

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



**Let's Hear Something
We Haven't Heard Before**
Rebranding the Parable of the Sower

1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041

www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

July 12, 2026

9:00 a.m. In the Park

10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church

Hearing is a vastly underrated sense. Studies have shown that visual recognition requires a significant fraction of a second per event. But hearing is a quantitatively faster sense. While it might take you a full second to notice something out of the corner of your eye, turn your head toward it, recognize it, and respond to it, the same reaction to a new or sudden sound happens at least 10 times as fast.

The sudden loud noise that makes you jump activates the simplest type: the startle. A chain of neurons from your ears to your spine takes that noise and converts it into a defensive response in a mere tenth of a second—elevating your heart rate, hunching your shoulders, and making you glance around to see if whatever you heard is going to pounce and eat you. This simplest form of attention requires almost no brain at all and has been observed in every studied vertebrate.

Hearing, in short, is easy. It's your lifeline, your alarm system, your way to escape danger and pass on your genes. But listening, really listening, is hard when potential distractions are leaping into your ears every fifty-thousandth of a second.

The difference between the sense of hearing and the skill of listening is attention. Hearing is easy; listening requires lots of skill. Listening is a skill that we're in danger of losing in a world of digital distraction and information overload.

Luckily, we can train our listening just as with any other skill. Listen to your dog's whines and bark: they are trying to tell you something isn't right. Listen to your significant other's voice—not only to the words, which after a few years may repeat, but to the sounds under them, the emotions carried in the harmonics. You may save yourself a couple of fights.

"You never listen" is not just the complaint of a problematic relationship, it has also become an epidemic in a world that is exchanging convenience for content, speed for meaning.

We Praise and Confess
The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

*Call to Worship

---from Psalm 66:8-10

There is none like you, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.**

**For you are great and do wondrous things,
you alone are God.**

*Hymn of Praise: No. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty – Lobe den Herren

*Prayer of Adoration

---from Ephesians 1:3-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

All glorious God,

we give you thanks:

in your Son, Jesus Christ,

**you have given us every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly realms.**

**You chose us, before the world was made,
to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.**

You adopted us as your children in Christ.

You have set us free by his blood;

you have forgiven our sins.

You have made known to us your secret purpose,

**to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.
You have given us your Holy Spirit,
the seal and pledge of our inheritance.
All praise and glory be yours, O God,
for the richness of your grace,
for the splendor of your gifts,
for the wonder of your love.**

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth your praise.

*Praise: No. 627

I Love You, Lord

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Awesome and compassionate God,
**you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,
but we have not loved you.
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in
need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,
we repent in spirit and in truth,
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Silence

Declaration of Pardon

from Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?

He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in showing clemency.
He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.
You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

We Hear and Respond

From the Prophets

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² "For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." ¹

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary*; (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy. ²

*Gospel Acclamation: No. 48

Rain Down

*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat
and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he
told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to
sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the
birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky
ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they
sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose

² *Revised Common Lectionary*; (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, ¹ let him hear.”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” ³

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams – “PD”

Listen!

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

³ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

Welcome and Announcements

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

*Offertory Response: No. 606

The Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

*Dismissal Song: No. 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Hamburg

Following the Light of Christ into the World

***We go. . .
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus
with all people!***

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Going Forth

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JULY 12, 2026

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist
Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME VISITORS ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship! Please sign the visitor card located in the pew rack and drop in the offering plate.

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

CARETAKER: The Personnel Committee welcomes application for the position of Caretaker based on 10 hours per week on a salary basis of \$1,000 per month. Primary duties to include managing cleaning staff, ordering supplies, supervising vendors, and cemetery management. The full job description is available from Donna Fried, the Church Office, or Pastor. Applicants must be able to pass all the required clearances to hold the position. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER BREAK: Sunday School is on hiatus. We will resume with our Rally Day kickoff event on Sunday, September 13!

