

# Evergreen News

## A Pastor's Perception

### *May I please have your attention?*

It sounds polite enough, doesn't it? A courteous way to ask someone to listen. But in our modern world, the battle for our attention has become more sophisticated and far more aggressive.

Remember when we had just a handful of television channels? Commercials were simply part of the experience. We watched them whether we wanted to or not, and many of us can still recall those memorable Christmas advertisements that became as much a part of the holiday tradition as the shows themselves.

Today, we pay premium prices to avoid commercials on our streaming services. Yet somehow, they still capture our attention through product placements seamlessly woven into our favorite shows. The methods have evolved, but **the goal** remains the same: to hold our focus long enough to influence our choices.

Consider a recent example: a clothing company made headlines not for their sales figures, but for a controversial advertisement. Critics drew attention to condemn it. Supporters rallied to defend it. The result? Without seeing a single increase in actual sales, the company's stock value rose simply because people were talking about them. **Attention itself had become currency.**

Companies understand what many of us are only beginning to realize: attention has measurable value. They hire influencers, craft viral content, and design apps specifically to capture and hold our focus. They study our habits, track our clicks, and optimize every pixel on our screens to keep us engaged.

Most telling of all is our relationship with our phones. Research suggests the average user touches their device over **2,000 times per day**. Think about that number. Many of us may not share that many words with the people we love most in an entire day, yet we interact with our phones thousands of times.

*We've entered an era where a battle is raging for **our most precious resource**—not our money, but our attention, our time, our focus.*  
**Where Is Your Treasure?**

Jesus spoke directly to this reality when He said, "**Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**" (Matthew 6:21). In our digital age, attention has become our treasure. Where we focus our minds reveals what we truly value.

He also commanded us to "**love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength**" (Mark 12:30).

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### Weekly Events

- \*Sunday Small Groups 8:30 am
- \*Sunday Large Group Gathering at 9:45 am
- \*Junior Church Sunday (during LGG) starting 9/21
- \*Monday Ladies Bible Study 11 am
- \*Wednesday Youth 6:30 pm
- \*Wednesday Men's Bible Study 7 pm
- \*Men's Bible @ Hawthorne's Saturdays at 7 am

### Special Events

- \*COBYS Bike & Hike September 7th
- \*Tiny Timbers First Days September 8 & 9
- \*Sisters in Christ Saturday, September 13th @ 9 am

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

WGT Goes to the E-town Fair

What an amazing day it was! The Fair hadn't even gotten under way yet- The fair runs Monday through Saturday and this was only Sunday. What was going on? Worship!

WGT held the first ever worship service at the fairgrounds. We had amazing worship music, an excellent sermon that challenged us and was relatable to the crowd, and Jesus Christ was glorified! We had a great turnout, especially for first time. We pray this becomes an annual start to the Elizabethtown Fair, to God be the glory.



Attendance & Givings			
	Total Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
July 27	100	54	\$3,920.07
August 3	109	64	\$7,262.61
August 10	59	24	\$7,148.57

Tiny Timbers  
Preschool starts  
September 8 & 9





### Christmas Day Community Dinner

In 2011 Tracy Drescher, a member of our church family, started the Community Christmas Dinner here at West Green Tree. During the first year we only offered dine-in meals. In 2012, the Christmas Dinner expanded to include delivery and take-out as well. This allowed us to serve more individuals and families within the community. We also outreach to local Emergency Response personnel.

The original goal of the Christmas Dinner was to offer a place to share a meal and fellowship with those who did not have elsewhere to be on Christmas Day. This continues to be the mission behind the ministry – serving others and meeting them where they are to extend the love of Jesus by being His hands and feet. We in turn, are abundantly blessed by Christ – He has faithfully provided each year to meet the needs of those who have participated in the Christmas meal – and we trust that He will continue to do so this year.

Each year we have the opportunity to meet new people, and fellowship with those who are returning again – we have been so blessed to be part of their stories and hear about their lives. Some have shared that this meal is about togetherness for them, and they see this as their Christmas family. And each year, through the meal, God teaches us more about Himself as we seek to follow Him and serve those he places around us, even if only for a short time.

As we enter into September, we begin the preparations for the meal. We are in need of individuals to serve as leads. Leads are provided with all of the information needed to fulfill their roles and support from the Christmas Dinner Coordinator for direction and guidance. Please visit the Christmas Dinner Sign Up Station or speak with Brienna Brown to find out how you can get involved. Please join us for the Christmas dinner kickoff meeting on Sunday, September 14th, following the large group gathering.

## A Pastor's Perception (continued from cover)

This isn't just about Sunday morning or evening prayers—it's about the entirety of our attention, the fullness of our focus.

### Our Challenge

So here's the question that cuts to the heart of our spiritual lives: **Does Jesus have your attention?**

If we interact with our phones 2,000 times a day, how many times do we turn our attention to Him? If we scroll through hundreds of posts, do we spend even a fraction of that time reading His words? If we share our thoughts instantly with social media, do we share our hearts as readily with our Savior?

This isn't about guilt or shame, it's about awareness. It's about recognizing that in a world designed to fracture our focus, choosing where we place our attention becomes an act of worship.

