

Bethlehem

Church Dallastown

109 East Main Street

Dallastown, Pennsylvania 17313-2207

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The Lamplighter
July/August 2026
Bethlehem Church Dallastown



Delight
in the yourself
LORD
and he will give you the
DESIRES of
your
Heart

PSALM 37:4

Bethlehem Church Dallastown

109 E. Main Street, Dallastown, PA 17313

Office: (717) 244-1486

Dave Stough, Lead Pastor

office@gotobethlehem.org

Freedom for a Purpose

In the shadowed halls of Philadelphia, amid the thunder of revolution, a boy watched the republic draw its first breath. John Quincy Adams—son of John Adams—was no mere bystander. Barely a teenager, he moved through the tense chambers and whispered corridors where the fate of a continent was decided. He saw the trembling hands that signed the Declaration of Independence, heard the fervent prayers offered in secret, and witnessed men who spoke not only of liberty and rights, but maybe more importantly where those rights derived from - God.

Decades later, in 1837, the boy who had stood at the nation's cradle spoke as an old man of seventy. In Newburyport, Massachusetts, John Quincy Adams delivered an oration that still echoes with prophetic weight. He asked why the Fourth of July stood, in American hearts, second only to Christmas itself. His answer pierced the veil of mere politics: The birthday of the nation, he declared, is "indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior." The Declaration of Independence was not a secular manifesto but a document that "first - organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth." It "laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity."

Now, a close examination of the men John Quincy Adams watched with such admiration reveals a complicated picture. Some were deeply devoted followers of Christ. Others, influenced by Enlightenment thought, believed in God and embraced the moral teachings of Jesus while wrestling with the miracles of Scripture and, for some, even the resurrection itself. This has led many commentators to ask: How Christian were the Founders really?

Yet Adams saw something that many modern observers miss. The imperfect faith of some of these men did not negate the Christian principles they wove into the nation's founding. Their personal theology varied, but the truths they drew upon were remarkably consistent.

VIEW OUR
CHURCH
DIRECTORY
ON YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE!

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Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

Life Under the Clock Tower



Lunch Bunch will be meeting
Tuesday July 21 @ noon
@ Altland House - Abbottstown
Tuesday August 18 @ noon
@ Fresh Start - Rt. 30
Sign up at the network table or contact
Margaret Malehorn at 717-266-0352

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for submissions for the September
Newsletter is August 15.
Please email submissions to
office@gotobethlehem.org

Prayer Breakfast

Joint Venture led by
Rev. Roger Mentzer

Join us every Thursday morning from
**8AM -9:30AM at Two Brothers Family
Restaurant in York for a time of
fellowship, food and scripture.**
Join us, all are welcome!

Homebound but Not Forgotten

Members wishing to be included on our Homebound List can request this at any time. Call the church office at 717-244-1486 or email to [gotobethlehem.org](mailto:office@gotobethlehem.org). Homebound members receive newsletters, bulletins, altar flowers, bud vases and special flowers, sunshine bags, visits (if desired), cards, prayers shawls, and prayers.

Pastor's Pen

They affirmed that human beings possess inherent dignity because they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. They recognized that no earthly ruler is absolute because all authority ultimately answers to a higher authority. And they understood that freedom is not granted by government but safeguarded by it.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it is worth remembering why that document was so revolutionary—and why its principles continue to matter today.

The Christian influence upon America's founding can be seen not only in what the Declaration says, but also in what the new government was intentionally prevented from doing. The Founders created a government of limited powers, restrained by checks and balances and confined to specific responsibilities. Why? Because they understood a truth that Scripture teaches repeatedly: human beings are capable of great good, but they are also prone to abuse power.

This is the warning God gave Israel when they demanded a king. Earthly power, left unchecked, tends toward self-interest and oppression. The Founders, drawing from both biblical wisdom and historical experience, sought to place fences around government so that liberty could flourish.

For Christians, however, freedom is never merely freedom from something; it is freedom for something. Freedom is not an end in itself. It is an opportunity to seek God, to love our neighbor, to pursue virtue, and to walk humbly with the Lord. Perhaps that is why John Quincy Adams saw such a profound connection between the Declaration and the gospel. Both rest upon the conviction that human dignity comes from God and that true freedom is found not in the absence of authority, but in living under the gracious authority of our Creator.

May this Independence Day remind us to use the earthly freedom we have to choose daily to experience the eternal spiritual freedom that only comes through Jesus Christ!

In Christ, Pastor Dave

Life Under the Tower

2nd Annual Bethlehem Community Block Party

August 1, 2026, 11:00 to 2:00

We're planning to fellowship and have some fun with our community.

We'll be grilling burgers and hotdogs. We have a dunk tank, bounce house, face painting, games, cotton candy, sno cones, and more.

We're also offering tours of our church and an assortment of baked goods.



Words of Thanks

First, thank you to all our veterans who presented the Flag Folding ceremony. It was inspirational and greatly appreciated by all who attended the services.

