

Good News from Grace

NOVEMBER 2026

"Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), the old green hymnal, there was this confession liturgy thatwas removed in the new cranberry book, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). You can read it above. I think we did a large disservice to confession when we removed this liturgy from the rotation. Which is why I bring it back every Lent. It reminds us of the necessity to recognize that we have sin. We are proclaiming to the world, to each other and to God, that we are not perfect. That we cannot save ourselves. And that we are willing to be honest and real about the life that we live and live in. I have heard from many people, not at Grace, but from the community and other church spheres, that the confession can be a source of great pain for some communities. Therefore, we should remove it altogether from worship. However, I think it is only a source of great pain, because it has either been misused or misunderstood. Confession isn't about guilt or shame. Its about recognition that we need help, that we are not perfect, and that even in that imperfection, God still loves us enough, that God is willing to look past those imperfections and still love us deeply. Confession and Forgiveness isn't about making ourselves feel horrible, its about showing the Grace of God. Its about being honest about who we are and whose we are. God doesn't just love us because we are good, God loves us even though we are bad sometimes. And to be honest with you, this is freeing, not limiting. Confession and Forgiveness is about liberation, not condemnation. We are given a reminder every single week about the Grace of God. We are reminded that nothing that we do, will separate ourselves from our God. That God is willing to reach beyond any wrong doing, in order to mend our relationship with God and to change our hearts into ones that love like God. But before we can be changed, we have to be honest about where we are. It is not about judgement, its about honesty. The LBW has the pastor read; "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It doesn't say God 'may' forgive us, it says God 'will' forgive us. May we stop putting our own shame and guilt on God. God did not come to condemn the world but to

...Continued on page 2

Our Purpose

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

Continued from page 1...

save it. May the weight of sin be lifted from our shoulders as we remember that we are forgiven. Remember these words always:

"Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen"

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad



Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance

This article was previously published in November 2023 by LCMS Stewardship

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 runs September - May before and after Sunday Morning Worship in the Neal Gathering Place. **

**If it is Breakfast Sunday or other special events like Easter Sunday Coffee Hour will only be from 9am - 9:30am



Breakfast Sunday

Starting in November 2026 and running through May 2027 we will be serving Breakfast after worship in the Social Hall on the 3rd Sunday of the Month
We hope to see you there!

This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **NOVEMBER** is given by Scott Swartzell in memory of Tambara (Tami) Swartzell.

The Special Benevolence offering for **NOVEMBER** is the **ELCA World Hunger.** 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 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.

Monthly Healing & Anointing Service

We all need healing in this world. Join the Pastors at Grace on the Second Sunday of every month, for a service of Healing and Anointing in the Chapel immediately following the 9:30am worship service.

You will experience a liturgy designed around wholeness and healing, with the anointing of oil. Anointing with oil has been used over thousands of years as a sign of God's presence in our lives and God's ability to heal. Come and receive healing and wholeness.

