



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GETTYSBURG NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

What's Happening



Vacation Bible School
July 13-17 ~ 9-12noon

House of Prayer
Prayer Gathering
Sunday, July 26th ~ 6:00-7:30pm

South Mountain Fair
July 21-25 ~ 4:30-9:00pm
Sign up at welcome center

from the Pastor's Desk



Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (ESV) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Recently while Jennefer and I were reviewing different parenting materials for the summer parenting class, we came across Visionary Parenting, by Rob Rienow. In his introduction, Rienow asks a profound question to his audience (who are primarily parents), “What is the purpose and vision that you have for your family?” Typical first responses might be that they raise children who become hard workers or that would be honest, kind, people of integrity and successful. While these are all desirable traits, they miss the biblical mandates, vision and purpose that we find in scriptures.

A vision gives purpose and helps to direct our course in good times as well as in trials. Without a clear vision, most of us tend to drift from one thing to another, living in the urgency of our circumstances. In Proverbs 28:19, we are told that, “where there is no vision, the people will perish.” Thankfully, the scriptures are not silent on God’s expectations and desires for our lives, marriage and child raising. In Deuteronomy 6:5-9, we find the primary goal and command for us: To love God with our all, keep his ways and commands, and pass this on to the next generation.

Malachi 2:15 states that God is looking for “godly offspring”, and he accomplishes this through parents who understand that God has entrusted children into their care and that they should follow his plans and vision in raising them. While this might seem monumental, God has what each of us needs and has placed us in a loving church community where we can grow and support one another in fulfilling his divine mandates.

For further study consider the following visions and purposes that God has laid out for us:

In matters of work - Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Corinthians 10:31

In matters of marriage – Ephesians 5:25-32, Malachi 2:15, Joshua 24:15

In matters of parents/parenting – Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:4, Ephesians 6:2-4

In matters of offense – Matthew 5:24, 18:15-17, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

In matters sharing our faith – Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:16, 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:15

In matters of church life – Matthew 5:14, John 17:21, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 2:19, 5:25, Colossians 2:6-7 (the base for our church tag line/vision: Rooted, Growing, Serving)

As we move into the summer months, may we be found about our Father’s business, fulfilling his vision and purpose for our lives, families and church.

Only by His help,

Pastor Carl

There are some changes taking place during the summer months at FBCG.

The first is that Pastor Sean will be on his sabbatical leave from June 15 – September 15.

Please keep the Fitzgeralds in prayer as they use this this time to rest and renew.

Please also pray for the elders as they take on some extra responsibilities during this time.

Some of you have learned that Kathy will be changing positions within FBCG, moving from the office as our church secretary to a staff position with our Sonshine Christian Preschool. Please keep this transition in your prayers asking that God will bless this move and provide for our next secretarial staff. The Official Board appointed a committee (Gene Blinn, Keith Feaga, Linda Kump, Laura Meals and Pastor Carl), to help us prayerfully fill this office position.

Look for more information (job description, application)
in the coming weeks and please keep this process in prayer.

July Events & Info

Fusion Youth July Birthday Game Night!!! Invite your friends!!! July 19th!!!

There is No Fusion Youth On July 5th.

Fusion Cookout & Swim Night!!!

July 19th bring your friends (permission slip required) to a fun filled night of food, fellowship, swimming, & food! Did I mention FOOD! We will be at the Hurda's house (120 Liberty Lane, Aspers, PA 17304) from 6-9pm & would love for you to join us! Please see Matt & Faith to get signed up. If you can, please bring a side dish or desert to share. Swimming will be in a pond, so please bring something to wear on your feet. Please contact Matt or Faith to get signed up.

Can't wait to see you then!



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR

Come join us for a night of service. We will be sharing the love of Jesus with our community through face painting, the Gospel colors, & building relationships. We would love to have you join us (even if just for an hour) at the South Mountain Fair Grounds (615 Narrows Road, Biglerville, PA 17307) on Thursday July 23rd. We will be there from 4pm-9pm. And hope to see you there.

If you are interested in helping out please see Matt or Faith.

Father Daughter Camp 2026

A daddy is the first hero a little girl has in her life. You're the first man she falls in love with, & the standard she'll compare all other men against. She needs your love. Your little girl, no matter her age, needs to know daddy loves her, & is willing to invest time & energy in her life. Come join us, invest into your daughter, & build memories that will last a lifetime.

