

SOUDERTON

Souderton Area For All gets state grant

By Bob Keeler
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SOUDERTON » Presentation of a \$1,500 state grant to Souderton Area For All was made July 21 by state Rep. Steve Malagari, D-53rd Dist., at his Souderton office.

Malagari said it's important for the community and legislators to show support for the LGBTQ community and that SAFA's mission is more important than ever.

"That mission is to promote a just, equitable, and compassionate community, where children and families flourish regardless of sexual orientation or gender," Malagari said. "I'm especially proud of what Souderton Area For All has already achieved in its very short existence as an organization in showcasing LGBTQ+ pride and ensuring Souderton is a destination that welcomes and embraces all."

The organization was recently incorporated as a non-profit organization.

"We're just getting started. Thanks for your support," SAFA President Stephanie Barnett Jamison told Malagari.

The PA Pride Community Grants program makes matching grants of up to \$15,000 for pride festivals and celebrations taking place this year, Malagari said.



BOB KEELER — MEDIATEWS GROUP

Souderton Area For All is the recipient of a \$1,500 PA Pride Community Grant. From left are Bud Leister; Grace Emmell Leister; state Rep. Steve Malagari, D-53rd Dist.; SAFA Board President Stephanie Barnett Jamison; Richard Detwiler; Penelope Swindells; Scott Swindells; and Erin Tynebor.

The funding is provided by the PA Tourism Office and administered in partnership with the Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition, according to grant information.

Information on Souderton Area For All is available at www.soudertonareforall.org or the Souderton Area For All Facebook page.

FAITH MATTERS

Always here for you

"Where is everybody?" "Oh, it's summer. That's how it goes here." Summer, meaning school is not in session. Why does school being on summer break affect church attendance? We have come to accept the inevitable fact of lighter attendance during the summer months under the assumption that many of our members are on vacation. But are they? All summer? Of course families do tend to take more frequent weekends away in warmer weather. But the real question is: Why is churchgoing in America so closely tied to the school year?



Rev. Nancy Raabe

I think what churches suffer through is the last vestige of the relationship between church and state from which our nation has worked so hard to extract itself since the days of colonial America, when governments were founded to ensure that people could worship as they chose. Yet the relationship between church and the school year persisted. More than a century ago, the Atlantic observed that "In the separation which has come about between the church and the state, the school has been partitioned between them, not formally but through the operation of natural laws."

Natural laws, meaning the calendar. And churches continue to bear the consequences, as many reduce their schedule to one service and put on hold most everything else that normally takes place during the fall, winter and spring months. Giving takes a hit as well, although thankfully the percentage of those who regularly give online continues to rise.

This creates problems for us as the body of Christ. Yes, people do tend to go away on weekends more in the summer than they do during the rest of the year. But we also find the assumption that people don't come

to church in the summer, even if they are in town, because they are taking a summer break from church.

If you just breezed through that last phrase while nodding to yourself, I want to say: Wait a minute. Does God take a summer vacation? Does your church take a summer break?

Of course church staff does take vacations, but the church itself is always here for you. And not just all week every week, but 24/7, all summer long and through darkest and coldest months of winter.

When you take a break from church you end up missing a lot. This summer, churches that follow the Revised Common Lectionary are moving in America so closely tied to the school year? I think what churches suffer through is the last vestige of the relationship between church and state from which our nation has worked so hard to extract itself since the days of colonial America, when governments were founded to ensure that people could worship as they chose. Yet the relationship between church and the school year persisted. More than a century ago, the Atlantic observed that "In the separation which has come about between the church and the state, the school has been partitioned between them, not formally but through the operation of natural laws."

Plus, these are all great stories with timeless messages. We need them for our lives. Together they give us the full picture of how we are to live as Christians. Without them we have only a vague idea, so therefore may end up being vague about our faith.

Over the last couple of years churches have learned how to make worship materials available in a variety of ways. If you can't come to church on a given week and you don't have time to watch the livestream, chances are the sermons are posted on your church web site. But far better than that, come in person. Come and see what God is making known — for you!

Nancy Raabe is pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield.

Worship news and notes

By MediaNews Group

Send items for *Worship News to religion@the-reporteronline.com*. Address questions to Nancy March, editor, at nmarch@the-reporteronline.com. Deadline is noon Thursday to appear in the Saturday *Worship News* and *Notes*.

