

**West Green Tree
Congregational
Forum**

Fall 2026

Tuesday, November 10

7 pm

West Green Tree Church of the Brethren
Congregational Forum
November 10, 2026 – 7:00PM

WGT Vision Statement: *To Know, Love, & Follow Jesus by Serving All*

Opening Devotions (John Ziegler)

New Business:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. 2027 Budget presentation/approval (attached) – Shane Schwanger/Colton Brown | Pages 1-2 |
| 2. Licensed Minister | |
| a. Licensed Minister Report (attached) – Ryan Arndt | Pages 3-4 |
| b. Annual reaffirmation of Licensed Minister – Colton Brown | |
| 3. Annual appointment of the church treasurer – Shane Schwanger | |
| 4. Approval of the 2027 Church Workers List (attached) | Page 5 |
| 5. 2027 Church Ballot (attached) | Page 6 |
| 6. Other Business | |
| a. 2026 Annual Conference Report (attached) – Shawn O’Brien/Ben Youtz | Pages 7-9 |

Reports:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 7. Pastor's Report (attached) – Shawn O’Brien | Pages 10-13 |
| 8. Youth Ministries Coordinator Report (attached) – David Spayde | Pages 14-15 |
| 9. Worship Arts Coordinator Report (attached) – Ryan Arndt | Pages 16-17 |
| 10. Deacon's Report (attached) – Dawn Shirk | Page 18 |
| 11. Treasurer's Report (attached) – Paula Jones | Pages 19-22 |
| 12. Auditor's Report (attached) – Phyllis Becker/Connie Brown-Miller | Page 23 |
| 13. Leadership Team Report (attached) – Colton Brown | Page 24 |
| 14. Witness Ministry Team Report (attached) – Phil Hollinger | Page 25 |
| 15. Steward's Ministry Team Report (attached) – Shane Schwanger | Pages 26-29 |
| 16. Nurture Ministry Team Report (attached) – Holly Leonard | Page 30 |
| 17. Cemetery Board Report (attached) – Phyllis Becker | Page 31 |

Closing Prayer (Pastor Shawn O’Brien)

West Green Tree 2027 Proposed Budget					
	DENOMINATION	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT					
	CAMP SWATARA	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	
	DISTRICT BUDGET	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	
		\$ 14,300.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ -	
ADMINISTRATION					
	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 38,107.00	\$ (1,893.00)	
	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RETIREMENT	\$ -	\$ 1,905.00	\$ 1,905.00	
	BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
	CONFERENCE	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 300.00	
	CUSTODIAN	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,735.00	\$ 735.00	
	DISTRICT CONFERENCE	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ -	
	PAYROLL SERVICES	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 100.00	
	SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 10,815.00	\$ (385.00)	
	STAFF GIFTS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 200.00	
	WORSHIP ARTS COORDINATOR (WAC)	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (1,200.00)	
	WAC PHONE STIPEND	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	
	WAC CONFERENCE/CONT. ED	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -	
	YOUTH COORDINATOR (YC)	\$ 21,750.00	\$ 16,750.00	\$ (5,000.00)	
	YC PHONE STIPEND	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	
	YC CONFERENCE/CONT. ED	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -	
	YC TRAVEL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
		\$ 121,350.00	\$ 116,112.00	\$ (5,238.00)	
PASTORAL					
	GUEST SPEAKER	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
SENIOR PASTOR					
	SENIOR PASTOR - CONTINUING ED	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
	EYE/DENTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 200.00	
	SENIOR PASTOR - HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 500.00	
	SENIOR PASTOR - LTD/AD&D	\$ 750.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (25.00)	
	SENIOR PASTOR - PENSION	\$ 8,280.00	\$ 7,225.00	\$ (1,055.00)	
	SENIOR PASTOR - PRO. EXPENSES	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	
	SENIOR PASTOR - SALARY	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 53,750.00	\$ 2,750.00	
	TRAVEL/PHONE	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	
		\$ 88,830.00	\$ 91,200.00	\$ 2,370.00	
NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM					
	CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS/PAVILION	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (500.00)	
	CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE/PRODUCTION SOFTWARE	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 450.00	
	COFFEE	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	
	COMMUNION/LOVE FEAST	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00	\$ -	
	DECORATING COMMITTEE	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00	
	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ (100.00)	
	FELLOWSHIP MEALS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
	LIBRARY	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
	MEN'S MINISTRY	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
	MUSIC	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00	
	NEW MINISTRIES	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	
	NURSERY TOYS	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	
	REMEMBRANCE GIFTS	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 100.00	

		2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
	NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM (CONTINUED)				
	SS/DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ -	
	TEACHER APPRECIATION	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	
	WOMEN'S MINISTRY	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
	YOUTH EXPENSES	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
		\$ 17,250.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 1,550.00	
	STEWARDS MINISTRY TEAM				
	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
	CHURCH PHONE/INTERNET	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,050.00	
	COPIER	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	
	COSMETIC IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	
	ELECTRIC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 6,600.00	
	HVAC SERVICE MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	
	INSURANCE	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
	LAWN CARE	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	
	PAPER SUPPLIES	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	
	PROPANE	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00	\$ -	
	RHEEMS FIRE COMPANY	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ -	
	SNOW REMOVAL	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	
	AV CONSULTING	\$ 800.00	\$ 700.00	\$ (100.00)	
	TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	
		\$ 78,985.00	\$ 94,535.00	\$ 15,550.00	
	WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM				
	BRETHREN HOUSING ASSOCIATION	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	
	BIBLE 2SCHOOL	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
	BRETHREN WORLD MISSIONS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	
	CHRISTMAS DINNER	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	
	COMMUNITY PLACE	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	
	CORNERSTONE YOUTH	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
	DISASTER RELIEF	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -	
	GTIHOPE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	
	HOPE WITHIN MINISTRY	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
	INNER CHURCH MISSION WORK	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
	JUAREZ, MX - ORPHANAGE	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	
	LOCAL OUTREACH	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (500.00)	
	RAISE 28	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
	TINY TIMBERS	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
	TRACTOR SUNDAY	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	
	VBS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	
		\$ 46,800.00	\$ 47,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	
	GRAND TOTALS				
	ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ -	
	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 121,350.00	\$ 116,112.00	\$ (5,238.00)	
	PASTORAL	\$ 88,830.00	\$ 91,200.00	\$ 2,370.00	
	NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM	\$ 17,250.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 1,550.00	
	STEWARDS MINISTRY TEAM	\$ 78,985.00	\$ 94,535.00	\$ 15,550.00	
	WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM	\$ 46,800.00	\$ 47,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	
		\$ 367,515.00	\$ 382,747.00	\$ 15,232.00	
	AVERAGE OFFERING REQUIRED	\$ 7,067.60	\$ 7,360.52	\$ 292.92	

Licensed Minister Report - Fall 2026

Introduction -

It's hard to believe that another six months have passed. I am grateful for your ongoing support in this licensed ministry endeavor. This report will highlight the happenings in the licensed ministry role over the past six months. God is good!

June -

In June I had the opportunity to preach at WGT as a part of the Philemon sermon series. An out-of-state family member was visiting at that time and was able to join us for worship. In addition, I provided on-call coverage while Shawn and family were on vacation.

July -

In July I officiated five funerals for the Kreamer Funeral Home in Annville & Jonestown, as well as the Sheetz Funeral Home in Mount Joy. I am a supply minister and will conduct these services for families who may not have a pastor. While I recognize that there are differing viewpoints on this branch of ministry, I view it as a high honor to serve grieving families in this capacity. I also had the opportunity to preach on back-to-back Sundays, July 19th and 26th while Shawn and family were on vacation. I also provided on-call coverage during this time.

