Monthly Newsletter

St. Thomas Speaks



A Word from Pastor Shawn

As we wrap up October and our theme of Stewardship, I want you to feel good about where our church stands. Many people care deeply for St. Thomas and support our ministry in so many meaningful ways. Thanks to your generosity and involvement, we are on track to end the year financially healthy as we begin to dream about what comes next.

Your faithfulness and trust make this work possible. Looking ahead, I want to gently challenge us all: I believe God still has big plans for St. Thomas, and there is even more good work ahead. I invite you to take a moment to thank God for our blessings, and then consider how God is calling us to be a beacon of light and love in our community. We are a church of loving faithful folks who I have seen go to great lengths to care for others. May God give us the direction and creativity to continue partnering with the good work that God has planned.

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









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

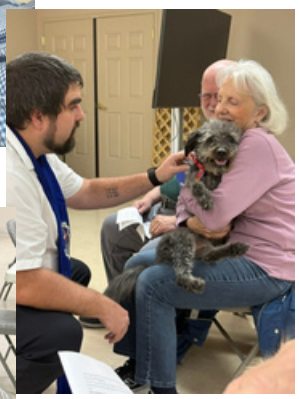
Events This Month

Please join us for our first ever Friendsgiving Dinner! We are inviting the entire community to the church to celebrate, give thanks, and eat delicious food together. This will be a free meal, so come ready to enjoy! Come to the church on Thursday, November 19th from 5-7 PM to enjoy this dinner with us. Family, friends, neighbors, and anyone and everyone are welcome. We are hoping to have a big turnout, with many people from both the congregation and the community, so please spread the word about this event! If you have any questions, please contact the church office or the Community Impact Team. We look forward to seeing you there!



Fun From Last Month's Events







Pet Blessing Service

- Last month, on October 4th, we held a Pet Blessing Service. Though there was rain outside, we didn't let that stop us from enjoying our time in fellowship with each other and our pets. We sang songs and thanked God for the gifts that he has given us in nature. Then, Pastor Shawn came around and gave a blessing to each animal present. Thank you to everyone who showed up, and everyone who helped plan or run the event. We hope to see more people there next year as we celebrate the love of God and the furry friends he has given us.

Fire Pit Night

- On Sunday, October 18th, we enjoyed a fire pit night with food, fellowship, and fun! We gathered around the fire and spent time talking, laughing, and eating delicious food. We also had live music played by Down to Earth Trio as we had fun together. Thank you to everyone who helped plan, set up, and run the event. Thank you also to everyone who came out and attended! We hope to see you all at the next one!













Group Home Dinner

- Ghosts and Goblins recently had a frightful and delightful evening haunting our Fellowship Hall. We held a Group Home Dinner on Tuesday, October 20th and enjoyed providing food and community to everyone who came. Our scouting girls helped to make this a spooktacular evening of festivities for our friends from local group homes. The Community Impact team wants to thank all of you supporting these quarterly events that mean so much for these folks.

Focus this Month

This November, our Monthly Mission Focus will be helping with food insecurity through St. Thomas Basket of Thanks.

We give to this mission in thanks for the many blessings we have received and to share our abundance with others who struggle with food insecurity. The method of sharing has varied over the past 50 years, and this year, we are reaching out to the community to a join us for a Thanksgiving meal celebration on Nov. 19th from 5pm to 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Many of our neighbors are being challenged by rising food costs and/or SNAP benefits cuts and may not know where their next meal will come from; others suffer from loneliness and have no one to celebrate holidays with. Perhaps you are this person or know of a family member, neighbor, or coworker who is struggling. Please reach out and invite them our Thanksgiving Table to break bread and share our love.

Updates

- **November Coffee Hour Rescheduled:** This month's coffee hour has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 10th because of Election Day on November 3rd. Please plan accordingly!

- **On Tuesday, November 3rd**, we will be holding an Election Day Cafe, where, when people come to St. Thomas to vote, they can get some baked goods and coffee before they leave. We are asking for donations of baked goods to be donated on Nov. 1st or 2nd so we have them for Election Day. We are also asking for volunteers to help with the food on the day of the event. Please consider helping with this important event in whatever way you can! We appreciate any assistance that you can provide.

- St. Thomas will be hosting a breakfast on **Sat. Nov. 21st** in partnership with CCU prison ministry for incarcerated folks who are on the verge of reentry back into society. If you are wondering about this outreach come see for yourself, mingle with our guests and enjoy a good breakfast. If you can help, please let any member of the Community Impact Team know.

- **The Community Impact team** monitors the Midwest Food Collection box so that when it is full we can deliver the much needed non- perishable items the congregation has donated to the folks who need it. It has come to our attention that it has been filled with trash, office supplies, and other items that are not food, which caused the donated items to become contaminated. Food insecurity affects so many and it saddens us when we have to throw out food that could have provided several meals. We are asking for your help in only placing non- perishable, non-glass food items in the clearly labeled food bin. Thank you for your generosity in helping alleviate hunger among our friends and neighbors.

Birthdays this Month:

1 David Summers
2 Patti Hanawalt
2 Ashley Summers
4 Clifford Forester, Sr.
4 Elaine Cassell
12 Mary Hill
14 Carol Wirth
18 Phillip Hepler
20 Larry Howell
22 Christopher Hench
24 Ray Wright
26 Richard Hoppenheffer
28 Sarah Trite
29 Delight Snyder

Looking to the Beginning of Next Month:

1 Tammy Morgan
2 Debra Hopple
2 Dorothy Bomgardner
4 Samuel Schmidt
6 Devin Howell
8 Barbara Brassell

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	2 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM ELECTION DAY SETUP 2 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM ELDERS 6:15 PM	3 ELECTION DAY P&L 6:30 PM	4 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	5 CARD MINISTRY 6-8 PM	6	7 PENN STATE TAILGATE 12 PM
8 SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	9 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	10 COFFEE 10:00 AM	11 VETERANS DAY TOPS 10-12 PM KINDRED PLACE COMMUNION 11 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	12 KIDS BELL CHOIR 5 PM BELLS 6:00 PM CHOIR 6:45 PM ROCK CLUB 6:45 PM	13	14 BABY SHOWER 4 PM
15 CARD MINISTRY 1:00 PM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	16 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM COMMUNITY IMPACT 2PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	17	18 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	19 FRIENDSGIVING DINNER 5 PM BELLS 6:00 PM CHOIR 6:45 PM	20	21 RE-ENTRY BREAKFAST 7:30 AM
22 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	23 DULCIMERS 10 AM -12 PM CONSISTORY MEETING 6:15 PM SCOUTS 6-9 PM	24 HISTORY PRESERVATION 7:00 PM	25 TOPS 10-12 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	26 THANKSGIVING RENTAL 1 PM	27	28
29 CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:15 AM SCOUTS 6:30 - 8 PM	30 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/mlaw182pwtpmtai

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