



The Post Newsletter - Pastor Tim Klein

Jan/Feb 2026

A RESOURCE FOR THE CHESTNUT GROVE GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION

A Message From The Pastor - Hit the Ground Running

Maybe you've used the phrase 'hit the ground running' before. If not, it is meant to describe getting off to a fast start. Athletic teams desire to hit the ground running when it comes to competition season. Students are eager to hit the ground running with their studies, or at least they should.

As we begin 2026 together, I invite you to hit the ground running with me when it comes to growing in our relationship with our great God. I am very excited for what I believe the Holy Spirit is seeking to do in and amongst us as we move into this year together.

Two significant opportunities to hit the ground running in 2026 will be at our worship services on January 11th and January 18th. On the 11th, we are blessed to have a missionary from our conference who serves in Africa come and share his testimony with us. There will also be a time right after the worship service to have a question-and-answer time with him and his wife. You do not want to miss this and I am certain his story will encourage your faith.

Then, the following week, on January 18th, Dr. Doug Buckwalter, my New Testament seminary professor, will be preaching here at Chestnut Grove. This man's knowledge of the New Testament is among the greatest on our planet today, in my opinion. He is also a very humble and loving person. I look forward to having us learn from him together.

Additionally, I will be starting my new sermon series on January 4th on *The Attributes of God*. This series is all about highlighting several of the traits or qualities that our great God is by His very nature. Some of these are His being holy and loving and just, as well as being present everywhere and knowing everything. My hope in this series is that it will help us to better appreciate God for all that He is and to grow deeply in our love and devotion of Him. I invite your prayers for God's Spirit to lead and guide me in my preparations for this series.

Let's hit the ground running in our relationship with God in 2026!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tim



All Saints Sunday/Turkey Dinner after Worship

On Sunday, **November 2**, Chestnut Grove remembered loved ones in our prayers, and gave thanks for their lives. We then gathered in the Fellowship Hall for our Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to everybody who brought and prepared food for all to share, and thanks to Carol for having the room look festive for this occasion. We are so blessed to have so many who help with our gathering meals.

Hurricane Helene Church Donation

Ashville and surrounding area are slowly getting back to normal one year after Hurricane Helene. The gift of love was accepted graciously and will be used to provide aide to the people still living in the manufactured huts the government provided. Phil said Pennsylvania has been so very gracious to the area. A kindergarten class had bake sale fundraisers and sent them a check for \$500. He said many people/organizations came from PA to assist in cleanup. They are very thankful for the love shown to the area. Here is the photo of Tammy Strayer handing over our Church's gift of love donation to Phil Motter, Missions chair for Providence Global Methodist Church.



Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, **November 29**, Chestnut Grove met around 2PM to decorate the sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season. Oh my, what a huge and beautiful tree! Thanks Bruce for your help in obtaining this gorgeous tree from McCurdy's. If you haven't heard stories about getting this tree in here and set up, just ask Pastor Tim and he'll fill you in on the details, there were a few very nervous moments. Thanks Dee and whomever contributed snacks and drinks for this event.



New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessing Express

During the month of **November** we collected unwrapped gifts for New Hope Ministries. It is such a blessing for New Hope guests to have gifts for their family to open Christmas Day. Thank you to everybody who brought items in for this worthy cause. Here are a few pictures of the table that was in the back of the sanctuary.



A Chestnut Grove Christmas Service

On Sunday, **December 21**, our 10:10AM service "*The Carols of Christmas*" was enjoyed by all. We heard the familiar story of Jesus' miraculous birth, foretold by prophets, proclaimed by angels and witnessed too by shepherds. We joined together singing and learning the story behind several beloved carols of the season. Our attendance that Sunday was 70; how wonderful it was to have so many here to be blessed by our message presented. Thank you, Dee, for all the work you put into organizing this program! And thank you to everyone who had a part in this special service. We were blessed to have you share your talents and love of Jesus with the congregation!

Christmas Eve Service/Poinsettias

Our Christmas Eve Service, **December 24**, was also well attended with 72 here to celebrate our Savior's birth! Thank you to everybody who ordered a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season and to everybody who helped decorate the church earlier in the month! Thank you all, it looked beautiful!! Our offering this evening was \$7,157.00 which will go into the General Fund to help pay for various repair expenses.

