

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

May 2018



Pentecost: A season with a reason

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

The month of May brings hope, promise, and a flurry of activity: gardening and planting, spring sports, proms, graduations, open houses, camping, and family gatherings. Even if we're not involved in all of these things, we're probably aware of others who are. There is a corresponding season in the Christian year: the season of Pentecost. This year the day of Pentecost is May 20. You may recognize the root word "pente," which means 5: Pentecost was a Jewish holiday that was 50 days after Passover. Passover and Easter are linked in the Christian calendar; Pentecost is 50 days from Easter (including Easter Sunday), or seven weeks after Easter. Pentecost Sunday always falls between mid-May and early June.

Pentecost is the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles as they were praying in an upper room in Jerusalem. It's a Sunday when we celebrate the work and the power and the joy of the Spirit, and the message which people from many nations each heard in their own mother tongue. Pentecost is an exciting day, and there will be some special things during our worship service that day; but Pentecost is not only a day, it is the beginning of a season.

Like the activity and growth which we see in the natural world, the season of Pentecost is a time when the church focuses on the mission, evangelism and growth which are the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We remember how the apostles went from being discouraged and bewildered to preaching and teaching and healing and bringing converts to the Way of Jesus Christ. It is a dramatic story, and one which we pray will be part of the story at Creekside Church. Pentecost is the longest season of the Christian year—it lasts into November and ends with Advent, when we look forward to the birth of Jesus.

This May, we will have a unique opportunity to begin a season of mission and ministry. Creekside has been chosen to receive a Community Ministry Grant through the Center for Congregations. Ron Nicodemus, Diane Lund and I will attend a Learning Day in Indianapolis on May 17 with representatives from the other congregations around the state who will be oriented to community ministry. This will be the beginning of a three-year process of listening, learning, and working with people outside of Creekside to minister in our community. We will need leadership, prayer, and discernment from a broad representation at Creekside, both to listen for what we are being called to do, and to have frank conversations about ministries which we can release or lay aside during this season, so that we can focus on the opportunities of community ministry. Excitement, apprehension, risk, and joy are all part of the Pentecost narrative, and part of where the great Commission from Matthew 28 still challenges us to go today.

Please be in prayer for leaders and members at Creekside as the Spirit leads us into our neighborhood and community.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

PASTOR'S REPORT

My heartfelt thanks to the many people who contributed to Holy Week and Easter celebrations at Creekside! It was a meaningful week and a beautiful day. If I had known that the flowers on the chancel that morning would be the only things blooming for the next month, I would have taken even more time to appreciate them. Thanks to those from Landscape Team, especially Judy and Stephen De Pue, who have been working on the grounds and Prayer Garden to get them ready for spring.

Tim and I were delighted to share our family news that our daughter Becca and her husband Stephen Hendricks are expecting a baby in October. Stephen and Becca live in South Bend. Thanks for sharing that joy with us, and for your prayers for our family.

I was at a conference on Biblical Authority at the beginning of this week. I appreciate my colleagues from Church of the Brethren congregations in Indiana and the conversations we were able to share.

You will be hearing more in this Connection newsletter and elsewhere about Creekside's participation in a Community Ministry Grant through the Center for Congregations. The Center is part of the Lilly Foundation, and also sponsors educational events for faith-based groups in Indiana. In March, Ron Nicodemus and I part of a live on-line event, Strategic Planning You Can Actually Use, and on April 19, Ron, David and Lodema Hoke, Lisa Vardaman and administrative assistant Marita Barsoda attended a day-long workshop on Effective Communication. We are fortunate to have such excellent resources available through the Center for Congregations.

Wishing you joy this Eastertide! Christ is risen indeed!
Pastor Rosanna

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The April 17 meeting began with a devotional called "Chili Pot." Everybody has their own special way to make a pot of chili. The pot often includes: tomatoes, hamburger, onions, peppers, and the secret ingredients are a multitude of spices. These are all added together and allowed to simmer until our mouths water and the aroma is too hard to resist. The feast begins. Now what does this have to do with the church? If one of the above ingredients is left out, the chili will be less than its best.

Creekside is made up of people with many skills, gifts and talents. For our community Ministry to be the best, we need each of you. It's exciting to know that Creekside has been selected by the Center for Congregations to participate in the Community Ministry Grant. We have been given an opportunity to share the sweet aroma of God with our community in a new and special way. It can't be done just by the Board, just by Pastor Rosanna, or just by any one of our teams. All of us will need to get involved and contribute our God given talents. God deserves our best.

