

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

Ashley Boyd
Administrative Assistant

Don Ziegler
Custodian

Kathy Moyer
Wee Folk Director/Teacher

Heather Thomsen
Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

Live, Laugh, and Love!

“Change is the only constant in life.”

- Heraclites, Greek philosopher, 5th century B.C.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

- Moses, quoting God speaking to Noah (Genesis 8:22)

Of all the seasons within a single year, autumn is perhaps best known as the season of change. We watch with anticipation as the leaves turn from green to shades of gold, orange, and red. We then watch with some sadness as those same leaves fall to the ground and landscapes begin to take on the familiar barren look of the approaching winter. In reality, the natural world is changing continuously in every season: awakening, growing, producing, shedding, dying, decaying, resting, enriching, freezing, thawing, warming, and awakening once again. The cycle continues, but it does not simply repeat itself. It changes. It moves forward. The tree that went through the cycle last year is bigger this year. Another tree dies. And as individual trees change, so does the forest.

Here’s another example. We know that our experience of night and day is based upon the rotation of the earth in relation to the sun. The earth spins on its axis, completing one complete rotation every 24 hours. However, that is not the only movement of the earth. While the earth spins, it also revolves around the sun, making the entire trip every 365 and ¼ days. And at the same time, our solar system is hurling through the Milky Way galaxy, which, in turn, is hurling through the universe.

What is my point? Even while we experience life day by day by day, the days do not simply repeat. Life moves in a direction, and that movement brings change. No wonder Heraclitus claimed that “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man.”

As a church, we meet and do much the same thing every Sunday, every week, every year—year after year. Yet, we don’t stay the same. We change. We are born. We live. We grow. We die. People come. People go. We impact each other. But through it all, God is faithful. As Jeremiah wrote in Lamentations 3:22-23,

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, for his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)

Live, Laugh, and Love!

Have you ever been in a season of life where no matter what good you do, it feels like you can't prevail? Some days are much harder than others. I call these hard times my Job moments.

Job is a man in the bible who was blameless and upright. He feared God and shunned the devil. He was a man of character and integrity, and someone we all should learn from. While talking with Satan about Job, God agreed to allow Job's faith to be tested. This sounded audacious until I realized that God loved, knew, and trusted Job so much that He knew Job would not only stand firm in his faith, but that God's glory would be shown in the place of desolation in Job's life.

God allowed these circumstances to happen possibly to bless Job with double for all his years of being blameless. God allowed everything around Job to perish, clearly stating that Satan could take away all that Job had (acquired), but Satan was not permitted to touch Job.

Often that is a hard concept for us to understand, because there are moments in our lives where we gage our identity in the things we have and not the beautiful power that God has created us to be.

Satan would go on to do everything in his power to get Job to curse God, never considering that God's hands were on Job and not what God had given Job to steward over and care for. God's hand was on him so those things can be taking away and then replaced and all that God is focused on is simply a relationship with you.

The Bible story goes on to say that Job's character, health, and property were threatened. Job lost his wealth, his children, and his friends. His situation seems so dark that his own wife tells him to curse God and die, because even she can't see or understand how God is moving or how His ways and thoughts are not ours. His is higher!

My prayer is that we as the body of Christ are able to trust in God's promise to prosper us even in the dark moments when our future seems uncertain; because just like Job, we are reminded that God is the beginning and the end. He is with us the entire time, so let's live, laugh and love for God always.

Ashley Boyd
(Your favorite Admin Asst.)

Sparrows

(Andrew Ripp / Cory Asbury)

The sparrow's not worried 'bout tomorrow
Or the troubles to come
The lily's not thinking 'bout the seasons
The drought or the flood
A tree that's planted by the water
Isn't fazed by the fire
So why should I be?

'Cause You take good care of me
You take good care of me
You know what I need before I even ask a thing
And You hold me in Your hands
With a kindness that never ends
I'm carried in Your love no matter what the future brings
Yeah, You take good care of me

The sun's not worried 'bout the winter
'Cause soon it will pass
The light's not thinking 'bout the darkness
Or the shadow it casts
A heart that's planted in forgiveness
Doesn't dwell in the past
So why should I be?

'Cause You take good care of me
You take good care of me
You know what I need before I even ask a thing
And You hold me in Your hands
With a kindness that never ends
I'm carried in Your love no matter what the future brings
Yeah, You take good care of me

I know there must be more
But I can't get past Your kindness
I know there's got to be more
But I can't get past Your goodness

You take good care of me
You take good care of me
You know what I need before I even ask a thing
You hold me in Your hands
With a kindness that never ends
I'm carried in Your love no matter what the future brings
Oh, You take good care of me

Songwriters: Andrew Ripp / Cory Asbury / Ethan Hulse / Jared Anderson
Sparrows lyrics © Bethel Music Publishing, Essential Music Publishing

Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell

For our October activity we went to Abby's Pumpkins in Perkiomenville on the only Saturday in October that it didn't rain!



