

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

What Our Yards Say

Fall. I've been looking forward to the cooler temperatures since April. And every fall, I notice the same thing. This is the season we get to see what people actually enjoy, value, and celebrate. Before I make my observation, you should know, if you don't already, something about me. I love Jesus. I really enjoy Christmas. And I love you.

The inflatables and decorations for our yard were my uncle's. When he passed, my cousins wanted nothing to do with them, so we took them in. We've added a few things since. A gift from a dear friend of a six-foot snowman. An inflatable Nativity two years ago, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Obviously no wise men. And last year, a humongous snowman.

I know what most people say. Wait until after Thanksgiving to put up the Christmas decorations. But here we are, early September as I write this, and Halloween decorations are already flooding lawns. Two months out. That would be like me putting up my Christmas decorations on November 1st. I can already hear the outcry. "Christmas lunatic." (BTW I won't put them out that early).

Our yards say something. We put things out there because we enjoy them. Because they matter to us. Because we want other people to see them.

And it's not just holidays. We put out the flag of our favorite team. A political sign. A sign for the business we love. Even a sign recommending the guy who repaired our roof. We're pretty good at telling people what we value.

And... Everybody worships something. Nobody's yard is neutral, and neither is anybody's life. What we display isn't random. It's evidence. It shows where we've actually placed our trust, our identity, our hope. You can tell what a person believes is ultimate by watching what they can't help putting on display.

I am curious, and I am inviting you to be curious too. And I ask it because I love you, not because I've got this figured out myself.

What are we saying about Jesus?

Not what do we say we believe about Jesus. Not what would we put on a church sign. What does my actual life say about Jesus?

Because Jesus didn't put up a decoration. He put on flesh. He took on skin, hunger, exhaustion, a body that could be beaten. He didn't hang a sign. He hung on a cross, nails through the hands that formed the earth, forsaken so we wouldn't have to be. He didn't ask for lawn space. He asked for your life.

That's the love we're talking about. Not a love that decorates the edges of your life for a season. A love that bled. Not seasonal. Not

Continued on Page 3



What's inside:

- **October Calendar P. 2
- **WAC News P. 3
- **Tiny Timbers Tidbits P. 4
- **Did God Die? P. 5
- **Refresh Proposal P. 6
- **Celebrations P. 7
- **Library News p. 7



Special Events

- *Love Feast Sunday, 10/4
- *Sisters in Christ Saturday, 10/10 at 9 am
- *OCC Kick-off 10/11
- *Worship Night 10/11 @ 6 pm
- *Noah's Ark Parade 10/25

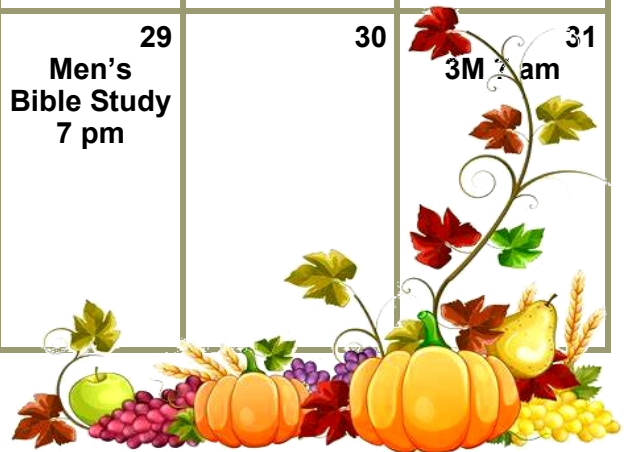
Weekly Events

- *Sunday Large Group Gathering at 9:45 am
- *Monday Ladies Bible Study 11 am
- *Wednesday Youth 6:30 pm
- *Thursday 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 Tiny Timbers Family Night 5:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	2	4 3M 7 am District Conference
4 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Love Feast	5 WWW 11 am	6	7 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	8 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am
11 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Christmas Dinner Mtg. after LGG OCC Kick-off Worship Night 6 pm	12 WWW 11 am Tiny Timbers Closed	13 Leadership Team Mtg. 7 pm	14 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	15 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 3M 7 am Tree Removal Work day 8 am
18 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	19 WWW 11 am	20 Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm	21 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	2 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	23	24 3M 7 am
25 8:30 am Small Groups 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Noah's Ark Parade	26 WWW 11 am	27 Open Prayer Night 7 pm	28 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	29 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	30	31 3M 7 am



A Pastor's Perception

(Continued from front)

something we put out for a few weeks and then pack away. Jesus gave himself completely. And now he asks us to give ourselves to him completely.

