

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

Finding Rest in God's Presence

Amanda and I recently went to Longwood Gardens. Unlike previous visits of brisk walks through the grounds, this time we weren't rushing. We allowed ourselves to truly pause—sitting by waterfalls, resting on benches among the flowers, and simply taking in God's creation around us.

In those quiet moments, we found ourselves both in comfortable silence and gentle conversation. There was something profoundly peaceful about just being present in that space.

The Shepherd's Rest

The next day, as I reflected on our experience, I was drawn to the familiar words of Psalm 23:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

Sitting among those meadows, trees, and flowers, I realized that God had led us to exactly what we needed. In those moments, the world's noise faded away, and we could simply be quiet and content. The Lord provides places where we can rest and find everything we need.

The Challenge of Stillness

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

If you're like me, just sitting still can feel nearly impossible. Even when our bodies are at rest, our minds often continue racing. Interestingly, studies show that simply having a phone nearby—whether on or off—can actually reduce our cognitive resources and impair our ability to focus. (I'll confess: I left my phone in the car that day!)

As we sat at a comfortable distance from the waterfall, I was struck by how the sound of water brings such peace. Later that week I woke to the gentle sound of rain and found myself grateful for this reminder that God provides what we need, even as we simply rest and receive.

Trust Over Clarity

I recently heard a powerful story about Mother Teresa. When someone asked her to pray for clarity in their life, she responded with surprising wisdom along the lines of: "I have never had clarity, but I have always had trust. I will pray that you learn to trust in the Lord."

This echoes the truth of Proverbs 3:5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Choosing the Better Path

It can be challenging to trust that resting and simply enjoying God's presence is actually the right path. Yet Jesus himself affirmed this in the story of Martha and Mary—the one who sits in His presence has chosen what is better.

Looking back on our afternoon at Longwood Gardens, I realized that without even being aware of it in the moment, I had chosen to rest in God's presence through His creation. Had I simply kept walking instead of sitting, I would have missed the path He had prepared for me.



What's inside our latest issue:

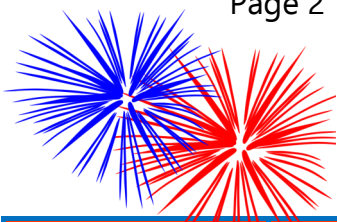
- *WGT Calendar P. 2
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Weekly Gatherings

- *Ladies Bible Study Mondays at 11 am
- *Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 7 pm & Saturdays at 7 am at Hawthorne's Woods
- *Youth Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- *Prayer Shawl Gathering 7/9 at 7 pm
- *Sisters in Christ 7/12 @ 9 am
- *VBS 7/14-7/18 6:30 pm each night
- *Open Prayer 7/29 @ 7 pm

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



JULY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Youth 6:30 pm	3 Office Closed Men's Bible Study 7 pm	4 Office Closed	5
6 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	7 WWW 11 am	8 Commission Mtg. 7 pm Leadership Team 8 pm	9 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	10 Men's Bible Study 7pm	11	12 Sisters in Christ 9 am VBS Set Up
13 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	14 WWW 11 am VBS 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	15 VBS 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	16 VBS 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	17 VBS 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	18 VBS 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	19 VBS Clean Up
20 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	21 WWW 11 am	22	23 Youth 6:30 pm	24 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	25	26 Pavilion & Fellowship Hall reserved for private function
27 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	28 WWW 11 am	29 Prayer 7 pm	30 Youth 6:30 pm	31 Men's Bible Study 7 pm		

An Invitation to Stillness

Can we trust God's ways? Are we willing to believe that He sometimes calls us to rest and simply acknowledge that He is God and we are not? Can you and I learn to be still?

Today, I encourage you not to miss the opportunity to be still and know the God of love—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Whether in a garden, by your window, or in a quiet corner of your home, He is waiting to meet you in the stillness.

May you find rest in the green pastures He provides, and may you hear His voice beside the quiet waters of His peace.

From The “WAC”

Each and every Sunday morning, the Worship Team and other volunteers gather in the room behind the platform for a quick meeting to go over the planned lineup for that day's gathering. This little, short meeting begins at approximately 9:35a.m. and is over around 9:40a.m..

