

May/June/July
2023



Pastor's Note: Being Instruments of Jesus' Peace

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When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.
~Acts 2:1-4

Dear Friends,

Our journey through the Book of Acts in worship last fall reminded us of how the Holy Spirit creates intimate spaces of belonging for people who are different from one another — a clarion call for the church of Jesus Christ in this time of cultural divisiveness.

In January, we took a first step to live into that call to create God's Beloved Community within and outside of the church by

engaging in compassionate dialogue, a tool to help us navigate challenging conversations. Practicing compassionate dialogue enables us to access our deepest wisdom to transform separation into an opportunity for connection, healing, and peace. Feedback from those who participated was that the experience was very helpful and hopeful.

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STATEMENT OF WELCOME & INCLUSION

As followers of Jesus, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God. We are committed to creating an inclusive space of belonging and safety. Therefore, this community of faith welcomes into full participation, membership, and leadership, persons of diverse age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, level of education, class, or income.

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, we affirm that "God alone is Lord of the conscience," allowing for a breadth of diverse theological and biblical interpretations. We covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we apply our faith in the circumstances of our lives and in the matters of our world.

Introducing C.H. Presbyterian's Newest Members



We recently welcomed a number of new and returning members to the CHPC family. If you haven't yet met them, please seek them out and introduce yourself!

■ Lauren Frank

Lauren Pope Frank grew up in Mechanicsburg and has attended CHPC since she was young. She was baptized here, attended preschool, participated in Vacation Bible School, and would often attend church services with her mother and grandmother.

Today, Lauren works at Duffy's Bed and Biscuit, a dog kennel that offers doggy daycare and boarding. An obvious dog lover, Lauren is a volunteer dog walker at Speranza Animal Rescue in Mechanicsburg.

More recently, Lauren has focused her attention on a two-legged love — her new baby boy, Hunter, who she and husband Mark “just love hanging out with.”

Lauren says she is very happy to be a part of such a great congregation and looks forward to worshipping with everyone.

■ David Bentzel

Camp Hill native David Bentzel has a long history with CHPC. David was baptized here on March 25, 1962, by the Rev. Spencer Smith, and confirmed in the church 13 years later. After college, David joined the

U.S. Navy and spent three years on the west coast of Australia. He left the Navy to return to Camp Hill to be here for his parents. (His mother, Romaine, resides in a nursing home and frequently attends with David on Sunday mornings.)

David has fond memories of his teen years at the church — participating in youth activities with, among others, longtime members Sandy McBride, Abby Tierney, and John Zazworsky.

Today, David drives a tractor-trailer for J.B. Hunt. He is away two or three days at a time, but returns home on the weekends to be with family and care for his parents.

David is married to his wife, Rosemary, and has one son, John Robert. He is glad to be back in the CHPC fold, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones.

■ John and Ellen Hopkins

John and Ellen Hopkins are familiar faces at CHPC, including at Prayer Fellowship, Presbyterian Women events, and other church activities.

John grew up in the area and was confirmed here as a teenager. Ellen grew up in Wilmington, Del. Most recently, they lived in Columbia, Md., until retiring



New CHPC members include some returning to their roots. Lauren Frank, top photo, with baby Hunter, was baptized here. John Hopkins was confirmed at CHPC; he and wife Ellen recently retired to the area.

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New Members, continued from Page 2

in 2020 and returning to the area with their cat, Olivia.

Before retiring, John worked as a mechanical engineer, and Ellen worked as a corporate accountant. CHPC was a logical choice for membership. In addition to John's history with the church, they attended here while visiting John's parents. Both have been active in the church since returning to the area and appreciate the mission emphasis of CHPC.

John enjoys home repairs and improvements, bicycling, and working on cars. Ellen likes to read, knit, garden, and solve Sudoku puzzles. Together, they enjoy spending time with family (including son Robert, daughter Lindsay, son-in-law Jim, and granddaughters Annie and Emma) and going to Ocean City, N.J.

■ **Stephen and Stella Nwabueze**

Steve and Stella Nwabueze arrived in the U.S. last November from Nigeria with their three boys (Micheal, Kamsi, Chibueze) to start a new life. Stella's work as an emergency nurse at Penn State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center brought them to Camp Hill. They well-understood the



Steve Nwabueze, pictured with sons Michael, Chibueze, and Kamsi, joined CHPC with his wife, Stella. The family moved to Camp Hill last year when Stella's job brought them to the U.S.

challenges of settling into a new society, culture, and community. Yet, as Steve shares, these challenges were quickly and easily overcome thanks to many at CHPC who provided a welcoming fellowship that soon became a family.