Consecration of Neal Gathering Spce

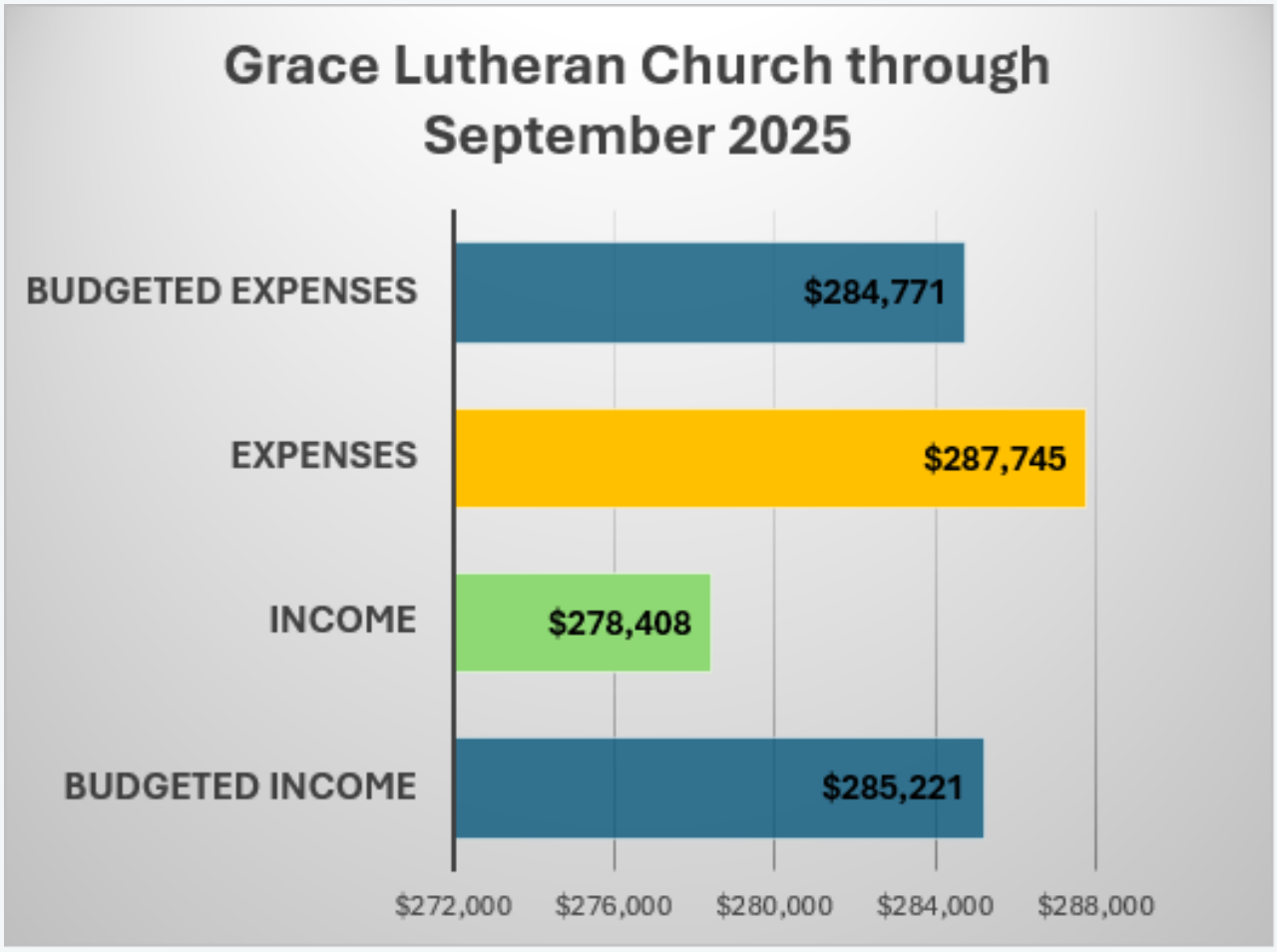
We will be consecrating the the newly renovated Neal Gathering Place on November 15th immediately following worship. As a reminder, we will also be having breakfast afterwards in the Social Hall.

Council Minutes and the Treasurer Report can be found on the website at www.gracecamphill.org under the Members Only tab. Contact the church office 717-737-0439 for the password.



Dear Members of Grace,
As we approach Thanksgiving we naturally turn towards gratitude. This season reminds us of all the blessings God has poured into our lives. The month of September saw our giving exceed our expenses by $4,605 but year to date we are running a bit behind in our anticipated giving ($6,813) and a bit over in our anticipated expenses ($2,974). November and December are vital months for our stewardship. As we all reflect on our blessings this Thanksgiving season, let's join together in giving back a portion of what God trusted to us. Happy Thanksgiving!

Tracey Alfano-Douty
Treasurer



Live Stream Help Wanted

Are you looking for a way to help during the service? Are you comfortable using computers/technology? Then the Live Stream Ministry could use your help a couple of times a year. It's mostly just opening some programs and then pressing some buttons during worship. Contact Chris (cjury@gracecamphill.org) if you are interested. Training and directions will be provided.



"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that – it is spiritual tranaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth."

Charles Spurgeon

We hold in prayer especially this month...

Alan Gabel, Jess, Maggie Ryan, Mark Daniels, Deb Overly, Eileen Moore Hartzell, Karen Brown-Pautz, David & Lori Archer Family, Adam Handwerk, Tom Zimmerman, Jeff Johnson, Dr. Robert Little, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schwitzer, Alice M and the friends & family of Tammy Blauvelt.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

The Massott Family, Tom Boyer, Cheryl A., Nancy, Susan Atwood, Pete Psichogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

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

Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Dorothy Shreffler, and Bob Hillegas.

