

# Evergreen News

## A Pastor's Perception

### Ready?

I know most everyone is ready for spring. But are we ready for Jesus?

Was that abrupt? Stay with me.

Amanda wanted me to put the snow shovels away last week. I was reluctant - not because I'm not so secretly hoping for more snow – but because I've lived in Pennsylvania long enough to know that putting the shovels away is basically an invitation.

But there is something in us that just knows spring is coming. The sun is setting later. You start thinking about the grill. Someone mentions Easter ham and suddenly you're making a grocery list. Preparation and anticipation kick in almost automatically because we know it's coming and we can feel it getting closer.

That's exactly how I feel about Easter.

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – the actual defeat of sin and death – and there is real preparation involved. Love Feast on Maundy Thursday. Sunrise service. The gathering of the whole church on Sunday morning. Not to mention the ham. Remembering and preparing really do go hand in hand.

You know this rhythm from Advent. The weeks leading to Christmas have a feel to them – shopping, baking, wrapping, the candles lit on Sunday mornings. Likely because you can count the days. The calendar tells you exactly how close you are.

I have to confess something about that. As a kid I thought snow meant Christmas was here. Like snow was the signal that it had arrived. That led to some real disappointment on otherwise non-December 25th mornings. I needed my mom to orient me. I couldn't track it on my own – I needed someone who understood the calendar, who knew what was actually coming and when, to help me prepare well.

Here's where I'm going with this.

Easter we can prepare for. The return of Jesus is a different matter.

The disciples asked Jesus directly – is this the moment? Are you restoring things now? His answer was plain: **"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."** (Acts 1:7)

No calendar. No countdown. No snow-as-signal.

But He didn't leave them without direction. The very next breath: **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** (Acts 1:8)

**Continued on Page 2**



What's inside our latest issue:

Easter Events P. 2

WGT Calendar P. 3

Youth News Ps. 4-5

Tiny Timbers Tidbits P. 6

Celebrations P. 6

Align Baby Shower P. 7

Library News P. 7



\*Prayer Shawl Gathering  
Wednesday, April 8th, 7 pm

\*Sisters in Christ Saturday,  
April 11th, 9 am

\*Spring Clean-up Day April  
25th starting at 8:30 am

### \*Weekly Gatherings

\*Ladies Bible Study Mondays  
at 11 am

\*Men's Bible Study Thursdays  
at 7 pm & Saturdays at  
7 am

\*Youth Wednesdays at  
6:30 pm

**Our Vision  
Statement:  
"To Know, Love, &  
Follow Jesus by  
serving All"**

## **A Pastor's Perception** **Continued from Cover**

Instead of counting down the days, count the people you've witnessed to.

That reorientation changes everything. The preparation for His return isn't passive waiting – it's active witnessing. I have had the privilege of watching a lot of that happen in this community. Prayers answered. People anointed and healed. Generosity changing real circumstances. Conversations that opened doors. None of it manufactured. All of it through the power of Jesus.

That's the preparation He's asking for.

Easter is coming. We know the date. We're getting ready.

His return is coming. We don't know the date. So we get to witnessing - telling the good news of what He has done, is doing and will do.

Spring is coming whether you put the shovels away or not.

Jesus is coming the same way He left.

The question isn't whether you're ready for spring.

The question is whether you're ready for Him.

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*Join us Palm Sunday, March 29th, and Easter Sunday, April 5th – Sunrise Service at 6:45am and our main gathering at 9:45am. And don't miss Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. We'd love to walk through Holy Week together.*



*Easter at WGT*

*6:45 am Sunrise Gathering*

*7:15 am Light Breakfast*

*8:30 am Small Groups/Sunday School*

*9:45 am Large Group Gathering*

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth 6:30 pm	2 Love Feast 6:30 pm	3 Good Friday Office Closed	4 3 M 7 am Private Event 11 am
5 Easter 6:45 am Sunrise Gathering 7:15 Breakfast 8:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	6 WWW 11 am	7	8 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	9 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	10	11 3 M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am
12 8:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	13 WWW 11 am	14 Leadership Team 7 pm	15 Youth 6:30 pm	16 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	17	18 3 M 7 am
19 68:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	20 WWW 11 am	21 Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm	22 Youth 6:30 pm	23 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	24	25 3 M 7 am Spring Clean-Up Day 8:30 am
26 8:30 am Sunday School./Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	27 WWW 11 am	28	29 Youth 6:30 pm	30 Men's Bible Study 7 pm		

### April Newsletter Youth Report

The youth originally had a winter retreat at Gretna Glen scheduled in January but due to the snow, it got postponed to March. At first that can seem like a disappointment or a disruption in plans, but God works all things for the good of those who love Him and the youth retreat this year was an example of that. We had 18 kids and 8 leaders this year which is more than we would have had if our retreat was in January.

Numbers don't tell the full story. We were also able to make more use of our time outside connecting with one another through games, campfire and walks through the great outdoors that God created. Our theme and focus of the retreat was Matthew 5:13-16 where Jesus tells us that we are Salt and Light. We reflected on how we, as followers of Jesus, are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We are to let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify the Father.

