

July 2026

Monthly Newsletter

St. Thomas Speaks



A Word from Pastor Shawn

This month, when Kristen asked me for my newsletter article, she requested "a word from the pastor." This month, I am going to take that request quite literally by offering a single word: hospitality.

The scriptures we have been studying recently have had much to say about hospitality. Beginning with Zacchaeus, we discussed the disconnection he felt from his community and how that changed when Christ came to town and sat at his table. We also explored the story of Abraham welcoming strangers who arrived bearing good news. In both stories, we see the power of welcome and the fruit that hospitality can bear.

Hospitality is something this congregation practices exceptionally well. As I have listened to your stories about how you came to St. Thomas, there is often a moment when the warmth and kindness of this community played a significant role in your decision to stay. That is the power of hospitality.

I especially appreciate how this church opens its doors to the wider community. Scouts, the Rocks and Minerals Club, TOPS, weddings, showers, clinics, and many other groups regularly gather here. This is part of the work of being good neighbors. Out of love, we make our church a place where Christ's love can be encountered by all.

May our welcome continue to extend beyond our doors so that we may connect more deeply with one another and with all of God's children.

Pastor Shawn

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Updates about
Events this
month

Birthdays

Stories of Impact

Prayer list
information and
updates

This month's
church calendar

Community
impact
information

Monthly/Weekly Events



Join us for Worship
Every Sunday at 9:00 AM
In person and online, Nursery care and Stepping Stones (grades K-5) available during service.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Located at:
Saint Thomas United Church of Christ
6490 Linglestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112



Coffee Fellowship
Every first Tuesday of the Month

Taking place the 2nd Tuesday this month, July 14th, due to the Blueberry Sale!



Join Us For Our Weekly
ONLINE

**On hold for the summer
Returning in late August**

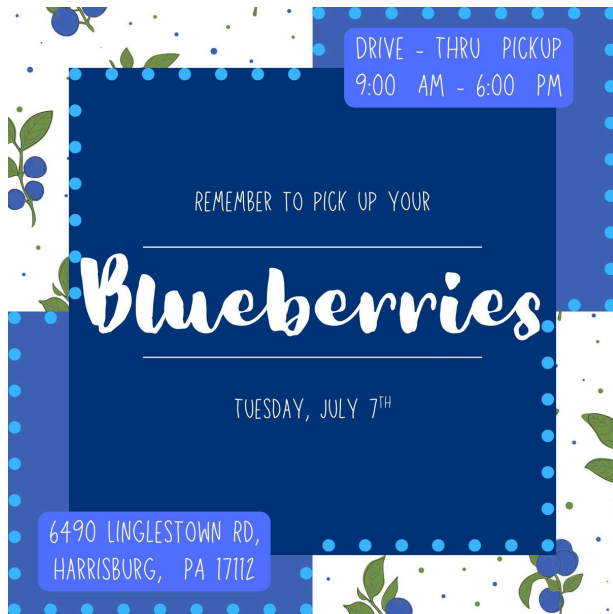
Wednesdays
7:00 PM

Everyone is Welcome!

Link to Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88474665272>

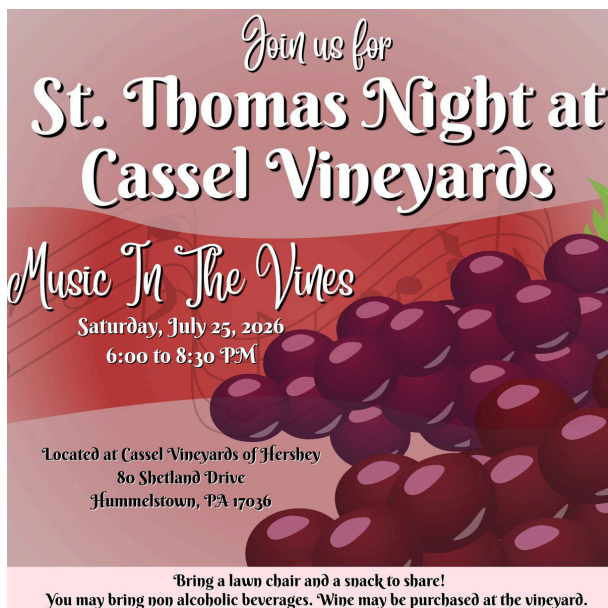
See an event you might be interested in? Feel free to join!
Everyone is welcome!

Events This Month



If you ordered blueberries, this is your reminder to pick them up at the church on Tuesday, July 7th between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. It will be a drive-thru pickup, so your box of delicious goodness will be placed in your vehicle for you. Make sure you're there to receive the sweet, juicy fruit that you ordered!

We will be having another chicken barbecue on Saturday, July 18th. A meal costs \$12 and includes ½ a chicken, a baked potato, applesauce, and a roll. The sale begins at 10 AM and will run until we are sold out, so make sure you stop by early to get your meal! See Cathy Yingst with any questions or to secure a ticket that ensures you will get a meal.



