

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

Brené Brown, who has spent her career researching courage, vulnerability, and what keeps us from becoming the people we want to be, writes:

"The risk is that we become so wrapped up in preaching that we're right, prosecuting others who are wrong, and politicking for support that we don't bother to rethink our own views."

Politicking for support. That's a nice way of saying it: choosing sides, gathering people to our side, and then defending our side.

We know what happens when we choose sides: we divide.

And that ought to stop us for a moment, because Jesus prayed for something different.

In John 17, on the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed that his followers would be one. Not that they would agree on every question. Not that they would all see everything exactly the same way. But that they would be united in him.

There is a real tension here. We live in a world that constantly asks us to pick a side. And once we have picked one, there is always an invitation to find people who will join us there.

Jesus seems to offer another way.

Jesus asked questions.

The four Gospels tell us the good news of Jesus - his life, death, and resurrection. They also show us something else: Jesus asked a *lot* of questions. Depending on how the questions are counted in the original Greek, somewhere around 300 or more.

Why?

I believe Jesus is God - fully divine and fully human. So whether Jesus asked questions because he didn't already know the answer, or because he wanted the person in front of him to wrestle with the answer for themselves, I don't think we need to settle that question to see what he was doing.

He was making room for the question.

Again and again, Jesus could have simply told people what to think. Instead, he often asked a question that made them think.

"Who do you say that I am?"

"Why are you afraid?"

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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 9/20
- *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

- *Sisters in Christ Saturday, September 12th @ 9 am
- *COBYS Bike & Hike September 13th
- *Tiny Timbers First Days September 14 & 15

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

A Pastor's Perception (continued from cover)

"What do you want me to do for you?"

"Which... was a neighbor to the man...?"

Questions can open doors that arguments close.

That matters to me because, on August 16, we celebrated three baptisms. Baptism is an act of obedience - a public declaration that we want to follow Jesus, just as Jesus himself was baptized.

One church I know summarizes discipleship in three simple phrases:

Be with Jesus.

Become like Jesus.

Do what Jesus did.

Do what Jesus did.

Jesus asked questions.

He didn't politick for sides.

That doesn't mean truth doesn't matter. It doesn't mean every idea is equally true or that conviction is something we should abandon. Following Jesus isn't about becoming so open-minded that we stand for nothing.

It is about becoming humble enough to remain teachable.

I don't see Jesus teaching me to defend *my* side, recruit people to *my* side, or assume that everyone on the other side is a problem to be solved. I see him teaching me to love my neighbor, to listen, to gather with others, to belong to a family of faith bigger than my own opinions, and to keep seeking the truth together.

Sides can make our world smaller.

Questions can make room for people.

And perhaps that is one reason Jesus asked so many of them.

I'm less concerned with being right than I am with getting it right.

That means I want to hold my convictions deeply, but hold myself humbly.

I want to be willing to ask, "What am I missing?"
Mark Twain said it like this: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

I want to be willing to listen before I answer.

And I want to remember that the person standing across from me is not an opponent to defeat. They are someone Jesus loves.

Maybe that's part of what it means to **be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.**



Christmas Fellowship Meal

The holidays will be upon us before we know it.

**Plan to join us for the
Christmas Fellowship Meal Kick-Off Meeting,
Sunday, September 13th,
following the Large Group Gathering.
See Brienna Brown with questions.**

This year will be the 15th time that West Green Tree has hosted a Christmas fellowship meal; a time for individuals from the church and community to gather faces and reconnect with those who return; we hear stories, share conversation, and experience the joy of being together. Some have even shared that this meal has become their Christmas family - a place where they feel welcomed and cared for. Through every meal and interaction God continues to teach us more about Himself and what it means to love and serve others. We may only be part of someone's story for a short time, but we pray that each person who comes through our doors experiences the love of Christ.

Year after year God has faithfully provided for every need and we have been abundantly blessed by the opportunities to serve. We trust him to continue providing as we prepare for this year's Christmas fellowship meal.

Now Is the Time to Get Involved!

As we near September, preparations for this year's Christmas fellowship meal are beginning, and we need volunteers. We are looking for an assistant coordinator and individuals to serve as leads. Leads are not expected to do it alone. You will receive the information and resources needed for your role, along with support and guidance from the Coordinator. The assistant coordinator will work closely with the coordinator this year and prepare to take the role of lead coordinator next year. Would you consider being part of this ministry? Whether you have served before or this would be your first time, there is a place for you!

Visit the Christmas Fellowship Meal Sign-Up Station or speak with Brienna Brown to learn more and find out how you can serve.

Together, let's share a meal, build community, and extend the love of Jesus this Christmas.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm	3 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	4 Office Closed	5 3M 7 am
6 Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Leadership Team 7 pm	9 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm	10 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	11	12 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am
13 Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Christmas Fellowship Meal Mtg. after LGG COBYS Bike & Hike	14 Ladies Bible Study 11 am	15 Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm	16 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm	17 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	18	19 3M 7 am
20 Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am Junior Church Begins!	21 Ladies Bible Study 11 am	22 	23 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm	24 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	25	26 3M 7 am
27 Sunday School 8:30 am Large Group Gathering 9:45 am	28 Ladies Bible Study 11 am	29 Open Prayer Night 7 pm	30 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Gathering 7 pm			



TAKE ME Higher

A DAY OF WORSHIP • HOPE • COMMUNITY

A free outdoor gathering for the whole family.
Come away from the noise and encounter the presence of God in a beautiful country setting.


SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026


12:00 PM
GATES OPEN AT 11:30 AM


NOOKSIDE STABLES
500 LANDISVILLE ROAD
MANHEIM, PA 17545

FREE ADMISSION! 

Come Expecting...

