

Webpage Information

January 7 - Laurie Nafziger - **Mental health in 2026: 9 Things to Know about Oaklawn**

Oaklawn's story goes back to World War II when Mennonite conscientious objectors returned from their service believing that "there has to be a better way". That conviction led to the establishment of a Mennonite mental health system of eight community-based hospitals across the U.S., with Oaklawn opening her doors in Elkhart in 1962.

Much has happened in these 63 years: expansion, new therapies, better medications, integration with general health care, technological advancements, government funding for services, and improved access to care. Laurie will share what's new at Oaklawn in 2026 and what is driving the change.



Laurie Neumann Nafziger, President & CEO of Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, has worked at Oaklawn for over 38 years and has seen behavioral health treatment from the front lines. Much has changed in those years even as Oaklawn's commitment to health and wholeness has never wavered. She lives in Goshen with her husband, Roger, and feels incredibly fortunate to have all of her children and grandchildren living within walking distance.

January 14 - Len Morris - **I didn't die that day**

Len Morris, Founder and Chair of the Board, operates Viewrail which has been an overnight success 20 years in the making. Viewrail manufactures, designs, sells, ships, & installs some of the finest stair & railing systems across America. Every day, dozens of assembled stair & railing systems make their way through Viewrail's state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities; however, the road to success was anything but a linear path.

Over the company's 20+ years of business, the right answer seldom came straight out of the gate. Many trials and errors helped create some of the greatest opportunities in the market and in the development of the brand.

In this session, Len will walk you through the history of his now-\$100M+ business and how opportunity presented itself in some various ways over the years.



Len Morris is a follower of Jesus Christ on a good day and a follower of his own ambition on a bad day. On the good days, he is devoted to developing people and helping them become the men and women God designed them to be. He chooses not to speak about the bad days.

He has been surrounded by woodworking and people throughout his life and finds great joy in collaborating with teams to create things of beauty. Building stairways and building lives are his passions.

Len is skilled in marketing, sales, leadership, and skills development. He is the founder and CEO of Viewrail, a company that employs over 380 people and continues to grow. At Viewrail, the mission is to empower people to build exceptional spaces and to continually seek ways to unlock human potential. That remains his daily pursuit.

January 21 – Keith Saber - **Unchosen Suffering Met with Shared Compassion**

Many of the families that come to Church Community Services (CCS) are not here because they chose suffering. Suffering, heavy challenges, trauma, and financial scarcity has been thrust upon them, unchosen suffering. We meet families right where they are at in their struggle and we meet them with shared compassion, assistance, and their commitment through self-determination. Many families choose the compassionate assistance offered at CCS. Whether that assistance

comes in the form of groceries, job and life skills training, homeless prevention, or planting a garden.

Church Community Services was created 58 years ago by a caring collaboration of area churches to serve the immediate needs of our neighbors with food and financial challenges. Today, that mission continues along with our expanding mission of helping families break the cycle of poverty through intensive training and counseling. Our Soup of Success program is an example of that kind of life-changing program.

CCS is at “ground-zero” in the fight against generational and situational poverty. Our food pantry is the largest in Elkhart County. The financial services team helps folks with sorely needed rent, utility, and prescription assistance.

Across Elkhart County there are 40 plus Seed to Feed gardens. Many of the gardens are production gardens, providing fresh vegetables to families coming through our pantry. Seed to Feed gardens also provide a hub for communities to come together and share in the planting and harvesting of food.

The backbone of our organization is committed volunteers, 100’s of people pitching in and helping out.



Keith Sarber, Executive Director of Church Community Services

Over 30 years of professional experience in strategy, idea incubation, funding management and relationship development among corporate and non-profit accounts. Experience managing the Community

Impact Department, facilitating a tri-county merger, managing a \$3,000,000 portfolio of funding, connecting the mission and cultivating key relationships and providing impactful training on: outcomes management, strategic planning, board development, annual giving and managing organization’s special events.

Keith lives in Bristol and has been married to Sharon for over 34 years. Keith and Sharon met at St Francis University in the mid 80’s. They

have three adult children who have all completed BS degrees from three different Indiana Universities. They love to travel, read, and walk. They have two dogs, Finn and Merle.

January 28 -Jeremy Stutsman - **Empowering our Neighbors**

For more than 55 years, Lacasa, Inc. has worked to help individuals and families in Elkhart County achieve stability, dignity, and opportunity. What began as a small group wanting to improve the living conditions for farm workers grew into Lacasa becoming a leading nonprofit housing organization, developing affordable homes (for rent and sale), guiding first-time buyers, providing financial coaching, and investing in communities block by block. Through this work, Lacasa has helped thousands of residents gain the tools and confidence to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Today, Lacasa manages nearly 400 affordable housing units, operates one of Indiana's largest HUD-certified financial empowerment centers, and leads collaborative projects that address some of our region's toughest challenges, from Permanent Supportive Housing to Affordable Housing and homeownership. Working alongside partners like Oaklawn, Bashor Home, and Restore Church, we're creating supportive housing, empowering youth aging out of foster care, and helping communities thrive. As we look toward tomorrow, Lacasa's vision remains clear: a stronger, more inclusive Elkhart County where every person has the opportunity to live in safe, affordable housing and to reach their full potential.