The Board also received reports from the following teams: Worship, Gifts and Placement, Media, and the Media Upgrade Teams. We continued to receive a report from Judy De Pue about the special plan God has for small churches. We are not expected to compete with the mega churches, but as a small church, whatever we do must be done exceptionally well and to the best of our abilities.

Please keep in mind that there are still seats available to go to the Cincinnati Annual Conference from July 6-9 for a cost of only \$250 including transportation, registration, and double occupancy hotel. Register by May 30 by calling the church office at 574-875-7000.

Ron Nicodemus, for the Church Board

EVERENCE

When it comes to your financial future, it's important to plan for the journey. Your Everence team will work with you to create a financial plan that matches your values and helps you reach your goals. Enjoy increased financial understanding and confidence with their custom planning services and tools. Learn more at everence.com/michiana.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 6

Everyone is invited to Creekside's spring congregational meeting on Sunday, May 6 following worship in the Gathering Area. Folders with team reports, financials, and the agenda were placed in mailboxes last week. Please review the material before May 6. You will have the opportunity to ask questions at the meeting, but you are encouraged to contact team leaders, Board members or Pastor Rosanna before then with questions or concerns.

Non-members are warmly invited to participate in the listening and discussion; this is a great way for anyone to hear about what is happening at Creekside. There are no items which require a vote on the agenda of this meeting. Fellowship Team is providing snacks during the meeting time. Adult Sunday School classes will not meet that day.

Pastor Rosanna for Church Board

PENTECOST MAY 20

Pentecost, the celebration of the Holy Spirit's coming to the apostles, is Sunday, May 20. You are invited to be part of the visual for worship that day by wearing red, yellow, orange or white: the colors associated with fire, joy, and the Spirit.

You may also see something different in the Worship Center that day. Pay attention to see if you notice a physical representation of the Spirit among us.

Thank you for all the ways that you represent the body of Christ.

Pastor Rosanna for Worship Team

THOUGHTS FROM RON

Yippee! Summer is coming and it can't be too soon for me.

Summer reminds me of a job I had in the summers while I was in college. I worked on the production line in a Borden's Ice Cream factory. My job was to stand at the end of a conveyor belt catching freshly made ice cream, placing it in a wire basket and stacking the baskets to allow the ice cream to freeze. Oh, I almost forgot, I was working in a freezer with a -20 degree temperature so obviously I kept moving. Occasionally, however, the line did get ahead of me and the soft ice cream was squeezed at the end of the line and squished all over the place. (Then, I had to stop the line and clean it up. The easiest way was to eat all the ice cream I could. Don't ask me how much weight I gained that summer.) The job would have been much easier and less ice cream would have been lost if I hadn't been expected to do this alone.

Some jobs aren't meant to be done alone. There is an old African Proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child."

To paraphrase the words of Paul in Ephesians Chapter 4: Paul says for the equipping of saints for work of service it takes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

What does this have to do with the work needing to be done at Creekside to share God's message? It takes a whole "village" of Christians to get the message out. An English writer once wrote, "Many hands make light work."

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you [and Creekside] come alive, and go do that, because the world needs more people [and Creekside] that have come alive." John Eldredge

There is a cheer we probably have all yelled at some sporting event.

Okay Creekside, "LET'S GET FIRED UP, LET'S GET FIRED UP, LET'S GET FIRED UP!!!!"

Ron Nicodemus, Church Board Chair

**232rd RECORDED ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
JULY 4-8, 2018 IN CINCINNATI, OHIO**



It is exciting to anticipate attending another Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. It is particularly exciting this year as we look forward to having our Pastor speak at the Friday evening service on the theme, "We are Called to Worship." Pastor Rosanna's sermon is entitled, "Read All Over".

