

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

Mark E. Baliles
Pastor

Linda Furman
Administrative Assistant

Don Ziegler
Custodian

Kathy Moyer
Wee Folk Director/Teacher
Naomi Platek
Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

Consultation - How We Got Here and Where We Are Now

If you don't know where you are going, you'll probably end up somewhere else.
- Anonymous

Starting last August and running through October, our Sunday morning themes focused on the topic of vision—not the physical capacity to see, but the mental and spiritual capacity and the will to imagine into the future.

Vision, as we were discussing, involves acknowledging where we are currently, discerning and “seeing” by faith a picture of who and what God wants us to be, and embracing by faith that God can make that picture a reality as we pursue it in our daily lives.

When I embarked on that series, I had a growing sense that our congregation would benefit from a taking some time to discern clearer vision for our life and ministry together. However, I had no idea that six months later we would already be well underway on a significant vision-discerning journey in consultation with some caring and experienced ministry counselors.

As I wrote in November, this journey is not primarily about marketing or church growth strategies. There may be some of those things that surface along the way. More than anything, this is about our congregation, through the leadership that we have called, pursuing and receiving some wise counsel, evaluation and guidance for how we can become healthier as a church, how we can maximize the gifts that God has given us, how we can be more effective in the ministries to which God has called us, and how our entire congregation can become more focused on and energized by our God-given mission and vision for the future.

Right now, we are in the middle of the first part of this process, the assessment phase, corresponding to “acknowledging where we are currently.” Information has been collected and shared. Various conversations have taken place. And this Sunday, we are providing time and opportunity for members and friends to share perspectives about current congregational strengths and future priorities. We expect to be transitioning into the recommendation and discernment phase by the end of February. The third phase will be developing a plan for implementation.

Through all of this, it is my prayer that together we might discern God's vision for our church more clearly and then pursue that vision wholeheartedly and faithfully, for God's glory and our neighbors' good.

Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)

Church DEACONS



Deacon Retreat

by Darlene Ziegler

The Deacon Body gathered on Saturday, January 12th from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in the Reflections Room at Maplewood on the PBC Campus. Our Chairperson, Joyce Watts, welcomed each one as we prepared to reflect on the role of Deacons in the Church.

The Deacon Body consists of several individuals or couples in the congregation who have been called to help shepherd or care for the church, to respond to needs as they arise, to pray for one another, and to assist the Pastor in whatever way we can. While we are “all” a work in progress, we strive to travel this journey together by serving, loving unconditionally, and discipling.

Our goal is to build relationships as we best serve each person on our Deacon’s list. We are encouraged to “stretch” ourselves by getting to know one another

and to discern needs. We encourage you in the congregation to feel free to contact us as well, with prayer concerns, or questions.

Some responsibilities of the Deacon body are as follows: Communion, assisting Pastor with Baptism and Anointing, Rippling articles, coordinating monthly fellowship time at PBC, meeting devotions, and assisting Nurture with church dinners. Through these we hope to develop relationships, a better understanding of one another, and of course, build fellowship.

Our goals and mission for 2019 and beyond will somewhat depend on the outcome of “The Center” survey and evaluation on February 3rd. We hope to determine a better understanding of where we stand as a body of believers and how best to implement the recommendations that will follow. Your support in this survey on Sunday, February 3rd is important as we hope as many of you as possible can attend. Please join us in an all-church dinner following the service.

We ask God to continue to bless and use Indian Creek and her leaders for His plan and purpose as well as His Honor and Glory. Thank you for your love and support.



Family Fun Night

by Donna Parcell

Our January Family Fun Night had the dual theme of winter and service. First, we were served a delicious meal of grilled cheese and tomato soup – perfect for a cold night! Then we had several winterish activities. We could build “snow towers” out of Styrofoam cups, and then try to knock them down with “snowballs”. We also made free form creations out of marshmallows and toothpicks. Some made snowmen, some made animals, and some made their own original designs! There was also a station where everyone could color a thank-you card to give to someone who helps them.

After supper we had a great time reading the story “Bamboozled” from the church library. The children loved it! Next we talked about Martin Luther King Day, and what it means to serve others. We discussed different ways that we could serve, and how even visiting others is a great way to serve. Then we split up into groups and did service projects at church. The children got to decide which project they wanted to do. Did you notice how sparkly clean the toys in the nursery? That’s because some children worked hard at washing those toys! Did you notice how lemony fresh the sanctuary smelled on Sunday? That’s because some children dusted each and every pew, and also Pastor Mark’s chair, the pulpit, the piano, the organ, the doors, and the windowsills! They all did a great job and really enjoyed helping.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported Family Fun Night! Remember, anyone can come! Hope to see you at the Family Fun Night in April!



Small Talk

by Kathy Moyer

As we eagerly look forward to Harleysville Hank and his weather forecast for the rest of the winter, we are "warming up" just thinking about Valentine's Day just around the corner!



In February, the Wee Folk will be busy working on learning their full names, addresses, and phone numbers, while also getting ready for valentine fun and festivities. This year, we will continue with January's bear theme, and make Valentine Bear holders to collect cards and treats from classmates on our party days, February 13 & 14.

Our puppet theater will be transformed into the **Wee Folk Post Office** this month, equipped with paper, envelopes, stamps, and a very official mailbox! Our Wee Folk families are sure to enjoy the many loving messages they receive as the children visit our new mail center. In the process, the children will be working on handwriting skills, without even realizing it!

Show-and-tell this month is filled with possibilities, as the children come prepared to share a picture of someone they LOVE! We anticipate learning more about the people who are extra-special to us, and why.

