



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

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August

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church Staff

(Interim)

Tim Moyer

Pastor

Ashley Boyd

Administrative Assistant

Don Ziegler

Custodian

Kathy Moyer

Wee Folk Director/Teacher

Heather Thomsen

Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

The Royal Law

Readings: Leviticus 19:18; James 2:8-11

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin... (James 2:8-9a.)

Meditation: There is an unfortunate tendency in the hearts of many churchgoers and pastors (myself included) to size up newcomers to the fellowship on the basis of what they might bring us rather than what we might give them. After asking a few of the traditional (but often insensitive) questions like, where do you work? Are you married? Do you have a family? What church did you used to attend? We quickly decide whether this person will be a positive resource or a negative drain in our energies. We either happily decide "A great catch: a good, solid family!" or sadly conclude "Definitely EGR-Extra Grace Required." We want and actively pursue the former but are just as happy if the latter doesn't show up again next Sunday.

James reminds us that loving neighbor-every neighbor! - As fully as we love self is the Royal Law of Jesus. James is the only one in scripture who so names this teaching, but we find echoes of Leviticus 19:18 in all four Gospels, so we know it was central to Jesus' message (see Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; John 13:34). When we prescreen people according to their observation value or lack thereof, we are guilty of showing partiality and are transgressors of the law. Christians, you did not so learn Christ!

For the day: Move into this day intent on giving love, help, and encouragement to every neighbor you encounter, regardless of what they may or may not have to offer you. Receive every new face in your church with open arms. Even the EGRs may surprise you, soon or late, with gifts of grace.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive our tendency to make distinctions and how partiality. May we welcome every neighbor, even the challenging ones, with the openhanded love we learned from you. Amen.

Daniel M. Petry

Pastoral Transition

We welcome Pastor Tim and his wife Sharon to our congregation as our Interim Pastor!

Member Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT ON Tim and Sharon Moyer

Facilitated by: Kevin Bedell



Spotlight on Pastor Tim and Sharon Moyer

Please tell us the story of how you came to accept the call to serve as our interim pastor at Indian Creek Church of the Brethren.

Tim and Sharon: Tim retired in January from about 16 years of pastoring in several different settings. Healthy boundaries and pastoral etiquette suggest that he temporarily step away from attending a church where he just served. We found ourselves attending a different church each week and simply couldn't find a church that satisfied us. Since his retirement Tim was asked to fill the pulpit at Indian Creek, and another church from time to time. Our hearts felt sincerely welcomed and warmed when we attended here on those Sundays when Tim preached. Something beyond explanation touched us each time we attended; we felt satisfied, fulfilled and uplifted.

When Tim was asked to consider serving in an interim capacity, our decision to accept the position seemed quite easy. We had a desire to attend a church that felt like home. Although Tim felt thoroughly released to retire from his last position, it seems as though "full retirement" was not God's plan; Tim missed many aspects of ministry. We clearly felt led to enter into a symbiotic relationship with Indian Creek, and with God's blessing, advance the Kingdom of God together.

What do you like best about Indian Creek Church of the Brethren?

Tim: The people seem so friendly and welcoming. I also enjoy working with the leadership team and Ashley.

Sharon: The style of worship is familiar and pleasing. Additionally, the people are open, and nice to myself and my mom, Doris.

Would you tell us about your family?

Tim and Sharon: We were unable to have biological children. When Tim's younger sister died at age 35, we became legal guardians of her two children at the ages of 15 and 13, raising them to adulthood. They have remained very close to us over the years and now we have 4 youngsters who call us Pop Pop and Mom Mom.

Who has been the greatest influence on your Christian life and why?

Tim: My mother has always exhibited spirituality and faith that withstood the challenges of life. She has always been someone who stood against forces that threatened herself and those that she loved. Harold Fly was also a person who "took me under his wings" when I was a young adult and instilled in me many of his valuable teachings.

Sharon: My parents have always exemplified an authentic Christian faith. They modeled a Christian integrity in both word and deed that set me on a course that I've not wavered from. As a teenager I met who is now my best friend and husband who also helped guide me through the rest of my life.

Are you willing to share something about yourself that is a surprise to most folks?

Tim: Owing partially to my conservative upbringing, I can honestly say that I never kissed my wife until after we were married. This is a true statement; however, it is a significant play on words. Ask me about this. 😊

Sharon: Piano playing has always been a part of my life. At the age of four I began playing what my older sister played when she was taking her piano lessons. Her teacher said that I should begin lessons to teach me to read music rather than only playing by ear. I played for the school choirs from elementary school through high school.

What are some of your hobbies or things you like to do when you have free time?

Tim: There is a long list of things that I thoroughly enjoy, all of which reflect my love for nature. I enjoy birdwatching (I'm up to 124 different species on our property), gardening in our raised beds, planting several batches of sweet corn and a couple large sections of sunflowers, planting a 5 acre field for the deer to enjoy, hunting, identifying and planting many different species of trees on our property...including a small orchard, beekeeping, making walking sticks and canes from unique pieces of wood I find, collecting Native American artifacts, woodworking, and going for walks with our dog Nikki.

Sharon: I enjoy birdwatching and keeping our many bird feeders full to attract and support the variety of birds that find good food there. I also enjoy reading new cookbooks and trying recipes that seem intriguing. I'll almost always swing into a yard sale when I see a sign. I like taking pictures when photogenic opportunities arise. I love watching sunsets and sunrises as they display an ever-changing array of colors. I enjoy opportunities to visit the Chesapeake Bay to see the water and enjoy a delicious seafood meal. I've recently taken up painting and have taken lessons in different settings. I mostly paint landscapes. Tim says everyone should feel free to stop in his office to see some of my work. Recently, since buying our present property, Tim and I both enjoy spending time at home.

