

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

Our daughter is 16, and searching for Easter eggs seems to have lost its luster. Last year, we found some eggs days, maybe weeks, after Easter. She is no longer in a hurry to wake up and find eggs with little treats in them.

Perhaps it is because she does not like candy as much as she once did. Or maybe quarters are not as exciting when you realize they don't buy much (if anything at all).

But this problem may plague us more than just on Easter. How many of us are less than excited to wake up each day? Perhaps what was once exciting has become commonplace, or we don't find much value in what the day has in store.

I know I am guilty. I can begin to take for granted how wonderful my life is. I can begin to take the little things for granted. This morning, I recalled the words of that early follower of Jesus, Paul:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Sometimes, I wake up and am already concerned about what the day has ahead. I can begin asking for relief or rescue from the things I am not looking forward to.

And this morning, I recalled **"with thanksgiving."**

Yes - I have a great deal for which to be grateful.

I once heard a quote which I am not sure to whom I should attribute:

"What if you woke up tomorrow with only the things you were grateful for today?"

I quickly began thanking God for a wonderful wife, a delightful daughter, a safe home with conditioned air, a delicious variety of food, work that I enjoy, relationships...

I recently heard some frame complicated relationships -

Rather than lamenting the difficulties, be grateful for relationships that are close and valuable and that you care enough to continue engaging in, even when difficult.

What if we awoke each day having the mindset of Forrest Gump - "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get"

Even better, have Christ's mindset with the **interest of others in mind.** (Philippians 2)

What if we awoke each day grateful for the little things and considered ways that we might offer **"Easter Eggs"** to those around us, giving them much to be thankful for?

**An "Easter egg" is a hidden surprise or feature in modern slang.*



2025

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*Tiny Timbers Celebration

May 4th

*Roller Skate Night May 14th

@ 6pm

*Spring Congregational Forum

May 14th @ 7 pm

*Tractor Sunday, May 18th @

10 am

Weekly Gatherings

*Ladies Bible Study Mondays

at 11 am

*Men's Bible Study Thursdays

at 7 pm

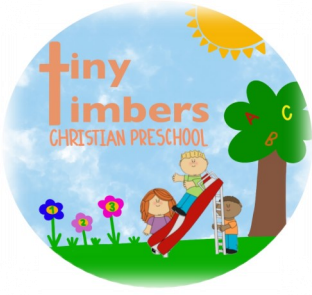
*Youth Wednesdays at

6:30 pm

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	2	3
4 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering Tiny Timbers Celebration 3 pm	5 WWW 11 am	6 Congregational Forum 7 pm	7 Youth 6:30 pm	8 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Sisters in Christ 9 am
11 Mother's Day 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	12 WWW 11 am	13 Commissions 7 pm Leadership Mtg. 8 m	14 All-Church Skate Night 6 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	15 Tiny Timbers Last Day Men's Bible Study 7 pm	16 Tiny Timbers Last Day	17
18 Tractor Sunday 10 am Fellowship Meal to follow the service	19 WWW 11 am	20	21 Youth 6:30 pm	22 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	23	24
25 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 Large Group Gathering	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27	28 Youth 6:30 pm	29 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	30	31



The Tuesday/Thursday class went on a field trip to the North Museum of Nature and Science in Lancaster. We spent a fun day exploring on our own. We visited the live animal room where we saw snakes, turtles, lizards and more. In the ocean exhibit we saw the jaw of a shark, starfish, shells, and a picture on the wall that showed us how big a narwhal is! In another area of the museum, we saw fossils and dinosaur bones. Several kids and I found a large cabinet full of drawers. My curiosity got the best of me, I had to see what was inside! I open the first drawer. To my surprise it had pinned and mounted bats. No, not baseball bats. The ones that fly at night. In the other drawers we found lots of bugs, spiders and small snakes! Many of the kids thought this was so cool. I was glad to close the drawer and move on lol. How amazing our God is to have creating all things. From the biggest dinosaurs to the smallest bugs. From the birds that fly in the sky to the creatures in the depths of the ocean. They also had hands-on activities for the children to build and explore. One of the favorite spots was an artificial tree with an open trunk they could go into!

Thanks to Natalie Gordon for visiting each class! She brought special basket to teach us about Jesus. The basket was filled with different colors and objects to help tell the Easter story. Green for the palm branches, brown is for the tomb, red is to remind us that Jesus loves us so much he died for us...She even had a craft for the kids to take home and share with their families so they could tell them about the meaning of the different colors in her basket!



