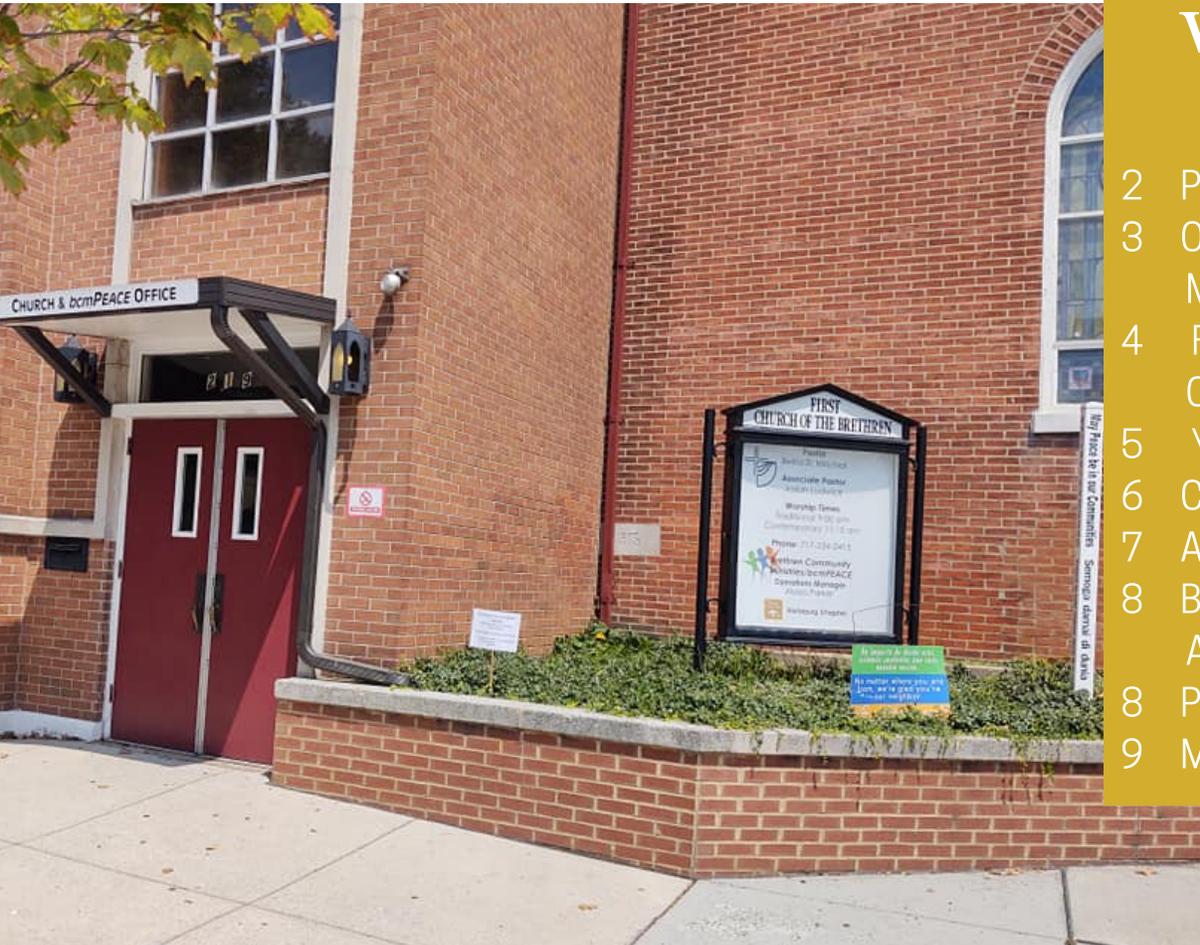


THE GROWING EDGE

Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren | 219 Hummel St. Harrisburg, PA 17104



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A Prayer for September

Written by Devin Dixon-Rosario

Dear Lord, Thank you for this new month you have given us. In this time, help us to focus on what is right despite all that is wrong. Help us to change what we can & leave everything else in your hands. Help us to remember that any burdens we face are meant to rest on your shoulders, because what seems too much for us to bear, is not too much for you. We trust that you will give us guidance and strength in our hardships. We thank you in advance for all we will accomplish this month through you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.