St. John's United Church of Christ welcomes Ihna Cho, guest organist, to the 8 and 10:15 a.m. services on July 24. Later the service is available on St. John's website, Facebook page and YouTube Channel: youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa. The church is at 500 W. Main St., Lansdale. All are welcome. Call 215-855-5489 or visit www.st-johns-ucc.org

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church will continue the Hiking Ministry for 2022 on Saturday, July 23, and continue each month on the fourth Saturday of the month through October. The group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. and returns by 11 a.m. The hikes are about 4 miles in length and there is a short devotional time at the halfway point. Different trails are taken each month which are no more than 30 minutes from the church. The hike is open to anyone who would like to join to get some exercise, fresh air, companionship, and be closer to God and His creation. Hikers can meet at the church at 8:30. The paths are either paved or crushed gravel, no dirt trail and in open environment with some shade. Walk will be about 3 miles. For more information, please call the church office at 215-699-9159 or call/text Jeff Varner at 267-342-3095.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 211 S. Main St., North Wales, celebrates Sunday, July 24, with a Communion service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. Music will be by Linda Hubler on piano and Maureen Tang on cello. The service will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person and can be accessed from www.stpetersnorthwales.org. Masks are optional. The Thrift Shop is closed for the summer and will reopen in

September.

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church PC(USA), 837 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale: Please join us live in our sanctuary or for our live online services via Zoom with an internet-enabled device or by telephone. Sunday Worship is at 10 a.m. and Early Worship is at 8:30 a.m. For web links or dial in numbers, please visit www.gwyneddsquare.org. Weekly Bible Study and Adult Forum will take a break for the summer, resuming in September with specific dates to be determined. For web links or dial in numbers for activities, please send an email to office@gwyneddsquare.org or call the church office at 215-699-9159.

The Deacons at **Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church** will be collecting back packs and school supplies to benefit children served by Chester Eastside Ministries, Gemma Services, Hope Prison Ministries and the North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club. Donations are needed of the following items: composition books (marble & other types); spiral notebooks (wide and college ruled); pocket folders (with or w/o brads); loose leaf binders (1 inch preferred); packs of loose-leaf paper (wide and college rule); dividers; boxes of reinforcements; pencils (wooden or mechanical); pencil sharpeners; pencil boxes/cases; pens (blue or black); large pencil erasers; highlighters; boxes of markers (jumbo washable and regular); boxes of crayons (8-pack jumbo and regular); boxes of colored pencils; glue sticks (no bottles please); rulers (inch and centimeter measurements); scissors, and hand sanitizer. Items can be dropped off Sunday mornings between 8 and 11 a.m. at the church, 837 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, or email deacons@gwyneddsquare.org to arrange an alternate drop-off time. The last day to participate is Sunday, July 31.

The Church of the Holy Spirit of Harleysville (Episcopal), 2871 Barndt Road at the corner of

Sumneytown Pike, Upper Salford, is following summer service hours. Holy Communion services will be held in-person at 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Sundays through Labor Day. Services are led by the Rev. Kathy Andonian, Rector, assisted by staff, parish and choir members. For more information, call 215-234-8020 or visit the church webpage, www.churchoftheholyspirit.net.

Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church will hold its second annual Summer Family Fun Night on Thursday, July 28, from 6-8 p.m. in the church parking lot. There will be music from Wind & Sail, free hot dogs, Kona Ice, pony rides, kid's games and more. Everyone is invited. Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church is located at 1119 Church Road, Oreland. To find out more visit www.orelandpres.org or call the church office at 215-887-7002.

Grace Lutheran Church, 40 N. Main St., Hatfield under Pastor Nancy M. Raabe continues its summer worship schedule at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays, with coffee hour following on the veranda overlooking Broad St. Services are also streamed live; find the link each week under "Online Worship" at gracelutheranhatfield.org, and watch Pastor Raabe's sermon trailers posted Wednesday of each week on the church's Facebook page. For more information, call 215-855-4676.

Montco Bible Fellowship, 160 E. Main St., Lansdale, offers virtual services (accessed via website) as well as in-person services each Sunday. Adult Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and worship services at 10 a.m. Virtual Bible Study is 7:20 p.m. Wednesdays. Call 215-855-0899 for the Bible Study Zoom link. Following CDC guidelines for indoor settings. www.montcobf.org.

