

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

July 2017

Risk
Hope
—HEBREWS 10:23

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23*

I'm writing these reflection on the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, and I'm reminded of how differently people can view this day. For me this is a day to fill with activity, to make use of all the daylight I have; for my husband, it is a sad day because from now until December 21, each day is going to be a little shorter. If you are sick or grieving this day, it may feel interminable—a chore to finish instead of a gift to unwrap. This text from Hebrews, the theme of Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, reminds us that whatever our circumstances, God is faithful.

I like that Carol Sheppard, the Conference moderator used the verb “risk” with hope. If our plans are guaranteed, there's no need for hope. If all our endeavors depend on us, we are hopeless. For the past five weeks I have been reading and preaching on the Acts of the Apostles. It is an account of the early church and the first believers, but the thread which is woven through the entire account is the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the power of possibility which allows unbelievers to be changed into followers of Jesus Christ, and believers to have their imaginations opened to a more inclusive vision of the church.

I have been energized by the signs of hope which I witness at Creekside: squash plants in our community garden which are bigger every week; the children and adults who caused a commotion at Vacation Bible School; your response to the video on New Leadership; the ministries which are planned and imagined by our ministry teams. I believe the possibility we need to seize in the coming months is to discern how to channel our hopes into a unified vision for Creekside Church. That vision should be directed by the Holy Spirit, but here are some ways which you can participate:

- Prayerfully consider what possibilities for ministry we have at Creekside. What ideas and gifts do you bring? Where can you fit in, or what new thing could be created?
- Attend the Table Talks and hear what ministry teams are doing. Those dates are **June 25, July 9, and July 30.**
- Share your feedback in discussion around the tables, or in writing. How can you enroll others in your vision (instead of perpetuating a downward spiral)?
- Ask questions which enable others to share their vision and risk hope.

As we practice possibility, God will lead us step by step. Thank you for all the support you have shared with me and with your sisters and brothers in Christ. We walk by faith because we follow the One who is always faithful.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

June has been a time of settling into a new rhythm of ministry for me. I am grateful for those who have helped with my transition to solo ministry: Cal Graber and the Board, Worship Team, and the Deacons who are assimilating some of the work of pastoral care. It was great to be a part of Vacation Bible School and the enthusiasm of the children—and their teachers. Christian Ed Team did a great job of helping us see the possibilities of that ministry.

I will be traveling to Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 27 and returning to the office on July 5th. I will be serving as Annual Conference chaplain, staffing the Conference prayer room and praying for the health and welfare of individuals, congregations, and our denomination. Jan Nicodemus will be the delegate from Creekside. If you have not yet read her excellent summary of the business of Annual Conference, I encourage you to request it from the Creekside office. It is complex business and could have significant consequences for the church. We are grateful for Jan's willingness to serve, and pray for the listening and discernment of all those who represent our denomination.

I've appreciated reflection from members of the Board and other ministry teams on how to focus the vision of our congregation. This is generally a rewarding task to consider, and one which we need to always be praying about and revising. I appreciate the grace of those who understand it is a work which is always in progress.

I will be away for a wedding in July, and to watch the solar eclipse in August. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to experience friendships and the awesome work of God both at work and away from work. Thank you for your prayers.

Pastor Rosanna



TABLE TALKS: SPEAK POSSIBILITY

We hope you can attend the summer Table Talks! You will be hearing from ministry teams, and will have the chance to respond to the following questions. Worship Team has created a reminder for you to Speak Possibility: come and see!

June 25 Presentations by Church Board, Worship, Outreach/Followers of Faith

July 9 Presentations by Deacons, Gifts and Placement, Christian Education, Finance, Hospitality

July 30 Presentations by Property, Landscaping, Shalom, Media, Fellowship

Those present will respond to the following questions:

When has this team exceeded your expectations?

What possibilities would you like this team to consider in the future?

There may be other questions specific to each team; we'll hear as many of those as we have time for. Your responses will be summarized in the next Connection. Thank you!

Pastor Rosanna for Church Board

THANK YOU

Saying "Thank you" is simply not enough for the outpouring of support & compassion shared with us following the passing of Keith. We have been truly blessed beyond measure by your care of our family with your many phone calls, visits, cards of sympathy & support, prayers to bolster our spirits, sharing of stories about Keith, flowers & plants, and many, many hugs & shared tears.


We also want to thank everyone who helped in seen and unseen ways with the funeral and delicious luncheon. It was a great comfort to us and our extended family to be surrounded and served by our loving faith community.

Delicious dinners organized by the New Life families stuffed our tummies (and refrigerator), bringing the care of this church family into our home each evening. We also appreciated the company for those who could stay and share a meal with us.

We are so thankful to belong to this church, which has such loving leadership. Thank you to Pastor Rosanna who came to meet us immediately in our darkest moment administering hugs and heaping prayer upon our broken hearts. And thank you to Pastor Elizabeth who walked us so gently and lovingly through the path of planning, and provided great leadership for a beautiful service and tribute to Keith's life.

We have been truly blessed by your love, compassion, & sympathy. Thank you all for your continued prayers and concern.