Seasons Change

Written by Pastor Josiah Ludwick

I was always struck by the fact that Pastor Belita used to often call us a "congregation in transition." Due to the fact that she referred to us in that way so often, I would regularly wonder, will we ever NOT be labeled in that way? In the last several months flying solo as the lone Pastor of First Church, I have become very familiar with what she must have been getting at all those years. In my opinion, we continue to be a faith community in transition. This is a good thing, because it means we are *alive*. We are moving forward in the path God has marked out for us. We are progressing toward the goal, and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, etc.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." -James 1:17

As we await the arrival of our new team member, Co-Pastor Lexi Aligarbes, I am struck that this will be yet another season of transition. As we welcome her to the family and are blessed by the gifts she brings to the table, we also will never be quite the same again. Other things will likely change as well, like moving inside when the weather gets too cold, fixing the collapsed wall in the parking lot, and maybe even welcoming a new person to help lead our music once in awhile. We will see several emerging female leaders be licensed in the coming months and celebrate our congregation's 125th Anniversary. Our kids will return to school which will likely impact the COVID-adjusted realities we all face everyday. All of these factors and more will cause us to constantly adjust, take stock of what we are doing and transition as necessary.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." -Isaiah 43:19

Through the changes that have come with every season here at First Church, one thing remains constant. God is in control. God is pushing us forward into the work of justice and Shalom for all people. God is gathering us to Godself and to one another as God weaves us into the "multicultural community in the inner-city" that God has called us to be. As seasons change, be excited for what is to come. Step forward with courage, knowing God hasn't brought us this far to leave us. Hold to God's hand which is unchanging. Embrace this latest transition, as these seasons change, knowing the best is yet to come!!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." -Joshua 1:9

Our Community Ministries

BCMPEACE

"Serving Allison Hill in becoming a safer, healthier community empowered by God's peace."

Acts of Service

Thank you Alpha and Omega CoB!

These past few months we have reopened our Computer Classes, and thanks to our Summer Intern Marianne Fitzkee, we not only were able to have classes but she even got in contact with another church to get more desktop computers for our graduates! As we continue to advertise and get the word out, we are getting more and more calls about the need for these basic computer skills courses!



If you or someone you know would be interested in facilitating our computer classes, contact bcmPEACE and Alyssa Parker at (717)234-0415 ex.20

Building Community

Creativity and Community go hand in hand!

bcmPEACE was blessed to host the Power to the Hill Block Party where there were games, fun, and information on community engagement. We came with our community canvas, so members of our Community could add a piece of themselves into this mural. This canvas is being brought around the community until it is full of art. This project grew out of the Agape Satyagraha Graduate Program: Peace Through Art!



Giving Power to The Hill!

Never a bad time to talk about the importance of voting!

We had the pleasure of hearing from Leta Beam of Power to the Hill about the importance of voting and she answered questions our young adults had about the process as well as led us in discussion about the system, elections, and more. We are eager to welcome her back to discuss more community engagement and their Light the Hill project!



/bcmpeace



/bcmpeace



/www.bcmpeace.org



Faith and Justice Corner



Reservation Dogs: A TV Show Review

by Pastor Josiah Ludwick

I had been hearing a bunch about a new show on Hulu called *Reservation Dogs*, and I must admit I largely ignored it because the title made me think it was another recycled story as it sounds so similar to the legendary Tarantino movie. But this story is anything but recycled. From the actors to the writers/producers to the needle drops to the story itself, this is one big First Nations production. The faces, the music and the story are all so fresh and have so much heart. I must warn you that the language and themes are not suitable for kids, but if you're looking for something fun and original, this is it. The story centers on a group of teens trying to make sense of life on the Reservation in Oklahoma. While some of what they end up doing involves drug use and breaking the law, the show is really about dealing with trauma, making sense of a culture that has largely been stolen or erased, and most of all the importance of family (both actual blood and chosen relatives). The seamless way the show includes pieces of Native Culture had me googling to see why certain things were said and done. Our pop culture could use more stories written by, directed by, scored by and starred in by underrepresented peoples and cultures. It makes the stories so real and lived in. Highly recommend. Check out this [link](#) for more information.

HARRISBURG GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

September 26, 2021

3:00 pm – Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, 2047 Green Street, Harrisburg. Interfaith worship, educational forum and call to action.

3:45 pm – Witness Walk from Goodwin Memorial to the Hadee Mosque of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, 245 Division Street, Harrisburg

4:00 pm – Interfaith Remembrance Service at the Hadee Mosque next to the Memorial to the Lost, which memorializes persons who've lost their lives to gun violence in the Harrisburg area.