Sermon Series – The Attributes of God

Beginning in January, we will turn our attention to highlighting some of the attributes of God. These are some of the qualities or characteristics that made God who He is. I believe that this will help us to better appreciate more fully how good our wonderful Triune God is. I invite your prayers for me as I spend time in preparation for this series.



Top 12 Nations where Christians are Persecuted

What would your Christian life look like if you lived somewhere else? Would you be imprisoned for your faith, followed by secret police, or kidnapped by extremists?

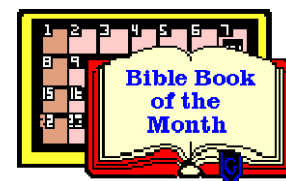
The World Watch List reveals the 50 most dangerous countries to be a Christian. Produced annually by expert analysts, the World Watch List is the most authoritative of its kind. Based on the Open Doors World Watch List of 2025, which ranks countries where Christians face the most severe persecution, the top 12 nations are:

1. **North Korea:** Christians face extreme persecution, with those discovered practicing their faith often facing arrest, torture, or execution.
2. **Somalia:** The violent Islamist militant group Al-Shabab and intense community pressure make following Christ extremely dangerous.
3. **Yemen:** In the chaos of a civil war, all parties are hostile to Christians. Converts from Islam face severe retribution from their family or tribe.
4. **Libya:** The breakdown of law and order creates a perilous environment, where Islamist militants target and kidnap foreign Christians and abuse converts from Islam.
5. **Sudan:** An ongoing civil war has given Islamist extremists greater opportunity to target Christians, who also face intense discrimination during displacement and hunger crises.
6. **Eritrea:** The authoritarian government severely restricts religious freedom, with security forces conducting raids and arresting hundreds of Christians who do not belong to state-recognized churches.
7. **Nigeria:** Jihadist violence, primarily from militants like Boko Haram and Fulani fighters, has escalated, making Nigeria the country where the most Christians are killed for their faith.
8. **Pakistan:** Christians are frequently targeted by blasphemy laws, which often lead to mob violence, and face institutional discrimination.
9. **Iran:** Unrecognized Christian converts from Islam are a top target of the theocratic regime and can face arrest, prosecution, and long prison sentences.
10. **Afghanistan:** Under the Taliban, any conversion from Islam is punishable by death, and secret believers face enormous pressure and risk from both family and the government.
11. **India:** In a climate of rising Hindu nationalism, Christians face violence and discrimination. Attacks on Christian properties have increased dramatically.
12. **Saudi Arabia:** Following Christ is forbidden and carries severe penalties under the absolute monarchy, which strictly enforces Islamic law.

Each month we will highlight one nation among these 12 nations to pray for regularly. In January our nation to lift up in prayer is North Korea and February it will be Somalia. Let us lift up our brothers and sisters in the faith and pray for many people to turn to Jesus.

January Bible Books of the Month – Judges & Ruth

As we turn the page to the new calendar year of 2026, we are highlighting the books of Judges and Ruth. These books go well together, as the events of Ruth took place during the time of the judges. This time period of the judges was a very turbulent time in Israel's history. The nation went back and forth on their loyalty to the LORD. Israel was called to be in faithful loyalty to the LORD as their God, but instead, most of the time everyone just did what seemed right in their own eyes.



Although our setting today is must different, the same questions remain. Will people live with undivided loyalty to the LORD through submission to Jesus Christ, or will people simply do what seems best to them? As you read these books, may they lead you to do all that you can to tend to your walk with Christ

as you seek to live as one of God’s faithful, loyal people on this earth.

Finally, these books remind us that God often chooses unlikely people to accomplish His purposes on the earth. Gideon was timid, Ruth was a foreigner, Deborah was a female leader, etc. But our Lord called them and used them in powerful ways. May this remind us that God desires to work in big ways through each and every one of us.

For the month of **February** we will be in the book of 1 Corinthians.

Wednesday’s In The Word



We are posting, on our Facebook page, Pastor Tim’s bible reflections based on the “Bible Book(s) of the Month”. Feel free to “like” and/or comment on these posts!

