

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

If you didn't know, this is my favorite Christmas song. Not just for the haunting melody, but for what it teaches us about longing and presence. About waiting and hope.

Here's the tension: We believe God is with us—Emmanuel. And yet we still cry out, "O come!"

We long for Him to come again. To bring the new. To end suffering. To usher in the fullness of His kingdom.

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.*

O come.

What is it we're really asking for? Peace. Rest. Endless joy. The setting right of all things.

Here's what I wonder: How often do we try to manufacture these things ourselves? How often do we hustle and strive to create some version of peace, some shadow of joy—something less than what He would give us? Something less than what He *will* usher in?

The petition "O come, O come, Emmanuel" is asking Him to bring His character, His kingdom, His ways into our present circumstances.

We can all agree there are things not as we wish they were. But more than that—we recognize there is much that does not align with the ethic of the kingdom of the Lord.

So we petition. We long. We cry out for Him to come.

And here's the good news: His Spirit has already taken up residence in those who accept the gift of Christmas—Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus as our way to be reconciled to God, receiving forgiveness of sins and the gift of His Spirit.

Jesus teaches us how to petition: *Your kingdom come, Your will be*

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- Office Closed 1/1 & 1/2
- Ladies Bible Study
Mondays at 11 am
- Youth Wednesdays at
6:30 pm
- Men's Bible Study
Thursdays at 7 pm
- Men's Bible Study Satur-
days at 7 am (off-site)
- Youth Winter Retreat
January 23-25
- Game Night January 31 @
4 pm

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

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				¹ New Year's Day Office Closed	² Office Closed	³ 3M 7 am
⁴ 8:30 am SS & Small Groups Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Christmas Fellowship Meal Mtg. After LGG	⁵ WWW 11 am	⁶	⁷ Youth 6:30 pm	⁸ Men's Bible Study 7 pm	⁹	¹⁰ 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am Leadership Team 10 am
¹¹ 8:30 am SS & Small Groups Large Group Gathering 9:45 am	¹² WWW 11 am	¹³ Leadership Team 7 pm	¹⁴ Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	¹⁵ Preschool Conferences Men's Bible Study 7 pm	¹⁶ Preschool Conferences	¹⁷ 3M 7 am Leadership Team (Snow Date) 10 am
¹⁸ 8:30 am SS & Small Groups Large Group Gathering 9:45 am	¹⁹ WWW 11 am Tiny Timbers Closed	²⁰ Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm	²¹ Youth 6:30 pm	²² Men's Bible Study 7 pm	²³ Youth Retreat	²⁴ 3M 7 am Youth Retreat Private Event
²⁵ 8:30 am SS & Small Groups Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Youth Retreat	²⁶ WWW 11 am	²⁷	²⁸ Youth 6:30 pm	²⁹ Men's Bible Study 7 pm	³⁰	³¹ 3M 7 am Game Night 4 pm - 8 pm



A Pastor's Perception

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done on earth as it is in heaven.

As we close one year and begin another, what shall our mindset be?

When we think of what we'd like to be different, perhaps the better question is this: Where would God have *us* live differently?

But here's the secret: Kingdom living doesn't start with trying harder. It starts with abiding closer.

Jesus said, "Abide in me." Stay connected. Remain in Him. Let His life flow through yours like sap through a branch.

This is how His kingdom comes into us first—through presence, not performance. Through relationship, not resolution.

And when His kingdom takes root in us? When we're abiding in Him? Then we become the very answer to our petition. We usher in what we've received. We extend what's been given to us.

Your kingdom come—first in me, then through me.

The petition isn't passive. It's participatory. It's abiding, then acting. Receiving, then releasing.

O come, O come, Emmanuel—and may we be those who, having received You, now carry Your kingdom into every corner of our world.

Volunteer Opportunities at WGT

Listed below are two servant opportunities within WGT. If interested in serving in either of these areas, please see a Nurture Ministry Team member (Holly Leonard, Sarah Kolp, Allison Huber, Greg Wiker or Ben Youtz).

Meals Coordinator Volunteer

Looking for someone to be the meals coordinator for 2026. You would speak with the church family to get requirements for the meals and set up a sign up genius for the congregation to sign up! Further education is available.

Card Ministry Volunteer

Seeking volunteer to send anniversary & birthday cards to WGT family beginning January 1st. Cards & postage supplied.



Birthdays

- 1/1 - Deb Myers, Chris Wynn
- 1/3 - Cadence Youtz
- 1/4 - Greg Seitz
- 1/5 - Mindy Smith
- 1/8 - Laurie Hollinger
- 1/10 - Donna Ring
- 1/15 - Audrey Landvater
 - Dane Youtz
- 1/16 - Josh Evans
- 1/20 - George Clugston Sr.
 - Kim Houser
- 1/24 - Dawn Shirk
- 1/25 - Jay Johnson
- 1/26 - Dennis Gerdel
 - Sadie Coble
- 1/30 - Bill Weaver
- 1/31 - Dori Schwanger

WGT Youth Update

As we are wrapping up the year in 2025 and looking forward to 2026, I wanted to provide an update on the youth of our church.