PLEASE JOIN US!



The Youth Corner

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
WITH THEIR ADVISORS

YOUTH DAY @ CAMP SWATARA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
9AM - 4PM

THE BODY IS A UNIT, THOUGH IT IS
MADE UP OF MANY PARTS: AND
THOUGH ALL ITS PARTS ARE MANY,
THEY FORM ONE BODY. SO IT IS
WITH CHRIST. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12



Please join us to build relationships between district youth and also between district advisors. There will be adventure games, climbing tower, insight sessions, worship, lunch and free time to enjoy Camp.

Speakers: Youth: David Radcliff & Eric Landram
Advisors: Mark Cunningham

This event will be outdoors, so please dress accordingly. In the case of questionable weather, please check the youth website – www.ane-cob.com/youth/ or contact Donna Parcell at 215-920-6292

Reminder: The ANE District Child Protection Policy will be in effect for this event. All verified advisors must be on file in the District Office prior to the event start. All advisors will sign a covenant on-site at the event.

Questions? Contact Donna Parcell
215-920-6292

Items NOT permitted: Anything deemed "illegal" such as: drugs, alcohol, any item construed as a weapon, or any other items which may perceivably jeopardize the health, safety, or well-being of the group. Such items will be confiscated by adult leaders. Confiscated items will be considered as forfeited property. Any return of suitable property (after the event) will be at the sole discretion of adult leadership. To prevent either loss or theft, participants are urged not bring electronic gadgetry.

\$20/youth
No charge
for advisors
who
accompany
their youth

**Deadline
to Register-
October 1**

Online registration
available at www.ane-cob.org

We had a great *Back to School* themed Kid's Day, our final event of the summer. Back to School Bags donated by Frances Jackson!



SATURDAYS 10AM-1PM

CAMP SWATARA EXPLORATION DAYS!

RSVP BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE TO GET
A FREE GAME OF MINI GOLF!

OCT. 2, 2021

Horse Rides
Science Show with Jon!
Candle Making
Crafts



Suggested minimum donation of \$20/family

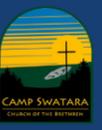
Rock climbing, mini golf, canoeing at every event!

RSVP & details: www.CampSwatara.org/events

FAITH FORMED. MEMORIES MADE. GOD GLORIFIED.

Make sure you come out and join us every other Sunday for Youth Group (grades 6-12)!

The next dates are September 5th and 19th!



Congregational News and Announcements

"The church is more than just a community of believers. It's a family united by their love for Christ."

Welcoming the New Co-Pastor



We are so excited to welcome our new Co-Pastor Lexi Aligarbes to the Harrisburg First Community! Please make her feel welcome as she joins our faith family and continue to keep her transition in your prayers! We also ask that you bear with the staff during this time of transition as there will be some gaps as we settle in to this exciting new journey!



Claiming the Call

Some of our First Church Family have decided to respond to a call to the set-apart ministry! We have been excited to see Mark Pickens continued work to become ordained and are excited that Briel Slocum and Alyssa Parker have begun the process of becoming licensed in the Church of the Brethren! Please continue to keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers as well as others who are discerning a spirit-led call.

Church Picnic

September 12, 2021

Don't forget we have our annual church picnic at Reservoir Park! Join the church family for fun and fellowship as we make up for missed time while still being safe.



Upcoming Speakers



September 12 - Drew Hart: We love to hear Dr. Drew Hart bring the Word as he highlights Social Justice's place in the Church!

September 19 - Lexi Aligarbes: Join us in welcoming our new Pastor Lexi as she preaches her first sermon as the new Co-Pastor!



October 10 - Jon Brenneman: Hearing from Pastor Jon Brenneman is always a pleasure as he emotes what it means to do the work of Christ!

October 17 - David Radcliff: Founder of New Community Project as well as an environmental justice advocate and man of faith!

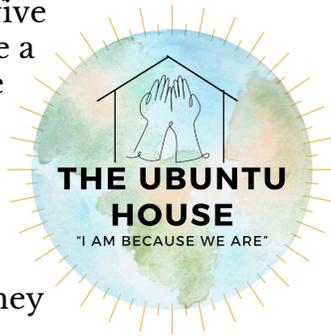


October 31 - Paul Mundy: Former Annual Conference Moderator will join us for a special spirit filled worship

The Ubuntu House

Welcome to Ubuntu!

