

Pastor's Pen

News about the Global Methodist Church

Dear Congregation,

Here is some helpful information about the new and rapidly growing Global Methodist Church. This is a good time to get informed about the GMC, as it is our hoped-for destination for our future denominational affiliation.

Since officially launching on May 1, 2022, the denomination has grown to about 5000 churches worldwide, with approximately 5-6 million members, led by about 5700 clergy, making it a medium size denomination by US standards. The GMC is a global movement, with churches in about 30 different countries, with six different 'official' languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Kiswahili, Korean, and French. It is governed by the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church (2024)*. See: <https://globalmethodist.org/books-of-doctrines-and-discipline/>.

The latest annual conference to join is in Zimbabwe, Africa.

The GMC is committed to the final authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, to classic orthodox Christianity, Wesleyan theological distinctives, and traditional Christian moral values rooted in scriptural holiness. Its mission: "The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe." Its Vision: "Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly."

Presently, there are 23 Annual Conferences in the United States. The movement is made up mostly of small churches. Almost all of these are former UMC churches, and many have experienced dramatic revival and growth since joining the GMC. The Northeast Annual Conference includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, the eastern 2/3s of Pennsylvania, Maryland, northern West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. This annual conference has about 187 churches, the largest of which has about 500 in weekly worship.



Eight bishops oversee the denomination, with 2 formerly UMC emeritus bishops, and 6 new bishops elected at the September 2024 Convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. Bishops have defined term limits and generally return to local church ministry when their term expires.

Bishops oversee doctrinal integrity, are responsible to teach the doctrines and discipline of the church and are involved in appointing and ordaining pastors. They travel widely and each is responsible for anywhere from 3 to 9 annual conferences. Each annual conference is overseen by a conference superintendent, who lives in the conference and oversees the temporal and business affairs of that conference. Within each annual conference, a volunteer supervising elder (ordained pastor) gives local oversight to groups of 10 to 12 churches, organized by geographic area.

Local congregations are at the heart of the movement. The purpose and mission of each local church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. There is no 'trust clause' tying member churches to the denomination. Instead, it is a voluntary association. Churches own their own property.

The system for pastoral appointments is a hybrid model. There is no longer a yearly appointment covenant, but clergy can be moved and appointed at any time of year, whenever they or the local church see the need (with due notice of change). When a new pastor is requested, the bishop will present several candidates, giving the local church time to interview each one, listen to them preach, and rank them in order of preference. Candidates may interview at several churches, and choose a different church as their first choice, so the local church might get its second choice, and so on.

Apportionments, otherwise known as 'connectional funding,' are the local church's share of denominational expenses. The denomination is intentionally organized to be 'lean' at the top, so that most money stays in the local church. Currently, apportionments are 3% of general fund *giving*, not counting capital funds and benevolence receipts. 2% goes to the annual conference and 1% goes to the global administrative offices for their expenses. For example, a church with \$500K in unrestricted general fund income would pay \$15,000 for its total apportionments.

The next official session of the GMC General Conference will take place in Africa, in 2026. Delegates will begin to be elected at

this May's annual conferences. You can find extensive additional information at the GMC website: <https://globalmethodist.org/>.

The Discipleship Council will be recommending further study of the GMC for our next church-wide small group experience. We are thinking about recommending *A Catechism of the Christian Faith and Doctrine for the Global Methodist Church* (Seedbed, 2023), which summarizes the doctrines of the GMC. Please keep the church and both the UMC and the GMC in your prayers.

Yours in the love of Christ! Pastor Chris Fisher



Worship & Preaching Schedule **May – June 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: *Spiritual Warfare*

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|----------------|---|
| May 4 | <i>3rd Sunday of Easter w/ Holy Communion</i>
9:00 AM Guest Preacher Mr. Brian Reading
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship |
| May 11 | <i>4th Sunday of Easter // Mothers' Day</i>
9:00 AM Youth Sunday
11:00 AM Spiritual Warfare III |
| May 18 | <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>
9:00 AM Hebrews 10 Call to persevere in faith
11:00 AM Spiritual Warfare IV |
| May 26 | <i>6th Sunday of Easter // Memorial Day Weekend</i>
9:00 Hebrews 11 Faith in action
11:00 Spiritual Warfare V |
| June 1 | <i>7th Sunday of Easter w/ Holy Communion</i>
9:00 Hebrews 11-12 The cloud of witnesses
11:00 Spiritual Warfare VI |
| June 8 | <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>
9:00 Hebrews 12 God disciplines his children
11:00 Spiritual Warfare VII |
| June 15 | <i>Trinity Sunday</i> |

