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**The Lamplighter**  
**MAY 2022**  
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**Session Meeting Highlights April 18, 2022**

**Open Discussion 2022 Focus** led by Pastor Debbie

Sharon Richards and Kristen Heinze drafted a questionnaire/survey for listening to and gathering information from church members. Session discussed how we can best learn how Thomas is helping folks understand the presence of God in their lives and grow in their faith, and where they may be interested in serving. Members are encouraged to share with elders their thoughts about life at Thomas at any time.

**TEAM REPORTS**

**Worship:** Communion will be continued to be served with people coming forward to the table to take the elements.

**Christian Education:** Will have a Sunday School series led by Todd Flynn in May.

**Fellowship & Hospitality Team:** A food truck has been scheduled to be on campus on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. It is Zorros Food Truck and is owned by Jesse Fox, menu is on line. A donation box for mission will be on the truck.

**Communications Team:** Creating prayer cards for use in the CLC. With a new 65” high-definition TV screen to be installed in CLC lobby, team has developed initial protocols for presenting information.

**Personnel Team:**

Received notice of resignation from Emily Carroll with last day on April 29, 2022.

We are looking for a replacement for Administrative Assistant.

Personnel identified a need to make our salaries more competitive in order to attract and retain qualified people.

Pastor Debbie’s Interim Pastor contract was renewed through June 30, 2023.

**Finance Team:** The Annex furnace in the CLC was installed and paid for. The church’s financial records are ready for audit. Requested a brief communication the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month by Jeff to the congregation telling them about the bequest the church received from the Bob & Maudie Armstrong Charitable Trust.

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
at  
**THOMAS CHURCH**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:00 AM

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10:00 AM

**COMMUNION**  
Sunday, May 1, 2022

**Pastor Debbie’s Corner**  
**Revitalize and Replant with Thom Rainer**

**Can a Pastor Change the Culture of a Small Church?**

Culture: the unwritten set of rules that governs everything a church does. In a small church, the long-time regular members and attenders set the church culture – even if they don’t know they’re doing it. They drew from the parable of the sower for thoughts on how to change culture based on a book by Jim Powell: *Dirt Matters*.

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

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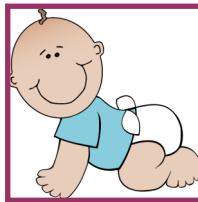
#### MAY MISSION : HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Habitat for Humanity is a global non-profit housing organization working in nearly 1,400 communities across the United States and 70 countries around the world. Since 1989, Habitat for Humanity has had a presence in Washington County. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Using volunteer workers and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds simple, decent, affordable houses for partner families. Homes are sold to partner families with no profit, zero percent mortgages. The monthly mortgage payments are used to build more Habitat houses. "Partner" means that the qualifying family agrees to work with Habitat by completing 350 – 500 hours of sweat equity in the building of their Habitat home and to attend budgeting and credit counseling workshops.

For more information about Washington County Habitat for Humanity or to apply for a Habitat home, please call 724-222-4340 or visit their website at: [habitatwashpa.org](http://habitatwashpa.org).



#### DIAPER DRIVE

In May, we celebrate mothers. In keeping with that, throughout the month of May, we will be collecting diapers (any size), wipes, and receiving blankets. Your donations will go to the Pittsburgh Women's Clinic (formerly known as the Pregnancy Resource Center) to provide support to the new mothers who are their clients. We're giving you plenty of notice because most drug stores have diapers on special at least once a month. Let's build a diaper mountain!



The Washington County Habitat for Humanity ReStore sells donated building materials and household goods to the general public. The purpose of the ReStore is to raise additional funding to support Habitat's mission which is: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Secondary benefits of the ReStore include providing low-cost building materials and household goods to the community, being a public face of Habitat for Humanity in local communities and keeping usable items out of the landfill.

Located at 1001 East Maiden Street, Washington, PA, the ReStore is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

If you have items to donate, please call the donations coordinator at 724-503-4416. Suggested items include: working light fixtures, appliances 10 years old or newer, plumbing supplies, building materials, furniture and much more. Your donations are tax deductible.