This month is the beginning of a new year for the Ubuntu Community House! There are five "kinda" new faces ready to make a difference in the city! If you see them make sure to introduce yourself and thank them for being willing to be a part of an intentional community that uplifts our neighborhood! We offer our blessings to them as they begin this new chapter in their lives!



Other News and Announcements

2021 District Conference

October 1 - 2, 2021

It is that time of year - Atlantic Northeast District Conference! Even if you are not a delegate, please think about participating in this annual conference! You can register and find out more information on the district website www.ane-cob.org!



Colossians 3

Little Black Dress Soiree

September 16 | 6:00-8:00pm | Appalachian Brewing Company



Come out and celebrate the work of BHA and the empowerment of single mothers in our communities! You can purchase your ticket for \$40 and register on their website www.bha-pa.org!

Schedule of Events

- **September 14th at 7pm:** Delegate Briefing (Online Only)
- **September 30th at 7pm:** District-wide Bible Study (Online Only)
- **October 1st at 7pm:** Worship Service (In-person and Online)
- ***October 2nd from 9am-4pm:** Business Session and Insight Sessions (In-person and Online)

**requires registration*



BHA Annual Celebration

October 7th | 5:30-8:00pm | Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

Join Brethren Housing Association in highlighting another year of service in the community and support the funding of their transformational programs! You can purchase tickets for \$45 per person or become a sponsor for this event on their website www.bhs-pa.org!



10,000 Acts of Kindness 2nd Multicultural Unity through Kindness Concert and Festival
Saturday, September 4th 1pm at Penn Park (100 W College Ave, York, PA)





INTERNATIONAL *Day of Peace*

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

5-7pm

Join us around the Harrisburg First CoB Peace Pole
as we cry out for peace in our community and
beyond!

We will share in prayer, songs, reflections, and
fellowship. There will also be an opportunity for our
young disciples to be involved.



May Peace Prevail On Earth
Que la Paz Prevalzca en la Tierra

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bradley Hunn | 18. Richard Hollinger |
| 6. Ellen Adkins | 19. Jennifer Benson |
| 7. Gabbi Steck | 22. Katie Benson |
| 10. Gerald Rhoades | 23. Kim Joseph |
| 12. Geoffrey Knight | 28. Steve Seitz |
| Patricia Dixon | |
| 14. Daryn Bullock | |
| 16. Don Mitchell | |

if you have something you want included in the Growing Edge, please send the material in to the office by
September 20th



SEPTEMBER ANE DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

Pray for this Church

- 5 Heidelberg (Myerstown, PA)
- 12 Cocalico (Denver, PA)
- 15 East Fairview (Manheim, PA)
- 26 Parker Ford (Pottsville, PA)

This Church is Praying for Us

- Stevens Hill Community (E-town, PA)
- Indian Creek (Harleysville, PA)
- Conestoga (Leola, PA)
- Little Swatara (Bethel, PA)

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 Agape Satyagraha Open House	2	3	4
5 Youth Group	6 Labor Day - bcmPEACE Offices Closed	7 MCT Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 Church Picnic	13 bcmPEACE Board Meeting	14 Stewardship Team Meeting	15 Start of Hispanic Heritage Month	16	17	18
19 Youth Group	20	21 International Day of Peace Spiritual Life Team Meeting	22	23	24	25 Harrisburg Litter Clean Up
26 Gun Violence Awareness Day Young Adult Group	27 Building Resources Team Meeting	28	29	30	1	2
Outdoor Worship at 10am						
Agape Satyagraha @ 5pm Computer Class @ 10:30am & 2:30pm						
Pastor Josiah's Day off Wellness Hub @10am						

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SEPTEMBER 2021

THE GROWING EDGE

The monthly newsletter of the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren

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Director

Alyssa Parker

Operations Manager, bcmPEACE

Devin Dixon-Rosario

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Waneta Benson

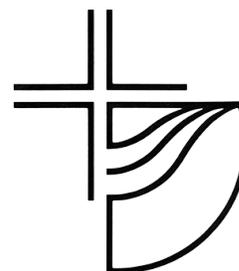
Organist

Don-Vallent Mitchell

Custodian

Our Staff

“We are called to be a Christ-centered multi-cultural community in the inner city, sharing the love, healing, peace and justice of Christ.”



The Growing Edge is a publication of Harrisburg First Church of The Brethren for our members, friends, and neighbors.