-  Powerful live worship
-  Biblical teaching
-  Life-changing testimonies
-  Spirit-led prayer ministry
-  Communion
-  Children's activities (including pony petting area)
-  Food trucks
-  Local vendors
-  Beautiful country views
-  A welcoming community

Featuring

-  GUEST SPEAKER
DAN MOHLER JR.
-  MULTIPLE WORSHIP TEAMS
-  SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST
To be announced soon!

Why We Gather

Because we believe God is still changing lives.

Whether you've followed Jesus for years, you're searching for hope, or you're simply curious about faith, this day was created for you.



**COME WORSHIP.
COME BE REFRESHED.
COME ENCOUNTER HIM.**

Bring Your

- ✓ LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS
- ✓ FAMILY
- ✓ FRIENDS
- ✓ AN EXPECTANT HEART


SCAN ME

Follow us on Facebook!

Scan the QR code to follow our Facebook page for event updates and the special guest announcement!

Faithful GATHERINGS

HOSTED BY LIFEGATE CHURCH

faithfulgatheringsco@gmail.com



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
- 9.24 - Shawn & Mandy O'Brien
- 9.28 - Jim & Donna Coble

Birthdays

- 9.1 - Dave Hawthorne
- 9.5 - Ryan Arndt
- 9.6 - Eric Arndt
- 9.7 - Jayden Smith
Casey Tippet
Jaxxon Bixler
- 9.9 - Kim Coble
- 9.10 - Phil Hollinger
- 9.11 - Dennis Saylor
- 9.16 - Felicity Brown
- 9.17 - Don Snyder
- 9.22 - Ed Horst
- 9.24 - Gretchen Garber
- 9.25 - Ken Landvater
- 9.28 - Lorelei Brown
- 9.30 - Shawn Cannon

Attendance & Givings			
	Total Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
July 26	143	52	\$4,066.26
August 2	117	78	\$5,437.31
August 9	68	None/Camp Swatara	\$5,073.01
August 16	151	90	\$6,023.01

Operation Christmas Child

Back-to-school sales are in full swing, and it's the perfect time to grab supplies for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. School supplies, small toys, hygiene items — all the things on sale right now make great shoebox fillers. Start picking up a few items each time you shop, and we'll have collection details for you closer to November.

The Great Jigsaw Puzzle

Growing up, in the wintertime, my grandma Arndt always had a jigsaw puzzle set up in the family room. Visits to my grandparents' house were never complete until we all stood around the puzzle to see if we could place a piece. Over time, piece by piece, the puzzle became more and more complete. But it took every single piece being put together to create the image. Usually it was birds, or landscapes, or some other beautiful picture.

Each month, one of my tasks is to build the worship team and production team schedule for our gatherings. Honestly, it is not unlike putting the pieces together of a puzzle. Each member of our team contributes to the beautiful picture of the body of Christ serving together. The challenge is placing each piece, each member in a way that fills out the schedule, but also so that the unique giftings of each teammate are used to build up the team, the body and then is used to lift up the name of Jesus. It also takes plugging each piece into the right spot to create the unique picture that God is making through us. When we do this well, it is our desire to be a reflection of Him!

I can't help but wonder in the great jigsaw puzzle of our church, here at WGT, if we are each plugged in at the right spots to become the reflection of Christ that He calls us to be. It's that time of the year when the phone calls will start from ministry teams and gifts discernment team about serving in capacities in the new year.

Just as every cardboard piece has its precise cut and place on Grandma Arndt's table, every individual in the local church has a God-given placement designed to complete a much larger, divine image.

The apostle Paul used a similar picture when writing to the church in Corinth:

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be... As it is, there are many parts, but one body." — 1 Corinthians 12:18, 20

A puzzle piece sitting alone in a box holds potential, but it cannot display its purpose until it is connected to the pieces around it. The same is true for us. Peter reminds us that our unique giftings are intentional tools meant to be connected to the community: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* — 1 Peter 4:10

When the phone rings in the coming weeks from our ministry teams or the Gifts Discernment team, consider it an invitation to pull up a chair to the table. You aren't being asked merely to fill an empty slot on a grid or a blank spot on a calendar—you are being invited to lock arms with the rest of the body so that the full, beautiful picture of Jesus can be seen.

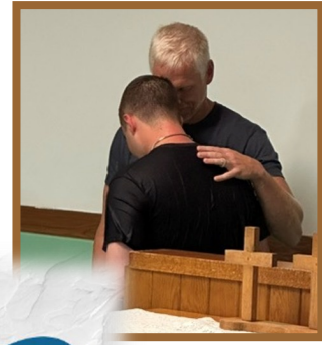


United Churches
Elizabethtown Area



The Clothing Barn needs volunteers for 3 hour shifts. Every Wed from 9-12, first and 3rd Thursdays from 9-12, 4th Wednesday evening from 5:15 to 7:30 and the 4th Saturday from 9-12. Please visit our website for Community Place on Washington <https://communityplaceetown.org/> and use the Donate button to donate your time. Serve as often or as little as you want to.

For more information contact Connie Trynovich, Director at 717-315-7701



Baptism



Welcome to the Family!

Haley, Cadence & Nick were baptized this past August. If you see them, be sure to let them know we're proud of their choice to be all in for Jesus!

Hello from Tiny Timbers!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer.

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.

We are excited to start our brand-new class in our brand-new classroom with our brand-new teacher! We welcomed Miss Jodi Frank to our staff in August. She is a wonderful addition to Tiny Timbers!

At this time, we still have one opening in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class if you know someone that is still looking for a preschool, please invite them to email Amy Winters at director@westgreentree.org for more information. We would love to fill this class so that we can reach more families and teach more children about the love of Jesus!

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!



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



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