

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

Have you looked at the weather? 🌧️

I watch the weather before I grill. 🍖

Not just the day of. I'm checking two, three days out.

Snow? ❄️ Fine. Cold? 🥶 Not a problem. Even a light drizzle and I'll make it work.

But steady rain? It all depends on how I feel in the moment.

Here's the thing though. If I'm being honest with myself, it's not really about the rain.

I don't like to commit. Especially to something that's still a couple days away. 📅 Because what if when the time comes I don't feel like it? What if something better comes up? I want to keep my options open.

So I wait. And sometimes waiting means it just doesn't happen.

This is Noelle's last summer before she graduates high school. 🎓

She has two jobs this summer. Her new job has her out on weekday mornings through lunch. The overlap between her schedule and mine is not huge. And I know myself well enough to know that if I'm not intentional, I'll blink and August will be over.

I've already missed more than I'd like to admit. Games I didn't sit down for. Conversations I was half in. Dinners where I was at the table but somewhere else in my head. I kept waiting for a better window. A more convenient moment. The right weather.

I'm sitting with that this summer.

But sitting with it is only useful if it changes something.

Paul says it plainly. *Be very careful, then, how you live. Not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.* Ephesians 5:15-16.

Making the most of every opportunity is not something that just happens. **It's a choice.** You have to decide before the moment arrives.

Our rhythms are going to shift. They always do. Schedules loosen. Vacations happen. Long weekends are enjoyed. And then September shows up and you wonder where it went.



What's inside our latest issue:

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Weekly Gatherings

- *Ladies Bible Study Mondays at 11 am
- *Youth Wednesdays 6:30 pm
- *Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 7 pm
- *Sisters in Christ June 13th @ 9 am
- *Open Prayer Night June 23rd @ 7 pm

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



Aiden Tyson Hawthorne

- Graduated from Mount Calvary Christian School and Lancaster County Career & Technology Center
- Favorite verse: Romans 12:9 *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good”* (ESV)
- Future plans: Aiden will be working at Wenger Feeds as a Diesel Tech



Jay Coble

- Graduated from Lower Dauphin High School
- Favorite Verse: Genesis 2:2-3 *“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done”* (NIV)
- Future Plans: Jay will be going into the work force working with local farm.

Attendance & Givings				
	Total	Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
April 26		106	76	\$3,884.07
May 3		108	—	\$5,000.37
May 10		104	67	\$7,777.14
May 17		700+	No SS	\$2,866.07TS \$4,759.00 First Fruits Farm

A Pastor's Perception

(Continued from Front Cover)

Before you let summer just happen to you, carry this question with you: does this choice help me be with Jesus, become like Jesus, or do what Jesus does?

It's not all that different than our mission: to know, love, and follow Jesus by serving all. Knowing Him is being with Him. Loving Him is becoming more like Him. Following Him is doing what He does. And serving all is where that goes when it moves outward into your actual life.

We need to be attentive to what we allow in. Not everything competing for your attention is worth it. 🤔 Some of it will quietly pull you away from the people right in front of you, not to mention Jesus.

And pay attention to what you're putting out. People are watching - your spouse, children, neighbors, church family, co-workers, the cashier at your favorite spot. What do they see and hear? That's the come and see we kept talking about this spring. Somebody in your world is going to experience Jesus because of how you show up this summer. Or they won't.

That's the choice.

I don't want to look back on this summer wishing I'd done it differently. I don't think you do either.

The grill is ready. The calendar has open space.

Don't wait for perfect weather.

