



St. Thomas Speaks

October 2024 Issue #3

Little Thank You's

Most of us think to thank the Lord
For big things in our lives –
Promotions, health, increase of wealth,
Or when an heir arrives.
But for the many little things
We're given every day,
We take them hardly thinking and
Without a word to say:
A tasty meal, fresh-laundered clothes,
A house that's clean and bright;
A button fixed, a torn place sewn,
A restful bed at night;
A tolerant look, a kind word said,
A smile to lift the heart
Are subjects to be thankful for,
And each one plays a part
To show how much we all depend
On love's unselfish arts.
And we should thank the Lord and
Those who serve with loving hearts.

Dan A. Hoover



Card Ministry is starting back up for the year! Please feel free to join the group. There is a job for everyone and everybody is welcome. We will be meeting once a month on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM in Room 26 (near the office).

Thanks to all who helped with our booth at the Taste of Linglestown. This was a church wide event, and we appreciate all of you for stopping by the kiosk and sampling our product, for lending your mixers, cookie sheets and cooling racks, and a very big shout out to those who came on very hot days to bake 700 cookies! The kitchen barely contained the piles of cookies or the enthusiasm of our bakers.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 24

Our Constitution requires the congregation to meet annually to elect Elders & Deacons, treasurer(s) and to vote on a church budget. Our meeting will also include updates from consistory on many facets of our church business, including the church's financials, organizational structure, pastoral transition, outreach contributions, and a glimpse into 2025 to name a few. Of course, this will be accompanied by food and refreshments. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

October Birthdays

- 1 – Chazz Ludwin,
John Hanawalt
- 2 – Frederick Davis II
- 4 – Joni Wright
- 5 – Shirley Romberger
- 6 – Jonathan Hepler,
Haley Gilbert,
Zachary Schmidt,
Daniela Bianchi
- 10 – Teresa Yingst
- 19 – Betsy Smith
- 21 – Kylee Stackhouse
- 23 – Louann Hepler
- 24 – James Klinefelter, Jr.
Deanna Snyder
- 27 – Thomas Bianchi,
Teresa Bianchi
- 29 – Sally Garber

Did we miss your birthday,
call or email the office.

Restaurant Night

The results are in from Red Robin! The church received a check for \$241.49 for our general fund. Brian & I thank you all who came out to dine at Red Robin that evening. Walking around it was wonderful seeing everyone enjoying a meal and fellowship plus we noticed most of you brought additional friends and family along. Thank you so much!

Our next restaurant night will be September 30 from 11:00AM-9:00PM at the Copper Pub & Grill 580 North Mountain Road. They will be donating 20% of our total that night. Go for lunch and then come back for dinner!! You will need a flyer. (see below or check your bulletin on Sunday)

Brian & Stephanie Hench

ST. THOMAS UCC
DINE FOR A CAUSE
COPPER PUB AND GRILLE
580 NORTH MOUNTAIN ROAD, HBG
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
20% OF FOOD SALES DONATED TO THE CHURCH!
PLEASE BRING FLYER WITH YOU!
KITCHEN HOURS
11AM-9PM



Kitchen Dedication

Thank you to the Stephens family who were instrumental in our Kitchen Remodel. They were able to join us and were very pleased with our plans for the memorial gift left for St. Thomas by their mother, Judy Stephens. Lots of good food, prayers and laughter.

Wondering how you too can help St. Thomas in the future? Talk to your financial advisor about leaving money to the church. What a great way to support those left behind.

Building & Grounds



Building and grounds has been fairly busy recently with respect to several projects. Among the major projects: Solar panels have been installed and are operational, new vinyl siding has been installed on the rear exterior walls of the sanctuary, and the fellowship hall kitchen project has been completed. In conjunction with the kitchen project, we have installed new gas lines and moved the gas tank to a more suitable location. We have also eliminated one of our two former gas tanks and changed suppliers to realize substantial cost reductions. We replaced a defective fan motor in the kitchen range exhaust system at a considerable saving by completing the project ourselves rather than utilizing an outside maintenance contractor. Special thanks to former member Jeff Crichton for the assist on the roof with this job.

Routine maintenance also continues to address ongoing issues including minor repairs, light bulb replacement, water treatment, lawn and garden care and HVAC maintenance. Thanks to the staff and volunteers who spend significant amounts of time and resources, behind the scenes to accomplish these tasks, especially those on the lawn and gardens crews.