Indian Creek Mennonite Church, 647 Harleysville Pike, Telford, will conduct services as follows: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday evening 7:30 p.m. Preaching

Service; Wednesday evening 7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; Sunday evening July 31 will be an Inspiration Song Service. Questions? Call Kevin Moyer (215) 721-9127.

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, Aug. 10, from 2 p.m.-7 p.m. The Red Cross has asked the church to host this additional blood drive due to the urgent need for blood. One unit of blood donated can be used as whole blood transfusions or separated into components which will help four individuals. It is best to make an appointment but the Red Cross will take walk-ins if openings occur. They are asking anyone who feels ill, please do not donate. Face masks must be worn and temperatures will be taken at registration. Please contact blood drive coordinator, Jennifer Clements-Rhoads at (215-661-1300) to make an appointment.

RELIGION DIRECTORY

Your Local Guide to Religious Services

Sound Assistance Available	Sign Language Worship Aid	Special Greeters	Large Print Worship Aids Available
BAPTIST Bethlehem Baptist Penllyn Pike and Dager Road Spring House, PA 19477 Ph: (215) 643-4977 • Fax: (215) 643-4474 www.bbc4Christ.org Worship: 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Sunday Bible Study (Church School) 9:00 a.m. Midweek Bible Study-Wed. 11:00 a.m. & 7:15 p.m. Pastor Charles W. Quann	LUTHERAN TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1000 West Main Street, Lansdale INDOOR WORSHIP Sat. 5:30 pm, Sun., 8:30/10:45 am LIVESTREAM: Sundays, 8:30 am Facebook, YouTube, trinitylansdale.com RADIO: 97.1 FM - Sundays, 11 am FEAST COMMUNITY MEAL Every Monday, 5:00-6:00 pm trinitylansdale.com	PRESBYTERIAN Gwynedd Square Presbyterian, PC(USA) 837 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA 19446 215-699-9159 office@gwyneddsquare.org Sunday Worship 10:00 am Sunday School at 9:00 am Youth Fellowship Sundays at 7:00 pm "Growing Spiritually through Service" For details and program information GwyneddSquare.org	
PRESBYTERIAN Lansdale Presbyterian Church 450 Oak Park Rd. Hatfield, PA 19440 Ph: (215) 368-1119 www.lansdalepres.org Sunday School for all ages 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Nursery Care is available Children Ministry, Jr & Sr High Youth Groups Small Groups, College & Career MOPS & Active Senior Adults Group	METHODIST Lansdale United Methodist 300 North Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 Ph: (215) 855-8364 www.lansdaleumc.org Worship Schedule Join us online at our website www.lansdaleumc.org each Sunday morning. Announcements and Music at 8:45 a.m. Worship at 9:00 a.m.	EPISCOPAL Church of the Messiah 1001 Dekalb Pike, Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002 215-699-9204 office@messiahgwynedd.org www.messiahgwynedd.org Sundays Holy Eucharist at 8 am & 9:30 am Nursery Care & Church School begin @ 9:15 (Children join services @ Communion) Refreshments follow both Services Wednesday Rector's Study at 11 am & 7 pm	

Join Us In Prayer.

For information about this directory call 215-648-1140 or hpolak@adtaxi.com
 Deadlines: Wednesday at 4 p.m.

'Local Tap'

FROM PAGE 1

supposed to do that," he stage-whispered, to laughs from council.

As he continued, the councilman gave a reminder: Enjoy the establishment, but do so safely.

"Patronizing Local Tap does not equate to drinking excessively or irres-

sponsibly. Patronizing Local Tap does equate to supporting a local women-owned business, giving back to our local community: one responsible sip at a time," he said.

And while Modestine herself was unavailable to attend the council meeting due to "prime time for her fine establishment," Breish said, "the official award ceremony will hopefully take place on location soon."

Local Tap is located at 527 South Broad St in the Pavilion Shopping Center and is open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3 p.m. to midnight Fridays, noon to midnight Saturdays and noon to 7 p.m. Sundays. For more information call (267) 263-4100, visit <https://www.localtappa.com> or search for "Local Tap PA" on Facebook.