We started out on Friday night singing praises to our Lord and then Haley gave an overview on Matthew 5:13-16 by introducing the passage and meanings behind it that we would later dive deeper into on Saturday. On Saturday, we had a morning time of worship



with a lesson taught by Chris that focused on what it means to be the salt of the earth with a comparison of unsalted and salted pretzels. I've never had an unsalted pretzel up until that point and I can tell you with certainty that the salted pretzel was way better and made me want more of them, as well as some water. This illustrates how our lives should be lived in a way that makes people want more of God's



goodness and to want the living water that He provides. In the evening, Lance led us in a lesson on what it means to be the light of the world which included a little gift of a flashlight to illustrate the point that the light we are talking about isn't a light that flashes or overwhelms people, but it is a steady light that points to Christ and reflects His character.

Saturday night, we had a talent show where the kids got to display many talents that they had. There were many awesome performances, but I want to highlight one that stood out for two reasons. One of the girls, Cora, performed a song that she wrote herself and played guitar while singing it. The first reason this stood out is just how talented she is to write her own original song. However, there is an even bigger reason this stood out. She was very nervous to perform her song but the entire group encouraged her and her friend Katie even helped sing it with her. That is what we are called to do as a family is encourage each other and show love and support for one another.



Finally, on Sunday we wrapped up with a focus on verse 16 about how being salt and light means living for

Jesus in everyday life in all situations. In order to do that we need to abide in Christ, the true Light of the World, because apart from Him we can do nothing. We can't reflect God's character to others if we aren't staying connected to Him and spending time with Him.

Thank you to all the parents who entrusted us with discipling your kids during the retreat and a special thank you to all the leaders who sacrificed their time and energy to further God's kingdom through the discipling of the youth!

For Him and His Glory,  
David Spayde





**Anniversaries**

- 4/4 - John & Laurie Hollinger
- 4/10 - Mike & Dori Reem
- 4/15 - Dave & Ruth Hawthorne
- 4/25 - Keith & Lori Keener
- 4/29 - Dan & Krista Dickson

**Birthdays**

- 4/1 - Don Weaver
- 4/3 - Nick Miller
- 4/4 - Donna Coble
- 4/6 - Ruthanne Gruber  
Allison Huber
- 4/11 - Sally Nolt
- 4/12 - Lucy Youtz  
Isaiah Sheetz
- 4/14 - Steve Smith  
Regena Tripp
- 4/15 - Shawn O'Brien
- 4/17 - Jason Leonard  
Mel Geib
- 4/19 - Landon Harnish  
Paula Jones
- 4/20 - Brienna Brown
- 4/21 - Naomi Clugston  
Lillian Youtz
- 4/22 - Hunter Arndt
- 4/23 - Alec Drawbaugh
- 4/25 - Jackie Trout  
Dana Youtz  
Shawn Vago
- 4/26 - Angela Waser
- 4/27 - Clair Chavez

**Join us!**



**July 13-17**

**Tiny Timbers News**

Let me say how thankful I am that it is finally spring! The children at Tiny Timbers are full of energy this year, being able to get them outside has been a blessing.



The MWF afternoon class is a small one this year and that has made a big difference in how they interact with each other. They are so patient and encouraging to one another compared to larger groups.

They are excited however, to be combining our field trip at Hershey Gardens with the morning class at the end of the month.

The year is coming to an end soon and we are almost finished with our ABC books as well as learning the ABC's sign language. With a little extra time on our hands due to class size, Miss Kessy has been able to add special music, game and playdough days during the week that the children are really enjoying.

As for the Tuesday/Thursday group of kiddos, there are some big personalities with even bigger emotions! They are learning how to use kind words and hands and how to not be "space invaders".

Miss Angie is doing a great job keeping each child engaged and involved. They are all very eager to learn and easily excited.

We are currently in our "community helpers" theme. The visit from the Rheems Fire Department was a big success this year as every child could be brave and get in the fire truck.

We are soon trying out a new field trip location, SnapoLogy. This should be a fun experience for both kids and parents.

Looking forward, I am very excited to see registration come in for next year that includes new and returning kiddos as well as siblings of past students. Amy has been able to change up what the Tiny Timbers program has to offer for next year that will allow Tiny Timbers to continue for years to come.

Miss Kelley

## Mission Complete

Operation “ It’s a Baby” was successful! Thank you so much to everyone who supported the baby shower that we held for Align Life Ministries. We collected many gifts along with some monetary donations. The staff at Align Life were very pleased when the gifts were delivered. Their clients and their babies/families will make good use of everything. Thank you again for your support.



## Library News

The newest book for the library is “God Loves Kids” By Jamie C. Finn and illustrated by Juliana Oakley. A Gospel - Centered Book about Foster Care.

God loves kids! Every child is created in His image. Even in a broken world God’s love for kids can never be broken!

The story shares the gospel message of Jesus Christ and His way for us to be forgiven and healed and transformed.

This is a story not only for foster families but for all families.

As we look back on our Align baby shower and forward to the redeeming power of Christ’s crucifixion and His resurrection may it remind us of His love and care for us as we are all children of God created in His image.

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God . Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*  
1John 4:7



**Congregational  
Forum  
May 12 @ 7 pm**



740 Greentree Road  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEST GREEN TREE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



**Sunday Gathering Times:**

- ◆ 8:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups
- ◆ 9:45 am Large Group Gathering
- ◆ Live Stream via YouTube “West Green Tree Worship”

**Weekday Activities:**

- ◆ Mondays: Ladies Bible Study @ 11 am
- ◆ Wednesday: Youth @ 6:30 pm
- ◆ Thursday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 pm
- ◆ Saturday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 am

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