



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

**INSIDE...**

- Pastoral Transition
- Search Committee updates
- Ashley's Angle
- Youth Group News
- Nurture Nook
- Deacon Ministry
- Poems and More!
- Birthdays



**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

*In the Name of Jesus*

**Readings:** John 3:22-30

*He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30).*

**Meditation:** C.S. Lewis once remarked that different characters in a story must play great parts without pride and small parts without shame. Today's text reveals that John the Baptist understood and lived that lesson well.

A challenge in being Christian, comments N. T. Wright, is taking into account the many sources of insight- the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus; the leading of the Spirit; the wisdom found in scripture; one's baptism and all that it means; the sense of God's presence and guidance through prayer; and fellowship with other Christians, present and past- and then weighing what we hear in one quarter alongside what is said in another and working it all together. But the essence, says Wright, is hearing "voices of Jesus calling us to follow him into God's new world- the world in which the hints, signposts, and echoes of the present world turn into the reality of the next one."

The testimony of the Baptist to his followers is that Jesus is at the heart and center of God's new movement. And so he is to be for us. A metaphor attributed to Huston Smith and cited by Marcus Borg clinches the point: If you are looking for water, it is better to dig one well sixty feet deep than six wells ten feet deep.

The founders of the Brethren movement like John the Baptist, had it figured out right: As Christians, our calling is to be a living witness for Christ in the world.

**For the day:** Ministry is acting in the name of Jesus, J. M. Henri Nouwen has written, and to him that meant acting in intimate communication with Jesus. Assess your personal ministry by pondering the Nouwen question: Am I acting in the name of Jesus?

**Prayer:** God, keep ever before us an awareness that any good we do comes not of ourselves, but through your working in our lives. Keep us ever in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Howard E. Royer*

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**

Leadership Team has interviewed two candidates for Interim Pastor this month. We are in the process of calling one of them to serve. Please keep this process and all involved in your prayers. Our prayer is that God's will be done.

Kevin Bedell  
Leadership Team Chair

### **Search Committee Update**

The search committee would like to extend appreciation to the congregation for their diligence in completing the pastoral search survey. In total, 70 individuals were accounted for! The committee met on June 24th to review the compiled data and complete the congregational profile. Once the profile is complete, it is then sent to the district to be uploaded to their database. This allows pastors who are searching for placements to "view" our church. Our district executive, Pete Kontra, will receive information regarding interested candidates. Interested candidates will then be presented to the search committee. From there, interviews take place, logistics are ironed out, and the pastoral candidate will ultimately be presented to the congregation who will vote whether or not to accept them. Specifics of all these steps will continue to be communicated to the congregation.

The committee would like to acknowledge the diversity in answers to pastoral search surveys. The body of Christ is not a uniform entity. We have differing opinions. Differing viewpoints. Different priorities. Different values. But ultimately, we are one in Christ. Our diversity can cause division, or it can showcase beauty. God is not one-dimensional, and neither is our church. Our differences show the vastness of how we encounter God. Our diversity highlights just how big our God is. God cannot be contained in one singular human viewpoint. God is glorified by our example to the world of how to walk in peace

despite our differences. Praise God for our diversity. Let us each continue to walk in humility, embrace the diversity within our church body, and celebrate the vastness of our God.

Please reach out to Sarah Duett if you have questions or concerns about any step along the way.

Blessings,

Sarah

### **Ashley's Angle**

Written by: Ashley Boyd

### **A Call Home**

*Thank you for Your presence and almighty hand.*

*Thank You for giving me grace even during the storms I can't understand.*

*Thank You for staying and making Your presence known.*

*Thank You for telling me who I am and speaking life into me in the sweetest tone.*

*Thank You for going before me because peace and clarity are found in Your shadow.*

*Thank You for hearing my prayers and aligning my desires with Your heart, in turn erasing the sorrow.*

*Thank You for continuously shaping and molding me, in the moments I fell apart.*

*Thank you for being the break in my breakthrough, because without it the Holy Spirit couldn't shine through.*

*Thank You for allowing me to be a reflection of Your love; while You hold the praise, glory and honor up above. In Jesus name Amen.*

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

# Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell

Our June activity was going on our FaithX trip (formerly known as workcamp) to South Bend Indiana. Jadon Batman, Joseph Grau, Kadlin Grau, Claire Spigel, Dennis Duett, and Donna Parcell were the participants. We joined groups from Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Indiana to form a group of 15 youth, 6 advisors, and 3 leaders. We stayed at the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren. The first day we arrived, settled in, got to know each other, and enjoyed a fabulous taco bar provided by the church.



On Wednesday we settled in to work. Half of us spent the morning working at a local soup kitchen while the other half did yard work around the church. Those working in the soup kitchen began by cleaning chairs, then helped with food prep. It was chili day, so they particularly enjoyed smashing tomatoes.

The youth really enjoyed talking with the people that came in to eat, and also observed their interactions with each other. It was a very meaningful experience. About 150 people were served. Those helping at the church enjoyed using power tools to trim branches! In the afternoon we worked in a community garden. We were really impressed with their geo dome and other gardening techniques. The only downside was that it was 100 degrees outside. We did get to feast on mulberries and peas! After work we went to a local lake to go swimming.

Thursday we all spent the morning in the local food pantry. Some of the group packed boxes of food and loaded pallets while others sorted donated foods. We had to check expiration dates, check for any damage to the packaging, and sort by type of food. In the afternoon we returned to the community garden. This time we were better prepared for the heat. They had some indoor jobs for us, plus we had a popsicle break. We enjoyed feeding the goat all of the weeds that we picked, and Kadlin also enjoyed hanging out with the chickens. The people running the garden were very impressed with the amount of work that we got done. They complimented Joseph on his relentless weeding despite the heat. For supper the church had a nice cook out for us.