9:00 Hebrews 12 Warnings and Encouragements
11:00 Spiritual Warfare VIII

June 22

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 *Guest Speaker, Message TBD*

11:00 Coffeehouse worship

June 29

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 – *Guest Speaker, Message TBD*

11:00 Coffeehouse worship



Communion Offerings

May 4

The Vineyard

June 1

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



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. Please drop a comment to let us know you did. Otherwise, we have no way of knowing who is watching. We often have over 100 viewing households each week, but it is difficult to know who is involved, and how we can best support your spiritual life. If you are homebound or otherwise unable to attend, we are glad you can connect through our online worship. If you can get here, please try to come. We would love to see you in person! If you are blessed by this online ministry, consider giving to support it. You can give through the church's website (havencfc.org), or through the **QR code** in this newsletter.



What's Happening in the Lawsuit

April Update

The Montgomery County judge in the case has certified the lawsuit for a jury trial. The Eastern PA Conference filed a request in February 2025 asking the judge to reconsider, which he denied. It is anticipated that the Conference will file one more motion asking for reconsideration. Assuming this also is denied, a jury trial is likely to be scheduled sometime in the Fall. There is a possibility the Conference might become open to a negotiated settlement, but there are no guarantees. It is hoped the Conference will at least consider it at this year's Annual Conference in mid-May.

What should we be doing in the meantime? Keep doing the work of God's kingdom! Live as faithful disciples, 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.



Church Prayer Ministry Updates

6 Things to Pray about in May – June 2025

- 1) Pray for those in authority everywhere, for the spread of the Gospel, and for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 2) Pray for your brothers and sisters in the church.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Pray for spiritual awakening in our County. Pray for your neighbors' salvation.
- 5) Pray for the lawyers at the NCLL who represent us, and for those who oppose us.
- 6) 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 if you want to share.



METHODIST WOMEN MINISTRIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Currently- we are having our annual Mother's Day Insert campaign. If you would like to honor or remember significant women in your life, please fill out the form in the bulletin or send in your request. We are asking \$1/ line as a donation toward our work. Deadline is May 4th.

May 11- Mother's Day- Celebrate with us Saturday night May 10th and Sunday at the regularly scheduled services.

May 15th- Luncheon meeting at Roman Delight, 1 pm. If you plan to attend please call/ tell Jean (570-640-5963) by May 2nd, so she can include you in the reservation. We'll be planning for our bake sale on May 25th.

At our last luncheon meeting, twelve were in attendance. We not only had a lot of fun and made new friends, but we actually got some work done!



May 25th –
Having a picnic
for Memorial Day
and need dessert?
We've got you
covered. We will

be having a bake sale between services.
SOOOO Bakers, we need your help. If you
can provide us with baked goods, please let
Jean know by May 2nd what you will be
making. Look for more details in the bulletin
and church slides. Proceeds from the bake
sale will be given to the Mission Team for
their upcoming trip to N.Carolina in the fall.
Monetary contributions are also accepted.
Father's Day Insert forms will be available in the
Narthex for your participation by May 25th.

June 10th – meeting- place to be announced.

June 15th – Father's Day

IN CONCERT

GRAMMY NOMINATED JOHNATHAN BOND

DATE: Sunday, June 29
PLACE: Christ Fellowship Church (aka FUMC)
420 Saylor Street, Sch. Haven
TIME: 9:00 AM



▶ Scan Here

www.JOHNATHANBOND.COM

PH: 423.280.0347





Will you help children in need?

Simply save your cans from June 1st through June 30th & bring them to church!



Praying you have a

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
Day!

&

happy
father's
day



Friday, June 20, 2025

Gates open at 6:00 PM

Game starts at 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$40.00 for adults, \$20.00 for youth (ages 5-17) and children under 4 are free and includes:

AYCE Picnic Buffet * Pool Deck * Character Visits * Post-Game Fireworks

Contact Stacey Lehman at 272-208-8495 to order tickets



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TASTE
AND
SEE
THAT
THE
LORD
IS
GOOD.

PSALM 34:8A

5 Ways to Include Jesus in Your Summer

Janet Denison

No early morning alarms, carpool lanes, and homework projects. The unscheduled—or less scheduled—days of summer have begun!

You and your kids will enjoy the summer days ahead. Even for those who work outside the home, summer life is usually slower, and vacations are ahead. Plan to enjoy the great gift of family this summer!

These months offer some opportunities to help your children spiritually as well. They might not be in a classroom, listening to teachers—but they are listening.

How can you help them hear a lot and experience a lot of Jesus this summer?

1. Invite Jesus into your day and expect him to come.

Every day can start with a prayer, with all the kids or one-on-one, that includes their requests for the day and thoughts of others. But a *very* important part of those prayers is watching to see how they are answered. Those answers will prompt some great “Jesus” conversations this summer.

