

St. Thomas Speaks



A Word from Pastor Shawn

There is so much to be excited about as we begin this new program year!

While the rain may have kept us indoors, our recent picnic was filled with great fellowship and delicious food. Our music ministry is in full swing, the choir has begun practicing, and our new group of young ringers has already performed their first song! We have also launched our new members class and confirmation class. Plus, we are preparing to open our doors to all of God's creatures, whether they have two legs, four legs, or no legs at all, for our upcoming Blessing of the Animals service. Let us continue to find joy in coming together to worship God.

Looking ahead, there is even more to anticipate this fall. We will host an Advent event, a Thanksgiving Extravaganza, community dinners with our friends from local group homes, and a Reentry Breakfast sponsored by Christian Churches United, and that's not even mentioning our Christmas preparations!

It is a true blessing to grow together in Christ's love and build a community where everyone feels welcome and included. Please be sure to invite your friends and family to join us for any of these upcoming events!

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



At-Home Communion

Do you know someone who can't attend service in person?

If they would like to receive Communion, please contact the church office today to request an At-Home Communion visit!

Pastor Shawn and an elder will gladly come to celebrate the Lord's Supper with them.

The poster features a decorative gold border with floral motifs. At the bottom, there are illustrations of two wine glasses filled with red wine and two loaves of bread.



Coffee Fellowship

Every first Tuesday of the Month
at 10:00 am
In the Fellowship Hall!

Join us for fun times,
community, and delicious
snacks and drinks

The poster has a green background with a yellow border decorated with coffee cups and beans. It features illustrations of two coffee cups and a bag of coffee beans spilling out.



Community Kids Bell Choir

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17TH

Located at St. Thomas UCC,
6490 Linglestown Rd. Harrisburg, PA

KIDS IN 2ND THROUGH 12TH
GRADE ARE WELCOME!

ST. THOMAS WILL SUPPLY BELLS AND EQUIPMENT, ALONG WITH PIZZA AFTER PRACTICE FOR PARTICIPANTS
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT PASTOR@STTHOMASUCC.NET

The poster has a colorful, multi-colored border. It includes illustrations of two bells, one on the left and one on the right.



Love music? Love to sing?

Join our choir!

REHEARSALS
EVERY THURSDAY
AT 6:45 PM

You do not need to know how to read music to participate!

See Betsy Smith for more information
or if you have any questions

The poster has a light blue background with a piano keyboard illustration at the top right and musical notes at the bottom right.

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

Events This Month



If you have never attended any of our monthly coffee hour, Oct. is a great month to stop by. We are delighted to have Rev. Matthew Best from Christ Lutheran Church come and share how they minister to the community through their dental and medical outreach clinics. Rev. Best is very passionate about this outreach and is excited to share the good works that are being accomplished. Join us for coffee, food, and an talk about an important topic close to the heart of this church. See you there!



Do you have a pet? A dog? A cat? A lizard? A horse? No matter what kind of pet you have, bring them to the church on Sunday, October 4th at 6:00pm for our Pet Blessing Service! There will be a time of worship followed by the blessing of your pets by Pastor Shawn and a prayer of thanksgiving for God's creation. Please bring a donation for the Humane Society, such as dog food, toys, or leashes, so we can give to those who help the pets who don't have homes. If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office or Pastor Shawn!



Join us for a night of fun and fellowship as we gather around the fire together! On Sunday, October 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm, we will be holding a firepit night outside the church. Come on over for some good food, fun conversations, and a cozy fire. We hope to see you there!

Fun From Last Month's Events



Church Potluck Picnic

- Our church picnic on September 13th was a hit! Unfortunately, we had to move locations from the Hepler's home to the Fellowship Hall due to inclement weather, but we did not let that stop us from having fun. We enjoyed a worship service led by Pastor Shawn with a hymn sing and a message about "A Wonder That Reaches the Heavens." Following the service, we sat down and ate delicious food and had wonderful fellowship time with each other. Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped set up, and came to this event.

