

# GRAPEVINE

## "The Pastor's Page"

July 2, 2024

### Sacred Conversations on Race

In the fall, here in Gettysburg, a cohort is forming to lead dedicated, intentional, and transformative conversations about racism on a monthly basis. The first of the gatherings will be a concert, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Adams County Historical Society called "Deeper Than The Skin." The concert is lead by Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway. Two friends, one black, one white. One born in the north, the other the south. You can read about them here:

<https://reggieharrismusic.com/storyteller/>.

This concert will form the foundation of a second gathering being held November 9<sup>th</sup>, a dinner followed by small group discussions. From there, we are continuing to pray and meet about the direction of this cohort.

Between now and then, GPC is hosting a discussion group here at the church on Sunday mornings right after worship. We are going to meet on the last Sunday in July and run for six weeks, and our group will be about "Sacred Conversations on Race." Gail Hull and myself are going to be your co-facilitators. Sign-ups are available in the Fellowship Hall and you are also welcome to send me an email ([caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)) to let me know your interest.

Our purpose is to do the educating work that needs to be done surrounding hot-button words on race and racism (to list a few: privilege, pride, bias, micro-aggression, appropriation). We will be using two primary sources to root our discussions in Scripture and the life of our church: The Belhar Confession of Faith and The PCUSA's Matthew 25 Initiative.

When I was brought into GPC, the search committee asked me a question about what my motivating call to ministry was, in other words, what drives me? And I answered that I believe I am called to live out Luke's Gospel: to reach out to the least, the last, and the lost. This is one part of our shared ministry as disciples of Christ. Wherever there is inequality, injustice, and a lack of peace, we are the voice – the voice of love, justice, and peace.

Read these words from the Belhar Confession:

"We believe ... that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;  
... that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;  
... that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;"

I hope to see you there. In the meantime, I encourage you to read Luke 15:1-32.

Grace and Peace,  
Caleb

### Inside

- VBS Thank You
- Items Needed for South Dakota Trip
- Worship & Music Update for Fall Schedule
- Children's Church Volunteers Needed
- Sunday School Teachers Needed
- Outdoor Service and All-Church Picnic
- Nursery Care Needed
- Hiking Club
- Prayer Project Calendar

# Happy Birthday to...

**July 1**  
Dennis Meckley  
Erin Stephens

**July 2**  
Chris Landauer

**July 3**  
Pam VanHoutte

**July 4**  
Benjy Conover  
Jessica Stone

**July 5**  
Kyele Bridel  
Michael Kulkusky  
Lane Mosser

**July 7**  
Leo McGuire

**July 8**  
Harrison Crow

**July 9**  
Joseph Tassin

**July 10**  
Emily Bankert

**July 11**  
Deb Bowersox  
Robert Lewis

**July 12**  
Garrett Kolmer  
Frank Pennings

**July 13**  
Joan Pore

**July 14**  
Zane Graff  
Gail Hull

**July 14**  
Ellen Raggets

**July 14**  
Marlyn Burdge  
Carol Merwede

**July 14**  
Lloyd Schaeffer

**July 15**  
Henry Isherwood  
Audrey Jahn  
Bradley Kime  
James Newman

**July 16**  
Brian Campbell  
Susan Sanders  
Randy Umbrell

**July 17**  
Chloe McMaster  
Grant Sanders  
Anne Simpson

**July 17**  
Adalyn Smarsh  
Adair Toddes

**July 18**  
Kevin Schmitz

**July 19**  
Kim Landauer  
Carson Pennings

**July 19**  
Randy Smith

**July 20**  
Richard Beamer  
Tessa Beauchat  
Robert Deitch  
Cathy Franek  
Alexander Nyiri

**July 21**  
Brayden Beamer  
Adelyn Hieber  
Sarah Lambert

**July 22**  
Caroline Peck

**July 23**  
Nancy Coombs  
Phyllis Dowd

**July 23**  
Marie Levenstein  
Daniel Murray

**July 25**  
Perla Niguidula-Gish  
Patrick Sullivan

**July 26**  
Elizabeth Burke  
Melany LaRochelle

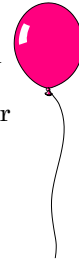
**July 27**  
John Snyder

**July 28**  
Doris Elledge  
Carol Heiser  
Peter North

**July 29**  
Emma Dennison  
Braden Unger

**July 30**  
David Bowman

**July 31**  
Jean Sumser



On behalf of our family and myself, I want to thank your GPC family for the outpouring of love during Allen's illness and death. Thank you for all the cards, calls, flowers, visits and food.; and always your prayers that sustained us during these past months..

