

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

A Profit's To-Do List

Readings: James 1:16-21

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" (James 1:18).

Meditation: John the Baptist was a "hellfire and brimstone" preacher, if there ever was one! At the end of this passage from Luke, the writer somewhat ironically comments that "with many other exhortations, [John] proclaimed the good news to the people".

But was it good news? To be called a "brood of vipers"; to be told that "even now the axe is lying at the root of trees"; to be informed that the long awaited Savior would arrive with winnowing fork in hand to burn the chaff as he gathered the wheat. It depends, doesn't it, on whether we confidently see ourselves among those who are fruit-bearing, or if we have a vision of the shriveled-up fruit that still hangs, metaphorically, from the branches of our lives

When we read John's call to repentance, do we think of missed opportunities to help others, times we have kept that second coat for ourselves when others went coatless in the cold, selfish use of the world's precious resources like water and energy, days when we have not been satisfied with our wages even though so many survive on less than a few dollars a day?

John was as aware as we are of the inequities of the world. Many who heard him preach, and repented of their sins on the banks of the Jordan, must have come from the ranks of the poor and received his words as good news that justice was imminent. Others who were rich may have heard his words instead as fearful prophecies of judgment.

Whether we are poor or rich in today's terms, the question the crowd asked of John is the right one for us too: "What then should we do?" His answer is just as applicable today: Share with others, and be satisfied with what you have.

For the day: Consider the fruit you are bearing for Christ. Make a list of the things you have done today that are "good fruit."

Prayer: God, help me to be satisfied with what I have, and help me share what I have with others. Amen

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

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

Blessings,

Kevin Bedell, Leadership Team Chair

Pastoral Transition

Our District Executive continues to seek an interim pastor for us. There is no new information to share.

Search Committee Update

Last year Pastor Mark announced that after 28 years of service at ICCOB, he would be resigning in February 2024. The Leadership Team began the process of calling a Search Committee tasked with finding a new pastor for our congregation. Members who were called and accepted are: Sarah Duett (chair), Janette Stewart (secretary), CJ Anton, Jadon Bateman, Lamont Edwards, Chris McBreen, Dottie Mininger, Dennis Moyer, Donna Parcell, and Darlene Ziegler. The committee met in March to nominate the chair and secretary, and obtain information about the beginning of the pastoral search process. Our next meeting is scheduled for late April with Pete Kontra (ANE District Executive). The goal of this meeting will be for Pete to explain the search process in detail to the committee and to create a path moving forward.

An essential part of the search process is confidentiality. The search process will be transparent, but information about candidates will remain confidential. While we are many steps away from interviewing potential candidates, it was strongly advised that the committee set the expectation of confidentiality from the beginning. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask!

I want to take a moment to share my feelings about being nominated as chair for

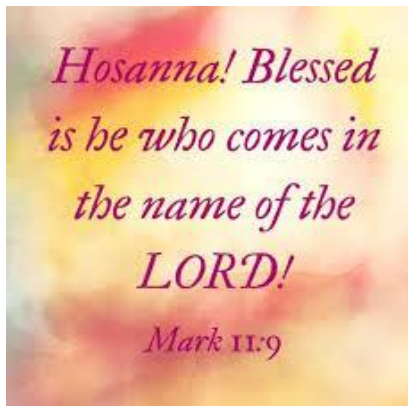
this committee. I often feel like a youth in our church. Many members in our congregation have known me since I was born or at least very young. When I accepted to be chair of the search committee, one of my biggest fears was that people would question my maturity and ability to lead successfully. I find that fear creeping into my heart more frequently than I would like to admit. I share this to be vulnerable and transparent about my own fears in leading our church during this transition. But I know that God is capable of using us through our fears. While I may still be perceived as a child to some, Jesus calls the children. Jesus does not see age as a deterrent to ministry. I know God has called me to this position because I am capable of the task at hand through His guidance. I am honored to be able to serve the congregation in this capacity. Indian Creek has raised me, it is an honor to be able to pour back into the congregation that has poured so much into me.

Again, please contact me at any point during this process with questions or concerns!

Blessings,
Sarah

**It's impossible to find any other
who could suffer, die,
and be resurrected,
to give an eternal gift
to humankind.
That's Jesus.
That's Easter.**

*By Joanna Fuchs
Poemsource.com*



Ashley's Angle

Inspired by Ezekiel 34:11-31

Question: My Heavenly father, who is He?
What will He do?

Response: I AM

He searches, seeks, gathers and combines those who have been scattered. He also feeds, gives land that has already been inhabited, lifts high on mountain tops, gives rest, finds, restores, binds up what is broken, brings strength, protects, is just with balance, restores those who've been trampled on, judges what is right and true, saves those who've been used, establishes leaders, sends help, covers with peace, protects, gives rest and creates us and the places He provides for us. He showers us with blessings, allows our trees to bear fruit, gives safety, breaks bonds of bondage, delivers from adversity/enslavement and uses circumstances and blessings to show us that He is God.

His children will dwell safely and unafraid, no longer hungry or ashamed. We will know that He is our God and He remains with us, as we are His children and He is our God. He covers us with showers of blessings and gives us safety in our wilderness season.

Holy is the Lord!

God is who He said He is, and God will do what He said that He will do.

He will come through just to rescue you and to be with you in that moment when your heart is breaking because He knows where your pain goes to hide and He feels the inside of you aching.

It's ok, yield to the pain and frustration allow these feelings to overcome and remain for as long as it needs to. For you to remember that God is turning things in your favor with every minute, hour and second this healing is taking.

He will turn it in your favor and allow these battle scars to someday become your testimony of the hardest battle you've been facing.