Summer Worship in the Park

July 12 through August 30 the New Goshenhoppen Worship Schedule will be:

9:00 a.m. in the Park

10:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Sanctuary

Please know that if temperatures are forecasted for 90 or above, both services will be held in the air-conditioned Sanctuary.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

CHANCEL FUND

In loving memory of Pauline Schuler

by Gary Schuler and family

VBS needs YOU! Are you available the week of August 3 – 7 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and Noon and want to join our VBS kids on a Rainforest Adventure? You could help just one day or all five, whatever fits in your schedule. Do you like to be the leader? You could be a Student Guide helping the children find their way from station to station. Maybe you love to sing or play an instrument ... you could help in the Sing and Play Lagoon. The Imagination Station is always a fun place to be...or Wild games! And of course, snacks ... we'll need fuel to re-energize. No planning required on your part, just join in the fun. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Social Room :) Any questions, please see Lori or Janine Horning.

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR 300th ANNIVERSARY YEAR: The Confirmation Class for students who are in the 7th grade and up will begin on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m. in the Confirmation Classroom. This class will be confirmed on Pentecost, May 2027 as we are celebrating our 300th Anniversary. Confirmation Classes will meet on Sunday mornings on a schedule agreed between Pastor Dave and the families, understanding that there are a few life events that make it necessary to be flexible. Please call the Church Office to register for the class.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: The Friendship Committee is in search of Coffee Hour hosts for July and August. It's summer so we are asking for LIGHT refreshments and there is almost always plenty of tea, juice, etc. in the Fridge in the Social Room that can be used. If and when we are at the Park, just cool drinks and light snacks! Can you help?? Please talk to any member of the Friendship Committee if you are interested in helping out!

CEMETERY WORKDAY: The following are the dates for cemetery workdays. We begin the morning with a cup of coffee and a planning meeting at 7:30 a.m. with work commencing at 8:00 a.m. The following dates fall on a Saturday: July 25th, August 22nd, September 26th, October 24th. Please check the weekly bulletin for any date changes. We appreciate any time your schedule will allow. More helpers make tasks easier.

FULL MOON CAMPFIRE: Consider joining fellow church members and friends at the monthly Full Moon Campfire on Wednesday, July 29th, beginning at 8:15 p.m. Bring a friend! This event is weather permitting. Rain and "thumpers" cancel. Bring a chair, favorite non-alcoholic beverage, and a snack to share.

ENGRAVER NEEDED: The engraver the church has depended upon for many years has recently retired and therefore we are in search of another engraver to service our needs--mostly to engrave the leaves on the Accessibility display. Do you know of someone? If so, please share the name of the person/business with the Church Office.

COOKBOOK—COMING SOON: Recipes have been collected, typed, and edited. We are almost ready to send it to the printer. Before we do that, we need to know an approximate number of books to order. Please sign up to reserve a copy for yourself, friends, and family. The price will be between \$10-\$15 (more orders, lower price) and will be available in early 2027. Sign-up sheet in the Social Room.

SCOUTING NEWS: **Cub Scouts** is for boys and girls Kindergarten to 5th grade. If interested in joining, please call or text Kyle Moyer at 610-360-0924. **Scouts BSA** is for 11- to 18-year-olds. If interested in joining, please call or text Scott Spaar at 484-431-3178. Check out the photos and newspaper clippings on their bulletin board.

BULLETINS are presented in loving memory of my husband, John, and parents, Frank & Cordie Jacobs and Regina & John Kevin, Sr. by Jane Kevin.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of husband, Donald R. Moll by the Moll/Barone family.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT are presented in loving memory of Florence Wendell by Lois & Alex Anastas and family.

ATTENDANCE: 7/5/26 – 8:00 a.m. 46; 10:30 a.m. 24; Livestream 27; Sunday School-hiatus.

OPERATING INCOME 7/5/26: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$4,383; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$552.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$278,910.65
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$278,910.65
Year to Date Expenses	\$316,320.34
Special Income	\$0.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$4,613.98
Capital Campaign Income	\$5,790.00
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$18,000.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Park)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
	2:00 p.m.	Private Event (Park)
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Park)
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Bible Fellowship Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	10:00 a.m.	Life Long Learning Executive Committee Meeting (Confirmation Room)
Thurs.	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support (Parlor)
	7:00 p.m.	Red Hill Band rehearsal (Park)
Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Park)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Thank you to our Service Participants

9:00 a.m. Next to stage toward 3rd Street: Gene Basara
 Next to stage toward townhouses: Stacie Miller
 Upper part toward refreshment stand: Bruce Adam
 Liturgist: Donna Fried

10:30 a.m. Narthex: Terry Dworkin
 Roberts' Church Office: Cindy Roma
 Elevator: Emy Moyer
 Upper Narthex: Peter Hemperly
 Liturgist/Acolyte: Sheri Ackerman

A NEW MISSION AT NEW GOSHENHOPPEN! Sometime in the month of July, you will notice a large cabinet-type structure outside of the old cemetery. It is called The Blessing Box. We wish to help families in our community who may be food insecure. The motto of this mission is: "Take What You Need - Give What You Can." Anyone from our church, or our community, may take any of the items that they need. We also hope that those who are able, will give what they can.