#### FOOD HELPERS

The Food Helpers program will take place on Tuesday, May 10 in the Left Lot from 9-11am. Please use caution if you are using the campus at this time.

Please share the time and date with anyone that may have food insecurity.



**LADIES OF THOMAS CHURCH**

You are invited to a 'bring your own lunch' gathering on Wednesday, May 11 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. These luncheons will be held the second Wednesday of every month. We look forward to seeing you!

Contact: Naomi Schmigel 412-335-4915 or Joy Patillo 724-747-1229

**PINE SPRINGS CAMP GOLF OUTING**

**MONDAY, MAY 23rd**

**CONTACT: [greg@pinesprings.org](mailto:greg@pinesprings.org)**

We are thankful to be able to continue this tradition of great golf, fellowship and most importantly support for Pine Springs Camp. This event has provided thousands of summer camp scholarships to families in our region and we anticipate an even greater need this year due to the effect of the pandemic. Our golf outing is a tremendous way to help get kids to camp this summer!

There are two ways we would love participation from Thomas Presbyterian:

1. Donations for a silent auctions: The Silent Auction and Bag Raffle are the primary money makers at the event. We are always in need of quality items for guests to bid on. Thomas always tries to send a few baskets for the golf outing raffle. Contact: Becky Bowman: [rbowmanesq@aol.com](mailto:rbowmanesq@aol.com)
2. Golf Participation: Are there golfers in your church who would enjoy an opportunity to golf at this exclusive club? Our outing has a great reputation as a fun, challenging and well run event. Once again we will enjoy the historic course and hospitality of Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club.



**PHOTO FELLOWSHIP**

Thomas is having fellowship and brunch after the Sunday service on May 1st. The communications team will be taking pictures for the directory. Please join us!

**CAR CRUISES**

Car Cruises will be in full swing again this summer! May cruise dates are: Saturdays: May 14 and 28th from 5-8:30 pm. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship!

**FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS**

Thomas Church is working to secure food truck dates in late May or early June. We hope to alleviate some meal planning for our congregation, CLC guests, and the community around Thomas. Please watch your Thomas Times and the website for updated information. Come out to support out local restaurants and have some great food!



**"Foster Forward"**

Foster Forward is a program for Washington County CYs, and will be held from 5-7p on May 15 hosted at The Bible Chapel (300 Gallery Dr., McMurray; dinner and childcare provided). The Court requests help in spreading the word about this event (please take a flyer from the back of the Sanctuary). A free evening to learn more about the foster system, becoming a foster parent, as well as what you can do to support foster families in our area. Lack of available foster homes in Washington County results in more than 90% of Washington County children having to be placed in neighboring counties, away from their schools and community.

**THOMAS STAFF**

**Debbie Smith**

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Keyboard  
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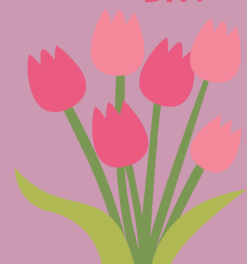
**Terri Kleinhans**

Director  
Thomas Christian Preschool  
724-941-8910

**Kathy Gaab**

Thomas 2s  
724-941-3845

*HAPPY* Mother's DAY





### THANK YOU, BOB LUTZ!

On Sunday, April 4th, Thomas Church said goodbye and thank you to our Business Manager, Bob Lutz. Bob held the position for seven years and was a dedicated part of the Thomas Church staff. He will be greatly missed. Thomas presented Bob with a cash gift and a donation in his name to Heifer International.

## 2022 Monthly Mission Offerings

MONTH	MISSION	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED
January	<i>Food Helpers</i>	\$370.00
February	<i>City Mission</i>	\$430.00
March	<i>Pine Springs Camp</i>	\$395.00
April	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	
May	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	
June	<i>Pentecost</i>	
July	<i>Deacons</i>	
August	<i>Family Promise</i>	
September	<i>Peace and 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 left provides information on the 2022 mission programs and the church's response.