Join us for Saint Thomas Night at Cassel Vineyards on Saturday, July 25th from 6:00-8:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and a snack that you can share, and feel free to bring along non-alcoholic beverages. Wine will be available for purchase at the vineyard, located at Cassel Vineyards of Hershey at 80 Shetland Drive, Hummelstown, PA 17036. In case of rain, the event will be canceled.

Fun from Last Month's Events

- Our 50 Days of Easter Campaign to fight food insecurity concluded in June with a workday at Midwest Food Bank. Thank you to all the folks who rose to the UCC Keystone conference challenge and donated food items, gave a financial gift or volunteered your time. St. Thomas collected and donated \$1,100.00 and 134lbs of food from Easter to Pentecost. In addition, we had 13 people volunteer an afternoon to repackaging pasta from an industrial bin into smaller bags and sorting snack packs and drinks that were headed to local soup kitchens and food pantries.



- St. Thomas recently hosted another successful group home dinner. These folks enjoy this special night out and look forward to coming. It is a great to have some of our scouts and other community members help. We are truly reaching our community as this event continues to grow not only in numbers but also in true Christian Love.
- Thanks to all who helped make this such a special event.

- Our service on the Riverboat was a wonderful time of fellowship and worship. Thanks to the Pride of the Susquehanna for allowing us to worship, to everyone who helped prepare for the service, to all who attended, and to Pastor Shawn for giving a wonderful message.



Focus this Month

This July, our Monthly Mission Focus will be helping with food insecurity through the Midwest Food Bank.

Their mission is to share the love of Christ by helping to alleviate hunger and by providing disaster relief. The theme for this month is "Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation." Children lose access to school meals and seniors often have to adjust their food budget downward as hot summer days redirect their funds to higher energy costs. This month, we are collecting nonperishable items that make easy meals. These include: macaroni and cheese kits, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, tuna lunch kits, juices, water, and non-refrigerated milk.

Updates

- **From Bill Minsker:** "Following my recent March 1st severe lower right leg fracture I experienced in Poland, I received much written support and physical assistance from many members of our church, first during the 40 wonderful days of recovery I then spent in both a hospital and then a rehab center in Poland, and then following my return to Linglestown on April 14th. I am so grateful for this care and concern, and I send the strongest 'Thanks!' to everyone. My recovery and physical therapy is continuing, as I strive for a full recovery." - Bill Minsker
- **FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026** is the 20th Annual Golf Tournament! Register today!
- **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026** is our annual all-church picnic at the home of Steve and Wendy Hepler. Details to follow!

Having a special anniversary? Getting married? Getting baptized? Have another important update for the church to see? Let us know by emailing admin@stthomasucc.net or by calling (717) 652-7259.
We would love to hear from you!

Birthdays this Month:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Sue Brumaghim | 18 Teresa Woodall | 27 Adeline Forester |
| 3 Nick Bartholomeo | 19 William Soles III | 28 Wanda Shaffer |
| 4 Dan Schmidt | 21 Nancy Gloss | 28 Cayden Brassell |
| 9 Wanda Blasenak | 21 Mark Brumaghim | 29 Nathan Tracy |
| 12 Julie Forester | 21 Darlene Byers | 29 John Kissinger |
| 13 Barrett Brassell | 25 Thomas Gilbert | 29 Bryan Davis |
| 14 Mary Lynn Shay | 27 Cathy Yingst | 30 Perce Morgan |
| 18 Noah Trite | 27 Nathan Snyder | 31 Wendy Hepler |

JULY 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| | | | 1 TOPS 10-12 PM | 2 | 3 | 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY |
| 5 HERITAGE SUNDAY SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM | 6 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM ELDERS 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM | 7 BLUEBERRY PICKUP 9 AM - 6 PM P&L 6:30 PM | 8 TOPS 10-12 PM | 9 ROCK CLUB 6:45 PM | 10 | 11 |
| 12 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM | 15 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM | 14 COFFEE 10:00 AM | 15 TOPS 10-12 PM | 16 | 17 | 18 CHICKEN BBQ 10 AM |
| 19 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM | 20 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM COMMUNITY IMPACT 2PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM | 21 | 22 TOPS 10-12 PM | 23 | 24 | 25 ST. THOMAS NIGHT AT CASSEL VINEYARDS 6 PM |
| 26 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM | 27 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM CONSISTORY MEETING 6-15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM | 28 HISTORICAL PRESERVATION 7:00 PM | 29 TOPS 10-12 PM | 30 | 31 | |
| FELLOWSHIP HALL | | CONFERENCE ROOM | | ONLINE | OFF-SITE | OTHER |

Prayer List

Click this link or type it into your browser to view the prayer list:

<https://canva.link/jvpr8xrr1mkudy3>

Get Connected

| | |
|---|---|
| https://www.facebook.com/StThomasUcc | (717) 652-7259 |
| https://stthomasucc.net/ | 6490 Linglestown Rd Harrisburg, PA 17112 |

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM