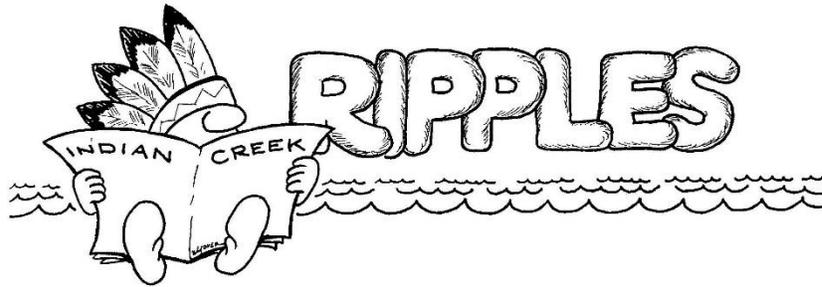


March 2024 (Vol. 22, No. 3)



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

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church Staff

In transition

Pastor

Ashley Boyd

Administrative Assistant

Don Ziegler

Custodian

Kathy Moyer

Wee Folk Director/Teacher

Heather Thomsen

Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

Everything is from God

Readings: James 1:16-21

In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures (James 1:18).

Meditation: Have you ever noticed how the light of the sun changes as the seasons change? Sometimes the light is intense and other times gentle. Have you ever noticed how light in the night sky changes as the year progresses? All these lights are gifts from God. James describes God as the “Father of lights.” James goes on to remind us that this creator of light has given us the gospel (“the word of truth”), which enables us to become followers of Jesus (the first fruits of God’s creation). But there is also the “implanted word.” Does James mean that the gospel is somehow implanted in our hearts? Perhaps he means that the need for the gospel is implanted in each of us. Whatever the case, we must listen to the implanted word. And to listen we must be “slow to speak” and “slow to anger” and avoid wickedness. Such things get in the way of all the good gifts God has given us.

James’ use of the terms “word of truth” and “implanted word” may be similar to Alexander Mack’s use of the terms “outer word” and “inner word.” The outer word refers to the written word (Bible), and the inner word is the working of the Holy Spirit within us. We need the Spirit to understand fully the written word and we need the written word to understand fully the testimony of the Spirit. We need both the Bible and the Spirit in our lives. And both are good and perfect gifts from the Creator of lights.

For the day: Take time to notice the lights in the heavens - the sun, the moon, the stars. Even if it is cloudy, allow God’s light to shine on you and give thanks.

Prayer: Creature of light, I thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on your creation. Help me to appreciate your gifts more completely and to listen more intently to your written word and to the word implanted in me.

Kenneth M. Shaffer, Jr.

(pg 303,304 of Fresh from the Word Devotions for the 300th Anniversary of the Brethren)

Pastoral Transition

We are officially into our transition now as Pastor Mark and Reba have moved on to serve another congregation. I am impressed to see how we at Indian Creek are pulling together to continue the work of, and to worship Jesus here. Some parts of our Sunday mornings might look somewhat different now, and that is ok. You may be asked to participate in some part of worship, or to do some tasks in support of it. I encourage you to pray about it and to say YES where you can, even if it is out of your comfort zone.

Witness and Worship Team are working to secure speakers for Sunday mornings. Sue Moyer is carrying the lion's share of this task and doing a wonderful job. All Sundays in March and April are filled now, and Sue is working on May. Chuck Kane has asked that we find speakers through May to give Pete Kontra time to identify an interim pastor candidate for Leadership Team to consider.

There are other people coordinating music, publications, technology and so much more. Ashley is a great asset in the office, bringing stability and a smile.

We have formed a Search Committee. They are:

Carol Joyce Anton
Jadon Bateman
Sarah Duett
Lamont Edwards
Chris McBreen
Dottie Mininger
Dennis Moyer
Donna Parcell
Janette Steward
Darelene Zeigler

We are working to find a date for the team to meet initially, and to organize themselves by choosing a chair and secretary. Once that's done, Pete Kontra will meet with the search committee to orient them and begin to develop the congregational profile. This will be used by district executives and prospective pastoral candidates to determine who may be the best fit as the next pastor for our congregation.

