

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

I doubt many of you are thinking about Christmas cards right now—but if you want this year's card to include a recent photo, don't delay. Time has a way of changing us whether we notice it or not.

In our family, conversation has begun around family photos. And with it, the annual negotiations.

I once was of the opinion that as a family we do not look much different from year to year. Meaning we take all sorts of photos year round—there's no need for an annual "family photo." I was alone on this sentiment. Completely alone.

I'm not sure if Amanda was trying to make a point, but she displayed four different years of Noelle's field hockey pictures on the refrigerator. To say they were significantly different would be an understatement. The evidence was undeniable—I was wrong.

But once we start to talk about pictures, the conversation includes when and where. But also what are we wearing? And this is where things get complicated.

In order for the perfect photo, there are a lot of elements to consider. And perfect for one of us may not be perfect for another. For me, the solution would be simple: everyone in gray. Elegant. Foolproof. Unfortunately, I'm the only one in our house who sees it that way.

I don't know what it means for something to be perfect for you. For some, perfection is a perfectly cooked steak (though what's perfect for one person might look undercooked to another). Others might say it's a manicured lawn—I had neighbors who trimmed their grass with scissors! Or maybe it's a tidy collection of Hummels on the mantle.

In those examples (minus the steak) perfection seems to be something visible from the outside. How you and I might use our eyes to determine perfection. But if we are pursuing perfection, it becomes an ever moving target. Perhaps the steak, if it were cooked a minute longer or less, would have been even better. Maybe if I waited one more day to trim the grass it would have been perfect. Or perfection remains incomplete if a new Hummel is released (btw I don't even know if that is a possibility).

The target keeps moving because perfection, as we define it, doesn't actually exist. It's a mirage that disappears the closer we get to it. Our pursuit of the perfect photo—or the perfect steak, lawn, or living room—illustrates something deeper: our obsession with perfection. The trouble is, perfection is always a moving target. Just when you think you've got it, it slips away. That's not just true in family photos—it's true in life, too.

I think it is time we get Over Perfect.

It is unattainable and it diverts our attention away from our present circumstances. It robs us of joy that's happening right now while we chase something that doesn't exist. I listened to a story told in which a husband and father had an entire day planned at the beach to have fun and enjoy time together. On the walk there, his sons began to pick up pebbles and toss them at a log.

Continued on Page 5



What's inside:

- **October Calendar P. 2
- **Christmas Dinner P. 3
- **Tiny Timbers Tidbits P. 4
- **Noah's Ark Parade P. 5
- **Celebrations P. 7



Special Events

- *Love Feast Sunday, 10/5
- *Sisters in Christ Saturday, 10/11 at 9 am
- *Outside Clean-Up Day 10/18
- *Noah's Ark Parade 10/19
- *OCC Shoebox Kick-Off 10/19

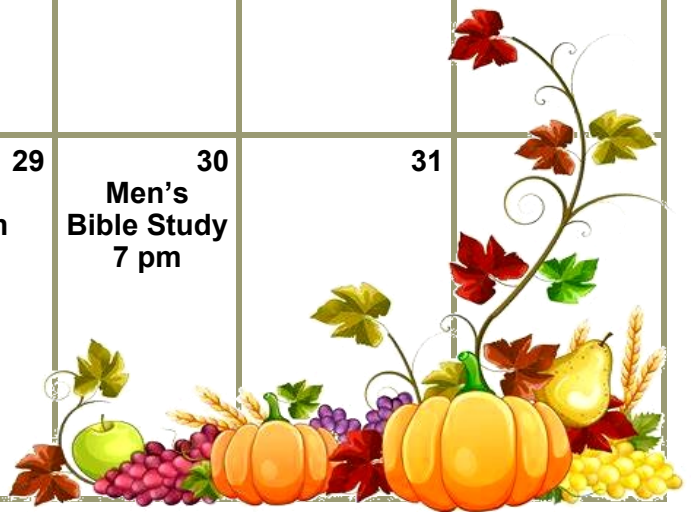
Weekly Events

- *Sunday Large Group Gathering at 9:45 am
- *Monday Ladies Bible Study 11 am
- *Wednesday Youth 6:30 pm
- *Wednesday Men's Bible Study 7 pm
- *Men's Bible Study @ Hawthorne's Woods Saturdays at 7 am