This month we will also hide a new Bible verse in our hearts: I John 4:19 - "We love Him, because He first loved us." Set to music and sung by Steve Green and friends, we enjoy this special way of memorizing scripture through the year. And at the end of each month, the children also look forward to a small prize to celebrate their accomplishments.

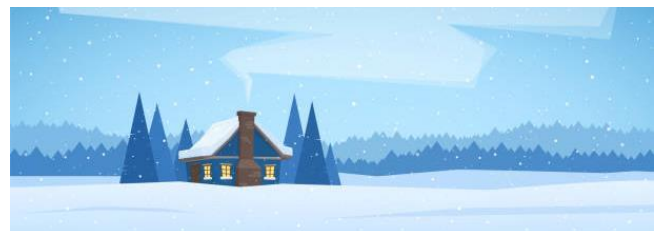
Hugs and Kisses ... with much love from all of us at Wee Folk!



The Silent Winter

by Edwin Osgood Grover

And now come the silent days of inward living – the profitable hours of meditative peace. Without, white fields are full of snowy silences; within, the welcome warmth of hearth and home, the open book, where march great thoughts to lead us far afield through legend, song and story. Now, if ever, should our summer dreams come true – our hearts attain their aspirations – our hands fulfill their long-awaited duties; now should our faith renew its hold on God and Truth and our very souls climb upward to their Heaven. For lo! The silent winter is the Spirit's spring.



A "Life Lesson" from K.I.D.S. Church

by Sherry Ziegler

We put our lessons on the Armor of Christ (Ephesians 6) "on hold" and spent our November and December Sundays doing special Thanksgiving and Christmas projects.



In doing all of our coloring, cutting and punching (oh my!) I've been teaching our children respect for "God's House", and the one who works hard to keep it in top-top shape. When we made our Christmas tree ornaments on December 23rd out of "old" cards, we were determined not to leave any card scraps or tiny circles from the paper punch for our custodian to clean-up. (Cousin Don, how'd we do?!)

What I think is important (a "life lesson", if you will) is this: we make the mess, we clean it up! It's about taking responsibility, a part of living "peacefully, simply, together" and showing respect and consideration for others.

Think of how you'd want your kids, grandkids (and yourself) to behave before a King or Queen—then be mindful that in church ("God's House") we are worshipping and in the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!! Made you stop and think, huh?!

A Walk with Jesus

by Ron Lantz

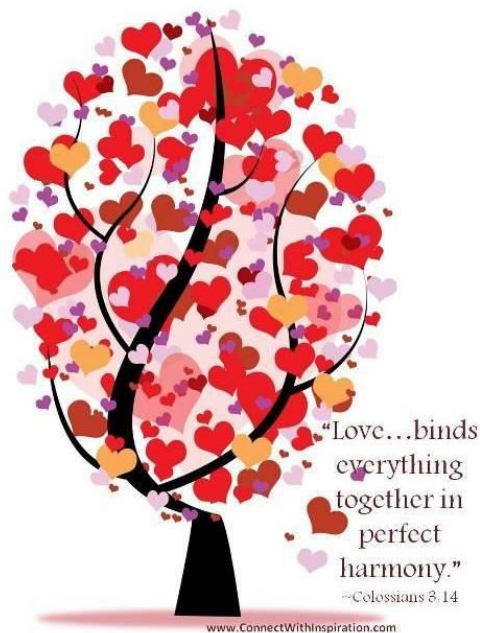
If you could take a walk with Jesus,
If He could spend some time with you,
Would you walk through fields of flowers
Sprinkled with the morning dew?

If you could take a walk with Jesus,
Would you walk beside the sea,
Or would you walk out in the forest
So you could rest beneath the tree?

If you could take a walk with Jesus,
What would you say to him?
Would you spend the time complaining
about your family and friends?

If you could take a walk with Jesus,
Would you grumble about your job?
Would you choose your words with caution,
as you walked with the Son of God?

Now before you give your answer,
Give careful thought to what you'll say,
Though you may not have noticed,
Jesus walked with you today.





Birthdays This Month

February Birthdays

- 1 Larry Cassel
- 2 Donna Maicher
- 6 Brydon Bateman
- 8 Bob Lane, Tessa Coale
- 10 Sarah Parcell
- 11 Tim Houck
- 15 Cindy Limbert, Glenn Bateman
- 16 Donna Derstine
- 17 Don Ziegler
- 18 Donna Parcell
- 19 Mackenzie Leonhardt
- 22 Norm Chappell, Louise Force
- 23 Theresa Wampler
- 25 Dottie Mininger
- 28 Joyce Watts, Sue Moyer,
Stephanie Piatek

Early March Birthdays

- 1 Trisha Smith
- 2 Julie Bechtel, Ben Poehlmann
- 4 Cathy Moyer
- 5 Linda Furman, Julie Ziegler
- 6 Marjorie Jarratt

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



Special Dates to Remember!

Saturday, February 3

Soup-er Bowl Sunday of Caring
Congregational Survey
Church-wide Carry-in Dinner

Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.

Wee Folk Lunch-bunch Crafternoon, 11:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsals Begin for Spring, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Franconia Heritage

Sunday, February 10

KIDS Church

Tuesday, February 12

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Soup-Making in Church Kitchen, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 13

Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 15

Sr. Adult Fellowship at PBC, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Women's Valentine Tea in Library

Monday, February 18

President's Day – Wee Folk Off

Wednesday, February 20

Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 23

All-church Dinner and Auction

Sunday, February 24

KIDS Church

Tuesday, February 26

Jubilee Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 27

Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