2nd Mile Missions for 2026

I would like to thank each of you for your generosity in support of our 2nd Mile Mission giving during 2025. We have decided to switch out *The Chosen* for the *Testament* as new 2nd Mile Mission for the month of January. Below is the entire list of 2nd Mile Missions for Chestnut Grove Church for 2026 which will be posted weekly in the bulletins:



Jan – Testament

Feb – Sanctity of Human Life Services

March/April – New Life for Girls

May/June – Samaritan Fund

July/Aug – A Compassion Child

Sept/Oct – Operation Underground Railroad

Nov/Dec – New Hope Ministries

Undecorating the Hanging of the Greens

Even though our Christmas decorations enhanced the beauty of our sanctuary, these too must be taken down and preserved for next December. With that said, please stay after worship Sunday, January 4, to help take down the decorations. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Like when we put them up, it’s a great time of fellowship with one another.

Bible Study

Our group of 10 – 17 people continues to meet Thursday mornings at 10:00AM. We are currently studying the book of “**Genesis**”. We would be glad to have you join our ever-growing group in the conversation any or every week.



Youth Group & Confirmation News

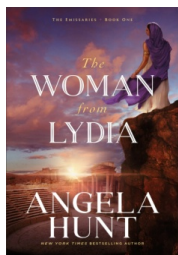


I invite your prayers for Chestnut Grove’s youth ministry. Our youth group (7th grade and up) meets from 9:10-10:00AM each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. We have been studying the Gospel of Luke together. Also, our Confirmation class continues to meet after worship on certain Sundays. In this group we are highlighting the main themes of Scripture and what it means to be a follower

of Jesus Christ. I invite your prayers for God’s blessing to continue to be poured over these ministries and that each youth involved will grow greatly in their walk with Jesus as a result.

Book Study Group

Our schedule for 2026 will be meeting in Jan, March, May, Sept, and Nov. Like last year, with meeting only 5 times in the year (allowing more time to read between gatherings), we hope more people can participate. Chestnut Grove's Book Club gathering is held at the **Dillsburg Library from 10:15-11:30AM.**



Our book study for **January 12, 2026** will be **“The Woman from Lydia”** (by Angela Hunt). Hector, a retired Roman soldier, settles in Philippi with Lucius, his comrade in arms; three slaves; and his dreams of finally achieving wealth and status. His hopes are dashed, however, when an itinerant Jewish missionary robs Hector’s youngest slave of her ability to foretell the future. Widowed Euodia, known to her neighbors as “the Lydian woman,” struggles to make a fresh start in a foreign city. She finds new purpose in life when she meets Paulos, apostle to the Gentiles, and is honored when he establishes a fledgling church in her home. When she realizes that Sabina, the slave girl who is now useless in the eyes of her owners, is being abused, she buys the girl from Lucius, intending to set her free. But when Hector discovers that the slave has been sold, he swears he will restore her lucrative ability . . . even if he must travel to the ends of the earth to find someone with similar gifts from the gods. Following close behind him, Euodia and her servants set out to rescue the girl, not for gain, but for compelling reasons of the heart.

Our book study for **March 9** will be **“The Sisters of Corinth”** (by Angela Hunt). The second book of the Emissaries series explores the lives of early believers in Corinth, a bustling city known for cultural diversity, wild entertainments, and lavish lifestyles. When the new provincial governor arrives in Corinth, capital of Achaia, chief magistrate Narkis Ligus is delighted. The new governor’s firstborn son is ready to take a wife, and Narkis has two unmarried daughters. The magistrate’s family would be blessed by the gods if the two houses were united, and Narkis would rise in power and fortune. Mariana, Narkis's stepdaughter, is a believer in Yeshua, so she is not eager to marry a man who worships the gods of Rome. Prima, Mariana’s stepsister, would do anything to marry a man of wealth and position, but the gods do not always obey requests from those who worship them.



If you need help obtaining or ordering either of these books, let Pastor Tim know asap. Also, please contact Pastor Tim if you are interested in attending any of the book studies or would like more information. We would love more folks to be a part of this group at the Dillsburg Library!