We have had some big events during the last part of 2025. The youth volunteered at Unto Warehouse in Mount Joy to help pack clothing as part of their October Mission Packing Event. We had a big turnout for the event of 15 youth and some brought friends to join. Our biggest attended event and one of the kids favorites was the Operation Christmas Shopping in November where we went to Dollar Tree and filled shoe boxes for the children overseas. The youth did a great job of showing the love of Christ to these children by filling the shoe boxes with wonderful gifts and tried to put as much as they could into the boxes. Afterwards they enjoyed a delicious treat of their own at Tropical Smoothie. In December, the youth had a Christmas party which was full of food, fun and gifts.

On Sundays, the youth have been going through a series on the Wonder of Christmas in which we have been going through the Christmas story of Jesus birth in the Gospel of Luke and trying to re-visited it with fresh eyes to rekindle the wonder of Christ's presence, His Good News and His Plan. On

Wednesdays, the youth have gone through the book of James in which we have been focusing on main themes such as the power of our words and how we use them, patience and perseverance and the power of prayer. We also had a prayer night the one night in which we had different prayer stations and each station focused on a different theme or type of prayer (thanksgiving, intercession, confession, praise and reflection).



Another great highlight is the interactions and relationships being built between the leaders and youth during the small group time on Wednesday nights. The small group time after the lessons have been amazing to see and hear the conversations that are taking place. This is where we as leaders have been blessed to see some of the fruits of our labor. The youth are taking the lessons seriously and reflecting on how they can live out their faith. There have been discussions about how to share Jesus with friends, or even just kids they know, in their school; discussions about holding each other accountable for reading daily before school; discussions about how to stay focused on Jesus and so many more. A few of our youth are also stepping up and leading our group in prayer and lessons.



Looking forward in 2026, the youth are getting ready for winter retreat at Gretna Glen in January. Winter Retreat was a blast last year and they are looking forward to it again this year. Our theme and focus of the retreat will be Salt and Light and 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.

For Him and His Glory,
David Spayde



	11/23	11/30	12/7	12/14
Total Worship	90	93	95	102
Sunday School	67	73	70	None/ Snow
General Fund	\$3,725.31	\$4,427.57	\$7,387.61	\$3,386.08



I can't believe we are about to begin 2026! The year has gone fast. The last few weeks the kids have been busy preparing for the Christmas Program by learning Bible verses, practicing songs and making Christmas art. We are looking forward to welcoming the students' families into the church for the program and sharing milk and cookies.

Over the next few months we are excited for fun themes like hibernation, dinos, rhythm and many more. In February we will have a valentine exchange and in the spring a field trip. We will continue to work on the alphabet, counting, cutting paper, and using a pencil. Lots of fun and learning planned for 2026!



Thanks to everyone who supported the Dutch Country Soft Pretzel fundraiser. We are excited to announce that we sold 278 pretzel tickets. Tiny Timbers used these funds to purchase a photo printer and a playhouse for the playgroup. The kids love this house!!

Congratulations to Brooklyn and her family for selling the most pretzel tickets. They sold 30!

Miss Angie
TTH Teacher



Knowing His Voice

Last week I met with my mentor, David Superdock. We try to connect about once a month to encourage one another in the daily challenges of worship ministry. David serves as the Worship Arts Director at South Lebanon Community Church, and I'm grateful for these meetings because they are often exactly what we both need—sometimes one of us needs lifting up, sometimes both of us do.

This time, I knew I was the one who needed the boost.

I shared some concerns I've been carrying, particularly my desire to continue strengthening the culture of our worship team at WGT. Not because things are going poorly—but because I believe God always has room for growth, refinement, and deeper unity. I asked David if he would consider coming to lead a session with our team to encourage them.

As gently and wisely as only a mentor can, he paused and reminded me of something important. Aside from God's voice, the WGT worship team knows *my* voice best. They recognize it. They trust it. They know it belongs to a teammate and a friend. His voice, though well-intended, might feel unfamiliar—something they wouldn't know how to receive in the same way.

That thought stopped me in my tracks.

It immediately brought to mind John 10:27, where Jesus says, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* David's encouragement reminded me that as I seek God's will for the role I serve in, I must first be sure that I know *His* voice. If I truly am a sheep of His pasture, then the voice of the Shepherd should be familiar, recognizable, and trusted.

The reality is that we live in a world filled with voices competing for our attention. Many of them sound good. Many of them seem wise. But only one voice is best—the voice of the Good Shepherd.

So how do we learn to hear His voice?

It begins with prayer and abiding in Him. When we intentionally spend time in His presence and quiet the noise of the world around us, His voice becomes clearer. We also hear His voice through Scripture, where God consistently reveals His heart and character. And at times, His voice comes through wise counsel—brothers and sisters in Christ who are walking faithfully with Him and help us discern His leading. So I ask you today:

Are you able to hear His voice? And when you do—how do you respond?

Praying for you,

Ryan M. Arndt

Worship Arts Coordinator | Licensed Minister

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WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEST GREEN TREE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

“Come to me,

all you who
are **weary** and
burdened, and



I will give you rest.”
-Matthew 11:28

Sunday Service Times:

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

Weekday Activities:

- ♦ Monday: Ladies Bible Study @ 11 am
- ♦ Wednesday: Youth @ 6:30 pm
- ♦ Thursday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 pm

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