2. Fill your home and car with Christian music.

There is so much to learn about Christ and experience through music. Tune your television and your radio to music that glorifies the Lord. Your kids will learn a lot from the lyrics and hopefully sing some of those thoughts and words *to* Jesus.

3. Help your kids serve Jesus and others.

They can read books about Jesus to younger kids and answer their questions. They can help with a VBS or at a mission. They can shop with you for others, mow an elderly person’s lawn, or, for someone who’s not able, walk their dog. If you pray for a chance to serve, Jesus will answer that prayer, and your kids will learn the sacrifice and blessing of helping others.

4. Develop Jesus habits.

You probably spend more time with your kids during their days in June, July, and August. It’s a good time to work on the basics.

A lot of “good” manners are also “God” matters. Connect the two.

- Running ahead to hold the door for the mom with the baby carrier or stroller.
- Reaching things from the shelf at the grocery store for the person in the motorized cart.
- Noticing the person in line who needs to go first.
- Responding to others with respect, even when that same respect has not been returned.
- Handing a water bottle or fast-food voucher to the person with the cardboard sign.

I'm sure you can think of more!

Family habits can become Jesus habits. Just connect the behavior with the One you are really serving.

5. Finally, Mom and Dad, simplify and set apart your summer for Christ.

We all want our kids to walk with and serve Jesus. Truthfully, the most important way to invite Jesus into your kids' summer is to invite him into yours. If your kids see you find joy in Jesus, serve Jesus, study and speak to Jesus, chances are, they will too.

Faith and spirituality will be caught, as much as taught. If your kids know you *need* Jesus, they will likely realize they do too.

Psalm 16:11 says, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Celebrate these wonderful days we call summer! Some of your best family times are just ahead. So take a few minutes now to pray that those moments will include the presence of Jesus, and those family times will become *eternally* greater.

Bless all of you as you work to raise your children to know and love the Lord!

Hey Mamas,

There's still time to connect with other moms this May as we continue our spring semester of our MoMs on Mission Small Group. This is a small group designed for moms of little ones (5 years and younger) who come together for discipleship, encouragement, prayer and friendship. Join us on Tuesday evenings through May (and then again in the fall) from 6:00 – 7:15 PM in the nursery. Childcare is provided. We can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Hannah at hannahfrisch@yahoo.com.



empowering



encouraging



discipling

A small group just for moms of little ones!

Tuesdays from 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

Christ Fellowship Church, 420 Saylor Street, Sch. Haven

Childcare is provided ☺ Call 570-385-3941 for more info!

SAVE THE DATE! OUR 2025 GROUP BEGINS AUGUST 12!



Our Embrace Grace group provides emotional, practical, and spiritual support for single, young pregnant women who find themselves in an unexpected

pregnancy. The primary goal of Embrace Grace is to empower the church to be a safe and nonjudgmental place for these young women to run to when they find out they are pregnant, instead of the last place they are welcomed because of shame and guilt. It is a 12-week program that teaches them about God's love and grace.

We need your help! Do you know a mama who might be interested? Please spread the word!

Or perhaps you might prayerfully consider coming along side us to provide childcare? Or could kindly lend a hand at the events that are a part of this program?

If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact **April** at **570-640-1259** or via email at abergen@havencfc.org. We'd love for mamas to join us and/or for you to be a part of our team loving on these mamas and their littlest blessings!

Faith Community Nurse's Notes
Brought to you by Ann Moyer RN, FCN

Skin Care

Spring is in full swing now. The sun is up longer, the weather is warmer and opportunities to be outdoors have increased. It is a good time to discuss proper care of the skin.

Our skin is the largest organ of the body. It consists of three layers which work together to perform vital body functions. The outermost layer is the epidermis which acts as a barrier protecting the body from pathogens and the environment. The next layer is known as the dermis and contains blood vessels, hair follicles, sweat glands and sensory receptors. The deepest layer of skin is the hypodermis also known as subcutis or subcutaneous layer. It is made of fat (adipose tissue) which provides insulation to the body and cushions deeper tissue. It also anchors the skin to the underlying structures. The three major functions of the skin as a whole are protection, thermoregulation and sensation.

Your skin takes care of you, it is important that you take care of it. Good skin care includes sun protection, cleansing and moisturizing. The use of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 is a daily necessity. It should be reapplied every two hours or more if sweating or swimming. Sun damage is the leading cause of premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. The sun is strongest at noon but is best avoided between the hours of 10AM and 4PM. If being outside during that time is unavoidable, seek shade and wear protective clothing including a wide-brimmed hat.

