

Celebrating 250 Years of America!



Friends,

This Saturday marks the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birthday of our great nation. I found a wonderful benediction that I plan to use in church on Sunday, but just in case you can't make it, I wanted to share that beautiful blessing with you all now. It was written by Rick Morley.

For the brave women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,
For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,
For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,
For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,
For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,
For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,
For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,
For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,
For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,
For all of these, we thank You, Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,
That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,
That those who are elected to govern and lead would be guided by You, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,
That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to You and to Your grace,
For all of these, we pray to You, Lord.

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us Your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to You, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Bless All!

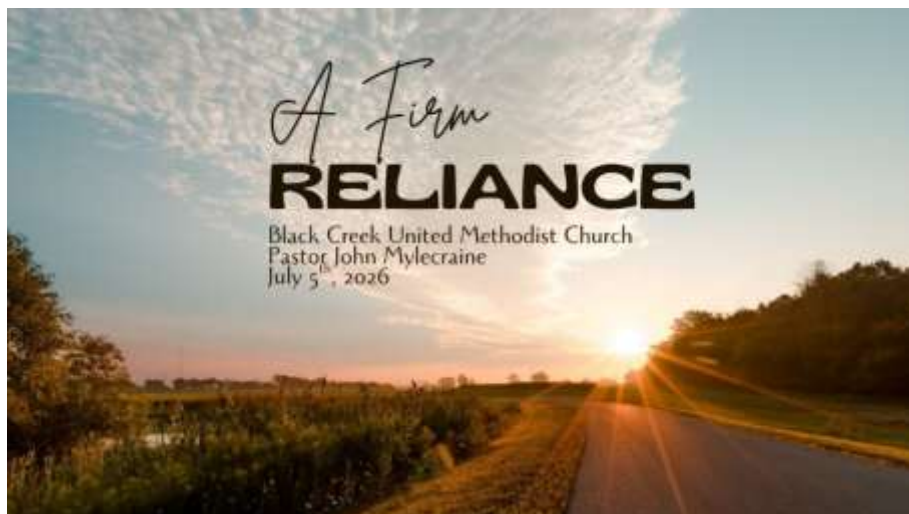
Pastor John

This Sunday at Black Creek UMC



A Firm Reliance: Romans 7:15-25

This week in our church service, we will give praise and honor to our God and also celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. We will sing some of our favorite patriotic hymns, and we will work to submit ourselves and our church more fully to Christ!



In our message, we will look at the Apostle Paul's words in the Book of Romans as he describes a battle that we can all relate to... a battle within himself to do what is right! We will learn how we as individuals, as a church, and as a nation can fight similar battles, not by ourselves, but through the power of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I hope that you will join us!

There are **four** ways to participate in worship at Black Creek UMC. Our service begins at 9:30.

- In person – All are welcome, come as you are!
- On Facebook Live.
- Right at the top of our website, www.blackcreekumc.org
- Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel. Just go to YouTube and type in @backpewbelievers and our channel will come right up! Don't forget to subscribe for new updates.

Planning to Go to Sight and Sound with Black Creek in August?



Sunday is the last day to let Pastor John know if you plan to attend our upcoming trip to Sight and Sound Theater on August 19th. Reserve your space now before it is too late!

Our First Summer Concert is in the Books!



Thanks to everyone who came out this past Saturday for our first summer concert in our new outdoor space. This was a great time of food, fellowship, and community. Thanks to Janet and Nola for all of their hard work preparing the meal for this event.

A Sunday of Celebrations at Black Creek!



This Sunday was a special day of celebration at Black Creek. We celebrated Dave Cunfer's many years of service and dedication as our church organist and Pastor John's retirement from public education after a 25-year career. Thanks to everyone who made this time of celebration possible.

Informal Summer Worship Services Start Next Saturday!



BLACK CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AN INFORMAL, FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE FEATURING POWERFUL PREACHING, LIVE MUSIC.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COME AS YOU ARE.

Summer Afternoons of
WORSHIP

JULY 11TH
JULY 18TH
AUGUST 8TH
AUGUST 15TH

4:00PM - 5:00PM

IN OUR NEW OUTDOOR WORSHIP SPACE!

You are invited to join us for some informal outdoor worship services in our new pavilion starting next Saturday, July 11th at 4PM. These will be relaxed times of worship and fellowship. The worship series is titled "Be Still" and we will look at ways that we can slow ourselves down and still our minds so that we can hear God speaking to us in the midst of the chaos of our everyday lives.

Community Hot Dog Nights are Around the Corner!



Starting **next Thursday, July 9th**, you are invited to stop by on Thursday nights throughout the summer for \$2 hot dogs and \$1 sodas in our new outdoor space. What a great way to spend a lazy summer evening. Hope to see you there.

Coffee With the Pastor Wednesday Start Soon!