We hold in prayer the recently departed...

Nancy Mueller and Tammy Blauvelt

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.



Sunday Adult Forums

We welcome you on the third Sunday each month (except for December) right after worship, for our Adult Forums—an opportunity to come together, deepen our faith, and ignite our spirits. We will embark on an inspiring journey through the Book of Concord, exploring the very foundations of our Lutheran beliefs. This is more than just a study; it's a passionate dive into why we believe what we do, how those truths shape our lives, and how we can carry that power into our everyday walk with God and as a vibrant church community. Don't miss this chance to connect, to learn, and to be energized by our shared faith! We will meet in the Social Hall during breakfast at a designated table!

Adult Bible Study



We'd love for you to join us on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the Neal Gathering Place where we'll come together in faith and fellowship. This isn't just a meeting—it's a warm and inviting journey of growth, discovery, and renewal. Let's open our hearts to God's Word, connect with one another, and embrace the amazing changes that come when we walk this faith journey side by side. We're looking forward to starting this new chapter with enthusiasm, hope, and a sincere desire to grow closer to Him. We will be studying the Book of Romans.

For more information, contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org



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

Group Spiritual Formation

In Group Spiritual formation we come together to prayerfully listen to God, to ourselves, and to each other. In the silent listening we are asking: how is our soul? We are also asking; What is the HolySpirit doing in our life and in the lives of others? All the meetings are in the Small Conference Room. All are invited to these meetings. If you have any questions or would like information regarding other Spiritual formation events contact Pastor Eckert at **pastoreckert@gracecamphill.org**.





We're really looking forward to seeing you on November 15 in the social hall, right after worship, as we kick off our monthly breakfast. Coffee hour will be from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on these Breakfast Sundays.
Come join us for good food and great company—we can't wait to catch up with everyone!

From Pastor Eckert

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, 2026. This first season of the church year is made up of the four weeks before Christmas.

Advent from Latin means “to come.” The coming to earth of the Savior of the World represents the focus of the Advent season. Our attention is on preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 24 & 25 and for the twelve days of Christmas. Just as important, Advent also calls us to attend each day to our preparation for the Second Coming of Christ in power and glory at a time we cannot predict.

On Wednesday, December 2, we will offer an Advent Contemplative service at 6:30 in the Barkley Chapel. A contemplative worship service allows and offers moments of silence for our hearts to listen, prepare and to be alert to how the Holy Spirit is with us.

The characteristics of contemplative worship are

1. An opening call to worship and prayer
2. Music that we will listen to but not sing
3. Reading from Holy Scripture
4. A brief reflection or mediation
5. As we worship we will be in silence not responding but only listening
6. A goal of contemplative worship is that we will be able to just be present and not do anything — except listen and hear Jesus calling.
7. You may be asked to read a lesson or offer a prayer; you will know that before the service begins.

We invite you to come and experience this contemplative worship service. The hope is that you will experience the peace that passes all understanding. Everyone is welcomed. You do not need to be participating in Group or Individual Spiritual Formation— just come as you are, open, alert, and present to be formed by the Holy Spirit.

Group Spiritual formation will be on November 16 at 6:30 in the Small Conference Room. Everyone is welcomed and invited to these meetings. You do not need to have attended previous meetings, just feel welcomed to come and listen together to how the Holy Spirit is calling us.

With love and open to God together,

Pastor Eckert





Grace Youth Group (GYG)

Grace Youth Group (GYG) is for youth in 6th - 12th grade. Join us each first and third Sunday of the month from 5:00 to 8:00 PM for an evening dedicated to connection, hope, and community. Please be aware that our schedule may occasionally vary; however, our commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment remains consistent.

If you have questions or would like to get in touch, please feel free to contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org.

Stay connected and informed by following us on Facebook and Instagram and become part of our vibrant community.



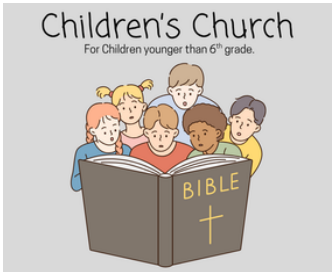
Junior Youth Group (JYG)

Get ready for an exciting new season with the Junior Youth Group (JYG)! We'll come together each month from 4 pm to 5 pm to share laughs, grow, and create unforgettable memories.

