

St. Thomas Speaks



A Word from Pastor Shawn

This has been a busy month as summer comes to a close. We started with our 20th Annual Golf Tournament, where more than 130 folks came out in both rain and shine to support our church.

I have heard it said that the fundraisers here are about more than just raising funds. They are opportunities for fellowship, where our community comes together, relationships are strengthened, and new friendships are made. I have never served at a church with such a robust fundraising program. It truly speaks to the commitment and willingness of our congregation and community to support the ministry and mission of this church that we have been entrusted with.

One thing I am especially excited about is the possibility of starting a Community Kids Bell Choir. This will be an opportunity for children to learn music, experience the joy of making music together, and develop their musical skills in a fun and welcoming environment. As the group develops, they will have opportunities not only to play here at our church but potentially to visit and perform at other churches as well.

This group will be open to everyone, and you do not need to attend our church to participate. Please encourage any students in 2nd through 12th grade to come out and be part of this amazing opportunity—even if they have never picked up a musical instrument before!

As we look toward the beginning of the program year, there is much on the horizon: new member classes, confirmation, pet blessings, Thanksgiving dinners, Advent workshops, re-entry breakfasts, Advent, and, of course, Christmas. There is much to do and even more to be thankful for.

If you have an idea for a new program, or if there is something you are passionate about that you think could benefit our church and community, please find me on a Sunday. I would love to hear your ideas and explore what we might be able to do together.

It is an exciting time to be part of this church, and I look forward to seeing what the year ahead will bring.

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

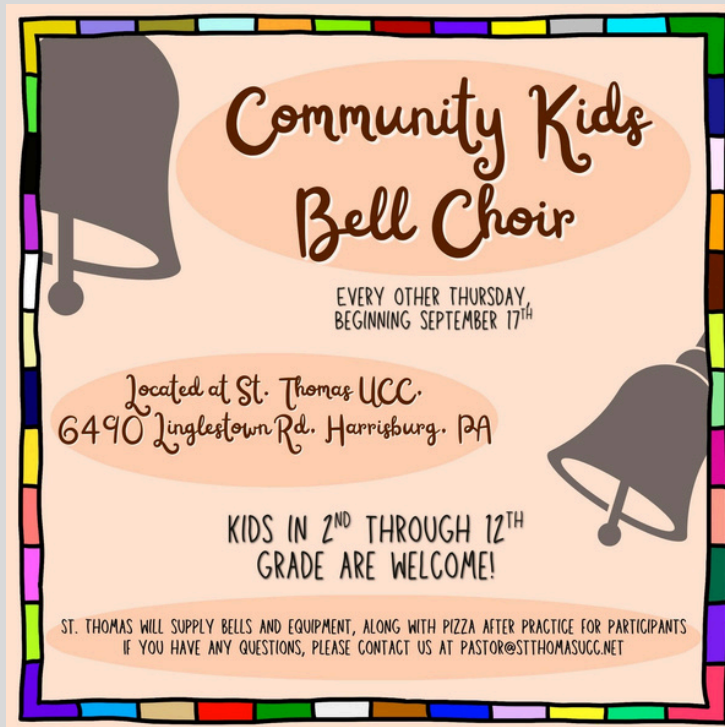
Community
impact
information

Pastor Shawn

Monthly/Weekly Events



New Event Beginning This Month!



St. Thomas UCC invites all youth to join our brand-new Community Kids Bell Choir. Guided by an experienced Bell Director, participants will learn the fundamentals of reading music, handbell techniques, and enjoy great fellowship, in a relaxed environment. We will have opportunities to perform for the local community. We supply all the bells and equipment; your child just needs to bring their enthusiasm!

The bell choir will begin on September 17th from 5-5:45 pm, and will meet every other Thursday (9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, etc.) at St. Thomas UCC. Pizza will be provided for participants after practice. This activity is a no cost, fun time of fellowship for youth ages 2nd-12th grade.

If you know anyone who would be interested, please share this information! If you or someone who is interested have any questions, please contact us at pastor@stthomasucc.net. Thank you!

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

Everyone is welcome!

