her children joined a group of people who fled Juba on foot, walking for weeks toward the north, until they ended up in a camp near Khartoum. Ten years later, when war broke out in Sudan, she prepared to return to South Sudan. But her children, older now but still traumatized by the war that they fled in 2013 in South Sudan, refused to return with her. They fled instead to Libya and Egypt, and Martha now mourns that they are suffering there, and she may never see them again.



I joined Emily for another small group interview at a church in the Lologo neighborhood of Juba. Ogud shared how his father was killed in the war when he was a child, and others in his family instilled in him the idea that it was his responsibility to avenge the death of his father by killing someone from the group responsible for his death. Mary described jumping into their 'holes' as a child whenever they heard the Antonov bomber planes overhead, and how scared and alone she felt. Over nine years of these frequent attacks, she

thought this way of life was normal since everyone in her community had the same experience. Each person in the group expressed their hopes for South Sudan before independence came – that there would be security and freedom of movement, jobs, free school for the children and medical care. When none of that materialized, they felt disillusioned and let down.

Then Emily also asked each group what gave them hope and whether they had any stories of healing. Ogud shared how the Word of God has helped him, particularly a sermon he heard in church about forgiveness that included a story about someone in Rwanda who lost all his family and forgave them. Ogud thought, "Could I also do that?" He felt like he was chained in a hole. Now he feels light. "Forgiveness is freedom," he says, and he encourages others to break the cycle of revenge and violence that is fueling local conflicts. Mary described attending a Healing Hearts Transforming Nations workshop in Rwanda and how emotional and healing it was to be able to share some of the pain from her childhood with someone and then give over the pain to Jesus.

The women at the Eden church said that they gather twice a week to sing, encourage each other, and pray. "Singing together and the Word of God makes us strong," they said. The Eden congregation recently started a primary school, and they keep fees low or free for those who cannot afford them. The women expressed how comforting it is for them that their children can learn and get a meal at the school. The ongoing economic crisis in South Sudan and the lack of employment means that getting food is a daily struggle. The women thanked us for coming and said that just being able to share their stories with us relieved the pain.

Wow! Sitting with each of these groups and listening to their stories felt sobering and sacred. I was humbled by each person's willingness to share some of their painful past and the ongoing struggle in the present. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus explains how the King will affirm the 'mundane' actions of kindness that His people did for those who were suffering. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" This is one of the gifts of living in South Sudan – bearing witness to the ways that God's people minister to each other, quietly, faithfully, and sacrificially. God is bringing hope and healing as churches preach God's love and forgiveness, meet together to pray, sing, and encourage each other, and also meet some of the practical needs of the most vulnerable around them.

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Please pray for God's people in South Sudan as we continue to faithfully witness to the hope and life that we find in Jesus Christ through these practical means. High inflation this year in South Sudan and the influx of more than 700,000 people who have fled the war in Sudan means getting food each day is increasingly difficult. The South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church is an inspiring example of communities of faith who are loving the people around them in practical ways and experiencing God's power and peace in the midst of suffering.

News From Christian and Rayan Weaner (Teach Beyond in Senegal)

From Christian and Rayan's Recent Prayer Letter

As many of you saw, we made a flying trip back to the states for Christian's grandfather's funeral. It was a difficult decision to go back so quickly after we just arrived because it felt like we were finally settling into our daily routine and to the culture here in Dakar. However, the Lord abundantly blessed our trip as we were able to be with and mourn alongside several others who also loved and shared many memories with PawPaw.

We are so grateful to have had several days to spend with Christian's dad during this difficult time and remember together the beautiful legacy that PawPaw has left for us to carry on. Please continue to pray for Ed as he navigates life going forward. While we were on the East Coast, we also had the opportunity to visit my (Rayan's) brothers, sister-in-law, and our nephews in Virginia, which was a special addition to the trip.



Despite this unexpected venture, we also had many other exciting experiences back here in Dakar. We had the opportunity to go to our first Senegal football (American soccer) match with some of our friends and coworkers!

We also played in a spike ball tournament, I (Rayan) began preparing with our theatre team for our Christmas production, and we have continued building encouraging relationships with our newfound family at DA and in our neighborhood.

In addition to continual prayer for good health and transitioning back into life in Dakar, we ask that you join us in specifically lifting up our Georgia family and friends and all of those in states who have been terribly affected by Hurricane Helene this past week.