Cleanse your skin twice a day with a gentle cleanser. In the morning, it removes any overnight dirt or oil. In the evening you need to remove makeup, dirt and any other substances that may come into contact with your skin. Avoid scrubs or harsh soaps which may strip your skin of natural oils. Use warm water, not hot water which can dry out skin. After washing, pat your skin

dry, do not rub. This allows some moisture to remain on the skin. Shaving is recommended after washing when the skin is moist. Protect the skin by using shaving cream, lotion, or gel. Use a clean, sharp razor and shave in the direction of hair growth. Be sure to rinse the razor between each stroke.

Moisturize your skin after bathing. Be sure to use the type of moisturizer that is best for your skin type, whether it be, dry, normal, or oily. Moisturizing after a bath helps to lock in hydration, maintaining the skin's natural barrier, protecting it from damage and irritation. It also softens the skin and reduces the appearance of fine lines.

Do self checks on your skin. Examine your skin regularly for any suspicious looking moles or new lesions. Any new skin growths which are tender, scaly, itchy, or bleeding should be brought to the attention of a doctor. Detecting skin cancer at its earliest stage improves treatment.

Graduate Showcase!



This segment will be a little different from previous articles, as we recognize youth members that are leaving us to adulthood. Stepping up into the world of adulthood doesn't mean they are forgotten, but (hopefully) the 'cornerstone' foundation has been laid in their life to go forth into the world to help others in their path. We started this year with the discussion about being an ambassador to Christ, but that laying of foundation didn't start there, it started years prior with family, teachers (school and church), peers, and others. We now send forward these 'ambassadors' (and to Adam's Young Adult group) – Matthew Bergen, Ethan Frantz, Colton Lytle, Dominick Somers, and James Williams

Matthew Bergen – A leader among his peers, media supporter, a master barista, and a speaker who has overcome his challenges. Graduating from Blue Mountain High School this year and looking into Mechanical Engineering field at Penn State Schuylkill. Matthew has been a strong presence in our youth group for several years, along with James and Colton (sometimes known as the 3 Amigos). As president of the Youth Council, he has attended and provided feedback at Administrative Board meetings.



Ethan Frantz – Joined our youth group a few years ago through Matthew and James, Ethan comes from St John's UCC in Orwigsburg. Ethan has been a wonderful presence with a will to help where he can and an insightful mind. Those two attributes (and more) helped him also attain the rank of Eagle Scout recently (which I attended). He is also graduating from Blue Mountain and will be looking into the field of Aerospace Engineering at Penn State Schuylkill





Colton Lytle – His demeanor brings laughter to the group with some of his actions, but that attitude also holds a heart for helping others. Our lone graduate from Schuylkill Haven High School, Colton has attempted to help when he can; whether at community events or providing a children's message at service occasionally. He brings fun and joy to the group. Colton is looking into the field of Flight Attendant.

Dominick Somers – Though quiet at times, he is a very attentive and supportive to his friends. Coming from St. John's Catholic Church in Pottsville, Dominick was brought into the group by James and Matthew as well. When I regard attentive, Dominick is present for almost all community events and Last Sunday Lattes; in some cases coming from his church or karate classes and ready to help out. Dominick will be graduating from Blue Mountain High School and looking into the field of Mechanical Engineering at Penn State Schuylkill.



James Williams (Wyatt) – Standing tall in the presence of his peers (literally), Wyatt has provided a quiet, stern, but caring standard in the group. Though at times conflicting with the humor, it is with purpose he tries to keep us on track with the goal at hand. Like Matthew, you'll more than often find James supporting the media center or sales pitching during the fundraisers. James will be graduating from Blue Mountain High School and Schuylkill Technical Center and looking into the field of technology/computer information science support.

As a youth director, you try to look and support each youth equally. But knowing three of them since they were tiny (Colton, Matthew, Wyatt), you cannot hold back the tears that your 'children' are leaving (one actually being my child). But one thing I will say is that this group

of boys, no – young men, support each other thick and thin. They also welcome others into the group that feel left out at times. These are some of the great attributes of being a Christ Ambassador – the fruit of the Spirit. See if you noticed some of the following – Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Self-Control (along with Patience and Gentleness (Gal 5:22)).

It is our job as a community in Christ to raise the next generation to bear fruit. Each has a purpose in plowing the fields, clearing the debris, planting the seeds, and nurturing the plants until they can grow on their own. Just because a tree grows on its own, it still can use trimmings at times. Much like a young person will need support at times from family and friends.

It is not good-bye,
it is safe journey
until next we meet.

God Bless!! David
Williams / Stacey
Lehman



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office@havenfirstumc.org

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The Circuit Writer May / June 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 Or like us on Facebook and join us there.