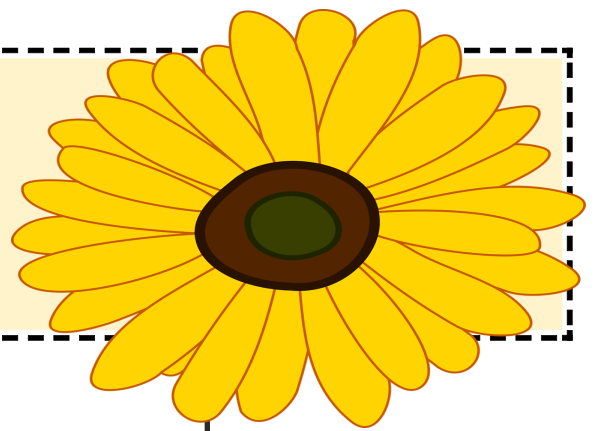


THE LAMPLIGHTER

August 2020



Thomas Presbyterian Returns to In Person Worship

Sunday, July 5 was the first return to in person worship for Thomas Presbyterian Church. Worship is conducted in the Christian Life Center at 10am and precautions are taken for the health and safety of all attendees. The worship service is recorded and is being shared both on the website, www.thomapres.org (under the sermons tab) and on the Faithlife homepage for Thomas Church in the activity feed, www.faithlife.com/tpc-pj/activity. If you have not already signed up to follow us on Faithlife, please join us! This will become the primary source for communications from Thomas Presbyterian in the near future (to include all email and important updates). We are happy to be together again, and are grateful to be able to keep in touch with those unable to join us in person with Faithlife!

(Please see the articles in this Lamplighter for instructions to sign up for Faithlife, and how to access online giving.)

August Fun Facts

Metro Creative Aug 4, 2013 Updated Sep 18, 2019 (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

August is known for many things, including the dog days of summer, National Watermelon Day (Aug. 3) and National Smile Week (Aug. 5-11). But there are many other fun facts associated with summer's last full month.

August is named after Augustus Caesar, founder and the first emperor of the Roman Empire, who was posthumously adopted by his maternal great-uncle Gaius Julius Caesar. In the early Roman calendar, August was actually the sixth month of the year. It was originally 30 days in length, but an extra day was added so that it would equal the number of days in July, which was named after Julius Caesar.

August has two birthstones: peridot and sardonyx. Peridot is among the oldest known gemstones and is green in color. Sardonyx, which is lesser-known, is a white- and brown-banded gemstone once believed to have mystical powers.

The official flower for August is the gladiolus. These vertical-growing flowers were named from the Latin "gladius," meaning a sword.

Fans of Elvis Presley mourn each Aug. 16th, the day the famed singer died in 1977.

On Aug. 24th in 79 A.D., the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying the city of Pompeii and others.

People born in August fall under the sun zodiac signs of Leo and Virgo. Leos are known to be dramatic, creative and outgoing. Virgos have acute attention to detail and are the people most likely to dedicate themselves to serving. They also are loyal, hardworking and analytical.

On Aug. 21, 1911, the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre Gallery and not recovered for two years.

Although civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., is honored in January, when he was born, he is best known for his famed "I have a dream" speech, which was given on Aug. 28, 1963.

The month of August is often referred to as the "dog days of summer" but not because of pet pooches. It has to do with the star Sirius, also known as the dog star, which rose at the same time as sunrise during the month of August in ancient Roman times.

Some famous people born in August include Martha Stewart, Martin Sheen, Jeff Gordon, Deion Sanders and Halle Berry.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

at

THOMAS CHURCH

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Ages Preschool—5th Grade

Meets in Room 7

following the

Children's Message

during Worship

COMMUNION

The first Sunday of every
month

DEADLINE: Information to be included in the *Lamplighter* must be received by the 20th of the month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

THOMAS CHURCH SESSION ELDERS

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AUGUST MONTHLY MISSION

Washington City Mission

City Mission is a Christ-centered rehabilitative homeless shelter. They facilitate the transformation of those who have descended into homelessness, hunger and despair by providing food, shelter, case management, Christian based counseling, and life-changing programming. Their goal is to help each person who walks through our doors to become a healthy, productive member of society. The City Mission offers two branches of service - Compassionate Care and our Life Recovery Program. Compassionate Care reaches out to those most in need by offering basic services such as meals, shelter, and medical care. The Life Recovery Program assists men, women, and children who are in crisis and looking for life transformation. Their philosophy is to meet people where they are and to lead them towards their God-given purpose.