Starting **next Wednesday, July 8th**, you can stop by in our new indoor fellowship space for coffee with the pastor (and anyone else who shows up. Who can turn down free coffee? Hope to see you there.

Announcements that were in Last Week's Email

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed



We are looking for volunteers to organize coffee hour each month to spread the work of the church around... That means: making and preparing coffee around 8:30AM, preparing and plating all donations for coffee hour, and cleaning up after Coffee Hour. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Please consider helping with this important mission of community and fellowship. See Pastor John with any questions! **A big THANK YOU to Sandy for volunteering for the month of June and Lynne and Christie for volunteering to handle July!**

Serving Our Neighbors

Our church continues to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Divine Providence Center in Hazleton. We provide dinner for the roughly twenty individuals who sleep there each night.

We are looking for volunteers for July and August. If you are willing and able, please let Pastor John know!

Our Summer Event Calendar is Here!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.BLACKCREEKUMC.ORG

ALL ARE WELCOMED AND
VALUED AT BLACK CREEK UMC!

FREE CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 - LEILANI CHESONIS
CLASSIC COUNTRY HITS & CROWD FAVORITE SONGS

SATURDAY, JULY 25 - FREELAND ST. ANN'S BAND
CONCERT BAND STANDARDS AND INNOVATIVE PIECES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 - POOR MAN'S GAMBIT DUO
PROGRESSIVE TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 - DOC PAPPA AND
THE RENEGADE RAMBLERS**
TRADITIONAL BLUEGRASS AND ORIGINAL TUNES

FREE LIGHT DINNER: 5:30 - 6:00PM
CONCERTS: 6:00 - 7:30PM
RAIN OR SHINE. BRING YOUR FAVORITE LAWN CHAIR!



INFORMAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

JULY 11, JULY 18, AUGUST 8, AND AUGUST 15
SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 4:00 - 5:00PM
MUSIC FROM OUR WORSHIP BAND, *NO MONEY CAN BUY!*

COMMUNITY \$2 HOT DOG NIGHTS

EVERY THURSDAY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER
4-7PM IN OUR NEW PAVILION BEGINNING JULY 9TH
\$2 HOT DOGS, \$1 SODAS. EAT IN OR TAKE OUT!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE PASTOR

EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER
9:00AM - NOON IN OUR INDOOR FELLOWSHIP SPACE
STOP IN ANY TIME! BEGINNING JULY 8TH

A Summer Trip to Sight and Sound Theater!

BLACK CREEK RETURNS TO SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER IN LANCASTER!

We will be taking a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater to see the new production of Joshua!

Price includes ticket, bus, and Jersey Mike's lunch on the bus on the way home.

Bus leaves from the Hazleton Park and Ride at 8:00AM.

See Pastor John or Sheena now to reserve your seat!

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 19TH
11AM SHOW**

**ALL INCLUSIVE PRICES:
\$130 PER ADULT
\$85 CHILDREN (AGES 2-12)**

TICKETS MUST BE PAID FOR BY
JUNE 30TH



Black Creek UMC will once again be taking a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster this summer. A flyer with all details is available at the church, but the flyer above has the basics. This will be a trip to see the new show, *Joshua*. Here is a description from Sight and Sound.

From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, JOSHUA is a miraculous adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to replace Moses as their faithful leader, tensions mount in the midst of dwindling supplies and approaching armies. With one last fortified city standing between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected help emerges from behind enemy lines and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the ultimate test.

We have 56 tickets for this awesome, faith building trip. To reserve your spot now, please let Pastor John or Sheena know either by email, text, or in person!

Office Hours at Black Creek



Now that I am officially done with my teaching career, I will be instituting regular office hours at the church. Feel free to stop by any time for any church related business or just to say hello!

Community Announcements

SHEENA MAE YOGA, LLC



Now Offering

CHRIST-CENTERED CHAIR YOGA CLASSES



KEY BENEFITS:



Improve Flexibility
& Range of Motion

Build Strength



Increase Balance



Reduce Stress

Deepen Faith



Thursdays at 12 Noon | Starting June 11th

\$10 per class | 40 Minutes

Black Creek UMC, Informal Worship Space

There will be no Yoga class tomorrow, July 2nd. Class will start up again next week!

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Community Blood Drive
Black Creek
United Methodist Church

Community Room
158 Golf Course Road
Sugarloaf, PA 18249

Monday, July 13, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Church Will Be Offering A Lasagna Dinner For All Presenting Donors.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: Black Creek UMC to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RedCrossBlood.org

**Give blood July 13 to 31 for a Fandango Movie Reward
by email to see a movie on us! rcblood.org/July**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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The Musical

July 3rd through July 12th

***Dinner available 1 hour & 30 minutes before show on July 11th & 12th
(Reservations due Monday, July 5th)***

Meet the Cast



*John
Mylecruine
is
John
Witherspoon*



John Witherspoon