August -

On August 2nd, I brought a message at the Cleona Campmeeting as a part of their first ever Worship Night. I was touched by the number of WGT folks who made the trip over to Lebanon for the Worship Night. Even Todd and Paula Jones came that night. I was so touched by their presence as well as all those from WGT who attended and watched the live-stream. In addition, my mentor, David Superdock, carved out time while on vacation to stream the event. I am grateful for his ongoing support.

On August 7th, I had the privilege and honor of conducting the wedding ceremony of William McDaniel and Jenna Huber at Calvary Church in Lancaster. When their venue changed less than a week before the wedding and their officiant canceled less than five days before the ceremony, they asked me to step in. I was honored. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for Your provision.

September -

In the middle of September, a former co-worker had a medical procedure and I was able to call and pray with her. Additionally, another co-worker lost her father and I was able to pray with her just before her dad's viewing in Frackville. In addition, I preached on September 27th as a part of the Matthew sermon series.

Looking Ahead -

Later in October, I will share a brief devotional and pray at the tractor pull at Garden Chapel Church in Middletown as a part of their tractor pulling ministry. My dad and brother are heavily involved in this ministry.

I will also participate in a healing service alongside Galen Hackman later in October. This service is intentionally designed for relational healing for a church that split in two over the decision whether or not to leave the Church of the Brethren. I look forward to working with Galen on this special initiative. I will also share a message at WGT on November 15. I look forward to this opportunity and covet your prayers for this endeavor.

I will be the evangelist for Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren's revival services in March of 2027. I was contacted to lead these services. I have begun discerning a theme and plotting out how I sense the Spirit leading me to organize those messages. I have never preached a sermon series, let alone preaching seven sermons in seven consecutive days. Please pray for me and plan to come out to Mount Wilson CoB in Lebanon the week of March 7 - 13. I am grateful for the advice and guidance I've received so far from folks on how to steward this opportunity well and look forward to continued dialogue on how to make this week as impactful as possible for the Kingdom.

Seminary -

I continue to plug away at my seminary courses. I hope to be finished with the courses by late Spring 2027. Thank you for your support through the seminary fund, your prayers, and your words of encouragement. It means more than you may know.

Mentorship/Discipleship -

I continue to meet with David Superdock once a month after school for coffee and conversation. My conversations with David are truly a blessing to me and I am very blessed to have a supportive mentor/friend like him in my life. David and I communicate several times a week to know what is going on in each other's lives. I appreciate the connectedness I feel in this relationship. David ministered to me through a difficult ministry season that I experienced earlier this year and has become a primary source of encouragement for me. I am grateful.

I meet with Shawn weekly for worship planning and once every 4/6 weeks for a longer meeting. This time usually results in conversation that can range from personal to professional and everything in between. I appreciate the time made for conversation. Our recent discussions include seminary course work, opportunities for ministry growth, and other shared experiences. Shawn also has recently worked to establish a system for feedback following opportunities where I preach.

Prayer Points -

I would covet your prayers for the following requests:

- Please pray for stamina and endurance as I work diligently on my coursework.
- Please pray that God would continue to give me opportunities to serve and grow as a licensed minister.
- Relational health for my relationship with my mentors.

Time Spent with the Lord -

I spend time with the Lord daily through prayer and reading His word. I enjoy time with Him during my walks or during quiet time first thing in the morning whether at home or in the classroom. It comes from that abiding practice that Shawn and I talk about so often. When I've spent time with Him and bask in His presence, the day feels different. If you're not yet in that routine, I'd invite you to try - carve out some time to be with Him in the morning - slow down - rest in Him - abide in Him. Commune with Him throughout the day and then praise Him in the evening for how He has been at work during the day. The following verses often come to mind as I walk and exercise in the evening and see the beautiful sunsets.

Psalm 113: 1-3 - Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Again, thank you to each person in the WGT who encourages me and supports me in this ministry journey. I couldn't do it without Him and without you.

Much Love,

Ryan M. Arndt (Licensed Minister)

2027 Church Workers

Archivist

- Sarah Clugston

A/V Tech Room Organizer

- Ryan Arndt

Brethren Disaster Ministries

- Dennis Saylor

Brethren Housing Association Rep

- Dennis Saylor

Camp Swatara Representative

- Ryan Arndt

Child Protection Advocates

- Nurture Ministry Team
- TT Director – Amy Winters

Christmas Dinner

-

COBYS Representative

- Jim Shumate

Coffee Service

- Jim Kolp
- Greg Wiker

Custodian

- Allison Huber
- Donna Ring
- Jim Spickler

Decorating Committee

- Darlene Breneman
- Brienna Brown
- Kathy Martin
- Dori Schwanger

Evergreen News Editor

- Paula Jones

Global Mission Advocate

- Phil Hollinger

E-town Food Bank Rep

- Don & Donna Weaver

Hospitality/Greeter Committee

- Cindy Collins
- Holly Leonard

Jr & Sr High Youth Advisors

- Haley Keener
- Nick Miller
- Isaiah Sheetz
- David Spayde
- Chris Wynn
- Dana Youtz

Kitchen Committee

- Brenda Axe
- Sylvia Coble
- Gale Forry
- Jay Forry
- Helen Keener
- Donna Weaver
- Melanie Williams

Librarian

- Kathy Martin

Meals Coordinator

- Brienna Brown

Men's Ministry

- Dave Hawthorne
- Jim Shumate

Messenger Representative

- Paula Jones

Nursery/Toddler

- Nurture Ministry Team

Operation Christmas Child

- Jim Shumate
- Dana Youtz

Prayer Ministry Coordinators

- Sarah Clugston
- Allison Huber

Prayer Shawl Leaders

- Kim Coble
- Sarah Clugston
- Allison Huber

Remembrance Committee

- Ed Horst

Sunday School Officers

- Jim Kolp (secretary)
- Kathy Martin (Co-Director)
- Sarah Kolp (Co-Director)

Technology Committee

- Shawn Cannon
- Dan Dickson
- Jerry Huber
- Jason Leonard

Tiny Timbers Committee

- Dewey Martin (June 2027)
- Laura Hollinger (June 2028)
- Brenda Drawbaugh (June 2026)

Tractor Sunday

- Doug & Darlene Breneman
- Daryl & Angie Harnish
- Helen Keener
- Shane Schwanger
- Donna Weaver
- Mellanie Williams

Usher Organizer

- Nick Miller

Vacation Bible School

- Allison Huber
- Jerry Huber
- Haley Keener
- Mike Reem
- David Spayde

Website & Social Media

- Paula Jones

Women's Ministry

- Brenda Drawbaugh

Worship Team Organizer

- Ryan Arndt

Yearbook Coordinator

- Paula Jones

West Green Tree Church of the Brethren
November 2026 Congregational Forum Ballot

*Indicates term renewal

Assistant Moderator

_____ OPEN (3-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

Annual Conference Delegate

_____ OPEN (1-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

Nurture Ministry Team Assistant Chair

_____ Nick Miller (3-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

_____ OPEN (1-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

Nurture Ministry Team

_____ Greg Wiker* (3-year term 2029)
_____ I do not affirm

Auditor

_____ Phyllis Becke*r (3-year term 2029)
_____ I do not affirm

Steward Ministry Team Chair

_____ John Ziegler (3-year term 2029)
_____ I do not affirm

Cemetery Board

_____ Randy Youtz* (3-year term 2029)
_____ I do not affirm

Stewards Ministry Team

_____ Jason Leonard* (3-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

Pastoral Relations Team

_____ Donna Hollinger* (3-year term 2029)
_____ I do not affirm

Witness Ministry Team

_____ Haley Keener (3-year term)
_____ I do not affirm

Annual Conference 2026 — A Report to the Congregation

Delegates: Ben Youtz and Shawn O'Brien

What Annual Conference Is

The Church of the Brethren is not a single church. It's a denomination, a family of roughly 800 congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico, connected by shared history, shared belief, and shared mission. West Green Tree is one of those congregations. Once a year, the whole denomination gathers in one place for what's called Annual Conference, a week of worship and decision-making where the church discerns, together, how to move forward. This year it was held Sunday, June 28, through Thursday, July 2, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Every congregation sends delegates, people chosen from within the local church to carry its voice and cast its vote. This year, we represented West Green Tree together.