Also, thank you for the cards, calls, visits and prayers during Terry's illness and recuperation. Where would we be without our Bethlehem Church family and friends!

In Christian love,
Terry & Gerry

Life Under the Church Tower



If you donate any goods to any LIFEPATH Thrift store, give them our church name **(Bethlehem Church Dallastown)** and we will get credit for the items to receive gift cards to **help someone in need.**

I am currently working on getting an account with **CommunityAid Foundation**. If you donate items there, please mention that you are from **Bethlehem Church in Dallastown** for the church to receive credit.

"Mission Central"

- *Nail clippers
- *Spiral notebooks
- *12" ruler w/ centimeters
- *Hand towels (No fleece, microfiber, or kitchen towels)
- *Spray air freshener (pump, 4-8 oz size)
- *Children's Scissors
- *Composition books

Emmanuel's Closet

is collecting selected donations of food.

If you can help, we are in need of the following:

- *Juice
- *Desserts
- *Cans of fruit
- *Pancake Mix/syrup
- *Cereal
- *Pasta sides (ex: suddenly salad)
- *Cans of beets
- *Oatmeal
- *Poptarts
- *Paper towels
- *Tissues
- *Ketchup
- *Mustard
- *Pickles
- *BBQ sauce
- *Salad dressing
- *Croutons

Please mark donations for **Emmanuel's Closet** and drop them off near the mailboxes. We appreciate your continued support.

Life Under the Clock Tower



We are looking for persons or couples who would be willing to greet one Sunday before the 10:30AM service. Serving time would begin at 10AM at the front of the church. Contact Palmer Poff at 717-244-4240 if you would be willing to serve in this meaningful ministry of welcoming members and visitors to our wonderful church.

Thank you to John and JoAnn Pitzer, Debra Raver, Kim Dittenhafer, Brenda Raffensberger, and Jan Myers for being greeters for the month of June.

SPONSORS NEEDED

Many of our neighbors in York City are struggling to meet basic needs, and face hunger and homelessness daily. More than 60 churches of all faiths across York County, as well as civic groups, participate in the ministry of the **Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen** by providing breakfast and lunch every weekday to over 250 people.

Again, the Bethlehem Missions Committee is grateful to everyone who has responded to this need by becoming sponsors of the ministry between Bethlehem and **Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen**. Donations have made it possible for the Missions Committee to purchase and prepare a hot luncheon that will be served to over 300 children and adults at the soup kitchen in downtown.

We continually give God thanks for the generosity of the Bethlehem Church family!

Name _____

\$50.00 Donation

(Make checks payable to Bethlehem Church in memo put Our Daily Bread)

Life Under the Tower

September 14th! BUD VASES TO OUR HOMEBOUND

The beautiful flowers that will grace the altar in the sanctuary on *Grandparents Day (Sept 13th)* will once more be lovingly shared and delivered to those in our congregation who can no longer attend worship.

We need 6 to 8 Volunteers to help arrange and deliver the bud vases on *Monday, September 14th*

On Monday, September 14th the flower arranging will be from 9 to 11 in New Fellowship Hall. Pick up for delivery will be at 10:30 a.m.

If you are interested in helping, please complete this form and return the bottom portion to the “designated basket” on the table right outside of the Contemporary Service or to the “designated basket” in Wesley Hall by **August 23rd**

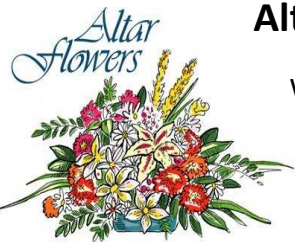
Please bring scissors or pruning shears on September 14th

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Yes, I can help with bud vase flower arranging on September 14th

Yes, I can help with delivery of the bud vases on September 14th



Altar Flower Sponsors needed

What a great way to honor a loved one and

Glorify God. Reserve your spots now

Cost is \$50.

Please contact Wendy Pichler - 717-578-6747 for more information.

Questions: please contact

Darlene Kuhn- dkuhn@gotobethlehem.org or 717-891-3033

Life Under the Clock Tower

The Bethlehem Children's Choir is open to children from all services in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. The group rehearses on Sunday mornings and sings monthly for the contemporary and traditional services. The choir sings a variety of spiritual music and likes to include instruments when possible (kazoos being a favorite)! The choir sings each year for the family Christmas Eve service. This year we are excited to have fourteen singers in the choir. If you know a young person who likes to sing, please contact Natalie Smith— natalielaz40@gmail.com



Life Under the Clock Tower

Saturday Men's Group Meeting



When: Saturdays

Where: Common Grounds Café

Time: 8:00 – 9:00am

Calling **all** men of Bethlehem to a meeting of fellowship, discussions of subjects to enrich our understanding of the Word of God and any personal subjects, as needed, related to individual subjects. Questions?? Contact: Troy Harrold at trharrold@comcast.net Or Keith Metzel at sanctuarysound2015@gmail.com

JOIN US for Youth Group!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

SUNDAYS FROM 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

FOLLOWING JESUS!

