

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

November 2017

## *Remember and Give Thanks*

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 136*



November is the final month of the Christian year, a season of remembrance, celebration and gratitude. November 1 is All Saints' Day; at Creekside we take the Sunday closest to this day as a chance to reflect on the lives of those who have been part of our family of faith or had a significant impact on our lives. The month culminates with thanksgiving for the blessings of harvest and with Christ the King Sunday, when we proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord of time and eternity. Strands of memory and gratitude are the threads which are woven through this season.

Memory and gratitude are not only for November—they are a Christian heritage which is deeply rooted in the Jewish tradition and can be found throughout the Old Testament. Nowhere is this more evident than in the psalms—there are many examples, but Psalm 136 stands out. It is written with the refrain, “for his [God’s] steadfast love endures forever,” which is repeated in every verse. The first half of each verse proclaims God and the saving work of God in history: God is

Lord of Lords, God made the heavens and the earth, God rescued the people of Israel, brought them out of Egypt and led them in the wilderness; God seeks us, rescues us, and feeds us. Give thanks to God!

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have even more of this story to tell, and even more for which to be thankful: God heard the cries of his people, loved us, took on flesh, dwelt among us, taught and healed us, suffered and died for us, was resurrected to show the power of God. This is not in the psalms, but it is the foundation of our faith and what we proclaim in music and preaching and discipleship. In order to tell this story, we have to know this story and remember that it is our story, too. Memory leads naturally to gratitude: for God’s power and goodness and for our salvation and hope.

As the season turns and we approach the dark and chill of winter, we remember that God has been with us and God is with us still. We remember those we love who are no longer with us physically, but who live on in memory. We remember the work of Jesus Christ who gives the hope and promise of eternal life to everyone who believes in him. Thanks be to God!

In Christ—*Pastor Rosanna*

### **ADVENT**

Worship Team invites you to help decorate the church for Advent on Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 3-7 pm or until we are done. Let Maryann Zerbe know if you are interested in having a joyful time.

Mark your calendars for the annual Advent Dinner and performance by The Evergreen Singers on Sunday, December 10. More information to follow.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

This month was graced with a week away in Florida with my husband, Tim. I am renewed by that time away, and also blessed by the ministry teams and individuals who continue the work of Jesus at Creekside in my absence. Thank you.

Several teams at Creekside have begun planning for Advent, which begins on Sunday, December 3. Worship, Outreach, and Fellowship Teams are all planning special events during the season. The fourth Sunday of Advent is December 24: we will have worship as usual that morning at 9:30, and then a Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm that evening. The evening service will include carols, candlelighting, and communion. It is a wonderful way to observe the birth of Jesus Christ; I hope each of you can be there.

I have been energized by the work of our ministry teams and their commitment to Seek, Celebrate, and Share God's love. As we prepare for our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 5, please give prayerful consideration to where God is calling you to use your time, talents and tithes in 2018 as we continue the work of Jesus together.  
God bless you—*Pastor Rosanna*

## REVIEW OF CONGREGATIONAL ETHICS PAPER FROM THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Every 5 years congregations are asked to review the *Congregational Ethics Paper of the Church of the Brethren*. This document provides guidance for us to be sure we are using best practices in our relationships in congregational life. *Even congregations with the best intentions can benefit from regular review.* This also has bearing on our understanding and the setting of appropriate expectations and boundaries when a retired pastor such as Betty Kelsey plans to return to congregational life in her church.

With these things in mind the Creekside Shalom team has asked Becky Hollenberg and Nick Kauffman from the Northern Indiana District Church of the Brethren Shalom Team to work with us on the guidelines presented in the *Congregational Ethics Paper of the Church of the Brethren*. We are planning for this workshop to occur on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> as a Table Talk in the Gathering Area from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend. More details to follow.