It's not just what's in your yard. It's what your life is making visible, to your neighbors, your family, the people you work with, everyone watching whether you notice them watching or not. And it says something bigger than just you. When a whole culture fills its yards with everything except the eternal, that tells you what it actually believes is real and lasting.

I'm not asking you to look at your neighbor's yard. I'm asking you to look at your own.

What's in your yard?

Pastor Shawn



Christmas Fellowship Meal



Assistant Coordinator Needed

We are looking for someone to serve as the assistant coordinator. Ideally, this person would be willing to learn the ropes this year and act as the lead coordinator in 2027 with the assistance of the current lead coordinator.

We are also looking for individuals to fill the roles of leads. Please visit the Christmas Fellowship Meal station in the Narthex to sign up.

The next CFM meeting will be Sunday, October 11th after the LGG.

If interested in serving with this outreach, plan to attend.

For any questions, or to express interest, please see Brienna Brown [\(717\)468-1931](tel:7174681931).

The Case of the Hidden Subwoofers

Over the last few years, we've taken on the task of bringing in an outside consultant to train our sound team and work on the system we are using. About a month ago, Robbie from Glick Audio Visual was here and did some work on the sound system. Throughout this work that he was completing, Robbie asked me several times if I knew if we had subwoofers in our sanctuary to help with lower tones in sound and bring out a clear and unified sound both in our speaking parts on a Sunday morning and in our musical worship. I told him that I was unaware of any subwoofers, but Robbie kept digging. After thoroughly studying the wiring, he found that we have two subwoofers hidden in the ceiling of the sanctuary that otherwise appear like grated vents for the HVAC system. In a matter of no time, Robbie had these subs hooked up and working properly! They sound great and now the whole room benefits from the improved sound.

It reminds me that we have that same phenomenon going on all around us. We have brothers and sisters joining us for worship each and every week that have talents hidden away and not being used properly. Just like those subwoofers, they are right here in close proximity with us, just not being used to the best of their ability to serve Christ. You see, those subwoofers had sound coming out of them, but they weren't tuned up and used properly. So I might ask you - is that you? Do you have gifts and abilities hidden away somewhere that are not being used to build up the body of Christ? If so, would you consider how those gifts enhance the whole body by becoming who Christ calls us to be?

So in the case of the hidden subwoofers, we are now experiencing sound more fully. In the case of your giftings, are we experiencing a more vivid and full depiction of the body of Christ because you are using your gifts? Praying for us to each live into that reality more fully.

Your Friend,

Ryan Arndt (Licensed Minister & Worship Arts Coordinator)

Hello!

We are off to a great start to our school year! We have been enjoying getting to know our teachers and our classmates. We have been spending a lot of time learning our school routines and expectations. We have enjoyed lots of time playing together! School is so exciting and it is wonderful to see all the smiles and joy as the children come to school and enjoy their day.

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.

Please continue to pray for all of us at Tiny Timbers this year. We hope you will be praying intentionally for the child or staff member on your prayer card! What a blessing to be able to cover our TT families in intentional prayer.

We are looking forward to the Noah's Ark Parade coming up again this fall! Last year you all showed up big time and supplied so much candy and goodies. Our families really were touched by your hospitality and generosity.

Please consider donating a raffle prize for our meat bingo fundraiser. Details on this are on the flyer that was in your mailbox in September. There is also a flyer hanging up on the Tiny Timbers bulletin board. Please email me at director@westgreentree.org with questions or to let me know what you had in mind to donate! If you haven't bought tickets for the meat bingo yet and you'd like to participate, please contact Amanda at 717.682.5226.

We are thankful for all of you!

A special thanks to Donna Ring, Jim Spickler, Shane Schwanger, Randy Youtz, Dewey and Kathy Martin, Laura and Kaylee Hollinger, Phil Hollinger, Brenda Drawbaugh, and Paula Jones for their help in getting things ready for our new school year!