Grateful to be your pastor, Shawn

Youth Mission Trip

A few of our youth here at WGT are getting ready to go on a local mission trip to Lancaster, PA from July 27th-31st. The trip is hosted by Eastern Mennonite Missions. We will start our mornings by having discipleship training with other missionaries that are sent out throughout the world by Eastern Mennonite Missions. In the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to put our training into a real-world experience in sharing Jesus and showing His love and kindness with immigrant and refugee children. As part of our real-world experience, we will partner with the Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program to help teach English to immigrant and refugee children through various enrichment activities. We will also participate in a prayer walk for the community and even have a fun night activity for our last night of the trip. The youth that will be going on this trip are Naomi, Rylen, Landon, Cadence, Claire, Grace, Lilly, Haylee, and Payton. Our leaders on the trip will be Nick, Chris, Angie, Holly and myself. Please join our team in prayer as we look forward to the opportunity that God has placed us in and that we would represent Christ well for His glory!

David, WGT Youth Coordinator



To learn more about Eastern Mennonite Missions, go to www.emm.org



ROLLER SKATE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 6.17.26 6 - 8 PM

\$5 FOR SKATE RENTAL OR BRING YOUR OWN!

SOUND & PRODUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED




Volunteers needed to run slides & soundboard for weekly LGG

Training is provided!

See Ryan Arndt

Nursery/Toddler Room

Volunteers Needed!


Volunteers are needed to staff the Nursery/Toddler room during the 9:45 am gatherings.

SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION CENTER NEXT TO THE KITCHEN




Men's BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays @ 7 pm
and
Saturdays @ 7 am



Ladies BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 11 am

Father's Day is June 21st!

Tractor Sunday 2026

Tractor Sunday was a wonderful day of fellowship, worship, and thanksgiving as our church family and community gathered together to celebrate God's goodness and to bless the farmers who faithfully work the land and provide for our communities. We were blessed with beautiful weather, joyful fellowship, and an incredible turnout of tractors and attendees.

The service was filled with singing and worship as we gathered together in gratitude and praise. We were blessed to hear a sermon from Jordan Martin, who shared how God called him to serve at First Fruits Farm and the impact of that ministry. His testimony encouraged us to listen for God's calling and to faithfully serve wherever He leads.

One of the highlights of the day was the display of 151 tractors, representing the hard work and dedication of local farmers. In addition, just under 600 meals were served providing an opportunity for fellowship and connection among friends, neighbors, and visitors.

Most importantly, God was glorified throughout the entire day. From the worship service to the conversations shared around the meal tables, His presence and blessings were evident in every part of the event.

An additional blessing? We were able to donate the leftover food to ECHOS!

We are grateful for the many volunteers who supported this special day with hard work, generosity, and servant hearts. We give all glory and thanks to God for a meaningful and memorable Tractor Sunday.





On Thursday, May 14th, I attended a local church's "Team Night" for their worship and tech teams. I hesitated to go at first, but after praying, I saw it as a great opportunity for fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth.

I had no idea of the blessing I would receive. We began by reading scripture, acknowledging God's Spirit, and spending time with Him before the Worship Leader cast the vision for the night. We then broke into multi-generational small groups to discuss three key pillars: **Authenticity, Encounter, and Excellence**. Following a stirring discussion, we gathered to lift our voices in a collective offering of praise.

As good as the singing was, I can't shake those three pillars. Back in January, we discerned the need to implement a "Welcoming Culture" at WGT. How can we apply these pillars to that vision?

First, we must remember we can do *nothing* apart from Jesus. We have to recognize that we are His beloved, treasured children. When we understand our identity, we turn our eyes outward to help others know they belong here because they are also His beloved children. Let's look at the pillars through that lens:

Authenticity: Are we being true to who we are and who God is calling us to be? Cultivating this requires us to lean into the specific gifts God has given our distinct body, rather than chasing mega-church trends or unsustainable paces. It requires relational transparency—being honest enough to have hard conversations, vulnerable enough to share life together, and committed to a culture where people are valued for who they are, not the image they project.

Encounter: Are we facilitating an atmosphere where people truly encounter the living God through us? This requires us to intentionally abide in Him daily through His Word. The encounter we must long for, church family, isn't just a powerful song or a moving sermon. It is an encounter with Jesus shown in everything from our posture in welcoming others, to how we serve, to how we respond to the Spirit.

