



Good News from Grace

AUGUST 2026

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Lets talk about that storm that we all just endured in July. Over 200,000 people lost power in Central Pennsylvania on the weekend of July 4th. That number included not just residential buildings but businesses as well. Churches had to cancel services, business didn't open for a few days, people struggled to stay cool in the heatwave with no electricity. I don't know about you, but I hate cancelling Church! I and our staff did all of the work during the week, I get excited to see you all, and when we have to abruptly cancel, it is such a let down! I also have to admit, that I was quite annoyed about how long it took PP&L to restore power at Church and for Met-Ed to restore my power at home! 4 days felt like 4 years! Patience as a virtue is lost on me, I must admit. But then I got to thinking of those who were unable to find back-up energy sources or cooling locations to mitigate the dangers of the heat and severe weather. I think about the homeless population who had to endure those horrible storms out in the open. I think about all of those individuals who have damage to their homes where they were one major house issue away from financial catastrophe. In instances of extreme struggle, this 1 Thessalonians quote seems a bit tone deaf. In times like these, it can seem silly to rejoice always or give thanks in this circumstance. But what Christ wants from us, is to do just that. What can we give thanks for? I give thanks for the talents and tenacity of the Linemen, the Engineers, the First Responders, and all of those who have worked around the clock to restore power and order. I give thanks that we even have the possibility of power to begin with. For much of human history, we lived without electricity, so I give thanks for the God given intelligence of those who make all our lives more comfortable and safe. I give thanks for the neighbors who offered their help, even when they themselves needed help. I give thanks for friends and family who checked in on one another to see how everyone was. I give thanks, for generators so that essential businesses such as hospitals could provide life saving care. In the midst of struggle and pain, there will always be reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving. Even in our deaths, we can rejoice that this world is not the end, and that paradise awaits us in the life hereafter. In times of great struggle, may we remember to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. Because this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for all of us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Chad

Define Your Life by How You Give



Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

This article was previously published in August 2023 by LCMS Stewardship



2026 Stewardship Pledge Results

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry thanks the congregation for their support of their 2026 Stewardship Pledges. The financial side of our Stewardship program, entitled, “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace” is tracking well.

Our total amount pledged is \$244,398.40. Through the first six months of 2026 \$138,150.20, or 56.5%, of the pledged amounts was received. The remaining outstanding amount is \$123,718.20.

To date, twelve giving units have fully met their 2026 pledges, totaling \$33,730.00.

Again the Finance & Stewardship Ministry thanks you for your support of Grace’s mission in the community and the world!

Bill Robison,
Chair



Join Us for Worship

IN - PERSON

Saturdays at 5:00pm
in Barkley Chapel

Sundays at 9:30am
in the Sanctuary

or

Sundays via
Live Stream

or on
YouTube



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour runs
September - May before
and after Sunday
Morning Worship.

If you and/or your family
would like to host a
coffee hour contact the
office.

Our Purpose

The purpose of our church is to
make a difference by serving
others through God's love and
our faith.

This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **August** is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of granddaughter, Emilia's 19th birthday.

The Special Benevolence offering for **August** is the **Lutheran Disaster Response**. To contribute please list the dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* on the envelopes or use this QR Code to give now or pay online at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/> and select Online Giving under the Give tab.



Give Now

2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Fresh Altar Flowers (\$50) will only be purchased if a Sunday is sponsored. All Altar Flower sponsorships requests must be received two weeks prior to the date you wish to sponsor and when signing up please be sure to indicate if you will be taking the flowers or if you wish them to be delivered to a homebound member.

Bulletin & Mailing Sponsorships (\$30) and the Sanctuary Lamp Monthly Sponsorships (\$21) remain the same at this time. All sponsorships can be paid for online, by mail, or by dropping an envelope in the offering at a worship service. To view available dates for 2026 can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.gracecamphill.org/pages/sponsorship> or on the bulletin board outside Barkley Chapel. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the available dates you can sign up next to the elevator or by contacting Diane in the church office at 717-737-0439 x 15 or ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.



Bells of Grace and Chancel Choir practices resume on Thursday, September 10. Bells of Grace will meet in the Balcony at 6pm and the Chancel Choir will meet in the Choir Room at 7pm.





