

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

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(FaithX experience)

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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

TBD

Administrative Assistant

Don Ziegler

Custodian

Kathy Moyer

Wee Folk Director/Teacher

Heather Thomsen

Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

### **Catch Up! Show Up! Join In! Lean In!**

Ready or not, September is here. Although the calendar says there are a few more weeks of summer, most of our vacations are over and most children have already started back to school. One more holiday weekend, then we "gear up" to get back to work—whatever that might mean in each of our individual contexts.

There is a similar feeling in our life together as a church. Here are four suggestions for each of us to consider seriously as we transition into the next season of the year.

First, take time to **catch up**. Life at Indian Creek did not stop while you were away. In fact, there was quite a bit going on, as you can see in this issue of Ripples. Read the whole thing. And while you're at it, go on our website and read the July-August issue, too. We also kept meeting each week for Sunday school and worship. We spent most of the summer continuing our sermon series, "Seeing Jesus through Matthew's Eyes." Each of these sermons can be found on our website, as well as on our Facebook page.

Second, **show up**. That's it. Whenever possible, show up. We really do miss you when you're gone.

Third, **join in**. Deepen your experience and spiritual growth by getting involved in Bible study, in music, in fellowship, in service, or in leadership. A new Sunday school year is starting. Choir rehearsal begins Wednesday. You could help with the nursery, visit the sick or lonely, or volunteer with others at Peter Becker Community or the Mennonite Resource Center.

Fourth, **lean in**. Do what you can to contribute to *deep connection* (with each other and with God), *deep conviction* (about who God is and what is most important in following Christ), *deep compassion* (caring about other people, curious about their story), *deep confession* (owning our own failures and limitations of our own knowing and doing), *deep conversation* (sharing and listening well), and *deep contribution* (using what God has given you to serve others). All of these areas of focus will go a long way to helping us fulfill God's purpose for us: to be a church that looks and loves like Jesus—one that is **"healthy and growing and full of love"** (Eph. 4:14-16, NLT).

- Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)

# Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell

Our August activity was participating in a FaithX trip (formerly known as workcamp) to serve in Winston-Salem North Carolina! This was the first FaithX trip for all of our youth who attended and they all did a GREAT job! They were hard workers, eager helpers, very patient, tolerant of others, never complained, and willing to step outside of their comfort zones. The youth who participated were Jadon Bateman, Kadlin Grau, Joseph Grau, Claire Spigel, and Helen Spigel. Brian Detweiler was an advisor and Donna Parcell was director and advisor.

We served with an organization called SPARK'DWELL who serves the local community in many capacities. In our morning worship times our daily speakers were leaders in local organizations who spoke to us about topics such as food insecurity, homelessness, mental health, and addiction. We were accompanied each day by counselors, who are homeless people in the community who work with these organizations. We were incredibly impressed with their work ethic and commitment to these programs. One gentleman lives in a tent, yet always dresses in a suit. He was with us all day offering encouragement, advice, and knowledge. After that he took 3 different buses to work a part time job. Then he went back to the community center to watch over things. Finally, he returned to his tent for 3 hours of sleep. Another young woman was abandoned at age 11, and she still became the first in her family to graduate high school.

A particularly meaningful experience was our "walk through the margins" on our first day. We were divided into groups and given a common task that the community deals with. Each group was assigned one of these tasks: find temporary housing, apply for a valid id, apply for a job, seek help for mental illness, or seek help for addiction.

We experienced the frustration of waiting in long lines only to be turned away, having to take long bus rides or walk several miles, or needing the internet to apply for things. It was really an eye opening experience. Each group followed all the instructions and did everything correctly, yet each group failed. It certainly changed how we perceive homelessness. We learned that everyone has a story, and many are trying their best in a system designed to fail them.

There were many work projects. Our group was part of 4 different ones. We painted a mural of encouragement at the community



center and got to interact with a lot of amazing people. We worked with children in a day camp and had fun playing games with them and

even got to play 4 square in the rain. We painted walls and doors at a thrift store. And we worked washing dishes and packaging food at the largest food bank we have ever seen.



It was hard work, but we all were eager to pitch in and help.

At night we had worship services where we participated in communion, anointing, and foot washing. All were very meaningful.

(continued...)



One evening we went to a baseball game that was a lot of fun.



. Our tickets included an all you can eat buffet which was a big hit. There was also a carousel and other games to play. The highlight was definitely Brian retrieving a foul ball. Rumor has it he had to tackle a youth to get it, but he was proud of himself just the same!

This experience was life changing for us. We learned so much about ourselves and the world around us.



We are so grateful for this opportunity to serve, and are so thankful for the support of the congregation. Thanks to all who prayed for us, to those who helped with the auction fund raiser, for Women's Fellowship for supporting us financially, and for our airport drivers Pam Bateman, Don Moyer, and Jane Spigel.

*Here is more about Spark'Dwell and their vision for ministry from their website.*

**SPARK'DWELL**

**WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF BEING KINGDOM PEOPLE.**

"Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice; church people often put church work above concerns of justice, mercy, and truth. Church people think about how to get people into the church; Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world. Church people worry that the world might change the church; Kingdom people work to see the church change the world."