Your kindness will never be forgotten!  
Love & Blessings  
Marie Duncan

PW COMMITTEE MEMBERS would like to THANK everyone who attended to Luncheon. It was a wonderful day- even though it was hottest day of the year. We would like to express our deep appreciation to Ann Gallon for welcoming us into her home again this year. Again thank you to everyone who made it a great success!!

Sincerely PW committee members.

**A Huge Thank You**

Goes to Richard & Linda Hagee for their help in cleaning the church while Larry was out.

We appreciate all of your hard work!

**"Calendar of Giving"**

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization. Please put your donations in the bin by the Mission board in Fellowship Hall.

For the month of:

**July**

We will be collecting items for  
**Manos Unidas**

Snacks, Paper and School Supplies.

Congratulations to Georgia & Tom Kuhn who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 29

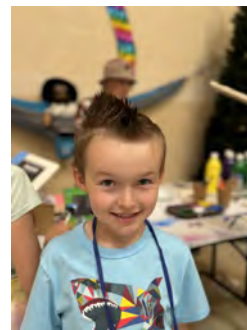


# CAMP Firelight

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Vacation Bible School this year was full of fellowship, learning, laughter and TRUST while we were in the Gettysburg Presbyterian National Park! We had 56 youth show up to learn about putting their trust in God during all situations. They learned to trust that God is always with them, that God is always guiding them, that God is sharing wisdom with them, and even during storms in our lives, God is giving us peace. The kids enjoyed stories, music, games, science, drama around the campfire and of course... s'mores!

None of these things are possible without God and all the people who signed up to plan, donate, set-up, tear down, and work during the week of VBS. There are so many moving and intricate parts to VBS that one person can not do it alone. For this, I am forever grateful to anyone who helped in making VBS such a wild success, otherwise, I would have surely been lost in the wilderness.

This year we raised money for Water Mission International and thanks to everyone's efforts and donations we collected \$220.88.



## South Dakota Trip

Several former South Dakota mission trip veterans continue to be in touch with our Lakota friends on the reservation. Although as a group we have not been to the reservation in several years, there continues to be great need among the Lakota people. A small group is planning a trip to the reservation with donations of children's cold weather coats, sheets and blankets. While there, the group plans to assess need and opportunity for future trips.

When: September 27 to October 5

Where: Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation

What: Donations Needed - Children's and Youth new and gently used cold weather coats  
- NEW Twin size and full size sheet sets and blankets

Donation bin in Fellowship Hall. Donations accepted through Sunday, September 15.

## Worship and Music Update Regarding Fall Schedule 2024

Greetings from the Worship and Music Committee! Since our new Worship schedule began on 9/10/23, our committee has been monitoring and evaluating how Worship is offered at GPC. In general, we have listened to feedback (both positive and negative) about the Worship schedule, monitored weekly attendance, and considered the needs of our Worship partners such as the choir, musicians, Sunday School, congregants, etc. Specifically, we reviewed 5 different scenarios for Worship:

1. The Current Schedule (Keep Things the Same)– Traditional at 8:30am, Fellowship and Sunday School from 9:45 – 10:45 am, and Contemporary at 11am. Comments from the Committee:
  - Attendance has been highest at the 8:30am service, with an average of 40 more congregants than the 11am service.
  - There has been an increase in new families and more children at the 8:30 service.
  - Choir has grown at the 8:30am service.
  - Coffee hour and Fellowship time have grown and are well received.
  - Positive feedback about blended services for months having 5 Sundays.
  - Complaints were received from some members who prefer Traditional, that the 8:30 am service is too early.
2. Flip schedule to Contemporary at 8:30am Sunday School and Fellowship time 9:45-10:45 am Traditional at 11am. Comments from the Committee:
  - Would be more popular with congregants who prefer the Traditional service and feel it is currently too early.
  - The Band raised concerns about it being too early to set up and rehearse.
3. 9 am Traditional, 10am Sunday School and Fellowship time, and 11am Contemporary. Comments from the Committee:
  - General feeling that the schedule would be too rushed.
  - Congregants who participate in Sunday School would not have adequate time for Fellowship time.
4. Two traditional services on Sunday morning with evening Contemporary. Comments from the Committee:
  - It would be a long day for staff and musicians.
  - There would be a lack of Fellowship time between Traditional and Contemporary congregants because of differences in the times.
5. Keep one combined service in the fall until new associate pastor is called. Service would be at 9:30am and Sunday School would be at 10:45. Fellowship time could be offered before worship and after Sunday School. When the new associate pastor is called, the schedule could resume to two services. Comments from Committee:
  - Combined service very popular over the summers.
  - This model would be advantageous if there were staffing shortages.
  - Congregants would not get the full taste of either Traditional or Contemporary.
  - Fellowship time would be chopped up.
  - Sunday school would be getting out late for many families.