Blessings!
Amy Winters



Noah's Ark Parade

Tiny Timbers children are planning to have a "Noah's Ark Parade" on **Sunday, October 25 at 9 AM**. Children in our church family (age 5 and under) are invited to participate!

Tiny Timbers families and our church family are 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.

At 9 AM, the children will parade through the 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 25 to 30 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!



Did God Die & What will Happen to Us

To die does not mean to go out of existence. God died because Jesus was God in human form, and Jesus' soul & spirit separated from his body (John 19:30). God did not die. For God to die would mean that he ceased to exist, and neither the Father nor the Son, nor the Holy Spirit will ever cease to exist.

The Son, the second person of the Trinity, left the body he temporarily inhabited on Earth but his divine nature did not die nor could it!

The question for all people to ask is, "What will happen to my soul/spirit when it leaves my physical body?". This is the most crucial question in life. As we saw with Jesus, our spirit will leave our bodies and travel on to somewhere else. We will either follow Jesus to heaven to spend eternity with him or we will go to hell to spend eternity in 'outer darkness' where there will be 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' (Matthew 8:12). No other option.

Jesus' death on that cross paid the way for all who would believe in him can be sure where our spirits will reside for eternity. Jesus' death on the cross provided all of us who come to him and confess our sins and turn our lives around for Christ will have a new life ever after!

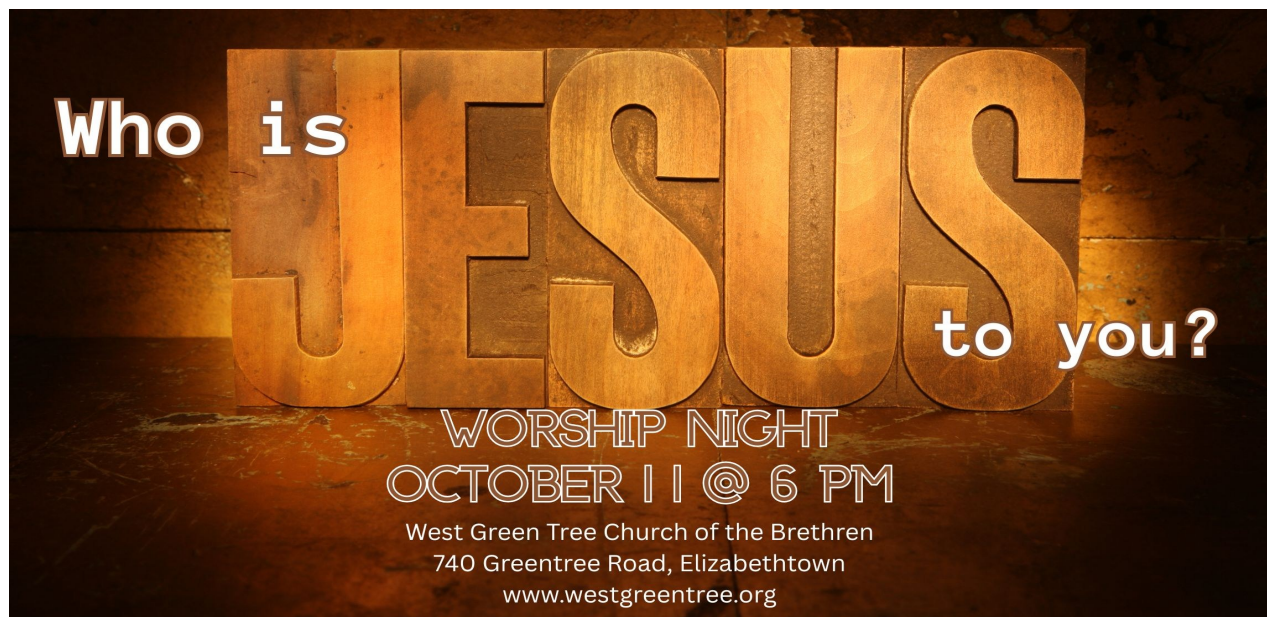
When I turned the TV on and watched the program 9-11, I could not help think that when all of them got up that morning, got ready to leave, children, wife, husband, friends & family to go to work to never be able to return but to stand before their maker God Almighty! Makes me wonder were they saved? Was there a time they invited Christ into their life? I hope with all my heart they did. Only God knows!