Our first venture was the alien themed corn maze. The average person takes about 25 minutes to complete the maze. With the help of boy scouts Joseph and Nathan, we made it out in only 15 minutes! But...we were supposed to find 5 aliens hidden in the corn and we only found 3. Determined to find them all, we headed back in the maze. Well, everyone except Kadlin who opted to pet the horses instead. We quickly found the other 2 aliens and managed to find the exit one more time.

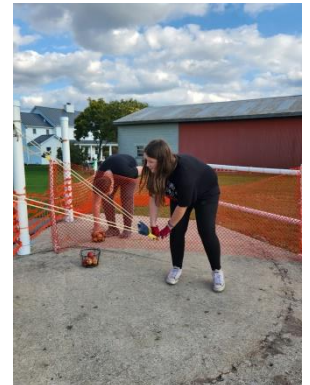


Next was a fun hay ride where we were challenged to find 8 more aliens. It was a perfect fall day and we enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the way.

We also found all 8 aliens!

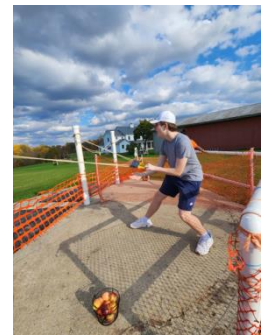


Finally, we each took a turn at the apple sling shots. Everyone got a bucket of apples, but we were confused as to why Jadon's apples all were half eaten. Turns out Jadon was hungry. For the apple slinging, there were several targets to try to hit.



The most challenging one was a long pole on top of a tipped dump truck bed with a target at the very top of the pole.

Miss Donna offered a prize to whoever could hit the target. When asked what the prize would be, a cruise was suggested since it seemed that nobody would hit that target.



Wouldn't you know all 4 of the youth hit the target! Looks like there will be a youth group cruise in the future! Or maybe just fun trophies. Stay tuned.

Article and photos by Donna Parcell

Our October church fellowship activity was a hike along the Perkiomen Trail. Even though it has traditionally rained every weekend this fall, we somehow ended up with a beautiful day. am Bedell, Donna Parcell, Teresa Wampler, and Robin Whetstone met at Central Perkiomen Valley Park and walked for about 5 miles.



We enjoyed the beautiful changing leaves, watching wildlife, and each other's company. Not all of us enjoyed the 2 snakes that we saw, even though they were very small ones. It was a beautiful day to get together and enjoy God's creation.

Atlantic Northeast District Conference 2023

By Pamela Bedell, ICCOB Delegate

Questions, questions, questions... they were the tool to prompt discussion at District Conference this year. Each person who gave a report, ended it by asking two questions. The delegates were given eight minutes to discuss the questions and record the answers. Here are some of the questions that have stayed with me since the conference.

What if your church closed? Would the community notice? This question was posed by Pastor Ryan Braught from Veritas, a church plant in Lancaster, during an insight session after lunch.

He was encouraging us to get church out of our buildings and do more work in our neighborhoods. The cultural divide is so large right now between older people who want to go into a church building and worship, and younger generations who are not interested in institutions. We need to go out and meet people where they are.

How can camp bring people together in the future? asked Camp Swatara director Tim Courtright. This question highlighted the goal of the district to remind us that we are not alone in our work. There are about 70 other congregations in the district, many right in this area. The district provides activities to help us connect with each other. Some ways to connect are by working on projects together using Church 2 Church, worshipping at one of the other Brethren churches occasionally, going to a Youth or Women's Fellowship district activity, or planning a retreat together at camp!



Leonor Ochoa did not ask questions in her opening meditation at the beginning of the business day, but it was still very thought provoking. She focused on the theme of conference, "The Tie that Binds." The illustration of this theme shows that we are sewn, or woven, together with Jesus and put down

roots with Him. Together our roots can be deep, strong, and robust. She also encouraged churches to go out into the world. We should strive to bless, forgive, and share grace with people around us.

One final question that struck me was posed by Mark Cunningham, Executive Director of COBYS Family Services. After showing pictures of the children and families their agency has helped this year, he asked.



"What drives you? What are you doing about it?" ... something for us all to think about.