Conclusion: All of the above models were considered at great length and reviewed in committee, with staff, and at Session. As a result, it was decided to stay with **Option 1** – which includes 8:30am Traditional, 9:45-10:45am Sunday School and Fellowship time and 11am Contemporary. We would like to thank the members of our congregation for their feedback, kind words, and support over the past months. We will continue to prayerfully monitor the above metrics and reevaluate the needs of our church family.

Thank you and God bless from the Worship and Music Committee.

Mary Flinner ([maryflinner@hotmail.com](mailto:maryflinner@hotmail.com) 717-805-9842)

Merida Hurkett ([mhurkett778@gmail.com](mailto:mhurkett778@gmail.com) 204-505-8905)

Thanks so much for the wonderful celebration of my ministry with GPC. It was such fun, and somewhat overwhelming, to revisit my time working there. The songs, the skits, the speakers, the charades, the gift cards, and especially the written memories and advice for heading into retirement, were all special to me and my family. I saved each card. I couldn't have had a better staff to work with, and I've loved the GPC family since long before my employment there.

Much love to everyone involved,  
Libby Crowe



### Tips for Medication Safety

- Keep a list of all your medications in a safe place. List the name of the medication, date you started, reason you are taking it, how often you take it, and provider name.
- Bring your list of medications when you talk to your physician/CRNP/PA or pharmacist.
- Use a pillbox if you have multiple medications.
- Take your medications at recommended times. If you miss a dose, take it immediately. If concerns, call your pharmacist.
- Talk to the pharmacist before taking any OTC (over the counter) medications to make sure they won't react to your prescribed medications.
- As we age, medications act differently in our system. If you think your medication is "not working" speak to your physician/CRNP/PA.
- If you are having "side effects" from medications, talk with your physician/PA/CRNP before you stop taking the medication. Some medications cannot be stopped abruptly.
- It is okay to ask your provider to review any medications with you.
- Before you leave your pharmacy, review your medication and make sure it has your Name on it, the medication name, and that you understand the specific directions (take with food, take before eating, take in the morning, etc.)
- Take your medications the right way every day!!!

***If you would like a Free "Personal Health Record" please let me know. It is a wonderful way to keep track of all of your medical information for when you need to go to the doctors, have a procedure, etc. Ask me to show you one!!***

#### ***Supplies available:***

***Are you a Diabetic?*** I have **lancets** available (FREE) for anyone in need. Stop by my office and pick them up off my desk.

***Adult diapers: Small and Medium*** available. They are in a bag behind my desk in Crane Library. If you know of anyone who can use them, feel free to take them.

*Pam Phillips RN FCN at 410-596-0777 or email [gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)*





