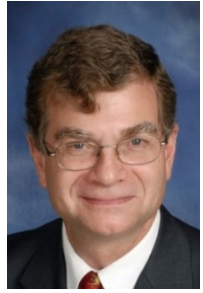


## Pastor's Pen

### **Small Groups at the heart of Discipleship and in the GMC**



Dear Congregation,

Last month I conveyed some of the latest facts and news about the Global Methodist Church. This month I want to focus on the GMC vision for *transformational discipleship*, which is at the heart of its mission to bring the Gospel to the whole world. Here is how the *2024 Book of Doctrines and Disciplines of the Global Methodist Church* describes this work.

¶ 405. TRANSFORMATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP. In light of the mission of the church and our covenant in Christ, the Global Methodist Church engages the commandment to make disciples of Jesus through an intentional process grounded in Scripture and in our Wesleyan heritage. The Global Methodist Church defines a disciple as a person whose life reflects the character of Christ and extends the mission of Christ in holy love of God and neighbor. The disciple's character and practice are informed by the Scriptures, nurtured by the community of faith, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The disciple's mission is to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus through works of teaching, service, multiplication, mercy, and justice, making more obedient disciples who will reflect the character and mission of Christ and expanding the boundaries of Christ's Kingdom further out into the world. The goal of transformational discipleship ministry in the Global Methodist Church is to make, develop, and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ through small groups where each person is invited, challenged, supported, and held accountable in living sanctified lives that reflect the practices, character, and mission of Christ.

The GMC vision for transformational discipleship accords well with our own church's focus on Small Group Ministry. Since 2018-19, when we instituted our church-wide discipleship plan, we have been encouraging every member and attendee to get involved in a small group. This is a great way to grow in faith, be encouraged in life's challenges, and develop good Christian friends with whom you can share life together. We have more than 20 active small groups, with several open to receiving new members. See our website [havencfc.org](http://havencfc.org) for more details.

We hope to launch new small groups out of the next Alpha Course, to help attendees continue to grow in faith. Please keep these things in your prayers. If you are not in a small group yet, I strongly encourage you to find one and get involved. You will be blessed.

Yours in the love of Christ! Pastor Chris Fisher



## **Worship & Preaching Schedule** **July – August 2025**

**Sunday Worship: 9:00AM Live & Online**

**11:00 AM Coffeehouse Worship in Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday Worship: Live at 6:00 PM**

**9 AM Theme: *Book of Hebrews***

**Coffeehouse Theme:**

***2 Hours to Freedom w/ Dr. Charles Kraft***

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>July 6</b>  | <b><i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost w/ Holy Communion</i></b><br><b><i>Independence Day Weekend</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Hebrews 11: Abraham, Friend of God<br>11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship |
| <b>July 13</b> | <b><i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Hebrews 11: More Heroes of Faith<br>11:00 AM – Spiritual Warfare III   |
| <b>July 20</b> | <b><i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Hebrews 12: God disciplines his children<br>11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship   |
| <b>July 27</b> | <b><i>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Youth Ministry Celebration Sunday<br>11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship  |
| <b>Aug 3</b>   | <b><i>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost w/ Holy Communion</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Hebrews 12: Encouragement to Right Living!<br>11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship                                   |
| <b>Aug 10</b>  | <b><i>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 AM – Hebrews 13: Living out your faith!<br>11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship   |
| <b>Aug 17</b>  | <b><i>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i></b>  |

9:00 AM – Hebrews 13: Staying strong when others  
Oppose your faith  
11:00 AM: Coffeehouse Worship

**Aug 24**      ***11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***  
9:00 AM – Message Topic TBD  
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse worship

**Aug 31**      ***12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***  
***Labor Day Weekend***  
9:00 AM – Message Topic TBD  
11:00 Coffeehouse worship



### **Communion Offerings**

July 6      Child Evangelism Fellowship missionary Annie  
Centeleghe  
August 3      Pastor's Discretionary Fund



### **Planning towards our 2025-6 Alpha Course Kickoff Pizza Planning Night July 9 at 5 pm**

Dear Friends, we are so excited to report more than 23 people have signed up to be part of the leadership team for our next Alpha Course. The kickoff team planning meeting will take place on July 9 from 5 to 7 pm. Please meet in Fellowship Hall for pizza at 5.