Directory Update

Sometime in February, be on the lookout for a draft of the Church Directory in the Lobby. This is a valuable tool for many, so we’d like to get it as accurate as possible before going to print. Please take a minute or two before or after worship to look for your family’s information in this directory. If anything is missing, please add the contact information. If you are new to Chestnut Grove (even if you only attend periodically) please add your name, address, phone #, and email to this draft copy of the directory.



A Night Of Worship

We are planning a Night of Worship sometime during the 1st quarter of 2026; so keep your eyes open for that date and time to be announced soon.

Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon



Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, **February 8**, for a Souper Bowl Luncheon. We will be having different soups and sandwiches. If you would like to bring a dessert to share that would be wonderful. We will also be collecting non perishable goods to be delivered to New Hope Ministries. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby closer to this event; any questions, see Carol Clayton.

Happy Valentine's Day ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026



On **February 18** we begin the Holy Season of Lent together. This will be another opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit to do a special work of grace within us as we turn our attention once again to our Lord's indescribable sacrifice of Himself on our behalf. The service details have not been worked out yet, but as soon as we have more information, we will share that with you in our weekly bulletins.

Thank You/Reflections Corner

We are grateful for your generosity in support of the fight against sex trafficking and child exploitation. Learn more about the life-changing work you are helping fund and find more ways to get involved by visiting OurRescue.org. Together, we can build a world where every person is safe from exploitation. Thank you for your donation gift of \$505.00!



Our Rescue, Salt Lake City, UT

Word Scramble Puzzle Fun (Answer key on page 9)

Unscramble the following words that describe or characterize God.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. lguorsio | _____ | 11. thlig | _____ |
| 2. rtoeacr | _____ | 12. jiestacm | _____ |
| 3. tirenea | _____ | 13. etabimlum | _____ |
| 4. uhialfft | _____ | 14. pratilmai | _____ |
| 5. violgn | _____ | 15. siroepenhbiencml | _____ |
| 6. ratfeh | _____ | 16. pedntenedni | _____ |
| 7. drgwenoelkofe | _____ | 17. ftininel | _____ |
| 8. odog | _____ | 18. beisnvlii | _____ |
| 9. ragiscou | _____ | 19. eolsjau | _____ |
| 10. sisohlen | _____ | 20. gudje | _____ |

Vision/Mission Statements

- Chestnut Grove Church: Our Vision as Chestnut Grove Church is to be a light on a hill sharing the love of Jesus Christ, by following Jesus (The SON) through Service, Outreach, and Nurture!
- The Global Methodist Mission Statement: The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.



2026 Teller Schedule

Date	Head Teller	Assistant Teller
1/4/2026	Tammy Strayer	Carolyn Myers
1/11/2026	Wendy Bargo	Angie Thompson
1/18/2026	Tammy Strayer	Carol Mowery
1/25/2026	Wendy Bargo	Betty Jane Diven
2/1/2026	Tammy Strayer	Carolyn Myers
2/8/2026	Wendy Bargo	Angie Thompson
2/15/2026	Tammy Strayer	Carol Mowery
2/22/2026	Wendy Bargo	Betty Jane Diven
3/1/2026	Tammy Strayer	Carolyn Myers

2026 Liturgist Schedule

Date	Liturgist
1/4/2026	Dee Gerber
1/11/2026	Keith Albert
1/18/2026	Kyra Gerber
1/25/2026	Blain Bargo
2/1/2026	Dee Gerber
2/8/2026	Keith Albert
2/15/2026	Kyra Gerber
2/22/2026	Blain Bargo
3/1/2026	Dee Gerber

2026 Soundboard/PowerPoint

Date	Soundboard	PowerPoint
1/4/2026	Bryan Crone	Dee Gerber
1/11/2026	Blain Bargo	Bryan Crone
1/18/2026	Dee Gerber	Sue Mowery
1/25/2026	Bryan Crone	Dee Gerber
2/1/2026	Bryan Crone	Sue Mowery
2/8/2026	Blain Bargo	Bryan Crone
2/15/2026	Dee Gerber	Sue Mowery
2/22/2026	Dee Gerber	Sue Mowery
3/1/2026	Bryan Crone	Dee Gerber

