



April 2025

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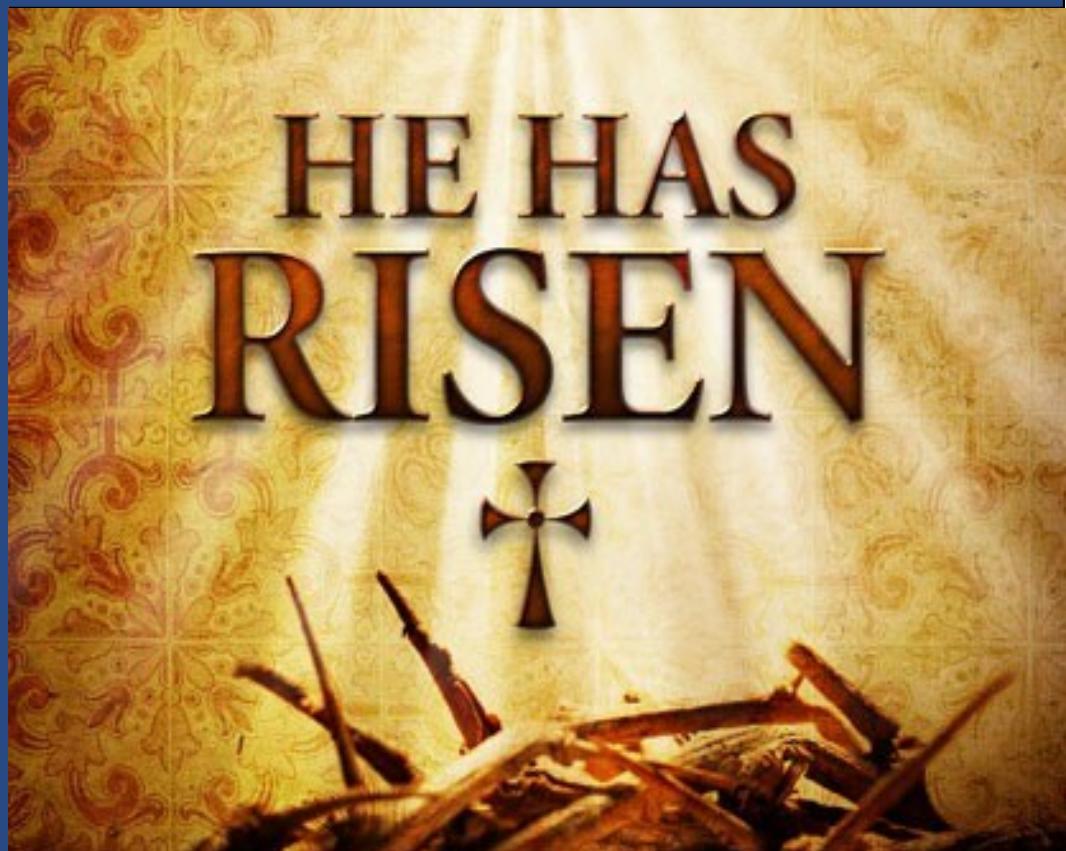
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Amazing
GRACE
NEWSLETTER

*Grace Church of Hanover
55 Albright Drive*





To the faithful of Grace Church: A Global Methodist Community, my co-laborers in the work of advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the life of the world—from whom is the source of all our hope, promise, joy, and security. The grace and peace of the Lord our God be with you.

Evangelism flows from the heart of a Christian who has been set aflame by the Spirit of God. It is sourced from and is an outpouring of the love received from God into the changed heart of the believer. When you receive this love, you share it. However, many Christians, when faced with the word "evangelism," let alone the activity itself, instantly disqualify themselves from the task. This hesitation often stems from fear—fear that typically manifests in two ways: the fear of misspeaking and the fear of elevation.