The Alpha Course is a wonderful way to explore life's great questions and learn about Christianity in a non-threatening environment centered around high-quality video presentations and open discussion in small groups. It starts off with a meal and is great for relational friendship building in the small group setting. Our vision is to invite friends, neighbors and acquaintances so they may be introduced to the love and power of Christ in this winsome environment.

Many of our church members have taken the Alpha course in the past and found it very inspirational. If you have not yet taken the course, we would love to make room for you too. Prayerfully consider inviting a couple of friends to attend with you. Anyone is welcome. We are especially praying about inviting young adults, as there seems to be a new openness to spiritual things taking place among them. Stay tuned as the planning team works on the logistical details of where and when our next Alpha will start.



## **What's Happening in the Lawsuit**

### **June 2025 Update**

The judge in the case has certified the lawsuit for a jury trial. A Pre-Trial Settlement Hearing has been scheduled for August 11. If you can attend, it will show the judge our church members really care about this case. At the hearing, the judge could recommend the two sides settle prior to trial, or he could use the hearing to settle on an actual trial date, or to hear any other final motions. The hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Courtroom "G," on August 11 at 3 PM, located at 2 East Airy Street, Norristown, PA, 19404.

**What should we be doing in the meantime?** Keep doing the work of the Kingdom! Live as faithful disciples, keeping praying, share the good news with those who are open, worship fervently, and do the good works God has prepared for you. Pray for our lawyers and for those who oppose us. Ask the Lord for a favorable outcome.



## **Please Help Us with Your Online Worship**

Dear Friends, if you are watching our Sunday worship services online, we're glad you are tuning in. Drop a comment from time to time to let us know you tuned in. If you can get here, please try to come. Online worship is a nice supplement to being part of the church, but it should not be a long-term replacement for meeting together in person. Being together in the body is the best way we can encourage each other in faith.

If you are blessed by the church, kindly consider giving to support it. You can give through the church's website ([www.havencfc.org](http://www.havencfc.org)), or through the **QR code** in this newsletter.



## **Church Prayer Ministry Updates**

### **6 Things to Pray about in July – August 2025**

- 1) Pray for those in authority everywhere, for the spread of the Gospel.
- 2) Pray for fellow believers everywhere, including brothers and sisters in our church, for strength and endurance in faith, even

where there is suffering and persecution.

- 3) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 4) Pray that our church will be faithful and bold in sharing the Gospel! Pray for our church leadership, for every ministry team, and for the missionaries and outside ministries we support.
- 5) Pray for spiritual awakening in our County. Pray for your neighbors' salvation. Pray for our upcoming Alpha Outreach Program.
- 6) Pray for the lawyers at the NCLL who represent us in the civil lawsuit, and for those who oppose us.
- 7) Pray for the sick, those in prison, those who are in trouble or in need. Pray God will show you how to love them practically – in action, and not just words, remembering what Jesus said: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

### **Weekly prayer team ministry continues.**

We continue to call our members to join the prayer rotation of praying for a week, one hour each day. We ask you to pray for the Kingdom of God to come more fully in our church and community.

### **An invitation to spend concentrated time with God each week:**

Consider spending serious time alone with God each day in prayer and searching the scripture. Your whole day will be blessed.

### **Do you have a testimony to share?**

Please consider sharing your story as part of our faith-stories series. Contact the office at [office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org) if you want to share.



## WEEKLY PRAYER WARRIORS

**The following folks have volunteered to pray for one hour a day for one week.**

June 29-July 5 Ruth Noecker

July 6-12 Ann Moyer

July 13-19 Shirley Yenilaitus

July 20-26 Lisi Fisher

July 27-Aug 2 Darlene Beers & Dot Murphy

Aug 3-9 Liz Wallace

Aug 10-16 He Knows Her Name

Aug 17-23 Jean Twardzik

Aug 24-30 Dwight & Cindy Dros

Aug 31-Sept 6 April Bergen

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FROM OUR MINISTER OF VISITATION

Brian Reading

If you or someone you know is facing a hospital stay or health issues that keep them homebound for any length of time, please contact me through the church office or at my home. I will be happy to set up a time for visitation and home communion if need be.



