

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

January 2019

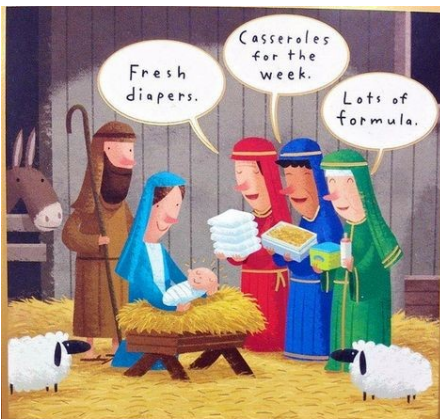
Wise and Otherwise

*On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure chests they offered him gifts. Matthew 2:11a*

There has long been speculation—usually comedic—about what a different group of people might have brought as gifts for the infant Jesus. Clearly the magi in Matthew’s gospel tilt toward the ceremonial, rather than the practical; gold, frankincense and myrrh might seem out-of-place in a stable.

I don’t know what gift-giving is like for you and your families. In my family of origin it was always a bit fraught; my memory is that we kids often got what our parents thought we *ought* to have, rather than what we actually wanted: “Gee, a graphing calculator. Thanks.” The way to avoid feeling deflated when you have to act grateful for a gift you didn’t really want is for there to be conversation between the giver and the receiver. What do you want? What do you need? What do you wish you had? are good questions to begin with. Of course, most givers don’t have limitless resources, so realistic expectations ought to be part of those conversations, too.

What I am describing is part of our Community Ministry Grant process. Creekside is not receiving a gift from the Center for Congregations—it is more like a scholarship which will take hard work. Nor are we handing out gifts to our community—we are partnering with them in mutual ministry. But part of that process is having conversation about what is needed in our community and what resources we have at Creekside, rather than us coming up with what we think our community ought to have and doing that for them.



*After the Three Wise Men left,
the Three Wisest Women arrived.*

The wise men in Matthew’s gospel didn’t have a chance to consult Jesus or his parents before they arrived, of course. They knew what gifts would be fit for a king, and that’s what they brought. That’s not a bad place to begin, by bringing the best that we have. Whether it’s myrrh from the wise men, or clean diapers from the wise women, we start with what we already know and with what we already have, and we offer it to Jesus. Our gifts may be wildly extravagant, but they don’t need to be. A simple, practical, sincere expression of care may be what others want and need the most.

What gift do you have to offer to Jesus for the sake of our ministry at Creekside?

May we be blessed as we seek Jesus, and kneel before him.
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

I have shared a comment from a church consultant which resonated with me — I think it bears repeating. She said “If Easter is the Super Bowl, than Advent is the play-offs.” I am happy to report that after a busy season, our team has won! I knew it.

I have many thank-yous to share: first to Tim and my family for their patience with a schedule which is not always predictable. Thanks to the Outreach Team for their vision of Advent donations to our church family, neighborhood, community and world. The children’s stories and your participation were inspiring. A meaningful part of the season for me was visiting members who were in the hospital or unable to join us for worship and to hear how much they value the fellowship of their church family. It was especially meaningful to me to witness or hear about your visits to Creekside friends, not only those of you who delivered poinsettias from the Outreach Team, but those who made visits out of long-standing connections and friendships. God bless you.

Thanks to all of those who helped with the Christmas Eve service: Maryann Zerbe and the Worship team, ushers, deacons, readers, Media Center and musicians. The fellowship time afterward is something which some of our young adults look forward to all year. The food was delicious, and the folks who took time from their Christmas Eve celebrations to stay afterward and clean up are much appreciated.

Thank you for your gifts to the Creekside staff: they were a generous and unexpected addition to the season. Your additional monetary gifts to Creekside Church will help us to meet our obligations for 2018 and start off the new year on firm financial footing. We will seek to use them as best we can for the glory of God and our neighbor’s good.

Praise, blessing and joy for 2019! We look forward to a new year and experiencing how God will grow our small beginnings in ministry and faithfulness.

God bless you—
Pastor Rosanna

THOUGHTS FROM RON

Happy New Year! The good news is the days are getting longer, but the bad news is we still have 79 days ‘til Spring on March 20th.

Someone once said that “Every day starts with a sunrise, but it's what we do before the sun sets that counts.” Mother Teresa said, “Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.” In the December Thoughts I suggested that we give “priceless gifts wrapped in love.” No doubt these gifts provided joy for you and those to whom they were given. Check out the bear on the usher's table and share those joys with all of us and who knows, giving joyously may become contagious.

It has been suggested that in 2019 we live out the following bit of wisdom:

“Live your life so the preacher won't have to lie at your funeral...

I still believe in Amazing Grace

That there's Power in the Blood

That He Walks With Me and Talks With Me

And that Because He Lives

I can face tomorrow because of The Old Rugged Cross.”

Know and believe that God has a special blessing for each one of us and Creekside in 2019.