Our hearts are so heavy over the disasters and fears that so many have and will continue to face in the coming days.

That being said, this week is Spiritual Emphasis Week for our school, and we have been blessed to have a speaker and his wife come and join us to teach and lead us in worship.

One theme we have continually come back to this week can be found in the song "Battle Belongs," which we have sung with the students and staff many times. It's bridge says:

*Almighty fortress,
You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadow
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God*

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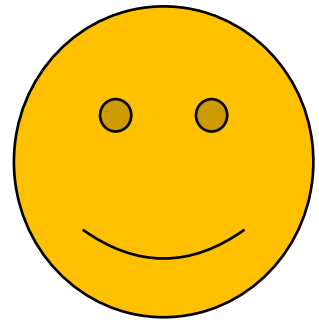
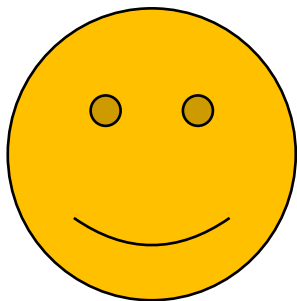
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*When I fight,
I will fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
Oh God, the Battle Belongs to You
Every fear I lay at your feet
I will sing through the night
Oh God, the battle belongs to You*

As the Lord has reminded us so many times this month about the importance of giving every battle over to Him, we encourage each of you to also give your worries and anxieties to our Heavenly Father because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

We are thankful that we have a God who has already been victorious and that He is worthy of our trust even in the most difficult of moments. Know that we are praying for each of you as well, and we'd love to hear about any prayer requests you may have.

All our love,
Christian and Rayan Weaner



Thanks to Susan Thompson for the following story :

There once was a woman who woke up one morning & noticed she had only 3 hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did & had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror, & noticed only 2 hairs on her head. "Hmmm..mm," she said. "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did & had a fun, fun day.

The following day she woke up & noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Yay!" she exclaimed gleefully. "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone is fighting some kind of battle. Love generously. Care deeply.

The Giving Corner

IN A SEASON OF GRATITUDE

The Interpretation and Stewardship Team, for Session, express their gratefulness for your generous support of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

When you respond to this year's Stewardship Campaign: "The Grace of Giving", your Session can plan for 2025 with a clear vision and hope for our future. As of October 16, 2024 we received 43 Estimate of Giving Cards with pledges totaling:

Church Operating Fund \$90,675.00
Mission Organizations/Missionaries \$56,122.00

If you have not returned your card yet and wish to do so – it is not too late! Session will finalize and approve the 2025 budget at their November meeting.

In addition to giving financial resources we are stewards of the time and talents God has blessed us to use here and in the world around us. In the words of William Waltham (written in 1858)

"We give thee but thine own, what e're the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee."

We leave you with Paul's words, linking the Old Testament (Psalms) with
the New Testament (2 Corinthians)

*"God loves a cheerful giver, and each person should give as they have decided in their hearts."
2 Corinthians 9:6-7*



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us



From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on October 15, 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 10/12/2024: Active Members (AM = CA):162*, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 56, Family Members: 52, Total: 270. *Changes in Membership include the following new members accepted into membership at a special session meeting on Sunday, October 6, 2024: Tammy Jean Harkleroad, Gary & Lynn Hughes, Darlene Palmer, Art & Peg Roth, Mary Sanders, and Stephen & Robin Whiteman.
- 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 Approved that an additional \$20,000 be added to the CD maturing on October 11, 2024. Funds will come out of the Church Operating Fund.
- o Approved the collection of disaster relief funds for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) during all Sundays in October to support the efforts of PDA to provide Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton Disaster Assistance through a designated account which supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant, ongoing response to hurricanes that affect the United States.
- o Approved that the church will match the disaster relief collection with funds from the Church Operating Fund (COF).
- o Approved a special collection from the congregation to support the supplies for the PDA clean-up buckets.
- o Approved a special collection from the congregation for the purchase of 35 turkeys for the Food Pantry.
- o Approved Hanging of the Greens on December 1 with a congregation dinner that evening.
- o Decided not to move forward with the solar panel project at this time. Session approved a motion to express appreciation to the Home Ministry team for all of their efforts in researching the solar panel project.
- o Approved the move to a single worship service at 10:00am with Sunday School starting at 9:00am, beginning with the first day of Advent on Sunday, December 1, 2024.
- o Approved a workshop entitled "Preparing for Resurrection" to be held on November 10 in the fellowship hall at 5pm with a potluck dinner. The workshop will discuss all of the issues and decisions that surround death and dying.
- o Approved a service of Christian marriage in our sanctuary on December 7 for Mackenzie Truan and Isaac Brady.
- o Approved two special Christmas Eve worship services at 7:00pm & 9:00pm.
- o Approved a mission trip through Lend a Hand (PDA) to New Bern, NC to support rebuilding from a Hurricane several years ago. The trip will be November 17-23, 2024. A meeting will be held on October 27 following 11am worship for interested participants. All costs will be paid by the Mission Endowment Fund.