But that's not all — throughout the year, we're also planning special JYG Family events that will bring us even closer and fill our hearts with joy. This amazing experience is open to all kids in grades 3-5, and we can't wait to welcome YOU!

If you have any questions or just want to connect, please reach out to Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org.

Children's Church



Children's church happens twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays during worship at 10:00am, dedicated to inspiring the hearts of children from kindergarten through 6th grade. Our passion is to share a powerful, age-appropriate message that sparks joy, ignites faith, and resonates deeply within their young souls -- one they will love and carry with them into their daily lives. The children will leave the sanctuary after the prayer of the day, returning to the sanctuary just in time to partake in communion alongside our congregation. Each year begins with the exciting kickoff of Rally Day and continues through May, fueling their spirits and fostering a lifelong love for God and community.



CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS!

Reminder that all children from 7th to 9th grade who have not been confirmed yet should be enrolling in confirmation classes for this year, starting on September 20th. It is a 2 year program where we learn about Lutheran Theology and major biblical stories and themes. Please reach out to Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org to enroll your child in confirmation class!

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.



Grace Book Club

Grace's Book Club will next be reading "Isola" by Allegra Goodman and will discuss it via Zoom on December 7 at 7pm.

"Heir to a fortune, Marguerite is destined for a life of prosperity and gentility. Then she is orphaned, and her guardian--an enigmatic and volatile man--spends her inheritance and insists she accompany him on an expedition to New France. Isolated and afraid, Marguerite befriends her guardian's servant and the two develop an intense attraction. But when their relationship is discovered, they are brutally punished and abandoned on a small island with no hope for rescue. Once a child of privilege who dressed in gowns and laced pearls in her hair, Marguerite finds herself at the mercy of nature. As the weather turns, blanketing the island in ice, she discovers a faith she'd never before needed. Inspired by the real life of a sixteenth-century heroine, Isola is the timeless story of a woman fighting for survival"

A shocking story, made all the more stunning by the fact that it has its roots in true history, Isola is an immersive journey through the eyes of Marguerite de la Rocque, who redefines what makes one a woman of worth and what the difference is between having a life and truly living."
—#1 New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult

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

Operation Christmas Child

Grace is participating in Operation Christmas Child this year.

The shoeboxes and brochures are available in the Neal Gathering Place to take home and fill. When filling the shoeboxes consider selecting a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items. Don't forget to also include a personal note and photo – sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive.

The filled shoeboxes need to be returned to Grace and placed in the Conference Room by **Sunday, November 15**.



Community Meal Menu *
5:30pm in the Social Hall

There is only one meal in November on November 11 due to Thanksgiving.

MENU

Turkey Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Filling, Gravy, and Soup

All meals include coffee, tea, water & assorted desserts.

** All menus subject to change*

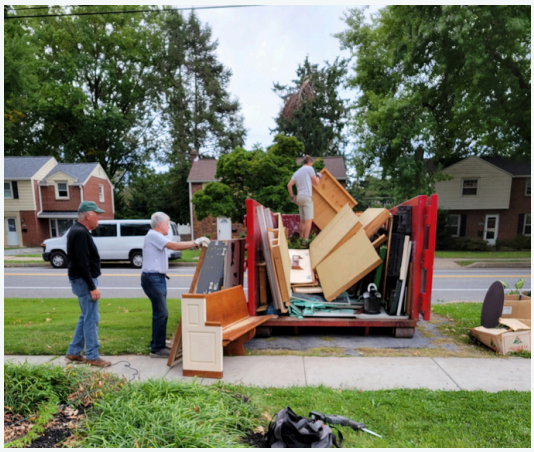
Lost and Found Items

Have you lost an item recently? If so please check with the office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org. 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.

Space Assessment Task Force

On Saturday, September 26 the Space Assessment Task Force hauled all kinds of items from Grace either into a dumpster or some were taken for recycling. Thank you to John & Denise Ozimok, Jeff & Sue Painter, Pat O'Neal, Bonnie Snyder, Justin Manlove, Nate Chesky, Jen Graf, Jackie Behney, Barry Hoover, Liam Barber and Chris Jury who helped get all the items out.