Annual Conference isn't a political convention, and it isn't run like one. A former Annual Conference Secretary and Moderator, Bill Eberly, described it this way: *it's not a place for predetermined positions to be debated the way a secular legislature debates them. It's a setting where people gather to consider the questions before the church and to seek the will of God through prayerful debate and the study of scripture.*

Who Was There

This year's Conference drew 1,812 people total: 389 delegates carrying votes for their congregations, 1,270 nondelegates attending in person, and 153 attending virtually.

How Leadership Works

It's worth understanding something structural here, because it shapes how everything else in this report should be read. Nobody at Annual Conference is an outside authority handing down decisions to local churches. The moderator, who presides over the Conference, was once a delegate from a congregation just like ours. Every committee member, every Standing Committee representative (the body of district delegates that sets the agenda and brings recommendations to the floor), comes up out of a local congregation first. This year's moderator, Don Fitzkee, actually comes from our own district, Atlantic Northeast. Some of you may remember him from his years of ministry at the former Chiques Church of the Brethren near Manheim, or from his long career at COBYS Family Services.

That's not so different from how we choose leadership here at West Green Tree. We don't import leaders from outside. We look at who's already part of the body, already committed to the head of that body, and we entrust them with the work. Annual Conference works the same way, just at a larger scale. The body chooses from within the body, and Christ remains the head of it, whether we're talking about our congregation or the whole denomination.

The Rhythm of the Week

Before every single business session, the Conference gathered for congregational singing followed by a time of biblical reflection. Only after that did the delegate body turn to the work in front of them. That order shaped the whole week, worship and the Word first, decisions second.

Outside of the business and worship sessions, Conference offers a wide range of optional sessions on different topics. We chose to attend a few insight sessions, two of which were sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary on this year's Conference theme, one grounded in the Old Testament and one in the New. These weren't part of the official business of Conference, just something we found worth our time.

The Business of the Conference

Each year, delegates are asked to act on a handful of specific items, brought forward by denominational committees and boards after months of prior work. Here is what came before us this year, one item at a time.

A resolution on weapons transfer. Delegates adopted a statement addressing the international arms trade, grounded in Jesus' words to love our enemies. It names the United States as the world's largest exporter of weapons and calls individuals, congregations, and the denomination as a whole to educate themselves on the arms trade and consider how to respond. This resolution had been developed the previous year and held over to this Conference because of a full agenda in 2025.

A resolution on immigration. Delegates adopted "Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting Our Neighbors." It reaffirms the church's long history of conscientious objection and civil disobedience, meaning refusal to comply with a law on grounds of conscience, and applies that history to how we relate to immigrants and refugees today. It states that civil disobedience, such as offering sanctuary, may be a faithful response if immigration law comes into direct conflict with the way of Christ.

Adjustments to how ministers are credentialed. The Church of the Brethren has a formal process for recognizing and authorizing people for ministry, governed by a document called the Ministry Leadership paper. Delegates approved two changes to it. One gives licensed ministers, a category of minister with a limited scope of authorized duties, a stronger recognition when they're already carrying out fuller ministry responsibilities. The other simplifies the path for commissioned ministers, another such category, to pursue full ordination. This kind of change to the denomination's governing documents requires a two-thirds majority vote, and it received one.

Pastoral compensation. Each year, a denominational committee recommends a cost-of-living adjustment to the minimum salary guidelines for pastors across the denomination. This year's recommendation was 4.2 percent, along with encouragement for congregations to use an online compensation calculator to help align pastoral pay with actual work expectations. At West Green Tree, the Leadership Team recommends the pastor's compensation as part of the annual budget, brought forward for approval at the November congregational forum.

An interim report from the Review and Evaluation Committee. Roughly once a decade, the denomination elects a committee to study its own structure and how well it's functioning, then report back with recommendations.

This year's committee brought an update on work still in progress. Part of their assigned task is to recommend how congregations and districts, different regional groupings of congregations, can continue working together well in the midst of ongoing disagreement across the denomination about how the church responds to LGBTQ+ persons. That work is not finished.

A new process for denominational leadership, called "New Table." District executives, the paid leaders of each district, began a process with an outside consultant aimed at improving how denominational leaders work together. Delegates received a document naming patterns in current leadership relationships that aren't working well. This is early-stage work, and it will likely surface again at future Conferences.

A financial services transition. For decades, a denominational agency called Eder Financial (formerly Brethren Benefit Trust) has managed services like pastoral retirement plans and insurance. The denomination is in the process of transitioning many of those services to a different organization, Everence Association. Standing Committee spent significant time this year discussing that transition with Eder's leadership. This affects benefits tied directly to pastoral ministry, and the process is ongoing.

Elections. Delegates elected Amy Gall Ritchie, of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Indiana, to serve as moderator-elect. Several other denominational positions were also filled by election this year, boards, committees, and agency roles. Candidates for each of these positions had their backgrounds and qualifications published in the Conference booklet, which delegates received well in advance, giving us time to review who we'd be voting for before we ever arrived in Fort Wayne.

A Closing Word

We want to be honest with you about how to hold all of this. What happens at Annual Conference is not a governing body issuing commands to local churches. It's an offering, statements and recommendations that individuals and congregations are invited to wrestle with and consider. Nobody is compelled. There is no force in religion, and there never has been for us. What we witnessed in that room was a denomination discerning together, still trying to figure out how to follow Jesus faithfully in a complicated world. We're grateful to have carried our congregation's voice into that process, together.

October 12, 2026 · Pastor Shawn O'Brien

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

— Colossians 2:6–7

To the Congregation

When I look back over these past few months, I keep coming back to one word: **faithful**.

God has been faithful to us. Not because we got everything right, but because He is who He is.

This report looks back at what God has done in us and through us since June, and looks ahead to what He seems to be stirring. Much of what follows happened because many of you said yes.

Jesus is the hero of this story. And I am grateful to be part of this church family.

What We've Been Hearing

Here's where we've been in Scripture since June:

- **Deliver: A Series on Philemon** concluded June 7, with Ryan bringing the final message.
- **In Between** began June 14, following Abram's story through Genesis over the summer.
- **Matthew: Wants You to Know** began September 20 and continues through November 22.

I'm grateful to share the pulpit with Ryan and David. Ryan preached in June and September and will preach again November 15. David preached this summer and will preach October 25 and December 6.

We talk through their sermon drafts beforehand and review afterward. I value these conversations and the gifts they bring to our congregation.

We are better when we serve together.

What God Has Done

Three baptisms. In August, Cadence, Nick, and Haley were baptized. I sat with each of them as they prepared their testimonies. Different stories. The same Jesus. The Fellowship Hall was standing room only for the baptisms and the meal afterward. I'm still thinking about it.