EMBRACE GRACE IS A 12-WEEK PROGRAM THAT TEACHES SINGLE, YOUNG PREGNANT WOMEN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE.

THIS GROUP PROVIDES EMOTIONAL, PRACTICAL, AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNEXPECTED PREGNANCY.

STARTING AUGUST 12 \* 6-8 PM  
CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, 420 SAYLOR STREET, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA 17972  
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [www.embracegrace.com](http://www.embracegrace.com)  
OR CALL (570) 385-3941

## Safe Driving

Summer is finally here! The summer season is the most popular time for vacation and travel. That means more folks on the road, so heightened awareness and safety while driving are a must. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the USA, making driving risky business. Many motor vehicle accidents are preventable by following safe driving practices.

The safe driving practices to consider are:

- Buckle up! Use safety belts for each rider, everytime.
- Ensure children are in the correct safety seat which is installed accurately. Children under 13 years should always be in the back.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Be aware of your surroundings, use your mirrors, be mindful of blind spots, cyclists, pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Plan ahead and know your route. Build stops into your travel plans for rest, food, and phone calls.
- Follow the speed limits.
- Try to remain calm and be courteous. Avoid aggressive driving behavior.
- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It is illegal in all states!
- Do not drive drowsy. Avoid driving if you are tired, as it impairs your judgement and reaction time.
- Pay attention to the road. Minimize distractions such as talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, adjusting entertainment devices or the navigation system. Avoid emotional conversations or arguments.



- Good vehicle maintenance is important. Regular checks on oil, tires, brakes, and other fluids are essential to keep your automobile roadworthy and safe.
- Move over if you see flashing lights on a stopped vehicle. If moving over is not safe, slow down. Stop if a school bus has its red flashing lights on and be prepared to stop if its lights are flashing yellow.
- Use turn signals appropriately. It is always good to communicate your intentions to other drivers.
- Drive defensively. Anticipate potential hazards and be prepared to react. This is especially applicable in bad weather.

Hoping your summer will be filled with safe and happy times. Enjoy the wonder of God's beautiful creation.

Information from

<https://www.cdc.gov/transportation-safety/about>

<https://www.nhts.gov/tentips-for-safe-driving>

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## Methodist Women Ministries Upcoming Events

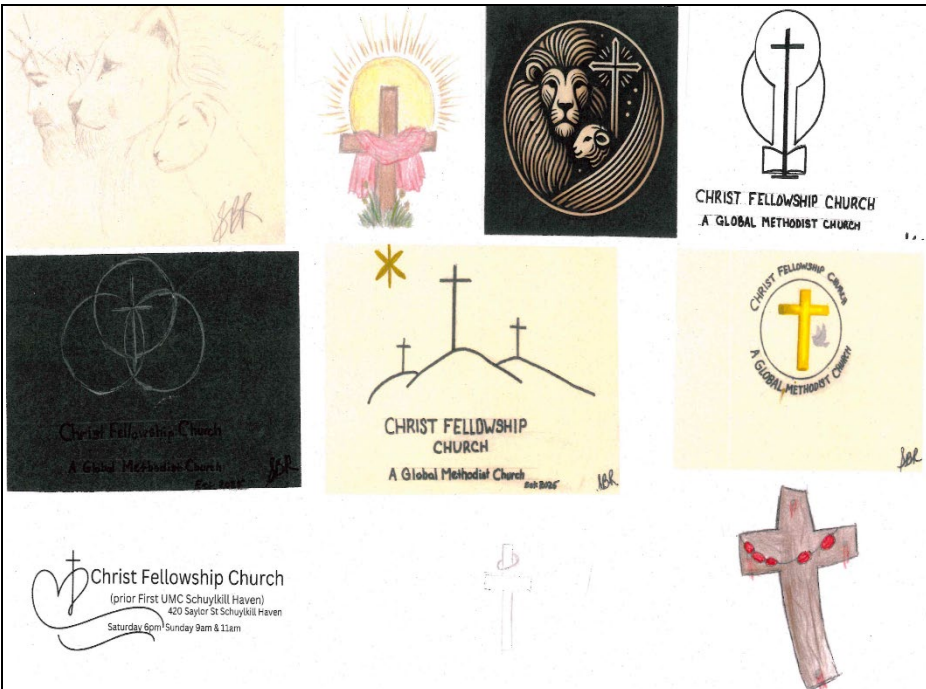


We are taking the month of July off- there will be no meeting.

