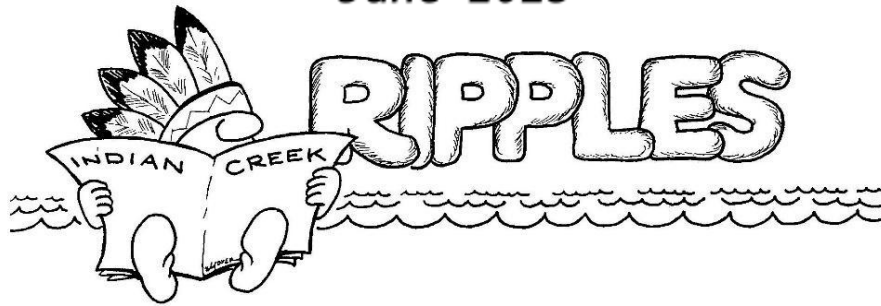


June 2025



Indian Creek Church of the Brethren  
821 Main Street, Harleysville, PA 19438

## A Short Devotional on Love

### INSIDE...

Search Committee updates  
Nurture Nook  
Youth Group News  
Reflections on South Sudan  
Deacons Ministry  
Birthdays

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

### Church Staff

**Tim Moyer**  
Interim Pastor

**Courtney Covell**  
Administrative Assistant

**Don Ziegler**  
Custodian

**Kathy Moyer**  
Wee Folk Director/Teacher

**Heather Thomsen**  
Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

Written by Lucille Williams, edited and submitted by Courtney Covell

*Read John 13:34-35*

Love. Jesus commands us to love. But what does this look like? How do you love your obnoxious neighbor who has “those” yard signs or is constantly partaking in loud outdoor activities? How do you love the child who is talking back? How do you love the spouse who is too tired to talk or spend time with you?

Let's first focus on what the verse in John 13 does not say. It does not say that people will know you are My disciples by your knowledge of the Bible, by continually flaunting how your study of the Bible impresses others, because you are in two Bible studies or are leading one and talk about how much you know and want to impart to others.

Yes, it is critically important that we read, understand, and know God's Word. Critical! But knowing and doing are two different things. In James 1:22 it says, “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.” We can't just have knowledge, we must have and show love. “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Knowledge is great but if we use that knowledge to demean or stomp on another are we showing love?

Now back to the opening question, how do we show love to those who might irritate us? We show love and grace by treating them the way we would want to be treated. “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

Each day our feet hit the ground we have a choice. We can be kind and loving or we can be rude and have ill will toward others. We can use our time for good or we can use our time to show another how much we love them by showing respect with our words and our actions. We have a choice, we can choose love.

Let's remember 1 Corinthians 13:13 – “But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” When we love the way Christ commands our church doors will fling open with floods of people who want to be a part of God's love and community. When we remove deceit, and slander, and gossip from our lips and instead choose to love we exemplify who God is. We must destroy the schemes of the devil and prevail in love.

One final question: Who do you need to love better? Maybe it's yourself first. Maybe it's your spouse. Maybe it's our Lord. Maybe it's a friend or family member.

“...The greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13). Choose love. 1 Corinthians 13:8 – “Love never fails.”

## Search Committee Update

There are no updates from the search committee.

Blessings,  
Sarah

## Nurture Nook

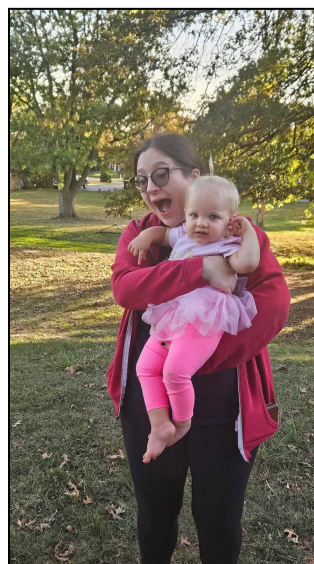
Article and pictures by Donna Parcell

This month the Nurture team would like to honor and recognize our graduate - Helen Spigel! Helen graduated from Montgomery County Community College in May with an associates degree in psychology.

Some of Helen's favorite classes included Abnormal Psychology because of the interesting content, and Research Methods of Psychology. While the Research Methods class was hard and she didn't particularly like it while she was in the thick of it, in the end she realized how valuable it was.

Helen had a lot of awesome professors. Her math professor made math fun, which is not a normal thing for her! Her biology professor was tough, but kind, and the government class was hard but her professor was really there for her. Helen says that everyone should go to Montco. It was one of the best decisions of her life for her education. It saved her a lot of money, plus she had an awesome time and gained a valuable education.

Helen plans to spend the summer connecting with friends and family, and earning some money to continue her education. She enjoys cooking, baking, and crocheting. Helen likes to be outside and finds it spiritual. In the fall she will attend West Chester University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Psychology.





# Youth Group News

Article and pictures by Donna Parcell

In May, the youth focused on National Youth Sunday! Jadon Bateman, Joseph Grau, Kadlin Grau, Casper Spigel, and Nathan Stevens all participated in the worship service. They offered prayers, led the call to worship, read scripture, performed a scripture jam, and acted out an impromptu skit for the children's story.

The theme was Embodying Our Gifts, and the youth focused on the different gifts that each of us has to offer. As part of the service they had a "reverse offering" where they handed out different colored glass stones, and described how each one was different and the light shines through each one differently. Everyone got to take one home and be reminded that in the same way we are each unique and the light of God shines through each of us in a unique way.

We thanked the congregation for their gift of encouragement, and handed out note cards to be written to the youth attending the workcamp. The youth are very encouraged by reading notes from home as they serve others.



Following the service, we celebrated the youth with a taco bar. We were excited to have twice as many people attend than who signed up! God provided and there was enough food to go around. Everyone enjoyed the festive decorations, and Joseph particularly rocked the taco hat!

Thanks so much to everyone who attended and supported our youth!



## Reflections on South Sudan

Article and pictures by Donna Parcell

In February of this year, I was part of a Church of the Brethren delegation to South Sudan. The group was led by Roger and Carolyn Schrock, former missionaries to South Sudan. Also in the group was Sharon Norton, the new executive director of Global Missions, and George Barnhart. We were hosted by Athanasus Ungang who has been the CoB global missions worker in Torit, South Sudan since 2011.



Our group flew into Juba, the capital of South Sudan, and spent a few days acclimating and visiting with local officials. Then began the long and bumpy road to Torit. Once in Torit, we stayed at Athanasus' house and visited the projects that he has been working on. We visited Kohr English, a local community that has embraced the CoB values. We were honored to worship with them on Sunday, and Sharon was thrilled to be able to preach. The energy of their worship is beyond compare!



We visited a farm that Athanasus has been working on to grow food for the community. The land was donated by a woman named Rose. Our visit to the farm was delayed due to "insecurity," which is another word for violence in the area. We had to trust our host to let us know when it was safe to travel. While we waited in Torit, we visited the local school and prison. Once we were finally able to travel to the farm, we saw the crops that were being harvested. Rose and Athanasus were so proud of their work!



We were excited to visit the Upuo village where Athanasus is helping to start a church. This is a very remote village; we were only the second group of white women that they had ever seen. They were excited to show us their village, including the frame of the church they are currently building. We met with the chief and the elders of the tribe, and, even in their poverty, they cooked us a meal.





There were many difficult parts of the trip, including visits to 2 different IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps. The first one was in Magwi, and had just been formed at a school due to tribal fighting. The people's entire village was burned, and several thousand were taking shelter at the small school. Our hearts were broken when speaking with them, and we arranged for some Global Missions aid.



The second IDP camp was the Mangateen camp, near Juba. We met with the local leaders who explained their struggles and challenges. We were particularly impressed with a young lady who stood up and adamantly and articulately spoke about how she and young women like her had a lot to offer and should be given a chance. After our meeting, I was given a tour of the camp. We were deeply moved and were also able to give them some financial aid.



Unfortunately the violence has escalated in South Sudan. A hospital was recently bombed, which of course is illegal, but that doesn't seem to matter. The UN is very concerned about the level of violence. It is just so heartbreaking. Athanasus said that he doesn't know if they will ever see peace; violence and tribal wars are so much a part of their culture and history that it will take generations to overcome. The withdrawal of US Aid has added significantly to the turmoil.

Traveling to South Sudan is difficult on many levels, but the rewards are many. The travel is difficult, the conditions are difficult, but the people are amazing. I am inspired by the depth of their faith, and their resilience in the face of overwhelming hardships. Our brothers and sisters long for peace in the midst of so much conflict and violence. They are eager for opportunities to better themselves and their families. They are resolute. It is difficult to see the hardships that the people face on a daily basis, but it is so encouraging to see their joy and their determination. We need to stand beside them as they strive to follow Jesus and the ways of peace!





# Deacon Ministry

Article written and submitted by  
Carol-Joyce Anton

This past month I learned a new word at a Women's Retreat that I attended. "Revivify." It means to give new life or vigor to.

The theme was based on Ezekial 37:1-14, where the Lord is talking to Ezekial about the dry bones in the valley. The Lord asks, "Can these bones live again?" Ezekial answers and says, "Only You alone know the answer to that question." The Lord then tells Ezekial to prophesy upon the bones to hear the word of the Lord. Ezekial does as he is told and the Lord goes on to bring the "dead" bones back to life – or "Revivifies" them to the point that they represent the people of Israel being led back to their promised land.

This is basically what will happen when we pray for "Revival" in the church. Younger generations want to **SEE** the power of the Holy Spirit!

Something of this sort occurred at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY about two years ago. The revival was sparked by students who stayed in Hughes Auditorium following a regularly scheduled chapel service on February 8, 2023 – resulting in a student-led movement of prayer and worship that extended beyond its

scheduled time. After the service, students decided to continue praying and worshipping and the gathering grew rapidly – fueled by a desire for connection with God and with each other.

1. Revival will come at a high cost:  
Others perception of you  
Your perception of yourself  
Your perception of others
2. Revival, if it is true, is easy:  
Hearts are stirred with ease  
The church is multiplied  
Everyone seems happy  
We will forsake all else  
Sincerely focus on unseen things
3. Revival is not surprising but is a surprise:  
Awakening people in ways they were unaware of  
Revival will shock us, intrigue us
4. Revival will be the NEW normal  
Revival will be normal – not new, but eternal

Let us all pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us and bring on a revival!!



## ICCOB June Birthdays

12	Trent Detweiler	17	Darlene Ziegler
25	Donna Stevens	28	Joe Grau, Sr
29	Don Moyer, Donna Mansfield		