Heaven is full of answers to prayer for which
no one ever bothered to ask.

Billy Graham

We hold in prayer especially this month...

Tom Boyer, Barry Hoover, Judi Fenicle, Tom Zimmerman, Wayne & Veronica Butler, Elizabeth Butler, Ken & Paddy Barber, Bob Hillegas, Mark Caron, Stacey LaPine, Mary Ryder, Jeff Johnson, Tricia Butz, Dr. Robert Little, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schwitzer, Alice M., Dean Jury and friends & family of Patricia Ensminger and friends & family of Jason Hoffman.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

George & Elaine, Paisely Krull, Zach & Pat, Barry Fenicle, Carson Osswald, Weston, Megan & Donny Weibel, Cheryl A., Ed Klemmer, Nancy, Susan Atwood, Pete Psychogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

We also hold our Homebound in prayer this month...

Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Bob Rhodes, Dorothy Shreffler and Beverly Earhart.

We hold in prayer the recently departed....

Patricia Ensminger and Jason Hoffman

Prayer List Policy

...sometimes you forget to tell others that someone has healed...

Let's be good stewards of our prayer list. If someone has healed, or if someone has moved on to eternal life, please let the church office know. Names will automatically be moved to the ongoing prayers after a month. They will be removed from the ongoing prayers after another month unless you notify us.

Praying for our Homebound Members

The pastoral staff wishes to lift up this special group of members on a regular basis during the prayers. Each week a group of homebound members will be included in the "out loud" prayers.



Prayer List Additions

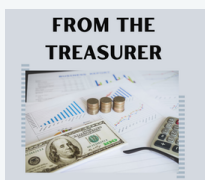
Everyone appreciates prayer, but not everyone wishes to be added to the "out loud" prayers. If you are aware of a member of Grace who could benefit from being added to the prayers, please let Pastor Chad know. He will contact the individual to find out whether they wish to be added to the "out loud" prayers or the "ongoing" prayers.



Congregational Meeting - June 2026

- Pursuant to C12.01-C12.02 (selection of Congregational Council), Motion to approve Pat Hughes, Liam Barber, Tom Pautz, Brigitte Storey, Jared Weber for three-year terms to the Council to begin immediately after the June 2026 congregational meeting and end during the June 2029 congregational meeting was voted on and carried.
- The congregation chose to rename the old library “Neal Gathering Place”.
- The new Treasurer, Tracey Alfano-Douty was introduced.
- Outgoing Council Members and the previous Treasurer were recognized: Marti Bert, Keith Snavelly, Steve Behr and Kelly Walker.
- The Capital Campaign has already reached \$217,000 in pledges.