It's ok now rejoice with Me my child you've been through some sad times, and you kept your face seeking Me. Thank you for allowing me the honor of carrying you this season. You've been resting and now it's time for blessings and new beginnings. Fresh smells as flowers bloom in beauty and spring showers that water the seeds I've planted within you, for My glory. So go unafraid of adversity because that battle was defeated when I conquered the grave.

you are Mine and I love you. I am so proud of the strength and courage I put inside you, so go shine your light brightly on a hill-maybe a mountain one day! Remember to always put your faith and trust in Me.



Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell

For the month of March, our youth activity and our all-church activity were combined



into one event. We held the annual church egg hunt, open to all ages, and all ages showed up! The youngest was Charlie Duett at 5

months old, and the oldest was Chuck Kane at...well...he brought a cane and an egg snatcher so he wouldn't have to bend over (genius move Chuck) and we'll leave it at that. We were also excited to see our friend Betty and her Grandmother who attend our VBS.



The egg hunt began with a special section for the "littles" which included Micah, Charlie, Reese, Scarlett, and Betty. There were plenty of eggs and the children had so much fun running to collect them. Several of the children snuck eggs into Micah's and Charlie's baskets which was so nice to see. There were a few "golden ticket" prize eggs, and some children got more than one and happily shared a prize with someone who didn't get one.



Next was the "older kids" section. This is a "no rules" event. There were a few instances of slide tackles and hip checks, but all is allowed. The big kids' eggs were very spread out over a big territory. Some took their time and some were pretty out of breath when it was over. Going along with the "no rules" guidelines, the littles were also allowed to join in the big kids section. The "big kids" included Claire, Joseph, Kadlin, Nathan, Leyahna, Donna Stevens, Jane, Chris Spigel, Chuck, Lizzie, Sarah, Dennis, Betty's Grandmother, Chris McBreen, Cheryl, Esther, Rob, Eric, and Kate. (Continued)



Afterwards everyone had fun opening their eggs and comparing candy. Then a lot of time was spent playing on the playground and visiting with each other. The weather cooperated and it was a beautiful day. Thanks so much to everyone who participated and made it such a fun event.



Loss and Longing Moms Support Group

The Loss and Longing Moms Support Group was created two years ago by Jenna (Kane) Taylor and Sarah Duett. The group quickly realized that we were an “essential club that no one wanted to belong to”. Our lives look very different. We have different backgrounds. Different faiths. Different stories. But the thread that brought the group together is that everyone has experienced some form of miscarriage or infertility struggle. Over the past two years we have mourned and rejoiced together. Each member has their unique story, but we wanted to compile some “statistics” to show what our group has experienced in just the last two years.

Active members: 8

Surgeries related to reproductive care: 11

Miscarriages: 14

IUI treatments: 29

IVF treatments: 3

Babies born: 7 (4 vaginally, 3 by c-section)

Number of days early the babies came: 133

Days spent in the NICU: 51

Total amount spent on reproductive care:
\$181,700

We share this information to show perspective and shed light on the fact that we often do not realize the struggles of others. We are thankful for the church for allowing us space to meet and journey together. Your prayers have blessed us and we are grateful for you!

*If you or anyone you know would like to participate in this group, please contact Sarah Duett

Small Talk

by: Kathy Moyer

Spring has arrived and we are enjoying making new discoveries as this beautiful time of year unfolds right before our very eyes! Throughout the month we will continue to observe the seasonal changes taking place, and the new life all around us!

Our theme this month will find us exploring the wonderful literature of one of our favorite children's authors, **Eric Carle**. We will be reading many of his books and then attempt to recreate some of his illustration techniques in our project work. Some of the books will also become springboards to other curriculum areas. We will compare both helpful and harmful insects, as we read *The Grouchy Ladybug*, and learn about the process of metamorphosis with the help of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. After counting the legs of *The Very Busy Spider*, we will discover that spiders don't have the characteristics of insects, because they are, in fact, Arachnids! The children will be able to handle our many insect puppets, and play with an assortment of insect related games and puzzles.

As a special science experience, we look forward to seeing first-hand the miracle of a butterfly's metamorphosis. When the tiny caterpillars arrive, we will observe them in our butterfly habitat as they eat and grow to ten times their original size, then hang upside down and shed their skins to form chrysalides. Then in just a few days, they will emerge as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. And when the time is just right, we will set them free on a nice warm day.

Our Bible story this month will find us learning about the days of Noah and God's plan to give his creation a new beginning. We will see how Noah's obedience and faithfulness led to God's promises to his people and the covenant he made with them that we are still reminded of whenever we see a rainbow in the clouds! As April showers give way to sunny and warmer days, we look forward to more time to run and play outside on our playground!

How fast our school year is going ... and with each passing year we are more aware of the opportunities we have to impact the families who walk through our doors Monday through Friday mornings. It is because of the continued support of the church that we are able to continue to provide a Christ-centered education to the children, and share the Gospel with their families.





When You Have Faith

Days are filled with hopeful hours
And rainbows always follow showers,
When you have faith!

There's no problem you can't face.
No sorrow that you can't erase,
When you have faith!

Your little worries all will cease,
And you'll be filled with inner peace.
When you have faith!

There's nothing that you cannot do,
No favorite dream that can't come
true,
No mountain is too high for you,
When you have faith!

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall
renew their strength...
Isaiah 40:31(KJV)*

*Alice Joyce Davidson
(Pg 77 of Reflections of Love) Guideposts*



CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

- 1 Annabel Steward
- 4 Lea Landis, Sam Bedell, Ben Rostick
- 10 Kathy Moyer (Wee Folk)
- 12 Sherry Ziegler
- 15 Mark Baliles, Adam Steward
- 20 Brian Detweiler
- 21 Marie Hill
- 23 Claire Spigel
- 26 Marge Hendricks
- 30 Pam Bedell