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

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

- o Continuing to investigate sound absorption panels in the fellowship hall to help with the echo problem when the hall is full of people.

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

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

- o The September 2024 Balance Sheet and Cash Flow reports were approved as presented.
- o Collection of Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards is ongoing.
- o Lowes in Waynesboro has donated ten 5-gallon buckets to use for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) clean-up buckets.

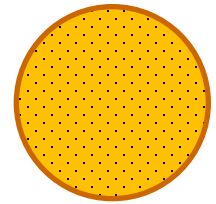
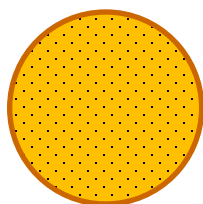
News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church

Team Members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynne Orner and Susan Nunamaker

- o Advent is December 1 - 24. There will be a collection of candles in the front of the church, which will replace the Advent wreath. The color of the candles will match the color of the candles in the Advent banner. More candles will be added each week. A removable shelf is being crafted for installation in the front of the sanctuary to display flowers and candles.
- o Hanging of the Greens will occur during worship on December 1 with a congregation dinner that evening in the fellowship hall.
- o All Saints Day will be observed on November 3.
- o Due to Hurricane Helene the 2024 marriage retreat at The Cove in North Carolina has been cancelled. The subsidy provided by the church for the retreat will be refunded.

News from the Clerk of Session:

- o Session accepted into membership Bradley and Katelyn Stephens by reaffirmation of faith at their meeting on Tuesday, October 15. There will be a public reception for them on Sunday, November 10 at the 11:00am worship service.
- o Approved the infant baptism of Evelyn Mikana Stephens, daughter of Bradley and Katelyn Stephens, to be conducted on Sunday, November 10 at the 11:00am worship service.
- o Your Clerk praises God for His faithfulness and the blessings that are being poured out on us for the prior two items!
- o Elder Phyllis Smith will represent our church as Elder Commissioner at the Presbytery of Carlisle meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 in Mechanicsburg, PA. Any ordained elder in the church is eligible to represent the church as an Elder Commissioner upon Session approval. You do not need to be an active Elder. If you are interested, please contact Dana McDonald, Clerk of Session.



FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2024

Church Operating Fund Income

Account Description	September— 2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$25,898.00	\$219,213.41	\$262,571.00
Other Income	\$2,003.09	\$41,959.76	\$63,415.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,911.09	\$261,173.17	\$325,986.00
Church Operating Fund Expenses			
Spiritual Life	\$525.85	\$2,878.14	\$14,750.00
Education & Nurture	\$0.00	\$26.40	\$3,400.00
Interpretation & Stewardship	\$0.00	\$5,148.00	\$5,648.00
Home Ministry	\$3,817.67	\$41,823.39	\$87,100.00
Church Administration	\$15,983.38	\$151,343.70	\$215,088.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,326.90	\$201,219.63	\$325,986.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	\$7,584.19	\$59,953.54	\$0.00

Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2024: \$95,625.99

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income

Account Description	September— 2024	Year-to-Date 2024	2024 Budget
Offering Income	\$7,887.00	\$73,410.06	\$91,200.00
Other Income	\$65.84	\$1,817.34	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,952.84	\$75,227.40	\$91,700.00

Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,182.53	\$75,528.88	\$91,700.00
INCOME minus EXPENSES	-\$4,229.69	-\$301.48	\$0.00

Missions Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/2024: \$2,177.77

Notable expenses for September: COF reflected 5 Sundays for offering income. MOM provided support to AC Prison Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Tender Care, Gettysburg Soup Kitchen, and Mission of Mercy.

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

Li'l Ripples November 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 Hours

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

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