

St. Thomas Speaks



A Word from Pastor Shawn

It seems like this summer is flying by, it is no doubt because of how busy our church family has been!

We recently hosted two fantastic fundraisers, selling nearly 10,000 lbs of blueberries and 750 chicken BBQ dinners. It was inspiring to see so many of you turn out to lend a hand and make both events a resounding success.

Of course, the value of these fundraisers goes far beyond the money raised. The true success lies in the time spent together in good conversation and great fellowship. The secret ingredient that keeps everything running smoothly is simple: you truly enjoy being around one another, and that is a beautiful thing.

That strong sense of community is one of our church's greatest strengths. It's why so many of our members have called St. Thomas home for 20, 40, or even 60 years. Recently, a friend of mine visited, and I assured him he'd receive a warm welcome. You certainly did not disappoint!

Looking ahead to September, we will be offering New Members classes and a Confirmation class (for 6th - 12th grade), both open to everyone. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to friends, neighbors, or guests who have visited and invite them to learn more about joining our faith community. Personal invitations from caring relationships remain the most effective way for our church to grow.

If you know someone who would benefit from a loving, joyful community where Christ's love flows abundantly, extend an invitation for them to come and see the good God is doing here!

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



Events This Month



St. Thomas's 20th Annual Golf Tournament will take place on Friday, August 7th at Manada Golf Club, located at 609 Golf Ln, Grantville, PA 17028. Registration begins at 11 AM and the shotgun start is at 12:30 PM. There is a \$90 entry fee that includes a luncheon, entry to the tournament, and a pig roast. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Laurie Soles.

South Hanover Township has been holding a Summer Concert Series throughout these past few months. This month, on Friday, August 28th from 7-9pm at Patriot Park's Amphitheater, Honeypump, the band that Ray Wright is the drummer for, will be performing! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us for this fun experience!

For more information, visit this link: <https://www.southhanover.org/hanoverparks/events/concerts.php>



Fun From Last Month's Events

- Heritage Sunday was a wonderful time of fellowship and worship! On Sunday, July 5th, we took the church back in time to the 1700s, complete with music from that time, different seating arrangements in the sanctuary, and much more. After the service, we had a color guard, and the scouts helped us raise the Betsy Ross flag. We hope you enjoyed your time in the 1770s, and we look forward to Heritage Sunday next year!



- On July 7th, we held our 20th Annual Blueberry Sale! We pushed past our number from last year with 980 ½ boxes sold. Thank you to everyone who helped with this fundraiser, whether you were physically there on July 7th, helped with calling people, helped with selling the berries, delivered them to friends, or bought some for yourself. You are all appreciated! We enjoyed fellowship and fun during the 9-hour-long sale day, and none of it would have been possible without all of your help.

- On Sunday, July 19th, we had a special guest come to speak at a Faith Forum. Debra Boyer returned to provide a workshop on memory and dementia care. We hope this was an informative forum for all who were there. A special thanks to Debra for speaking on this important topic and providing us with information we may not have previously known, and thank you to all who attended!



Even More Fun From Last Month's Events



- Saturday, July 25th, friends from our church went to Cassel Vineyards in Hershey to experience a night of "Music in the Vines." They experienced fun fellowship, melodic music, and terrific times. The Down to Earth Band performed, and everyone got to sit and enjoy food with each other while listening. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to have many more fun events like these in the future!

Focus this Month

This August, our Monthly Mission Focus will be helping with housing insecurity through Christian Churches United.

CCU focuses on bringing together local churches and community partners to serve those facing homelessness, incarceration and poverty.

You can support this vital community resource by providing monetary donations. To do this, simply mark your giving envelope by checking off monthly mission or writing CCU on the memo line of your check donation. We are also collecting needed personal hygiene items and products the entire month of August. We will have a clearly marked collection bin in the West Foyer.

Items needed include: Toothbrushes/toothbrush caps, mini toothpastes, deodorant, disposable razors, Band-aids, body wipes/baby wipes, Lysol/Clorox wipes, Lysol sprays, personal size hand sanitizers, travel packs tissues, incontinence underwear for both men and women, socks for both men and women, and pillow cases.

Updates

- **Adult Forum with Nick Mucci:** Please make plans to join the Adult Forum on Aug. 16th when Nick Mucci, Director of Development for CCU will update us on CCU's activities, needs and volunteer opportunities. If you have never heard Nick speak, now is the time to come hear a great story teller share the needs of our neighbors.
 - **Special Faith Forum featuring Ryan Barr:** Join us on Sunday, August 23, for a special Faith Forum featuring Ryan Barr, the apiarist (beekeeper) partnering with St. Thomas UCC! This forum is a great chance to meet Ryan, learn about the hives, and ask questions about this exciting sustainability project. We hope to see you there!
 - **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026** is our annual all-church picnic at the home of Steve and Wendy Hepler. More information to come in next month's newsletter! *In case of rain, the event will be held at the church at 10:30 AM.*
 - **New Members Class, September 20, September 27, October 4 at 10:15 AM:** If you are interested in making Saint Thomas UCC your church home, join us for our New Members classes this fall! Together, we'll explore the UCC tradition, the rich history of St. Thomas, and our future mission and vision—plus ways you can get connected and plugged in. *Note: You do not need to attend all three sessions to become a member. We would love to see you there!*
 - **Adopt an Elementary School:** In partnership with the Lower Paxton Ministerium and Central Dauphin School District, the Community Impact team is looking forward to adopting an elementary school. This would involve supporting the kids in community events such as attending concerts, helping with fairs, and escorting field trips. There would also be mentoring and/or being a buddy opportunities to help kids have a good educational experience and reach their full potential. *If you are interested or just have some questions please see anyone on the Community Impact Team for details. This is a wonderful opportunity for St. Thomas to impact our community in a very meaningful way both now and for the future.* The school district will help obtain any needed clearances. We are signed up as a group but all volunteers will also need to also sign up individually. Please consider how you can be involved. Thank you. - Your Community Impact Team
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Birthdays this Month:

1 Eric Patteson	9 Claire Gallagher	19 Cathy Kissinger
2 Darryl Stackhouse	10 Branda Krablin	23 Doug Ferguson
3 Lee Ann Patteson	10 Sarah Hess	25 Missie Schmidt
7 Nancy Tumas	12 Susie Mitchell	26 Linda Bank
7 Arlene Klawitter	13 Riley Forester	26 Mollie Gray
7 Cindy Sobkowski	16 Elizabeth Brassell	28 Gideon Gray

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	3 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM ELDERS 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	4 COFFEE 10:00 AM P&L 6:30 PM	5 TOPS 10-12 PM	6	7 GOLF TOURNAMENT	8
9 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	10 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	11 DEACONS 6 PM	12 TOPS 10-12 PM KINDRED PLACE COMMUNION 11 AM	13 ROCK CLUB 6:45 PM	14	15
16 FAITH FORUM WITH NICK MUCCI SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	17 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM COMMUNITY IMPACT 2PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	18	19 TOPS 10-12 PM	20	21	22 BABY SHOWER 1-4PM
23 FAITH FORUM WITH RYAN BARR SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	24 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM CONSISTORY MEETING 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	25 HISTORICAL PRESERVATION 7:00 PM	26 TOPS 10-12 PM	27	28	29 SCRAPBOOKING
30 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	31 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM					
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>

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https://stthomasucc.net/	6490 Linglestown Rd Harrisburg, PA 17112

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