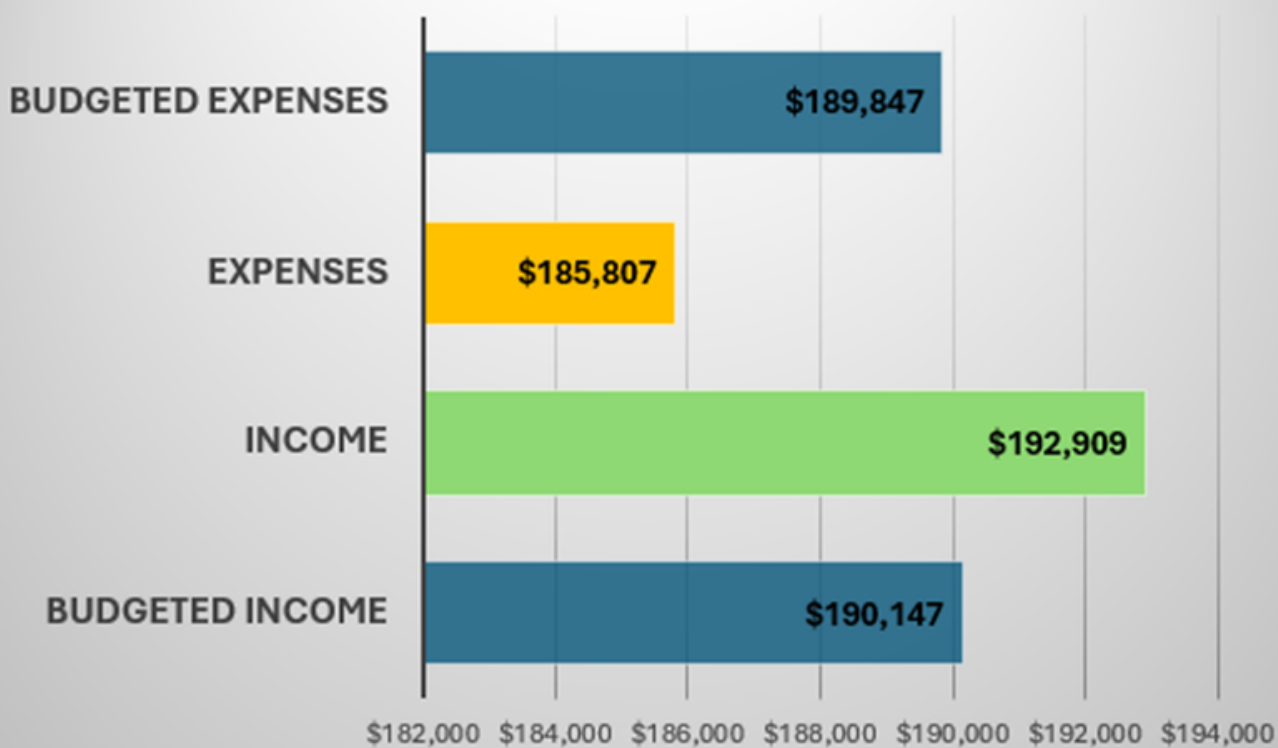
Brigitte Storey
Secretary



Thanks to your incredible generosity and careful stewardship, our church is in a position at June 30 where our income received exceeded our budget and our operating expenses remain below projections. This is a blessing, especially as we extend our thoughts, prayers and support to those in our community and beyond navigating the aftermath of the recent severe weather. To sustain this momentum please keep up your generous contributions.

Tracey Alfano-Douty
Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church June 2026





Grace Capital Campaign Update

Grace has received capital campaign pledges of over \$228,200 toward our goal of \$270,000. It is so exciting to see what our Grace Family can achieve together. Pledge cards are available in the kiosk in the narthex, on the wall in the library outside Barkley Chapel, and in the Barkley Chapel narthex. The card asks the amount of your total pledge, giving you different annual options to consider for making payments. If you prefer an online pledging option, there is a pledge form available on our website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/pages/grace-capital-campaign> as well as the opportunity for making online payments under "Online Giving" on the "Give" tab.

Thank you so much for your generosity,

Co-chairs Susan Dickinson and Ted Evans

Marti Bert

Pat O'Neal

Don Schell

Jan Utter

Pastor Chad

God Moments

We are going to start sharing God Moments during one of the worship services, there may be a delay depending on how many God moments are presented. What is your God moment?

ex. Today a long-lost friend reached out to me and we connected again. OR I felt compelled to volunteer with Family Promise and I heard wonderful stories of resiliency and hope and how God is working in the midst of horrible circumstances, etc.

It can be anything that you would like to share where you saw God show up in amazing or subtle ways.

You can share your God Moments by creating a video and sending it to office@gracecamphill.org, completing a card and placing it in the God Moment box in the Library or filling out the online form at <https://forms.gle/uUDK6u9fCmkipogpEA>

Backpack Challenge 2026

For the past five years, the Homeless Memorial Blanket initiative has gathered people together on December 21 - the longest, darkest night of the year - to remember lives lost, honor human dignity, and respond with compassion to those experiencing homelessness. Each year hundreds of handmade blankets are created and shared with people who need warmth.

This year the ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod is encouraging congregations to participate in the Backpack Challenge. Each backpack will have a list of items that could be included; however, Synod invites all of us to start with one question: "If I suddenly lost my home, what would I hope I could carry on my back?". Maybe it's warm socks, granola bars, hand sanitizer, a reusable water bottle, a fast-food gift card, basic pain relievers, a can opener, gloves, toiletries and perhaps most importantly zip lock bags. Because when your important papers - your birth certificate, Social Security card, or identification - are exposed to rain and weather, something as simple as a bag can protect what little stability remains. This year's backpack challenge is a one-time initiative, and we hope you will help Grace participate.

Bags are in the Library. **Please return to the conference room by Sunday September 27, 2026.**



Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Jesus says, “Listen! A sower went out to sow” (Matthew 13:3). The seed was sown far and wide on good soil and in places the seed did not grow. The sower was generous and extravagant in sowing.”



In the parable and explanation, Jesus outlines some steps to becoming good or better soil in order to receive the gift of God’s Word and the Guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These steps of spiritual formation are to listen, to hear and receive God’s call. In listening we give our total attention of heart, mind and spirit to God. Listening in silence alone or together with others is an act of humility, openness, and attention to the present moment and how the Holy Spirit is forming us. Secondly, to hear is to perceive with the heart, mind and spirit, what is being said, to take the message(word) in and to allow the message to have an impact on us, touching us deeply. Thirdly, to receive the word, be formed by what the spirit is saying and to act to follow the will of Christ.

These steps take practice. As we quiet ourselves to listen, hear and receive we grow in faith and are renewed in serving.

Hymn 512 says it well: “Lord let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.” ELW

Our upcoming Group Spiritual Formation meetings are:

Monday, August 17 at 6:30PM

Monday, September 21 at 6:30PM

Saturday, October 3 - 9:00AM to 3:00 PM (Spiritual Formation retreat at Kentland)

Monday, November 16 at 6:30PM

Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30pm - Contemplative Mid-Week Worship Service in Barkley Chapel

All meeting unless otherwise noted are in the Small Conference Room. All are invited to these meetings. If you desire individual Spiritual formation please contact me.

With thanksgiving for the stirring of the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Eckert

Installation of The Reverend Doctor J. Richard Eckert

The Reverend Doctor J. Richard Eckert will be installed at Grace during worship on Sunday, August 9. There will be time after worship to greet him or meet him for the first time.

The Reverend Doctor J. Richard Eckert was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on June 23, 1974. Pastor Eckert served as Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Penbrook, PA until 1992. He then served as Pastor of St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania. until his retirement in October 2021.

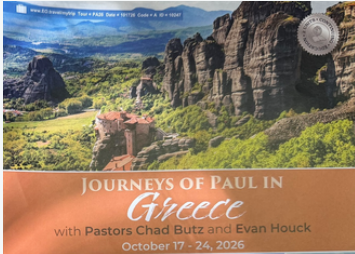
During these years, he also provided leadership beyond the local congregation, serving as Dean of the Harrisburg Conference and completing four three-year terms on the Synod Council. Following his retirement, Pastor Eckert continued to serve the church. From January 2023, through May 2025, he was honored to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Liverpool, Pennsylvania. Throughout his pastoral ministry, Pastor Eckert has been deeply committed to the study and practice of spiritual formation. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on May 16, 1986. His three-year program focused on the role of spiritual formation in the art of preaching. He continued his formation at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, earning certificates in Spiritual Direction, Group Spiritual Direction, Contemplative Leadership, and Embracing the Call of the Holy Spirit. In June 2023, he completed a two-year program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in Hickory, North Carolina receiving certification as a Spiritual Director. In each congregation he has served, Pastor Eckert has offered individual Spiritual Direction, Group Spiritual Direction, and Contemplative Worship services, nurturing deeper spiritual growth within the body of Christ.



Pub Theology

There are currently two groups for Pub Theology that will meet at various pubs in the area to talk about how God works in life, politics, faith, science and everything in-between. All opinions, experiences, and perspective are welcome.

For more information, to join or start a new group contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org



Journeys of Paul in Greece with Pastor Chad Butz and Evan Houck October 17-24, 2026

We would love to have you join us as we explore the journey of Paul in Greece. Paul is one of, if not the most, influential theologian for the Christian church as we know it. Come and see the first hand the places that he walked and ministered through. We will be departing October 17th and returning on the 24th. There is an optional cruise to extend your journey. Looking forward to entering into this pilgrimage with you all!