Vacation Bible School. Watching our volunteers with the kids is always one of my favorite parts. I know some of the stories behind the people serving. Their service flows out of knowing and following Jesus, and the kids can tell.

Annual Conference. Ben Youtz and I represented West Green Tree in Fort Wayne. We sang before every business session, a reminder that we belong to something bigger than ourselves. Ben and I also shared a brief Sunday morning report over the summer, along with a written report.

The Elizabethtown Fair. I was honored to offer the invocation. It was a privilege to serve our community by directing our attention to God during one of its important events.

Love Feast on World Communion Sunday. On October 4, we joined Christians around the world at the Lord's Table. Ryan and I planned a gathering that moved from the sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall for communion and a shared meal. Our Deacons supported trying something different, and I'm grateful for their willingness to help us serve together in new ways.

Worship Night. This was Ryan's vision. He shaped the evening around three questions: Who is Jesus? Who has He been in your life? Who will I tell? I'm grateful for his initiative and the ways he is helping us grow in worship and witness.

A new member. We will welcome a new member on October 18. **Belonging is still happening here.**

Showing up for one another. I was struck by how many WGT people came to support Noelle at her field hockey Senior Night. As a parent, it meant more than I can say. As a pastor, it was a picture of what I pray for: **a family of faith that shows up.**

Where I Sense We Are Being Led

We are West Green Tree. A tree is either healthy or it isn't. Scripture helps us understand what health looks like before we start measuring ourselves.

"Christ is the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18).

So the question isn't simply whether we think we're doing well. The question is whether our life together pleases and honors Him.

Before we do anything, we abide. Jesus said that apart from Him, we can do nothing. Out of abiding comes fruit. And out of that fruit flows our love for our neighbors.

Our year-long focus is **Welcoming Culture**. This goes beyond physical space, programs, or how we greet people on Sunday morning. It is about people who have been welcomed by Jesus making room for others.

Our mission remains the same: **to know, love and follow Jesus by serving all.**

As we spend time with Jesus, may He renew our minds and shape our hearts so that we look beyond our own interests to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4–5).

People are watching us. The question is what they see.

My prayer is that when people look at West Green Tree, they catch a glimpse of Jesus.

The Body at Work

A church is not its pastor, its staff, or its programs. It is a body, with Christ as its head and each member having a part to play.

Here are some of the ways that body is at work.

Our staff. I'm grateful for the ways Ryan and David invest in others, helping people know they are loved, that they belong here, and that they have gifts to use for His glory and the good of others. Paula continues to help us communicate clearly and carry out our responsibilities in an orderly way. We completed staff appraisals this summer, and the work of following through on next steps continues. Our staff meetings keep coming back to one question: **What would please the Lord?**

Our Deacons and commissions. When people were hospitalized this year, I watched our Deacons coordinate care through visits, calls, and messages. The Gifts Discernment Team continues helping people discover where God may be calling them to serve. These are important parts of how we care for one another and put our gifts to work.

Small groups and Sunday School. I still enjoy joining our Sunday morning small groups and Sunday School classes. Those conversations are some of the best parts of my week. There is something good about opening Scripture together, asking questions, and learning from one another.

Caring for one another. Much of pastoral care happens quietly: hospital and home visits, anointing and prayer, sitting with baptismal candidates as they prepare their testimonies, and walking with people exploring membership. Amanda and I also share premarital conversations, and in September I walked alongside a family through a funeral.

On one recent visit, someone told me he doesn't consider himself a religious person, but he has never experienced kindness and generosity like he has from this congregation.

That is Jesus, seen through you.

I'm grateful for those who trust me with their stories. I'm equally grateful that I'm not the only one caring. So much of what makes this church beautiful happens through people who simply show up for one another.

Beyond our walls. I continue to serve on the Atlantic Northeast District Board and its Church Development Commission, walking alongside smaller congregations. I also attended District Conference this month. These connections remind me that God is at work beyond West Green Tree, too.

Communication. Through a monthly newsletter article, at least one weekly email, and Bible reading plans through the Bible App, I'm trying to help what we hear on Sunday travel with us into the week. My hope is that we keep growing in our life with Jesus, not just in our knowledge about Him.

In the Works

God is not finished with us. Here are a few things ahead.

A Community Christmas Kickoff

Sunday, November 29 · 4:30–7:00 p.m. · Fairgrounds

This began with energy from Ryan, Isaiah, and Ben, each bringing different gifts and a desire to engage our community. The evening will include music, a short message, prayer for anyone who wants it, carols, cookies, and hot chocolate.

We're keeping it low-pressure on purpose. This is an opportunity to welcome our neighbors, build connections, and share a little of the hope we have in Jesus.

Invite a neighbor. And if you're able to help, we'd love to have you involved.

Advent: Not Alone — God Is With You Wherever You Are

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent and continuing through December 27, this six-message series will remind us that wherever we find ourselves this season, we are not forgotten or abandoned.

Wherever you are this season, God is with you.

Community Christmas Dinner

I'm grateful for all the work already happening to prepare this meal and serve our community. Every table set and every plate served is another way of saying to our neighbors, *You are welcome here.*

Dates to Know

- **November 29:** A Community Christmas Kickoff
- **December 1–5:** I will be away with my family
- **December 25:** Community Christmas Dinner

Thank You

Thank you for your generous gift and kind words on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your partnership. As you read this report, I hope you see more than a list of events and activities. I hope you see the body at work.

I'm grateful for the ways you care for one another, use your gifts, welcome people, and serve our neighbors. There is more for us to learn, and more room for us to grow. That's part of following Jesus together.

Jesus is the head of His church. My role is to equip His people for works of service (Ephesians 4:12).

May we continue to know Him more deeply, love Him more fully, follow Him more faithfully, and make room for others as we serve all.

With gratitude,

Pastor Shawn

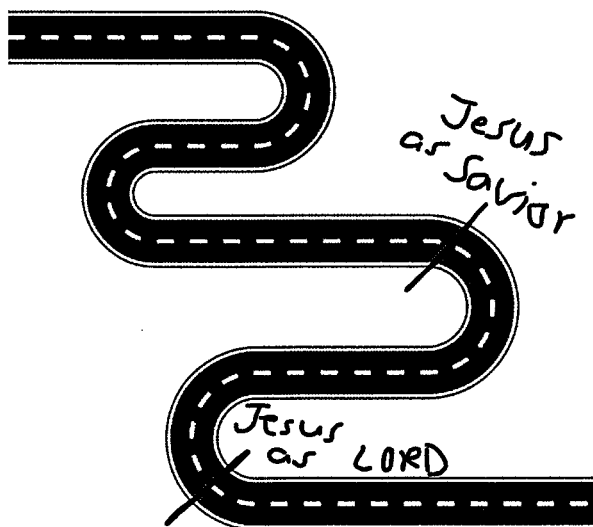
November 2026 Youth CBM Report

Since the last CBM meeting, there have been a lot of exciting things to share about the youth. During the summer we had some fun events such as hiking the Conewago trail and going to Rita's after which was well attended. Kathy and Dewey Martin were also very generous and allowed us to have a pool party at their house in August again. Our youth helped with Vacation Bible School in a number of ways from being group helpers, to helping with games and crafts, and leading the kids in the lessons and songs. I heard a lot of positive feedback from the kids and parents of kids who dropped their kids off for VBS and our youth here at WGT played a big role in that and we could not have pulled off the event without their help and leadership.

Another major highlight was having one of the youth and two youth leaders decide to publicly declare their faith in Jesus and get baptized in August! Cadence, Nick and Haley shared powerful testimonies of how Jesus has transformed their lives and it has been such a blessing to see them grow in their walk with the Lord and have a strong desire to follow Him and His ways.