Who is the most important person in your life?

Tim: My wife Sharon

Sharon: My husband Tim

Name one thing on your bucket list.

Tim: I can't say that I have a bucket list, life has been good for me.

Sharon: I'd like to go to a Phillies game again. (It's been quite a few years)
I'd also like to go to Dorney Park again.

What is your favorite food?

Tim: Sure, lobster and Maryland Blue Crabs top the list, however I'm quite happy with just about any good breakfast.

Sharon: Maryland Blue Crab in just about any form, most Pennsylvania Dutch, Mexican, and Italian foods.

What do you think the best thing about heaven will be?

Tim: Fellowship with an unbroken circle of loved ones in a setting that I can't even begin to contemplate.

Sharon: I look forward to a place where nothing bad, sad, or unfair happens.

Search Committee Update

The completed congregational profile was sent to the district at the beginning of July, and then uploaded to the denomination's database. Please be in prayer as we enter a season of waiting. Blessings,

Sarah

Ashley's Angle

Written by: Ashley Boyd



Lord we thank You for hand delivering Pastor Tim to our congregation. We thank You for Your perfect timing, and will concerning the shepherds of this flock. We ask that You continue to bless Indian Creek Church of the Brethren with shepherds, leaders, and the denomination as a whole with a willingness and eagerness to serve people while being an example to the congregation and community always giving God the glory and serving humbly under the mighty hand of God. We ask these things in the mighty name of Jesus. We love You Amen.

Men's Ministry

Written by: Bob Lane

"The Men's Fellowship breakfast met at the Peter Becker Community's Maplewood Cafe on July 20th. We had a good turn out and agreed that this would be our "regular" location unless announced otherwise.

We meet on the 3rd Saturday 8 to ~9:30AM."



Article and photos by Donna Parcell

On a beautiful Sunday evening in July, some folks from church gathered at Souderton Community Park to enjoy Souderton's Concert Sundaes in the Park. Joining us were Kevin and Pam Bedell, Teresa Wampler, Robin and Dave Whetstone, Pam and Glenn Bateman, Susan Wampler and Rory Osler, Sarah, Dennis, Micah and Charlie Duett, and Donna Parcell. Also present were 3 dogs! Archie especially enjoyed being petted and spreading the joy of his fur around for all to enjoy. The group enjoyed the bluegrass music, and of course the time of fellowship with each other. Micah had fun carefully selecting and handing out chocolate chip cookies to everyone, and perhaps sneaking one or two or three for himself. And if that wasn't enough, there was ice cream to enjoy. What a great time of catching up with each other while enjoying the music and relaxing on a nice summer evening. We'll be doing it again in August, so be sure to join us!





Annual Conference Report

Michigan: Home of the Wolverines, Theresa Wampler and Gerald Ford, only president from that state!

Grand Rapids: Gracious Host for the 237th annual conference of the Church of the Brethren.

The theme of the conference was “Welcome and Worthy” which was taken from Romans 16:2 where Paul introduces Phoebe to the Roman Christians and asks them to welcome her in the Lord in a way that is Worthy of Gods people. Each evenings worship service theme was related to this general theme of welcoming and worthiness

The moderator for this year’s conference was Madalyn Metzger, a lay person whose day job is vice president of marketing for Everence Association. She is a lifelong active member of the Church of the Brethren now in Goshen, Indiana. Madalyn is a very impressive young (compared to me) biracial woman whose Vietnamese mother met and married a Brethren Volunteer in Vietnam. Her sermon, “Fully Known, Deeply Loved, Inherently Welcome and Worthy” on the opening evening was outstanding and I recommend to everyone. (www.brethren.org/ac) She conducted the daily business sessions efficiently, orderly and timely.

Having attended Annual Conference many times over the years, both as a delegate and observer, the most meaningful experiences have always been the evening and closing worship services. The music and especially the congregational hymn singing with organ and piano

accompaniment have been inspirational and again this year did not disappoint. Music style and instruments have changed and with fewer people in attendance there did not seem to be as much enthusiasm as in the past. Worship leaders and preachers were all well prepared and well received.

I will not report on the business sessions as they were pretty routine without any significant policy or polity changes. All of the old and new business items can be found on the website as well as a concise Wrap Up. Elections included electing Don Fitzkee from our district, who many of us know, as the Moderator elect.

Numbers: 410 delegates with total registration of 1450 people. 7 new churches were welcomed. Total offerings were \$47,065. Quilt auction raised \$8,200 for hunger relief. Silent auction raised \$10,375 for conference expenses. Blood drive donated 121 units.

30 beds were built for children who have no beds.(Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a local org,)

Conclusion: Attending annual conference is always a very rewarding experience and something I wish every Brethren member had the opportunity to do. Meeting people, making new friends as well as meeting old friends from college etc. is in itself a great time. More especially worshipping with so many and diverse people is an experience one cannot adequately convey in a report. Being a part of the business sessions can sometimes be laborious, but may also turn out to be historical as in the start of BVS and Heifer Project.

Dennis Moyer, AC Delegate 2024

Garden brunch

I send you 3 photos from the Garden Brunch I would just add. The weather was very warm and humid! Some of the women did not attend due to the warm morning.

Sue Moyer



CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

- 6 Linda Greiner
- 12 Letitia Negro
- 14 Jadon Bateman, Nancy Scherfel
- 15 Jeremy Steward
- 20 Esther Kishbaugh, Roy Feiss
- 21 Chuck Kane, Leyahna Stevens
- 29 Pat Bub, Grace Moyer
- 30 Joanne Force
- 31 Herb Warriner