You can find out more information regarding the trip and how to sign up on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/faith-formation/journeys-of-paul-in-greece> or by scanning the QR code to the left



Summer Game Night - August 12

Come to our final summer board game night on August 12. There will not be a Community Meal at 5:30, but pizza and soda will be provided at 6:30pm in the Social Hall. Please bring a board or card game to play, I kindly ask that they be PG-13 or younger rated.

Parent & Youth Information Collection Form

Ethan Lentz recently updated the Parent & Youth Information Collection form and would like those with children and young adults to complete the new form. You can fill out the form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeflWheeZs91Gg6Y4o8-Cv7fzeinHyyQae4AOGKShpT2ksRkw/viewform> or Scan the QR code to the Right.



Grace Youth Group (GYG)

GYG is for all youth entering 6th grade through their 12th grade year of High School. GYG meets the first & third Sunday each month from 4:45 - 7:30pm.

Stay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram and join our Band Chat to join in the community! Contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org with any questions.

2026 Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp at Camp Nawakwa

Confirmation Camp June 21-27, 2026





Movie Night

◆ Free Popcorn ◆ Free Rita's
◆ All Ages Welcome

RESCHEDULED AUGUST 7TH - 7:00PM
1610 CARLISLE RD, CAMP HILL,
PA 17011



www.gracecamphill.org



LutheranHANDS Summer Mission Trip

Ten of our youth and young adults, along with three adult members, were in Philadelphia July 5-11 where they served the Greater Philadelphia community with The Philadelphia Project.



Youth Food Cards

Karns Foods, Weis Markets, and Giant grocery cards in the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100 are available at the church office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon. If paying in cash please have the exact change. At this time we do not accept credit cards.



2026
FREE SUMMER MEALS
BREAKFAST
& LUNCH

RUNS THRU
JUNE 15 - AUGUST 13

MEAL TIMES

BREAKFAST
 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

LUNCH
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

CLOSED
FRIDAYS & JULY 6

OFFERED BY WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meals are available at no cost to children 18 and younger, regardless of district of residence or financial status.

LOCATIONS

- Hillside Elementary
 516 Seventh Street
 New Cumberland
- Cedar Cliff High
 1301 Carlisle Road
 Camp Hill
- WH Elementary
 531 Walnut Street
 Lemoyne
- Old Trail Intermediate
 600 Beinhower Road
 Etters

WSSD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



The Community Meal at Grace

No Meals in August

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

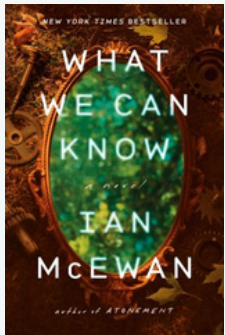


Grace Book Club

The Grace Book Club will be meeting on Monday, August 3 at 7pm via Zoom to discuss "What We Can Know" by Ian McEwan.

2014: At a dinner for close friends and colleagues, renowned poet Francis Blundy honors his wife's birthday by reading aloud a new poem dedicated to her, 'A Corona for Vivien'. Much wine is drunk as the guests listen, and a delicious meal consumed. Little does anyone gathered around the candlelit table know that for generations to come people will speculate about the message of this poem, a copy of which has never been found, and which remains an enduring mystery. 2119: Just over one hundred years in the future, much of the western world has been submerged by rising seas following a catastrophic nuclear accident. Those who survive are haunted by the richness of the world that has been lost. In the water-logged south of what used to be England, Thomas Metcalfe, a lonely scholar and researcher, longs for the early twenty-first century as he chases the ghost of one poem, 'A Corona for Vivian'. How wild and full of risk their lives were, thinks Thomas, as he pores over the archives of that distant era, captivated by the freedoms and possibilities of human life at its zenith. When he stumbles across a clue that may lead to the elusive poem's discovery, a story is revealed of entangled loves and a brutal crime that destroy his assumptions about people he thought he knew intimately well.

Please contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com if you have any questions or for login information.



Lost and Found Items

If you are missing a coat, a water bottle or other items please check with the office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org to see if your missing item(s) may have been turned in. Items are kept in the office for (1) month. After that time, they will be placed in the Community Aid bin in the second parking lot.