Samuel Sarpiya, pastor of the Rockford Community Church of the Brethren in Rockford, IL, will serve as our Moderator. You are encouraged to be in prayer for our upcoming Annual Conference. The theme for this year is *Living Parables* (Matthew 9:35-38). A common description of a parable is that it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Moderator Sarpiya is challenging us to work for peace, reconciliation and transformation of all things visible and invisible. As *Living Parables*, Christ calls us to learn how to share our lives in grace with others. This kind of sharing is not about the telling of information but about *being present* in a world that so desperately needs to see Christ in action.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Delegate

DETAILS FOR BUS TRIP TO CINCINNATI

The total cost for the bus trip to Annual Conference on July 6-8 is \$250/person. The trip is sponsored by Creekside Church of the Brethren. The cost covers:

- Transportation in 15 passenger Enterprise rental van.
- Two nights (double occupancy) in the Millennium Hotel across the street from Convention Center.
- Conference registration. This includes: Friday Evening Worship (speaker Rosanna McFadden)*
Entrance into Exhibit Hall Saturday
Saturday morning and afternoon Business Sessions
Saturday evening Worship*
Saturday evening Insight Sessions
Sunday Morning Worship*

**Note that conference registration is encouraged but not required if you only attend worship services.*

To register call the Creekside office (875-7800) or Ron Nicodemus (574-340-0201, demusr@att.net). **Registration and \$50 deposit due by May 30, 2017.** We need a minimum of 10 participants.



CAMP MACK CORNER

THANK YOU to all who volunteered during March & April.

APPLICATIONS NEEDED: We need 7 Summer staff, a Waterfront Director, 42 counselors, and healthcare persons this summer. Contact us if interested.

MAY OPPORTUNITIES:

May 3-5 Birdwatcher's Retreat: for all ages; 6:30p Thurs. to 2p. Sat.; anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. \$116 for 2 nights & 5 meals and \$73 for 1 night and 2 meals

May 6 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run: Kids' Fun Run at 2:30p, 5K begins at 3:00p. \$25 for 5K, \$15 for Kids' Fun Run. Have a great time outdoors while raising money for camp improvements.

May 7-10 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat: 3 p.m. Mon. – 1:00 p.m. Thurs. A great time of fun & inspiration for older adults. \$172 per person. \$116 if not staying overnight.

May 11-12 Counselor/CIT Training: 7p Fri. – 4p Sat.

May 31- June 2 South Central Indiana Women's Camp: 4:00p Thurs to 1:30p Sat. \$120 for the retreat. Verna Davis will be the speaker. Please contact the South/Central District office at 260-982-8805 for more information.

UPCOMING GET-A-WAY DAYS Check the website for a listing of programs, descriptions, and fees: May 5 Canoe the St Joe River, May 5 Dutch Oven Cooking, June 2 Campfire Jam

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray daily for: Camp Staff, Counselors, Campers.

May 2018

| 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 | 31 | | |

HAPPENING IN MAY:

- 2** —Volunteer Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 3** —Wired Word, 11:30-1:00, bring a lunch
- 6** —Congregational Business Meeting, 10:45 am
- 7** —Finance, 9:30 am
- 12** —Kids' Activity: Crafts for Mom, 10-11:30am
- 15** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 17** —Wired Word, 11:30-1:00, bring a lunch
- 20** —Pentecost
—Birthday Lunch Carry-in



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Brenneman, Wesley | 6 |
| Prahl, Ryan | 6 |
| Garcia, Danielle | 7 |
| Justiniano, Myrtis | 10 |
| McFadden, Rosanna | 13 |
| Arnold, Gary | 18 |
| Ludlow, Larry | 19 |
| Rodgers, Rick | 20 |
| Vance, Jeff | 20 |
| Bode, Ray | 24 |
| Connett, Crystal | 24 |
| Ehret, Larry | 26 |
| Griffith, Roger | 26 |
| Schmucker, Leonard | 27 |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Connett, Justin & Crystal | 4 |
| Ludlow, Larry & Eileen | 8 |
| Arnold, Gary & Pauline | 14 |
| Kohler, Joe & Karen | 14 |
| Schmucker, Chris & Beth | 14 |
| Bollinger, Lynn & Grace | 26 |
| Griffith, Roger & Anne | 27 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH!

Sunday, May 20 is Pentecost—the day we celebrate the Spirit descending on the apostles and the birth of the church. There will be a birthday lunch that day to celebrate all the members of the body of Christ at Creekside. This will be a carry-in meal sponsored by Fellowship Team. Please bring your own table service and a main dish, vegetable or salad to share. Drinks and birthday cake will be provided! You'll have the opportunity to sit with other folks who were born in the same season as you.

Thank you for celebrating the birth of the church as well as each of its members.
Pastor Rosanna, for Fellowship Team

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.