A big new event this year was a Mission Trip through Eastern Mennonite Mission (EMM) where we did discipleship training in the morning and learned about the unfinished story of Christ which is the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20 to go and make disciples of all nations. We learned about the different cultural groups in the world and the unreached of the world which are those who do not know Christ. Then during the afternoons, we teamed up with EMM to run enrichment activities at a school in Lancaster that ran a summer camp for immigrant and refugee children to help them to learn English. We played games, colored rocks and coloring pages, danced and had lunch with the kids each day. Although this was run through the Department of Education and we couldn't explicitly share Jesus through Bible stories or personal testimonies as we would have liked, we got to share the love of Jesus through our actions and behavior. Both kids and adults taking time out of their summer schedules to spend time with the immigrant and refugee children to show them they are loved, they are cared for and they are important. Some took off from work or sports and some took time away from their own families to spend the week with these children. We also helped out at a soup kitchen and sang praises to the Lord through the streets of downtown Lancaster.

One of the most impactful activities we did on the trip was a spiritual evaluation that involved a roadmap that was meant to display our faith journey with two major lines in the roadmap (see picture below).



One line on the map represents the point in your journey where you have accepted Jesus as Savior. He is savior of your life and rescued you from your sins, you recognize that you can't do it on your own and you need Jesus – the only One who can save. The second line on the map represents the point in your journey where you have accepted Jesus as Lord. He is Lord of your life, Lord of everything in your life and you give everything to Him. Following His will is greater than following your own will. This was very impactful and emotional for the students and leaders involved. We were in groups of 4-5 so I didn't get to hear what everyone had to say about where they were at in their roadmap but I know in my group we all felt like we had accepted Lord as Savior but there were definitely areas of our lives where we had not given them to Jesus yet...we are not fully accepting Jesus as Lord of our lives and still trying to do our own thing and follow our own desires with a little Jesus on the side.

The mission trip was a great experience where our youth and leaders got to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and focus on Him throughout the week. I have been on a few mission trips throughout my life as a youth myself and as an adult and I always enjoy the time to disconnect from the normal routine of life and focus on the Lord and His mission. However, what happens when we come back home to our normal routine, to the busyness of life and the constant messaging of the enemy continues to flood our minds to drown out our loving Father? Will we come home truly changed and on fire for the Lord or will we slide back into our old ways as if the experience was a bump on the road? I fear at times that a lot of progress is undone by two of the biggest themes we have been trying to teach the youth this year – (1) Jesus is Lord and Savior, not just Savior but Lord of their lives and (2) that their faith requires action. I fear at times that our own struggles to make Jesus Lord of our lives is impacting the youth to be able to truly follow Him as Lord. I fear that our own actions teach the youth lessons about faith in Jesus that we do not intend to teach...I am afraid that the lessons often go in one ear and right out the other...but I am reminded of the Lord's words in Isaiah 55:10-11 "as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." The Lord will always accomplish His will and though we are not perfect – He is and He is with us! Thank the Lord it is not up to us alone but through His Spirit we are able to live according to His will and drive out fear with perfect love (1 John 4:18). Praise the Lord that He is good and faithful and that despite our shortcomings, He is working in the lives of our youth here at WGT!

Lastly, I want to say thank you to our youth volunteers who have answered the call to disciple our youth on Sundays and Wednesdays – the time spent building relationships and discipling the youth is so rewarding, and I am blessed to work together with you! Thank you to those in the congregation who continue that discipleship of our children here at WGT outside of the walls of our church and also thank you parents for discipling your children and entrusting the youth leaders and I to come alongside you in that journey so they will Know, Love, & Follow Jesus by Serving All!

For Him and His Glory

David Spayde

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Worship Arts Coordinator – Fall 2026 Report

Introduction –

It is hard for me to believe that I have been attending WGT for over 13.5 years and have been on the payroll for over 12 years. It's been a journey thus far and I am grateful for the opportunities. May Jesus Christ be praised for His continued faithfulness!

Events –

Since last Forum in May, the Worship Team has been busy preparing for Sunday morning Large Group Gatherings. In addition, we led the music at Tractor Sunday with the sound expertise of Dan Jamison. We also led a Worship Night entitled, "Who is Jesus to You?" in conjunction with the current sermon series from Matthew.

Ongoing Projects –

I continue to work at a list of ongoing projects in the Worship Ministry of WGT. Some of these include options to improve our drum volume issues and our technology for LGG. I regularly dialogue with Jason Leonard to stay connected to the tech side of things. I was grateful to work with Jerry and Jason to be able to use motion backgrounds on the main screens in the sanctuary during our time of singing on Sundays. Through investigation and work, we can now use these backgrounds while only projecting the lyrics on the live stream.

Our sound is always an ongoing project as we continue to refine our practices and procedures as well as grow in our knowledge and understanding of what is best for sound in our sanctuary. Our building deals with a ton of radio frequency and interference, making it difficult to work with at times. This summer, Robbie Warrell from Glick A/V came in and did some consulting and found hidden subwoofers (bass speakers) in the ceiling that were totally hidden. After some diagnostic testing and investigation, Robbie got them working well. I am also thankful for the addition of Jake Geesey to our team. Jake brings sound experience to us and is excited to help where he can!

Meetings –

I continue to meet weekly with Shawn to plan our LGGs and discuss other relevant topics. This can include a wide range of topics from personal to professional and ministry. I appreciate the opportunity for weekly conversation. In addition, we go over each Sunday morning's lineup before Sunday School. I also participate in staff meetings monthly, as well as attend the Leadership Team meeting, and Nurture ministry team meetings. Paula and I dialogue almost daily and I am grateful for her help in all things!

In addition, I continue to elicit feedback from my teammates on the Worship Team to improve our team dynamics and show genuine care for each other. I look forward to additional conversations in the future.

Sunday Morning Routine –

Beginning in late summer, the Worship Team has begun meeting at 8:30am on Sundays to rehearse and make sure we are confident in the songs heading into the gathering. This has been a necessary step toward leading the congregation from a prepared heart and head. We begin our time with devotions and have a prayer time. This sets the tone for what we are about to do in leading the congregation in worship of Jesus.

Thank You –

As always, I appreciate the various members of the WGT family who regularly read scripture, offer prayers, and lead the announcements. The efforts shared by so many is commendable. It is always a pleasure to listen to each individual person use their voice to lead our faith family each week.

Thank you to all those engaged with Worship Team and Production Team (Sound Room). Your time, energy, and willingness to serve is appreciated and builds up this body. Thank you for continuing to serve Christ and His Church.

Thank you to my parents (Clint and Julie Arndt) and my grandparents (Dave and Joanne Arndt) for your willingness to be my sounding board and for support and encouragement.

Psalm 96: 1-6 – “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Sing’cerely,

Ryan M. Arndt (Worship Arts Coordinator)

Deacon Report

November 2026 Forum

-We have given 13 Love gifts for Hospital stays this year.

-While discussing ways to meet the needs of our congregation, we have compiled a volunteer list to provide transportation for appointments, errands, etc. of congregants in need of this service.

-In August we celebrated baptism for 3 congregants and enjoyed a potluck together.

-World Communion Sunday (The first Sunday in October), we celebrated Love Feast along with a potluck meal, after the large group gathering.

-The Deacons continue to look forward to serving the needs of our congregation, and we are thankful for your prayers and donations to the benevolent fund. Your generosity makes it possible to share the Love of Christ within our congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Serving him,
Dawn Shirk.