What can we do to help:

1. Donate money – can be placed in the basket at church or mailed to church
2. Donate Clothes or Household Good at any of the local hidden treasures thrift stores in Monongahela, North Strabane, or Canonsburg
3. Donate no-perishable food items to the Thomas Food Drive

FOOD DRIVE:

For the last few years Thomas has held a food drive to help City Mission refill their Samaritan's Purse Food Bank. This year families are more in need than in the past and Thomas has always been willing to step up for City Mission. We will be having a non-perishable food drive during August. Drop off locations are located inside the CLC (you will see a marked table) or on the covered porch by on the fellowship hall entrance.

Suggested donations:

Canned Fruit, Vegetables, Beans, Soups, Pasta Sauce, Chicken, or Tuna Boxed or Bagged Pasta and Rice side dishes
Breakfast cereal and Instant oatmeal



Many enter the Mission with very little. The clothes you donate could help to build a new resident's wardrobe.



When residents finish the program and move into their new apartments, the furniture and home goods you donate can give them a new start



Profits from the sale of donated items in our Thrift Stores support our life-transforming programs



Many enter the Mission with very little. The clothes you donate could help to build a new resident's wardrobe.



Most donations go to our warehouse, where our residents learn valuable job skills, gain career training opportunities, and earn resume-building certifications.



Residents applying for work often use donated dress clothes for job interviews and career fairs.

How to Access Faithlife

The easiest way to sign up is from the new Thomas Church Faithlife website at www.thomaspres.org. Select "Follow Us" at the top of the page which will take you to the Thomas Presbyterian Church Faithlife site home page. At the top right of that page is a "Register" link which will ask you to enter the following:

- **Your name (first and last name)** – We suggest you enter how you prefer to be addressed in church or listed in the church directory (e.g., "Dave" rather than "David")
- **Your email address**
- **A password that you create**

If you have any questions or problems with signing up, please contact Jeff Bowman at BowmanJL@aol.com.

On-Line Giving Through Faithlife

To use On-Line Giving, select the "Giving" tab at www.thomaspres.org. First-time users will be asked to enter their checking account information and/or credit card account information. This information is encrypted and secure per industry standards for on-line payments, similar to on-line banking and shopping.)

After the account information is entered, the screen displays a box to enter the amount of your contribution. Unless designated to one or more funds, the contribution will go towards the Greatest Need (Undesignated). However, you can select one or more of the funds to direct your contribution to a specific purpose. You can also select the option to make your donation recurring.

You can also text your contribution by texting "Give xxx" to **(724) 304-4447** to donate "xxx" dollars to the default fund (Greatest Need). To donate to a specific fund, text "Give xxx Fund", (e.g., Give 50 General).

Please contact Jeff Bowman at BowmanJL@aol.com if you have any questions or have any problems with On-Line Giving.

Fund Designations

Greatest Need (Undesignated) – This is the default (also known as Unified). These contributions are divided per Session direction to multiple funds to address the most important financial needs of the church. Currently, these contributions are allocated 85% to the General Operations Fund, 11% to the Medical Insurance Fund, and 4% to Per Capita.

General – To support church operations (salaries, utilities, maintenance, insurance, taxes, etc.)

Per Capita – To pay the per-member apportionment assessed by Washington Presbytery

Building Fund – To pay for major facility renovations and capital improvements

Missions – All of our mission funds are grouped into a drop-down menu including the General Mission fund, each of the monthly missions with the month listed (although you can designate to any fund at any time), and Other Designated Mission in which you can designate to a special purpose mission by identifying it in the comment field.