Darryl Stackhouse, Chairperson

Pastoral Search Committee

Over the past several months, the Planning and Leadership team, chaired by Paul Hepler, worked diligently to assemble a Pastoral Search Committee. This group is tasked with finding a pastor following the retirement of Dan Schmidt. Pastor Schmidt retired in May having served our congregation for nine years.

The first step was the completion of a survey by church members. The Elders then compiled the survey results along with additional information about the church and the pastor position into a church profile. The Elders then asked Planning and Leadership to put a committee in place that would take this information and make the best possible choice in attaining a pastor to serve our church.

After careful consideration by Planning and Leadership, and the willingness of members to serve, the Pastoral Search Committee members were announced by Doug Ferguson during the church service on

September 15, 2024. The team includes Tom Trite (Chair), Missie Schmidt (Asst. Chair), John Hanawalt (Chaplain), Wendy Hepler, Deb Hepler, and Ray Wright. In addition, Barb Meehan will serve as the administrator for the team and, if needed, step in as an alternate should a voting member resign.

Thanks to Planning and Leadership for their time and attention in identifying this strong and diverse group. Also, sincere thanks to the members of the new Pastoral Search Committee for the commitment of their time and gifts as they walk with God to find the next pastor of our church.

Joni Wright, Elder

Tops

Join us for affordable, effective Weight-loss support!

Where: St. Thomas UCC, Fellowship Hall

When: Wednesday at 9:30 am weigh in

10:30 am Meeting

Need more info: 717-652-24-1 pt 717-652-0625

TOPS PA 0147 Harrisburg PA

Real People Real. Weight Loss.

You Speak

Helpful Hints

When glass breaks, practice safety first. Put on your shoes and keep everyone away until the glass is gone. Use kitchen tongs to pick up large shards or wear heavy gloves. Sweep up as much as you can that's still on the floor or carpet. Then use a piece of fresh bread, a sliced potato, several layers of wet paper towels, or a lint roller to get the final tiny shards. No pain and lots of gain.

Send in any "Helpful Hints" you have to share.

Eat Seasonal Foods

Seasonal fruits and vegetables are not only fresher and tastier, but they're also more nutrient-dense than out-of-season produce. Autumn fruits and veggies include apples, pears, pumpkins, squash, sweet potatoes, and dark leafy greens. Incorporating these into your diet can boost your intake of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. *St. John's Health*



Featured Recipe by Wendy Hepler

Sand Tarts (one batch makes MANY dozen, depending on how thin you roll them!)

3 sticks of butter, softened

2 C granulated sugar

2 eggs

4 C flour sifted with 1/4 tsp baking soda and 1/4 tsp salt

Blend sugar and butter - mix well. Add the two eggs and beat till all blended. Mix in the combined dry ingredients gradually (dough will be tough!). Roll dough into about baseball-softball sized balls, wrap solidly and chill at least several hours. When ready to bake, take one ball at a time out of fridge and roll to desired thinness. (Use more flour to help dough not stick to surface and rolling pin. Super thin is the best, but also most frustrating and fragile!). Cut out cookies, (re-roll the batter remains), spread with one egg beaten well to help decorations adhere, but try not to slop egg onto the cookie sheet - it will really stick!, and decorate with sprinkles / sugar / pieces of walnuts (the nuts I like to sprinkle with a sugar/cinnamon mix). Bake at 350 degrees for 6-8 minutes till barely golden brown. Watch closely! I only use double-insulated cookie sheets. Remove to wire rack to cool. Enjoy!

SAVE THE DATE!



Live Streaming

What: Penn State Football Tailgate Party

Where: St Thomas Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday, October 26

Time: To Be Announced

Bring a comfortable chair, beverage of your choice, and your favorite tailgate snack to share

We Speak

Community Impact

This last quarter of the year always seems the busiest and always sneaks up the fastest. We have many opportunities for you to participate in St. Thomas's outreach efforts. You will hear more in future communications, but for now we ask you to consider the upcoming holidays. If you know of anyone/family who may be in need this Thanksgiving, please let us know. We are more than willing to make up a basket(s) of food.

*Openings for the Linglestown **Christkindlmarkt** Living Nativity in Dec. Don't take our word for how much fun it is; ask those who have participated in past years. It really is fun! Save the date, 12/14/24.

* 11/16/24 breakfast for **Christian Churches United Re-entry Program**. We will need help with set-up, serving and mingling with our guests, clean-up and for an added bonus you get to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the reknowned chefs Doug and Missie.

The easiest way for us to share God's love is to serve others.

Thank you for the support you give to the projects Community Impact takes on.



Wanted:

Bell ringers

And Choir Singers!

Betsy is looking for additional people to help with music ministry. Especially

MEN!