Bobbie Kitzmiller (aka "Grandma Bobbie," to the boys) was the first to encounter the Nwabueze family as they sought out a place to worship, and she quickly took them under her wing. Others pitched in to help the family acclimate to the community and manage the logistics of suburban living until Steve got his

driver's license and a car. Steve and Stella are very grateful for the kindness and love shown by the CHPC congregation.

A former small business owner, Steve works part time with AMN Health as a community liaison officer and drives for Uber while searching for a full-time position that will accommodate the family's child care schedule.

The Nwabuezes enjoy cooking, traveling, and discovering new places. CHPC is very fortunate they discovered us!

~Carol Helsel

Session Highlights: Search Committee Named



As usual, the Session met for regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of the month, January through April. Additionally, special meetings were called in March (to address the music director job description) and in April (to receive new members).

Session actions taken through April 30 included the following:

- With regret, accepted the resignation of Music Director Jerrold Tidwell, effective Feb. 19.
- Approved the 2022 Church Report to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which a total active membership of

293 members, as of Dec. 31, was reported. Current CHPC membership, as of April 30, is 295 members.

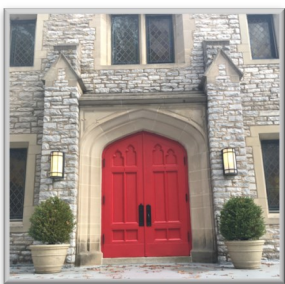
- Approved a motion to hold Vacation Bible School Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16, with the theme “Stellar.”
- Appointed the following individuals to serve on the Music Director Search Committee: Nancy Conklin, Andrea Ebeling, David Getz, John Groff, Molly McBride, Diane Metzler, Dolores Peffley, Diane Rutzler, and John Robinson (chair).
- Approved the revised job description for the music director position.

- Called the Annual Meeting of the CHPC Congregation for Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. (following worship) in the Sanctuary.

- Approved a motion to enter into contract with Stoner Graphix to manufacture two exterior signs as described at a cost not to exceed \$55,000, with funding from a mini capital campaign and a request for a distribution from the Endowment Fund.
- Approved monthly financial reports from the church treasurer (see report on next page).

~Beth Fine, Clerk of Session

CHPC Bylaws Changes Accommodate Fiscal Year



On Sept. 25, 2022, the Congregation approved several changes to the CHPC bylaws, in order to accommodate the church now operating on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. Those changes have also resulted in several changes in the life of the church.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will now be held on a Sunday in June, and church officers’ terms will now commence July 1 and conclude on June 30.

The Session, acting as the Board of Trustees, shall be

responsible for reporting the following information to the congregation in August of each year:

- The receipts and payments for the previous fiscal year.
- An estimate of expenses and income for the year ahead.
- New business necessary to be undertaken for the welfare of the congregation.
- A report of the real property, trust funds, the Endowment Committee, and other resources of the congregation, as well as a statement of the capital debt

and any other financial obligations.

The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. following worship. Action items include approval of our pastors’ annual terms of call and election of church officers.

The August reporting will be made to the congregation through a mailing and/or electronic means.

~Beth Fine, Clerk of Session

Help Reduce Deficit: Bring Giving Up to Date

As of March 31, year-to-date receipts were \$391,693.51 and year-to-date expenses were \$463,279.67. Contribution statements were recently distributed; if you are behind in your giving, please help us reduce the deficit by bringing your contributions up to date. If anyone has questions

about your statements, please contact me at dwatts@mcneeslaw.com or (717) 503-6518. Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts!

Have you thought about including CHPC in your will or as a death beneficiary of your retirement plan? How

about a gift of appreciated stock? Help contribute to the future of CHPC and its ministry for generations to come! For further information contact me.

~David Watts, Treasurer



Pastor's Note, *continued from Page 1*

Also, as part of its ongoing discernment of the church's vision and identity in this season of its life together, Session has adopted a Statement of Welcome and

Inclusion (see box on Page 1).

With the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit resting on our tongues, may

we continue to be Christ's instruments of peace.

*Yours for the journey,
Pastor Nancy*

MEETING NOTICE

CHPC Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

- The Annual Report will be distributed electronically prior to the meeting.
- Hard copies of the report will be available BY REQUEST.
- Please contact the church office at aebeling@thechpc.com or (717) 737-0488 to request a printed copy of the Annual Report.

Preschool Corner: School Year Is Winding Down



CHPC Preschool has been buzzing! We have been enjoying spring and looking forward to all that summer has to offer.