Friday we spent all day at the food pantry. They were glad to have us all day because the group was such hard workers. Jadon got to be a shopper and fill

lists from people picking up food. It was a fast paced job! Meanwhile in the sorting room, Claire quickly became our go-to person for their amazing knowledge of expiration date leniency. Many conversations went thusly: “Us: what’s the leeway on soup? Claire: is it tomato based? Us: yes. Claire: 1 ½ years.” It was hard for those of us who are not youth to read those expiration dates! After work we had a great time going to a baseball game and even got free hats!

Saturday we enjoyed sleeping in (hooray!) and spent the day at Lake Michigan. We climbed the huge sand dunes, covered ourselves in mud in the mud pits, built a huge sand castle, and swam in the lake.



Other highlights included our devotion groups who also helped to prepare meals. We were the capybaras, the platypuses, and the armadillos. The groups did a great job planning morning devotions.

We would like to thank the congregation for supporting us in prayer and financially, and for writing notes of encouragement for

us to read throughout the week. We especially want to thank our fearless drivers, Pam Bateman and Jane Spigel. Not only did they get us to the airport safely on Tuesday, but they went above and beyond as we experienced many delays on our return on Sunday, including sitting on the tarmac in Philly for 2 hours. We ended up back at the church at 2:30am. You are seriously the best!



Article and photos by Donna Parcell

Our June activity was our annual church picnic. We were blessed with a beautiful day! We were so happy that so many from the congregation joined us. It was a great time of fellowship, so many good conversations around the picnic tables. Nurture was busy grilling the hotdogs and hamburgers while the rest of the congregation set out their delicious side dishes and desserts. So much good food!





We were glad that Helen Spigel could join us as it was the day she left for her summer of serving the homeless community in Winston-Salem NC. Many of us got to speak with her and give her our blessings. It was great visiting with both old friends and new.





# Deacon Ministry

Submitted by: Pam Bedell

“For over 250 years, Brethren have gathered regularly together to worship together, to discuss questions of faith, and to be reacquainted with believers across the country. The first official meeting of this type was in 1742 when Brethren met to reaffirm their unique identity. Thirty years later, the event would become an annual occasion...”

Annual Conference website

In honor of Annual Conference meeting July 3-7, the following is a 2018 devotion from Kenneth M. Shaffer, Jr., when the denomination celebrated its 300th anniversary:

## Sing for Joy

Psalm 92 It is good to give thanks to the  
LORD,  
to sing praises to thy name, O Most  
High;  
2 to declare thy steadfast love in the  
morning,  
and thy faithfulness by night,  
3 to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.  
4 For thou, O LORD, hast made me glad  
by thy work;  
at the works of thy hands I sing for joy.

How often do you give thanks to God? According to the psalmist we should give thanks at least twice a day – in the morning and at night. The psalmist also suggests that we should give thanks and praise God for God’s ‘steadfast love’ and ‘faithfulness’ and for God’s great works. We can always depend on God’s love and the many gifts God gives us. Note the psalmist’s emphasis on music when we give thanks – the lute, the harp, and the lyre. Obviously, music and singing played a significant role when the Hebrews praised God. The early Brethren also placed a high priority on singing when they gathered for worship. They published their first hymn book in 1720. The title page, *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch* (Spiritual Song Book), indicates that the hymns were for praising God. We too must sing for joy when we consider the great works of the Lord.

As we remember the birth of the Brethren movement, let us give thanks to God for inspiring a new church community. Let us also thank God for those who have continued to nurture the church over the past three hundred (and six!) years. Let us celebrate and sing for joy, and with the help of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness let us pass our faith community on to others.

**Prayer:** Ever faithful God, I thank you for your steadfast love which sustains us each day. I also thank you for sustaining the Brethren movement for three hundred years and pray that you will guide us as we move into the future. Amen



**(Flowers)**

Well blue skies and hillsides  
feel so far away  
And I wrote in my notebook  
that I've seen better days  
Than the ones as of late  
I can't bear the weight

The rain won't stop pouring  
out my window pane  
And I haven't left my bedroom in 76 days  
I wish something would change  
Cause I'm losing faith

**CHORUS**

So I brought it up in a desperate prayer  
Lord, why are you keeping me here?  
Then He said to me,  
Child I'm planting seeds  
I'm a good God  
and I have a good plan  
So trust that I'm holding a watering can  
And someday you'll see  
That flowers grow in the valley

So whatever the reason  
I'm barely getting by  
I'll trust it's a season  
knowing that you're by my side  
Every step of the way  
And I'll be okay

**CHORUS**

When I'm on the mountain  
and looking down below  
I'll see a valley of flowers  
that needed time to grow  
And I'll thank you for the rain  
The hurt and days of pain

And I'll bring it up in a grateful prayer  
Thank you Jesus for keeping me there  
You know just what I need  
And you've planted seeds  
Cause you're a good God  
with a real good plan  
And you hold my world  
And a watering can  
So I can have peace  
Cause flowers grow in the valley

Song and lyrics by Samantha Ebert



**CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS**

- 1 Bonnie Cassel
- 2 David Whetstone
- 9 Dennis Moyer
- 11 Valeria Kramer
- 12 Pam Bateman
- 13 Naomi Piatek
- 15 Brian Coleman
- 22 Cheryl Rostick
- 28 Zach Filburn

Early August Birthdays

- 6 Linda Greiner