Excellence: Excellence is not perfection. It comes from the desire to give God our best—the first fruits of our labors. When we hone our craft and do things well, our heart posture shifts from self-satisfaction to serving God and others with our whole heart. Collectively, serving with excellence allows us to move beyond distraction and help people encounter Jesus.

As we build this welcoming culture together, let's anchor ourselves in 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*" This is the heartbeat of WGT. We aren't just sharing a Sunday service; we are sharing our lives. Because of Jesus, we want everyone who walks through our doors to know without a doubt: **you belong here**. Let's step out in authenticity, pursue genuine encounters, and serve with an excellence that points everyone directly to Him.



Anniversaries

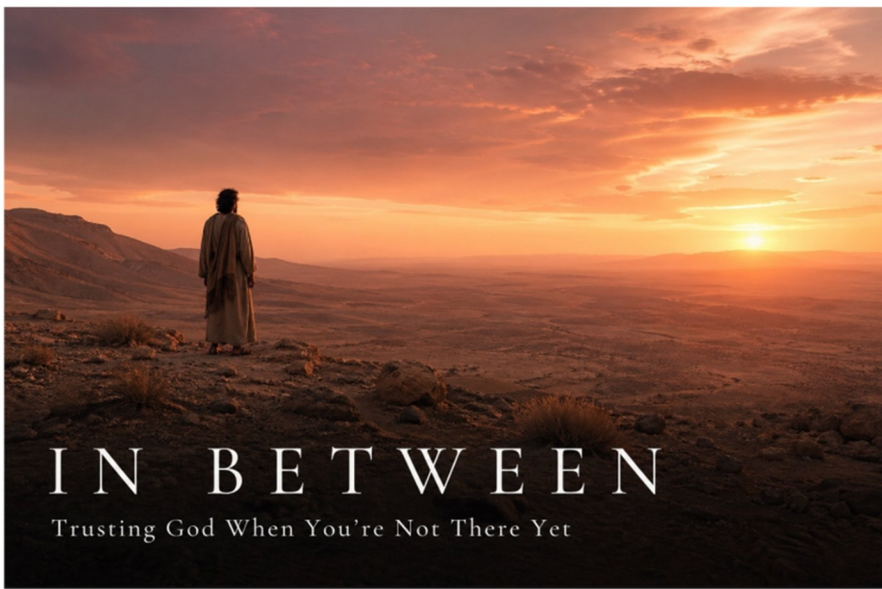
6/11 - Brad & Brenda Drawbaugh
 6/14 - Clint & Julie Arndt
 6/14 - Ken & Audrey Landvater
 6/16 - George & Sarah Clugston
 6/19 - Dan & Nila Grose

Birthdays

6/2 - Curtis Cordell-Brown
 6/3 - Terry Leonard
 6/5 - Chad Garber
 6/9 - Jim Kolp
 6/12 - Hannah Brown
 6/14 - Jessica Hitz
 6/17 - Heather Saylor
 6/20 - Joe Shoemaker
 6/22 - Connie Brown-Miller
 6/22 - Kathy Youtz
 6/23 - Dick Dickason
 6/24 - June Kolp
 6/25 - Duane Martin

Summer Travels

As you travel with your family this summer, remember WGT is able to go with you! Sunday morning gatherings are live-streamed and can be watched from anywhere! Go to YouTube & search West Green Tree Church of the Brethren. Also, as summer approaches, and vacations occur, the business end of the church still continues. What that means is, we rely on your tithes & offerings during the summer months as we do throughout the rest of the year. If you plan to be away, feel free to mail your tithes to the church office. You also have the option to sign up for online giving. Go to www.westgreentree.org, click on the "Giving" tab at the top of the page. This will take you to the online giving option. As always we are thankful for your faithfulness and God's blessings on WGT!