Children must be 6-year-old or older to attend.

Go to <https://www.fathersoncampcast.org/> to get more information & register or contact Matt or Faith

July 30-August 2

September 24-27

Father Son Camp 2026

How does a young boy grow into a man? A man of values? A man of principle? A godly man? In a world ripe with confusion and conflicting messages, the pathway to manhood is anything but easy to navigate.

While we certainly can't correct all of the spiritual and social woes in a single four-day weekend, we can strive to come alongside fathers who want to do everything possible to make the most of the fleeting years of boyhood. Come join us on this weekend of investment.

Children must be 6-year-old or older to attend.

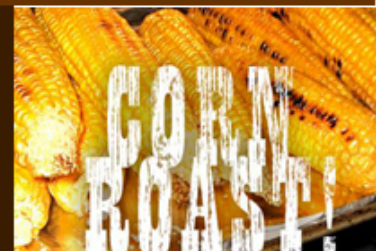
Go to <https://www.fathersoncampcast.org/> to get more information & register or contact Matt or Faith

All Church Corn Roast & Hot Dog Dinner!!!

(Hosted by Fusion Youth Ministry)

August 16th from 5-7 pm the Fusion Youth are hosting their Annual All Church Corn Roast & Hot Dog Dinner!!! ALL are invited! We will have plenty of corn on the cob & hot dogs for all! Please bring a side or desert to share. The playground, volleyball, basket ball, 4 square, & kickball will be open for everyone to enjoy on this night of great fellowship & fun!

YOUTH please arrive at 4pm to help setup.



- If you have any questions about these events please contact Pastor Matt 443-846-5094
- Check us out on Facebook at [FUSION Youth Ministry](#) & get signed up for emails & texts!

GREAT CLASSES AVAILABLE

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

SUMMER

CLASSES

Sign up today at the WELCOME CENTER!

sponsored by the Elder and CE Boards

Discipleship Class

Designed to equip believers with the biblical principles, practical tools and relational skills needed to disciple others in their walk with Christ. Participants will learn how to intentionally invest in people, encourage spiritual growth and develop faithful disciples who can lead others to Christ.

Taught by Mac McBeth

July 29, August 5 - 6:00 -7:30pm Preschool area

'How to Share Your Faith' - Evangelism Class

Designed to help believers confidently share their Christian faith in everyday life. Participants will learn practical ways to communicate the Gospel clearly, answer common questions, and engage people with truth, grace, hope and love.

Taught by Steve Bjorkman

July 29, August 5 6:00-7:30pm Music room.

OFFICE CLOSED

**OFFICE
CLOSED
FRIDAY,
JULY 3rd**



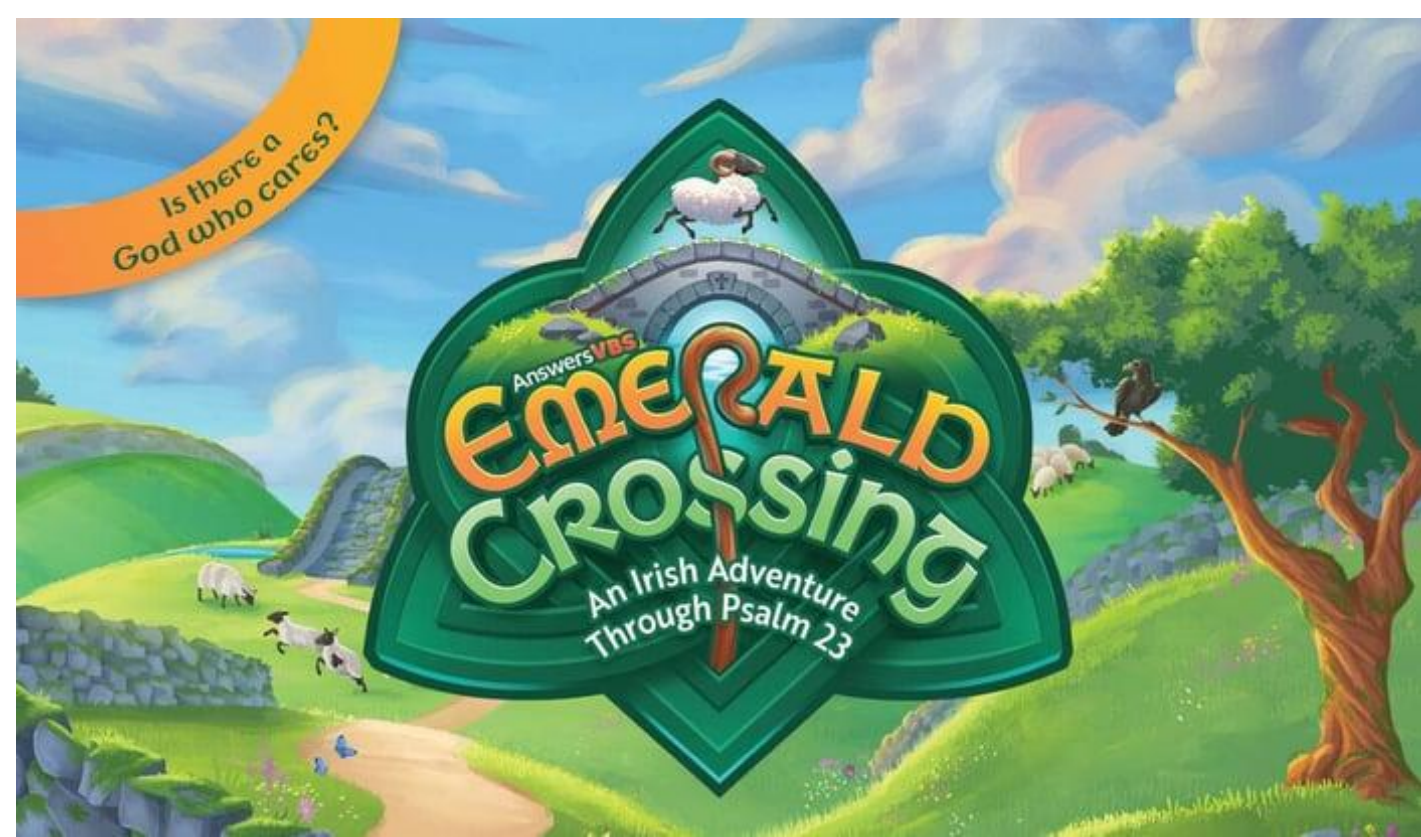
W2 Group

*Support for widows and
widowers*

Meets on Sunday,
July 26th
after 2nd service



**Floors in the
Church
Kitchen will
be waxed
July 20-24**



Vacation Bible School
will be here before we know it! Bring
the kids and grandkids out for this
Irish Adventure.

Monday through Friday July 13-17
from 9:00am -12noon. This is a great
week for the kids to learn about who
Jesus is and to put their faith in Him.



South Mountain Fair

Every year at the South Mountain Fair, FBC has a booth to connect with the people walking by. The gospel is shared and sometimes, lives are changed. If you would like to be a volunteer and work in the booth, the fair will be ***Tuesday, July 21st through Saturday, July 25th*** and helpers are needed in two shifts. Please see the sign-up sheet at the welcome center.

Monthly Prayer Gathering
“House of Prayer”



DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO
Prayer.

C O L O S S I A N S 4 : 2

Next Meeting: July 26th @ 6:00pm

Join us on the 4th Sunday of each month for a night of praise, scripture reading and prayer! Jesus declared to His followers that His House is to be a “House of Prayer” (Matthew 21:13), and although I consider FBCG to be a praying church, I truly believe that the Lord wants to “do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20-21), and this will be best accomplished by God working through our prayers and petitions.

In light of all that God is doing in and through our church, I invite you to join me, along with other devoted prayer warriors, as we come together before the Lord. Let us approach Him with hearts and minds full of expectation, trusting that He is both able and willing to accomplish “greater things” in our midst.

Let it not be said of us that we did not have because we simply did not ask (James 4:2). But rather, may it be said we asked much and it pleased the Lord to respond in doing great things among us, our families, community, country, state and world. May our prayers result in advancing God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Thank you for your prayers offered in faith and your consideration
in being part of these prayer
gatherings!

His blessings and love, Pastor Carl G Harris

***Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.
Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)***

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:7–11 (ESV)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)



HOPE IN A SHOEBOX

Every shoebox gift is filled with more than toys, school supplies, and small treasures—it is packed with love, hope, prayers, and the message that every child is deeply loved by God. For many children around the world, receiving a shoebox is a moment they will never forget. What may seem like a simple gift to us can bring great joy, encouragement, and comfort to a child who may have very little. Each box is a reminder that they are seen, valued, and never forgotten.

Through these shoebox gifts, we have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ in a real and meaningful way. A small act of kindness can open hearts, strengthen families, and plant seeds of hope that last for years to come. God often uses simple acts of obedience to make an eternal difference. Thank you for helping support this ministry and for being willing to share God's love with children across the world. May each gift bring smiles, hope, and the light of Christ to every child who receives one.

If you would like to support this ministry, donated items may be placed in the collection box located in the small room behind the sanctuary. **Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate—please mark your envelope "Shoeboxes."**

Suggested donation for this month: yarn, small toys, small hammers, small screw drivers, wash cloths, and plastic bags that newspapers come in.

Please take a moment to double click and watch this short video and witness the powerful difference a simple act of kindness can make. If you would like to support this ministry, donated items may be placed in the small box in the baptism room behind the sanctuary or give to a shoebox team member. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate – please mark your envelope "Shoeboxes."



OneTwoThree.mp4

The Lord bless you and keep you – Numbers 6:24

The Shoebox Team



Women of FBC: please join us as we travel to the Ark Encounter and attend the annual Answers for Women Conference:

**“Steadfast: Unwavering Faith for Fearful Times”
April 7-11, 2027**

We will travel by coach bus to Kentucky and tour The Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter and then be equipped and challenged by conference speakers Ken Ham, Dr. Georgia Purdum, Heidi St. John, Ruth Chou Simmons, Jimmy Ardavanis, Abbie Halberstadt, Susan Heck, Dr. Greg Gifford, Reagan Rose, Dr. Francine Tan, Nana Dolce, and Keith and Kristyn Getty. ([More info](#))

When fear overwhelms our society, we can lose hope and waver in our faith. Yet God exhorts us to hold fast and not waver. He wants us to be steadfast in the confession of our hope that is found only in Jesus, who is faithful to keep his promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Steadfast is more than a conference. It's a dynamic gathering for women featuring some of today's most authentic voices on living faithfully in fearful times. And it's a call to action—to stand firm on God's unchanging promises and live confidently with courage, clarity, and peace. We invite you to come be encouraged, strengthened, and steadfast.

[Register today!](#) Make sure you select the “Weekend Conference” dates, April 8-10. When you've completed registering, please contact Carolyn Tuckey (ctuckey@proton.me or text 610-299-0155). She will add you to the list of women attending from FBC and secure lodging and a seat on the bus for you.

This conference usually sells out so, don't wait too long to register. The entire experience is a golden opportunity for women of all ages...moms with teen daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, neighbors, and friends. Please don't miss this chance for fun, fellowship, and a spiritual feast from God's truth! It WILL change you!

REACH OUT TO US FOR SUPPORT



*We all go through hard times.
When you are suffering or a loved one is sick or has
passed away, please reach out to the church office
to let us know.*

*You are part of a loving, compassionate church family
who wants to help.*

*Keeping us informed helps us to know
how to pray for you and meet your needs.*

We are here for you!

717-334-2564

feel free to leave a message



CARES

CARES is a local organization composed of 12 board members, a director, dedicated volunteers, and salaried staff, all committed to serving those in need. During the winter months, from October through April, CARES provides emergency shelter for guests seeking refuge from the cold. The Gettysburg CARES program had a cumulative total of 3268 guest overnights during the 2025-2026 cold weather season. Local churches and organizations provided 2397 breakfasts in total. CARES also helped quite a few guests find places to live by obtaining vouchers for apartments or other living spaces through other agencies. For two weeks in November, our church, FBCG, faithfully served alongside this ministry by providing breakfasts, devotionals, and laundry services. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. Your love, compassion, and commitment to serving others continue to make a meaningful difference in our community.

GIDEONS

Our church is truly blessed to have Mark Punchard, president of the Gideons, as part of our congregation. His dedication and faithful commitment to the Gideons' ministry have been an inspiration to everyone whose life he has touched.

SUMMARY OF GIDEON EVENTS FOR 2026 BY MARK PUNCHARD:

In the last six months, I attended the State Convention in Harrisburg, had lunch with the Gideon International Chaplain, and sat next to our testimony speaker for lunch. He had been in jail 74 times, and it was a Gideon testament on his cot, plus a Gideon who kept witnessing to him about the love of Jesus that convinced him to read the pocket testament. I had an opportunity to do open-air witnessing along Front Street just down from our state's capital building. I also asked the desk clerk named Laura at a motel in Florence, Kentucky, at the Answer in Genesis Conference for Men, if she knew where she would spend eternity, and she said wherever the universe sends her. There are a lot of Lauras out there. That is why we distribute Bibles and witness to people. We want people to be in heaven with Jesus, not hell without Him. We gave out 209 testaments to Gettysburg College students at the end of April, and by the time you read this, I will have had the opportunity to give 3,000 testaments to over 50,000 people who attend Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg every year. May God get the glory!!!

AWANA

Awana Clubs International is a Christian nonprofit ministry focused on helping children and teenagers learn about the Bible and grow in their faith. Awana programs are usually run through local churches and are designed for kids from preschool through high school. The organization's broader mission is to help churches worldwide "reach kids, equip leaders, and change the world" through discipleship and evangelism. Awana is used in thousands of churches across many countries and denominations. Our church Mission Board sponsors Lanty and Tammie Moss, who serve with Awana in Pennsylvania and Western Maryland. They provide leadership and support to churches using the Awana ministry and help introduce other churches to effective ways of reaching their communities with the Gospel message.

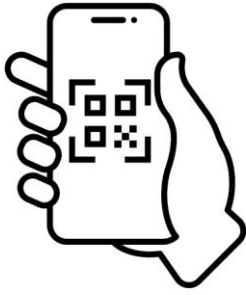
CHAPEL HILL FOOD PANTRY

Chapel Hill Food Pantry is located at 4521 Oxford Road, York Springs, PA 17372, and is operated by Chapel Hill Church of God. In addition to providing a place of worship, the church faithfully serves the community through its food distribution ministry. The pantry offers food assistance to low-income individuals and families residing in Aspers, Bendersville, Gardners, Wenksville, and York Springs, Pennsylvania. God has richly blessed this ministry with dedicated volunteers from Chapel Hill Church of God and the surrounding community. Food for distribution is generously provided by individuals, organizations, the USDA, Adams County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Groceries are distributed on the first Thursday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Emergency food assistance is also available when needed.

We ask our church family to continue praying for all of these ministries. May the Lord graciously provide for their physical, emotional, and financial needs.

James 2:14–17

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."



It's a snap!

GIVING



FBC WEB PAGE



RIGHT NOW MEDIA



The background of the entire page is a light-colored wooden surface with a vertical grain. In the upper left quadrant, there is a stack of old, yellowed books. The top book is open, and the words "BIBLY" and "BIBLY" are visible on its pages. In the lower center, two hands are clasped together in a prayerful or supportive grip.

Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes

The Witness of the Stars (McFeaters/McBeth) 9:00am Lewis Hall

The Gospel of John (Punchard) 10:30am Lewis Hall

Middle/High School 9:00am Youth Room

PreK -5th grade KFC Musical Practice 9:00am Lewis Hall

Children's Church (ages K-5th) 10:30 Lewis Hall



life

GROUPS

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



GOSPEL OF LUKE

(J. HARRIS) 2ND and 4TH TUESDAY ZOOM 6:30-7:45PM - LADIES ONLY!

THE BOOK OF JAMES

(PASTOR CARL) THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM - YOUTH HOUSE

(ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER) THE GROUP WILL MEET FOR A PICNIC IN MID JULY

DEEPER STILL

(W. GALLIMORE) EVERY OTHER TUESDAY AT GALLIMORE'S 12:00 NOON

MEN'S WORKOUT AND STUDY OF 1 TIMOTHY

THURSDAYS @5:30AM WORKOUT AT REC PARK

AND 6:30AM STUDY @HEARTLAND DINER

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor

Rev. Carl G. Harris
pastorcarl@fbcgettysburg.net 717-253-3968

Associate Pastor

Sean Fitzgerald
fitzgerald08@fbcgettysburg.net 717-713-7948

Youth Pastor

Pastor Matt Rice
pastormatt@fbcgettysburg.net

Traditional Worship Leader

Loren and Louise Lustig
sing4joy@pa.net

Administrator

Kathy Negro
kathy_negro@fbcgettysburg.net

SonShine Christian Preschool

director: Natalie Potter
sonshine@fbcgettysburg.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Fridays 8:30 -12:30

Mailing Address:

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Telephone:

717-334-2564

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

www.fbcgettysburg.net