**Aug.** – Women's potluck brunch between services in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. Exact date to be announced in church and online. Sign-

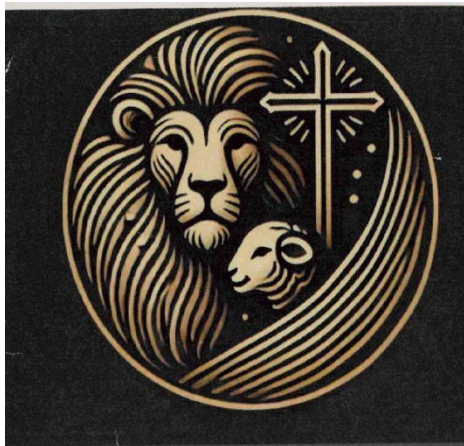
up sheet in the office or call Jean and let her know what you would like to bring.

Phone number- 570-640-5963



## CHURCH LOGO IDEAS

As you can see from the beautiful logo submissions above, choosing a new church logo was a difficult process. Thank you to everyone who submitted a logo! The Administrative Board has voted on and has chosen the logo below to be the new logo for Christ Fellowship Church:



## ONLINE GIVING NEWS/CHANGES

There are new changes to our Online Giving Platform. As of July 1, we are no longer using Vanco for our online giving. There are several reasons for this change, one of the most important reasons is that Vanco will no longer be compatible with our current record keeping program, Servant Keeper. However, Servant Keeper has added an online giving platform to the existing services that they offer with no extra fees incurred by the church. So, what does that mean for all of you?

1. You will need to close your Vanco account
2. Please sign up for Servant Keeper online giving at:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/firstumcsh>

or use the QR code at the bottom of this article.

It is easy to do and only takes a few minutes of your time.

Just a reminder, the same is true with SK as with Vanco, there are some fees applied to your giving:

*Vanco: 2.79% + \$.45*

*Servant Keeper: 3% + \$.50*

*And monthly fee*

*1% + \$.50 (e-check)*

We as a church were paying/year for Vanco services. SK giving (new platform for them), is already included with our Servant Keeper program that we have been using for many years in the office. Hence no additional expense for the church.

There are other perks to creating an online account with Servant Keeper even if you do not want to give online and continue giving with cash or checks on Sunday morning. Once you create your profile on Servant Keeper you can view all your previous years of giving. One person shared that they are able view their giving since 2002!

Your online tithe or gift will be credited directly to your personal profile on SK giving. It has been all along, but someone has had to manually enter the tithe/gift. There will no longer be a need for someone to do this.

If you need to print a statement of your giving for tax purposes or any other purposes you can accomplish this from the comfort of your own home, no more contacting the church office and waiting for someone to print it for you and mail it out or running into the church to pick it up.

We will also have the ability to create special giving categories, such as payments for Youth Camps, Reading Phillies events, capital campaigns etc. We will be exploring these options within the coming weeks and keep you posted on our findings and additions to the areas of giving that become available.

It is our hope that you will embrace this new giving platform and find it easy to navigate. We welcome your feedback.

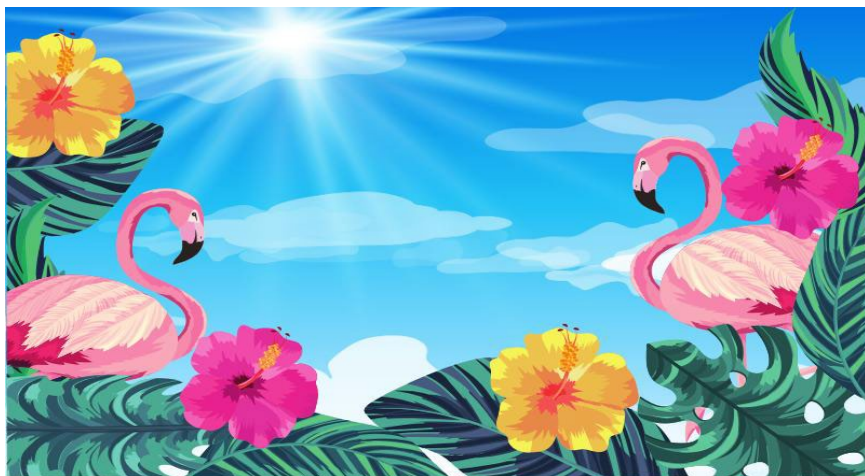


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## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2025