The companies and platforms vying for your attention have teams of experts, sophisticated algorithms, and billion-dollar budgets. But Jesus simply says, **"Come to me"** (Matthew 11:28).

He doesn't need flashy graphics or push notifications. He doesn't need to trick you into paying attention. He offers something far more valuable than any product or platform: peace for your soul, purpose for your life, and a relationship that satisfies rather than constantly demanding more.

Who has your attention today? And, who will have it tomorrow and beyond?

The choice, as always, is yours.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<sup>1</sup> Labor Day Office Closed NO Ladies Bible Study	<sup>2</sup> Tiny Timbers Committee Mtg. 7 pm	<sup>3</sup> Youth 6:30 pm	<sup>4</sup> Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup> 3M 7 am
<sup>7</sup> Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am COBYS Bike & Hike	<sup>8</sup> Tiny Timbers First Day Ladies Bible Study 11 am	<sup>9</sup> Tiny Timbers First Day Commissions 7 pm	<sup>10</sup> Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm	<sup>11</sup> Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup> 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am
<sup>14</sup> Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Christmas Dinner Mtg.	<sup>15</sup> Ladies Bible Study 11 am	<sup>16</sup> Leadership Team Mtg. 7 pm	<sup>17</sup> Youth 6:30 pm	<sup>18</sup> Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup> 3M 7 am
<sup>21</sup> Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Junior Church Begins!	<sup>22</sup> Ladies Bible Study 11 am 	<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup> Youth 6:30 pm	<sup>25</sup> Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<sup>26</sup>	<sup>27</sup> 3M 7 am
<sup>28</sup> Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am	<sup>29</sup> Ladies Bible Study 11 am	<sup>30</sup>				



Hello from Tiny Timbers!

We hope you all are having a wonderful summer, it sure is a hot one!

We are so excited to start another year at Tiny Timbers Christian Preschool! Our staff has been busy planning and getting things ready for our year. We are

so excited to welcome back our friends from last year and are thrilled to meet the new friends that will be joining us.

At this time we still have some openings.

We have openings in the Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon class (12:30-3:00), Tuesday/Thursday morning class (9:15-11:45, \*extended day option 9:15-2:00) If you know someone that is still looking for a preschool, please invite them to email Amy Winters at [director@westgreentree.org](mailto:director@westgreentree.org) for more information. We would love to fill our classes so that we can reach more families and teach more children about the love of Jesus!

We have yard signs available if you would be willing to put one in your yard or business, preferably along a high-traffic road. If you are willing to help us advertise in this way, please see Brenda Drawbaugh, Dewey Martin, or Laura Hollinger on a Sunday morning and they will get one for you!

If you ever feel called to support this wonderful ministry with more than prayer, please consider donating to the Don Hollinger Scholarship Fund. This helps families attend Tiny Timbers when finances are tight. We love being able to bless families in this way! Info on this scholarship is in a brochure at the welcome desk. You can also support us by donating supplies for the classroom. Some supplies we use often are 3oz plastic cups, cocktail size napkins, tissues, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, construction paper and card stock. We are also always looking for people to help fill in when staff is out sick. If you are interested in being a sub please email me at [director@westgreentree.org](mailto:director@westgreentree.org). Subs do need updated clearances and we will help you with those! We also love to have people come in and read to the classes so if that is something you would like to do just let me know!

We will have a year full of exploring, learning, fun, and praising Jesus! Please join us in prayer for the children, staff, and families that will be enjoying the year together at Tiny Timbers.

We are thankful for all of you!

Amy Winters



### Anniversaries

- 9.3 - Larry & Linda Brosey
- 9.4 - Dennis & Ann Saylor
- 9.7 - David & Joanne Arndt
- 9.15 - Daryl & Angie Harnish
- 9.16 - Steve & Mindy Smith
- 9.19 - Phil & Donna Hollinger
- 9.20 - Jim & Ruthanne Gruber
- 9.24 - Shawn & Mandy O'Brien
- 9.28 - Jim & Donna Coble

### Birthdays

- 9.1 - Dave Hawthorne
- 9.3 - Steve Bender
- 9.5 - Ryan Arndt
- 9.6 - Steve Hiller
- 9.6 - Eric Arndt
- 9.7 - Jayden Smith
- Casey Tippet
- Jaxxon Bixler
- 9.9 - Kim Coble
- 9.10 - Phil Hollinger
- 9.11 - Dennis Saylor
- 9.15 - Steve Dupler
- 9.16 - Felicity Brown
- 9.17 - Don Snyder
- 9.22 - Ed Horst
- 9.24 - Gretchen Garber
- 9.26 - Marilyn Keener
- 9.28 - Anthony Dupler
- 9.28 - Lorelei Brown
- 9.30 - Shawn Cannon
- Jay Forry

## Congregational Forum

## Tuesday, 11/11

## @ 7 pm

## **The Soundboard: An Instrument On the Worship Team**

Greetings, WGT Family!

During the Spring Congregational Forum, several of our family members expressed concern with the current sound system being used during gatherings and events in the sanctuary here at WGT. Specific concerns were raised about the frequent issues with the microphone Pastor Shawn uses and the quality of sound in other regards.