2026 Cleaning Schedule

Date (Sat.)	Volunteers
1/10/2026	Bill Minnich/Patsy Kellison
1/24/2026	Carol Clayton/Patty Rittle
2/7/2026	Brian/Dee Gerber
2/21/2026	Tammy Strayer
3/7/2026	Bill Minnich/Patsy Kellison
3/21/2026	Carol Clayton/Patty Rittle
4/4/2026	Brian/Dee Gerber
4/18/2026	Tammy Strayer
5/2/2026	Bill Minnich/Patsy Kellison

**2026 Children's
Sunday School Teaching Schedule**

Date	K-2 nd Grade (Sonfish)	3-6 Grade (Sharks)
1/4/2026	Kara Klein	Dee Gerber
1/11/2026	Tammy Strayer	Dee Gerber
1/18/2026	Kara Klein	Tammy Strayer
1/25/2026	Tammy Strayer	Kara Klein
2/1/2026	Dee Gerber	
2/8/2026	Dee Gerber	
2/15/2026	Dee Gerber	
2/22/2026	Dee Gerber	Kara Klein
3/1/2026	Kara Klein	Dee Gerber

Communion List - 2026

Date	Name
January	Patsy Kellison Shawna Crone
February	Shirley Fetterolf Bill Minnich
March	Betty Jane Diven Patty Rittle
April	Angie & Tom Chiricos

Upcoming Meetings/Events/Worship

Thursday/Friday	1/1-2	Office Closed	Happy New Year
Sunday	1/4	After worship	Confirmation Class
Sunday	1/4	After Worship	Undecorate from Christmas
Thursday	1/8	10:00AM	Bible Study
Sunday	1/11	10:10AM	Missionary Moussa-Testamony Message
Monday	1/12	10:15AM	Book Study @ Dillsburg Library
Monday	1/12	6:15PM	HH School Board Meeting
Thursday	1/15	10:00AM	Bible Study
Sunday	1/18	10:10AM Worship	Dr. Doug Buckwalter Bring the Message
Sunday	1/18	After worship	Confirmation Class
Thursday	1/22	10:00AM	Bible Study
Thursday	1/22	6:30PM	Leadership Team Meeting
Sunday	1/25	10:10AM	Communion
Sunday	1/25	After Worship	Outreach Team Meeting
Thursday	1/29	10:00AM	Bible Study
Sunday	2/1	After worship	Confirmation Class
Thursday	2/5	10:00AM	Bible Study
Sunday	2/8	10:10AM	Blain Bargo Lead Worship
Sunday	2/8	After Worship	Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon
Thursday	2/12	10:00AM	Bible Study
Thursday	2/19	10:00AM	Bible Study
Sunday	2/22	After worship	Confirmation Class
Sunday	2/22	10:10AM	Communion
Thursday	2/26	10:00AM	Bible Study
Thursday	2/26	6:30PM	Leadership Team Meeting
Sunday	3/1	After worship	Confirmation Class



January

2 – Joanne Witmer
 4 – Ron Brady
 11 – Caydon & Grayson Reynolds
 12 – Brian Gerber
 13 – Linda Klein
 14 – Blain Bargo
 22 – Brian Clayton
 23 – Chris Faber
 30 – Ruth Albert
 31 – Levi Seik

February

3 – Oliver Seik
 11 – Rebekah Crone
 13 – Laurie Bush
 13 – Flo Hoffman

March

1 – Sophia Burns-Kline
 2 – Wendy Bargo
 5 – Anna Klein
 8 – Jake Crone
 29 – Ken Schoffstall
 30 – Stephanie Reynolds

Word Scramble Fun

(Answer Key)

Words about God Word Scramble

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. glorious | 11. light |
| 2. creator | 12. majestic |
| 3. eternal | 13. immutable |
| 4. faithful | 14. impartial |
| 5. loving | 15. incomprehensible |
| 6. father | 16. independent |
| 7. foreknowledge | 17. infinite |
| 8. good | 18. invisible |
| 9. gracious | 19. jealous |
| 10. holiness | 20. judge |



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