Note: I kid you not, I am not a writer but it is God telling me and showing me what to write. When the Holy spirit speaks to me I try hard to listen.

If you have not given your life to Christ, please think about that! We do not know when God will take us, but you can know for sure where you will spend eternity! No sin is too bad that Christ will not forgive if you truly repent and give your life to Christ who took our sins by giving his life for us.

Note: There is a sin that will not be forgiven; to deny & blaspheme God and not repent of it.

Thank You & God Bless
Brenda Axe



Welcoming Spaces Refresh Proposal Nursery & Mailroom

Purpose

As part of our commitment to creating a warm, welcoming, and functional environment at West Green Tree Church, we propose refreshing two areas that are used regularly by children, families, members, and visitors—the **Nursery and Mailroom**.

Nursery Refresh

The goal is to create a **safe, comfortable, and inviting space for our youngest children and their families**.

Planned improvements include:

- Refreshing the room with neutral paint.
- Removing outdated, duplicate toys and inaccessible shelving.
- Reorganizing toys and books so they are easily accessible to toddlers.
- Adding a child safety gate.

Creating designated areas: one for active play and another for quiet/infant care.

These changes will make the nursery more organized, age-appropriate, and welcoming for children and parents.

Mailroom Refresh

The mailroom is located near one of our main entrances and is one of the first areas people see when entering the church. The goal is to make this space **more attractive, organized, and functional**.

Planned improvements include:

- Consolidating, refurbishing and relabeling mailboxes.
- Replacing the tall donation shelving unit with a lower storage unit that allows more natural light.
- Adding a narrow console with drawers for signup sheets and other materials.
- Refreshing the room with paint that coordinates with the narthex.

Replacing the existing curtain with a simple, light-colored window treatment.

Overall Benefit

Together, these relatively modest improvements will help us **better use existing space, reduce clutter, improve organization, and create a more welcoming first impression** for members, families, and visitors.

Estimated cost for both areas - less than \$1000.00

Refer suggestions/concerns or to request additional information to Donna Ring, Steward's Commission

09/20/2026

	August 23	August 30	September 6	September 13	September 20
Total Worship	95	102	82	82	95
Sunday School	62	78	53	66	63
General Fund	\$4,618.01	\$6,350.01	\$5,998.31	\$7,769.01	\$6,185.37



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 October 11th. Please direct questions to the Dana Youtz/Witness Ministry Team.

Library News

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate books to the Library and the Free Library outside. We have a new Free Library outside that won't erode from the weather. A big thanks to Dewey for getting it and installing it. Thank you to Dick Dickason for making the first one that began this service. It will always be appreciated!

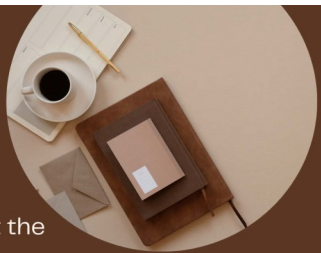
There are some nice puzzles in the library to put together on these longer nights inside and if you want a book that isn't in the library just let me know and I'd be glad to look into it!

Kathy Martin



Congregational Forum

Tuesday, November 10th @ 7 pm
Report packets will be available at the Welcome Center mid-October



All are encouraged to attend.
Only current WGT Members may vote.



Anniversaries

- 10.2 - Jim & June Kolp
- 10.13 - Rick & Karen Bechtel
- 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
- 10.7 - Kathleen Shumate
- 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 - 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 - Gabriella Myers
- Brody Arment

This Advent, our series **Not Alone: God Is With You Wherever You Are** takes loneliness seriously.

Each week, we'll name a lie we tell ourselves about being alone- whether it's easier not to need anybody, or nobody would notice if we disappeared, or we can handle this ourselves- and let Scripture answer it. Not with a slogan, but with a God who keeps showing up exactly where people are hiding, overlooked, or convinced they're on their own.

We'll walk through four weeks of Advent, gather for Christmas Eve (bring someone who's never been), and close the series on December 27 with a message on why God's presence doesn't pack up when the decorations do.

Because the real question this Advent isn't just "will someone come find me?" It's "did God ever actually leave?"



740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

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
- ♦ Thursday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 pm
- ♦ Saturday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 am at Hawthorne's Woods

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



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