BETHLEHEM CHURCH
109 E. MAIN STREET,
DALLASTOWN, PA 17313

Sunday Youth Group

Volunteers needed to bring meals

Sign up in Wesley Hall

If you would like provide a meal for our youth group time there is a sign up sheet in Wesley Hall!

You will need to provide a meal for around 20 people.

Life Under the Clock Tower



Please note we will not be meeting during the months of June, July, and August. We will resume meeting on September 9, 2026.



Enjoy your summer and delight in the SON!
"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."
~Theodore Roosevelt



Life Under the Clock Tower

I want to thank everyone who helped to make Rainforest Falls a huge success this year. We could not have a successful program without each and every one of you! We had 50 children registered along with 49 volunteers.

Our stage decorations this year were once again spectacular. Thanks to the Gillespie's, Sterner's, Keith Metzel, and Navaroli's for creating such a fabulous setup on stage. The Hott family also set up decorations in Fellowship Hall, along with Jocelyn Spyker, Josie Shoffner, and Hollie Olewiler who decorated throughout the church.

Our opening and closing every night went smoothly thanks to Keith Metzel running the cameras and music. Gretta Gillespie and Eric Spyker leading the music throughout the week had everyone excited to be there.

Sandi Neal, Wendy Pichler, Roger Fuller, Nancy Knisely, and Gail Navaroli made check in/ check out so seamless and did a wonderful job of greeting all of our guests every night.

The members of the church who have helped spiritually and financially to help make this wonderful week happen.

Pastor Dave Stough, Brent Spyker, Jen Gillespie, Shane Gillespie, Dylan Hoffman, Jocelyn Spyker, Josie Shoffner, Hollie Olewiler, Ava Hott, Hunter Windsor, Teri Stacey, John Stacey, Isabella Augustyniak, Mackenzie Augustyniak, Hallie Rost, Carter Butcher, Faith Slauch, Jim Slauch, Tyler Gillespie, and Isaac Stough were our station leaders/ assistants and did such a wonderful job making everything so much fun for everyone, young and old.

Amanda Windsor took pictures to post on the church Facebook page nightly to show all the fun we had throughout the week.

Jim Hott was the best Assistant Director and helped to make the week run smoothly!

Last but not least, **Thank you** to Kim Bacon, Madelyn DeBowes, Nolan DeBowes, Sarah DeBowes, Kerilee Gerber, Ashley Markle, Brandon Markle, Alexis Navaroli, Jim Neal, Linda Reed, Judy Sterner, Nancy Westbury, Pete Atwood, Adrianna Mackin, Nancy Foster, Priscilla Hoffman, Debra Hoover, Danielle Kuhn, Cindy Lentz, Rebecca Ramer, and Tanner Windsor for being such great crew leaders and assistants and getting the children where they needed to be throughout the week.

It truly takes a village, and Bethlehem has the best!
Thank you all so very much!
Julie Spyker



July 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8AM Prayer Breakfast	3 Office Closed	4 Happy 4th of July 6PM AA
5 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	6 6:30PM Trustees Meeting 6:30PM 4H Meeting	7 6:30PM Mission Team Meet	8	9 8AM Prayer Breakfast	10 Office Closed	11 8AM Men's Group 6PM AA
12 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	13 7PM Men's Basketball	14 Mission Central 6:30PM Church Leader 7PM AA	15	16 8AM Prayer Breakfast	17 Office Closed	18 8AM Men's Group 6PM AA
19 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	20 6:30PM Prayer Shawl 7PM Men's Basketball	21 Lunch Bunch 7PM AA	22	23 8AM Prayer Breakfast	24 Office Closed 6PM Girl Scouts	25 8AM Men's Group 6PM AA
26 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	27 7PM Men's Basketball	28 7PM AA	29	30 8AM Prayer Breakfast	31 Office Closed	



August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Block Party 8AM Men's Group
2 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	3 6:30PM Trustees Meeting 6:30PM 4H Meeting	4 7PM AA	5	6 8AM Prayer Breakfast 9AM Baking for Carnival	7 Office Closed	8 8AM Men's Group 6PM AA
9 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	10 7PM Men's Basketball	11 Carnival 6:30PM Church Leader 7PM AA	12 Carnival	13 Carnival 8AM Prayer Breakfast	14 Carnival Office Closed	15 Carnival 8AM Men's Group
16 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	17 6:30PM Prayer Shawl 7PM Men's Basketball	18 Lunch Bunch 7PM AA	19	8 8AM Prayer Breakfast	21 Office Closed	8 8AM Men's Group
23 Regular Sunday Services 5:30 Youth Group	24 7PM Men's Basketball	25 7PM AA	26	27 8AM Prayer Breakfast	28 Office Closed 6pm Girl Scouts	29 8AM Men's Group
30 Regular Sunday Services	31 6:30PM Trustees Meeting					