Following that meeting, the Stewards and Technology teams began working on solutions to rectify the issues at hand. Following thorough research, both of these teams recommended Tim Cyphers (production director at South Lebanon Community Church) come in for some consulting and troubleshooting. I've known Tim for a few years now and knew of his expertise in this area.

During the first meeting with Tim, he was not only able to make a list of projects to be improved on the sound front, but he adjusted the gain and EQ for the pastor microphone and then saved a preset that can be recalled each week ensuring little to no trouble. In addition, Tim continues to set up presets for each of our teammates as time allows.

It has been great to receive your feedback from Sunday mornings as the sound continues to improve. It is great to hear that you are experiencing clearer sound and can hear the distinct and beautiful voices of each of our teammates as they lead us in worship. Praise be to God for this! In addition, the livestream has been running with clearer sound as Tim has helped us to connect the sanctuary sound to the livestream making the experiences both in the sanctuary and at home a worshipful environment.

In light of these notable improvements, Tim said something profound a few times while in the building working on the system. He shared that the soundboard should be viewed as an instrument on the worship team. The operator of the soundboard should play it as an instrument and be adjusting it actively to draw out the best sound. If one of our talented vocalists is leading a song or a guitar part is the driver at the beginning of the song, the soundboard operator should actively raise the volume on these components so that they are brought to the front and heard the most clearly. Tim's statement resonates with me as we try earnestly to give the Lord our best efforts knowing He is worthy of it all.

The truth of this is that each thing we do for the building of the Kingdom should be done as if we are playing an instrument. It should not become a passive act that is neglected or done half-heartedly. Passive acts of service often do not lead to giving God our very best, which again He is worthy of. When we consider the gifts and talents that God has given us, we should desire to use those gifts fully.

So I ask you today, if you are not running the soundboard or playing an instrument, what metaphorical instrument are you playing and how are you playing it? Are you passively playing it and serving reluctantly or are you actively using it give God the best that you have?

For Christ and the Church,

Ryan M. Arndt

# "WHAT IT IS" OR "AS IT IS": SETTLED OR UNSETTLING?

## **"What It Is" or "As It Is": Settled or Unsettling?**

### ***A September Sermon Series***

"It is what it is."

This phrase seems to follow me everywhere—on social media, in conversations, even in my own thoughts when life feels overwhelming. While I don't use it regularly myself, I find myself resonating with its underlying sentiment: there's so much in life we must simply accept.

The Serenity Prayer captures this tension perfectly: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." But how do we actually discern that difference? When should we settle into acceptance, and when should our unsettledness propel us toward action?

Jesus taught his disciples to pray a radical prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." As it is in heaven—yes, that's exactly what I want. But what's my role in making that reality? And what does heaven actually look like?

This September, we'll spend several weeks wrestling with these questions in a series called "What It Is" or "As It Is": Settled or Unsettling? We'll explore when acceptance becomes faithful surrender and when it becomes passive resignation. We'll discover what it means to pray for God's will while actively participating in its fulfillment.

I'm sure there are many things in your life that feel unsettled right now—and I'm not talking about your stomach after too much fair food. When Pepto-Bismol isn't the answer, what is? Join us as we learn to live faithfully in the tension between "it is what it is" and "your kingdom come."

### **Attention Ladies**

Save the date for Saturday morning, September 20th. The Women's Ministry has planned a tour of Hope Within Ministries Community Health, Counseling & Dental Center.

They are excited to welcome us into their facility and are even providing snacks for us. It's a first hand experience to see all they offer the community and in turn we might in exchange be able to pass it on to someone we know in need.

There will also be a time to visit the Trove, a Home Decor & Lifestyle Shop on the premises that benefits the ministry. You could do a little early Christmas shopping! Those wishing could meet at the church and carpool. Breakfast or lunch might be part of the morning.

A sign up sheet will soon be posted on the bulletin board so we can give them a head count. Please consider joining us as we continue to support their ministry.

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Women of all ages are invited to enjoy a sit down Amish Meal Friday, December 5th at 6 pm. The cost is \$12 pp (children 4 and under free). The money will be collected that night. If money is a problem and you want to go please see someone on the committee. We want everyone to be able to go and fellowship with us.

For those wishing to car pool, meet at the church.

The address is: Allen & Amanda King, 5105 Elizabethtown Road, Manheim

Come & Relax and be fed a delicious meal during the hectic Holliday Season. Feel free to invite friends. A sign up sheet will be available at the Information Center December 2nd.

Any questions about these events see Kathy Martin, Kim Houser or Lisa Shelly.



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:**

- ♦ Monday: Ladies Bible Study @ 11 am
- ♦ Wednesday: Youth @ 6:30 pm
- ♦ Wednesday: Men's Bible Study @ 7 pm
- ♦ Saturdays: Men's Bible Study @ 7 am at Hawthorne's Woods

Phone: 717-653-5367  
[www.westgreentree.org](http://www.westgreentree.org)



Hope

For I know the plans I have for  
you, declares the Lord, plans for  
welfare and not for evil, to give  
you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11