Being able to read music is helpful but not a deal breaker. As the old ad says:

Try it you'll like it!



Newsletter articles due by October 25.

Mission Ministry

The first is Neighbors in Need, an offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion. This year's theme is *Mental Health Justice for All*. Rooted in the belief that mental health is a universal human right, these funds will work to insure the human rights and well being of all people with mental health challenges are being respected. One third of the proceeds go to the Council of American Indian Ministries, and the remaining two thirds go to UCC Justice and Ministries that support justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and grants to churches/organizations that participate in direct service projects.

The second is Veterans of the Cross. This fund has been in existence for over one hundred years and provides direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial hardships. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their spouses are eligible for supplementation of small annuities, health premiums or emergency grants.

More information on both these missions can be found at <https://www.ucc.org>

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17

People change, relationships change. Some friends are here for a time and others are here for life. The challenge we face is when to let go. Some people move in your life for a season and then we have to let them go and not live in the past. Moving forward in your life and faith is dependent on you knowing when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em (borrowed from Kenny Rogers). Carol Wirth

UCC HOMES CHRISTMAS GIFT REQUEST

As your representative to the UCC HOMES, it is my duty to keep you up to date on happenings. The Homes are requesting that our participating churches be involved with our residents and one of the ways is to help provide Christmas gifts, especially to those who no longer have families of their own.

I know it's early to be asking for donations, but if you feel moved to give, I will be available to receive your gifts of cash to be used to purchase gift cards. You may see me at church, designate your gift on your regular offering envelope or Vanco, or give to Carol in the office with your gift clearly marked for UCC HOMES - Christmas. I will be collecting for the months of October and November. Your gifts are truly appreciated.

Thank you for helping to make lives a little brighter this Christmas.

Marilyn Beistel, UCC HOMES Representative

Leadership Planning Workshop

Church Leadership met on Sunday, September 15. This meeting was a continuation from our workshop in March. I would like to thank the leadership team in attendance for their service to St. Thomas UCC. We engaged in prayer that resulted in over 4.5 hours of prayer time over 40+ prayer requests in addition to our ongoing prayer list. We also discussed 12 different scriptures and how they resonated in our lives and church. We proceeded to discuss our church business with God in our midst to help show us the way for now and our future. I would like to thank those in attendance for the worship time together, great collaboration, and decisions to further the good works of St. Thomas!

Sincerely, Doug Ferguson, Consistory President

Save the Date

September 29- Firepit Fellowship, 5:30p

October 26 – Tailgate Party, TBD

November 5 – Election Day & Café

November 16 – Re-entry Breakfast

November 24 – Annual Congregational Mtg

December 1 – Advent Festival

December 8 – Advent Pageant

December 10 – Lifeline, 8-4

December 14 – Christkindlmarkt, 10-4



The poster features a dark green background with illustrations of pumpkins, red apples, and a wooden basket of apples. The text is centered and reads:

Boy Scout Troop 10
APPLE PUMPKIN
FESTIVAL!

apple dumplings, chicken corn soup, chili,
pulled pork, hot dogs, chips, soda,
baked goods, and pumpkins for sale

MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES
Susquehanna Valley SVHD
6300 Allentown Blvd

Carl's AUTO BODY
Carl's Auto Body Inc.
1281 N Mountain Rd.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 - 8 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 - 10 AM - 2 PM

Pre-sale item pick up - Harley Davidson location ONLY.

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 P & L 6:30p	2 TOPS 9-12	3 Bells 6p Choir 6:45p	4 Scrapbook, 3-9	5 Scrapbook, 9-9
6 Communion	7 Dulcimers 9-12 Elders 6:45 Scouts 6-9p	8	9 TOPS 9-12	10 Rock Club 6-9 Bells 6p Choir 6:45p	11 Scouts Kitchen Stove on	12 Scouts Kitchen Stove on
13	14 Dulcimers 9-12 Hospitality 6:30p	15 Deacons 6:30p	16 TOPS 9-12	17 Scouts Kit Bells 6p Choir 6:45p	18 Scouts Kit 9-7 Stove on	19 Scouts Kit 6-3 Stove on
20 Card Min 1-3p	21 Dulcimers 9-12 Comm Imp, 2p	22 History Pres 7p	23 TOPS 9-12	24 Bells 6p Choir 6:45p	25	26 Tailgate Party
27 12-6 Private party	28 Dulcimers 9-12 Consistory 6:45	29	30			

When anxiety knocks at the door, say,
 “Jesus, would you mind answering that?”