West Green Tree Church of the Brethren

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Treasurer's Report Fall Congregational Forum

INCOME

CD Interest	\$ 1,615.26
CD2 Interest	\$ 431.02
Building Fund (MMA)	\$ 30,291.02
Building Interest (MMA)	\$ 66.31
Emory W. Interest	\$ 9,104.42
Regular	\$ 256,436.44
Interest Checking	\$ 3.11
Seminary Fund	\$ 6,620.08
Interest Seminary	\$ 0.44
Youth Savings	\$ 0.19
VBS	\$ -
Outreach Donations	\$ 6,900.15
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 311,468.44

EXPENSES

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT			
Camp Swatara	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -
District Budget	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL A.N.D.	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ -

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Assistant	\$ 30,771.99	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 9,228.01
Bull. & News.	\$ 1,387.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (387.50)
Conference	\$ 1,979.07	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,220.93
Custodian	\$ 7,872.83	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,127.17
District Conference (\$35pp)	\$ 90.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 10.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,805.91	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 894.09
Payroll Services	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 550.00
Social Security	\$ 7,979.67	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 3,220.33
Staff Gifts	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,775.00
Worship Arts Coordinator	\$ 14,405.39	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 6,794.61
WAC Conference/Cont. Ed		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
WAC Phone Stipend	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Youth Coordinator	\$ 12,027.66	\$ 21,750.00	\$ 9,722.34
YC Conference/Cont. Ed		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
YC Phone Stipend	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
YC Travel		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL ADMIN	\$ 81,695.02	\$ 121,350.00	\$ 39,654.98

EXPENSES	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
NURTURE			
Camp Scholarships	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,300.00
CCLI Copyright License	\$ 996.53	\$ 950.00	\$ (46.53)
Coffee	\$ 528.48	\$ 700.00	\$ 171.52
Communion/Love Feast	\$ 937.83	\$ 850.00	\$ (87.83)
Decorating Committee	\$ 99.58	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.42
Emergency Response Team		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Fellowship meals	\$ 1,110.40	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 889.60
Library	\$ 115.07	\$ 250.00	\$ 134.93
Men's Ministry	\$ 224.98	\$ 500.00	\$ 275.02
Music	\$ 870.02	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 129.98
New Ministries		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Nursery Toys		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Remember Gifts	\$ 160.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 440.00
S. S. Supplies/Discipleship Materials	\$ 2,141.68	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,258.32
Teacher Appreciation		\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Women's Ministry	\$ 244.09	\$ 500.00	\$ 255.91
Youth Ministries	\$ 2,095.16	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,404.84
TOTAL NURTURE	\$ 9,723.82	\$ 17,250.00	\$ 7,526.18
PASTORAL			
Guest Speaker	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,400.00
Senior Pastor			
Senior Pastor - Continuing Ed	\$ 397.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,603.00
Senior Pastor - Eye/Dental	\$ 908.21	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,291.79
Senior Pastor - Housing	\$ 13,846.34	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 4,153.66
Senior Pastor - LTD, AD & D	\$ 555.39	\$ 750.00	\$ 194.61
Senior Pastor - Pension	\$ 7,209.62	\$ 8,280.00	\$ 1,070.38
Senior Pastor - Pro. Expenses	\$ 28.48	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,571.52
Senior Pastor - Salary	\$ 32,736.46	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 18,263.54
Travel/Phone	\$ 499.01	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,000.99
TOTAL PASTORAL	\$ 56,280.51	\$ 88,830.00	\$ 32,549.49

EXPENSES	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
STEWARD			
Capital Improvements	\$ 9,589.82	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 410.18
Church Phone/Internet	\$ 3,164.89	\$ 2,950.00	\$ (214.89)
Copier	\$ 3,370.53	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,629.47
Cosmetic Improvements		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Electric	\$ 21,198.37	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (1,198.37)
General Maintenance	\$ 16,305.96	\$ 8,400.00	\$ (7,905.96)
HVAC Service Maintenance	\$ 1,330.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,170.00
Insurance	\$ 9,676.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ (1,176.00)
Lawn Care	\$ 3,532.92	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,467.08
Paper Supplies	\$ 621.23	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 1,678.77
Propane	\$ 121.31	\$ 385.00	\$ 263.69
Rheems Fire Co.	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ -
Snow Removal	\$ 3,373.90	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,126.10
Sound System Enhancements	\$ 599.50	\$ 800.00	\$ 200.50
Technology Committee	\$ 5,905.39	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,094.61
TOTAL STEWARD	\$ 79,139.82	\$ 78,985.00	\$ (154.82)
EXPENSES	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
WITNESS			
B.H.A.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
Bible2School	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Brethren World Missions	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
Christmas Dinner		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Community Place	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
Cornerstone Youth Center	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -
GTiHope	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Hope Within Ministry	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Inner Church Mission Work	\$ 660.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,340.00
Juarez, MX - Orphanage	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Local Outreach	\$ 499.27	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,000.73
Raise 28 (Rainbow's End Youth Center)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Tiny Timbers		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Tractor Sunday	\$ 1,371.82	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,628.18
V.B.S.	\$ 2,160.04	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 839.96
TOTAL WITNESS	\$ 33,991.13	\$ 46,800.00	\$ 12,808.87
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 275,130.30	\$ 367,515.00	\$ 92,384.70

Account Balances

Regular: \$13,905.04			
Building (MMA): \$40,311.15 CD: \$55,514.19 CD2: \$0	Seminary: \$4,824.49	Youth: \$1,387.39	Cap Imp: \$9,383.69
Building Fund Combo: \$95,825.34	Spag Dinner: \$4,277.00	Align Life: \$270	VBS \$1,203.15
	Youth MT \$325	COBYS: \$825	

Building Fund (MMA) 2026

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance as of 12/31/25			\$ 31,599.40
Deposits for 2026	\$ 4,860.00		
Interest Earned	\$ 66.31		
Wolgemuth	\$ 9,104.42		
CD-2 Matured/Closed 7/30/26	\$ 25,431.02		
Total Income	\$ 39,461.75		
Balance			\$ 71,061.15
Expenses for 2026			
Withdrawal for CD2 (Opened 1/30/26)	\$ 25,000.00		
Total Expenses	\$ 5,750.00	pavilion 1/2 dp	
Balance	\$ 30,750.00		\$ 40,311.15
CD (opened 3/25/24 \$50K 3.450% maturity 1/6/27)			
CD Balance as of 12/31/2025			\$ 54,090.44
CD Interest	\$ 1,423.75		
Balance			\$ 55,514.19

Seminary Fund 2026

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance as of 12/31/25			\$ 8,349.97
Deposits for 2026 Designated	\$ 6,515.08		
Deposits for 2026 Not Designated/split	\$ -		
Interest	\$ 0.44		
Total Income	\$ 6,515.52		\$ 6,515.52
Balance			\$ 14,865.49
Expenses for 2026	\$ 6,847.00		
Total Expenses	\$ 6,847.00		\$ 10,041.00
SEMINARY BALANCE TOTAL			\$ 4,824.49

The accounts of West Green Tree Church of the Brethren were reviewed on October 12, 2026.

After a thorough review, no discrepancies were found.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Becker and Connie Brown-Miller

Handwritten signatures of Phyllis Becker and Connie Brown-Miller in cursive script.

November 2026 Leadership Team Report

At our Strategic Planning meeting in January the Leadership Team identified our focus for 2026 as fostering a welcoming culture at WGT both through our interactions with individuals and through changes to our physical space/building. We have continued these discussions throughout the year and put a variety of efforts into motion, which we continue to refine. We encourage everyone to share any thoughts or suggestions with us on how to make WGT more welcoming.