The fear of saying the wrong thing at the wrong time can cause a Christian to forfeit the game before it even begins. It is like arriving at a court or field, looking around, and deciding you have no confidence in your ability to play. Glossophobia is the fear of public speaking, lalophobia is the fear of speaking, and logophobia is the fear of words. Yet, none of these quite capture the full picture. The fear of public presence, difficult conversations, and saying something incorrect are all bricks on the path of what we might call "Witnessing Apprehension" or "Evangelism Anxiety." This anxiety often lingers beyond the moment of witnessing itself.

Have you ever had that moment, long after a conversation ends, when you suddenly think, "I should have said that instead!"? We all have. Conversations in real-time are a kind of sparring match—there is little opportunity to pause, research, and refine our responses. Evangelism brings us face to face with the possibility of being asked difficult questions for which we may feel unprepared. Does this resonate with you?

This fear of making a mistake can feel paralyzing, much like other fears in life. For example, I must confess that I have never been afraid of heights. Whether climbing tall trees as a child or working in construction as an adult, heights never bothered me. What I did fear, however, was falling. Many Christians experience a similar fear when it comes to sharing their faith. They fear being placed on a pedestal, afraid of being labeled a "holy roller" or not wanting others to look to them as a spiritual leader.

Let's be honest—how often have we seen a Christian proudly walk into a restaurant after church, only to treat the waitstaff with little appreciation or empathy? What about those who sport "Honk if you love Jesus" bumper stickers but drive with complete disregard for others? When we put ourselves out there as representatives of Christ, we have more to lose. The higher the platform, the farther the fall. Who wants that? Who wants their flaws pointed out when they already know they are struggling? The fear of failing in our witness is not new. Even great biblical figures struggled with the weight of their calling.

Exodus 4 details the calling of Moses, when God commands him to go to Pharaoh and serve as the spokesperson for the Hebrew people. Though God had ordained Moses for this task, Moses was not quick to accept the call. Instead, he promptly declared himself inadequate. Why? Because he didn't speak well, he fumbled over his words, and he lacked the quick thinking of a skilled attorney. But God answered Moses' concerns by providing him with a partner—his brother, Aaron—who was already on his way. Moses also carried personal baggage: he had killed an Egyptian taskmaster, and the Hebrew people did not trust him. Yet, God gave him authority, power, and an identity to fulfill the mission. God told Moses to use what was already at his disposal, and He would take care of the rest. This is God's prevenient grace—the grace that goes before, preparing the way for believers to succeed in leading those in the bondage of sin to freedom.

John Wesley taught that God's prevenient grace softens hearts, awakens spiritual hunger, and prepares people to receive Christ. The witness of the Church works beforehand in the life of an unbeliever. They experience the Church's generosity, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness, which in turn initiates their readiness to respond. Like a gardener tilling the soil, the Holy Spirit, poured out abundantly at Pentecost, prepares all people to recognize Jesus. But for them to respond, evangelism must be the primary activity of the Church. Because God is already at work preparing hearts, the responsibility of the Church is to ensure that people hear the gospel.

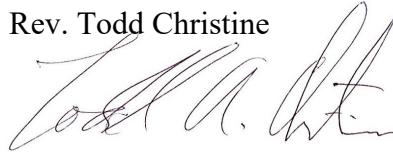
Romans 10:17 states, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." This means Christians are called to evangelize, and we must not allow fear to become a stumbling block. As 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power and self-control." Fear has no place in the heart of a believer. Jesus reassured His disciples in Mark 13 not to worry about what to say when persecution comes, for the Holy Spirit will provide the words.

I can still remember the feelings and thoughts when I had my first opportunity to share Christ. It was in a Half-Way House ministry. My pastor thought it was a great opportunity to come along beside him to minister to this group of people. My palms sweat and my pulse was pounding. I entered the room and sat down and the conversation started. Evangelism at its core is a conversation sharing how Jesus changed your life and what Jesus can do for others. My pastor mentored me. He assisted in resourcing and equipping me to do the work that became the path to full-time ministry as a pastor. Prayer, study, conversation, and the Holy Spirit nurtured my ability to live into sharing Christ.