When we start, we go over the bulletin for the day. This includes everything from talking about the pre-service 'countdown' music to the times where we move from the platform to the pews to join our families for other elements of the gathering. This is also our time to iron out any last minute details which includes having microphones available for prayer requests or when certain things will take place. And yet, sometimes when we make sure we all know the plan, the gathering does not go as planned.

At times we forget to do something that we had planned or even better, the Spirit moves and things don't go according to our plans but according to His plans.

Each and every Sunday once we've gone through our lineup and have talked through the details of the gathering, we read scripture together and use that to frame our minds heading into leading the gathering. Just a week or so ago, the words of Philippians 4:6 were used as a reminder to 'not be anxious about anything'. It was a worthy reminder for the team and for myself.... Do not be anxious... what a reminder! These words used right before a gathering were and a powerful reminder that God is with us in our gatherings. He's with us when things don't go as planned and perhaps it is because He may have a better plan!

And so, I would invite you to join us for our 9:35a.m. 'huddle' some Sunday morning. You might just be surprised at how the Spirit shows up and reorients that day's plan to what He has in store for us. And as He does, may we be reminded to do all that we do for the glory of God and to worship in Spirit and in truth knowing that He is with us!

Attendance & Givings			
	Total Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
May 25	78	66	\$8,611.31
June 1	139	74	\$7,994.37
June 8	113	None Reported	\$7,328.31
June 15	141	70	\$4,256.07



All-Church Family in the Woods Picnic

The rain stopped, the sun came out and over 60 folks showed up for food, fellowship and inspiration. Next gathering in November, all are welcome!

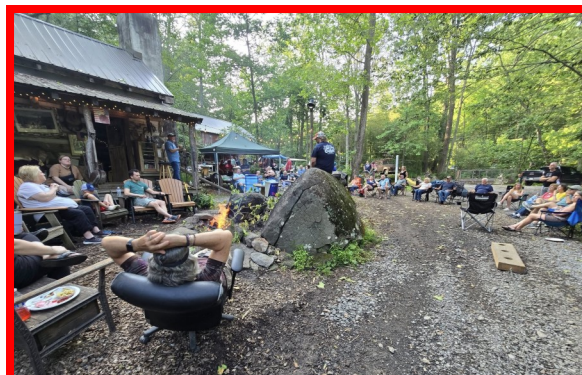


Anniversaries

7/11 - Jeff & Dori Schwanger
7/26 - Dustin & Dana Youtz
7/31 - Dennis & Linda Gerdel

Birthdays

7/2 - Nora Grove
7/8 - Polly Shumate
7/10 - Nicole Wenger
7/12 - Haylee Coble
7/16 - Ann Saylor
- Derwin Thomas
7/18 - Jim Gruber
- Kathy Martin
7/21 - Marion Hess
7/25 - Lisa Shelly
7/30 - Xavier Cannon
7/31 - Colton Brown
- Daryl Harnish





Youth Trail Walk



Technology Update

The Technology committee is working diligently to address deficiencies with our sound system and enhance the worship experience in-person and online. We have a 3-step plan to ensure the sound system delivers uniform coverage and minimizes distortion.

First, we are reducing sources of signal interference between our wireless equipment and sound system.

Second, we are meeting with the Worship Arts Coordinator to ensure volunteers working with equipment receive sufficient, on-going training to operate it effectively.

Thirdly, we will consult with audio-video professionals for their guidance on how the above challenges are often handled based on their experience.

Looking ahead, we're also improving power to the sound room equipment and are replacing the computer for EZWorship, which runs our worship slideshows and presentations. Your patience is appreciated as we work towards these improvements.

In addition to the sound system, the Technology Committee maintains and services technology throughout the church. This year, the Kid Check system was instituted and training was given for volunteers working with the check-in station. We also educated the Nurture Team on using Microsoft Teams to host meetings from home.

If you have any questions about the sound or other technology matters, please feel free to notify the Technology Committee. Concerns can be emailed to tech@westgreentree.org or you can speak directly with any of the committee members.

Technology Committee
Jason Leonard, Dan Dickson, Shawn Cannon and Jerry Huber

740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Blessed
is the **NATION**

whose **GOD**



is the
LORD.

Psalm 33:12

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 at Hawthorne's Woods

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