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

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth 6:30 pm	2 Tiny Timbers Family Night 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	3	4 3M 7 am
5 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Love Feast	6 WWW 11 am	7 Leadership Team Mtg. 7 pm	8 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	9 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	10	11 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am Private Event 11 am - 6 pm
12 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Christmas Dinner Mtg.	13 WWW 11 am Tiny Timbers Closed	14 Commis- sions 7 pm	15 Youth 6:30 pm	16 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	17	18 3M 7 am Outside Clean-Up Day 9 am
19 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Noah's Ark Parade OCC Kick-off	20 WWW 11 am	21	22 Youth 6:30 pm	23 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	24	25 3M 7 am
26 8:30 am 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	31	



IMPORTANT DATES

10/12 Christmas Dinner Planning Mtg

11/2 Christmas Dinner Planning Mtg

12/7 Christmas Dinner Planning Mtg

12/21 Food Prep Day #1

12/22 Food Prep Day #2

12/25 Christmas Day Meal

1/4 Christmas Dinner Recap Meeting

Community Christmas Dinner

Pumpkin Spice - tasty treat, or lame trend. I've not been a coffee drinker very long, but I'm no stranger to how controversial Pumpkin Spice seems to be. I've found that it is a prominent reminder that fall is just around the corner - one of my favorite times of the year. I enjoy the colorful leaves, the cooler temperatures, and the nostalgic feeling that the holidays are approaching.

Fall also serves as a time of prayer and preparation in our home as we being, what is often called "Christmas Dinner Season". In September we held our first Christmas Dinner Planning Meeting for the 2025 meal. We are still looking for a few leads to assist with different areas of the meal including Take-Out Lead, Donation Lead, and Safety Lead. We are also beginning to seek volunteers to help in other capacities to support the meal in the weeks leading up to the meal, as well as during the week before Christmas and Christmas Day. Please join us in serving others and extending the love of Jesus by being His hands and feet this season - If you have any questions about getting involved please see Brienna Brown (717-468-1931) or sign up at the Christmas Dinner Station in the lobby.



Baptism

One of WGT's youth, Landon H., decided to go all in and was baptized Sunday, September 21st. We thank God for Landon and pray blessings on him and his life!



Youth Leading!

Noelle O. and Hailey T. co-taught the youth Small Group lesson this past Sunday. We are so thankful for our future leaders!



Tiny Timbers Tidbits

Our year at Tiny Timbers is off to a great start! So many smiles, laughs, and so much learning so far! The classes have been busy getting to know their friends and teachers. They have been learning classroom rules and routines. Some of our friends were excited to return to Tiny Timbers after being with us last year and we also welcomed many new friends and their families. Everyone is really excited to keep learning together this fall!



We are looking forward to our first-ever Tiny Timbers Family Night on October 2nd. We are also looking forward to our first-ever Noah's Ark Parade on October 19th! We will be fundraising with Dutch Country Soft Pretzels again this year so be on the lookout for that info coming out soon.

By now you should have received a prayer card for a Tiny Timbers student or staff member. This is a great way to cover the ministry of Tiny Timbers in prayer. If you did not receive a prayer card and would like one, or would like more than one, please email me at director@westgreentree.org and I can get one to you! Our hope is that you would be intentional about praying for this student or staff member and their family through-out the year. Hang it on your fridge, tuck it in your Bible, frame it, whatever you need to do to remind you to take a few seconds out of your day every now and then and pray for them!