IN BETWEEN

Trusting God When You're Not There Yet

Most of life isn't lived at the mountain top or in the valley. It's lived somewhere in between.

Between where you are and where you hoped to be. Between trust and control.

This summer we follow Abraham, a man who heard from God, believed him, and still spent most of his life waiting, failing, and learning what faith looks like.

Perhaps you can relate -

What if this is where God does his best work?

Wherever you are in the in-between - you're welcome here.

Join us beginning June 14 for

In Between: Trusting God When You're Not There Yet.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING

Join us each
 Wednesday
 at 7 pm.



Hello from Tiny Timbers!

We have finished our year here at Tiny Timbers. Time sure does fly when you are having fun! So many friendships were made, lessons were learned, fun was had, and Jesus' love was shared! We are so thankful for the year we had.



While we will miss our friends this summer, we are excited to see them begin new adventures! We are excited for our older friends to move on to kindergarten, and we are looking forward to seeing our other friends back at Tiny Timbers again in the fall!

We had such a great year! It's crazy how 8 months can fly by in the blink of an eye. The children have learned so much and have made so many friends. We learned about our beautiful world God created. We learned how much he loves us! Each day the children heard Bible stories, sang Bible songs, and memorized Bible verses. The joy and awe on their faces hearing about how awesome God is, is so rewarding and exciting. Jesus is their superhero!

We had lots of fun experiences, including a visit from the Rheems Fire department and visits from some community helpers. We had our annual Christmas program and Art Show. We had our first ever Open Gym Family Night and first ever Noah's Ark Parade! We went to Hershey Gardens where we got to plant seeds and look at awesome butterflies and other critters in the butterfly atrium. We had fun building things at Snapology and we celebrated our year with all our friends and family at our Tiny Timbers Celebration.

Tiny Timbers has been blessed by generosity this year. We have received so much support from the WGT congregation. We had a family host a meat bingo to support TT and raised almost \$6,000! We had a family make a donation of \$2,000 to support the needs of the staff and the classrooms. A grandparent gave \$100.00 to the teachers to use to do something fun together because they work so hard. We had a large donation made to the scholarship fund. It has been so awesome to see the good works God is doing with Tiny Timbers. We have many people that support us and are so happy with their experience at TT that they are willing to give support financially. We are so



thankful, blessed, and excited to see that others are being touched by this ministry.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of Tiny Timbers Christian Preschool. We still have some openings for next year and we pray that God fills our classes so that we can share the love of Jesus with all 42 students and families! Spread the word to everyone you know that our registration is open! God is so good and we are already looking forward to next year.

We are also in need of another teacher for next year to teach our brand new class we are adding! If you or someone you know would like to teach two days a week, let me know! Spread the word!

We wish everyone a fun, safe, and memorable summer. See you in the fall!

Miss Amy



Kingdom Quest VBS Is Coming!

Kingdom Quest VBS is taking over WGT this summer, July 13–17, and we're gearing up for an unforgettable week! We need many helping hands to share the love of Jesus with every child and family who walks through our doors.

Mark your calendars now to join us the week before VBS in the evenings as we transform the church into an *EPIC gaming universe!* More details on decorating days and times will be coming soon.

We also need volunteers during the week of VBS for a variety of roles. Even if you can't commit to the full week, we'd still love your help! Opportunities include:

- **Greeters (before VBS)**
- **Registration support**
- **Group guides**
- **Games and crafts volunteers**

Plus, we'll need extra help for our Celebration Carnival on Friday, July 17!

If you have questions or are ready to jump in, please reach out to Allison Huber, Mike Reem, Haley Keener, or Angie Harnish.

Let's work together to make Kingdom Quest VBS an amazing adventure!

Online Registration
is open! Go to
www.westgreentree.org
and click on the
'Outreach' tab & then
Vacation Bible School.



740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: *Rejoice!*
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

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

Phone: 717-653-5367
www.westgreentree.org