We ask the members of New Goshenhoppen to remember this Blessing Box when you go shopping. One item that you add may be a blessing to a family in need. You can place your items in this Blessing Box whenever it is convenient for you. There will also be a container in the Social Room, labeled "Blessing Box", if you wish to place things there.

Below are some suggestions for items to place in The Blessing Box:

- Any non-perishable food item in its original packaging
- Boxes of any type of pasta
- Any canned protein such as tuna, chicken, or beans
- Rice and rice meals
- Mac and cheese
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Boxes of pudding and Jello
- Granola bars and fruit snacks
- Ramen noodles
- Boxed cake and muffin mixes
- Soups
- Crackers
- Tomato and spaghetti sauces
- Cereals and oatmeal
- Bottled water and juices
- Baby wipes, food, or diapers
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Laundry detergent and dish soap

Please do not bring clothing, refrigerated foods, or household items (such as lamps or dishes).

Do not leave items outside of the cabinet. If you cannot fit them into the cabinet, leave them at the office entrance. However, bottled water can be stored under the cabinet.

Please check expiration dates.

GOSCHENHOPPEN MEADOWS FUND

Each year the Goschenhoppfen Meadows Fund supports Ministry, Mission, and Maintenance projects above and beyond the annual budget. This year a total of \$44,109.36 will be distributed to proposals submitted by the congregation (\$14,703.12 allocated to each category): Ministry, Mission, and Maintenance. Ministry covers what we can do for the sake of the Gospel. Mission is financial support for the spread of the Good News and Christian acts of love in places beyond our local church. Maintenance covers short and long-term improvements at our church campus.

Applications and details on the submittal process are available on the New Goshenhoppen website at:

www.newgoshucc.org/mission-outreach

Scroll down to the bottom of the Mission and Outreach web page and click on one of the three application links under the Meadows Fund: Ministry Application, Mission Application, and Maintenance Application. Applications may also be obtained by contacting the Church Office directly.

- 1) Proposals by members and friends of New Goschenhoppfen Church are due in the Church Office by **August 31, 2026**.
- 2) All proposals are screened by the Consistory Vice-President and the Senior Pastor to ensure sufficient information is included. Proposal authors are contacted as necessary.
- 3) Proposals are distributed to the appropriate committees for review and disposition.
 - Ministry proposals – Church and Ministry Committee
 - Mission proposals – Deacons’ Committee
 - Maintenance proposals – Property, Park, and Cemetery Committees
- 4) Committee recommendations are submitted to Consistory for approval at their October meeting.
- 5) Approved projects are shared at the November Congregational Meeting.

Please contact Donna Fried (moosedlf@aol.com) 610-730-0088 or Steve Lentz (sklentz72@gmail.com) 215-804-6637 with any questions regarding the proposal application process. As with previous years, the individuals submitting proposals will remain anonymous throughout the proposal review process.

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Stralsund Eriewerten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14.14.4.7.8

I Love You, Lord

627

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to".

wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take".

joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a".

sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "sweet, sweet sound in your ear."

This simple song of adoration provides a significant blend of individual and communal considerations, for although the text is written in the voice of one person, the music involves multiple voices singing in harmony. The resulting experience seems more shared than solitary.

Rain Down

48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)

F A7 Dm F7 B^b

Rain down; rain down; rain down your

(D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)

F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)

F7 B^b Gm C7 B^b F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

TEXT: Jaime Cortez, 1991
 MUSIC: Jaime Cortez, 1991; arr. John Carter, 2001
 Text and Music © 1992 Jaime Cortez (Published by OCP)

RAIN DOWN
 Irregular

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG
 LM
 (alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM, 224)