Events This Month



Sunday, September 13th is our annual all-church picnic at the home of Steve and Wendy Hepler. Worship will be held at 10:30 AM near the pond, with the picnic to follow in the backyard of the Hepler's. Please bring a lawn chair and a picnic dish to share. Examples of dishes include: hot and cold entrees, salads, fruit, and desserts. Bring a cooler for cold items. Electrical hook-ups will be available for slow cookers. Cold beverages and paper products will be supplied. *In case of rain, the event will be held at the church at 10:30 AM.*

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.

Time: 10:15 AM (approx. 30 minutes)

Dates: September 20, September 27, and October 4

Note: You do not need to attend all three sessions to become a member. We would love to see you there!



Fun From Last Month's Events



- On Friday, August 28th, many members had the privilege of seeing Honey Pump perform at Patriot Park's Amphitheater for the South Hanover Township Summer Concert Series. Honey Pump is the band that Ray Wright is the drummer for. We got to see him, along with the rest of the band, rock out, while enjoying fellowship time with each other. There was a great crowd and great fun! Thank you to all who attended. Rock on!

- We have had the privilege of getting to see the youth participate in service many times throughout these past few months. We love to see the future generation be part of worship in any way they can be. Thank you to the youth for participating, and to the church family for being a group that they feel comfortable enough around to do so. We look forward to seeing them participate even more as the year continues!



Focus this Month

This September, our Monthly Mission Focus will be helping with housing insecurity through Christ Lutheran Church's Dental Clinic.

Our Mission Focus this month is Christ Lutheran Church and their medical and dental outreach clinics. This is a new mission for us and we are pleased to partner with them as they serve Harrisburg residents living in Allison Hill. With free walk-in clinics they provide medical, emotional and dental services to an underserved community. They administer to 20,000 persons annually who otherwise may not receive care. Our Community Impact team recently toured their clinic and would welcome the opportunity to share with you their experience and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for generously responding to this vital community resource that serves as the hands and feet of Christ to the least of our brethren.

Updates

- **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH** is our pet dedication service. Stay tuned for more details and to learn more about how you can bring your pet with you to a church service!
- **The St. Thomas Dulcimer Society will be performing at Ft. Hunter Day on September 20 in the the Little Hecton Church from 12:30-2:30 PM.** The Ft. Hunter Day celebration features arts and crafts, family-friendly games and activities, historic demonstrations and exhibits, live entertainment, antique cars and a farm equipment collection. Friends of Fort Hunter sponsor a bake sale or you can visit any of the food trucks. There will be live animals, hay wagon rides and more! In addition to music at the Little Hecton Church there will be music throughout the day on the corncrib stage in partnership with the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. The festival runs from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- **Please mark your calendars for Oct. Coffee hour (Oct. 6th)!** We will be having Rev. Matt Best speak about opportunities for us to partner with Christ Lutheran Church and the medical/ dental clinics.

Birthdays this Month:

1 Bill Minsker	12 Anna Forester	27 Elena Hepler
2 Danielle Woodall	16 Brian Brassell	28 Deborah Schneider
2 Angela Schoonover	19 Harriet Farling	29 Thomas Trite
6 Lauren Stackhouse	20 Bob Meehan	29 Harrison Dover
7 Sylvia Benner	23 Bryan Woodall	30 Deborah Hepler
12 Andrew Trite	26 Kathie Gifford	30 Ella Ferguson

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 COFFEE 10:00 AM P&L 6:30 PM	2 TOPS 10-12 PM	3	4	5
6 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	7 LABOR DAY DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	8 ELDERS 6:15 PM	9 TOPS 10-12 PM KINDRED PLACE COMMUNION 11 AM	10 RENTAL 11:30 AM - 4 PM ROCK CLUB 6:45 PM	11	12 SCRAPBOOKING
13 CHURCH PICNIC AT HEPLER'S 10:30 AM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	14 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	15 DEACONS 6 PM	16 TOPS 10-12 PM	17	18	19
20 NEW MEMBERS CLASS 10:15 AM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	21 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM COMMUNITY IMPACT 2PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	22 HISTORY PRESERVATION 7:00 PM	23 TOPS 10-12 PM	24	25 SCOUTS RENTAL 6 PM	26 SCOUTS RENTAL 6 PM
27 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	28 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM CONSISTORY MEETING 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	29	30 TOPS 10-12 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>

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