Sunday, February 18th, Pastor Mark's last Sunday as our pastor, was amazing in so many ways. Most impressive to me was the number of people who came to worship! I look forward to many of you coming regularly, and bringing friends and family with you. We are much more in community with one another when we are face to face.

Please look here in future Ripples issues for updates as we walk this journey of transition together.

Blessings,
Kevin Bedell, Leadership Team Chair

Pastor Mark's Farewell prank

Article, photos and prank by: Ashley Boyd
(Your favorite admin Asst.), and her daughters.

Pastor Mark's final week in the office was a bit sad, so my daughters and I decided that we should add some light hearted cheer by introducing so well needed pranking.

This is the story:



As pastor Mark and Reba entered into the Narthex they had no idea that they would be joyfully welcomed; with pink tissue everywhere (inside his mailboxes, on the back of his office door, blocking the entrance way, ext) and streamers flying. After they broke through the tissue paper barricade they were surprised with more tissue paper

seeming to fall from the ceiling as my daughters and I tossed it (at them)... in the air.

Once they regained their vision and it was no longer a pink blur, they began to experience a type of mummification with said tissue paper that they seemed to get (wrapped in)... caught in.

After being tied and wrapped (married) together for a few decades they didn't seem to mind.



We all laughed, cheered and experienced one last office shenanigan together as we shouted "We'll miss you Pastor Mark and Reba". They will be missed and all the memories and laughs won't go forgotten. Thank you for everything.

P.S. A special thank you to Dave Whetstone for being a great look out!

Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell



Our February activity was the annual church auction! This year we chose the theme “Winter Wonderland”. We actually had some snow this year, so we had fun decorating the fellowship hall with snowmen

and wearing snow-themed outfits. Joseph wore some great pajama pants that had dinosaurs wearing Santa hats, Kadlin went with snowman leggings, Claire wore an Olaf shirt, Nathan and Annable went with a “white out” look, and of course Miss Donna had a pink snowflake shirt. Always up for a good theme, Jane donned a full snowman outfit! For refreshments we had a hot chocolate bar with all of the fixings, and homemade snow cones! We also had lots of fruit, veggies, cheese and crackers, lunch meats, and other fun snacks.

The auction itself was a great success. We especially want to thank Lon Clemmer and his coworker Len for handling the auctioneer duties, and of course women’s fellowship for handling all of the clerical work. The youth served as runners, and they had a great time helping to sell awesome homemade treats, hand-made prayer shawls and linens, beautiful flowers, fun meals, and so many other great donations. The most excited of all was Micah when he received the giant Paw Patrol lookout tower!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items, bid on items, and helped to make the auction a success. Over \$2,000 was raised, and that will help support the youth FaithX trip to South Bend Indiana in June.



**What kind of
hotel rooms do
chocolate
bunnies reserve?**

Sweets.



Small Talk

by Kathy Moyer

Have **you** seen any spring robins? The Wee Folk are on the lookout for the first robins and other signs that spring is on the way! A few warm days this past week have given us all a healthy dose of spring fever, and we eagerly look forward to the snow melting from our playground and getting outside to run and play in the fresh March air!

We welcome March with our calendar song, "March, March, March ... it's the windy month of March!" We hope to catch some wind in bags and fly our paper kites and helicopters after reading, *The Wind Blew*. Our attention will quickly turn to noticing new green as it emerges, followed by Pussy-willows, Daffodils, Tulips, Crocuses, and Forsythia. With these discoveries, we will be inspired to create our own handcrafted versions to bloom along our walls and halls.

Our discovery tub will be turned into a green theme cutting center this month. Equipped with safety scissors and an assortment of green paper, ribbons, and other materials and textures, the children will be encouraged to cut and snip, as they practice this Pre-K readiness skill!

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we will celebrate with our own "Wearing of the Green" days and enjoy a buffet of healthful green snacks at our Shamrock Café, just before the holiday. In our recent dental health unit, we learned about making good food choices to keep our teeth healthy and strong.