Thomas Presbyterian Church Facebook

Public Page:

Thomas Presbyterian Church

[www.facebook.com/
www.thomaspres.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.thomaspres.org)

Private Page: Thomas Presbyterian Church Members and Friends

Please visit our facebook pages and join in the conversation about Thomas Presbyterian!

Thomas Pres Website

www.thomasores.org

Thomas Pres Faithlife:

www.faithlife.com/tpc-pi

THOMAS STAFF

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Terri Kleinhaus

Director

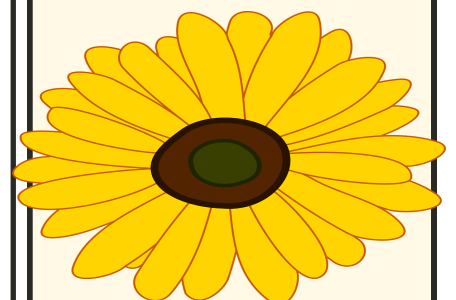
Thomas Christian Preschool

724-941-8910

Kathy Gaab

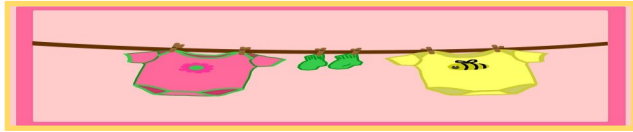
Thomas 2's Director

724-941-3845



Thomas Pre-School

The Session is currently looking for members of the congregation who are interested in serving on the Pre-School Board. The board will meet at least two (2) times quarterly and will be responsible for budgeting, tuition levels, salary levels, planning, and oversight. If you are interested please contact Bob Lutz in the church office



The Pregnancy Resource Center invites you to a virtual baby shower for Breonna. She'll be having a little girl in August. Please send cards and letters of encouragement by mail to Amy Lavelle (for Breonna), 315 Bridle Trail, Venetia, PA 15367. If you would like to send a gift, her baby registry can be found at <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/breonna-m-august-2020-swissvale/28HVZE6P3MTJ>. Breonna's two most urgent needs are for a carseat and a Pack-n-play. Let's show the love of Christ to this courageous mom. Contact Becky Bowman at 724-941-1532.

Update on Special Events at Thomas

What a year! As we get closer to getting back to some form of normal and return to attending worship, you may be wondering about some of our social activities. It has been decided to cancel the balance of our car cruises, the Pig Roast Car Show, the Wild Animal Show, and the Murder Mystery Dinner.

These will return in 2021. When we bring back the pig roast and car show, we would like to add a 5k run and Fun Walk. This event would be held the morning of the Pig Roast. With the right publicity we could possibly have 100 or more runners/walkers all wearing a T-shirt that says Thomas Presbyterian Church.

Before this pandemic hit, I had talked with people from the U S Navy Seal Foundation, who expressed some interest in helping organize this. They do a 5K run and dinner each year here in Pittsburgh as well as other cities around the country. Their event is called Joggin for Frogmen Last year they had 168 participants.

We have a year to plan. Our Events team is looking for anyone that would be interested in helping to organize and plan this event. We have a year to do it. Let's bring it back with a bang.

Please contact Pat Butto for more information: pat-wvu76A@verizon.net

2020 Monthly Mission Offerings

MONTH	MISSION	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED
January	<i>Family Promise</i>	\$2071.16
February	<i>Pittsburgh Women's Clinic</i>	\$275.87 + Diaper Collection
March	<i>Pine Springs Camp</i>	\$250.00
April	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	\$298.40
May	<i>Pentecost</i>	\$195.00
June	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$125.00
July	<i>Deacons</i>	
August	<i>City Mission</i>	\$1255.00(special collection)
September	<i>Peace & Global Witness</i>	
October	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>	
November	<i>Adopt-a-Family</i>	
December	<i>Christmas Joy</i>	

THOMAS CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SPECIAL MISSION PROGRAMS CONTINUES

Each month Thomas Presbyterian Church designates a particular mission to be the recipient of the monthly mission offering. With the exception of the mission programs designated by the Presbyterian Church, the congregation chooses the mission programs that will receive these offerings. The chart to the right provides information on the 2020 mission programs and the church's response.