# THE PRAYER PROJECT – JULY 2024

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>7</b> Forbearing Father, just as You always forgive us, help each of us to be quick to forgive. It's so hard to do, but so necessary. Enable each of us to let go of any grudges and resentment.</p> | <p><b>1</b> Loving Lord, we thank You today for the beautiful work of Jamie Bowman as our organist. Please bless her and her music ministry to GPC, and also as a teacher.</p>        | <p><b>2</b> Holy Spirit, please bless our state lawmakers as they set a new budget. May it be fair and a good use of taxpayer funds.</p>   | <p><b>3</b> Lord Jesus, as many people indulge in fireworks this time of year, may there be no injuries, deaths or loss of property resulting from their use.</p>  | <p><b>4</b> God of history, please bless the USA today and always. May we cling to You and the Christian principles upon which the US was founded, so that we may always be part of His-story.</p> | <p><b>5</b> Guiding God, let no one this summer make the mistake of leaving a child nor a pet in a hot vehicle. Remind everyone how dangerous this can be.</p>                                 | <p><b>6</b> Lord of the Tempest, please let no one die or suffer any injury or property damage due to lightning strikes this year.</p>  |
| <p><b>14</b> Holy God, we thank and praise You for the commands which You have given us and taught us through Your Son. Enable each of us to forever walk in Your ways.</p>                                | <p><b>8</b> Loving Lord, we're far from New Year's and its resolutions. Nonetheless, help us to set goals in our faith journeys and then enable us to meet them.</p>                  | <p><b>9</b> Lavish Lord. We thank You and praise You for all the earth puts forth. We especially thank You today for the gift of wild berries which are everywhere.</p>                                | <p><b>10</b> Perfect Jesus, You were never a hypocrite, but we often are. Please rid us today of such tendencies, so that we may reflect You more accurately to the world.</p>                           | <p><b>11</b> Ever-loving God, many are those who are lonely. Let this be the day You whisper to us to befriend a lonely person and help us to bring joy into another's life.</p>                   | <p><b>12</b> Glorious God, today we simply praise You for all that You are. Great are the works of Your hands, and wonderful is Your name! Glory, praise and honor to You forevermore.</p>     | <p><b>13</b> Lord of Truth, enable each of us to only speak truth in our daily lives, but lovingly. Let Your truth come forth and be seen throughout the world.</p>                       |
| <p><b>21</b> Compassionate Jesus, thank You for the South Central PA Gleaning Project. Bless this ministry, and may many participate in it, and many benefit from their work.</p>                          | <p><b>15</b> Jehovah Jireh, we thank You for bovines and all that they provide for us. Bless all ranchers and dairy farmers, and help all herds to stay healthy.</p>                  | <p><b>16</b> Lord of All, keep our hearts open to all who differ from us, whether by race, ethnic group, economic status or anything else. Help us to value each just as much as You do.</p>           | <p><b>17</b> Healing God, we pray today for all who suffer from eating disorders. Bless them with self-acceptance and remove the causes for their struggles. Help them to find You and to overcome.</p>  | <p><b>18</b> Whispering Spirit, You gave us two ears but just one mouth. Help us to be better at listening than at talking, both in our human relationships, and in our relationship with You.</p> | <p><b>19</b> Abba Daddy, we pray for all those grown children who were raised to know You, yet became apostate. Bring each back into a vibrant relationship with You.</p>                      | <p><b>20</b> Awesome God, You permitted man to reach outside of Earth and literally to the moon! Help humanity to cooperate both on Earth and outside of it, to better lives for all.</p> |
| <p><b>28</b> Merciful Father, grant us the patience of Job. Although few of us are as afflicted as he, remind us to trust that You will see us through each trial. May we always be patient with You.</p>  | <p><b>22</b> Holiest God, when we complain, show us the actions to take to fix a problem. Especially if it relates to Your church, help us to get involved to make things better.</p> | <p><b>23</b> Compassionate Christ, now that homeless shelters are less full over summer, remind us to still care for those less fortunate. Remind us to provide snacks, hygiene items and clothes.</p> | <p><b>24</b> Loving Father, You not only gave us nuclear families, but extended ones as well. We thank You for so many precious people in our lives and pray that no family may experience division.</p> | <p><b>25</b> Gentle Jesus, please bless all those who are deaf or hearing-impaired. Help them to function fully in society, and let no others be born without adequate hearing.</p>                | <p><b>26</b> Prince of Peace, as our world comes together in the spirit of sportsmanship and Olympic ideals, let wars cease. Infuse our world with Your goodwill and love for all peoples.</p> | <p><b>27</b> God of the Earth, enable each of us to be mindful about the trash we create. Help us each find ways to create less trash and reuse or re-purpose items more.</p>             |

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement**

“Gathering People in Christ  
to Teach, Learn, and Live  
God’s Message.”

**Next Newsletter Deadline:  
Noon, Thursday, August 1, 2024**

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|--|--|---------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| <p><b>Summer<br/>Worship<br/>Schedule</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m.<br/>Combined<br/>Services<br/>will run from<br/>May 26 through<br/>September 1<br/>this Summer.</p> | <p><b>July 2024<br/>GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>July 7</b></td> <td><b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br/>Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching<br/>Communion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>July 14</b></td> <td><b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br/>Mexico Mission Trip Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>July 21</b></td> <td><b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br/>Rev. Peter J. Roy Preaching</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>July 28</b></td> <td><b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br/>Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching</td> </tr> </table> <p>To view live stream, go to: <a href="http://www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org">www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org</a><br/>Just below the announcement pictures.</p> | <b>July 7</b> | <b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br>Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching<br>Communion | <b>July 14</b> | <b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br>Mexico Mission Trip Report | <b>July 21</b> | <b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br>Rev. Peter J. Roy Preaching | <b>July 28</b> | <b>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship</b><br>Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching |
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