Getting the Mix Right

You may have noticed over the last year that our worship team members put in ear buds or headphones when they are up on the platform leading. These are called “In-Ear Monitors” and they are used to help the musicians hear the other instruments and parts of the worship team. Each teammate can dial in and make their in-ears sound right to the needs of their specific ears. Part of getting this mix right is making sure the musician can hear at least a little of everything and then add in an increased amount of specific parts that help that musician to feel comfortable.

Scheduling teammates is also a delicate and somewhat challenging feat at times. It is funny how some weeks we have a number of servants available to serve, but they all play the same instrument. The next week not one of those same servants is available and that instrument role ends up being vacant that week! Getting the mix of servants right is crucial for the worship team to ensure that we are utilizing our collective gifts correctly. Our team is often strongest when the right blend of guitars, keys, strings, drums, and vocals is found. Often this means that a large team is used as the variety of instruments and voices allow us to offer fresh creative expression to the songs we lead and share. In addition, our team is strengthened by having a mix of leading voices and instruments and also those voices and instruments who are the supporting and supplemental parts. We need each member of our team to do what God calls us to do, but it matters from week to week who is serving and so it is critical to get the mix right.

Another way we have to get our mix right is in the ‘front of house mix’ which is the sound that you hear from being in the pews on a Sunday morning. The soundboard operator does not have an easy job as they seek to blend things in a way that allows the congregation to hear each part of the team, but they often must highlight the vocalist and instrument that is driving the song. When multiple people have a hand in leading songs on a Sunday, this means that the sound operator has to be ready to make adjustments. Often the ‘front of house mix’ is tough to nail down. I am thankful for volunteers who are seeking to learn and get this mix right!

Above the specifics of music, in-ears, servants, and front of house mixes, if we look at the words of Romans 12: 6-8 we will take note of the importance of the varied gifts. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” This scripture depicts a mix done right. I’m thankful to see each of these gifts displayed in our teammates and in us collectively as a team. Naomi Clugston and Olivia Chavez have developed a relationship where Naomi is able to encourage Olivia through the common shared interest of playing stringed instruments. Landon Harnish stepped up and led a song recently on the worship team. Conversations after rehearsal demonstrate mercy and compassion toward one another. Shawn Vago’s

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Getting the Mix Right

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kind hugs offer a loving embrace for someone struggling with something revealed through group prayer time. Andy Brandt jumped into run slides at the last minute one week demonstrating the gift of service. These are just a few of the many gifts at work on our team. And while it goes without saying that there are many daily and weekly challenges for our team as we grow and work together, it seems that with God's help, we are able to get the mix right.

So, I ask you, are you using your gifts and talents to get the mix right in your own life as you use the gifts given to you by the Spirit for His glory and your good?

Sing'cerely,
Ryan M. Arndt



Anniversaries

5/3 - Dane & Lauren Youtz
5/11 - Gary & Cindy Collins
5/14 - Don & Donna Weaver
5/21 - Curt & Annie Brown
5/31 - Jonathan & Kim Coble
5/31 - Jason & Holly Leonard

Birthdays

5/1 - Kylie Miller
5/4 - Maurice Houser
5/6 - Jay Coble
5/6 - Dan Ring
5/7 - Curtis Brown
5/8 - George Clugston
5/9 - Payton Coble
5/9 - Jim Shumate
5/9 - Ben Youtz
5/10 - Luke Huber
5/10 - Lois Schwanger
5/10 - Billie Jo Snyder
5/15 - Cindy Collins
5/17 - Duane Bender
5/17 - Luetta Hess
5/18 - Justin Mease
5/19 - Nate Arndt
5/27 - Laura Hollinger
5/27 - Johanna Brown
5/28 - Claire Leonard
5/29 - Helen Keener
5/30 - Jim Coble

Attendance & Givings			
	Total Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
March 23	148	89	\$3,173.07
March 30	146	91	\$5,137.31
April 6	121	76	\$6,263.37
April 13	153	89	\$5,474.31
April 20	157	84	\$6,434.07

**DRIVE YOUR TRACTOR
TO CHURCH**

SUNDAY, MAY 18 @ 10 AM

740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE
TO SHINE UPON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD LIFT UP
HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

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 @ 6:15 pm
- ♦ Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 pm
- ♦ Saturday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 am

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