We finished off April with our annual CHPC Preschool Art Show and raffle fundraiser. Our families had such a great time enjoying everyone's artwork, and the fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or bought tickets.

The first week of May, we celebrated our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. They received goodies from the Preschool Board and the Preschool Parent Association,

along with a special African luncheon provided by some of our families. It was such a wonderful treat!

The students will spend their last weeks of school celebrating with their friends and getting ready for what summer will bring. Since CHPC is a polling place and will be very busy on Tuesday, May 16, the preschool is planning a playground party that day at Winding Hill Park North. Teachers will have stations set up so our students can play games, make bubble wands, get their faces painted, participate in a freeze dance party, and even get temporary

tattoos. We had so much fun doing this last year, and we're making it a new tradition.

As we begin to wrap up the school year, we are looking forward to our third year of summer playgroups. These playgroups will be on 10 Wednesdays throughout June, July, and August. Families can pick and choose which days they will attend from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The playgroups give our students a chance to reconnect with friends, make new friendships, and, hopefully, ease any anxiety of being away from home in the fall when the new school year starts. The preschool also will be offering camps from Soccer Shots, Zumbini, and Rooted in Nature, along with our very own Camp Crayon. We will have lots of opportunities to see our students throughout the summer.

A special thank you goes out to the teachers, CHPC families, CHPC staff, and all the members of the church who helped us along the way this school year. We couldn't have done it without your support!

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we can't wait to share all of our exciting plans for the new school year in a couple months!

~Dana Tarnoci,
CHPC Preschool Director



There's nothing like spending a nice spring morning on the playground with your classmates.

CHPC Participates in Joint Good Friday Service

This year, the posted Holy Week activities included an opportunity to attend an ecumenical Good Friday service at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Harrisburg as part of CHPC's participation in the Thriving Together program. Pastor Nancy Conklin served on the preaching team, while Pastor Stuart Seelman and a dozen other CHPC members and friends attended worship.

The basis of the worship service was the last seven words of Jesus as he hung on the cross. The seven designated preachers represented both white West Shore churches and primarily Black ones from inner-city Harrisburg. It was a novel and, by all accounts, meaningful experience for our group, some of whom had not been participants in the two-year Thriving Together program. Some of the comments I heard were:

■ "I was amazed at the warm reception at the church and found the different styles very inspiring and emotional. Our host commented that it was like it would be in heaven, with various church members worshipping together in adoration of Christ."

■ "The people of Macedonia Church were wonderfully welcoming."

Unusual for many of us was the praise emphasis, both



CHPC members, pictured in pews along bottom of photo, were among those attending an ecumenical Good Friday service at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

from the choir and the opening statement about the joy of the unprecedented actuality of our coming together. ("The efforts of the Thriving Together group made it happen!") Rather than focusing on the injustice, betrayal, and horror of the crucifixion, it seemed we were praising Jesus for his forgiveness, courage, and willingness to put himself through such torture for our sakes.

The rousing opening song, "Blessing, Glory and Honor," included dancing and

clapping "for all you have done for me." It was a poignant moment seeing the full church looking exactly like the beloved community Jesus gave his life to describe and encourage.

Pastor Nancy was up first, preaching on Luke 23:34 — "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." She seemed to be energized, both by looking out at the sea of faces and by the shouts of "preach it now, sister" from her fellow clergy.

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Volunteer Gardeners Keep Our Grounds Blooming



Roger and Ann Hummel serve on our planting patrol.

If you've recently paused to enjoy the flowers in the Peace Garden or noticed the new plantings around the preschool, you can thank a small but dedicated group of volunteer gardeners.

While our professional landscaper manages the lawn, shrubs, and other large plants and does spring and fall cleanups, volunteers help by adding colorful annuals and perennials around the various beds and keeping them weed-free. Current efforts are underway to improve the

areas around the preschool — most of which will bloom later this year.

Special thanks to Jim Long, Ann Kalata, and Roger and Ann Hummel. Their green thumbs are adding lots of color to CHPC's grounds.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help, let us know. All are welcome!

Contact me at carolhelsel@gmail.com for information or to volunteer.

~Carol Helsel

Ecumenical Good Friday, continued from Page 7

As one attendee shared, "... I would never have wanted to miss such a service. Nancy did a fine job."

We were reminded of God's limitless forgiveness and the call for us to do the same. Jesus witnessed to the truth that it is not with power and might — but only through forgiveness and the power of love — that our world will ever be transformed and redeemed.

The choir was comprised of volunteers from several churches. At times, the praise had all of us moving, even involuntarily, while some of the music was more somber.