"Because justice issues related to homelessness, hunger, poverty, racism, education disparity, and more are complex situations that require complex conversations and answers, SPARK and The Dwelling team up (Spark'Dwell) to offer opportunities for young people and adults to spend a week during the summer...participating in Spirit and Service Learning Opportunities."

"Hosted (housed) at a local partner church, participants engage in a week of relationship-building, education, story-telling and service alongside formerly or currently homeless individuals. In doing so, participants will better understand the complexity of the systems and institutions perpetuating injustice and inequity, how the church is responding as Matthew 25 people, and way that they can continue to advocate for justice in their own communities."



Article and photos by Donna Parcell



Our August church family activity was to meet at the Souderton Community Park for their Concert Sundaes series. The Sunday that we chose featured a Motown band which was really good. Dave Whetstone was seen checking out the drums, but we don't think he was able to sneak a solo in. Not only did we enjoy the music, we also enjoyed the ice cream sundaes, plus the snacks that we all brought to share! It was a great time of fellowship, singing, being outdoors, and even some dancing! Those attending were Pastor Mark and Reba Baliles, Sarah, Pam and Kevin Bedell, Dennis, and Micah Duett, Marcia Houck, Chris McBreen, Donna Parcell, Cheryl Rostick, Susan Wampler and Rory Osler, Theresa Wampler, Robin and Dave Whetstone. It was a perfect summer evening to sit outside and enjoy each other's company, great music, and some good snack as well.



Save  
the  
Date

On September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the pavilion, the Worship Ministry Team is planning a hymn sing celebration in memory of Kerry Ziegler and his love of Gospel Music. We encourage you and your friends to gather with us and former members of this worship team, which began over fifty years ago. Bring lawn chairs and plan to worship with us. (In case of inclement weather it will be held in the Sanctuary).

Make a  
joyful noise  
to the LORD  
Psalm 100:1



## Small Talk

by: Kathy Moyer



As summer days are coming to an end, it's time for us to begin preparing for another busy school year at Wee Folk!

For the past few weeks, we have been working toward getting everything clean and ready for the children when they come to play on their first day of school on September 11. We are still registering new students and enjoy showing them around when they come to visit, so they can see firsthand what they will find in the classroom when they arrive for school.

This week, we are also hosting family picnics in order to celebrate back-to-school days while making and renewing acquaintances. After

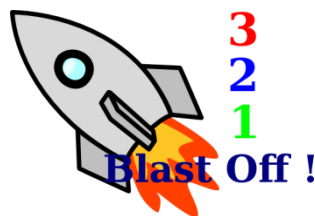


enjoying a picnic supper, the children are sure to joyfully share playground time together. We thank the Stewards for providing a fresh layer of mulch and for checking the safety of the equipment in order to provide for continued healthful outdoor play for the children.



Our theme for the month of September will take us to the moon and back, as we launch into the new school year with a unit about **SPACE**. We will

explore the work of astronauts, learn about the moon, and present an introduction to the solar system – all within the framework of creation and part of God's beautiful world.



The children will be able to countdown to lift-off in our “space shuttle” climber, where they can also

look at an assortment of library books about the moon, our solar system, and astronauts. And they'll be able to communicate with “mission control” using walkie-talkies! We'll be making paper tube telescopes to observe the stars, moonscapes, and “All about Me” rockets. The children and their families will also be encouraged to view the moon each night to see how it waxes and wanes through the month! At the conclusion of our study, we will make a “moon cake” snack to enjoy, and see a movie about astronauts. How excited we are to share this adventure with our students, as we blast off to the start of a new year ahead!

With fewer students attending this year, we are especially grateful for the donations of many



who support us with financial gifts. Along with many from the church family, we also have former Wee Folk families who remember us from time to time. It is both humbling and rewarding to accept these expressions of love and support. Special thanks, also, are extended to those who pray faithfully for this ministry to the community, and to our Wee Folk Committee Members – Esther Kishbaugh, Pat Bub, and Carol-Joyce Anton.



We commit this new school year to the Lord, and seek his guidance and blessing as we strive to be God's hands and feet to the families we serve.



### September Birthdays

- 3 Carol-Joyce Anton
- 4 Art Derstine
- 10 Janette Steward
- 11 Erica Godshall, Robin Whetstone
- 13 Erin (Baliles) Amador, Diane Moyer
- 14 Reese Rostick
- 16 Nancy Freed
- 21 Joe Grau, Jr.
- 22 Mike Hart
- 24 Bryce Miner
- 25 Sally Siegfried
- 28 Cathy Zeller, Nathan Stevens
- 29 Dan Bedell, Ricky Houck, George Derstine
- 30 Owen Smith

### Early October Birthdays

- 2 Pat Ziegler
- 4 Victoria Bateman

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



Many thanks to Susan Gallen for nearly two years of dedicated and heart-infused service as our Administrative Assistant here at Indian Creek Church of the Brethren. She connected deeply with many in our church family, and we pray for God's blessings to her and through her as she follows her new calling to teach theology at Mt. St. Joseph's Academy in Flourtown. She is pictured here with Pastor Mark on her last day in the ICCOB office.



There's something about  
A crisp fall day  
To remind us that God  
Is planning his way  
To take the warmth  
And sunshine away  
But leave autumn's glow  
To brighten our way

--Sallie Bristow

Where in all the world is there  
A ballet floating through the air  
As lovely as the dancing leaves of autumn?

--Pamela Vaull Starr