

THE BEACON

Harrisburg Christian Church
201 E Sexton St. PO Box 36



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

August, 2026

Greetings HCC,

Once a person becomes a Christian, what happens next? How does a newly born believer grow to maturity? This is the question that I will be focusing my attention towards this fall.

Every 7 years, HCC encourages staff members to take a sabbatical, which involves stepping away from regular staff duties to rest, refocus on the Lord, and concentrate on a project or area of study. Seven years ago I used this time to write the book *God Incidences* and I returned refreshed and ready for a new season of ministry. This year I am hoping for a similar outcome and instead of writing a book, it is my plan to survey church and ministry leaders in the area of spiritual formation.

In the months of September, October, and November, I will be taking 10 weeks to step away from my normal staff duties for a time of sabbatical. I have put together the following questionnaire to help guide my conversations about the topic of spiritual formation / becoming mature in the faith. I anticipate sharing this at one of our morning services and getting feedback before I begin the sabbatical. How would you answer these questions?

I'm hoping to be able to learn some things that will help our ministry at HCC be better equipped in the future to help people mature in their relationship with the Lord.

I want to thank HCC for making a sabbatical a regular part of the staff rhythm and I want to thank everyone for your prayers and support during this time. Let's see what the Lord might have in store for us in this next season of ministry.

CONTINUE...

Sabbatical Project

Spiritual growth? How does a church and pastor help people mature in their faith?

Goal: To survey church and ministry leaders in order to discover best practices in the area of spiritual growth.

What are your assumptions about spiritual growth?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(Immature) (Maturing) (Mature) (Fully Mature)

Do you agree?

1. It is possible to mature in the faith.
2. It is possible to be a believer and remain immature in the faith.
3. One must be born again in order to become mature.
4. Pre-death, believers will always have potential to grow. No one is 'Fully Mature'.
5. God designed spiritual growth to involve three essential elements: His work in us, our personal effort, and the support/gifts of a Christian community. All three are necessary for a mature faith.
6. Life experiences, including hardships, are a part of the maturing process.
7. 'Fully Mature' is thinking and acting like Jesus in every situation.

What would you add?

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What does maturity look like?

Indicators of a mature Christian which are ever increasing in practice and "want to":

Do you agree?

1. Involved in Christian community (both giving and receiving)
2. Fully surrendered - seeking to serve God in every area of their life.
3. Practicing His Presence - Being God aware throughout the day resulting in worship, thanksgiving, "praying without ceasing", and a peace in present circumstances.
4. Spirit Led - Can and does hear from the Lord and directs decisions accordingly.
5. Characterized by the fruit of the Spirit and character traits like in 1 Timothy 3.
6. Is on a mission. Seeking to make disciples in this lifetime.
7. Longs to be with Jesus in Heaven and motivated by a Heavenly reward.
8. Grasps the message communicated in the Scriptures.
9. Marked by humility, transparency, and is repentant when in the wrong.

What would you add?

- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

What is working?

- 1. What do you consider your current maturity level to be? Why?**
- 2. How did you arrive at your current maturity level? What helps you to grow?**
- 3. How is your church or ministry intentional about developing mature believers? What is your spiritual formation process?**
- 4. What barriers are you encountering that interfere with this spiritual formation process?**
- 5. How are you seeking to overcome those barriers?**
- 6. Additional comments or advice?**

JOHN'S TIDBITS

1. Congratulations to Raegan Wisswell on your baptism!
2. How about a Marriage and Parenting Tune-Up! See our app and announcements for details on how you and your spouse can get Tuned Up in August on Monday evenings.
3. Congrats to our Summer Staff and VBS Volunteers on a job well done! Thanks to all of you for helping get the gospel to the next generation.
4. Mark your calendars for our Septemberfest Community Service on 9/13 at 10:30 AM. We will be welcoming special guest Chris Golden to encourage the faith of our community in message and song. Find out more about Chris Golden at <https://chrisgolden.net/>



THE BEACON

GIVE IT UP FOR THE SUMMER STAFF



JOIN US ON SUNDAY
MORNINGS AT
9AM OR 10:30AM



UPCOMING EVENTS

You can be apart of it

Find an event and get connected!

01 **Back to School**
Regular Sunday School teachers will be back in August.

02 **Operation Christmas Child**
See you July 19th for some fun.

03 **Senior Luncheon 8/11**
11-12pm in the Fellowship Hall

04 **Elders & Deacon Meeting**
8/25 from 6:30-7:30

05 **Small Groups**
Now is a great time to seek out a small group to begin in August! Ask anyone at church to help plant you in the right group.

VBS was a HIT

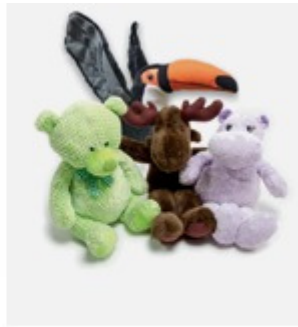
Find our Facebook page to enjoy all the pictures and fun we had.

Year-round shopping for Harrisburg Christian Church – Operation Christmas Child

FEBRUARY



"Wow" Items



Stuffed Animals

MARCH



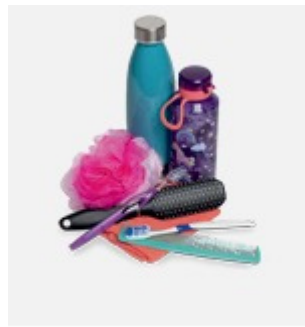
Fashion Accessories

APRIL



Hats, Gloves, and Scarves

MAY



Personal Care Items

JUNE

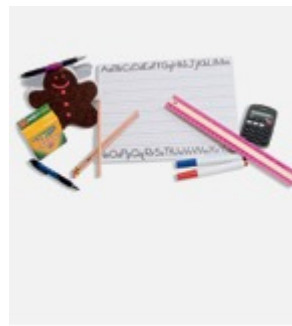


Toys

JULY

*Christmas in July!
Special Event*

AUGUST



School Supplies

SEPTEMBER



Games