I love you and God loves you, too.
Ron Nicodemus, 2019 Church Board Chair

P.S. Members of the 2019 Church Board are Ron Nicodemus (Board Chair), Larry Ford (Assistant Board Chair), Ted Noffsinger, (Treasurer), Cal Graber, David Hoke, Becky Miller, Leonard Schmucker

EPIPHANY JANUARY 6

Epiphany is the celebration of the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus. The gospel of Matthew doesn't tell us how many wise men arrived, but it does note what gifts they brought: gold, frankincense and myrrh (this is a good Scrabble word, as well as natural resin used medicinally and to purify the dead). In Christian countries around the world, Epiphany or Three Kings' Day is the day when gifts are given to family members, and especially to children. Epiphany is twelve days after Christmas: the days between Christmas and Epiphany are the Twelve Days of Christmas referred to in the familiar English carol.

Creekside will eschew the maids a milking and lords a leaping and serve a special treat during our fellowship time on January 6: there will be three cakes, each of which will contain a golden coin: if you find a coin in your piece of cake, see Pastor Rosanna for your Epiphany gift. If you don't find a coin, you can still savor an excellent piece of cake made by one of our talented Creekside bakers.

Thanks to our gifted members and bakers. Happy Epiphany!
Pastor Rosanna for Fellowship Team

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

It is the time of year when weather conditions can affect our plans: even plans for Sunday morning worship. You should always use your own judgement about what driving feels safe for you; here is a reminder of the weather cancellation policy for Creekside:

We will cancel Sunday worship if there is a weather emergency or travel ban posted for Elkhart County, or if the Property Team and Pastor Rosanna decide that conditions are unsafe. We will make that decision no later than 8:00am Sunday morning, and by Saturday evening, if possible. In the case of a weather cancellation, we will inform you in the following ways:

- Posting on Creekside website, creeksideconnected.com
- Email (to Phone Tree email list)
- Phone Tree (if possible)
- Message on Creekside's office phone: you may call 875-7800 and listen to the recorded message.
- We will try to inform local TV and radio stations, but suggest you check Creekside sources first.

We will NOT send a notification if worship is happening as planned at 9:30am.

Pastor Rosanna and Property Team

VALET PARKING

Creekside offers valet parking on Sunday mornings that our parking lot is snowy or icy. Look for the green flag outside the front doors as you pull in the parking lot: if the flag is out, drive up to the front doors and someone will park your car for you.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for those who are willing to help with parking; we'd like to have 1-2 people per Sunday. Plan to arrive by 8:15am if it is snowy or icy; you should put out the green flag, clear sidewalks and sprinkle salt as needed. Snow shovels and salt are just inside the front doors.

Thank you for this service to Creekside members and guests!
Pastor Rosanna for Property Team

THANK YOU!

I just want to say a big "Thank You" to you and all who have prayed for me these last few weeks and months! God has been good and we are thankful for all the prayers and concerns and your friendship from all! Please keep praying!

Love in Christ, Pam and Terry Schmucker

January 2019

HAPPENING IN JANUARY:

- 1** —Office closed
- 8** —Financial Team, 9:30 am
- 10** —Outreach Team, 6:30 pm
- 15** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 16** —Feed the Children, 9:00-noon
—Christian Education, 5:30 pm
- 20** —Jeff Vance's Deacon Group, noon

Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
		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		

BIRTHDAYS

Graber, Jean Mann	1
Kohler, Karen	1
Prahl, Benjamin	2
Ramos, Bertha	6
Gall, Carver DeWitt	7
Cooper, Jenny	8
Rodriguez, Zoey	12
Pletcher, Rosemary	13
Houston, Esther	20
Colver, Carolyn	23
Vardaman, Janet	23
Kelsey, Betty	27
Yoder, Anika	27
Walters, Reid	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Graber, Cal & Jean	15
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CAMP MACK CORNER

Camp Reps, mark your calendars! Plan to attend the **Camp Rep Meeting** on *January 12*, from *9:00 to 11:30 a.m* at **either** Camp Mack or the Union Grove CoB in Muncie. Please RSVP to Jessk@campmack.org. *Please send a substitute if you are unable to attend.*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP:

- February Quilt Retreat Feb. 14-17
- Scrapbooking Retreat Feb. 21-24
- Team Leader Training March 2
- Annual Dinner March 8
- FLYE Weekend March 8-9
- Volunteer Work Days March 11-13
- Mother Daughter Retreat March 23-24

Apply online or call/email camp to join our 2018 Summer Staff. Must be 18 or older, with a heart for the ministry at Camp Mack. Or, consider being a Team Leader or counselor this summer to enrich the young lives at Camp Mack. Contact Jessica Kreider to check camp's needs: 658-4831, jessk@campmack.org

UPCOMING GET-A-WAY DAYS:

- February 11 Eagle Watch
- February 23 Scrapbooking
- February 23 Board Games

Register at campmack.org or 574-658-4831.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for committed summer staff and camp counselors.

EVERENCE

Everence works with Creekside to help us find ways to be more generous and better stewards, not only as a congregation but individually.

As we look forward to 2019, we feel excitement and anticipation about what lies ahead. You are encouraged to contact Everence (everence.com or 574-533-9515) for assistance in integrating your finances with your faith, which includes discovering and planning for God's purpose for your life, living responsibly, preparing for the future and giving generously. Becoming an effective steward of our gifts is a lifelong journey. Let's consider what might be coming in 2019 with joyful expectation!

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

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.