Thank You

I am very grateful for my Panera Pick up group of volunteers: the Doutys, Lebos, Ozimoks, Painters, Pankakes, Ryders and Webers. I couldn't do it without you!

Thanks,
Tracy Evans







LET'S CELEBRATE OUR NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Our monumental birthdays to share this month are: Linda Harris (83) on November 2; Gayle Hurst (87) on November 5; Carolyn Bair (88) on November 7; Grace Heintzelman (91) on November 15 and Polly Foster (82) on November 30. Please take a moment to wish them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY with a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

Linda Harris
1405 Oak Lane
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Gayle Hurst
4905 East Trindle Road
Apt. 502
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Grace Heintzelman
125 Limestone Drive
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Polly Foster
1700 Wyndham Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Carolyn Bair
95 Hillside Circle
Camp Hil, PA 17011

11/2	Linda Harris
	Daniel Walker
11/5	Charlotte Erb
	Gayle Hurst
11/7	Carolyn Bair
	Liam Barber
	David Bechtel
11/9	Ava Bechtel
11/12	Cora Chesky
	Jacob Hearn
	Cami Ressler
11/13	Mary Marshall
11/15	Grace Heintzelman
	Nova Hoffman
11/16	Heather Artz
11/19	Christin Heidingsfelder
11/20	Sydney Angus
11/21	Andrew Snavely
11/23	Hannah Flook
11/24	Todd Galle
11/25	Elaine Wolf
11/29	Claudia Boyer
	Conner Seeger
11/30	Polly Foster
	Sherri Rowland

***Please note if they 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.*

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

Oprah Winfrey

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.

Center Stage Opera

November 1, 2026 | $10 Students/$25 Adults | Grace Lutheran Church (1610 Carlisle Road, CH)

Center Stage Opera will perform La Traviata on Sunday, November 1 at 3pm at Grace. Tickets available at the door - no credit cards. La Traviata is an opera favorite and the second most performed operas in the world. There are many familiar arias and duets which are quite lyrical and beautiful. Lots to love!
Visit us on Facebook "Center Stage Opera PA" or our website www.CSOperal.org

Fall Foliage Hike

November 8, 2026 | 2-4pm | FREE | Wildwood Park (100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg)

Join a Naturalist for an afternoon hike at Wildwood Park. We will hike along Wildwood Way Trail to one of Wildwood's lesser-known trails, Tall Timbers. We will look at plants, trees and whatever other intersting things we can find along the way while enjoying the late season fall colors in the Park! Please bring water and wear proper footwear. This hike will meet at the Nature Center and be approximately 2 miles in lentgh. The hike will cover a variety of surfaces including pavement and loose gravel. Pre-Registration required at https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/dauphincountyparksandrecreation/fall-foliage-hike

Music at the Spring: Harrisburg Harp Orchestra Free Concert

November 8, 2026 | 3pm | FREE | Trindle Springs Lutheran Church (14 State Road, Mechanicsburg)

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, November 8, 2026, for a performance by the Harrisburg Harp Orchestra. Hear favorite hymns, folk tunes, music from around the world, and even a little popular music, all like you've never heard it before! Join us for this rare opportunity to enjoy an eclectic array of music, all performed by a harp ensemble. Doors open at 2:30 pm, with the performance beginning at 3:00 pm. The concert is free and open to the public!

Dominic Armstrong, Tenor

November 14, 2026 | 7:30pm | $10 adults/$5 Youth | Messiah University (1 University Avenue, Mechanicsburg)

Can love survive all? Internationally acclaimed tenor Dominic Armstrong joins pianist Joel Harder and award-winning actress Dietlinde Turban-Maazel for Johannes Brahms' rarely heard "pocket opera" song cycle, "Die Schöne Magelone." Based on an epic German ballad, the story follows the chivalrous knight Peter of Provence as he finds, loses, and is ultimately reunited with his beloved Magelone. Praised for his "impeccable control" (Opera News) and performances "nothing short of thrilling" (Parterre Box), Armstrong is a Metropolitan Opera National Council Finalist and George London Competition winner whose career spans opera, orchestral and recital stages worldwide

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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