Sound System Upgrades

By Natasha Edwards

*Praise ye the Lord, sing unto the Lord a new song
and his praise in the congregation of saints.
(Psalm 149:1)*

At the Fall Congregational Forum this year, the Worship Team reported on new upgrades coming soon to the sound system in the sanctuary. This is the culmination of months of planning that began shortly after the last Spring Congregational Forum, when the Worship Team reported that there was technical assistance and grants from the ANE District to assist churches in need of improvements to their streaming. At Indian Creek, there has been ongoing concerns over the quality of sound over the livestream, especially by musicians. Because the livestream is not just for our congregation, but for Peter Becker Community, potential visitors, and can be seen publically by anyone, it is important to improve this aspect.

In May, the Worship Team set up an ad hoc committee for the purpose of assessing our sound needs, vetting sound technicians, and ultimately making a recommendation for Leadership Team's approval. The ad hoc committee consisted of Pastor Mark Baliles, Brian Detweiler, Natasha Edwards, and Chris McBreen, with valuable input from Noah Baliles, Dennis Duett, and the rest of the Worship Team.

Over the summer months, the team contacted multiple sound technicians and met with 4 who did free onsite assessments and provided multiple proposals, ranging from around \$11,000 to \$40,000. We had two really strong options and ultimately awarded the contract to Fitch Electronics in Pottstown, due to the superior equipment proposed, their interpersonal skills and flexibility to provide additional training and support, and the opportunity for us to create a longstanding relationship with a local small business.

We also applied for the grant and were awarded \$7,500 toward the project (\$2,500 over the normal award due to our congregation's strong involvement with and support of the District and our own Dennis Duett being part of the District's technical assistance team). Praise the Lord!

The upgrades will include:

1. New digital sound board with ability to control from a phone or iPad.
2. Two new standing choir mics and tuning of current overhead choir mics.
3. Two new audience mics to pick up congregational participation.
4. Two new wireless mics: 1 handheld and 1 headset.
5. Replacing the existing house speaker for safety.

Other needs that were highly recommended but tabled due to cost were new house speakers for the sanctuary and new monitors. The team is hoping to add new monitors soon.

The final quote was \$11,671. After use of grant funds, the remaining balance is \$4,171.

To cover the cost, the balance will be split between the Vision Fund and donations.

Please consider donating what you can to help raise \$2,100 to cover costs. You can contribute online to the specially designated fund or by check.

We are prayerfully hoping to have everything installed by the Thanksgiving service. Thank you to the team for their hard work, and thank you for your support!



Small Talk

by: Kathy Moyer

Wee Folk Nursery School



“This month is November, we give thanks to God,” is our new calendar song. It will serve as a good introduction to our Thanksgiving unit, in which we will highlight the importance of family and friends in our lives; giving thanks for our many blessings; and sharing with others. The children will have many opportunities to express their feelings of thankfulness, as we take time to reflect on what is really most important to us.

Our featured unit this month will find us focusing on the **Season of Friendship**. As we look back on the way the Native Americans befriended the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony, we will learn about the important role that corn played in their lives and practice the “Five Kernels” blessing. We will read the story of *The Littlest Pilgrim* and learn to play an Indian game of “sticks and beans.” And after reading, *Porcupine’s Pie*, we will make our own Friendship Pies, filled with kindness and sprinkled with words of love and friendship! Other project work this month will include making a prayer plate - featuring our God is Great prayer; bubble wrap painted Indian corn; cute turkey decorations; and a Thanksgiving story bracelet. At music time, we will learn songs about turkeys, Pilgrims, and the

First Thanksgiving; and we’ll sing and dance Indian-style to our favorite song, “Hi-Ya-Ha!”

Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, we will make a Friendship Mix snack to enjoy. After popping a bowl of popcorn, each of us will add something crunchy to the mix and enjoy munching while watching *The Mayflower Voyagers*.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we thank those who supported our recent Winter Wonderland fundraiser! Delivery of items ordered is expected in about three weeks. Your support is so much appreciated and will go a long way in funding some of our extra expenses!

With love and blessings from our Wee Folk family to yours!

Heavenly Father, on
Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to you and pray.
We give You thanks for all
you’ve done
Especially for the gift of Jesus,
Your son.

Poem By
Mary Fairchild

Knock Knock
Who’s there?
Arthur.
Author who?
Arthur any Thanksgiving leftovers?

Happy
Birthday!

November Birthdays

1	Elaine Mininger
5	Elaine Seitz, Michael Covell
6	Charolette Moyer
7	Vanessa Rostick
10	Susan Wampler
19	Jane Spigel
21	Pat Lane
22	Dennis Duett
25	Mark Zeller
28	David William, Kitty Doughty, Maria Serino
30	Kevin Bedell

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



Me : Hey God

God: Hello...

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because your aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand I'm breaking down!

God: No- you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. Your aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you -YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOUR ARE BECOMING!

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change ... Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So... I'm not broken?

God: Of course Not! - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!!



Author- John Roedel