We hope this will be a fun way for the children to try some green fruits and veggies that might be new to them.

Later in the month, we will hop right into our Easter preparations! We will be busy decorating and dyeing eggs, and making Easter baskets to bring them home in! Our video presentation this month will be **The Easter Story** – presented by the makers of the Beginner's Bible.

Happy Spring and a Joyous Easter ... from all our "Peeps" at Wee Folk!



Prayer Chain Update

The Leadership team has been in discussion about how to proceed with prayer chain messages during this time of transition. We have a few more rounds of phone calls available that have been pre-paid on our current Call Now account. After that balance has been depleted, we will discontinue the phone prayer chain. In its place, an email will be sent to all church members and friends who are currently on the “congregation” email list. If you receive weekly emails for the Sunday preview, bulletin insert, and Connections, you are on that list! If you are not on the list and would like to be, please let Ashley (church admin.) know. Likewise, if you would like to be removed from the list, please let Ashley know.

Leadership recognizes that there are a few members who do not have email. This is a great opportunity for us to nurture each other. If you have a friend or family member who does not have email and would like to receive the prayer chain, please give them a call when you receive the email so they can also be praying.

Thank you for your grace and flexibility during this time of transition in our congregation.



Deacon Ministry

Spring in our step

Isaiah 44:1-5

“[Your descendants] will spring up like grass in a meadow, like popular trees by flowing streams” (v. 4, NIV)

I'M AMAZED at how quickly grass- and other greenery- can grow in the spring, especially in the relatively mild and humid climate in which I lived the past four years. Sometimes I feel like I've just finished with the lawn and put the mower in the garage, and as I turn around, I can practically see the grass growing higher again! Plants are quite persistent under the right conditions.

Spring is a season full of life. And for those who live in places where winter takes hold for several months, it's usually a welcome arrival. In an article for Messenger magazine last March, Camp Brethren Heights director Randall Westfall wrote: “Springtime is a season for awakening and activating the parts of our lives that have been dormant. The warming of the earth begins to crack the wintry cocoon that we've been living in.”

It makes sense, then that “spring” was chosen as the name for this season- a word whose origins speak to bursting forth and leaping forward, like a coiled spring ready to go into motion or a mountain spring of water gushing out of rocks. It's a time of renewal and growth as nature hits fast-forward.

That's the promise Isaiah gives to the people in this passage” Life will remain after a long period of dormancy. After decades of barren exile, something new was ready to burst forth. Their descendants would “spring up like grass in a meadow,” or, as in other translations. “like a green tamarisk,” a small, prolific tree native to the region.

Even in the winter of our discontent, new life is possible for the faithful. With God, every season can be a time of spring.

Step outside today and look for signs of spring. What do you see? Take a moment to thank God for new life.

Selected from the 2022 Lenten Devotional “We wait for Light”- Author Walt Wiltschek

Submitted by Pat Bub



He walks with me

Lyrics:

Verse 1

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The son of God discloses

Chorus:

And he walks with me and he talks with me
And he tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

Verse 2

He speaks and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

Chorus:

And he walks with me and he talks with me
And he tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

Song by Merle Haggard



Q. Why did the Easter
egg hide?

A. He was a little chicken.



March Birthdays

- 1 Trish Cooney (nee Smith)
 - 2 Ben Poehlmann
 - 4 Cathy Moyer, Brian Neuenschwander
 - 6 Marjorie Jarratt
 - 7 Valencia Amador
 - 8 Gerald Godshall
 - 10 Rich Smith
 - 12 Arlene Wambold
 - 14 Linda Helmick
 - 15 Joe Bussmann
 - 16 Albert Acker, Carly Nuneviller
 - 17 Lizzie Grau
 - 18 Shelby Winder
 - 20 Sheila Allebach
 - 21 Stephen Rostick
 - 24 Helen Spigel
 - 31 Elijah Parcell, Kristen DeRosa, Lois Kerns and Ashley Boyd
- (EASTER DAY)**

If we are missing *your* birthday, please let the Church Office know! We want to include everybody in our monthly birthday notice.