The last six months have included a variety of other efforts as well. A summary of the major recent tasks and activities completed by the Leadership Team are listed below:

- Completed the 2026 annual Pastoral review process and received summaries of the annual professional staff reviews.
- Considered various overall approaches to improving WGT's building and facilities over time, including a primarily maintenance approach, a phased refresh approach, and a larger upgrade approach. We continue to discuss this topic and will bring any larger proposals to the congregation when they are ready.
- Developed the Leadership Team portion of the 2026 annual budget and approved the entirety of the budget for Congregational Forum consideration.

We thank you for the privilege to serve our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Please reach out anytime you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Colton Brown
Moderator

ForHisGloryP356@gmail.com

Leadership Team Members:

Colton Brown* (Moderator)
John Ziegler* (Assistant Moderator)
Holly Leonard* (Nurture Ministry Team Chair)
Sarah Kolp* (Nurture Ministry Team Assistant Chair)
Phil Hollinger* (Witness Ministry Team Chair)
Isaiah Sheetz* (Witness Ministry Team Assistant Chair)

Shane Schwanger* (Stewards Ministry Team Chair)
Donna Ring* (Stewards Ministry Team Assistant Chair)
Pastor Shawn O'Brien
Krista Dickson (Clerk)
Paula Jones (Treasurer)
Dewey Martin (Deacon Representative)

* Indicates voting member

West Green Tree COB
Witness Commission Report
November 10, 2026 Congregational Forum

Commission Members: Angie Harnish, Dana Youtz, Isaiah Sheetz, Mike Reem, Phil Hollinger

Activities since May 2026 Congregational Forum:

- A. VBS was held July 13-17. Thank you to Allison H., Jerry H., Haley K., Mike R., and David S. who provided the leadership on this important outreach to children of our community. There was an average of 70 children attending each evening.
- B. Coordinated the following “moments-In-mission”: Prayer Shawl Ministry, BHA, and COBYS. Cornerstone Youth Services planned to visit before year-end.
- C. Worked with Tiny Timbers to hold a “Noah’s Ark Parade” on Oct. 25 at 9am in the fellowship hall. Nurture Commission coordinated a continental breakfast from 8:30 to 9am for church and TT families. At 9am the children paraded through fellowship hall with “trick or treat bags” and dressed as animals/characters from Noah’s Ark.
- D. Currently coordinating Operation Christmas Child boxes for collection by 11/15/26, and delivery the following week.
- E. Completed the Witness portion of Church Workers list, and Witness Commission budget for 2027.
- F. We have a new outreach program planned for November 29 from 4:30-7pm at the Elizabethtown fairgrounds. “Community Christmas at the Fairgrounds” will include worship music, a short message, Bible handouts, prayer station, and cookies/hot chocolate/coffee. Thank you to Pastor Shawn, Ryan, Isaiah S., and Ben Y. for leading out on this important outreach ministry.
- G. Thank you to Don and Donna Weaver for overseeing donations to the Elizabethtown Food Bank. They have faithfully delivered your donations to the food bank monthly, and are renewing the appeal for food this fall.
- H. Christmas Dinner – Thank you to Brenna B. for again coordinating this year’s dinner. They already have volunteer lists and request your support in this important outreach to our community.
- I. Witness Commission total outreach budget for 2025 is \$46,800. In addition, YTD \$6,575 has been given in support of specific ministries such as: Juarez Trip Spaghetti dinner, COBYS, VBS offering, and Align Life Ministries.

WEST GREEN TREE CHURCH

Stewards Commission Report

Prepared by: Stewards Commission

Reporting Period: November 2026

Distribution: Congregation

1 From the Stewards Commission

On behalf of the Stewards Commission, we are pleased to present this report summarizing the recent maintenance activities, completed projects, and future plans for our church. It is a genuine privilege to serve this congregation in the care of the spaces we share, and we are grateful for the trust and generosity that make this ongoing work possible.

This has been a productive and encouraging season for West Green Tree Church. Significant improvements have been made across our building and grounds — from safety enhancements and aesthetic upgrades to infrastructure modernization and custodial excellence. None of this would be possible without the faithful effort of our volunteer teams, our dedicated custodian staff, and the skilled contractors who have partnered with us. We also extend our deepest thanks to the congregation whose continued prayerful and financial support sustains everything we do.

The sections that follow provide a comprehensive overview of all recent and upcoming work. We hope this report serves as both a transparent accounting of our stewardship and an encouragement to all who call West Green Tree Church home.

2 Recognition's

Before turning to specific projects and improvements, the committee wishes to formally and sincerely recognize the individuals who faithfully serve our congregation by caring for our building every day. Week in and week out, their work keeps every room, hallway, restroom, and gathering space clean, orderly, and ready to welcome our congregation, our guests, and all who come through our doors.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member of our custodian team:

- **Jim Spickler** — for his consistent dedication and attentiveness to the needs of our facilities.
- **Donna Ring** — for her faithful service and the care she brings to every task.
- **Allison Huber** — for her reliability and her cheerful commitment to keeping our spaces in excellent order.

Our custodial team's work may often go unnoticed, but the committee recognizes that a well-kept facility reflects our shared commitment to honoring God in all things. We are deeply grateful for Jim, Donna, and Allison.

2a. Decorating Committee

The Stewards Commission also wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the **Decorating Committee** for their dedicated and creative service to our church family. Season after season, this team invests time, energy, and talent to ensure our church reflects the beauty and meaning of each time of year—adorning our shared spaces with thoughtfulness and care that does not go unnoticed.

Whether picking paint colors, arranging furniture, or preparing the building for the warmth of the holiday seasons, the freshness of spring, or the richness of autumn, the Decorating Committee brings artistry and intentionality to everything they do. Their work creates an environment that welcomes all who enter and reminds our congregation that beauty, too, is an expression of worship. We are grateful for their faithfulness, and for the joy their efforts bring to so many.

3 Grounds & Landscaping

Jim's Lawn Service — First Full Year of Partnership

We are pleased to report that Jim's Lawn Service has successfully completed its first full year of grounds maintenance service for West Green Tree Church. From the first spring cut through the close of the season, their team has demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a genuine commitment to our property's appearance. This partnership has been a positive one in every respect, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the seasons ahead. We are grateful for the quality and consistency they have brought to caring for our church grounds.

Tree Removal

On October 18, we completed a planned removal of dead and dying trees on the church property. This work significantly improved both the safety and appearance of our grounds. Dead trees pose a genuine hazard, especially during high winds or severe weather, and removing them protects our building, our vehicles, and, most importantly, our people. The resulting improvement to our property's visual character is also a welcome benefit. We are grateful to everyone involved in coordinating and executing this work.

4 Completed Projects

The following projects have been successfully completed during this reporting period. The committee thanks each contractor and volunteer whose skill and effort helped complete these improvements.

4a. Carport Renovation — Hess Bros

Hess Bros completed a comprehensive renovation of the church carport. The project included installing new soffit and updating lighting throughout the area. These improvements give the carport a noticeably cleaner, more finished appearance and provide better illumination for those entering and exiting the building. The committee is very pleased with the quality of workmanship delivered by Hess Bros.

4b. Sanctuary Emergency Exit Door Gable Roof — Hess Bros

A gift from Mike Hess of Hess Bros. is a new gable roof constructed above the sanctuary's emergency exit door. This addition provides meaningful protection from rain, ice, and other weather conditions at an emergency exit point and contributes to a more cohesive, polished exterior appearance for the sanctuary building. This project also establishes a consistent design standard that will be extended to additional exits in the upcoming work described in Section 5.