There are practical ways to build confidence in evangelism. Spending time in prayer and studying Scripture allows Christians to engage more comfortably in faith-based conversations. Growth happens in community—small groups within the Church offer a safe place to wrestle with questions and strengthen one's faith. Ultimately, the most effective evangelist is the one who allows the Holy Spirit to work in and through them. The task of evangelism is not about personal ability but about surrendering to the work of God. What is missing from your daily and weekly spiritual practices that will help you to share the Gospel? What can you pray for the Holy Spirit to gift you that will break the anxiety and give you the boldness to witness to the world. Let us be the church sharing with the fire inside of souls the life saving message of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Todd Christine



Grace Church of Hanover| Senior Pastor



Birthday Month

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Melia Garrett Kathy Jones	4
6	7	8	9 Ed Davis	10	11	12
13 Karla Kramer	14	15	16 Kayla Dehoff	17 Sarah Adkins	18	19
20 Jacob Parker	21 Paisley Parker	22 Ray Johns	23	24 Neil Myers Anna Mae Terry	25 Skylar Grudziecki	26 Abigail Leonard
27 Rhonda Clark	28	29 Aubrey Koch John Nickey	30			



REV. MATT SICHEL

April 2025

The beginning of April brings us to the midpoint in Lent, the season of self-reflection and self-denial, when we recognize our own mortality and dependence on God. God, the holy and perfect authority who calls us to “be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect,” (Matt 5:48, NIV) and to “be holy,” (Lev 19:2). We shrink back from this thought as we recognize our own sinfulness. Isaiah’s experience as he has a vision of God in the temple resonates in our hearts, “Mourn for me; I’m ruined! I’m a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I’ve seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces! (Isa 6:5, CEB). We humans, if we’re honest, know that our lives never measure up to the purity of God. As we move through Lent, we know that the corners of our hearts are dark, and as we hold the light of God into them, they’re full of the sin that seems to entangle us at every turn (Heb 12:1, 2 Pet 2:20).

This reality brings us to the need for redemption, and with Paul, we cry, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” (Rom 7:24, NIV).

Article 11: “I believe in . . . the forgiveness of sins.”

Paul’s answer to his own question fills in the gap, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom 7:25). The heart of the gospel is that God forgives sin through Jesus Christ our Lord. But what does that mean? To understand, we look at two questions, “what is sin?”, and “what is forgiveness?”

Sin is a subject that no one really wants to discuss. The culture around us no longer recognizes absolute right and wrong, but for those who follow God, there is no way around this. So, what exactly is it?

In the simplest terms, it is both an action and an internal condition. It is any action, attitude, idea, or intention which is outside of the pleasing and perfect will of God. William Burt Pope (1822-1903), Methodist theologian, defined sin as “the voluntary separation of the soul from God: this implies the setting up of the law of self activity, and passively the surrender to internal confusion.” It is when we set up our own selfish law as the supreme authority, confusing the law of God with our own ideas and attitudes. It is active rebellion against God.

The other thing that our culture does not want to admit is that this condition of sin is inside of every human being from the moment of conception. David’s statement in Psalm 51 is clear, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” Human beings are not “born good.” They are born with an internal alignment against God and toward the self. When humans are left to their own devices, sin spreads and forms chains, so that not only do humans do bad things, but they create systems of evil which affect everything. John Wesley points to Genesis 6:5, where the Bible explains what happens when sin has full reign in the human heart, “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”

In our intentional selfishness, we then separate ourselves from God, and we substitute the god of ourselves over the God of the universe. The longer we allow sin to fester, the deeper it moves into our being. Like an internal infection, it will ultimately destroy us, both body and soul. James gives the full outcome, “each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death” (1:14-15).

So, we now see what sin is, and how it affects everything. How is sin reversed? Forgiveness.

Sin is both an action we do and a condition that lives within us. So, forgiveness must deal with both. Christianity teaches that forgiveness of sin is more than just removing a penalty. It is also erasing the history of the action. The Bible says, “as far as the east is from the west, so far has [God] removed our transgressions from us” (Ps 103:12). Micah writes that God “will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” God forgives our sin and remembers it no more.

How does God forgive sin? How is the penalty erased? It is removed because Jesus Christ took the penalty for our sin on the cross, and then he destroyed the power of sin by rising again from the dead. It is that simple. Sin no longer has dominion over us because Christ destroyed both its power to enslave and the curse of its result (Heb 2:14-15, 1 Cor 15:56-57).

But forgiveness is not just God’s business. It is the business of every Christian. We are to be a people who forgive. “Forgive us our trespasses,” said Jesus in his prayer, “as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Christians are people who follow the example of God and forgive the sins of everyone (Mark 11:25). But note that forgiveness does not mean that we are to be doormats for people. Forgiveness recognizes the depth and wrong of sin. It does not excuse bad action, but instead it reverses evil with the power of love.

To be the church is to bring love to the face of evil, and as we learn to live together, we learn to practice forgiveness. Peter and James instruct us, “My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

We believe in the forgiveness of sins because sin is the disease that will destroy the world and us. We believe in the forgiveness of sins because God in Jesus Christ forgives our sins.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins because we follow Christ’s example.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins because we are forming a community where sin no longer has power and dominion of human beings. We do this by bringing love to the darkness of sin.

May Grace Church be a family where forgiveness is the hallmark, and love covers a multitude of sins.

Love to you all in Christ,


Rev. Matt



CELEBRATE EASTER SUNDAY WITH US AT GRACE!

Come and rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ at one of our special Easter services!

Sunrise Service 6:30am

Experience the beauty of Easter morning with an outdoor service at sunrise. Dress warmly as we gather in worship and reflection.

Anchorage Service 9:00am

Join us for a vibrant, modern-style celebration of the Resurrection—uplifting worship, an inspiring message, and the joy of Easter!

Traditional Service 11:00am

Raise your Hallelujahs in a classic, liturgical service filled with sacred hymns and timeless Easter traditions.

Come as you are and celebrate the hope of Easter with us!

HOLY WEEK *at Grace Church*

EASTER CANTATA

APRIL 13TH @ 11 AM

EXPERIENCE THE POWERFUL STORY OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION
THROUGH MUSIC AS THE **GRACE CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR** PRESENTS A MOVING
EASTER CANTATA.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17TH @ 6 PM

STEP INTO THE UPPER ROOM AS WE OBSERVE **MAUNDY THURSDAY** IN A WAY
THAT CONNECTS THE **PASSOVER MEAL** WITH CHRIST'S SACRIFICE. THIS
IMMERSIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WILL INCLUDE , DEEPENING OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF REDEMPTION FROM EXODUS TO THE CROSS. COME AND
REMEMBER HOW DEEPLY GOD LOVES US.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 18TH @ 6 PM

A SOLEMN SERVICE REFLECTING ON THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST.
THROUGH SCRIPTURE, PRAYER, AND MUSIC, WE WILL REMEMBER HIS
SACRIFICE AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE HOPE OF EASTER.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO THESE SPECIAL SERVICES AS WE REFLECT, WORSHIP, AND
PREPARE FOR THE RESURRECTION!**

55 Albright Dr. Hanover PA 17331



Grace Preschool

Providing a quality Christian education

REGISTRATION FOR
GRACE PRESCHOOL
IS NOW OPEN FOR
THE 2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR.

REGISTER NOW



PreK Class has
openings for
the remainder
of this year!



Jennifer Freeman
717-632-3140
GracePreschool@mygracechurch.org



3-4 YEARS
Mon - Fri
9 - 11:30 am

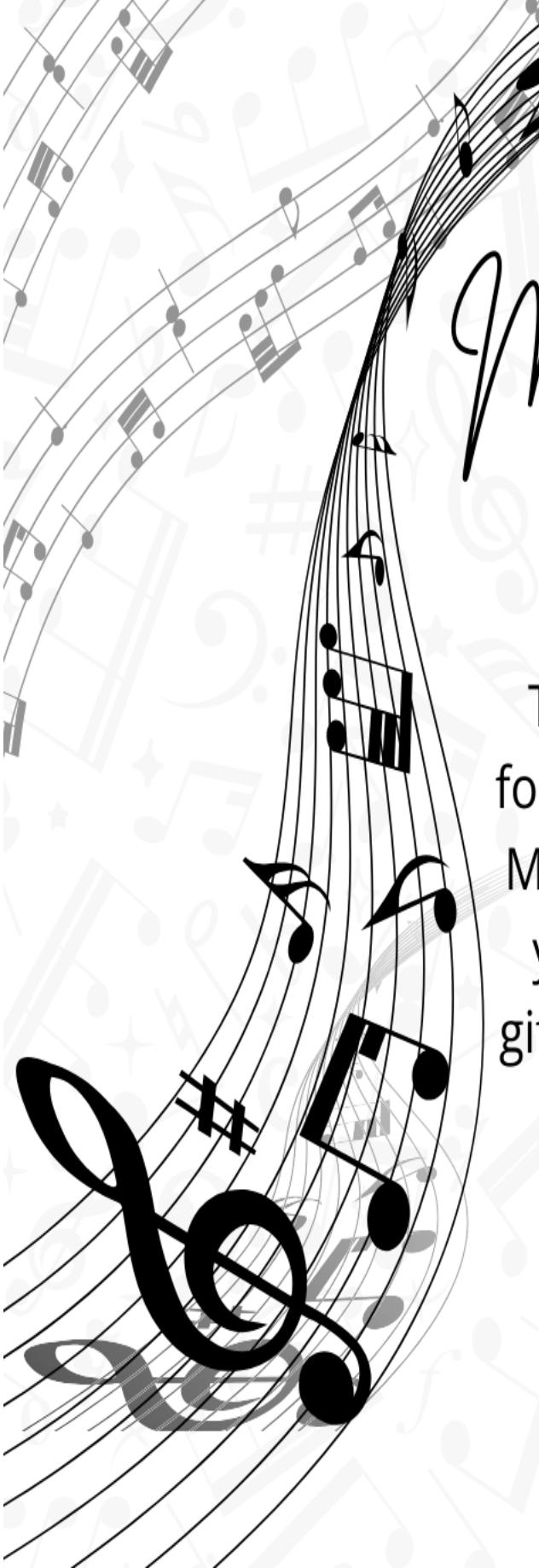
55 Albright Dr. Hanover PA





The **Cherub Choir** and the **Little Cherub Choir** will present the Easter Kids' Cantata "**The Little Donkey's Easter Journey**" by Cristi Cary Miller and Kathlyn Reynolds at the 11:00 service on **Sunday, April 6**. Members of the choir will narrate the story, and play the roles of the little donkey, the mother donkey, and lamb, and a dove in this delightful presentation that helps children understand the Easter story.

The adults of the **Chancel Choir** invite you to join them at the 11:00 service on **Sunday, April 13** for their presentation of the Easter Cantata "**WE WERE THERE**", written by Pepper Choplin. Meet Simon Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of Jesus, and a Centurion as they share with you their eyewitness accounts of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "**We Were There**" will be a deeply meaningful and moving experience for everyone in attendance on April 13.



Music Ministry

**Do you sing or play an
instrument?**

The Music Ministry is looking for musicians to provide Special Music at our 7:45 am service. If you are willing to share your gift of music with others for the glory of God, or want more details, please contact Larry Kuntz at (717) 965-0444 or lkuntz123@gmail.com.



Hanover Symphony Orchestra

Larry Kuntz, Music Director
presents

*“The Great American
Songbook”*

*A celebration of America's greatest songs and the
composers who wrote them, featuring:*

Laura Heydt, soprano & HSO Kids!

Sunday, April 6 @ 3pm

Eichelberger Performing Arts Center

www.hanoversymphonyorchestra.org



GRACE CHURCH OF
HANOVER

RISING HOPE

EASTER FUN AND EGG HUNT

APRIL 12
11AM TO 12:30PM

EGG HUNT STARTS AT 12:30PM



Egg Hunt for
Ages 1 to 5th
Grade



Free Food, Games,
prizes, crafts, & more!!!

55 Albright Drive,
Hanover PA



SUNDAY

May 18th

BEGINNING AT 5:00PM
CONCERT AT 7:00PM

HONORING OUR HEROES

Community Hero Celebration



Fire Trucks ★ Ambulances ★ Police Cars

Face Painting ★ Stickers

Military and Veterans Support Groups

Color Guard ★ The Barbershoppers

Littlestown Municipal Band

Sing-a-Long ★ Ice Cream
and More!ST MARK CHURCH
129 CHARLES STREET
637-8904 • stmarkhanover.org

Vendors Welcome!
Call 717-637-8904 or
download an application
from our website
by May 1st



DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL
AVAILABLE

STRIKE A MATCH

Saturday
JUNE 7TH
10AM - 12PM

BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED



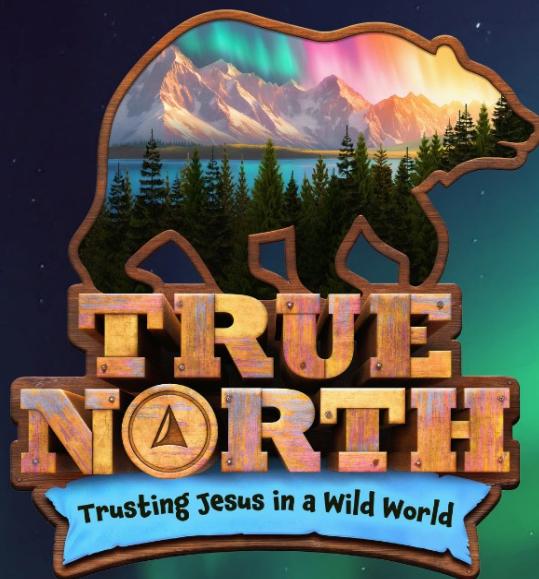
SANDY STUDY
GUEST SPEAKER

LET'S IGNITE A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND CONNECT WITH
OUR FAITH WHILE SANDY SHARE HER AMAZING JOURNEY OF
FAITH THAT CHANGE HER LIFE IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY

PLEASE CONTACT SHEILA CARTER 717-521-7590 OR DEB KELLENBENZ
717-632-1623 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

GRACE CHURCH OF HANOVER | 55 ALBRIGHT DR. HANOVER PA 17331

Grace Church of Hanover
Invites you to:



Questions
email Autumn:
achristine@mygrace
church.org

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27

Dinner starts at 5:30pm
Program begins at 6pm



Register here:



55 Albright Drive Hanover, PA
717-637-3100

Encountering GOD



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Northeast

Encountering God 2025 Summer Camp

Experience the awe of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit as we go deep in our faith journey at this year's summer camp for the Northeast Global Methodist Church. Your child or youth will encounter the Holy Spirit, go deeper in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ, and be equipped to defend the Christian faith. This will all be combined with faith-building activities, powerful daily worship, and practical hands-on lessons that will transform your child's relationship with Jesus Christ. This five-day camp will directly impact your child/youth, family, church, and community. Be part of this new journey and come expecting the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Dates: July 7th, 2025 to July 11th, 2025 | Cost: \$250/camper

Location:

Penn Grove Retreat

6419 Pamadeva Road Hanover, PA 17331

Registration
Form →





POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are in the planning stages for the 2025 National Night Out event here in Hanover.

The event will be at Emory H. Markle Middle School, 225 Bowman Road, Hanover, PA 17331 on August 5, 2025 from 5:30pm to 8pm (note time change).

We also reserved a rain date on Thursday, August 7, 2025, same time and location but hopefully we will not need it.

If you are interested in attending our event please contact B. Wheeler, Patrolman at 717-637-8751 or email bwheeler@pennpolice.com