We are happy to report that we have had several young folks involved in the 2025 Confirmation class. There are 3 young people who have attended every class this winter with several more attending on a regular basis. We plan on asking them all if they intend to join Christ Fellowship Church and move forward with the confirmation process. Please pray for each of our young people that God will press upon their hearts the importance of building a lifelong relationship with Him and that they would have the desire to become one of our Christ Fellowship family.

As with classes before we will have a season of student mentoring by church members. Please be in prayer that God would raise up the proper folks for this season of confirmation. Most importantly, keep our young people in prayer, praying that God would call them to a life of growing in and knowing Him. The students will also attend a series of classes led by Pastor Chris Fisher, to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord and his church.



## SUMMER DAZE EVENTS

JUNE 20TH - READING PHILLIES- 7-9pm. Be at the church at 5:30pm if ride is needed. (\$20 per youth)\*

JUNE 28th @ 2:30pm - STRIKE ZONE BOWLING (2 hrs. of Bowling, pizza, drink and shoe rental provided) (\$10 per youth)\*

JULY 2ND- 9AM TIL 12PM- VINEYARD SUPPORT- Help our church and community by helping with the food bank.

JULY 14TH-19TH - HARVEY CEDARS WEEK!!!

JULY 25TH 5-8PM - Heisler's ice cream and mini golf! (\$5 per youth)\*

AUGUST 16TH 1:30PM- Pine Grove

Escape Room- ice cream afterwards. (\$20 per youth)\*

AUGUST 24TH 6-8pm -BACK TO SCHOOL GATHERING @ the JAM Center (Joint w/ Bethesda Youth)

\* Summer Birthdays (June thru August) – Receive one free event during the Summer Daze events. This includes the Reading Phil's, Summer Bowling, Heisler's Mini Golf, or the Art of Escape.



# COMING SOON!

## ALPHA 2025

The sign-up sheets have been circulated, and many have signed up to help with this year's ALPHA Course. Never fear, if you missed the sign-up sheets, it's not too late. There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. complete with pizza! Please consider coming out!

If you signed up to help, please plan on attending this important organizational meeting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Please begin praying for this year's ALPHA course:

1. What your role in ALPHA might be
2. People that can be invited
3. For all volunteers

Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.  
Pizza will be served

### Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.





## “NC” Mission Team Update

Our team has been hard at work, coming alongside one of our church families whose home and property was severely damaged by several back-to-back, heavy rain and windstorms. This project gave us an opportunity to hone our skill sets and learn new ones in both construction and landscaping. Under the direction of our crew chief (Brian Callaghan) and assistant (Jeff Berger), the team divided up and fully conquered the massive project ... step by step over the course of four to six weeks (rain was not our friend).

Our roof crew removed the metal piping system on the porch roof and cleared all the wistaria & other debris to make a safe workspace for the needed repairs. Then the siding that was still partially attached to the home was removed, damage repaired, insulation foam boards applied to not only insulate but level the walls and finally, all the siding was reattached to the home.

Our ground crew cleared all the storms' tree limbs and debris, removed all the wistaria on the home and property, pulled weeds, pruned bushes, cleared flower beds and mowed the grass.

Be on the lookout for a Sunday morning Mission Moment with lots more pictures of the Team working in unity and conquering the project. Great work team - all the way around!!!

Missions Chair - Ellen Marino



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[office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org)

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*The Circuit Writer*  
*July /August 2025*

*Christ Fellowship Church*

*“Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world”*

*In Person Sunday Service at 9:00 A.M. & Saturday Night at 6:00  
p.m.*

*11:00 A.M. Coffeehouse Worship Service*

*You can also join us online at: [www.havenfirstumc.org](http://www.havenfirstumc.org) Or like us  
on Facebook and join us there.*