Jeremy Stutsman, President & CEO, Lacasa, Inc. has dedicated his career to building stronger communities and creating opportunities for others to thrive. After graduating Goshen Schools and then Butler University Jeremy spent 17 years renovating building and working on streetscaping in Downtown Goshen in hopes of building a stronger community. Today, as President and CEO of Lacasa, Inc., a nonprofit housing organization serving Elkhart County, Jeremy leads a mission-driven team that empowers individuals and families toward financial stability, homeownership, and

neighborhood revitalization. Lacasa continues to expand its reach through innovative housing developments, supportive partnerships, and financial empowerment programs.

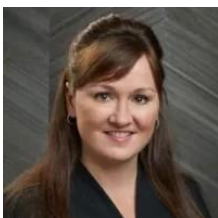
Before joining Lacasa, Jeremy served eight years as an At-Large Council member and eight years as Mayor of Goshen, where he earned statewide recognition for his collaborative leadership and commitment to sustainable growth, inclusion, and community well-being. His service and impact were honored by the Governor Eric Holcomb when he awarded Jeremy the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, one of the state's highest distinctions for public service. With over 25 years of experience in construction, local government, and community development, Jeremy continues to champion the belief that when people are empowered, communities flourish.

February 4 – Carrie Berghoff - **Inspiring Generosity in Elkhart County**

In Elkhart County, people care deeply about one another and the place we call home. The mission of the Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life here by inspiring generosity and helping those who want to make a difference put their resources to work.

Thanks to the generosity of local donors, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County has grown to be one of the top 50 community foundations in the nation, stewarding more than \$500 million in assets. Those shared resources fuel special initiatives such as Building Strong Brains and the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition—efforts that make our community stronger, healthier, and more connected.

For those who give, we offer flexible options, including a 25 percent match on gifts to endowments, so that legacies of generosity continue to benefit local nonprofits for generations to come.



Carrie Berghoff is the Chief Development Officer for the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. She assists donors with their philanthropic giving, and oversees fund management. She was born and raised in Elkhart and graduated from Indiana University. She worked for

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels' re-election campaign and then in the office of the governor during Mitch Daniels' second term as Governor. She joined the Community Foundation in 2016. Carrie is married to Drake Berghoff and they have three young girls.

February 11 - Colin Yoder - **What Does it Mean to be Green?**

In this presentation we will walk through what a green funeral and green burial is. We will look at what all goes into planning these kinds of services, what options are available to people, and things people should consider and plan for, if their desire is to have greener death care. I will share steps and procedures that go into planning green services and possibly challenge some commonly held beliefs.

The goal with this presentation is to provide education and understanding on green funeral services and how we can continue to be stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us, even in death care. Most importantly, I hope to answer questions people might have and attempt to provide a lighthearted atmosphere into what can be a fairly heavy and tough topic to discuss.



Colin Yoder is a third-generation funeral director and owner of Yoder-Culp Funeral Home. He has worked at the funeral home for 21 years. In 2010 he married Mackenzie (Long), whom he met at mortuary school. Mackenzie, also a funeral director, began working with him at Yoder-Culp in 2019. Together they have one daughter, Natalie, who is 12, and is in 6th grade at Benton Elementary. Colin and Mackenzie enjoy nothing more than watching Natalie play softball and volleyball, and they have both quickly learned that 6th grade homework is far more challenging than they remember it!

Colin is a life-long Goshen resident and has stayed active in the community. Colin has been a member of Kiwanis since 2010 and a part of the Goshen City Cemetery Board since 2013 and has served as the Chairman since 2016. Colin was also more recently appointed by Goshen City Council to serve on Goshen's Redevelopment Commission. Colin cares deeply about high quality death care, and as a member of the Indiana Funeral Directors Association, (IFDA), he has served on

the board of directors since 2015, with his term as President coming to an end in May of 2025. A highlight of his time on that board was spearheading legislation that allowed Medicaid eligible families to be able to expand their funeral service options. That legislation passed the Indiana General Assembly unanimously and was signed into law in 2023.

Lastly, Colin does make time for his favorite hobby, golf. If working in deathcare for over 20 years has taught him anything, it's that we must make time to do the things we most enjoy.

February 18 - Evie Yoder Miller – **A Writing Habit: Engaging with the Self and World**

Writing is a way to express what it's like to be human. Writing also offers us a way to try to make sense of our interactions with the surrounding world. Sometimes our personal experiences remain combative; other times humans develop graceful acceptance of what first seems foreign.

Writing poems and stories can enrich these understandings of life, whether mundane or sublime, and make meaning of our human existence through moments in time. Good writing, like good living, points to possible answers and shows us more questions to probe.



Evie Yoder Miller grew up in the Kalona, Iowa community. Her formal education included Iowa Mennonite School (now Hillcrest Academy), a B.A. degree in English from Goshen College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English – Creative Writing,

Fiction, earned in mid-life from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Distinctive parts of her life experience came from living in Appalachia, specifically Harlan County, Kentucky, for nineteen years while she was married and raising two daughters. Most recently, she lived in southeastern Wisconsin for twenty-four years. In these various locations, she taught courses in writing and literature at the high school level, community college, and for ten years at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater.

Writing has been central to her life for the past thirty years. Her first historical novel, *Eyes at the Window*, was published in 2003; in 2014, she released a book of literary fiction titled *Everyday Mercies*. Her trilogy of novels exploring Anabaptist experiences during the American Civil War was published between 2020 and 2021, with the corresponding audiobooks (*Shadows*, *Loyalties*, and *Passages*) completed at the end of 2022.