4c. Pavilion Siding

New exterior siding has been installed on the pavilion, giving the structure a significantly improved appearance and greater resilience against the elements. This work represents a meaningful investment in one of our most used outdoor gathering spaces. Discussions regarding potential improvements to the pavilion's interior are now underway, and the committee will share updates with the congregation as those plans develop (see Section 5b).

4d. A/V Room Improvements — Glick

Glick completed a substantial A/V room upgrade, including new professional equipment racks, a full rewiring of the space, and the relocation and addition of electrical outlets to better accommodate our current and future technology needs. This work positions our A/V infrastructure to more reliably support Sunday morning worship, special services, and church events for years to come. We appreciate Glick's expertise and thoroughness in completing this important project.

4e. Building-Wide Carpet Cleaning

Carpets throughout the building—except for the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary—have been professionally cleaned. This comprehensive effort covers all the classrooms, hallways, and other carpeted spaces across the building. The result is a noticeable improvement in the overall cleanliness and appearance of these areas, creating a more welcoming, well-maintained environment for all who gather here.

4f. Archive Room

The church's archive room has been reorganized and updated. Historical records, documents, and materials are now arranged more systematically to support long-term preservation and make retrieval straightforward for those who need access. The committee thanks the volunteers who gave their time to complete this behind-the-scenes but genuinely important work.

4g. Secondary Water Tank Installation — Main Restrooms

The committee successfully installed a secondary water tank to supply the main restrooms, a meaningful and necessary investment in the building's core infrastructure. This project directly improves water supply reliability in one of the facility's most frequently used areas, ensuring our restrooms remain fully functional and dependable for the congregation, guests, and all who gather in our building.

5 Ongoing & Upcoming Work

The following projects are either actively underway or scheduled for completion in the near term. The committee will provide updates as each item progresses.

5a. Staging Room Emergency Exit Door Roof — Hess Bros

Work is scheduled with Hess Bros to add a gable roof above the emergency exit door serving the staging room — consistent in design with the roof already completed at the sanctuary exit (see Section 4b). This upcoming project will ensure that all of the building's emergency exits are protected from the weather in a uniform, professional manner. We are pleased that Hess Bros will be continuing their excellent work on this complementary addition.

5b. Pavilion Interior

With the new exterior siding on the pavilion complete, the committee has begun discussions about the next logical step: improvements to the pavilion's interior. The pavilion is a cherished space for fellowship, outdoor worship, and community gatherings, and the committee is enthusiastic about exploring ways to make it even more welcoming and functional. The committee will bring further details before the congregation as plans take shape.

5c. Exterior Lighting — Sanctuary & Youth Wing Classrooms

New exterior light fixtures have been purchased for installation at the sanctuary and the youth wing classrooms. These lights will significantly improve visibility and safety around two of the most frequently used areas of our building, especially during evening services and events. Installation is being scheduled and will take place soon. The committee looks forward to sharing the result of this practical and important upgrade.

5d. Shank Door — Basement Emergency Exit Door

Shank Door has been engaged to replace the existing old door in the young adults' classroom, which opens directly onto Green Tree Road. The current door has developed significant cracking and repeatedly has difficulty latching and locking securely—concerns that present both safety and security risks, and that the committee is committed to addressing promptly. The new door will be installed to meet proper emergency exit standards, ensuring this exit functions reliably and safely for everyone who uses the space. In addition to eliminating the ongoing issues presented by the deteriorating door, this replacement will improve the overall security and provide greater peace of mind for those who gather there.

6 Early-Stage Planning

The committee wants to keep the congregation informed about projects in the early stages of discussion and planning. The two items below are not yet ready for formal proposals, but we believe it is important to be transparent about what is being explored. More detailed information will be presented to church leadership and the congregation as each planning process matures.

6a. Fellowship Hall Renovation

The committee has begun early planning for a Fellowship Hall renovation. The Fellowship Hall is one of the most central and beloved spaces in our church — used for everything from church gatherings and community meals to special events and ministry programs. Working with GCM, the committee is currently assessing needs, gathering ideas, and exploring options to refresh and improve this beloved space. We welcome input from the congregation and will bring forward a more formal proposal in due course.

6b. Sanctuary Crack Repairs

Along with GCM, the committee is in the early stages of evaluating cracks identified inside and outside the Sanctuary. As with all matters relating to the structural integrity and appearance of our worship space, we are approaching this issue carefully and thoroughly. The committee and GCM are currently assessing the scope of needed repairs. We are committed to addressing this matter responsibly. GCM will conduct a soil exploration at the front of the church near the road sign to ensure the foundation is not compromised. We will provide the congregation with a full update as assessments are completed and we confirm a plan of action.

7 Words of Gratitude

The Stewards Commission extends its heartfelt gratitude to our custodian team—**Jim Spickler, Donna Ring, and Allison Huber**—for their faithful care of our church facilities. We also sincerely thank the Decorating Committee- **Dori Schwanger, Darlene Breneman, Kathy Martin, and Brienna Brown** for the creativity, time, and thoughtful attention they give to making our shared spaces welcoming throughout the seasons, along with every volunteer who has contributed time and energy this year. Most of all, we thank the congregation of West Green Tree Church, whose generosity, prayers, and support make this work possible. It is our privilege to serve as faithful stewards of this place where God is glorified.

Respectfully Submitted-
Shane Schwanger
Donna Ring
Jason Leonard
Dustin Youtz
Randy Youtz

WEST GREEN TREE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Congregational Business Meeting

Nurture Commission Report Fall 2026

Members: Holly Leonard: Chair, Sarah Kolp: Co-chair, Allison Huber, Greg Wiker, and Ben Youtz.

--Provided Mother's and Father's day gifts and words of appreciation.

--Assisted the deacons in a meal after the baptisms.

--Provided gifts for staff birthdays, pastor appreciation, music arts appreciation, and youth leader appreciation days.

--Assisted with worship night October 11th.

--Assisted Witness Commission on October 25th to host Tiny Timbers for a Noah's Ark parade and continental breakfast for the families and church attendees.

--Men in the Woods held a family event November 7th.

--Purchased large print bibles for the pews.

--Junior Church (children's church) has resumed with a new curriculum for the year.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve Jesus by serving others.

Respectfully submitted by:

Holly Leonard

Cemetery Board Report
West Green Tree Congregational Meeting
November 10, 2026

The following report is based on information from the Treasurer of the Cemetery Board and includes transactions occurring from the last congregational meeting.

West Green Tree COB:

Dewey Martin
Randy Youtz
Polly Shumate

Lot Fees

Members fee \$ 250.00
Nonmembers fee \$1,000.00

Florin COB

Doug Witman
Earl Dehmey
John Dohner

Cremation on

Top/Conventional

Burial/Members \$200.00
Non Members \$300.00

Beginning Bank Balance 4/15/2026 \$ 13,795.74
Ending Bank Balance 10/30/2026 \$ 7,276.33

Income:

Interest Income – Investments \$ 6,167.42
Donation/Gentleman looking at lots 20.00
Wolgemuth Trust \$ 4,460.59
(0) Lot Sold
Total Income \$10,648.01

Expenses:

Jerry Hess Mow Cemetery \$ 11,200.00
Total Expenses \$ 11,200.00

Net \$ -551.99

(3) Investments/Landis Financial \$277,352.12

Remaining Unsold Lots 525

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Becker (Secretary)
Doug Witman (Treasurer)