If you would like to be a guest reader this year please let me know and I can get you in contact with the teachers to set up a time that works for you! The children love when guests come to visit so we would love to have you! If you would like to donate supplies at any point this year, we would certainly appreciate it. Some items we use frequently are:

- Snack for 14 children (for when a child forgets or isn't able to provide snack. Must be store-bought, dye free, and nut free)
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- 3oz plastic cups
- Cardstock-any color
- Construction paper-any color
- Washable paint sticks
- Kitchen size trash bags

God is so good and it is wonderful to think each child is a part of Tiny Timbers this year because of Him and we are open and looking forward to seeing how he uses each and every one of us this year. We give him all the praise and hope we can share His love in all we do! It is such a blessing sharing God's love with little hearts and minds.

Thank you for all your prayers and support, we appreciate all of you!
Amy Winters



A Pastor's Perception

(Continued from front)

And his wife joined. His first response was the observation that this is not on the plan for the perfect day. But reality set in—what he planned and longed for was what was happening in that moment. His family was together and enjoying life. He almost missed it because it didn't match his script.

When Jesus says, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," he's not talking about flawless performance or a picture-perfect moment. The Greek word *teleios* means complete, whole, mature. God's idea of perfect isn't our carefully curated Instagram post—it's the messy, real moment where love is happening.

The father at the beach almost missed the gift because it didn't match his plan. How often do we miss what God is offering us right now because we're fixated on our idea of what perfect should look like? How many moments of grace slip by while we're adjusting the lighting for a better photo?

Paul understood this. He had his thorn in the flesh—something that wouldn't go away no matter how much he prayed. God's response wasn't "try harder to be perfect." It was "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Not despite the imperfection—through it. God's strength shows up most clearly in our unpolished, unscripted, imperfect moments.

No one cares if my groutfit is perfect for our family photo. I doubt I will ever look back and think fondly of the time spent manicuring the perfect lawn. But I will remember the moments when we stopped trying to orchestrate perfect and started receiving what was actually being offered. The spontaneous conversations. The unplanned detours that became adventures. The messy dinners where everyone laughed too loud.

This October, we're going to talk about what it means to live *Over Perfect*: to step off the exhausting treadmill of impossible standards and notice the grace that meets us in the unplanned, imperfect, beautifully real moments of life.

Noah's Ark Parade

Tiny Timbers children are planning to have a **"Noah's Ark Parade"** on **Sunday, October 19th, at 9 AM**. Children in our church family (age 5 and under) are also invited to participate!

Tiny Timbers families and our church family are also invited to enjoy a **continental breakfast from 8:30 to 9 AM that morning**. The children will be having a lesson about Noah's Ark and getting ready during this time. Pastor Shawn will have a brief welcome and prayer close to 9 AM.



Then at 9 AM, the children will parade through fellowship hall in their costumes with "trick-or-treat bags" for church members and Tiny Timbers parents to give them candy/snacks/stickers/etc. in appreciation for their costumes. **We request that the adults bring treats to give to the children.** We expect there will be 20 to 25 children participating, and hope to have numerous church members/parents encouraging the children and giving out treats.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to fellowship with Tiny Timbers families. We pray for as much participation as possible.

Thank you in advance for blessing the children in this way, and for your support of the Tiny Timbers Preschool ministry!

OVER PERFECTION

Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off



Shoeboxes will soon be available for you to fill for children around the world. This is one way our love for Jesus can be shared with those that need HOPE! Boxes and instructions on 'what to pack' will be available in the lobby

beginning Sunday, October 19th. Direct questions to the Witness Commission (Phil Hollinger, Dana Youtz, Jim Shumate, Angie Harnish, Mike Reem).

Upcoming Sermon Series

Are you tired? Exhausted from the endless chase for perfection in every area of your life? You're not alone. In our culture's relentless pursuit of flawless performance, pristine appearances, and perfect outcomes, we've forgotten a beautiful truth: God never intended for us to carry the crushing weight of perfection.

"Over Perfection" invites you to set down that heavy burden and discover the freedom found in Jesus. Over four weeks, we'll explore how Christ offers us something far better than our exhausting striving—a life marked by genuine direction, authentic connection, meaningful purpose, and graceful transformation.

Week 1: Direction Over Perfection

Week 2: Connection Over Perfection

Week 3: Participation Over Perfection

Week 4: Sanctification Over Perfection

Join us as we discover that the life we've been striving to perfect pales in comparison to the abundant life Jesus offers freely. It's time to choose what's over perfection—and find rest for your weary soul.

Fall Congregational Forum
Tuesday, November 11 @ 7 pm

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Sponsored by Men in the Woods
Saturday, November 1st, at
Hawthorne's Woods

Main Meal @ 5 pm
Guest Speaker to follow
Bring a dish to share

*Come anytime in
the afternoon &
enjoy the woods!*

*Sign-up at the
Information Center*

When We Don't Prefer A Song -

The other Sunday we sang a song that I don't prefer. In planning and all the way through leading the song on Sunday morning, I grumbled sometimes out loud, under my breath and inside my mind about this song. I just felt like the song is very wordy and can be tricky for both the worship band and the congregation when we sing together.

But I was reminded of something - in my moment of grumbling, someone out loud stated that this is one of their favorite songs because of the lyrics. I was taken aback by this statement - like really??? This song?! Do they even understand what they are singing?!

So I decided to do a dive of the lyrics - "Your Kingdom is simple, as simple as love, You welcome the children, You stop for the one, We wanna see people the way Jesus does, Your kingdom is simple, Lord teach it to us..."

As I read those words, I was struck by the powerful depth of the lyrics - it is a reminder of who is welcomed at His table - the children (Matthew 19:14), the one (Luke 15)... and that lyric - "We wanna see people the way Jesus does..." - man that's a tough one.

Is that my prayer - to look at others and see them as Jesus does? To see them as siblings who belong to sit at the table of the Father? What a wake up call - His Kingdom is simple - Lord teach us your way - Help us to desire to love people the way that you do and look forward to that table where we'll all sit in the presence of our loving Lord.

So while this song may not be my preference, I was reminded that what we sing has meaning. If it is rooted in the Word of Life, our completely dependable source of truth, the Bible, despite our preferences, we can learn new truth about who God is and how He is at work in our midst.

So the next time we don't prefer a song used in a gathering, perhaps we can dig into the scripture and connect the lyrics. And perhaps we'll find that even despite our preferences, God is teaching us and revealing new truths to us about who He is, who we are and how we dive into a deeper relationship with Him.

Keep on singin',



Anniversaries

10.2 - Jim & June Kolp
 10.19 - Jay & Gale Forry
 10.21 - Doug & Darlene Breneman
 10.22 - Chris & Jan Chavez
 10.25 - Chad & Audrey Garber
 10.28 - Mike & Marcia Hawthorne

Birthdays

10.1 - John Ziegler
 10.2 - Anita Youtz
 - Mike Cicero
 10.4 - Randy Youtz
 10.5 - Marcia Hawthorne
 10.8 - Justin Arndt
 10.9 - John Hollinger
 10.10 - Rylen Clugston
 10.11 - Brenda Geib
 10.13 - Julie Arndt
 Jeff Schwanger
 10.14 - Shane Schwanger
 10.16 - Jack Markley
 10.18 - Cody Mease
 - Olivia Chavez
 10.19 - Angie Harnish
 10.20 - Adrienne Trout-Fellenbaum,
 Kaylee Hollinger, Dick Youtz,
 Joanne Arndt,
 10.22 - Dori Reem
 10.24 - JJ Huber
 10.28 - Jordyn Gutshall, Gabriella Myers,
 Brody Arment



	August 31	September 7	September 14	September 21
Total Worship	62	117	88	115
Sunday School	40	78	68	76
General	\$3,883.62	\$8,532.06	\$5,365.31	\$4,316.07

740 Greentree Road
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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
- ♦ Wednesday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 pm
- ♦ Saturday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 am at Hawthorne's Woods

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God is our refuge and
strength, an ever
present help in trouble.
Psalm 46:1