As one CHPC member remarked, "The immense rejoicing and volume of voice and song were surprising to me, which I took to mean there are many different ways to do things. It was interesting to observe the facial expressions and movement of our members in their appreciation and enjoyment of the singing and accompaniment."

Worship concluded with communion, served by the participating pastors. A reception with a generous spread of food followed the service.

"The Good Friday service was very special, affirming the title 'Thriving Together' with unity and cultural diversity," said one attendee. "I feel proud that Camp Hill Presbyterian Church is an active member of this group, and hope that we might find opportunities for joint urban projects which would include the youth. I (also) would love to see flags created for individual churches to prominently display to indicate our involvement and support of the vision."

~Cindy Thompson

PW Appreciates Mission Fundraising Support

The history of Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations, according to PW's national website, began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In spite of numerous societal restrictions, the women's organizations gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

Through civil strife and splits in the church, our women persevered, and two centuries after they first gathered to pray and give their money to the church, women now have voice in the church and in the world.

A legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in Presbyterian Women's third century of organization. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous, and dedicated to God.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, those in PW commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring

community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Anyone who supports this purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women. So, even if you're just learning about PW, there's a good chance you're already supporting Presbyterian Women — in spirit or in action! Won't you consider joining us in person?

During the month of May, CHPC's PW invites you to participate in two ways:

■ **Give to the Birthday Offering**, which is one of PW's two annual offerings. The Birthday Offering gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives, with donations funding up to five projects each year in the amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.

The first of two recipients this year is Making Miracles Happen Group Home in Tallahassee, Fla., which helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration, and early motherhood. Funds will be used to build a second group home.

The second recipient is Berhane Yesus Elementary School in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia, which has been a part of the Presbyterian

Church in this rural community since 1921. The funds will be used to build a new kindergarten building that is required by the Ethiopian government.

Birthday Offering envelopes can be found in the pew pockets throughout the month of May.

■ **Attend the PW Spring Gathering, Sunday, May 21 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**, where fellowship, food, and faith will be shared.

All women are invited to join as we celebrate spring and support Vickie's Angel Foundation. The gathering will include a guest speaker from Vickie's Angel, election and installation of officers, an offering, and a light lunch.

Please join us with a \$2 donation. Tickets will be available the day of the event.

~Gail Mark



Sharing God's Love With Our Neighbors in Need

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.
-Ephesians 2:10

In the last issue of "Camp Hill Press," there was a promise for a description of some of our mission projects. Members of the congregation are individually involved in all kinds of board work, tutoring, repair projects, and transportation, meal, and care work, but highlighted here are some church-sponsored efforts.

MISSION AT THE EASTWARD

For more than 20 years, CHPC has been involved with MATE, a building ministry located in Maine. A team of church members and

SANCTUARY FLOWER DELIVERY

Members of Presbyterian Women coordinate this program, making sure each week that the chancel flowers are delivered to homebound members or others in need of an expression of care or concern.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Quilters and Crafters for Mission give these handmade items to people on our Prayer List.

PW MISSION EFFORTS

Presbyterian Women and its Quilters and Crafters group

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

A group has been trained by CWS and is participating in the resettlement of refugee families coming from dangerous situations around the world.

Along with monetary and material gifts, multiple people have been involved teaching basic skills such as grocery shopping and using the laundromat. Trips to clothes closets, Super Shoes, and Community Aid, as well as assistance with school registration, food stamps and medical card applications,



friends has spent a week in July doing building projects for homeowners in need. Each fall, a report on the week is made available.

By all accounts, those trips have had an enormous impact on participants and even have been the subject of several college application essays. (More information can be found on Page 11.)

raise money for mission through sales of baked goods and handiwork.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY

The Deacons try to keep the freezer stocked with meals for those who might appreciate them. They also supply at least one casserole every month to Homeland Hospice.

and inoculations are all just part of our commitment.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

A branch of New Hope Ministries has opened in Lemoyne, where CHPC workers can be found every second Thursday of the

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Mission at the Eastward Stock on Sale Now

Mission at the Eastward is the summer mission trip to central western Maine that CHPC has been participating in for years. MATE's mission is to "love our neighbors" through volunteer home repairs and youth outreach, creating lives of hope, security, and dignity for those in the area.