**Shalom Team:** Cary Kelsey (leader), Anne Griffith, Bill Pletcher, Jan Nicodemus, Pastor Rosanna



### SEED TO FEED GARDEN REPORT

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Creekside's Seed to Feed Garden: tilling, planting, weeding, picking, cleaning, processing, and cooking for garden workers! The garden has been tilled and planted with a cover crop for the winter. Creekside hosted a Potluck for Seed to Feed workers on October 13. About 60 garden workers from around the area were here, and Betty Yoder cooked sloppy joes. Creekside's hospitality was much appreciated!

Here are some final numbers from CCS Seed to Feed Coordinator, Morgan Short:

#### Creekside Garden

Types of produce: cucumber, pepper, summer squash, winter squash, tomato  
Pounds of produce 2017: 7,722.50  
Pounds of produce to date (2014-2017): 20,625.50  
USDA servings of produce: 58,542

#### Seed to Feed Gardens collectively

Number of gardens: 12  
Total servings of product 2017: 262,495  
Est. number of people impacted: 5,600 per month  
Pounds of Produce to date (2012-2017): 228,658

Thanks for this great ministry to our community. —*Pastor Rosanna*

## EVERENCE UPDATE

**Everence** members are invited to help **Everence** and *Feed My Starving Children* pack meals on Nov. 11, 2017, 9-11am, at Nappanee Missionary Church. Each volunteer may select one of the following local food pantries to receive a \$100 donation: CCS (Elkhart), The Window (Goshen), Middlebury Food Pantry, Family Christian Development Center (Nappanee), Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County (South Bend). Visit [everence.com/michiana](http://everence.com/michiana) for more details.  
*Jan Nicodemus, Creekside's Everence Advocate*

# November 2017

## HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER:

- 1** —(No Volunteer Fellowship)
- 3** —District Board Retreat at Creekside, 6-8pm
- 4** —District Board Retreat at Creekside, 8am-3pm
- 5** —*Daylight Saving Time ends*  
—Congregational Business Meeting, 10:45 am
- 6** —Candy making, 1:00 pm
- 8** —Feed the Children, 9:00-noon  
—Finance Team, 9:30 am  
—Choir, 7:00 pm
- 12** —Choir, 8:45 am
- 14** —Fellowship Team, 9:00 am  
—Cookie baking, 6:00 pm
- 15** —Choir, 7:00 pm
- 19** —Choir, 8:45 am
- 20** —*Deadline for December Connection*
- 21** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 23** —*Thanksgiving*
- 28** —Advent decorating
- 29** —Choir, 7:00 pm

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	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		

## BIRTHDAYS

- Schmucker, Beth 5
- Buchanan, Esther 7
- Arnold, Maddison 7
- Hoke, Lodema 7
- Marcin, Tiara 7
- Shultz, Wylan 7
- Prahl, Jessica 8
- Emmons, Claudette 9
- Griffith, Anne 12
- Vardaman, Lisa 16
- Arnold, Brian 20
- Barwick, Cathy 24
- Rodgers, Valerie 28
- Cripe, Steve 30

## ANNIVERSARIES

- Miller, Myron & Sandy 3
- Pletcher, Bill & Rosemary 12
- Ellis, Donald & Vicki 27
- Vance, Jeff & Gail 29



### COOKIE/CANDY WALK December 9

It's time to start baking for the holidays! Please plan to invite your friends and family to Creekside's Cookie/Candy Walk on **Saturday, December 9**. This is a great way to meet neighbors and friends, and funds raised will help Followers of Faith to support world outreach projects in 2018.

If you'd like to bake or decorate cookies with folks from Creekside, come to the church at **Tues., Nov. 14 at 6:00pm**. Bring your favorite cookie dough and your own cookie sheets. There will be sugar cookie cut-outs already baked which we can decorate together. We may even look the other way if you try a free sample. We will freeze these cookies until December.

Thank you for your help with the Cookie Walk! —*Pastor Rosanna for Karen Kohler and Followers of Faith*

**FINANCIAL REPORT** A recent financial summary can be found in your Congregational Business Meeting folder.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sharon & Don Mockler on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Taya Ann Toros, on Sept. 27, 2017. Taya is the daughter of Brogan Bailey & Louie Toros of San Diego.

# *The Creekside Connection*

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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.*