*The family of Keith Vardaman,
Jan, Kurt & Lisa*

 <p>If you would like more information, you may contact Finance Team chair Roger Griffith or Treasurer Ted Noffsinger.</p>	<i>General Fund 2017</i>	INCOME	EXPENSES	2017 BUDGET ~\$189,240 total
	January	\$14,848.84	\$14,095.86	\$15,770.00
	February	\$13,067.25	\$12,411.65	\$15,770.00
	March	\$15,092.75	\$18,540.71	\$15,770.00
	April	\$14,773.57	\$14,933.01	\$15,770.00
	May	\$16,787.18	\$16,448.21	\$15,770.00
	YTD total	\$74,569.59	\$76,349.78	\$78,850.00

THANK YOU!

The Christian Education Team wants to express appreciation for all the people who made our Bible School a success. It takes many volunteers to make possibilities come true.

Thank you to Jessica Prah who led the organization of our Ocean Commotion Bible School.

Kathy Royer & Jan Weaver, Christian Education co-leaders





CAMP MACK CORNER

Please share with us!

You may have noticed that there is a lot happening at Camp Mack these days. It is exciting to be moving forward and improving our facilities and programs. We also know that we still have a number of challenges facing us, and so, we need to hear from you.

On Tuesday, July 11th and Wednesday, July 12th, we have scheduled listening sessions to hear from you. We want to know what you think about Camp Mack. What do you think is special? What could we do to improve? What do you see as the most important work we can do in the future?

We have lots of questions, and we really want to hear what you have to say. In order to give you as much opportunity as we can, we have scheduled a meeting at Camp Mack on July 11th at 7:00 PM and another meeting at the Kokomo Church of the Brethren (311 W. Lincoln Rd., Kokomo, IN 46902) on July 12th at 7:00pm. The meetings will both end promptly at 8:30pm. If you can, please let us know you are coming by sending a quick email to Mike@CampMack.org or call us 658-4831. Even if you didn't have a chance to let us know, come along anyway. We want your ideas! Thank you for your support, and blessings to you!

DON'T MISS THIS!

What: Mike Kauffman's retirement open house

When: August 27, 2017, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, with a short program at 3:30 pm

Where: Camp Mack's Kate Warstler Dining Room

Mike has given 38 years of service and ministry to Camp Mack. We would like to send him into his retirement with the best of wishes from the many people whose lives he has touched. Our wish is to collect written memories and pictures of his years at camp. Please send your thoughts or pictures to debra@campmack.org soon!

CAMP MACK FESTIVAL

Plan now to be a part of the Camp Mack Festival on October 7th. We are in need of a few more volunteers to help with the festival. First, we need someone who can observe children's activities this year and take over the planning of them in 2018. Churches and groups, contact us about Food Court ideas and what you would like to sell and serve. Also, please send us pictures and descriptions of larger items for the Camp Mack Auction so we can start forming a sale bill to advertise ahead of time. Thank you for helping to make this the biggest festival yet! *For questions regarding the festival, email Deb Roe at debra@campmack.org and she will forward your questions to the appropriate committee members.*

EVERENCE UPDATE

Everence has some exciting changes taking place. By late July, they will be launching an **updated website** with a new design and more user-friendly features. Check the new design later in July at everence.com! College student Elise Romero shares ways that **youth and college students with limited funds** can share with others in their community. Check out everence.com/Give-back-without-spending-money. Everence also provides information on a variety of **charitable choices** we may never have considered. Visit everence.com to check out these options and to learn of the many resources available to assist us in giving more than we could have imagined.

Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Learn more at everence.com.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

July 2017

HAPPENING IN JULY:

- 4** —Office closed for Independence Day
- 5** —Volunteer Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 11** —Fellowship Team, 9:00 am
- 12** —Finance Team, 8:00 am
—Feed the Children, 9:00-noon
- 16** —Celebration for Markley's 70th anniversary, during fellowship time
- 18** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 26** —Deadline for August Connection

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

YOU'RE INVITED!

To Our Creekside Church Family - please join us in celebrating Lee & Deana Markley's 70th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, July 16th.



Join us in the Gathering Area following church for cake and fellowship. Your care and friendship over the years have been such a blessing to our family. Thanks to each and every one of you. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, July 16.

Tim & Shelly Randall, Rhonda Dunlap, & Lori Akey

BIRTHDAYS

Birr, Jan	2
Randall, Shelly	7
Yoder, Maya	7
Gordon, Sandy	8
Toops, Jarrett	8
Harney, Christopher	9
Houser, Sara	10
Keenoy, Tyler	10
Muhnicket, Don	11
Graber, Cal	13
Hostetler, Jerry	13
Gilliland, Marilee	14
King, Jordan	14
Hendricks, Becca	16
Bryant, Lanette	17
Erbaugh, Zach	19
Randall, Madeleine	22
Vance, Kristen	23
Nicodemus, Ron	24
De Pue, Judy	25
Harney, Scott	27

ANNIVERSARIES

Arnold, Brian & Kaylee	6
Markley, Lee & Deana	6
Gilliland, Walt & Marilee	7
Prahl, Ryan & Jessica	8
Carlson, Kyle & Katy	14
Bueter, Adam & Stacey	17
Vance, Bryan & Jill	20
Kelsey, Cary & Betty	28

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



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The Creekside Connection is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.

