

THE BEACON

Harrisburg Christian Church
201 E Sexton St. PO Box 36

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

July, 2026

Greetings HCC,

We have begun a sermon series on the book of Revelation. I would recommend setting aside 30-60 minutes to read the whole book in one sitting. If you want some commentary, below are my notes from the Father's Day overview. I am looking forward to taking this journey with you.

Revelation - Victory through Surrender

Revelation overview:

If you are a follower of Jesus and reading the Book of Revelation does not encourage you, you are reading it wrong. Followers of Jesus, expect to be stirred to greater faithfulness and increased longing for the return of Jesus. Your Surrender has led to Victory.

If you are not a follower of Jesus and reading the Book of Revelation does not prompt you to repent and become a follower of Jesus, you are reading it wrong. Expect to be frightened by what you read. But know that you are invited to make a change. Repentance is a simple step, a 180 degree turn away from self-centeredness to placing Jesus at the center of your life. Your Surrender to Jesus will result in Victory.

I'm excited to kick off our new sermon series of Revelation. Today I would like to give you an overview of the whole book. We will read the first and last chapters and several other passages with commentary in between. Be prepared, what you are about to read will initially sound strange to us as modern readers. In the weeks to come, we will color in the details and seek to better understand how the original readers would have understood this vision.

Chapter 1

(Jesus has close followers called apostles. John, the author, was one of those followers and at the writing of this Revelation, he was the last of the 12 to be alive. Ten of the others were martyred (killed because of their faith). John was persecuted for his faith also. He was not killed, but exiled to an island where he has a vision.....let's hear from him in Chapter 1) 1:1-20

CONTINUE...

Chapters 2-3

(Chapters 2 and 3 address the 7 churches specifically, some positive critiques, some negative ones and a promise. Let's read the first and last church mentioned, Ephesus, and Laodicea)

2:1-7

3:14-22

Chapters 4-5

(Revelation contains several scenes where John is observing things in the heavenly realm and what he sees is certainly other-worldly. There are angels, people, living creatures, and all are centered around God, giving him worship.)

4:9-11

Chapters 6-7

(Watch for the Lamb, he shows up several times in this book. The Lamb is Jesus and he begins to open up 7 seals, most of which cause some devastating effects on the earth...these are some of the scary parts of this revelation.)

6:1-17

Chapters 8-9

(If you noticed, the 7th seal hasn't been opened up yetWhen it is opened in Chapter 8, it brings out seven angels and seven trumpets and the process starts over again with more devastating effects on the earth. We won't read those today, but I do want to point out a piece of sad commentary at the end of Chapter 9. For many people, these plagues on the earth do not lead to repentance, they still choose to follow their own way instead of God's way.)

9:20-21

Chapters 10-11

(There are some interesting details in chapters 10 and 11 that we will save for later, but I want to point out what happens when the 7th trumpet is blown. The scene returns to heaven where the inhabitants start proclaiming the victory chant...it's a bit pre-mature for our story, but have you ever been to a basketball game where the student section starts chanting "I believe that we have won" over and over, even though there is still time on the clock. It's somewhat annoying when you are on the losing side, but even if I don't like the cheer at the time, I usually know it is true. Sometimes you know the game is over, even when there is still time on the clock. Let's take a peak at the chant going on in Heaven.)

11:15-19

Chapters 12-13

(It's time for the antagonist. Most great stories have an enemy or bad guy and it's time to introduce him in our story. Introducing the dragon and the beast.)

13:1-4

Chapters 14-16

(In the section that follows, seven angels pour out seven bowls which are the final devastating plagues on the earth. Before this happens three angels make a proclamation. One has a warning to every people group followed by the second mentioning Babylon which will be a topic of much discussion in our series. The third warns against receiving the mark of the beast.)

14:6-13

Chapters 17-19

(This next section is rated PG. Babylon represents a city that not only has led people astray to worship other gods which is referred to as adultery but this is also a place where many Christians are killed for their faith. God brings vengeance and wrath on his enemies. But for his followers, he invites them to a wedding supper.

Chapter 19 is loaded with details and imagery. Let's read the whole chapter as a sample.

19:1-21

THE BEACON

Chapters 20-22

(The vision closes with Judgment Day, a thousand year reign of Jesus and a New Heaven and Earth)

May it be well with your soul,
John Gillman

SUMMER HELP

**Berkley Sublett
Andrew Head
Charlotte Long
Audrey Washburn
Amanda Kreitner
Dravyn Head
Kinsley Mahurin
Hayden Hunziker
Logan Woods
Kelson Langdon
Ella Long
Reid Smith
Hattie Yount
Ashlan Edwards
Naomi Demuth
Aiden Washburn
Katie Jo Winn
Reagan Wisswell**

JOHN'S TIDBITS

1. Congratulations to Jimmy Douglas and Barb Dibben on your baptisms!
2. Happy Anniversary Kathleen! 32 years!
3. Thanks to Ray Cochran for organizing the Father's Day event this year. What an encouraging service!
4. Mark your calendars for July 26th-30th. HCC's Vacation Bible School!
Check out the Sign up tab on our app to sign up your child and to sign up to serve.



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



JOIN US

christmas
in July

SUNDAY, JULY 19

2:00 – 4:00 PM

HARRISBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

201 E. SEXTON HARRISBURG, MD

**Prayer for the 2026
Operation Christmas
Child Season**

**Vision Trip Speaker
*Brooke White***

Ice Cream Social

and much more!

**MAKE
&
TAKE**

crafts for your Shoeboxes





UPCOMING EVENTS

You can be a part of it!

Find an event and get connected!

Mondays

01 Summer Staff meets
Monday meetings 12-5pm

Operation Christmas Child

02 See you July 19th for
some fun.

Senior Luncheon 7/14

03 11-12pm in the Fellowship
Hall

Elders & Deacon Meeting

04 7/28 from 6:30-7:30

VBS July 26-30

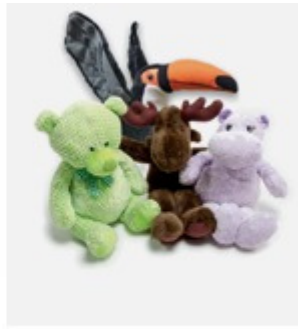
05 We will be seeking lots of youth
and adult help for our summer
VBS program. Check the app for
more info.

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

FEBRUARY



"Wow" Items



Stuffed Animals

MARCH



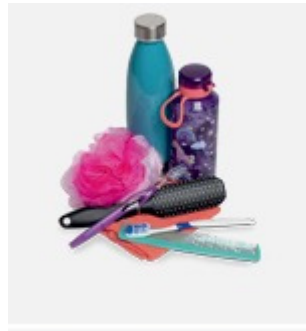
Fashion Accessories

APRIL



Hats, Gloves, and Scarves

MAY



Personal Care Items

JUNE

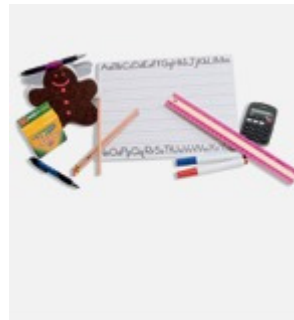


Toys

JULY

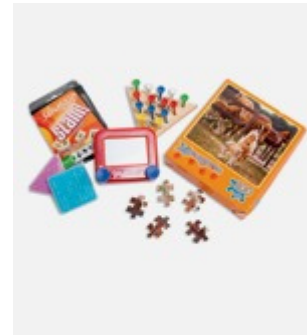
*Christmas in July!
SpecialEvent*

AUGUST



School Supplies

SEPTEMBER



Games