In 2022, MATE received 50 applications for services and 43 projects were completed. In addition to regular home repair projects, MATE 2023 volunteers will work on:

- Phase 2 of the rebuild of a mobile home with new construction
- Completion of Phase 2 of renovation of McCleary House, which provides transitional housing
- Construction of a Tiny House on wheels to be used to help address the housing situation in the area

Those who can't attend the trip as work volunteers can

help support MATE in other ways:

■ Praying

Prayers are needed for safe travels, a week without injuries, and a job well done for our team, as well as for the homeowners and families we serve.

■ Providing financial support

We need you! We can't do this without your financial assistance. As the MATE Stock chairperson, I am asking for your help to continue this important mission. I am passionate about MATE. The success of this ministry during these challenging times means more than ever.

Over the next two months, a MATE volunteer will be in the Gathering Place on Sundays. Visit us and become a MATE sponsor.

There also are other ways to financially support MATE:

- Sponsor Cards can be found in each pew rack. Please fill out the card and return it with your donation. Make checks out to "CHPC" and indicate in the memo line that your donation is for MATE. Bring it with you to church on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

- Direct donations to MATE can be made through the CHPC website using the Online Giving "Donate Now" button.

- You also may go to the CHPC Facebook page and make your donation there.

In 2022, your financial support through MATE stock sales and sponsorship totaled more than \$10,000. I thank you for your past generosity. Let us see if we can reach that goal again!

Please contact me with any questions at mfssail@comcast or by calling (717) 645-0845.

~Ellen Smith

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
-Galatians 6:2

MATE Registration Deadline Extended

We still have room for you to join our annual mission trip to Mission at the Eastward in Farmington, Maine, which is set for Saturday, July 15, through Saturday, July 22. If you are age 14 or older, please join Pastor Stuart and others from CHPC on this intentionally intergenerational

trip to work with the MATE Housing Ministry. No prior experience is necessary!

This is a great week of faith, friends, service, and fun. We need volunteers! Information and registration forms may be found in the Gathering Place or on the church website. Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions or need financial assistance, please contact me at nflint.home@gmail.com or call (717) 576-1513.

The deadline to register is extended to Sunday, May 21. Please sign up today!

~Nancy Flint

Sharing God's Love, *continued from Page 10*

month from 6 to 9 p.m. Clients choose their own food, with our volunteers helping with the selection and amounts depending on family size. Shoppers also get checked in and scheduled for their next appointment.

■ CHRISTIAN CHURCHES UNITED OVERNIGHT SHELTER

From December through March, approximately 24 men have a warm place to spend the night between 7 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. at the CCU shelter on Kelker Street in Harrisburg. CHPC provides two weeks of volunteers 7 to 10 p.m. to assist the staff. Duties may include setting out mats and blankets, signing in clients, and making sure there is hot water, coffee,

hot chocolate, tea, and simple snacks available.

For more information about assisting at New Hope Ministries or the Overnight Shelter, contact Rick Woodard at (717) 991-4204.

■ ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

A branch of the Central PA Food Bank, EFP operates out of Messiah Lutheran Church in Harrisburg.

For 50 years, CHPC has been committed to providing volunteers the fourth Thursday of every month. Tasks include checking in the clients and assigning bags of prepacked groceries, then adding fresh bread, eggs, butter, cheese, milk, and frozen meat. Sometimes, there are additional donated

items and fresh produce. In the basement, shelves are stocked with various boxed and canned items which are specified to be packed for pickup.

The needs have grown and are continuing to grow, as most of the families with food insecurity have at least one member who is employed but struggles with inadequate wages.

Help is always needed any day of the week from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Call me at (717) 691-1385 for more information.

~Cindy Thompson

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Pastor Nancy Conklin
Associate Pastor Stuart Seelman
Visitation Pastor Don Potter
Preschool Director Dana Tarnoci
Office Manager Andrea Ebeling

Send "Camp Hill Press" submissions to
aebeling@thechpc.com.

Dates to Remember:

- Primary Election Day/PW Bake Sale — Tuesday, May 16
- Last Day of Preschool Classes — Friday, May 19
- PW Spring Gathering — Sunday, May 21, following worship
- Church Closed for Memorial Day — Monday, May 29
- Summer Worship Service Hours Begin — Sunday, June 4, 9:30 a.m.
- Deacons Potluck Breakfast — Sunday, June 4, following worship
- Annual Congregational Meeting — Sunday, June 11, following worship
- Vacation Bible School — Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16
- CHPC at Harrisburg Senators Game — Sunday, June 18, 1 p.m.
- Harrisburg Symphony at Negley Park Meetup — Saturday, July 1, 8 p.m.
- Church Closed for Fourth of July — Tuesday, July 4
- Greater Harrisburg Concert Band — Sunday, July 16, 7 p.m.