Let's Celebrate our August Birthdays

We have some monumental birthdays to share this month.

Richard Hoff turns **95** on **August 1**, **Jean Gross** turns **92** on **August 2**, **Lloyd Hench** turns **91** on **August 6**, and **Patricia Good** turns **92** on **August 19**. Please take a moment to wish her a HAPPY BIRTHDAY with a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

Richard Hoff
200 St. Luke Drive
Apt. 403
Lititz, PA 17543

Jean Gross
129 Valley View Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Lloyd Hench
1520 Amherst Court
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-8347

Pat Good
401 Brook Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

8/1	Kinsey Hall Richard Hoff	8/13	Jason Pringle
8/2	Judy Crowell-Allen Jean Gross Garri Ann Hearn Patti Savastio	8/14	Griffin Artz Raelyn Flook
8/3	Karen Osswald	8/15	Beth Helman Lester Richards
8/6	Judi Fenicle Karen Galle Lloyd Hench Debra Taylor	8/17	MaKenzie Seeger
8/7	Wendy Evans Lehman	8/19	Howard Bernstein Patricia Good
8/9	Robert Bozart	8/20	Jennifer Castillo Cato
8/10	Brandon Kauffman Lesley Richards	8/23	Susan Atwood Henry Sheaffer
8/11	David Taylor Lori Weber	8/24	Christopher Graf Joel Ryder
8/12	Jennifer Wright	8/27	Matthew Little
		8/30	Scot Brickell

***Please note if the person does not have a birthdate listed they either requested it not be printed in the newsletter or we do not have one. You can contact the church office for their actual birthdate.*

It is not the length of life, but the depth of life.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

To check out everything that is happening at Grace go to the events page on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events> or use the QR Code.



EVENTS

Upcoming Community Events

Below are some family-friendly events occurring in our area.

Music on the Mountain - Bluegrass

August 2, 2026 | 2:00 -6:30pm | FREE | Kings Gap Environmental Center (500 Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle)

Come out for a Sunday afternoon of Bluegrass music with Knuckle Dusters and Bailey's Crossing. Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket. Free Admission! Rain or Shine! Food trucks on site!

For more information go to <https://www.friendsofkingsgap.org/visit/music-on-the-mountain/>

Jazz at the Barnyard - The Wave Quartet

August 7, 2026 | 6pm Barnyard Open - Music Performed 7-8pm | FREE | 40 Northeast Drive, Hershey

Bring your lawn chairs and BYOB for our first summer series of LIVE Jazz under the stars. Free and open to everyone. The Wave Quartet plays a mix of smooth jazz, blues, pop and swing music, all done with their own twists. The music is enjoyable and fun, and the players enjoy playing it and entertaining the audience. *Please note all Jazz at the Barnyard events are rain or shine. Bands may be temporarily relocated inside due to unique weather conditions, though there is limited indoor space for patrons.* In the event of inclement weather, a decision to cancel or postpone the event will be made based on apparent public safety concerns no later than 5:30pm and posted to the Hershey History Center's Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/hersheyhistory.org>.

Sunset Music and Movie Series - August Movies

August 7, 2026 | 7:00pm | FREE | Forth Hunter Park (5300 N. Front Street, Harrisburg)

7:00pm Movie snacks available by The Friends of Fort Hunter

8:30pm Movie: Wicked for Good
PG Rated | 2 hour, 17 min

August 21, 2026 | 7:00pm | FREE | Forth Hunter Park (5300 N. Front Street, Harrisburg)

7:00pm Movie snacks available by The Friends of Fort Hunter

8:30pm Movie: Elio
PG Rated | 1 hour, 38 min

Pack a picnic basket, bring your blankets and your lawn chairs, and enjoy an evening of family fun! These events are all free for everyone to attend, thanks to the support of our sponsors. On movie nights, The Friends of Fort Hunter will sell popcorn, candy, and beverages to benefit Fort Hunter Park. Any updates due to weather can be found on the [Dauphin County Parks & Recreation Facebook](#) page.

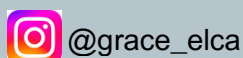


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