St. Thomas Dulcimers

- The St. Thomas Dulcimer Society played at the historic Heckton Church during the 69th Annual Fort Hunter Day festivities on Sept 20. They provided the entertainment while those who were attending the event ate food, did arts and crafts, gained knowledge about native foods, learned about history, and much more. Thank you to the St. Thomas Dulcimers for playing during this event, and thank you to everyone who came out to support them!



Focus this Month

This October, our Monthly Mission Focus will be helping with housing insecurity through UCC Neighbors in Need.

Our October Mission focus is UCC Neighbors in Need. The theme this year is to "Walk in Love." The mission seeks to confront evil in the world and alleviate suffering by addressing systemic injustices through advocacy and direct service programs that help build stronger communities. The mission is twofold: one third of the collection supports the Council for American Indians Ministries, and the other two thirds support justice and advocacy programs among UCC churches in the United States by giving grants for local justice initiatives. Thank you for your giving: just as Jesus and his disciples walked in love addressing and ministering to the injustices of the time, we join today in love to walk together with other UCC congregations to address societal injustices and minister compassion to all of God's children.

Updates

- **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH** is the final date for our membership class! You do not need to have attended all classes to become a member.
- **Join us for Christmas Wonderland 2026 on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.**, and enjoy an all-new original Broadway-style musical performed at the Christian Life Assembly Church in Camp Hill. The musical titled, "FULL CAPACITY: A Code Joy Christmas," is a story about strangers in a crowded ER on Christmas Eve. A young boy named Eli helps them discover that even in life's busiest, hardest moments, they are not alone. Together they celebrate hope, joy, and our Savior. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students (ages 5-18).

To reserve tickets, complete the insert in the bulletin, or contact Joni Wright (717-319-5202 call/ text). If you need transportation for this event, please contact Joni. Submit your reservation by Sunday, October 4. The group order will be placed on October 5, with a min. of 20 required. Event Information: <https://cla.church/drama>

Birthdays this Month:

1 Chaz Ludwin	6 Daniela Bianchi	23 Dana Caldwell
1 John Hanawalt	8 Matt Stephens	24 James Klinefelter, Jr.
2 Frederick Davis II	10 Teresa Yingst	24 Deanna Snyder
4 Joni Wright	11 Ellie Byers	25 Stan Smith
5 Shirley Romberger	14 Easton Caldwell	27 Thomas Bianchi
6 Jonathan Hepler	19 Betsy Smith	27 Teresa Bianchi
6 Haley Gilbert	21 Kylee Stackhouse	30 Sally Garber
6 Zachary Schmidt	23 Louann Hepler	

Looking to the Beginning of Next Month:

1 David Summers	2 Ashley Summers	4 Elaine Cassell
2 Patti Hanawalt	4 Clifford Forester, Sr.	12 Mary Hill

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 RENTAL SCOUTS RENTAL 9 AM	3 RENTAL
4 NEW MEMBERS CLASS 10:15 AM PET BLESSING 6 PM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	5 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM ELDERS 6:15 PM	6 COFFEE 10:00 AM P&L 6:30 PM	7 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	8 ROCK CLUB 6:45 PM	9	10
11 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 10:15 AM CARD MINISTRY 1:00 PM FIRE PIT NIGHT 6:00 PM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	12 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	13 DEACONS 6 PM	14 TOPS 10-12 PM KINDRED PLACE COMMUNION 11 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	15 LINGLESTOWN NETWORK MEETING 10 AM CARD MINISTRY 6-8 PM	16	17
18 CARD MINISTRY 1:00 PM FIRE PIT NIGHT 6:00 PM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	19 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM COMMUNITY IMPACT 2PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	20 GROUP HOME DINNER 5 PM	21 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	22 CARD MINISTRY 6-8 PM	23	24
25 CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:15 AM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	26 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM CONSISTORY MEETING 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	27 HISTORY PRESERVATION 7:00 PM	28 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	29 CARD MINISTRY 6-8 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/pfeuwcr1q8ze5m>

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